

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

About Filming in Altadena

Prepared by the Altadena Filming Committee

The Altadena Filming Committee will update this FAQ as needed to ensure the information in this document is correct as possible. The Committee recommends referring the current version of the document which is maintained online at the [Altadena Town Council Website](#).

List of Frequently Asked Questions:

- Los Angeles County Filming Permits..... 3**
 - Q: Who issues filming permits for Altadena? 3
 - Q: Who is Film L.A.?..... 3
 - Q: What are Film L.A.'s responsibilities?..... 3
 - Q: Who sets the approval policies for a filming permit? 3
 - Q: Are there any limits on the frequency of filming?..... 4
- Filming Conditions and Enforcement..... 5**
 - Q: What are permit conditions? 5
 - Q: Are there standard permit conditions?..... 5
 - Q: Who are Film L.A. Monitors? 5
 - Q: Is there a penalty for violating a condition on a filming permit?..... 5
 - Q: What do I do if the film crew ignores the permitted conditions? 6
 - Q: Who is actually responsible for enforcement of filming permit conditions? 6
 - Q: Can the permit conditions be changed during a shoot? 7
 - Q: What if a film company shines a 10K spotlight into my house? Is that OK? 7
 - Q: Who do I call if a truck arrives before the permitted call time?..... 7
 - Q: Who do I call about a problem with generator exhaust? 7
 - Q: What are neighborhood surveys and when are they required?..... 7
- Public access to a filming permit..... 8**
 - Q: May I see the filming permit while the shoot is in progress? 8
 - Q: Are filming permits available on the set? 8
 - Q: Who do I ask if I want to see the filming permit..... 8
- Special Filming Conditions 9**
 - Q: What are "Special Filming Conditions"? 9

Q: How do I find out if my block has Special Filming Conditions?	9
Q: Can our neighborhood get “Special Filming Conditions”	9
Notification	10
Q: What is a door hanger?	10
Q: Will I be notified if there’s going to be a film shoot on my block?.....	10
Q: What is email notification?	10
Q: Does the actual film permit have more information than the door hanger?.....	10
Parking and Traffic.....	11
Q: What can be done about cast and crew parking on my street?	11
Q: If film trucks take up the parking on one side of the street, can crew and cast parking take up the other side?.....	11
Q: Can production companies request and be approved for posting no parking signs on both sides of the street?.....	12
Q: What if production and/or crew parking creates a safety hazard?	12
Q: Is it legal for a film company to block my street?.....	12
Onsite Law Officers.....	12
Q: Why do film companies hire a law-officer to be on location?	12
Q: Who determines if a law officer is a required permit condition?	13
Q: Are film companies always required to hire a cop?.....	13
Q: Who pays the cops? Who do the cops work for?	13
Q: Where do the cops come from?	13
Q: Why is the on-site law officer sometimes from the Sheriff’s Department and sometimes from CHP?	14
Q: Who do I contact if the on-site law officer doesn’t enforce the permit conditions?	14
Miscellaneous.....	14
Q: Can a film permit be used to shut down your home construction?	14
Q: Planning an important event that a film shoot would disrupt? Here’s a tip.....	15
Q: Who decides who get compensated for a film shoot?.....	15
Q: Does Altadena get any financial benefit from a film shoot?	15
Q: My question is not covered here. Where should I go to find an answer?.....	16
Q: There’s an error in the FAQ. How do I set the record straight?	16
Contact information LA County Services	16

Los Angeles County Filming Permits

Q: Who issues filming permits for Altadena?

Los Angeles County has contracted Film L.A. to be the “Film Permit Coordination Office” for the unincorporated communities in Los Angeles County. Film L.A. issues filming permits for location shoots in Altadena.

Film L.A. does not issue film permits for Altadena’s neighboring communities. Arcadia, Pasadena, South Pasadena, Glendale and La Canada/Flintridge; all have their own film coordination offices.

[Contact information](#) for Film L.A. is provided at the end of this document.

Q: Who is Film L.A.?

Film L.A. is a non-profit, 501(c)4 organization located on Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood. Film L.A. issues film permits and performs permit coordination for both the County of Los Angeles and the City of Los Angeles. [Film L.A.'s website](#) is full of useful information. The information on the website is largely oriented to the needs of film production companies who wish to work in Los Angeles.

