

Public Comments and Staff's Response

The following are comments by the public and the staff's response. Public comments are in italics:

Create an ordinance to expedite sustainable buildings permit process instead of adopting a Council Policy. An ordinance is more effective and prestigious among other municipalities in the state and country: Adopting an ordinance is a lengthy process that requires public hearings. In addition, the renewable energy systems are fairly new technologies that will constantly be changing over the next decade or so. Adopting a Council Policy will give the City Council and staff flexibility to modify the expedite program as needed to keep up with the changing technologies.

Adjust permit fees and hire additional staff to be able to process the affordable in-fill housing and sustainable buildings expedite programs in a timely manner: In its comprehensive fee study to be considered by a separate action by City Council, the Development Services Department will consider fee adjustments and hiring additional staff members to review and process these expedited permits.

The sustainable buildings expedite program does not provide expedite service to residential projects of less than 10 units: The Development services Department cannot offer expedite service to a large number of projects; otherwise the expedite service will not be meaningful. In addition, the Department's Land Development Review Division is working with Mr. Turk on identifying problem areas for smaller projects to resolve them and make the process more timely.

Obtaining land use data is a lengthy process that requires an appointment one week in advance. Some information on the Cabrillo system is erroneous or unavailable. Our MIS staff inputs land use information as it is received. Same day appointments are available to meet with staff at the Development and Permit Information (DPI) counter and obtain detailed land use information on any property within the City. When information is unavailable for vacant properties on the Cabrillo system, staff utilizes the hard copies of the original zoning maps and any associated ordinances or actions on that parcel to provide information to our customers. Other services in the department requires longer lead times, however most services are available on a walk-in basis or within two (2) work days.