

MINUTES

**DRAFT – Until Approved by
the RPC 10/16/2024
Prepared by:
Elida Luna**

Meeting Place: In-Person: 320 W. Temple Street, Room 150, Los Angeles, CA 90012 Virtual (Online): <https://bit.ly/ZOOM-RPC> Webinar ID: 858 6032 6429 Or call by phone: (669) 444-9171 or (719) 359-4580

Meeting Date: September 25, 2024 - Wednesday Time: 9:00 a.m.

Present: Commissioners Duarte-White, Louie, O'Connor (arrived at 9:11 a.m.), Moon, Hastings

Absent: Commissioner Louie

Ex Officio Members:

Director of Public Works: Mr. Diego Rivera, Senior Civil Engineer

County Counsel: Ms. Kathy Park, Deputy County Counsel

Planning Director: Ms. Connie Chung, Deputy Director, Advance Planning Division

Forester and Fire Warden: Mr. Juan Padilla, Supervising Fire Prevention Engineer

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

1. The Land Acknowledgment Statement was led by Commissioner Duarte-White representing the First District. The County of Los Angeles recognizes that we occupy land originally and still inhabited and cared for by the Tongva, Tataviam, Serrano, Kizh, and Chumash Peoples. We honor and pay respect to their elders and descendants -- past, present, and emerging -- as they continue their stewardship of these lands and waters. We acknowledge that settler colonization resulted in land seizure, disease, subjugation, slavery, relocation, broken promises, genocide, and multigenerational trauma. This acknowledgment demonstrates our responsibility and commitment to truth, healing, and reconciliation and to elevating the stories, culture, and community of the original inhabitants of Los Angeles County. We are grateful to have the opportunity to live and work on these ancestral lands. We are dedicated to growing and sustaining relationships with Native peoples and local tribal governments, including (in no particular order) the: Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council, Gabrieleno/Tongva San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians, Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians - Kizh Nation, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, San Fernando Band of Mission Indians. To learn more about the First Peoples of Los Angeles County, please visit the Los Angeles City/County Native American Indian Commission website at lanaic.lacounty.gov.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Moon representing the Fourth Supervisorial District

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. Motion/seconded by Commissioners Duarte-White/Hastings – That the agenda for September 25, 2024, be approved.

At the direction of Commissioner Moon, the agenda was approved with Commissioners Duarte-White, Moon, Hastings in favor and Commissioners O’Connor, Louie being recorded as absent.

COUNTY COUNSEL REPORT

4. County Counsel stated for the record that while this is an online meeting, it is a public meeting the same as if it were held in person in the Commission’s hearing room and rules that allow for an orderly meeting shall apply. As such, when speaking on an agenda item, comments should address the item on the agenda and no other issues.

Similarly, if speaking during public comment, comments should be limited to issues related to the business of the Regional Planning Commission.

If speakers do not remain on topic, they may be reminded by the Chair or myself to do so. Failure to discuss issues not related to the agenda item, may result in the loss of the right to speak on the item or other items, if directed by the Chair. In addition, speakers should refrain from conduct that is disruptive of the meeting. Doing so also could result in the loss of the right to speak on the agenda item or any other items.

Disruptive conduct can include, but is not limited to, threats made against other speakers, the Commission or its members, or any others participating in the meeting, profane comments not related to the agenda item, or disorderly or contemptuous behavior leading to a disruption of the orderly progression and holding of the meeting.

In such cases, the Chair will advise that the behavior is disruptive and direct that the speaker’s microphone be disabled. That person may, however, continue to observe the meeting. Further, disruptive behavior communicated to the panelists of the meeting, which include the Commission and County staff, may result in the removal of that person from the meeting by disconnecting them from the online connection.

DIRECTOR/DEPUTY DIRECTOR

5. The Deputy Director reported that the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution designating the Old Glory oak tree, located within Pico Canyon Park in the unincorporated community of Stevenson Ranch, as a Los Angeles County Historic Landmark.

ADMISSION PROCEDURES

Staff announced if you are joining us via telephone and want to provide comment on any of the agenda items, please send an email to comment@planning.lacounty.gov and provide the agenda item number, your first name, your last name, your email address, your phone number, and indicate if you are the applicant or not the applicant

All participants' microphones will be muted during the meeting unless you have signed up to provide comment. If you have signed up to provide comment, your microphone will be unmuted when it is time for you to speak, and staff will call your name.

