



SACHI A. HAMAI
Chief Executive Officer

County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

36 August 4, 2020

CELIA ZAVALA
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

August 04, 2020

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

Dear Supervisors:

APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY NO. 3.125 – COUNTY FILMING POLICY (ALL AFFECTED DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

Approve updated changes to Board Policy No. 3.125: County Filming Policy.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Approve and adopt the revised County Filming Policy, effective upon Board approval, which updates the previous regulations, exemptions, and best practices to support filming and photography activity in the Unincorporated Areas of Los Angeles County.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

In response to the request of the Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors, this office has conducted a sunset review of Board Policy No. 3.125: County Filming Policy. Based on this review, we recommend the attached revisions and extending the sunset review date from July 14, 2020 through July 12, 2024. The Chief Executive Office presented the proposed changes to the County Filming Policy to the Audit Committee on May 6, 2020, and received approval to submit the policy to the Board for final action and approval.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There are no fiscal impacts to the County Budget.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

On May 1, 2012, the California Film Commission (CFC) adopted a revised statewide Model Film Ordinance (MFO) and Best Practices based on extensive stakeholder outreach to the film industry and State and local governments.

On July 5, 2012, the Southern California Association of Governments' Regional Council unanimously moved to encourage its 191 member cities and six counties to adopt a version of the CFC MFO and Best Practices that fit their needs.

On July 24, 2012, the Board directed the Chief Executive Officer to revise the County's current film practices in accordance with the revised CFC MFO and Best Practices for incorporation into the County's practices to the extent practicable.

On July 31, 2012, the Chief Executive Officer advised the Board that incorporating the CFC's MFO and Best Practices into the County's current practices via a Board Policy would be the best approach.

On January 24, 2013, the County's Audit Committee approved the recommended Policy for submission to the Board.

On March 22, 2013, the Board approved the County Filming Policy 3.125.

On May 6, 2020, the County's Audit Committee approved the recommended changes and extension of the sunset date to July 12, 2024, and received approval to submit the policy to the Board for final action and approval.

The significant updates to the County's Filming Policy involve updates to the Permit Exemptions, Prohibitions on County Properties, and Permit Violation sections to include:

Exemptions to Permits:

1. Certified Sound Stages and Certified Studio properties activities;
2. Emergent News Media filming activities;
3. Personal/Family filming activities;
4. Filming activities conducted for use in a criminal investigation or criminal court proceeding; and
5. Filming activities conducted by or on behalf of the County of Los Angeles.

Prohibitions on County Properties:

1. Filming of commercials or advertisements for alcohol, cannabis, or tobacco products;
2. County clients or patients unless a release form is signed; and
3. County employees in County employee occupied buildings during regular work hours unless a release form is signed by the employee and approved by their respective Department manager.

Permit Violations:

1. If a person conducts filming activity without a required film permit, the unauthorized filming activity must cease, and the person can be charged with a misdemeanor. Unpermitted filming is a

misdemeanor punishable by a daily fine, not to exceed \$1000 per day, imprisonment in the County jail not to exceed six months, or both.

2. If a permittee violates any provisions of a film permit issued pursuant thereto, the County may provide the permittee with verbal or written notice of such violation. If the permittee fails to correct the violation, the County may revoke the film permit and all activity must cease.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

There are no impacts on current services or projects.

CONCLUSION

The recommended changes in the County Filming Policy remain consistent with the Board's direction to implement a policy that supports filming activity and encourages the retention of the filming industry in Los Angeles County while balancing the interests of communities and County government.

The changes also update the current regulations, exemptions and best practices for filming and photography activities in the Unincorporated Areas of Los Angeles County and clarifies the County's Municipal Code language relative to enforcement of these activities.

If you have questions, please contact Allison Clark, Senior Manager, Economic Development and Affordable Housing Division, at (213) 974-8355 or [allison.clark @ ceo.lacounty.gov](mailto:allison.clark@ceo.lacounty.gov).

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

8/4/2020

Page 4

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sachi A. Hamai', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right. Below the signature, the word 'for' is written in a smaller, cursive script.