Q: What are Film L.A.’s responsibilities?

According to the [Film L.A. website](#): “Providing streamlined permit processing and production planning services to filmmakers and comprehensive community relations, marketing services, film policy analysis and more to local governments, Film L.A. works to attract and retain film production in Greater Los Angeles... Our vision is to see the communities, industries and governments of the Greater Los Angeles Region collaborate to sustain our worldwide leadership in film, television and commercial production. To that end, Film L.A. acts as the crucial link serving production companies and the communities in which they film”

The required duties of the “Film Coordination Office” are described in [LA County ordinance, Chapter 2.118](#). It’s a short document that provides a legal definition of Film L.A.’s duties.

Q: Who sets the approval policies for a filming permit?

The LA County ordinance establishes the “Film Permit Coordination Office” and provides only general guidance for the issue of filming permits. In practice, Film L.A. makes the approval decision based on consultation with LA County service providers like the Sheriff’s Department, Fire Department and Public Works.

The permit application and approval process is handled electronically by [Film L.A.’s Online Permit Service](#).

Film L.A. does *not* publish a description of their film permitting decision process. However, the Altadena Filming Committee met with representatives from Film L.A., LA County Department of Public Work, The LA County Sheriff’s Department and the California Department of Public Safety to learn how filming permits are issued and enforced. The results of those meetings was captured in the Committee’s [Minutes of June 2016](#) and [End of Year Report](#). (See Section C, *Policies and procedures governing film permit approval and enforcement*.)

The Filming Committee's *Minutes* and *End of Year Report* are available on the [Committee page](#) on the Town Council Website.

Q: Are there any limits on the frequency of filming?

There are no codified limits on the frequency of filming in Altadena. Film L.A. uses *subjective* criteria to decide when an area is overused.

In response to the question, "Is there currently any limit on how many film shoots can take place at a single property in a year?" the committee received the following response from Film L.A.:

"No, there is no limit per the County... we consistently advise property owners to self-regulate and to be sensitive to community concerns the number of days one can utilize [a] property for filming...While folks make mention of having a limit on the number of days, we stress that it's important to thoroughly assess any of those suggestions with the Supervisors Office, County Planning and County Counsel."

At a meeting of the Altadena Filming Committee, Pina noted that it's extremely difficult for Film L.A. to deny a permit. He said that he did not know of a single instance where a permit was denied.

There's probably good reason why Film L.A. seldom, if ever, denies a permit. The County's "Temporary Use Permit" Ordinance allows permit refusal only when the "applicant has failed to meet the burden of proof" that all requirements are met. (see [22.56.1880 - Director's findings and determination](#)).

What needs to be proved? Here's an excerpt from the ordinance:

"...the applicant of a temporary use permit shall substantiate to the satisfaction of the Director the following facts:

- A. That the operation of the requested use at the location proposed and within the time period specified will not jeopardize, endanger or otherwise constitute a menace to the public health, safety or general welfare; and*
- B. That the proposed site is adequate in size and shape to accommodate such temporary use without material detriment to the use, enjoyment or valuation of the property of other persons located in the vicinity of the site..."*

It's unlikely a film permit application would fail to meet these standards. Consequently, Film L.A. would seemingly be required to issue any and all requested filming permits in the unincorporated portions of LA County.

However, Jennifer Morales of Film L.A. said that permits are seldom issued to a single locations for more than 14 shooting days per year. This is not a limit, rather a collateral effect of the Federal and State Tax Code for rental properties.

Note: all the surrounding incorporated communities have policies for limiting filming in a neighborhood. Altadena is the sole exception.

Filming Conditions and Enforcement

Q: What are permit conditions?

Each filming permit includes a set of conditions, or proscriptions, that restrict the film production. For example, the conditions may restrict parking to only one side of the street, or limited the time the trucks might arrive in the morning, or limit the production hours. In some cases, the conditions may be inferred. For example, a permit may specifically allow the use of generators or night-time lighting. A permit that does not specifically state the use of generators or night-lighting might be construed as a proscription against their use.

Some conditions will appear on both the Film L.A. door hanger notices and the actual filming permit. *The door hanger will not include all the information that is on the permit.* The actual filming permit should always be available on-location at request.

[Door hanger notices](#) are described in the "[Notification](#)" section.

Q: Are there standard permit conditions?

