

ANALYSIS

This ordinance amends Title 22 – Planning and Zoning of the Los Angeles County Code relating to amendments to the Santa Monica Mountains Local Implementation Program incorporating changes requested by the California Coastal Commission relating to low-impact campgrounds in the Santa Monica Mountains Coastal Zone.

DAWYN R. HARRISON
Interim County Counsel

By 
ROLAND TRINH
Senior Deputy County Counsel
Property Division

RT:bh

Requested: 11/21/19

Revised: 11/3/22

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-0062

An ordinance amending Title 22 – Planning and Zoning of the Los Angeles County Code relating to amendments to the Santa Monica Mountains Local Implementation Program incorporating changes requested by the California Coastal Commission and by the County, relating to low-impact campgrounds in the Santa Monica Mountains Coastal Zone.

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 22.44.630 is hereby amended to read as follows:

22.44.630 Definitions.

. . .

"Campground, low-impact" means an area of land designed or used for "carry-in, carry-out" tent camping accessed by foot or wheelchair, including and may include associated support facilities ~~such as, where appropriate, picnic areas, potable water, self-contained chemical or composting restrooms, shade trees, water tanks, portable fire suppression apparatus, and fire-proof cooking stations,~~ but in accordance with the standards in Subsection M.2.c of Section 22.44.1920 and excluding any structures for permanent human occupancy and excluding roads. Low-impact campgrounds constitutes a resource-dependent use.

"Camping, carry-in, carry-out" means camping in which campers arrive at a campground by foot or other non-motor vehicle transportation from associated parking areas, ADA compliant drop-off areas, trails or bikeways, rely upon only that which can be carried to the site, and leave nothing behind at the campground upon departure.

...

SECTION 2. Section 22.44.1920 is hereby amended to read as follows:

22.44.1920 Development Standards.

...

M. Resource-dependent Uses. Resource-dependent uses are uses that are dependent on SERAs to function. Resource-dependent uses include: nature observation, research/education, habitat restoration, interpretive signage, and passive recreation, including horseback riding, low-impact campgrounds, picnic areas, public accessways, and hiking trails, but excluding trails for motor vehicles. Residential or commercial uses are not resource-dependent uses.

...

2. Development Standards.

a. Resource-dependent uses shall be sited and designed to ~~avoid or minimize adverse impacts to~~ significant disruption of habitat values in H1 and H2 habitats and to minimize all impacts to other habitat to the maximum extent feasible. The development shall be the minimum design necessary to accommodate the use and avoid significant disruption of habitat value in order to minimize adverse impacts to H1 and H2 habitat;

b. Accessways to and along the shoreline that are located in H1 or H2 habitat shall be sited, designed, and managed to avoid ~~and/or~~ significant disruption of habitat values, including by protecting marine mammal hauling grounds, seabird nesting and roosting sites, sensitive rocky points and intertidal areas, and

coastal dunes. Inland public trails shall be located, designed, and maintained to avoid ~~or minimize impacts to~~ significant disruption of habitat values in H1 or H2 H habitat areas and to protect other coastal resources, by utilizing established trail corridors or other disturbed areas, following natural contours to minimize grading, and avoiding naturally vegetated areas with significant native plant species to the maximum extent feasible. Trails shall be constructed in a manner that minimizes grading and runoff;

c. Low-impact campgrounds shall be located, designed, and maintained to avoid ~~or minimize impacts to~~ significant disruption of habitat values in H1 or H2 H habitat areas, and must also avoid or minimize impacts to other coastal resources ~~by utilizing~~. Such campgrounds shall utilize established disturbed areas where feasible, following ~~ing~~ natural contours to minimize grading, and ~~avoiding~~ naturally vegetated areas with significant native plant species to the maximum extent feasible. Such campgrounds shall be located a minimum of 50 feet from the top bank of all streams or from the outer edge of riparian vegetation, whichever is the most protective of biological resources as determined by the staff biologist or the ERB unless those areas are developed and/or disturbed by historic uses (e.g., recreation). Access to low-impact campgrounds ~~shall~~ may be supported by parking areas and designated ADA drop-offs that may be located in H2 habitat areas, where it is infeasible to site such facilities in H3 habitat areas;

i. Development and Operational Standards.

Low-impact campgrounds shall comply with all of the following:

(a) In addition to the locational criteria above, campsites shall be sited near or along existing or proposed trails or access routes to supporting parking areas.

(b) Firepits, fires, flammable devices, and smoking shall be prohibited at all low-impact campgrounds.

(c) Pets shall be prohibited in low-impact campgrounds.

(d) Low-impact campground capacity shall be based on site-specific evidence and, if located in H1 or H2 habitat areas, shall in no event exceed four tents and shall be limited to no more than 12 persons.

(e) Camping is prohibited when hazardous conditions exist (e.g. when "red-flag" wildfire warnings or flash flood warnings are issued by the National Weather Service).

(f) Campers are limited to a maximum length of stay of 14 days.

ii. Where the following support facilities for low-impact campgrounds are proposed in H1 or H2 habitat areas, they must be consistent with the included standards:

(a) Parking and Drop-Off Areas. Parking areas and designated ADA drop-offs shall be located in H3 habitat areas, where feasible, but may be established in H2 habitat areas, where it is infeasible to site such facilities in

H3 habitat areas. Parking areas and designated ADA drop-offs are prohibited in H1 habitat areas. Trash receptacles may be provided in parking or drop-off areas.