PUBLIC HEARING

Community Studies East Area

Project Approved

6. **West San Gabriel Valley Area Plan. Project No. PRJ2023-003982-(1, 5). Advance Planning Case No. RPPL2023005880. General Plan Amendment No. RPPL2023005882. Ordinance No. RPPL2024002630. Zone Change No. RPPL2023005883. Environmental Assessment No. RPPL2023005884. State Clearinghouse No. 2023110351. Planner: Mi Kim/Community Studies East Team. PROJECT LOCATION: Unincorporated communities of Altadena, East Pasadena-East San Gabriel, Kinneloa Mesa, La Crescenta-Montrose, San Pasqual, South Monrovia Islands, South San Gabriel, Whittier Narrows, and South El Monte Island. PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed West San Gabriel Valley Area Plan (Area Plan or Project) is a component of the General Plan focused on the unique needs and characteristics of nine unincorporated communities within the West San Gabriel Valley (WSGV) Planning Area. The purpose of the Area Plan is to enhance, guide, and support the long-term growth, development, and maintenance of these communities by focusing on land use and policy issues that are specific to their unique characteristics and needs. The Area Plan consists of area wide goals, policies, and implementation actions and community specific goals, policies, and implementation actions. The area-wide elements address the following topics: land use, economic development, conservation and open space, public services and facilities, mobility, and historic preservation. The community specific chapter contains goals and policies unique to a particular community. The Area Plan includes changes to land use and zoning designations to accommodate growth near major transit stops and corridors, implement the Housing Element Rezoning Program, direct development away from hazards and natural resources, and bring zoning, land use policy, and existing use into consistency. The Project includes zoning and land use policy change maps to implement the proposed changes. The Project also includes an ordinance with new area-wide standards as well as updates to existing standards. ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION: As the lead agency, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), the County Regional Planning Commission will consider the certification of the Program Environmental Impact Report ("PEIR"), which includes the Final Program EIR ("FPEIR") and Draft Program EIR ("DPEIR"). The Commission will also consider the adoption of the County Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program ("MMRP"), the CEQA Findings of Fact, and a Statement of Overriding Considerations. The FPEIR will be available for**

PUBLIC HEARING (Cont.)

review at least 10 days prior to the public hearing date (Cal. Code of Reg. Title 14 Chap. 3 ss 15089(b)).

Ms. Arakelian, Mr. Drevno and Mr. Sensibile of the Community Studies East Section presented the West San Gabriel Valley Area Plan (Planning Area). The Planning Area is an amendment to the General Plan and Title 22 of the Los Angeles County Code to establish the West San Gabriel Valley Area Plan and the West San Gabriel Valley Planning Area Standards District (Project) for the nine unincorporated communities of the West San Gabriel Valley Planning Area. It consists of the following nine unincorporated communities, located in the central portion of the County: 1) Altadena; 2) East Pasadena-East San Gabriel; 3) Kinneloa Mesa; 4) La Crescenta-Montrose; 5) San Pasqual; 6) South El Monte Island; 7) South Monrovia Islands; 8) South San Gabriel; and 9) Whittier Narrows.

The General Plan outlines the values and vision countywide by providing goals, policies, and programs for resilient and sustainable communities. The Area Plan builds on those goals and refines them at the local scale. The Area Plan is a policy document that guides long-term development but does not directly approve any development project.

The Project contains three components: 1) General Plan Amendment; 2) Map Changes to the Land Use Policy Maps and Zoning Maps; and 3) Implementation Ordinance, which establishes the Planning Area Standards District. The Project is also guided by the six vision statements for the Area Plan:

- Harmonious and Coordinated Growth
- A Thriving Business-Friendly Region
- Connected and Walkable Communities
- Strong Social and Cultural Cohesion
- Resilient and Sustainable Built and Natural Environment
- Equitable Decision-Making

Staff discussed the Area Plan and the land use strategies that help meet the County's goals at the local scale. This included detailed information of each of the plan's Areawide Elements and highlights of their goals and policies.

