

# A Two-Minute Summary of the Draft Healthy Design Ordinance (“HDO”)

In order to promote better physical health and help reduce obesity rates in Los Angeles County, the HDO proposes to amend several sections of the Los Angeles County Code to accomplish the following:

- 1. *Provide better walking environments.*** Increase the minimum public sidewalk width from four feet to five feet, and when applicable require landscaping and shade trees next to the street or driveway curb on new development projects. Require front yard trees to be planted next to the sidewalk and at more frequent intervals to establish a continuous street shade canopy. Add pedestrian thru-ways at cul-de-sac dead-ends that connect to schools, trails, recreation centers and other neighborhood destinations.
- 2. *Encourage more bicycling.*** Require both short and long-term bicycle parking spaces to be provided within new developments in easily-accessible locations. Allow an automatic 5% car parking reduction when replaced with bike parking and located near public transit or along a County bike master plan route.
- 3. *Improve access to healthy foods.*** Allow weekly farmers’ markets without the need for sponsorship by a charitable organization. Allow community gardens as legally-permitted uses in residential, commercial and agricultural zones.
- 4. *Enhance project review requirements.*** Require more detailed street section designs on tentative plans in order to depict healthy design features such as landscaping, lighting, street furniture and bike parking spots. Require higher justification when sidewalk and bicycle facilities are proposed to be reduced or waived. Lastly, allow an exemption from more stringent drought-tolerant landscaping requirements in order to provide better shade trees in areas frequented by pedestrians and bicyclists.