

## **Background Information**

### Recommended Motion to Oppose Misuse of Specific Plan Process

A Specific Plan is defined by the Los Angeles Department of City Planning as a planning document that implements the goals and policies of the General Plan and Community Plans,[1] and, shall provide by ordinance regulatory controls or incentives for the systematic execution of the General Plan and shall provide for public needs, convenience, and general welfare. [2] “A Specific Plan is a popular form of a land use overlay. An overlay is an additional layer of planning control, **establishing stricter standards** that go beyond what the underlying zoning would normally regulate;”<sup>[3]</sup> (Emphasis added.)

Utilizing a Specific Plan for the purpose of upzoning open space and/or low density residential to commercial would be in conflict with the policies, procedures and goals set forth in the city’s General Plan, Community Plans and Specific Plans. This type of inappropriate use of Specific Plans has the potential to establish negative precedent for the Westside. Such city actions are particularly egregious when the result would be to reduce much needed open space, compromise sensitive natural resources, or degrade the quality of the area’s single-family residential communities.

The Specific Plan process is not and should not be used as a means to usurp the planning process or for “spot zoning,” a practice that seeks to bypass traditional land use practices that results in:

- (1) bypassing protective codes
- (2) creating unique zoning designations in conflict with the area’s Community Plans,
- (3) resulting in dangerous precedents,
- (4) failing to provide for public needs, convenience, and general welfare as required by the code.

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[1] Los Angeles Department of City Planning, What is a Specific Plan?, available at:

<https://planning.lacity.org/blog/what-specific-plan>

[2] Specific Plan Areas: [https://geohub.lacity.org/datasets/61ffdfc055e84fdb9b0860469134\\_0](https://geohub.lacity.org/datasets/61ffdfc055e84fdb9b0860469134_0)

[3] Los Angeles Department of City Planning, *What is a Specific Plan?*, available at:

<https://planning.lacity.org/blog/what-specific-plan>

*Alix Gucofsky*

*Member/Venice NC rep, WRAC LUPC*

*Chair/Venice NC LUPC*

*Barbara Broide*

*Member/Westside NC rep, WRAC LUPC*

*Westside NC alt. rep, WRAC board*

*Co-Chair/Westside NC LUC*