

## **Attachment B**

### **BABCNC CIS #3 on Charter Reform DRAFT**

#### **1. Reform of Building Permit Approval and Appeal Processes**

We urge that the City Charter require greater clarity and certainty in both the approval and appeal stages of the building permit process. At present, the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (LADBS) relies heavily on internal policies and procedures that are not publicly available and often do not reflect the actual code. This lack of transparency results in confusion, inconsistent application of standards, and significant delays.

The approval process is further complicated by the absence of clear, objective standards and by reliance on discretionary judgments. The appeals process, meanwhile, is plagued with uncertainty: there is no defined intake system, no clear timeframes for hearings, and no predictable schedule for resolution. As a result, both developers and community members are left without reliable pathways for resolving disputes or understanding how long the process will take.

To remedy this, we recommend that all LADBS policies and procedures be made publicly accessible through a searchable online database and reviewed at least every ten years to ensure consistency with active codes. Establishing clear timelines and objective criteria for approvals and appeals will reduce unnecessary discretionary review, increase transparency, and give both applicants and the public confidence in the fairness and predictability of the process.

#### **2. Streamlining Permitting by Jurisdiction**

We support a structural reform that divides permitting responsibility between processes occurring *within* the property line and those occurring *outside* of it. Consolidating all permitting processes related to activity within the property line under one department, while assigning those relating to the roadway and public right-of-way to another, including haul route approvals, would improve accountability, reduce duplication, and make the permitting system more intuitive for applicants and community members alike.

#### **3. Strengthening Urban Canopy and Protected Tree Oversight**

At present, oversight of the City's urban canopy, including enforcement of the Protected Tree Ordinance, is housed within the Department of Urban Forestry under the Bureau of Street

Services. This placement effectively treats urban canopy impacts as an afterthought in the development process.

Given the climate realities Los Angeles faces and the critical importance of preserving and expanding our urban canopy, this structural arrangement is insufficient. We recommend that the Charter Reform process evaluate structural solutions that would elevate urban forestry and protected tree enforcement into a position of greater prominence and integration within the City's development review process. Protecting these vital resources is not merely an aesthetic or neighborhood concern but a citywide climate resilience priority.