Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead

James E. Hartl, AICP
Director of Planning

February 28, 2006

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

APPOINTMENT OF HEARING OFFICER WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL PLANNING

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Appoint Paul McCarthy as Hearing Officer.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

On November 26, 1995, the Board of Supervisors passed ordinances establishing a Hearing Officer within the Department of Regional Planning. Hearing Officers hold public hearings on routine applications freeing the Regional Planning Commission to focus on significant proposals.

Section 22.08.080 of the County Code (Zoning Ordinance) requires that all appointments as Hearing Officer be confirmed by the Board of Supervisors.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The appointment of the Hearing Officers promote the County's Strategic Plan goals for responsiveness and professionalism. Hearing Officers also enhance the delivery of service to the public and help manage effectively the County's resources by reducing the number of cases heard by the Regional Planning Commission.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There is no cost to the County associated with appointments as such Hearing Officers are employees of the Department of Regional Planning. Since there is no fiscal impact, there is no need for financing.

FACTS AND PROVISONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

County Code (Zoning Ordinance) Section 22.08.080 permits the Director of Planning to appoint Hearing Officers, subject to confirmation by the Board of Supervisors, to perform the duties prescribed by Title 22 relating to the conducting of public hearings and making determinations on land use permits and variances.

Respectfully submitted,

James E. Hartl, AICP
Director of Planning

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HD/File:Appt_of_HO_McCarthy