

Regulatory Relief Suggestions Matrix - Review Ongoing as of September 2012

Suggestion Number	Regulatory Relief Day Suggestion	Stakeholder Source:	Working Group Comment(s)	(1) City Department Responsible and (2) Status as of September 12, 2012
5	Revise City imposed CEQA significance thresholds. The City has established thresholds of significance and relies on them in applying CEQA. The City has the ability to review and revise these thresholds to streamline the process and eliminate unnecessary and costly (time and money) review, technical study and overly burdensome mitigation, and yet still achieve CEQA's purpose. A good example of this are thresholds relating to traffic levels of service (LOS). The City can adjust these thresholds so that more projects may proceed without triggering more significant environmental review and mitigation.	BIA	Changes to CEQA thresholds are conducted as new scientific information becomes available. At this time, Development Services Department is looking at revisions to traffic thresholds.	(1) Development Services Department. (2) Current status remains as noted in "Working Group Comments".
17	Self-Certification for building/engineering plans. The City requires indemnification for all projects and inspections which means project applicants assume all the risk yet are still required to pay for and wait for City inspectors that ultimately bear no responsibility in the project they are reviewing. Self-Certification by project professionals will expedite project processing and construction saving considerable time expense.	BIA	Engineering and landscape self-certification programs exist. Architectural community split on self-certification for architecture. DSD will pursue if additional sectors want a self-certification program.	(1) Development Services Department. (2) Current status remains as noted in "Working Group Comments".
18	PART 1. Get rid of discretionary overlay zones in the City by updating Community Plans...	Chamber of Commerce	Comment accepted. Will consider during Community Plan Update process.	(1) Development Services Department. (2) Current status remains as noted in "Working Group Comments".
22	PART 2.doing master EIRs...	Chamber of Commerce	Comment accepted. Will consider during Community Plan Update process.	(1) Development Services Department. (2) Current status remains as noted in "Working Group Comments".
22	PART 4. Pursue CEQA reform - primarily at the State level.	Chamber of Commerce	City Legislative Program, most recently adopted in January, includes pursuit of CEQA reform.	(1) Development Services Department, in conjunction with the Mayor's Office. (2) Current status remains as noted in "Working Group Comments".
24	Sign approval process -what constitutes a permissible sign in San Diego and how signs are approved: There are only a certain number of sign types that are generally used and the City should approve those signs that conform within the general applications within a certain amount of time.		Comment accepted. Process is defined by the municipal code. Sign approval is offered as an "over-the-counter" service. CAO: Changes to City's sign restrictions require legal review and Municipal Code amendments.	(1) Development Services Department. (2) Additional information is needed to understand this suggestion.
28	2) Traffic Review Process - Need to update City's Traffic Impact Study Manual as its interpretations may not comply with current CEQA law and the developer is ultimately liable if there is a legal challenge;	Westfield	DSD is evaluating revisions to traffic thresholds and updates to Traffic Impact Study Manual are being considered.	(1) Development Services Department. (2) Current status remains as noted in "Working Group Comments".

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33	SDG&E's general rate hike will cost the City's businesses and residents millions of dollars - and cause Solar Coalition businesses to lose jobs. Write a resolution opposing SDG&E rate case and send it to the PUC and legislators.	San Diego Solar Coalition	January 19, 2012 CPUC Commissioner Ferron denied SDG&E's request for a "Network Use Charge". City Energy Staff and Mayor's Office will continue to monitor. The City has intervened in and is a party to SDG&E's rate case.	(1) Office of the Mayor. (2) The Committee Consultant will follow up to confirm current status.
34	City business permits requiring Vice Department Review should be available on line.	Business Improvement Districts (BIDs)	Comment accepted. Will be considered in ED&S discussions on putting more forms online and considered by city staff in recommending forms to place online. This discussion was held at the February 27, 2012 ED&S Committee meeting. The Police Vice Department is working with the Treasurer's Office and other departments on the Business Regulatory Consolidation Project that is intended to, as much as possible, create a one stop shop for city permits and applications.	(1) Treasurer's Office is the lead department coordinating the Business Regulatory Consolidation Project. (2) At the February 27, 2012 ED&S Committee meeting, staff relayed that the payment and permitting application processes will be available online and permits will be issued via mail once approved. The target date for implementation has been revised and is tentatively scheduled for FY14.
37	1) Look at the City of Los Angeles policies for permitting mobile truck units - code compliance issue; 2) Treat small businesses as you would big businesses - level the playing field; 3) Look at smart regulation and not "no regulation" - big businesses like WalMart on Palm Avenue have an unenforceable CUP, while small businesses do not.	Neighborhood Market Association	Comment accepted. Los Angeles codes will be considered in any mobile food truck regulations. Businesses are not treated differently based upon size. Code suggestion referred to Neighborhood Code Compliance.	(1) Development Services Department, Neighborhood Code Compliance. (2) Staff is currently drafting language to address these concerns.
43	Zoning Code: Remove the entire special character designation for multi-family in the Southeastern District.		Comment accepted. Will be considered in City planning efforts and Community Plan Update.	(1) Development Services Department. (2) Current status remains as noted in "Working Group Comments".

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10	Expand fee deferrals to include sewer and water fees.	BIA	ED&S Committee should refer to Wastewater Department staff for follow-up. City Attorney analysis will be required if a decision is made to pursue such a policy.	(1) Development Services Department. (2) Mayoral staff will provide an update on the progress of this suggestion at the 9/17/2012 ED&S Committee meeting.
13	Overhaul Project Reimbursement Agreements. Agreements take too long, impose unworkable restrictions and requirements and ignore the necessary sequencing of development which discourages developers from building public improvements.	BIA	Appropriate for ED&S Committee in the long term. Review of this issue is currently underway by staff. CAO: Implementation of proposed changes may require amendments to Council Policies, the Municipal Code, and Administrative Regulations.	(1) Development Services Department. (2) Staff is continuing to review this issue and has discussed the issue with Chair Lightner.