

REPORT TO THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

DATE ISSUED:	September 7, 2023		
MEETING DATE:	September 20, 2023	AGENDA	9
		ITEM:	
PROJECT NUMBER:	PRJ2023-002078-(1-5)		
PROJECT NAME:	Gun Dealer Ordinance/Title22		
PLAN NUMBER(S):	Advance Planning Case No. RPPL2023003021		
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT:	1-5		
PROJECT LOCATION:	Countywide		
PROJECT PLANNER:	Melissa Reyes, Senior Planner MReyes2@planning.lacounty.gov Andrew Flores, AICP, Planner AFlores@planning.lacounty.gov		

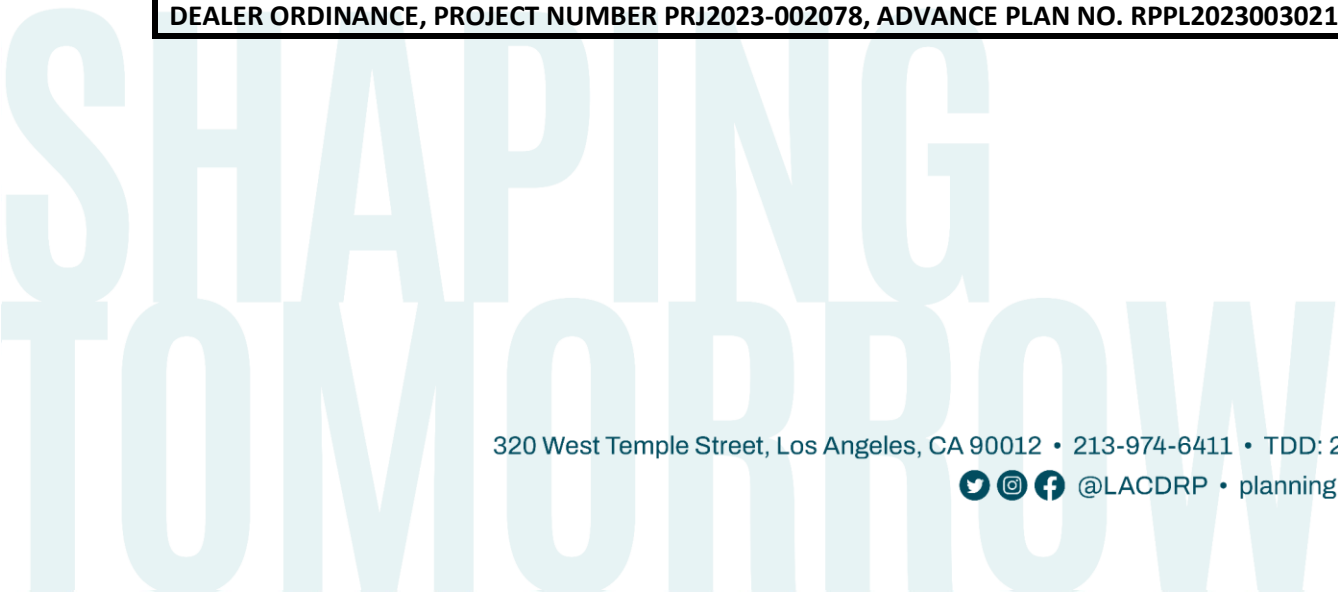
RECOMMENDATION

LA County Planning staff (“staff”) recommends the Regional Planning Commission adopt the attached resolution recommending approval to the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors of the Gun Dealer Ordinance, Plan No. RPPL2023003021.

Staff recommends the following motion:

I MOVE THAT THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING AND FIND THAT THE PROJECT IS EXEMPT PURSUANT TO STATE AND LOCAL CEQA GUIDELINES.

I ALSO MOVE THAT THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION ADOPT THE ATTACHED RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING APPROVAL TO COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE GUN DEALER ORDINANCE, PROJECT NUMBER PRJ2023-002078, ADVANCE PLAN NO. RPPL2023003021.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A. Project

Plan Number RPPL2023003021 is the Gun Dealer Ordinance (Ordinance), a project that amends Title 22 (Planning and Zoning) of the Los Angeles County Code to align with concurrent updates to the licensing requirements for gun dealers in Title 7 (Business Licenses) of the Los Angeles County Code to enhance gun regulations. This includes defining gun dealers and clarifying the allowance of gun dealers in some commercial zones and industrial zones. It also prohibits new gun dealers within 1,000 feet of a sensitive use and other gun dealers. Furthermore, the Ordinance requires a Conditional Use Permit for new gun dealers where permitted. In conjunction with Title 7, the Ordinance includes hours of operation and requires a business license. It also prohibits the discharge of a firearm on the premises of a gun dealership. The Ordinance (Exhibit A) and Draft Resolution (Exhibit B) are attached to this report.