SACHI A. HAMAI

Chief Executive Officer

SAH:FAD:AEC

JO:GS:acn

Enclosures

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Sheriff
Animal Care and Control
Arts and Culture
Beaches and Harbors
District Attorney
Fire
Health Services
LA County Library
Medical Examiner-Coroner
Military and Veterans Affairs
Parks and Recreation
Probation
Public Social Services
Public Works
Regional Planning
FilmLA



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Fifth District

April 7, 2020

To: Audit Committee

From: Sachi A. Hamai
Chief Executive Officer

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY NO. 3.125 - COUNTY FILMING POLICY

In response to the request of the Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors, this office has conducted a sunset review of Board Policy No. 3.125: County Filming Policy. Based on this review, we recommend the attached revisions and extending the sunset review date from July 14, 2020 through July 12, 2024.

The recommended changes will update the current procedural steps for filming in the County and align more clearly with the County Municipal Code relative to enforcement.

If you have questions, please contact Allison Clark, Senior Manager, Economic Development and Affordable Housing Division, at (213) 974-8355 or allison.clark@ceo.lacounty.gov.

SAH:FAD:AEC
JO:GS:yy

Attachment

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel

3.125 - County Filming Policy

Effective Date: 01/14/14

PURPOSE

To promote the establishment of permit policies, regulations, and best practices that increase or retain filming activity in Los Angeles County, while balancing the concerns of communities and County government.

REFERENCE

July 24, 2012 [Board Order 11](#)

July 31, 2012 Chief Executive Officer memorandum entitled: "[California Film Commission's Model Film Ordinance And Best Practices](#)"

January 7, 2014 "[Guidelines and Best Practices for Filming Activities for County of Los Angeles](#)"

January 14, 2014 Board Letter from Chief Executive Officer [Board Order 14](#)

POLICY

The County Board of Supervisors recognizes the economic importance of the filming industry to the region in terms of economic activity, tax revenue, jobs, and tourism. The following policies and procedures are adopted by the Board to retain and increase filming activities in Los Angeles County, while balancing the concerns of communities and county government.

I. DEFINITIONS:

- a. "Filming Activity" shall mean motion picture, television, and commercial still photography filming activities and include all activity attendant to staging or shooting commercial motion pictures, television shows or programs, commercials, and student films produced to satisfy a post-secondary school course requirement at an educational institution in any medium including film, tape or digital format.
- b. "Charitable filming activities" shall mean commercials, motion pictures, television, videotapes, digital recording or still photography produced by a nonprofit organization, which qualifies under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as a charitable organization. No person, directly or indirectly, shall receive a profit from the marketing and production of the film or from showing the films, tapes or photos.
- c. "News Media filming activities" shall mean the photographing, filming or videotaping for ~~the purpose of~~ spontaneous, unplanned television news broadcast or reporting for print media by reporters, photographers or camerapersons.
- d. "Certified Sound Stage and Certified Studio Property ~~filming~~ Activities" shall be those filming activities described above that take place in a fixed place of business certified as such by local fire authority having jurisdiction.
- e. "Personal/Family filming activities" shall be those recording activities of visual images (motion or still photography) solely for private personal use, and not for commercial use.

II. PERMITS AND EXEMPTIONS:

- a. **Film** Permit required: No person shall use any public or private property, facility or residence in the County's unincorporated areas or at a County or County District property in incorporated areas for ~~for the purpose of~~ Filming Activity without first applying for and receiving a permit from the County.

Exemptions: The film permit requirements described above shall not apply to:

- 1) Certified Sound Stages and Certified Studio properties activities;
- 2) Emergent News Media filming activities;
- 3) Personal/Family filming activities;
- 4) Filming activities conducted for use in a criminal investigation or criminal court proceeding;
- 5) Filming activities conducted by or on behalf of the County of Los Angeles.

~~—Exemptions: The permit requirements described above shall not apply to News Media filming activities, Studio filming activities, and Personal/Family filming activities.~~

- b. **Permits on Set:** The permittee shall retain a physical copy of its film permit and any other entitlement required for its filming activities where the filming activity takes places. The permittee shall provide said physical copies upon request.

