

Los Angeles County Green Zones Ordinance

The Green Zones Program was initiated by the Board of Supervisors in 2015 to enhance public health and land use compatibility in the unincorporated communities that have been disproportionately affected by pollution. The County of Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning (Regional Planning) is developing a draft ordinance amending Title 22, Planning and Zoning of the Los Angeles County Code, to promote environmental justice by providing zoning requirements for specified uses, including recycling and solid waste facilities, that may disproportionately affect the health of residents living in surrounding communities.

Regional Planning identified eleven Green Zone Districts in the unincorporated areas using the Environmental Justice Screening Method, which is a mapping tool that analyzes various indicators, including socioeconomic data, sources of pollution, and sensitive uses like homes, schools and hospitals. The eleven Green Zones Districts are the unincorporated communities of Avocado Heights, East Los Angeles, East Rancho Dominguez, Florence-Firestone, South San Jose Hills, Walnut Park, West Athens-Westmont, West Carson, West Rancho Dominguez-Victoria, West Whittier-Los Nietos and Willowbrook.

If adopted, the draft ordinance will establish new permitting requirements and development standards in the Green Zone Districts. These requirements apply to existing and new industrial uses located within 500 feet of a sensitive use on an unincorporated parcel. Additionally the new requirements would apply to a residential use on an unincorporated parcel. The draft ordinance also adds new recycling and waste facilities and uses to the Zoning Code including organic waste uses to allow for permitting and better regulation. In addition, it recategorizes scrap metal yards and auto impound yards to recycling and waste management uses for better regulation of these types of facilities. The draft ordinance imposes a more stringent entitlement process and standards for new developments subject to a conditional use permit. The proposed revisions would prohibit specific facilities from being sited in Hillside Management Areas, Significant Ecological Areas, and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

The draft ordinance was released for public review and comments. The Draft Environmental Impact Report will be released in October 2020. The Regional Planning Commission hearing on the draft ordinance will be held early next year. The draft ordinance will go to the Board of Supervisors for consideration by March 2021. If you would like to provide any comments or receive email updates, please contact Regional Planning at GreenZones@planning.lacounty.gov.



Figure 1: Los Angeles County Green Zones Program