Film L.A. does not publish a list of standard conditions applied to every film permit. Generally, 7 am is considered a normal permitted arrival time and 10 pm is considered a normal permitted departure time. They also include boundaries for allowed parking for equipment vehicles. In addition, Film L.A. asserts that all permits in Altadena include a stipulation against cast and crew parking on neighborhood streets. Furthermore, all companies are required to have off-street parking for cast and crew.

Q: Who are Film L.A. Monitors?

Film L.A. Monitors are employees of Film L.A. who are assigned to a filming location to ensure compliance with filming conditions and to field questions and concerns from the community.

Note: Film L.A. is not required to provide a Monitor for every shoot. Monitors are assigned when required by Special Filming Conditions or when compliance with permit conditions is deemed necessary, as, for example, in the case of a large-scale production requiring a large cast and crew.

Q: Is there a penalty for violating a condition on a filming permit?

A filming permit is much like a construction permit. If a builder fails to conform to permit conditions, the County has the authority to shut down the construction. It's the same with a film shoot. If a filming company does not comply with permitted conditions, the Sheriff, the Department of Public Works or Film L.A. has the authority to shut down a shoot.

There are no lesser penalties for violating a condition on a filming permit. Shutting down the film shoot is the only option. For example, if a film company were to ignore parking conditions, the only enforcement remedy available is the draconian step of shutting down the shoot. (Violating a parking condition is not a ticketable offense.)

In practice film shoots are seldom shut down. In general the filming is a short term project concluded before a complaint can be brought to the proper authorities.

In this case 'proper' matters. Most productions (with the notable exception of those executed entirely on private property) are required to have a law officer on duty. However, the sole concern of the law officer is to ensure safety. As a matter of convention, law officers do not enforce conditions regarding crew parking, placement of generator, hours of operation, or other proscriptions that appear on the permit. The Fire Department can also shut down a shoot, but they are solely interested in matters that might cause a conflagration. Similarly, the Department of Public Works has the authority to shut down a production, but only provides a brief inspection of the location.

In most cases, if there's a condition violation, the on-site law officer, or other County official, will leave it up to Film L.A. to address the problem. If a [Film L.A. Monitor](#) has been assigned to the production, the law officer will leave compliance matters to the Monitor. As a rule, Monitors are only assigned to a small percentage of productions.

In summary, the County provides one option for penalizing violations of permitted filming conditions--shut down the production. As a consequence many violations, like crew parking on neighborhood streets, are simply ignored.

Q: What do I do if the film crew ignores the permitted conditions?

Filming permits will include conditions, like restrictions on parking or restrictions on filming hours. There are numerous cases in Altadena where these conditions have been ignored by the film crew.

If a violation occurs in your neighborhood, Film L.A. recommends that you contact the [Film L.A. Monitor](#) if one is present. However, no Monitor may be present, since Monitors are only required for a minority of film shoots. If no Monitor is present, it is recommended that you contact the production's location manager.

If the Film L.A. Monitor or location manager has been ineffective or not helpful and the problem persists, call Film L.A. (213-977-8600). If it is after hours, call the same number and select option #2.

If you do not speak to a person at Film L.A. and only leave a message, leave your name, phone, address of the filming site and a brief description of the problem.

If the issue involves traffic, traffic safety, or pedestrian safety, contact the law officer on duty. If the on-site law officer has not been responsive, contact the CHP Officer Kristi Cardoza or Sergeant Waterman of the Altadena Sheriff's Station, depending on which agency has provided the on-site officer. Their contact information is provided at the end of this document. If there is no law officer on duty, contact Sergeant Waterman.

If you contact Film L.A., the Sheriff or the CHP, we recommend you take note of the time and date you called and the time and date you received a reply.

If the resolution of the problem proves difficult, please notify your Town Council Member or the Altadena Filming Committee with details of the incident. In many cases, they will work with the County agencies to develop a fair and lasting resolution.

All [contact information](#) is provided at the end of this document.

Q: Who is actually responsible for enforcement of filming permit conditions?

No one person or agency is responsible for enforcing permit conditions.

Law enforcement is responsible for enforcing safety and traffic regulations. Fire is responsible for enforcing fire restrictions. The Department of Public Works is responsible for ensuring traffic safety. Film L.A. has an enforcement role and may stop a permit condition violation, but functions primarily as an industry promotion and permitting service.