(b) Restroom Facilities. Restroom facilities shall be single stall, self-contained, and of a chemical or composting type. They shall be located no closer than 100 feet from streams as measured from the outer edge of riparian vegetation or from the top of bank, if there is no riparian vegetation present. They shall not be permanently affixed to a foundation or the ground and cannot have associated plumbing infrastructure. These limitations shall not apply to restroom facilities located outside of H1 and H2 habitat areas. All waste materials shall be disposed of off-site. All restroom facilities shall be consistent with the height, colors, and materials required by this LIP. No more than one such facility is allowed per low-impact campground.

(c) Fencing. All fencing shall be wildlife permeable (see definition in Section 22.44.630). Placement of fencing is limited to the perimeter of the campground or where necessary to protect nearby sensitive habitat.

(d) Water Storage. Water storage tanks for use in fire suppression shall be located within the boundaries of an established low-impact campground. Water storage tanks for use as an on-site potable water supply may be located within the boundaries of an established low-impact campground. Said storage tanks within a campground shall not be permanently affixed to the ground or other permanent structure and shall be easily moved and emptied and filled outside of the campsite or H1 habitat areas. Water storage tanks within a campground shall be limited

to no more than three 55-gallon containers. There shall be no plumbing infrastructure built or associated with water dispensing facilities. These limitations shall not apply to water storage facilities located outside of H1 and H2 habitat areas.

(e) Signage. Informational and interpretative signage that identifies the low-impact campground, directs hikers to nearby trail(s), or identifies local floral/fauna is allowed. The signage must be located within the perimeter of an authorized low-impact campground or along an authorized trail near a low-impact campground. Signs shall not be attached to a permanent foundation.

(f) Fireproof Cooking Stations. Fireproof cooking stations may be installed for use at low-impact campgrounds, but are limited to one per tent site, and full instructions for their operation shall be provided. Campers would be required to utilize only designated fireproof cooking stations provided at each approved campsite, which shall be designed of nonflammable materials and capable of being enclosed vertically on three sides (leaving one side open for cooking operations). Only cold-camping apparatus with no open flames, such as flame-less cook-stoves and lanterns, are allowed. Use of any type of liquid fuel (alcohol, kerosene, unleaded gasoline, white gas, mentholated spirit, etc.), canister fuel (propane, butane, etc.), wood, wax, or any other type of combustible material for cooking or lighting shall be expressly prohibited. Prospective campers shall be informed of the "no flame" policy upon reserving and/or registering for use of low-impact camping facilities and shall be put on notice that unauthorized use of fire-related camping and cooking apparatus specifically prohibited by the "no flame" policy will be cause for confiscation of such

devices and/or expulsion of visitors from low-impact camp facilities. Signs shall be posted to explain the "no flame" policy, and low-impact campgrounds will be periodically patrolled to enforce the policy.

(g) Fire extinguishers or other portable fire suppression equipment may be stored within a low-impact campground and shall not be attached to a permanent foundation.

iii. All coastal development permits for low-impact campgrounds shall include the following conditions of approval:

(a) Permittee shall prepare a drainage and runoff pollution control plan for the low-impact campground and associated support facilities. Said plan shall be provided to the Directors of Regional Planning and Public Works for their review and sign off prior to the operation of the low-impact campground.

(b) Permittee shall prepare a reservation/registration and operations/maintenance plan for the low-impact campground. Said plan shall include, at a minimum, details regarding the reservation system to be used for the campground, a requirement that campers register prior to using campground facilities, a log of each camper's contact and travel information, and campground monitoring and maintenance parameters. The plan shall include a campground-specific inspection plan with criteria for how frequently campground management staff shall inspect the campground and shall include a system to determine when camping will be prohibited in relation to "red-flag" wildfire warning days or other emergency conditions. The camper log shall include the name, phone number,

arrival date, and departure date (length of stay), and a log of each camper's origin before reaching the campground and their destination upon leaving the campground. The plan shall include provisions for informing prospective campers of the "no flame" policy upon reserving and/or registering for use of low-impact camping facilities and putting them on notice that unauthorized use of fire-related camping and cooking apparatus specifically prohibited by the "no flame" policy will be cause for confiscation of such devices and/or expulsion of visitors from low-impact camp facilities. The maintenance parameters shall detail the disposal and refilling of potable water storage facilities, the maintenance of on-site restroom facilities, and strategies for securing support facility elements from vandalism or theft. The plan shall be submitted to the Director for review and approval prior to the operation of the low-impact campground.

(c) Permittee shall prepare an emergency management plan. Said plan shall include, at a minimum, a camper notification system and campground evacuation procedures in the event of an emergency. Said plan shall also include details, such as the nearest evacuation shelter and evacuation route(s). The plan shall be submitted to the Director for review and sign off prior to the operation of the low-impact campground.

. . .

[2244630JJCC]

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall be published in The Daily Commerce a newspaper printed and published in the County of Los Angeles.



Hornitzhef

Chair

ATTEST:

Celia Zavala

Celia Zavala
Executive Officer -
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles

I hereby certify that at its meeting of November 15, 2022 the foregoing ordinance was adopted by the Board of Supervisors of said County of Los Angeles by the following vote, to wit:

Ayes

Noes

Supervisors Hilda L. Solis
Holly J. Mitchell
Sheila Kuehl
Janice Hahn
Kathryn Barger

Supervisors None

Effective Date: December 15, 2022

Operative Date:

Celia Zavala

Celia Zavala
Executive Officer -
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles

I hereby certify that pursuant to Section 25103 of the Government Code, delivery of this document has been made:

CELIA ZAVALA
Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By *[Signature]*
Deputy



APPROVED AS TO FORM:
DAWYN R. HARRISON
Interim County Counsel

By *[Signature]*
Nicole Davis Tinkham
Chief Deputy County Counsel