The Title 7 Ordinance is a separate effort being led by the County of Los Angeles Treasurer and Tax Collector (TTC). More information on the Title 7 Ordinance can be found here: <https://ttc.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Gun-and-Ammo-Ordinance-Analysis-.pdf>

B. Project Background

On February 7, 2023, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors (Board) approved a motion titled “Establishing Ordinances to Enhance Gun Regulation in Los Angeles County.” The motion directs the Department of Regional Planning (LA County Planning) to: “prepare the ordinance to implement zoning regulations with a 1000 ft buffer zone between firearm dealers and sensitive areas (i.e. “child safety zones”) and between firearm dealers and other firearm dealers in unincorporated Los Angeles County as set forth in the February 1, 2023, Report, and to submit the final ordinance to the Board for its consideration.” The motion follows a series of motions dated June 14, 2022 and September 13, 2022 titled: “Revisiting Options for Gun Control in Los Angeles County” and “Enhancing Gun Regulations in Los Angeles County.” The motions directed several County agencies to implement changes to the Los Angeles County Code to enhance gun regulation in Los Angeles County. All three motions are attached to this report (Exhibit C).

C. Major Elements and Key Components

The Ordinance amends the County Code to add the following key components:

Define Gun Dealers

Currently, “gun dealer” is not defined in Title 22. The Ordinance includes a definition that is consistent with state law and the definition in the Title 7 update.

New Gun Dealers

Currently, gun dealers are permitted using comparable uses in the Zoning Code, such as “sporting goods stores.” The Ordinance clarifies the allowance of gun dealers in zones C-3 (General Commercial), C-M (Commercial Manufacturing), C-MJ (Major Commercial), C-R (Commercial Recreational), M-1 (Light Manufacturing), M-1.5 (Restricted Heavy Manufacturing), M-2 (Heavy Manufacturing), M-2.5 (Aircraft, Heavy Industrial), and C-RU (Commercial Rural) with a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) and business license. Furthermore, the Ordinance prohibits new gun dealers within 1000 feet of sensitive uses, which include the property boundary of a park, school, library, or child care center; or another gun dealer.

Existing Gun Dealers

Gun dealers that are legally existing may remain in their present condition. Chapter 22.172 (Nonconforming Uses, Buildings and Structures) contains regulations for the continuation, addition, repair, and termination of status for nonconforming uses. The Ordinance allows lawfully existing gun dealers to remain in their present condition, subject to Chapter 22.172, except that the termination period does not apply.

D. General Plan Consistency

The project is consistent with and supportive of the goals, policies, and principles of the General Plan, including:

- Policy LU 7.1: Reduce and mitigate the impacts of incompatible land uses, where feasible, using buffers, appropriate technology, building enclosure, and other design techniques.
- Policy LU 10.9: Encourage land uses and design that stimulate positive and productive human relations and foster the achievement of community goals.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

The project (Ordinance) is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the County’s Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines pursuant to CEQA Guidelines sections 15061(b)(3). Staff recommends that the Regional Planning Commission find the project is exempt from CEQA. A Notice of Exemption was prepared for the project (Exhibit D).

OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

A. County Department Comments and Recommendations

The following departments reviewed the project and had no comments: Fire Department, Public Works, Parks and Recreation, and Public Health.

B. Project Outreach and Engagement

In early September 2023, TTC mailed a letter to all known existing gun dealers with information on the Title 7 update to regulations for businesses that sell or rent firearms and/or sell ammunition. LA County Planning included a fact sheet in the mailing to inform known existing gun dealers of the Ordinance (Exhibit E). Gun dealer licensees and businesses have been invited to participate in a virtual meeting with TTC and LA County Planning to discuss the Ordinance. The meeting was also announced on LA County Planning’s website. The joint virtual meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2023 at 6pm.


On August 10, 2023, postcards were mailed to 235 contacts on LA County Planning’s Zoned District Courtesy List and CEQA Notification List to announce that the Ordinance is available for review and that a public hearing is scheduled for September 20, 2023. Pursuant to Chapter 22.244 (Ordinance Amendments) and Section 22.222.180 of the County Code, the notice of public hearing was published in local newspapers countywide including: Acton/Aqua Dulce Weekly News, Antelope Valley Press, Gardena Valley News, Glendale Independent, La Opini3n, Los Angeles Sentinel, Malibu Times, Pasadena Star News, The Acorn, The Argonaut, The Daily Breeze, The San Gabriel Valley Tribune, The Signal, and Whittier Daily News.