Q: Can the permit conditions be changed during a shoot?

Yes! Film L.A. may change the permitted conditions at any time. For example, the shooting hours may be extended or traffic control restrictions may be changed. Typically, Film L.A. will consult relevant County Departments (e.g. Sheriff, Fire, Public Works, etc.) before making decision to change the permitted conditions.

Q: What if a film company shines a 10K spotlight into my house? Is that OK?

It depends. The film permit conditions will describe what the film company can do. For example a permit often includes conditions like: “generator,” or “exterior lighting.” In theory, these activities should appear on the permit. If they do not, the film company is *restricted from* those activities.

Q: Who do I call if a truck arrives before the permitted call time?

If a production vehicle arrives early call Film L.A. Their [contact information](#) appears at the end of this document. It's worth noting that a law officer will not be able to help enforce the permit conditions because it is not a violation of the vehicle code.

Q: Who do I call about a problem with generator exhaust?

If there is a generator exhaust problem, call Film L.A. Their [contact information](#) appears at the end of this document.

Q: What are neighborhood surveys and when are they required?

In the case of exceptional productions with permitted hours before 7 am or after 10p, Film L.A. will require that the production company obtain survey information from the neighbors. Similarly the use of helicopter, firearms or other potentially disruptive effects, may also trigger the surveys.

The neighborhood survey provides neighbors a chance to express their concerns so that Film L.A. and the film company can make the necessary accommodations. The reason for any concern should be clearly explained in the survey. Generally, just saying ‘no’ will not be sufficient for Film L.A. or the film company to make accommodations.

Surveys are conducted by the production company. Typically, survey data will be collected from businesses and neighbors within 300 feet of the permitted location and/or 200 feet from equipment parking. Results are given to Film L.A. for analysis. The results of the surveys are not binding and they are not made publicly available.

Finally, the conditions for the production may change after the survey is taken. Changes to the permit do not trigger a follow-up survey.

Public access to a filming permit

Q: May I see the filming permit while the shoot is in progress?

A filming permit is a public document. Filming permits are available on request at the location. Filming permits are also available online 3 days after the shoot.

In a meeting with the Altadena Filming Committee, Arturo Pina of Film L.A., reported that the filming permits are not available online during the shoot because of a concern that, the shoot may attract unwanted attention.

In order to access the permit online, you must have an account on [Film L.A.'s Online Permit System](#) (OPS). Alternatively, you can request the permit by contacting Film L.A. or by sending a request to the Altadena Filming Committee (altadenafilmingcommittee@gmail.com). They will obtain a copy of the permit for you.

Film companies are required to show filming permits on demand. [Film L.A.'s contract with the County](#) includes Terms and Conditions that stipulate the permit is available for inspection by the public.”

From the [Film L.A. contract Exhibit U](#):

2. PERMIT REQUIREMENT – This permit must be in the possession of permittee at all times while on location and must be made available for inspection when requested by the Permit Authority, its authorized representative(s) or the public.

If you would like to inspect the permit, ask for the location manager or someone from the location management team. They should produce the permit. If there's any hesitation, contact Film L.A.

Note: A phone number for the Location Manager typically appears on Film L.A.'s door-hanger notification. Feel free to contact the Location Manager to obtain a copy of the actual permit or express any concerns.

When there is any question about a filming permit, Film L.A. recommends you contact them.

Q: Are filming permits available on the set?

Yes. The production company is required to have the permit in their possession while working at the permitted location. See [the preceding FAQ](#).

Q: Who do I ask if I want to see the filming permit

In general, ask for the location manager if you have any questions or concerns about the shoot. The location manager should be able to show you the permit on request. In some cases they will make you a copy. If the location manager will not provide a copy of the permit, contact Film L.A. and request assistance. .

Special Filming Conditions

Q: What are “Special Filming Conditions”?

Special Filming Conditions are an additional set of conditions added to the standard conditions applied to a filming permit. Special Filming Conditions are LA County Supervisor-approved documents that only apply to a few, frequently-filmed neighborhoods. These Special Filming Condition documents are created when neighbors organize to work with County officials to address recurrent filming concerns.

