



PPCC – Glossary of Commonly Used Phrases and Acronyms

ACE

Administrative Citation Enforcement. A program to address low level municipal violations by allowing agencies to issue citations and impose financial penalties. See <https://www.lacityattorney.org/ace> for a list of the violations included in the program.

ADA

Americans with Disabilities Act.

ADU

Accessory Dwelling Unit. Sometimes referred to as a “secondary unit” or “granny flat.” Generally defined as an attached or a detached residential dwelling unit which provides complete independent living facilities. Governed by state law (e.g., AB 2299 and SB 1069). The City of Los Angeles has adopted ADUs regulations; for more information see <https://www.ladbs.org/adu>.

AGF

Above Ground Facilities. Term used by the City to describe equipment such as poles, utility cabinets and cell towers located in the PROW (defined below). The “AGF Ordinance” (part of the LAMC; defined below) governs AGF facilities in Los Angeles; see also BOE (defined below).

AHSO

Affordable Housing Streamlining Ordinance. Proposed LA ordinance to reduce permitting and environmental review requirements for projects involving affordable housing; PPCC requested an exemption for the VHFHSZ (defined below).

AQMD / AQMP

Air Quality Management District / Plan. The South Coast AQMD implements the AQMP to bring the area in compliance with clean air standards.

BCC

Brentwood Community Council. PPCC’s counterpart council located in Brentwood. BCC was formed after PPCC was founded using PPCC as a model but with a different organizational structure to fit the needs of Brentwood.

BEACHES & HARBORS

Los Angeles County Dept. of Beaches & Harbors. Operates and maintains Will Rogers State Beach (WRSB) in Pacific Palisades, which in turn was conveyed by the widow of Will Rogers (the original landowner) to the State of California in the 1940s and remains a part of the State Park system. The City of Los Angeles provides police (LAPD) and fire (LAFD) protection at WRSB.

BHO / BMO

Baseline Hillside Ordinance / Baseline Mansionization Ordinance. Ordinances setting forth residential development standards in Los Angeles; the former applies to hillside areas of the Palisades and the latter to non-Coastal “flat” areas (primarily the Alphabet Streets north of Sunset). In 2017 amendments were enacted that provided for standards specific to the various residential zones in Pacific Palisades. A loophole in the Zoning Code (defined below) allows incompatible homes (up to 45 ft. high) in our *Coastal non-hillside* areas (see Doughnut Hole and CCC / Coastal, defined below).

BOE

Bureau of Engineering. A division of LADPW (defined below). Responsible for design and construction of major public works projects in Los Angeles, including George Wolfberg Park at Potrero Canyon (see PCCAC and PCOC, defined below); also issues AGF permits (defined above).

BROWN ACT

Ralph M. Brown Act. Passed by the California Legislature in 1953; guaranteed the public’s right to attend and participate in meetings of local legislative bodies. A “Brown-Acted” committee or other body is one that is required to follow the Brown Act in the conduct of its meetings (see also CC / NC, defined below).

BY RIGHT

Development / construction that meets technical Code requirements, requires only a ministerial / administrative permit such as a building permit, and does not require a “discretionary” permit such as a variance (defined below), an exception or a CDP or CUP (defined below).

CALTRANS

California State Department of Transportation. Caltrans has primary responsibility for freeways and state highways, including especially PCH.

CC / NC

Community Council / Neighborhood Council. PPCC is one of 3 CCs in Los Angeles; the others are BCC (defined above) and Westwood CC. By choice, CCs are not “certified” and can take action against the City as needed. PPCC is the oldest such council, originating in 1973. The NC system was developed in connection with the City Charter reform effort in the early 2000s. NCs go through a process to become “certified” by the City; in effect they become arms of and cannot take action against the City, and as such are required to follow the Brown Act (defined above). Although not required to follow the Brown Act, PPCC holds public board meetings and provides 72-hour advance notice of these meetings. PPCC serves the same function as an NC, participates with other CCs and NCs on WRAC (defined below) and receives notice from the City regarding land use and planning matters on the same basis as NCs.

