



SAFE ACCESS TO ALCOHOL AND FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS

SEPTEMBER 2016 COMMUNITY MEETING

This presentation will provide you with background information on a project initiated by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to address alcohol sales in unincorporated Los Angeles County and to gather your feedback on this project which we have named SAAFE or Safe Access to Alcohol and Food Establishments.

As a part of the process, we are reaching out to communities to solicit feedback. There will be 14 community meetings held during the month of September throughout the County to collect input from residents and community members.

OVERVIEW



- ◆ BACKGROUND
- ◆ ALCOHOL RETAIL OUTLETS
- ◆ POLL
- ◆ NEXT STEPS
- ◆ OTHER DRP PROJECTS

Background information will be provided on the project.

We will describe general types of alcohol retail outlets we will be discussing.

Then you will be asked to participate in an anonymous poll in order to get your feedback.

Finally, the next steps will be discussed and what other projects the Department of Regional Planning is also working on.



On May 31 of this year the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) made a motion directing the Departments of Regional Planning and Public Health to work together to examine ways to update alcohol sales regulations while promoting the sale of healthy food at retail stores that sell alcohol. These regulations will only affect businesses located within the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. This project is to be completed within 9 months of the Board motion and will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in Spring of 2017.

The goals of the project are to:

- Identify local issues related to the retail sales of alcohol;
- Develop community-driven solutions to those problems; and
- Implement solutions that foster safe environments for alcohol sales and healthier food access.

BACKGROUND



- ◆ At the conclusion of the project, we will have the following:
 - ◆ Updated ordinance to regulate alcohol sales;
 - ◆ Healthy food component to alcohol sales;
 - ◆ Nexus study between alcohol sales and healthy food;
 - ◆ Standard conditions for alcohol sales;
 - ◆ Resource assessment for enforcement of alcohol sales.

BACKGROUND



Prior to 1992, if a store or restaurant wanted to sell alcohol, they would only need to apply with the State Department of Alcohol Beverage Control for an alcohol license.

In 1992 the County adopted rules to require any new establishment that wanted to sell alcohol in unincorporated Los Angeles County to obtain a conditional use permit from the County.

After 1992, anyone wanting to sell alcohol had to get both a license from the State as well as a conditional use permit from the County.

So you may wonder what the difference was after 1992 and what the conditional use permit from the County did. Well, a conditional use permit requires the store or restaurant to follow rules for selling alcohol such as putting up no loitering signs or limiting the hours they can sell alcohol or requiring them to install security cameras. Without the conditional use permit, they don't have to follow any additional rules that would help keep the store or restaurant a clean and safe place.

Division 1 - PLANNING A... / Chapter 22.56 - CONDITL... / Part 1 - CONDITIONAL U... / 22.56.195 - Alcoholic bev... SHOW CHANGES Q MORE

22.56.195 - Alcoholic beverage sales, for either on-site or off-site consumption.

Additional Findings Prerequisite to Permit.

A. This section applies to the following uses, with the exception of tasting rooms and remote tasting rooms:

1. Establishments that do not currently, but propose to, sell alcoholic beverages, for either on-site or off-site consumption;
2. Establishments that currently sell alcoholic beverages but which propose to change the type of alcoholic beverages to be sold, by changing the type of retail liquor license within a license classification;
3. Establishments that currently sell alcoholic beverages, if the establishment substantially changes its mode or character of operation, which includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. A 10-percent increase in the floor area devoted to alcoholic beverage sales or inventory, or
 - b. A 25-percent increase in facing used for the display of alcoholic beverages; and
4. Establishments which have either been abandoned or discontinued operation for three months.

B. In addition to the findings required pursuant to subsection A of [Section 22.56.090](#), the planning agency shall approve an application for a conditional use permit for alcoholic beverage sales where the information submitted by the applicant, or presented at public hearing, substantiates the following findings:

1. The requested use at the proposed location will not adversely affect the use of a place used exclusively for religious worship, school, park, playground or any similar use within a 600-foot radius; and
2. The requested use at the proposed location is sufficiently buffered in relation to any residential area within the immediate vicinity so as not to adversely affect said area; and
3. The requested use at the proposed location will not result in an undue concentration of similar premises; a separation of not less than 500 feet shall not be construed as undue concentration; provided, however, that the planning agency may find that the public convenience or necessity for an additional facility selling alcoholic beverages for off-site consumption, outweighs the fact that it is located within a 500-foot radius of any other facility selling alcoholic beverages for either on-site or off-site consumption, in which case the shelf space devoted to alcoholic beverages shall be limited to not more than five percent of the total shelf space in the establishment; and
4. The requested use at the proposed location will not adversely affect the economic welfare of the nearby community; and
5. The exterior appearance of the structure will not be inconsistent with the exterior appearance of commercial structures already constructed or under construction within the immediate neighborhood so as to cause blight, deterioration, or substantially diminish or impair property values within the neighborhood.

