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LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

MAPPING & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

MAPPING & GIS SERVICES SECTION

Street Name & House Numbering Unit

900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803-1331

STREET NAME POLICY as of 6/28/99

1. Historic names and/or names referring to applicable geographic features shall be used wherever practicable.
2. Names of existing streets shall be used on new streets which are continuations of, or in alignment with, existing streets.
3. Streets shall not be named after any commercial organization or in a manner to honor any living person.
4. The Antelope Valley Street Naming Plan (a special system of alpha/numeric street names) shall be preserved. Deviations may be considered when there is proof the plan cannot be complied with.
5. The use of thoroughfare designations, whether prefixes or suffixes, such as drive, place, walk, via, avenida, etc., shall not be considered as effecting a distinction in the basic name.

It shall be the policy of the Los Angeles County Street Naming Committee to use the definitions contained in the adopted list. Definitions of Street Name Suffixes and Prefixes, as a basis of determining the appropriate thoroughfare designation prefix or suffix, are to be applied to any street right of way to be named or renamed.

6. East and west thoroughfares shall be called streets, and north and south thoroughfares shall be called avenues.
7. Streets adjacent to a freeway shall be given different names on each side of such freeway.
8. The use of cardinal prefixes, such as North, South, East, and West, shall not be considered part of the basic or base name.

9. A street name shall not contain more than 18-letter characters, including any combinations of spaces, letters, or punctuation designations in the base portion of the name.
10. The use of compound names shall be discouraged.
11. Any unnamed street or portion thereof shall be named by either the Street Naming Committee for public streets or the House Numbering Unit of Department of Public Works for private streets.
12. All street name changes of publicly owned street right of way shall be recommended for change by the Street Naming Committee and subject to processing and approval by the Board of Supervisors.
13. Similar sounding street names are to be avoided within the same fire fighting district to eliminate identification problems when people are reporting street names under stress.

DEFINITIONS

STREET NAME PREFIXES AND SUFFIXES

ALLEY	A narrow service street for serving rear of lots, less than 30 feet in width.
AVENUE	A broad public street. A street handsomely laid out with trees. A public way named avenue rather than street to denote its peculiar direction (avenues north and south; streets east and west). A public way named for its objectives or after the thing approached.
BOULEVARD	A broad formally laid out paved public way, 100 feet or more wide, ornamentally illuminated or decorated.
BYWAY	A narrow obscure street, probably private. A subsidiary way.
CANAL	(Unique to Venice) A canal or lineal body of water used as transportation.
CIRCLE	A circular junction of streets or highways. A circular street.
COURT	A rectangular pocket off a public way. A "dead end" street.
COVE	Local road following the configuration within a cove or small bay (see dictionary definition).
DRIVE	A recreational or scenic way of local extent. A road through a park.
HIGHWAY	A publicly owned and maintained way with interurban directness and arterial importance through several cities or communities.
LANE	A narrow informal street or passageway.
LOOP	A circumferential way. A street or way which returns into itself.
MOTORWAY	A truck trail or trail through mountainous terrain, usually for fire equipment usage or service access; e.g., power lines, Nike sites, etc. Not for public use.
PARKWAY	A broad public way, divided into drives, bridle paths, walks, and planting strips. Formally laid out public way with a planting strip along the center.
PLACE	A short street or court. Also the junction on several highways.

ROAD	A public way or highway connecting two or more settlements or towns generally bearing the name or names of the settlements connected.
ROW	A short street or passage.
STREET	A public way 40 or more feet wide, used to give pedestrian and vehicular traffic access to the various parcels of land making up a community. A public way with a direction contrary to that of avenues of the community.
TERRACE	A short hillside street. A street on a terraced hill.
TRAIL	A pedestrian way through mountainous territory. A rough path in wild country. A public way following a historical route.
WALK	A pedestrian way.
WAY	A narrow road or highway. A lane.

SPANISH-TYPE STREET NAME PREFIXES

Avenida	Similar to Boulevard
Calle	Small Street
Camino	Small rural road between cities (not inside cities)
Carrera	City-type Street or Avenue
Paseo	Walk, Stroll, Drive
Via	Same as Avenida

CLASSIFICATION BY WIDTHS

100 FEET AND UP

Boulevard
Highway
Parkway

80 FEET

Road
Highway
Parkway
Avenue
Street

50 TO 70 FEET

Place	Canal
Court	Way
Drive	Loop
Circle	Row
Byway	Terrace
Cove	

5 TO 30 FEET

Alley
Walk
Trail
Loop
Motorway

APPROVED SUFFIXES WITH THEIR ABBREVIATIONS

9/14/76

AL	Alley	CT	Court	MO	Motorway	SQ	Square
AV	Avenue	CV	Cove	PY	Parkway	ST	Street
BV	Boulevard	DR	Drive	PA	Path	TE	Terrace
CA	Canal	FW	Freeway	PL	Place	TR	Trail
CN	Center	HY	Highway	PZ	Plaza	WK	Walk
CR	Circle	LN	Lane	RD	Road	WY	Way

From the list submitted to the Street Naming Committee on 7/7/76, this would add the following to the L.A. County Department of Public Works list:

Byway Crescent Loop Row

Because of possible conflict or misinterpretation with our standard abbreviations, we would discourage the following:

Crescent Row

Since our list is prepared so as to catalog the existing prefixes, it is now our endeavor to list those prefixes which we would encourage when creating new streets. As with most street name schemes, there are numerous examples in which the contrary can be shown.

With the exception of the sectional grid pattern in the Antelope Valley, we recommend the following:

- I. Major street or secondary highway.
 - A. Urban Area - BOULEVARD
 - B. Rural Area - HIGHWAY
- II. Major street direction.
 - A. East and West thoroughfares - STREETS
 - B. North and South thoroughfares - AVENUES
- III. Streets that serve for local circulation, or that do not fit a directional grid.
 - DRIVE, ROAD, and LANE
- IV. Short Cul-de-sac
 - COURT

Since the Street Naming Committee does not recognize a change of suffix as being sufficiently different for a name change, it would seem reasonable to include prefixes as well. This idea would entail a special printing of our Street Name Index, but might avoid some of the recent problems in Valencia and other areas using the Spanish prefix form of street naming.