CCC / COASTAL

California Coastal Commission. State agency charged with enforcing the Coastal Act (enacted in 1976 following the passage in 1972 of Prop 20, the voter initiative that created the CCC). See <http://www.coastal.ca.gov>. Large portions of the Palisades are within the Coastal zone protected by the Coastal Act, including all bluffs areas (exact boundaries vary). Development within the Coastal zone requires a Coastal Development Permit unless subject to an exemption (see CDP / CEX / CATEX, defined below).

CCFO

Community Care Facilities Ordinance. Former proposed City ordinance to bring the LAMC (defined below) into conformance with state law relative to group housing for those in alcohol and drug abuse recovery, parolees or probationers, or the elderly. Efforts to draft an effective ordinance have not progressed and/or have been stalled in City Council for more than a decade.

CD11

Council District 11 (our City Council District; current Councilwoman Traci Park). PPCC works closely with CD11 staff (contact information: <https://pacpalicc.org/index.php/government-contacts/>).

CDP / CEX / CATEX

Coastal Development Permit / Coastal Exemption.

Single-family developments in many Palisades areas are subject to a categorical exemption (CATEX) and do not require a CDP (see CCC / Coastal, defined above). ZIMAS (defined below) contains information on whether a property is in the Coastal zone and whether the CATEX applies.

CE

Categorical Exemption. Projects excluded from CEQA review (defined below) because they are deemed to have no impact on the environment.

CEQA

California Environmental Quality Act. Important California statute passed in 1970 to institute a statewide policy of environmental protection: <http://resources.ca.gov/ceqa/>. A typical CEQA process will include preparation of a draft EIR (defined below) for a project; a public comment period; a hearing and then adoption of a final EIR.

COMMUNITY PLAN

Brentwood-Pacific Palisades Community Plan. <http://planning.lacity.org/complan/pdf/btwcptxt.pdf>. Comprehensive plan setting goals for land use and development in Pacific Palisades. Developed by an advisory board of community members appointed by the City Council, the Community Plan was enacted into law in 1998, was last amended in 2001 and is expected to be comprehensively revised as part of the City's update of all Community Plans (process ongoing; timing of updates unknown).

C-PAB

West Los Angeles Community-Police Advisory Board. Advisory group formed to give community members an opportunity to provide information and advice to their respective areas and to take information from the Police Department (LAPD) back to the community.

CPUC

Community Plan Update Committee. Former / inactive PPCC ad hoc committee appointed at the Chair's discretion to work with a companion committee in Brentwood regarding possible revisions to the Community Plan (defined above) in advance of the City's update process (timing currently unknown); expected to be reinstituted when the update process begins.

CUP / CUB

Conditional Use Permit / Conditional Use Beverage Permit. Discretionary permits issued by Planning, required to operate many businesses. A CUP ensures that the use is compatible with all plans and surrounding land uses.

DESIGN GUIDELINES

Document to be developed by the PP-DRB (defined below) to “implement” the provisions of the Specific Plan (defined below) in regard to the design of commercial development in the Palisades; may include illustrations, interpretations, standards or policies and may address color, materials and other design features. Design Guidelines for our commercial areas (other than the Palisades Village development) have not yet been promulgated or adopted.

DONE

Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment. City agency that oversees certified Neighborhood Councils (defined under CC / NC, above).

DOUGHNUT HOLE

Loophole in the Zoning Code (defined below) that allows incompatible homes (up to 45 ft. high) in Coastal non-hillside areas of the Palisades. PPCC has supported a 2020 City Council directive (per motion in Council File 10-1058-S4) that would close the Doughnut Hole by extending the BMO (defined above) to all Coastal non-hillside areas of the Palisades; however, Planning / DCP (defined below) has never followed-up with amendments to the BMO for this purpose and is unlikely to do so. PPCC has worked with CD 11 to identify feasible alternatives to closing the Doughnut Hole (TBD).

DS-104

Distributing Station 104. A formerly proposed electrical distributing station to be installed by LADWP (defined below). LADWP previously stated that the proposed DS-104 was a critical project needed to improve power reliability because our power load is being distributed by the only existing distributing station in the Palisades (DS-29; located in PPCC Area 5) and on circuits that are far away from DS-29. Community opposition arose to installation of DS-104 on vacant land owned and noticed by LADWP adjacent to Marquez Charter Elementary. LADWP installed temporary PTDS (defined below) pending DS-104 review and installation. Now, LADWP has informed the community that DS-104 will not be installed and the PTDS will be removed after other new power reliability improvements are completed by LADWP in the Palisades.