Project materials were posted on the Department’s website, and promoted through social media and email blast. The Ordinance was mailed to all Los Angeles County public libraries and made available for the public to review. Furthermore, the Department provided translated project summary sheets in Spanish and Chinese.

C. Public Comments

At the time of this report, staff has not received any written comments.

Report
Reviewed By: _____

Report
Approved By:  _____
Connie Chung, AICP, Deputy Director

LIST OF ATTACHED EXHIBITS	
EXHIBIT A	Gun Dealer Ordinance
EXHIBIT B	Draft Resolution
EXHIBIT C	Board Motions
EXHIBIT D	Environmental Determination
EXHIBIT E	Project Summary

1 **ORDINANCE NO. _____**

2 An ordinance amending Title 22 – Planning and Zoning of the Los Angeles County
3 Code defines and prohibits new gun dealers within 1000 feet of a sensitive use.

4 **SECTION 1.** Section 22.14.070 is hereby amended to read as follows:

5 ...

6 A. Ammunition dealer. See “Gun dealer.”

7 ...

8 **SECTION 2.** Section 22.14.070 is hereby amended to read as follows:

9 ...

10 G. Gun dealer. Any person, firm, corporation, or other business enterprise
11 required by California Penal Code section 26500 to obtain a Business License to engage
12 in the business of selling, transferring, leasing, trading, accepting on consignment, or
13 advertising for sale, transfer, lease, trade, or consignment to the public, any pistol,
14 revolver, rifle, shotgun, firearm, accessory, component, or other device designed,
15 modified, or capable of being used as a weapon so as to expel a projectile; as defined in
16 Chapter 7.14 of the County Code, as amended. This definition is inclusive of “ammunition
17 dealer,” which means any person, firm, corporation, or other business enterprise that
18 holds a current ammunition vendor license issued pursuant to California Penal Code
19 section 30385.

20 ...

21 **SECTION 3.** Section 22.16.030 is hereby amended to read as follows:

22 **22.16.030 - Land Use Regulations for Zones A-1, A-2, O-S, R-R, and W.**

23 ...

24 C. Use Regulations.

25 1. Principal Uses. Table 22.16.030-B, below, identifies the permit or

26 review required to establish each principal use.

27 ...

TABLE 22.16.030-B: PRINCIPAL USE REGULATIONS FOR AGRICULTURAL, OPEN SPACE, RESORT AND RECREATION, AND WATERSHED ZONES						
	<i>A-1</i>	<i>A-2</i>	<i>O-S</i>	<i>R-R</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>Additional Regulations</i>
Retail/Commercial Uses						
...						
<u>Gun dealer</u>	=	=	=	=	=	
...						

28 ...

29 **SECTION 4.** Section 22.18.030 is hereby amended to read as follows:

30 **22.18.030 - Land Use Regulations for Zones R-A, R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, and R-5.**

31 ...

32 C. Use Regulations.

33 1. Principal Uses. Table 22.18.030-B, below, identifies the permit or

34 review required to establish each principal use.

35 ...

TABLE 22.18.030-B: PRINCIPAL USE REGULATIONS FOR RESIDENTIAL ZONES							
	<i>R-A</i>	<i>R-1</i>	<i>R-2</i>	<i>R-3</i>	<i>R-4</i>	<i>R-5</i>	<i>Additional Regulations</i>
Retail/Commercial Uses							
...							

TABLE 22.18.030-B: PRINCIPAL USE REGULATIONS FOR RESIDENTIAL ZONES							
	R-A	R-1	R-2	R-3	R-4	R-5	Additional Regulations
Retail/Commercial Uses							
<u>Gun dealer</u>	=	=	=	=	=	=	
...							

36 ...

37 **SECTION 5.** Section 22.18.060 is hereby amended to read as follows:

38 **22.18.060 - Development Standards and Regulations for Zone RPD.**

39 Premises in Zone RPD shall be subject to the following regulations:

40 A. Use Regulations.

41 ...

42 4. Prohibited Uses. The following uses are prohibited in Zone RPD:

43 a. Gun dealers, in accordance with Section 22.140.255 (Gun
 44 Dealers).

45 **SECTION 6.** Section 22.20.030 is hereby amended to read as follows:

46 **22.20.030 - Land Use Regulations for Zones C-H, C-1, C-2, C-3, C-M, C-MJ,**
 47 **and C-R.**

48 ...

49 C. Use Regulations.

50 1. Principal Uses. Table 22.20.030-B, below, identifies the permit or
 51 review required to establish each principal use.

52 ...