For the most part, Film L.A. permits will comply with applicable Special Filming Conditions. However, Film L.A. is not *required* to comply with those Special Filming Conditions. All Special Filming Conditions include the following disclaimer:

[These] Special Filming Conditions...will be included in the terms and conditions of permits issued for filming in this area and are in addition to the standard terms and conditions applicable to filming permits generally. While these Special Filming Conditions will be included as terms if a permit for filming in this area is issued, they are not intended to, and do not, establish the criteria or standards for determining whether or not a particular permit (or permits) will be issued for this area. The decision whether or not a particular permit (or permits) will be issued is vested in the discretion of the appropriate City or County department or their designees (including Film L.A., Inc.)...

For more information about Special Filming conditions in Altadena, check out the report on [Altadena Special Filming Conditions](#).

Q: How do I find out if my block has Special Filming Conditions?

Check out the report on [Altadena Special Filming Conditions](#). There is also a list of Altadena Special Filming Conditions on the [Film L.A. website](#), but that list is incomplete and difficult to locate.

Q: Can our neighborhood get “Special Filming Conditions”

“Special Filming Conditions” require the approval of the Board of Supervisors at the advice of County Counsel. It is a long process. The neighbors must be very motivated.

If you wish to start the process of creating “Special Filming Conditions” for your neighborhood, contact the County Supervisor’s Field Deputy responsible for Altadena. As of this revision date, the Field Deputy is Sussy Nemer. See the [contact list](#) below.

Notification

Q: What is a door hanger?

Film L.A. is required to notify nearby businesses and residences within a 500-foot radius of the permitted filming location. Film L.A. typically uses a door hanger to notify affected properties. The door hanger includes basic information about the production including shoot day, start time, strike time, and contact information.

Q: Will I be notified if there's going to be a film shoot on my block?

It depends. The LA County ordinance provides general guidance about notification. The Film L.A. contract is more specific.

The contract requires that Film L.A. create a “notification map for notice to all residential and commercial buildings within 500 feet of a filming/still photography shoot location and 500 feet of production-related parking to the surrounding area.” It also requires Film L.A. to distribute notifications 24 hours in advance, but allows this may not always be possible. In cases where a timely notification is not possible, Film L.A. is supposed to contact the Supervisors.

In practice, Film L.A. provides this notification by placing door hangers on buildings within this 500-foot radius. The door hanger typically includes information about parking, special effects and, most importantly, contact information for a representative of the production company. Film L.A.'s own notification policy is to provide 2 days notice *when possible*.

Q: What is email notification?

Film L.A. provides an email notification option for predefined neighborhoods. Email notifications may include updates to permit changes. Neighbors and business owners in these predefined neighborhoods may sign up for email notification on the [Film L.A. website](#). The service is not currently available in Altadena. However a few neighbors in Altadena have managed to make ad hoc arrangements with Film L.A.

Q: Does the actual film permit have more information than the door hanger?

Yes. There is more detail on the actual permit. The permit includes a description of the filming conditions, the County fees and the production logistics including equipment, numbers of cast and crew and special effects. If you're curious about the information that film companies are required to provide, here's a [link to the Film permit application](#).



Film L.A. door hanger

The permit is the *only reliable source of information about the conditions placed on the permit*. In addition the permit is supposed to include the following attachments: the [Filmmaker's Code of Professional Responsibility](#), the [County's "General Terms, Conditions and Restrictions for a Film Permit"](#) (see page 76) and any Special Filming Conditions applicable to the filming location.

Note: a film company may request riders for a permit. Consequently, the conditions like arrival and departure times, parking restrictions or traffic interruptions may change as needed. Riders, like permits, must be approved by Film L.A. and the applicable County services.

Parking and Traffic

Q: What can be done about cast and crew parking on my street?

Film L.A., the Sheriff and the Department of Public Works all report that cast and crew parking on area streets is the most commonly heard complaint associated with location film shoots.

This problem persists despite a filming permit condition that prohibits cast and crew from parking on area streets. In fact, many productions are required to obtain offsite parking, sometimes called a base camp, in order to meet this permit condition. Cast and crew are shuttled to and from the basecamp as needed.

The cast and crew frequently ignore the parking proscription. Cast and crew are not ticketed for parking on neighborhood streets. On-site law enforcement officers will often say they cannot enforce the parking condition because they do not know which vehicles belong to residents and which belong to cast and crew. More importantly, law enforcement explains that cast and crew vehicles cannot be ticketed because a violation of a permitted condition is not a violation of the California Vehicle Code.