EA

Environmental Assessment. A concise public document prepared under federal environmental protection law (National Environmental Policy Act/ NEPA) that provides evidence and analysis for determining whether a detailed environmental impact statement should be required.

EEO 1 / Emergency Executive Order 1

Mayor Karen Bass order, issued in January 2025, providing for expedited community rebuilding and recovery after the Palisades Fire.

ED 1 / Executive Directive 1

Mayor Karen Bass Directive, issued in December 2023, to expedite processing of shelters and 100% affordable housing projects; exempts single-family homes and properties in the Coastal Zone but not properties in the VHFHSZ (defined below).

EIR

Environmental Impact Report (DEIR is a draft EIR; FEIR is a final EIR). Detailed report required under CEQA for projects with significant environmental impacts; a typical EIR will include studies of impacts on the natural environment, traffic and public safety considerations, some of which may be incorporated in conditions imposed on the project. The federal equivalent: an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under NEPA.

ENTITLEMENT

Legal method of obtaining land use approvals for the right to develop property for a certain use.

FAR

Floor Area Ratio. Reference to the ratio of a building's total floor area (Gross Floor Area) to the size of the piece of land upon which it is built; can also refer to limits imposed on such a ratio.

GENERAL PLAN

A comprehensive policy document that informs future land use decisions. All cities in California are required to develop a General Plan, which establishes land use designations and policies that identify a range of zoning options that can be applied to a property.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

PPCC policy statement regarding land use regulations and exceptions (Appendix D, PPCC Bylaws: <https://pacpalicc.org/index.php/council-bylaws/>).

HCR DISTRICT

Hillside Construction Regulation District. Special designation of certain hillside areas of LA, for more restrictive regulation of impacts of construction and hauling. The Castellammare and Paseo Miramar areas of Pacific Palisades have begun a process to request designation as HCR Districts.

HOUSING ELEMENT

Mandated by state law as a section of the General Plan (defined above) of each local government in California. According to Planning / DCP (defined

Housing Element, cont'd.

below), the Housing Element “identifies Los Angeles’s housing needs and opportunities and establishes clear goals and objectives to inform future housing decisions.” State law requires the City to update its Housing Element every eight years and demonstrate sufficient zoning capacity for housing to accommodate the number of units identified in the RHNA (defined below). Planning / DCP works alongside the Housing and Community Investment Department (HCIDLA) on the update.

IKE Program

Interactive Kiosk Experience Program. Citywide program to install kiosk structures with digital signage in the PROW (defined below). PPCC opposes digital signage and installation of IKE kiosks in the PROW (see STAP, defined below).

LADBS

Los Angeles Department of Building & Safety. Agency of the City of Los Angeles. Building permits (i.e., non-discretionary permits) are the responsibility of LADBS, which conducts inspections, reviews plans and takes measures to ensure that construction/development complies with all applicable codes.

LADOT

Los Angeles Department of Transportation.

LADPW / BPW

Los Angeles Department of Public Works / Board of Public Works. LADPW is responsible for the design, construction and operation of public works projects in the City of Los Angeles; divisions include agencies such as BOE (defined above) and StreetsLA (defined below) The BPW governs LADPW and hears appeals related to issuance of AGF permits (defined above), among other things.

LADWP

Los Angeles Department of Water & Power.

LAHSA

Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. A Joint Powers Authority of Los Angeles City and County, created in 1993 to address the problems of homelessness in the County. For a PPCC glossary of numerous terms related to homelessness, see <https://pacpalicc.org/index.php/reports-summaries/> (scroll down to *Glossaries*).

LAMC

Los Angeles Municipal Code.

LAMC 41.18

So-called “anti-camping” ordinance, used as a tool to clear encampments on public property/in the PROW (defined below); PPCC supports the use of 41.18 to protect public health and safety. See also PPCC glossary of terms related to homelessness (link above under LAHSA).