TABLE 22.20.030-B: PRINCIPAL USE REGULATIONS FOR COMMERCIAL ZONES								
	C-H	C-I	C-2	C-3	C-M	C-MJ	C-R	Additional Regulations
Retail/Commercial Uses								
...								
Gun dealer	=	=	=	CUP	CUP	CUP	CUP	Section 22.140.255
...								

53 ...

54

55 **SECTION 7.** Section 22.20.090 is hereby amended to read as follows:

56 **22.20.090 - Development Standards and Regulations for Zone CPD.**

57 Premises in Zone RPD shall be subject to the following regulations:

58 A. Use Regulations.

59 ...

60 4. Prohibited Uses. The following uses are prohibited in Zone CPD:

61 a. Gun dealers, in accordance with Section 22.140.255 (Gun
62 Dealers).

63 ...

64

65 **SECTION 8.** Section 22.22.030 is hereby amended to read as follows:

66 **22.22.030 - Land Use Regulations for Zones M-1, M-1.5, M-2, and M-2.5.**

67 ...

68 C. Use Regulations.

69 1. Principal Uses. Table 22.22.030-B, below, identifies the permit or
70 review required to establish each principal use.

71 ...

TABLE 22.22.030-B: PRINCIPAL USE REGULATIONS FOR INDUSTRIAL ZONES					
	<i>M-1</i>	<i>M-1.5</i>	<i>M-2</i>	<i>M-2.5</i>	<i>Additional Regulations</i>
Retail/Commercial Uses					
...					
<u>Gun dealer</u>	<u>CUP</u>	<u>CUP</u>	<u>CUP</u>	<u>CUP</u>	<u>Section 22.140.255</u>
...					

72

73 **SECTION 9.** Section 22.22.050 is hereby amended to read as follows:

74 **22.22.050 - Land Use Regulations for Zones B-1 and B-2.**

75 Table 22.22.050-A, below, identifies the permit or review required to establish
 76 each use.

77 ...

TABLE 22.22.050-A: LAND USE REGULATIONS FOR ZONES B-1 AND B-2			
<i>Use or Structure</i>	<i>B-1</i>	<i>B-2</i>	<i>Additional Regulations</i>
...			
<u>Gun dealer</u>	=	=	
...			

78 ...

79 **SECTION 10.** Section 22.24.030 is hereby amended to read as follows:

80 **22.24.030 - Land Use Regulations for Rural Zones.**

81 ...

82 C. Use Regulations.

83 1. Principal Uses. Table 22.24.030-B, below, identifies the permit or
 84 review required to establish each principal use.

85 ...

TABLE 22.24.030-B: PRINCIPAL USE REGULATIONS FOR RURAL ZONES			
	<i>C-RU</i>	<i>MXD-RU</i>	<i>Additional Regulations</i>
Retail/Commercial Uses			
...			
<u>Gun dealer</u>	<u>CUP</u>	=	<u>Section 22.140.255</u>
...			

86 ...

87 **SECTION 11.** Section 22.26.020 is hereby amended to read as follows:

88 **22.26.020 - Institutional Zone**

89 ...

90 B. Land Use Regulations.

91 ...

92 3. Use Regulations.

93 a. Principal Uses. Table 22.26.020-B, below, identifies the

94 permit or review required to establish each use.

TABLE 22.26.020-B: PRINCIPAL USE REGULATIONS FOR ZONE IT		
		<i>Additional Regulations</i>
Retail/Commercial Uses		
...		
<u>Gun dealer</u>	=	
...		

95 ...

96 **SECTION 12.** Section 22.26.030 is hereby amended to read as follows:

97 **22.26.030 - Mixed Use Development Zone.**

98 ...

99 B. Land Use Regulations.

100 ...

101 3. Use Regulations.

102 a. Principal Uses. Table 22.26.030-B, below, identifies the

103 permit or review required to establish each use.

TABLE 22.26.030-B:PRINCIPAL USE REGULATIONS FOR ZONE MXD		
		<i>Additional Regulations</i>
Retail/Commercial Uses		
...		
<u>Gun dealer</u>	=	
...		

104 ...

105 **SECTION 13.** Section 22.26.060 is hereby amended to read as follows:

106 **22.26.060 - Parking Restricted Zone.**

107 ...

108 B. Land Use Regulations.

109 ...

110 3. Use Regulations.

111 a. Principal Uses. Table 22.26.060-B, below, identifies the

112 permit or review required to establish each use.

TABLE 22.26.060-B:PRINCIPAL USE REGULATIONS FOR ZONE P-R		
		<i>Additional Regulations</i>
...		
<u>Gun dealer</u>	=	<u>Section 22.140.255</u>
...		

113 ...