(Ord. 2010-0011 § 25, 2010; Ord. 92-0097 § 4, 1992.)

These are the current set of County rules that establishments have to follow if they are to sell alcohol. As you can see there aren't a lot of rules to cover all the different types of places that sell alcohol. So we will be working to update these using your input.



Why is it important to address the sale of alcohol in communities and the access to healthy food?

Studies have shown that communities with a high concentration of alcohol sales are at risk for more alcohol-involved car crashes, higher incidences of alcohol-related deaths, and/or greater exposure to violent crime.

Related to this, some communities with a high concentration of alcohol sales also have barriers to accessing healthy food. It could be that the limited supply of healthy food drives up the price making it too expensive to buy or that the quality is bad or that healthy food isn't available at all.

So the goal of the SAAFE project is to help create safe access to alcohol and food establishments.

ALCOHOL RETAIL OUTLETS



- ◆ RESTAURANTS
- ◆ SUPERMARKETS
- ◆ MINI-MARKETS
- ◆ CONVENIENCE STORES
- ◆ GAS STATIONS

During the polling process we will be asking you about your experience at places that sell alcohol and/or food. So that we have a common understanding of these types of places, we will go through and briefly describe what we mean when we refer to restaurants, supermarkets, mini-markets, convenience stores, and gas stations.

ALCOHOL RETAIL OUTLETS



RESTAURANTS

Restaurants are places that only sell meals prepared in their onsite kitchen and you may be served in their dining room or some places offer take out like fast food restaurants.

ALCOHOL RETAIL OUTLETS



SUPERMARKET

A supermarket is a large store that sells a large variety of produce, meat, and other products used for cooking. It will likely have shopping carts and multiple checkout stands. Examples of such stores are Ralphs, Vons, Vallarta.

ALCOHOL RETAIL OUTLETS



MINI-MARKET

Mini-markets are a much more scaled down version of the supermarket with less selection but still offer some produce and sometimes meat and the basic items you need for cooking. These usually have only one or two checkout stands.

ALCOHOL RETAIL OUTLETS



CONVENIENCE STORES

Convenience stores have a small selection of food items, often pre-packaged, dry foods like chips and cookies and often have multiple beverage coolers. Examples of these types of stores are 7-Eleven or AM-PM.

ALCOHOL RETAIL OUTLETS



GAS STATIONS

Some gas stations have small convenience stores attached to them. The differentiation we are making here is the presence of the gas station along with the small convenience store.

POLL



PREPARE
PHONE



READ
QUESTION



SUBMIT
ANSWER

While the poll was conducted with real-time live feedback results at the meetings, you can still participate by going to:

<http://planning.lacounty.gov/saafe>

It will be available through October 31, 2016 for this round of feedback

We are now asking for your feedback on your experiences at the establishments I just described. There are a total of 24 questions.

[Real-time polling was conducted at the meetings. However, you can still participate and provide your feedback using the survey link found at the top of the project website at: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/saafe>. This survey created for this initial round of feedback will be available through October 31, 2016, after which time will be closed in preparation for the next round of feedback.]



Where do we go from here?

After we gather all of your feedback we will spend all of October drafting the new rules and the documents mentioned at the beginning of the presentation.

Then in November we will develop a forum for you to learn about the proposed rules we drafted and ask you if we got it right and if we addressed your concerns.

Then we will spend December and January refining those documents.

In February of next year the Regional Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the proposed new rules and decide whether or not to recommend them to the Board of Supervisors. At this public hearing, you have the opportunity to attend and comment on the project or you can submit a letter to us.

Finally, the project will be heard before the Board of Supervisors who will adopt them and they will become the new laws. There are multiple opportunities for you to stay involved in this process, which are highlighted in the yellow circles, and we hope you continue to stay involved throughout this process.

OTHER DRP PROJECTS



- ◆ URBAN AGRICULTURE INCENTIVE ZONE PROGRAM
- ◆ COUNTY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

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The Department of Regional Planning has numerous programs underway.

One of those programs is the Urban Agriculture Incentive Zone Program which aims to incentive urban agriculture in urbanized areas in California by offering reduced property tax assessments in exchange for converting vacant or unimproved property to an agricultural use through a contract agreement for an initial period of five years.

Another program we are currently working on is the County Climate Action Plan Implementation Program which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and will result in important community benefits including improved air quality, energy savings, and increased mobility.

More information on this and other projects can be found on our department website at planning.lacounty.gov.

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