LOW DENSITY ZONE

Term used to refer to a residential zone area; R-1 (single-family) is the lowest density residential zone. Recently enacted state legislation, Senate Bill 9 (opposed by PPCC), effectively eliminates R-1 zoning in most areas statewide.

LUC

Land Use Committee. Ad hoc PPCC committee appointed at the PPCC Chair’s discretion to review, provide input and make recommendations to the board on proposed development projects and laws involving land use matters. See: <https://pacpalicc.org/index.php/committees/>.

METRO / MTA

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority. Agency that plans, operates and coordinates funding for most of the County’s transportation system (see also STCP, defined below).

MOBILITY ELEMENT

Mandated by state law as a section of the General Plan (defined above) of each local government in California. According to Planning / DCP (defined below), the Mobility Element/Mobility Plan 2023 “lays out the policy foundation for achieving a transportation system that balances the needs of all road users” (see also “Scenic Highway” below).

MRCA

Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority. State governmental entity which acts in partnership with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and other groups to preserve and manage local open space, parklands, trails and wildlife habitat in the mountains and nearby coastal areas.

ND / MND

Negative Declaration / Mitigated Negative Declaration. Determinations under CEQA that a project either has no significant impacts (ND) or that mitigation measures can be implemented to reduce potential impacts to less than significant levels (MND), without requiring an EIR.

PCCAC

Potrero Canyon Community Advisory Committee. Former / inactive Brown-Acted advisory committee, appointed by the Los Angeles City Council in late

PCCAC, cont'd.

2004 to provide development recommendations to the City for Potrero Canyon park (now named "George Wolfberg Park at Potrero Canyon," honoring the late, esteemed PPCC Chair and former PCCAC Chair, George Wolfberg; see also "PCOC," defined below).

PCH TASK FORCE

A working group consisting of representatives from state and local governments, public safety officials and residents from Santa Monica, Los Angeles, Topanga and Malibu. Its mission is to arrive at "a comprehensive understanding of all concerns surrounding PCH, from traffic and safety to geological integrity to aesthetic and neighborhood character" (Sheila Kuehl).

PCOC

Potrero Canyon Oversight Committee. Former / Inactive ad hoc PPCC committee appointed to monitor ongoing matters involving Potrero Canyon Park. PPCC continues to monitor Park progress. See <https://pacpalicc.org/index.php/potrero-canyon/>.

PFC

Palisades Forestry Committee. Former PCC committee, now an independent organization and PPCC organizational member, which focuses on matters involving urban forestry and street/parkway tree selection for Pacific Palisades. For information about additional Palisades organizations, visit: <https://pacpalicc.org/index.php/about/community-organizations/>.

PLANCHECKNCLA

Volunteer organization that works with Planning (defined below) to provide information and resources to NCs / CCs and other community organizations Citywide about planning and land use matters.

PLANNING / DCP

Los Angeles City Department of City Planning. Zoning / land use approvals are the responsibility of Planning (DCP), including issuing discretionary permits such as CDPs, CUPs, exceptions and variances (defined below) – a process often referred to as the "entitlement" (defined above) process. Planning / DCP is also the agency responsible for planning & land use policy, including drafting ordinances and making recommendations for revision of current Zoning Code provisions.

PLUM

Los Angeles City Council Planning & Land Use Management Committee.

PP-DRB

Pacific Palisades Design Review Board. Brown-Acted City entity with seven community members appointed by our Councilmember. The PP-DRB is responsible for reviewing the design of proposed commercial projects to ensure compliance with the Specific Plan (defined below) and making recommendations to the Director of Planning.

PP-PAB

Pacific Palisades Park Advisory Board. Brown-Acted City entity comprised of volunteers appointed by the Recreation Center's Park Director for the purpose of advising the City of community input relative to the Pacific Palisades Park / Recreation Center and the park at Potrero Canyon (see PCCAC and PCOC above). Jurisdiction does not include any other local City parkland managed by RAP (defined above). The Rustic Canyon PAB is the PP-PAB's counterpart at Rustic Canyon Recreation Center.

PPTFH

Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness. Originally initiated in 2014 as a PPCC committee, the PPTFH became a highly respected independent 501(c)(3) organization, with a mission of providing leadership and resources to manage and eliminate the destructive consequences of homelessness in the Palisades; restructured as of May 2023. See <https://palisadeshomeless.org/>.