114 **SECTION 14.** Section 22.60.030 is hereby amended to read as follows:

115 **22.60.030 - Prohibited Uses.**

116 In addition to uses listed in Section 22.22.030.E (Prohibited Uses), premises in
117 Zone ()-IP shall not be used for the following uses listed in Table 22.60.030-A:

TABLE 22.60.030-A:USES PROHIBITED IN ZONE ()-IP
...
Greenhouses
<u>Gun dealer</u>
Gymnasiums
...

118

119 **SECTION 15.** Section 22.140.255 is hereby added as follows:

120 **22.140.255 - Gun Dealers.**

121 A. Applicability. This Section applies to gun dealers in zones C-3, C-M, CMJ,
122 C-R, C-RU, M-1, M-1.5, M-2, and M-2.5.

123 B. Conditional Use Permit. A Conditional Use Permit (Chapter 22.158)
124 application is required for all gun dealers in zones C-3, C-M, C-R, C-RU, M-1, M-1.5, M-
125 2, and M-2.5.

126 C. Existing Uses. Gun dealers that were lawfully existing as of (effective date
127 of the ordinance), the effective date of this Section, and are in compliance with Chapter
128 7.46 of the Los Angeles County Code, may remain in their present condition, subject to
129 the provisions of Chapter 22.172 (Nonconforming Uses, Buildings, and Structures),
130 except that the termination period enumerated in Subsection B.e of Section 22.172.050
131 (Termination Conditions and Time Limits) shall not apply.

132 D. Hours of Operation. Hours of operation are limited to 8:00 am to 8:00pm.

133 E. Business License. Gun dealers shall obtain a business license in
134 accordance with Chapter 7.46 of the Los Angeles County Code.

135 F. Prohibited.

136 1. The property boundary of a gun dealer shall not be within 1,000
137 feet of the property boundary of a park, school, library, or child care center, or another
138 gun dealer.

139 2. The discharge or firing of any pistol, revolver, rifle, shotgun,
140 firearm, accessory, component, or other device designed, modified, or capable of being
141 used as a weapon so as to expel a projective on premises for the gun dealer use shall
142 be prohibited.

143 **SECTION 16.** Section 22.172.050 is hereby amended as follows:

144

145 **22.172.050 - Termination Conditions and Time Limits.**

146 The following regulations shall apply to all nonconforming uses and building and
147 structure nonconforming due to use, and to buildings and structures nonconforming due
148 to standards as specified in this Section.

149 ...

150 B. Termination by Operation of Law.

151

152 1. In the case of nonconforming uses and buildings or structures
153 nonconforming due to use:

154 ...

155 e. Where a nonconforming use is carried on in a conforming

156 structure, five years except where the provisions of Subsection C, below, or as
157 otherwise provided in this Title 22, apply;

158 ...

159

**DRAFT RESOLUTION
REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PROJECT NO. PRJ2023-002078
ADVANCE PLANNING PROJECT NO. RPPL2023003021**

WHEREAS, Chapter 22.198 of the Los Angeles County Code ("County Code") authorizes the County of Los Angeles ("County") to adopt zone changes;

WHEREAS, Article 1 of Chapter 4 of Division 1 of Title 7 of the California Government Code (commencing with section 65800) and Chapter 22.244 of the County Code, authorizes the County to adopt amendments to Title 22 of the County Code;

WHEREAS, the Regional Planning Commission ("Commission") of the County conducted a duly noticed public hearing on amendments to Title 22 (Planning and Zoning) of the County Code ("Gun Dealer Ordinance"); and

WHEREAS, the Regional Planning Commission finds as follows:

1. On June 14, 2022 and September 13, 2022, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors (Board) approved motions titled: "Revisiting Options for Gun Control in Los Angeles County" and "Enhancing Gun Regulations in Los Angeles County," respectively, which direct several County agencies to implement changes to the County Code to enhance gun regulation in the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County;
2. The Gun Dealer Ordinance aligns with updates to the licensing requirements for gun dealers in Title 7 (Business Licenses) of the County Code to enhance gun regulations. This includes use of the same definition of "gun dealer," hours of operation, and business license requirement as set forth in Title 7.
3. On February 7, 2023, the Board approved a motion titled "Establishing Ordinances to Enhance Gun Regulation in Los Angeles County." The motion directed the Department of Regional Planning (DRP) to: "prepare the ordinance to implement zoning regulations with a 1000 foot buffer zone between firearm dealers and sensitive areas (i.e. "child safety zones") and between firearm dealers and other firearm dealers in unincorporated Los Angeles County as set forth in the February 1, 2023 Report, and submit the final ordinance to the Board for its consideration."
4. The Gun Dealer Ordinance prohibits new gun dealers within 1,000 feet of a school, park, library, child care center, and other gun dealers;

**REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
PROJECT NO. PRJ2023-002078
ADVANCE PLANNING PROJECT NO. RPPL2023003021
DRAFT RESOLUTION**

5. The Gun Dealer Ordinance defines "gun dealer." "Gun dealer" is currently not defined in the County Code;
6. The Gun Dealer Ordinance clarifies the allowance of gun dealers in zones C-3 (General Commercial), C-M (Commercial Manufacturing), C-MJ (Major Commercial), C-R (Commercial Recreational), M-1 (Light Manufacturing), M-1.5 (Restricted Heavy Manufacturing), M-2 (Heavy Manufacturing), M-2.5 (Aircraft, Heavy Industrial), and C-RU (Commercial Rural) with a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) and business license. Currently, gun dealers are permitted in the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County using comparable uses in the Zoning Code;
7. The Gun Dealer Ordinance also prohibits the discharge of a firearm on the premises of a gun dealership;
8. Pursuant to County Code Section 22.244.040, approval of the Gun Dealer Ordinance will be in the interest of public health, safety, and general welfare;
9. The Gun Dealer Ordinance allows existing gun dealers operating legally to continue to operate without obtaining a CUP as a legal nonconforming use with no amortization period;
10. The Gun Dealer Ordinance will not meaningfully constrain an individual's ability to purchase a firearm within the unincorporated areas of the County. Currently, there are existing gun dealerships in the unincorporated LA County where individuals may lawfully purchase firearms and/or ammunition;
11. The Gun Dealer Ordinance is consistent with other applicable provisions of Title 22;
12. Pursuant to County Code Section 22.244.040, the Gun Dealer Ordinance is consistent with the principles of the General Plan and supportive of the goals and policies of the General Plan;
13. The Gun Dealer Ordinance is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the County CEQA Guidelines pursuant to CEQA Guidelines sections 15061(b)(3);
14. Pursuant to Section 22.222.180 of the County Code, a public hearing notice was published in 14 local newspapers, including the Spanish language newspaper *La Opinión*. The public hearing notice was sent by mail to 235 contacts on DRP's courtesy list, and to all Los Angeles County public

**REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
PROJECT NO. PRJ2023-002078
ADVANCE PLANNING PROJECT NO. RPPL2023003021
DRAFT RESOLUTION**

libraries. The public hearing notice and materials, including fact sheets in Spanish and Chinese, were also posted on DRP's website;

15. The public hearing notice was sent by email to 1,238 interested parties who signed up for project-related information and departmental contact lists. Materials were also posted on DRP's website and promoted through social media; and
16. On September 14, 2023, County staff hosted a virtual meeting for existing gun dealers to answer questions about the Gun Dealer Ordinance, as well as changes to licensing requirements via a concurrent effort to amend Title 7 of the County Code.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Regional Planning Commission recommends to the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors (Board) as follows:

1. That the Board holds a public hearing to consider the Gun Dealer Ordinance;
2. That the Board find that the project (Gun Dealer Ordinance) is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines for the reasons in the record; and
3. That the Board adopts Advance Planning Project No. RPPL2023003021 (Amendments to Title 22).

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by a majority of the voting members of the Regional Planning Commission of the County of Los Angeles on September 20, 2023.

Elida Luna, Secretary
Regional Planning Commission
County of Los Angeles

APPROVED AS TO FORM: OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

By _____
Kathy Park
Deputy County Counsel
County of Los Angeles

February 07, 2023

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS JANICE HAHN
AND HILDA L. SOLIS**

Establishing Ordinances to Enhance Gun Regulation in Los Angeles County

Gun violence continues to plague Los Angeles County (County) communities, tearing families apart and spreading trauma that will last for generations. Most recently, the County experienced its deadliest mass shooting in history when a gunman opened fire at a dance studio in Monterey Park on January 21, 2023, killing eleven people and injuring nine more as they were dancing on the eve of Lunar New Year. This tragedy has shaken Los Angeles County residents and has reminded us of the ever-looming threat of gun violence in our daily lives. In the week following this tragedy, the state of California was rocked by three more mass shootings, including another one in Los Angeles County that took place in the Beverly Crest neighborhood of Los Angeles.

Gun violence is a complex issue that will require a complex, multi-pronged solution. The County is currently expanding community-based violence prevention programs and access to mental health and substance use disorder treatment, all of which are important components of a strategy to prevent gun violence. Another component is to implement common sense gun regulations that will limit the number of dangerous guns on the streets and help keep our communities safe. While federal gun regulations remain tragically weak, the state of California (State) has implemented a series of strong regulations that include robust background checks,

MOTION

SOLIS _____

MITCHELL _____

HORVATH _____

BARGER _____

HAHN _____

limitations on military-grade weapons, and restrictions on who can carry a firearm on their person.