III. RULES AND REGULATIONS:

- a. Rules: The County will promulgate rules and regulations, subject to approval by resolution of the Board, governing the form, time and location of any film activity set forth within the County. The County shall also provide for the issuance of **film** permits. The rules and regulations may be based upon the following criteria:
 - 1) The health and safety of all persons;
 - 2) Mitigation of disruption to all persons within the affected area;
 - 3) The safety of property within the County; and
 - 4) Traffic congestion at particular locations within the County.

IV. APPLICATION APPLICANTS AND ISSUANCE:

- a. Issuing Authority: the issuing authority shall be the County.
- b. Applications: The following information may be included in the application:
 - 1) The specific location at such address or place;
 - 2) The inclusive hours and dates such filming activity will occur;
 - 3) A general statement of the character or nature of the proposed filming activity;
 - 4) The name, address, email address, and telephone number of the person or persons in charge of such filming activity;
 - 5) The exact number of personnel to be involved on-site;
 - 6) A description of the activities that may cause public alarm such as the use of any **lighting, loud music,** animals, gunfire, pyrotechnics, **drone** or helicopter activity; and
 - 7) The exact number and type of vehicles, and amount and type of equipment, to be used for the filming activities, along with a parking plan.
- c. Fee Schedule: The County shall adopt a fee schedule.
- d. Reimbursement for Personnel: The production company shall reimburse the County for any personnel provided to the company (e.g., police, fire, traffic) for ~~the purpose of~~ assisting the production.
- e. Change of Date: Upon the request of the **permittee applicant**, the issuing authority shall have the power, upon a showing of good cause, to change the date for which the permit has been issued, provided established limitations are complied with in respect to time and location.

V. INDEMNIFICATION AND INSURANCE PROVISIONS

- a. Indemnification: Permittee shall indemnify defend and hold harmless the County, its special districts, elected and appointed officers, employees, agents and volunteers ("County Indemnitees") from and against any and all liability, including but not limited to demands, claims, actions, fees, cost and expenses (including attorney and expert witness fees), arising from and /or related to the permit, except for such loss or damage from the sole negligence or willful misconduct of the County Indemnitees.
- b. Insurance: The film permit shall not be effective until permittee has submitted satisfactory evidence of general liability insurance, workers' compensation insurance, automobile insurance and employers' liability insurance conforming to the requirements of the County. The type, coverage, policy limits and other conditions of insurance shall be that required by the County at the time the film permit is issued, unless a different type, coverage, policy limits and other conditions of insurance are specified in the film permit.

VI. PROHIBITIONS ON COUNTY PROPERTIES:

Filming activities on County District Property shall not include the following:

- a. Filming of Commercials or advertisements for alcohol, cannabis, or tobacco products;
- b. County clients or patients unless a release form is signed; and
- c. County employees in County employee occupied buildings during regular work hours unless a release form is signed by the employee and approved by their respective Department manager.

VII. VIOLATION:

- a. No Permit: If a person conducts filming activity without a requested film permit, the unauthorized filming activity must cease, and the person can be charged with a misdemeanor. Unpermitted filming is misdemeanor punishable by a daily fine, not to exceed \$1,000 per day, imprisonment in the County jail not to exceed six months, or both.
- b. If a permittee ~~an applicant~~ violates any provisions of ~~this ordinance~~ or a film permit issued pursuant thereto, the County may provide the permittee ~~applicant~~ with verbal or written notice of such violation. If the permittee ~~applicant~~ fails to correct the violation, the County may revoke the permit and all activity must cease.

RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT

Chief Executive Office

DATE ISSUED/SUNSET DATE

Issue Date: January 14, 2014	Sunset Date: January 14, 2018
Review Date: November 16, 2017	Sunset Date: July 14, 2018
Review Date: May 16, 2018	Sunset Date: July 14, 2020
Review Date: May 20, 2020	Sunset Date: July 12, 2024