Note: In the City of LA, cast and crew vehicles may be ticketed or towed for violation of parking conditions.

So who enforces the parking conditions? That responsibility falls on the shoulders of the location manager. If the location manager is unsuccessful, Film L.A. has the option of canceling the filming permit. There is no known instances of Film L.A. canceling a permit for a parking violation.

Q: If film trucks take up the parking on one side of the street, can crew and cast parking take up the other side?

According to Jennifer Morelos at Film L.A., production companies are allowed to request posting (i.e. no parking signs) only for working production vehicles. For example a grip truck or a picture car. The approved parking will be documented on the permit and indicated on the door hanger notification.

"We do not allow cast and crew cars to be parked on area streets. The film permits for your area include the following condition: 'No cast or crew parking on area streets'. Consequently, production companies must either park their crew cars and personal cars in an off-site parking lot, or inside the property that is hosting the shoot."

Note: The County does not currently have a service that will enforce cast and crew parking violations. In practice these conditions are not enforced.

While the permit condition “No cast or crew parking on area streets” does appear on the filming permit, it does not typically appear on the Film L.A. door-hanger notification. However, the actual filming permit with all filming conditions is available to the public on request at the location.

Q: Can production companies request and be approved for posting no parking signs on both sides of the street?

Film L.A. will not approve a request for posting both sides of the street if the purpose of that request is just for the cast and crew’s parking convenience.

According to Jennifer Morelos at Film L.A., they do allow posting on both sides for getting a specific picture or if there is a safety concern — for example, the road is narrow or winding or if there’s a placement near hydrants or red curbs. But these are exceptions and require approval by the Roads Division in the LA County Department of Public Works. If parking on two sides of the street is permitted, it must be staggered so that the trucks are not parked across the street from each other. These requests are rare.

If Film L.A. does allow posting on both sides of the street, they will add the following condition to the filming permit: "Equipment staging and vehicles may park on one side of the street only."

Sometimes Film L.A. or the Department of Public Works will require that both sides of the street are posted No Parking, with the understanding that production vehicles may park on only one side, in order to avoid traffic congestion.

Q: What if production and/or crew parking creates a safety hazard?

Report the problem to the on-site law officer. If he or she does not act, notify the contact at the Sheriff’s Department or the CHP. See the [contact list](#) at the end of this document.

The Department of Public Works also has a traffic hazard enforcement role. If the law officer is not responsive, contact Anthony Moran, DPW head inspector for the area: 626-338-9515, amoran@dpw.lacounty.gov.

Q: Is it legal for a film company to block my street?

It depends on the conditions described on the permit. Before issuing a permit that entitles a film company to block a street, Film L.A. will first consult with the Department of Public Works and the local law enforcement agency to ensure there are no safety concerns. With permit approval, a street may be blocked intermittently for up to 2 minutes at a time.

Onsite Law Officers

Q: Why do film companies hire a law-officer to be on location?

Film companies hire law officers to be on location for two reasons 1) to meet the minimum permit conditions, 2) to address security and safety concerns recognized by the production company.

Q: Who determines if a law officer is a required permit condition?

Before FilmLA will issue a filming permit, they seek advice of authorization for the permit from the Department of Public Works (DPW). As part of the authorization, DPW may stipulate a *minimum* number of officers for the shoot. (Ostensibly to address traffic & safety issues). In addition, Film L.A. may require additional law officers in order to meet Special Filming Conditions that apply to the location listed on the permit request. In any of these cases, the film company will be required to hire law officers as a condition of the filming permit.

Q: Are film companies always required to hire a cop?

No. If the location is not covered by Special Filming Conditions or if LA Department of Public Works does not see a need, chances are the film company will be able to obtain a filming permit without needing to hire law enforcement.

As a rule, Public Works will mandate a law officer on the set when a shoot requires any use of film production vehicles in public right-of-way.

Note: According to Sergeant Waterman of The Altadena Sheriff's Department, unless a crime has been committed, law officers have no jurisdiction on private property. Rather, the enforcement of filming permit conditions on private property is the purview of Film L.A. On those occasions when there is no on-site law enforcement officer and the film company has not hired a [Film L.A. Monitor](#), the only apparent remedy is to phone Film L.A.

Q: Who pays the cops? Who do the cops work for?