PROP K

30-year bond attached to property tax to provide funding for Parks for Kids.

PROW

Public Right of Way (sidewalks, alleys, parkways, streets); City-owned and/or maintained (public realm), as distinguished from private property.

PTDS

Pole Top Distributing Station. "Temporary" facilities installed by LADWP, consisting of equipment mounted on utility poles in the PROW; claimed by LADWP to be a short-term measure intended to ensure adequate power to Pacific Palisades until completion of a permanent distributing station; now said to be removed by LADWP after other new power reliability improvements are completed in the Palisades (see DS-104, defined above).

RAP

Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks. Manages several parks / parkland areas in Pacific Palisades, including the Palisades and Rustic Canyon Recreation Centers; George Wolfberg Park at Potrero Canyon; the Via de las Olas and El

RAP, cont'd.

Medio bluffs parks; and the Temescal Canyon, Rivas Canyon and Santa Inez Canyon parks.

RECODELA

Years-long comprehensive project to rewrite / streamline the Zoning Code (defined below).

A new Zoning Code has now been developed which is being implemented in connection with the City's Community Plan updates (defined above):

<https://planning.lacity.org/zoning/new-code>.

RHNA

Regional Housing Needs Assessment. Mandated by state housing as part of the periodic process of updating local housing elements of the General Plan. RHNA quantifies the need for housing within each jurisdiction during specified planning periods. The process to determine a RHNA allocation is conducted every eight years by a council of governments, such as SCAG (defined below). Every jurisdiction must plan for its RHNA allocation in the Housing Element (defined above) by ensuring there are enough sites and zoning to accommodate the RHNA allocation.

RVNOC

Regional Volunteer Neighborhood Oversight Committee. Administers Prop K funds. CD11 is part of the Central Los Angeles RVNOC.

SCAG

Southern California Association of Governments. A Joint Powers Authority under California state law, established as an association of local governments that voluntarily convene as a forum to address regional issues, including six counties (Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura) and 191 cities (including Los Angeles). Every eight years SCAG engages in the process of the RHNA allocation (defined above) in order for local governments to update the Housing Element of the General Plan (defined above).

SPECIFIC PLAN

Pacific Palisades Commercial Village and Neighborhoods Specific Plan.

<https://planning.lacity.org/complan/specplan/pdf/PACPALSP.PDF>.

Plan governing development in our four commercial areas: the Village, Marquez, Santa Monica Canyon and Sunset/PCH commercial areas. A version of the Specific Plan was first enacted into law in 1985 and amended in subsequent years; last revised in 2016 in connection with development of Palisades Village; may be further revised when the Community Plan (defined above) is updated.

SB 9 / Senate Bill 9

State law opposed by PPCC allowing duplexes and increased density on former single family-zoned properties. Mayor Bass issued a new Emergency Executive Order (EEO 9) in July 2025, restricting SB 9 projects (other than those already vested) on properties in the Palisades burn zone. SB 9 is among myriad housing density bills introduced in the past several years, some enacted and some not, that PPCC has opposed, including most recently SB 79. "Density" in this context refers to efforts to mandate increased housing in residential areas, which leads to more people and cars on our limited routes of ingress and egress and results in dangerous evacuations from wildfires or other natural disasters. PPCC insists upon an unconditional exemption for the VHFHSZ (defined below) in housing density bills, although almost all such bills have not included this exemption.

SCENIC HIGHWAY

Highway designated under the Mobility Element (defined above), subject to certain restrictions on advertising. There are 68 designated Scenic Highways in Los Angeles and four in Pacific Palisades: Sunset Blvd., Pacific Coast Highway, Temescal Canyon Blvd. and Palisades Dr.

STAP

Sidewalk & Transit Amenities Program. Citywide program to replace bus shelters and benches ("street furniture") and to install digital signage in new shelters. PPCC opposes digital signage in the PROW (defined above); opposes replacement of the existing street furniture in our Village area (originally installed by PRIDE); and insists on having input in the design of any future shelters.

