

Title: Issue a Community Impact Statement in support of developing a Coastal Equity & Environmental Justice policy in the Coastal Zone. Council File 21-1071.
Meeting date: October 19, 2021
Agenized by: Julie Ross, PLUC Chair
Contact person: Julie Ross, PLUC Chair Phone number:
Committee Vote: 7/0/0
Does this item have a fiscal impact on the Neighborhood Council? ____ Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Additional documents attached? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes ____ No

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board support the motion.

BACKGROUND: On September 28, 2021 Councilmember Mike Bonin introduced at PLUM a motion, Council File 21-1071, to develop a Coastal Equity & Environmental Justice policy in the Coastal Zone that will inform future land use policy, promote greater public participation and engagement with underrepresented and/or underserved communities and be reflected in project determinations in the Coastal Zone.

Committee Discussion: Committee sees the value of having such a policy in the Playa del Rey Coastal Zone. However, there was concern that public spaces must be protected for public and recreational use only, not for housing.

Public Comment: None

FISCAL ANALYSIS: N/A.

ATTACHMENTS: Motion as introduced at PLUM, CIS.

MOTION: Motion to support issuing a Community Impact Statement regarding Council File 21-1071 to instruct PLUM to develop a Coastal Equity & environmental Justice policy in the Coastal Zone that will inform future land use policy, promote greater public participation and engagement with underrepresented and/or underserved communities and be reflected in project determination in the Coastal Zone. With the caveat that public spaces such as beaches and parks are for public use and recreation, not for housing and should be made available to all beach visiting communities.

MOTION

The City of Los Angeles must take the lead in pursuing environmental justice in our coastal communities. Recent debates over land return at Bruce's Beach are just one example of the painful legacy of racism and exclusion that was for too long built into our land use policies. The Coastal Zone must be made accessible to all Angelenos. As a City we must heal those communities harmed by a legacy of discriminatory practices.

The California Government Code §65040.12 defines "environmental justice" as the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Furthermore, AB 2616 (Burke) amended the Coastal Act in 2016 to give all local governments, including the City of Los Angeles, the authority to consider environmental justice, or the equitable distribution of environmental benefits, when acting on a coastal development permit.

Subsequently, in 2019, the California Coastal Commission unanimously approved an 'Environmental Justice Policy' to ensure equitable access to clean, healthy, and accessible coastal environments. This policy document recognizes the injustices carried out against indigenous communities, communities of color, and other marginalized populations through discriminatory land use policies. However, local jurisdictions like the City of Los Angeles remain squarely responsible for ensuring equitable and fair housing practices, as the Coastal Commission lost authority to protect and create affordable housing in 1981.

To empower our local decision makers to advance State policy and Coastal Commission guidance, the City of Los Angeles would benefit from a similar framework to integrate environmental justice and equity into land use decisions in the Coastal Zone that require a Coastal Development Permit. A 'Coastal Equity and Environmental Justice Policy' would not only place our local determinations in greater conformity with Chapter 3 of the California Coastal Act of 1976, but take a step towards correcting decades of injustice and exclusionary land use practices.

I THEREFORE MOVE the City Council DIRECT Los Angeles City Planning in coordination with the Department's Office of Racial Justice, Equity, and Transformative Planning to report back within 60 days with a work program to develop a 'Coastal Equity and Environmental Justice Policy' that will inform future land use policy, promote greater public participation and engagement with underrepresented and/or underserved communities, and be reflected in project determinations in the Coastal Zone.

I FURTHER MOVE that City Council DIRECT Los Angeles City Planning, with assistance from Los Angeles Housing Department and other relevant agencies, to report back with a detailed analysis within 60 days on topics related to housing equity and access in the Coastal Zone; including, but not limited to:

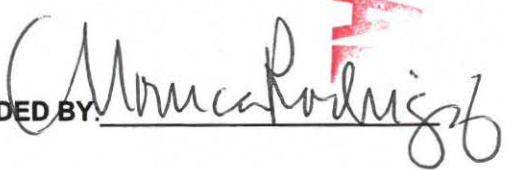
- historic housing and demographic trends;
- displacement and gentrification effects on historically marginalized populations;
- impact of new development and housing typologies (e.g. small lots, mansionization) on available market rate and affordable housing stock; and
- the cumulative impacts of historic downzoning and land use policy on housing capacity.

I FURTHER MOVE that City Council INSTRUCT the Los Angeles City Planning, with assistance from Los Angeles Housing Department and other relevant agencies, to develop and present Environmental Justice policy and program recommendations as part of the upcoming Venice Local Coastal Program, Venice Community Plan, and the "Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles" updates.

SEP 28 2021



PRESENTED BY: 
MIKE BONIN
 Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY: 

ORIGINAL

December 6, 2021

City of Los Angeles Planning Department
Marqueece Harris-Dawson
PLUM Chair
Marqueece.harris-dawson@lacity.org

Councilmember Mike Bonin
Mike.bonin@lacity.org

CD11 Planning staff

Krista Kline
Krista.kline@lacity.org

Len Nguyen
Len.nguyen@lacity.org

Jason Douglas
Jason.douglas@lacity.org

Re: Community Impact Statement for PLUM to develop a Coastal Equity & Environmental Justice policy in the Coastal Zone.

The Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa supports PLUM developing a Coastal Equity & Environmental Justice Policy in the Coastal Zone that will inform future land use policy, promote greater public participation and engagement with underrepresented and/or underserved community and be reflected in project determinations in the Coastal Zone. With the caveat that public spaces such as beaches and parks are for public use and recreation, not housing and should be made available to all beach visiting communities.