There are additional gun regulations that local governments can implement in their own jurisdictions. Following a June 14, 2022, motion unanimously passed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board), County Counsel presented an analysis of four different legal options for the County to enhance gun regulations. On September 13, 2022, the Board passed a motion (“Enhancing Gun Regulations in Los Angeles County,” Hahn/Solis) directing County Counsel to draft ordinance language for the following regulations:

- 1) An ordinance banning the sale of .50 caliber handguns and ammunition in unincorporated Los Angeles County;
- 2) An ordinance prohibiting carrying/possession of firearms on all Los Angeles County property;
- 3) An ordinance implementing zoning regulations with a buffer zone between gun and/or ammunition dealers and sensitive areas (e.g. schools, day cares, parks) in unincorporated Los Angeles County; and
- 4) Amendments to the County Code that update and enhance requirements for ammunitions and firearms dealers.

The proposed ordinances banning the sale of .50 caliber handguns and ammunition and prohibiting the carrying of firearms on County property are ready for introduction and adoption by the Board of Supervisors. The ordinances implementing zoning regulations and the amendments to the County Code for enhanced licensing requirements require further review and consideration

by the Department of Regional Planning and Treasurer and Tax Collector, respectively.

In the wake of the deadliest mass shooting in County history, it is even more urgent than ever to move forward with implementing these regulations. It is time to adopt an ordinance to ban the sale of .50 caliber handguns and ammunition and prohibit the carrying of firearms by the public on certain County property, including beaches, playgrounds, plazas, and County department buildings. Additionally, we must move forward with the next steps to establish an ordinance to implement zoning restrictions on firearm dealers and strengthen licensing requirements for ammunitions and firearms dealers. The Department of Regional Planning and Treasurer and Tax Collector should finalize these two ordinances, respectively, and submit them to the Board for approval as soon as possible. Too many people have lost loved ones to gun violence in Los Angeles County. We must be united in our fight against gun violence and enhancing local regulations is an important part of the fight.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors approve:

1. The attached ordinance amending Title 13 - Public Peace, Morals and Welfare, Division 8 - Weapons to prohibit the sale of .50 caliber firearms and ammunition, with certain exceptions, in unincorporated Los Angeles County; and
2. The attached ordinance amending Title 13 - Public Peace, Morals and Welfare, Division 8 - Weapons to prohibit the carrying or possession of firearms on County property, with certain exceptions.

WE, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Regional

Planning to prepare the ordinance to implement zoning regulations with a 1,000 ft buffer zone between firearm dealers and sensitive areas (i.e. "child safety zones") and between firearm dealers and other firearm dealers in unincorporated Los Angeles County as set forth in the February 1, 2023, Report, and to submit the final ordinance to the Board for its consideration.

WE, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Treasurer and Tax Collector to prepare the final amendments to Los Angeles County Code Title 7 (Business Licenses), Chapter 7.46 (Gun Dealers) to enhance the regulation of firearm and ammunition dealers in unincorporated Los Angeles County as set forth in the February 1, 2023, Report, and to submit the ordinance to the Board for its consideration. These regulations should include the following:

1. Require ammunition dealers to obtain a Los Angeles County business license;
2. Restrict minors' presence in gun and ammunition stores and requires corresponding signage to be posted at entrance;
3. Require firearms dealers to maintain annual sales reports and make them available to TTC and/or law enforcement upon request;
4. Require firearms dealers to maintain a fingerprint log and make it available to TTC and/or law enforcement upon request;
5. Require firearms dealers to maintain and report inventory in real-time and make it available to TTC and/or law enforcement upon request;
6. Require firearms dealers to install and maintain security cameras and make footage available to law enforcement immediately upon request;

7. Require firearms and ammunition dealers to provide purchasers a letter regarding gun owner responsibilities and gun laws; and
8. Update all references to the California Penal Code in Los Angeles County Code sections 7.46.010 and 7.46.030

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JH:kc

PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

DETERMINATION DATE: August 23, 2023
PROJECT NUMBER: PRJ2023-002078-(1-5) Gun Dealer Ordinance/Title 22
PERMIT NUMBER(S): Advance Planning Case No. RPPL2023003021
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT: 1-5
PROJECT LOCATION: Countywide
CASE PLANNER:
Connie Chung, AICP Deputy Director
cchung@planning.lacounty.gov

The County of Los Angeles completed an initial review for the above-mentioned project. Based on examination of the project, the County proposes that this project qualifies for Exemption 15061(b)(3) under the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) and the County’s Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines.