STCP

Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project. Overseen by Metro (defined above) and currently in the EIR phase (defined above), the project will provide an option for faster transit through the Sepulveda (405) corridor between the Valley and the Westside. PPCC and WRAC (defined below) support a station directly on the UCLA campus, direct connectivity with the Purple Line Westwood/UCLA subway station, and the heavy rail/subway mode of transportation for the project.

STR

Short-term rental. Sometimes referred to as "home-sharing." Generally defined as a rental of a residential dwelling unit for periods of less than 31 consecutive days. The City of LA has adopted regulations governing STRs/home-sharing.

STREETSLA

A division of LADPW (defined above), also known as the “Bureau of Street Services,” that maintains the network of streets, sidewalks and parkways in the City of Los Angeles; oversees the STAP program (defined above) in Los Angeles.

TCN

Transportation Communication Network. Program by Metro (defined above) to create a network of 200+ digital billboards and to remove static billboards on Metro-owned property within LA City. PPCC opposes the program.

URBAN FORESTRY

A division of StreetsLA, responsible for managing and maintaining the City’s urban forest, including street / parkway trees and park trees.

VARIANCE

Exception to Code requirements. Findings are required for approval of a variance:

1. That the strict application of the provisions of the Zoning Ordinance would result in practical difficulties or unnecessary hardships inconsistent with the general purpose and intent of the zoning regulations.
2. That there are special circumstances applicable to the subject property such as size, topography, location or surroundings that do not apply generally to other property in the same zone and vicinity.
3. That such variance is necessary for the preservation and enjoyment of a substantial property right or use generally possessed by other property in the same zone and vicinity, but which, because of such special circumstances and practical difficulties or unnecessary hardships is denied to the property in question.
4. That the granting of such variance will not be materially detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to the property or improvements in the same zone or vicinity in which the property is located, and
5. That the granting of the variance will not adversely affect any element of the General Plan.

VHFHSZ

Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Area of the highest risk of wildfire, as determined by state and local agencies. Portions of many Los Angeles hillside and canyon communities are designated as VHFHSZ areas. All of the Palisades is within the VHFHSZ. See also WUI (defined below).

WLA-APC / WLAPC

West Los Angeles Area Planning Commission. Local (regional) governmental body that hears appeals of decisions of the ZA (defined below) in

our area. Note: “CPC” refers to the City Planning Commission, which is based downtown and hears matters such as ordinances related to planning & zoning and significant projects in Los Angeles.

WRAC

Westside Regional Alliance of Councils. An alliance of all NCs and CCs on the Westside of Los Angeles; PPCC is a member. The leadership of WRAC member-councils meets once a month to discuss matters of common/regional interest, to hear presentations by public officials and other leaders, and to recommend motions to the member-councils. See <http://westsidecouncils.com>.

WRAC-HOC

WRAC Homelessness Committee. The group considers regional homelessness issues of concern to the Westside of Los Angeles and recommends action or positions to WRAC leadership; PPCC is a member.

WRAC-LUPC

WRAC Land Use & Planning Committee. The group considers regional land use issues of concern to the Westside of Los Angeles and recommends action or positions to WRAC leadership; PPCC is a member.

WRAC MTC

WRAC Mobility & Transportation Committee. The group considers regional mobility & transportation issues of concern to the Westside of Los Angeles and recommends action or positions to WRAC leadership; PPCC is a member.

WUI

Wildland/Urban Interface. Transition zone between an urban area and areas that are unoccupied or have very limited human settlement. Communities in these areas may also be included in the WUI. In Los Angeles, the WUI coincides with the City’s VHFHSZs.

ZA

Zoning Administrator. Planning / DCP (defined above) hearing officer who rules on applications for variances and other exceptions and on certain discretionary permits such as CDPs and CUPs.

ZI BULLETIN

Zoning Information Bulletin. Document promulgated by Planning / DCP (defined above). The ZI Bulletin for Potrero Canyon provides guidelines for development on the canyon rim (grading, landscaping and retaining walls), intended to protect the view shed from trails.

ZIMAS

Zoning Information and Map Access System.

Online information system maintained by
Planning / DCP (defined above) containing zoning
history and information applicable to all property.

See <https://zimas.lacity.org/>.

ZONING CODE

Portion of the LAMC (defined above) dealing with
land use and zoning.

*Revised as of September 2025 by PPCC At-large rep
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