July 5, 2017

Olorie Ezieme, Chairman
Altadena Town Council
730 E. Altadena Drive
Altadena, CA 91001

Dear Mr. Ezieme:

ALTADENA TOWN COUNCIL FILMING COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Supervisor Kathryn Barger has requested that the Chief Executive Office (CEO) and FilmLA review and report back on the recommendations in your Filming Committee’s report. In preparing this response, the CEO contacted County Counsel, the Sheriff, Public Works, and the California Highway Patrol (CHP).

Based on a May 2, 2017 Board motion, County Counsel is recommending amendments to the Los Angeles County Code which would ensure County departments have the necessary enforcement authority to address violations in the film permitting process by property owners and production companies. In drafting these amendments, the County will take into consideration the Altadena Town Council Filming Committee’s recommendations.

Additional input is provided below:

- Generally, the CHP or the Sheriff are required for any filming in the Altadena area for safety and/or filming related activity, including parking.

- The following is considered when evaluating a permit:

  1. Location, duration and frequency of filming at the hosting property, including historical use;
  2. Location, duration and frequency of activity near the requested location, including parking areas;
  3. Proximity of concurrent filming activities and other activities such as street maintenance;
  4. Production company size, number of filming days requested and proposed activities, including parking; and
  5. Any other criteria that may be relevant to the specific situation.
FilmLA currently maintains notes regarding specific community issues, concerns or complaints related to such issues as generator placement and parking restrictions at specific locations.

FilmLA has a review process in place for frequently used properties. Properties of concern are currently flagged in FilmLA’s On-Line Permitting System (OPS) and requests to film at these locations require additional review and discussion with a FilmLA Operations Manager (OM). The OM will direct the FilmLA Coordinator to contact affected stakeholders to discuss the filming request, and determine next steps in addressing concerns or potential issues.

The County requires that a Community Filming Survey be done for film permit requests that film more than five consecutive days in a row or outside of the normal filming hours. The radius to be surveyed is established by FilmLA based on the location, filming activity, and parking requirements. It is the responsibility of the Production Company to conduct the survey and return the responses back to FilmLA with enough time for FilmLA to evaluate the survey package and make permit adjustments as necessary. FilmLA can arrange review of Community Film Surveys at their office.

Riders are issued for minor changes to a film permit. Riders are not used to authorize late night or all-night shoots.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Susana Graether at (213) 893-2086 or e-mail sgraether@ceo.lacounty.gov.

Sincerely,

SACHI A. HAMAI
Chief Executive Officer

SAH:JJ:DSB
DSP:acn
c: Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Fifth Supervisorial District
             Mary C. Wickham, County Counsel
             Paul Audley, President, FilmLA
             Sheriff Jim McDonnell
             Mark Pestrella, Director of Public Works
             California Highway Patrol