

Status of Various Matters – At Large Rep report 9/28/23

SB 423:

As a reminder, this is another housing density bill from State Sen. Scott Wiener, that would streamline the permitting process for certain residential projects, *i.e.*, eliminate any discretionary review. In its original iteration, the bill eliminated protection for the Coastal Zone and contained only a limited exemption for the VHFHSZ. PPCC has opposed the bill unless it contained unconditional exemptions for the Coastal Zone and VHFHSZ.

The bill has now passed in both houses of the legislature and was sent to the Governor for signature or veto by October 14. The Governor hasn't acted yet. Meanwhile, just before it passed in the Senate, the LA City Council passed a motion by CM Traci Park, to support the bill *if amended* to provide unconditional exemptions for the Coastal and Fire zones. We understand that the City's lobbyist is advocating the Governor to veto the bill on that basis.

What does SB 423 currently provide for? It still does not unconditionally exempt the Coastal Zone, but it *does* exempt all areas that are without a local coastal program (LCP). Since PP doesn't have an LCP presently, we would be exempt and Coastal Act review would still be required for multi-family projects in the Coastal Zone. That would not be the case if later on, an LCP is enacted for our area. Additionally, the bill still provides only for a conditional, limited exemption for the VHFHSZ. We'll continue to monitor the status.

Grants Pass case:

As members know, PPCC has submitted a letter in support of the Brentwood Community Council's amicus brief in this case, which involves an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court to review a lower court ruling that may seriously undermine the ability of local governments to regulate homeless camping in public areas. The BCC brief and our letter are now on record with the Supreme Court. We are in good company, since multiple entities and organizations *nationwide* have filed similar briefs, including a strong argument by the City of Los Angeles, submitted by C.A. Hydee Feldstein-Soto. Links have been posted on the PPCC website under documents/motions and positions/the Homeless Overnight Camping topic:

<https://pacpalicc.org/index.php/homeless-camping-2019-2023/>.

Metro TCN program:

The City Planning Commission recently approved this program to allow numerous digital billboards throughout the City, regardless of scenic highway, Specific Plan or Community

Plan prohibitions, and despite opposition from many opponents, including PPCC and the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC). We understand that both City Council President Krekorian and Mayor Bass support the program.

The matter must next be heard in the City Council Planning and Land Use Committee and then by the full City Council. Currently, no billboards are proposed for PP, but it's possible they may be proposed in the future, as we see that the various protections applicable to our area are now being disregarded by City officials – including protections afforded for scenic highways such as Sunset Blvd. and Temescal Canyon Rd., under the Mobility Element of the General Plan, and protections contained in our Specific and Community Plans.

*Prepared by Chris Spitz
PPCC At-large Rep
September 28, 2023*