Project Location: Unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County

Project Description: The Gun Dealer Ordinance amends Title 22 (Planning and Zoning) of the Los Angeles County Code to align with updates to licensing requirements in Title 7 (Business Licenses) of the Los Angeles County Code to enhance gun regulations. This includes defining gun dealers and clarifying the allowance of gun dealers (which are currently permitted using comparable uses in the Zoning Code, such as sporting goods stores) in some commercial zones and industrial zones. It also prohibits gun dealers within 1,000 feet of a sensitive use and other gun dealers. Furthermore, the Ordinance requires a Conditional Use Permit for new gun dealers where permitted. In conjunction with Title 7, the Ordinance includes hours of operation and requires licensing. It also prohibits the discharge of a firearm on premises.

On February 7, 2023, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors directed LA County Planning to prepare zoning regulations with a 1000 ft buffer zone in unincorporated Los Angeles County. The motion follows a series of motions from June 14, 2022 and September 13, 2022, directing changes to the Los Angeles County Code to enhance gun regulation in Los Angeles County.

Reasons Why this Project is Exempt: This project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the County’s Environmental Document Reporting

Procedures and Guidelines pursuant to CEQA Guidelines sections 15061(b)(3). The activity is covered by the common sense exemption that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. The project is exempt pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that it may have a significant effect on the environment. The project clarifies the allowance of gun dealers (which are currently permitted using comparable uses in the Zoning Code, such as sporting goods stores) in some commercial zones and industrial zones. It also reduces potential sites for gun dealers by prohibiting sites within 1,000 feet of a sensitive use and other gun dealers. In addition, the project requires a discretionary review (CUP) for new gun dealers where permitted. Furthermore, the project works in conjunction with local and state licensing requirements that regulate gun dealers. As a retail use, gun dealers are likely to establish in existing structures or smaller commercial buildings 2,500 sq ft to 10,000 sq ft in urbanized areas.

The project is only an ordinance amendment that expressly authorizes gun dealers that are licensed pursuant to Title 7 of the Los Angeles County Code in some commercial zones and industrial zones to ensure consistency therewith. No construction activities are proposed or authorized by the project. The project does not cause physical changes to the environment, and does not have any potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Additionally, it will not have an individual or cumulative impact. There are 20 existing gun dealers in the 2600 sq miles of unincorporated Los Angeles County. The project will reduce the potential sites for gun dealers. Furthermore, where permitted, gun dealers will be subject to a discretionary review, which is more restrictive and protective of the environment than the existing Zoning Code.

Furthermore, the project will not have impacts on scenic highways, impacts to hazardous waste sites, or historic resources. The project clarifies that gun dealers are only permitted in some commercial and industrial zones, and not within 1000 ft of a sensitive use or another gun dealer. There are no sites along the three adopted scenic highways zoned commercial or industrial. Therefore, the project will not result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. As a retail use and due to the limited number of sites where gun dealers are permitted, gun dealers will not be located on hazardous waste sites or cause a substantial change of a historic resource.

PROJECT NO. PRJ2023-002078-(1-5) Gun Dealer Ordinance/Title 22
August 23, 2023

PERMIT/MAP TYPE NO. RPPL2023003021

PAGE 3 OF 3

Gun Dealer Ordinance/Title 22

Project Summary

The Gun Dealer Ordinance amends Title 22 (Planning and Zoning) of the Los Angeles County Code to align with updates to licensing requirements in Title 7 (Business Licenses) of the Los Angeles County Code to enhance gun regulations. This includes defining gun dealers and clarifying the allowance of gun dealers (which are currently permitted using comparable uses in the Zoning Code, such as sporting goods stores) in some commercial zones and industrial zones. It also prohibits gun dealers within 1,000 feet of a sensitive use and other gun dealers. Furthermore, the Ordinance requires a Conditional Use Permit for new gun dealers where permitted. In conjunction with Title 7, the Ordinance includes hours of operation and requires licensing. It also prohibits the discharge of a firearm on premises.

Background

On February 7, 2023, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors directed LA County Planning to prepare zoning regulations with a 1000 ft buffer zone in unincorporated Los Angeles County. The motion follows a series of motions from June 14, 2022 and September 13, 2022, directing changes to the Los Angeles County Code to enhance gun regulation in Los Angeles County.

Public Hearings

The Regional Planning Commission public hearing for the Ordinance is scheduled for September 20, 2023, followed by a public hearing before the Board of Supervisors on December 5, 2023.

Learn More

To learn more about the Ordinance, review the draft changes, and provide comments, please visit at <https://planning.lacounty.gov/long-range-planning/gun-dealer-ordinance>. For more information, please contact the Gun Dealer Ordinance Title 22 Team at: Email: gundealerordinance@planning.lacounty.gov