

WRAC, Motions & Legislative Update – 1/08/21 (by Chris Spitz)

Recent WRAC Board Meetings:

Chris Spitz (PPCC Secretary, WRAC Vice-Chair & PPCC rep to WRAC) attended WRAC leadership board meetings on Nov. 16 and Dec. 21, 2020. The board passed WRAC bylaws amendments, including a new standing rule with a statement of principles similar to PPCC's guiding principles, that is: 1) WRAC generally supports strict scrutiny and adherence to all planning and zoning regulations; and 2) WRAC expects sufficient advance notice of proposed developments and regulations to allow for review & comment by WRAC member councils.

Two additional new WRAC committees were formed, the Homelessness and Transportation Committees. PPCC Chair Dave Card has appointed Steve Lantz – past PPCC Area 4 Alternate & Transportation Director for the South Bay Coalition of Governments – as PPCC's primary rep; and Patti Post – PPCC Transportation Advisor and a professional Transportation consultant – as our alternate rep to the WRAC Transportation Committee. The Chair has invited interested members of PPTFH to volunteer to represent PPCC on the WRAC Homelessness Committee; we are waiting to see if a PPTFH board member comes forward to volunteer.

The WRAC board also passed several motions for consideration by member councils, including the three motions on the PPCC 1/14/21 meeting agenda as well as a motion based on the position held by PPCC regarding the digital signs in bus shelters matter (*see below*). The Secretary expects that this latter motion will be passed soon by the requisite majority of WRAC member councils and will become an adopted WRAC position.

Additionally, Councilmember Bonin spoke at the Dec. 21th WRAC meeting. He reiterated many of the points that he made at PPCC's July 23, 2020 board meeting concerning public safety, police funding and homelessness. He also stressed that he will continue to oppose proposed state housing legislation that does not provide protection for our Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone areas.

Motions/Resolutions:

Councilmember Bonin brought a motion in CF 20-1536, requesting a report on the parameters of the STAP program (digital signs in bus shelters). His motion has not yet been scheduled for a hearing in committee.

See: https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2020/20-1536_mot_11-24-2020.pdf. PPCC's Executive Committee has sent a letter to Councilmember Bonin, supporting the motion and making other requests:

<http://pacpalicc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/PPCC-Letter-Motion-STAP-RFP.pdf>.

The WRAC board has recommended to member councils a motion based on PPCC's letter:

<https://westsidecouncils.com/motion/support-cf-20-1536-stap-program-digital-signs-in-bus-benches/>.

Councilmember Paul Koretz has sponsored resolutions in City Council to oppose new Senate Bills 9 and 10 – *see below*.

Proposed State Legislation (2021-2022 session):

SB 55 (Allen/Stern):

Senators Ben Allen and Henry Stern (Malibu/Calabasas, parts of Ventura County) have co-sponsored this bill which would ban "all new development," both residential and commercial, in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone; the bill is awaiting assignment to a Senate committee. As we did last summer with Stern's similar bill that stalled in the legislature (SB 474), we have inquired as to whether SB 55 would prohibit 1:1 replacement/reconstruction of residential or commercial structures that are destroyed by fire or for other reasons. Questions have also been raised by other groups, including the Rural Counties Representatives Association, as to the economic impact of the bill and whether its provisions might constitute an unconstitutional taking of property without due process. Sens. Allen & Stern have both indicated that these are important questions; they will be setting up a conference call to discuss the bill and whether amendments are warranted. *Bill text:* http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=20210220SB55.

SB 9 (Atkins) and 10 (Wiener):

Senate President pro Tem Atkins and Sen. Scott Wiener have returned with housing density bills replacing their former bills that died in the last session (respectively, SB 1120 and 902, both of which PPCC opposed). See a Summary prepared by the Secretary (submitted to the WRAC Land Use & Planning Committee/WRAC LUPC): <http://pacpalicc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Background-re-SB-9-and-10.pdf>.

As indicated in the Summary, Councilmember Koretz has recently sponsored resolutions in City Council for the City to oppose both bills. The Secretary is proposing motions in WRAC to oppose the bills and support these resolutions.

On Jan. 10, the WRAC LUPC will be considering whether to recommend the proposed motions to the WRAC board, which (if recommended by WRAC LUPC) would be taken up at the January 18 WRAC board meeting. Meanwhile, the PPCC Executive Committee has indicated support for these proposed motions and the matter may be agendaized at the next PPCC board meeting on January 28 (regardless of what happens in WRAC). The Secretary believes it is imperative to begin the process of opposition soon, as President pro Tem Atkins has indicated in press releases that she (Atkins) wants to expedite consideration of housing density bills such as SB 9 and 10 during this session.