- Land Use Element
- Economic Development Element
- Conservation and Open Space Element
- Mobility Element
- Public Services and Facilities Element
- Historic Preservation Element

Staff stated that the Land Use and Zone Change program was developed to satisfy various objectives in line with the Project's vision and goals. This includes General Plan Consistency, Growth Area Criteria, Preservation Area Criteria, Housing Element Changes and Administrative Changes.

PUBLIC HEARING (Cont.)

Staff discussed the community-specific recommendations and Ordinance for the nine unincorporated communities. These community specific policies and actions are designed to consider the unique needs of each community, fine-tuning areawide strategies to a more local scale. In addition, staff addressed the key component of the Area Plan, the Planning Area Standards District which simplifies and updates key regulations to meet local needs while supporting the broader goals of the long-range plan.

Staff provided an outline of staff's extensive variety of methods to engage with the public and solicit community input. This included stakeholder meetings, attendance at and hosting of in-person community events, as well as pop-ups and online and virtual outreach. Last Fall, staff conducted in-person drop-offs to hand out approximately 2,000 visioning workshop postcards to relevant businesses, facilities, and institutions within the Planning Area, inviting residents to attend and participate in the workshops and to sign up for regular project updates via an email distribution list. Additionally, staff participated in a variety of community events to engage residents of all ages and walks of life, including a Walking Tour of Rosemont Preserve, the Black History Month Celebration at Pamela Park, the Spring Jubilee at Pamela Park, the East Altadena Little League Opening Day, a Career Fair at Crescenta Valley Park, the Altadena Community Garden Annual Picnic, and Parks After Dark events. Staff also maintained an online digital presence on multiple platforms to engage and inform a wider audience who may not have been able to attend the in-person or live online events. During the summer of 2023, a Project website and blog were established for the West San Gabriel Valley Area Plan. The Project website provided regular updates on the planning process and events, as well as enabled sign-ups for the Project email list. Lastly, Staff collaborated with the County Departments of Public Works, Parks and Recreation, and County Library; and, weekly virtual office hours were hosted by staff on Tuesdays to provide a forum for the public to ask questions.

The Commission opened the public hearing and took testimony from 17 community members, eight (8) in favor, six (6) opposing, and three (3) voicing their concerns for the project. There was further discussion by the Commission and staff addressed the Commissions questions.

For further action and discussion visit:

http://lacdrp.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=1

Motion/seconded by Commissioners Duarte-White/Hastings – That the Regional Planning Commission close the public hearing and recommend Certification of the Final Environmental Impact Report along with the required findings of fact and statement of overriding considerations and adopt the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the West San Gabriel Valley Area Plan pursuant to state and local CEQA guidelines.

Motion/seconded by Commissioners Duarte-White/Hastings – That the Regional Planning Commission adopt the resolution recommending approval to the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors the West San Gabriel Valley Area Plan, Project No. 2023-003982 Advance Planning Case No. RPPL2023005880, General Plan Amendment No. RPPL2023005882, Zone Change No. RPPL2023005883, Ordinance No. RPPL2022014158, Environmental Assessment No. RPPL2022003550 with the revisions as recommended by staff.

PUBLIC HEARING (Cont.)

At the direction of the Chair, the item passed with Commissioners Duarte-White, O’Connor, Moon, Hastings in favor and Commissioner Louie being recorded as absent. The matter will be scheduled for a future Public Hearing before the Board of Supervisors.

PUBLIC COMMENT

7. Public comment pursuant to Section 54954.3 of the Government Code.

There were no requests by members of the public to address the Commission.

CONTINUATION OF REPORTS

8. Possible Call for Review of Decisions by Hearing Officer, pursuant to Section 22.240.010.B of the Los Angeles County Code.

There were no items Called up for Review by the Commission.

9. Commission/Counsel/Director Reports

There were no reports given by Commission/Counsel/Director.

ADJOURNMENT

A recording of the testimony received and the discussions held at this meeting and a copy of all findings and resolutions acted upon by the Commission are on file in the Department of Regional Planning.

The Commission adjourned at 10:32 a.m. to Wednesday, October 2, 2024.

Elida Luna, Commission Secretary

ATTEST

APPROVE

Pamela O’Connor, Chair

Connie Chung, Deputy Director
Advance Planning Division