Westside Regional Alliance of Councils

westsidecouncils.com

Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council
Brentwood Community Council
Del Rey Neighborhood Council
Mar Vista Community Council
Neighborhood Council of Westchester-Playa
North Westwood Neighborhood Council
Pacific Palisades Community Council
Palms Neighborhood Council
South Robertson Neighborhoods Council
Venice Neighborhood Council
West LA-Sawtelle Neighborhood Council
Westside Neighborhood Council
Westwood Community Council
Westwood Neighborhood Council

October 20, 2026

Hon. Marqueece Harris-Dawson, President, Los Angeles City Council
Hon. Bob Blumenfield, Chair, Planning and Land Use Management Committee
Hon. Katy Yaroslavsky, Chair, Budget and Finance Committee
Hon. Traci Park, Councilwoman, CD 11
Hon. Heather Hutt, Councilwoman, CD 10
Hon. Nithya Raman, Councilmember CD 4
Matthew W. Szabo, City Administrative Officer (CAO)

Via email to all addressees and submission to City Clerk comment portal

Re: Council File 09-0969-S4 – OPPOSE

As you know, the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) is a cooperative coalition of all neighborhood and community councils on the Westside of Los Angeles, located in Council Districts 5 and 11 and in portions of Council Districts 4 and 10. WRAC's member councils together represent over 500,000 Angelenos.

In 2021, WRAC adopted a position in opposition to an appeals fee increase proposed in CF 09-0969-S3: https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/WRAC-Appeal-Fee-Increase.pdf. As explained in our position letter, while "we respect the need for certain items to meet the cost-recovery threshold," the then-proposed appeals fees "leave all but the wealthiest of Angelenos with no means to appeal even the most egregious of Land Use decisions."[1]

Now, in 2026, the City is proposing another large increase in appeals fees, from the current $229 for non-applicants,[2] to $1,145 for non-applicants within the noticing/mailing radius (a five-fold increase), and $2,289 for non-applicants outside the noticing/mailing area (a ten-fold increase) (Option B23 in the CAO report[3]); recommendation by Planning and Land Use Management Committee, 8/25/25; concurrence by Budget and Finance Committee, 10/6/26).

Consistent with our position taken in 2021, WRAC opposes the proposal to raise non-applicant fees for appeals of land use decisions to the levels now recommended in CF 09-0969-S4, as we believe this increase will prohibit City stakeholders from having meaningful access to City land use procedures.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robin Greenberg, Chair
Christina Spitz, Vice-chair
Westside Regional Alliance of Councils

cc *(via email):* Hon. Karen Bass, Mayor, City of Los Angeles

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[1] We note the comments submitted by the Little Tokyo Community Council, in particular, that "cost recovery should not come at the expense of civic participation." https://cityclerk.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2009/09-0969-S4_PC_PM_10-07-2026.pdf

[2] https://zoning.lacity.gov/browse/15

[3] https://cityclerk.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2009/09-0969-s4_rpt_cao_3-24-26.pdf