

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

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

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 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. 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 animals, gunfire, pyrotechnics, 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 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 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 permit is issued, unless a different type, coverage, policy limits and other conditions of insurance are specified in the permit.

VI. VIOLATION:

If an applicant violates any provisions of this ordinance or a permit issued pursuant thereto, the County may provide the applicant with verbal or written notice of such violation. If the 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