Film companies pay for off-duty law enforcement officers to both satisfy permit conditions and address security or safety concerns.

Film companies provide the funds to hire the on-location law officers. Are these officers merely contract employees of the film company? If so, where do their responsibilities lie? Are they responsible for protecting the filming or the community? What exactly are their obligations?

When the question was addressed to Sergeant Waterman of the Altadena Sheriff's Department, he responded unequivocally that on-site officers are responsible for protecting both the community and the film company including the enforcement of the public safety and traffic conditions.

Q: Where do the cops come from?

When a production company requests a permit, Film L.A. sends the permit application to Department of Public Works (DPW) for approval. As part of that process DPW stipulates the minimum number of police officers needed for the shoot to be conducted safely. That number becomes a requirement for the film company.

Once the film company receives the conditions, they will contact a law enforcement contracting firm like Motion Picture Officers Association (http://www.mpoala.org/hiring_officers.php). This contractor will call the Altadena Sheriff or the CHP who will then assign the officers to the shoot.

Typically officers who attend film shoots in Altadena are local to the area. If the Sheriff is selected, the Deputies are from the Altadena Sheriff's Station and are selected by Sgt. Waterman. If the CHP is selected, the CHP officer is from the Woodbury Station and briefed by Officer Ulloa ("Officer Mike").

[Contact information](#) for Sheriff's Department or CHP appears at the end of this document.

Q: Why is the on-site law officer sometimes from the Sheriff's Department and sometimes from CHP?

See "[Where do the cops come from?](#)" Sometimes the on-site officer is from the Sheriff's Department and sometimes from CHP. The choice of Sheriff or CHP is made by the film company. In the unlikely case there's an enforcement issue, this difference matters. The Sheriff's Department has no influence on the CHP and vice versa. Consequently enforcement issues must be directed to the appropriate law enforcement service.

[Contact information](#) for Sheriff's Department or CHP appears at the end of this document.

Q: Who do I contact if the on-site law officer doesn't enforce the permit conditions?

Suppose that the on-site officer stays in the patrol car and refuses to enforce the parking restrictions on the permit. (It's known to happen.) Begin by approaching the officer and addressing them politely. If the officer refuses to help with a safety or parking issue, please call the supervisor as follows: If the on-site officer is from the Sheriff's Department contact Sgt. Waterman at the Altadena Sheriff's Station. His [contact information](#) appears at the end of this document.

If there's an issue with enforcement of filming permit conditions while a CHP officer is on duty, please feel free to contact Officer Mike of the CHP or Officer Kristi Cardoza. Their [contact information](#) appears at the end of this document.

Miscellaneous

Q: Can a film permit be used to shut down your home construction?

An Altadena neighbor recently reported an incident where a member of a film threatened to stop a home construction project because the film company had a filming permit. What do you do if a member of a film crew threatens to stop work on your property?

We asked Film L.A.'s Arturo Pina at Film L.A. how Film L.A. would address this problem. Here's his response:

"We would need to get more information on the production, what was relayed, etc. Again, that's why I can't stress enough that impacted parties need to contact us. We can't mitigate the situation after the fact. Our protocol includes getting into dialogue so that issues can be rectified immediately. While we cannot get involved in any conversations regarding compensation and/or agreements made between parties, we can and do work to clarify what the issue is and work with the production so that they may have an opportunity to mitigate.

"Also, we have neighborhoods wherein residents let us know that they will be doing construction or county will advise when municipal projects are scheduled. Anyone can let us know if they are

planning work in neighborhoods that are traditionally utilized for on-location filming. We can place notes in our system that relay dates, work, etc. so that crews are given advanced notice and have the opportunity to clarify whether schedules can be rearranged and/or whether their work can be completed under the circumstances. “

If hosting a film shoot, communicate with your neighbors and help facilitate resolving any concerns your neighbors might raise.

Note: As a matter of convention, Film L.A. makes an effort to provide a 2 day notice. However, they are required to provide a 24 hour notice.

Q: Planning an important event that a film shoot would disrupt? Here's a tip.

We learned of an unfortunate incident where a film shoot ruined an important family event. The event had been 6 months in the planning. Film L.A. notified the neighbors of the shoot two days before the filming. In this case, the neighbor was told there was nothing anyone could do.

However, there is something he could have done.

According to Arturo Pina a Film L.A., if you contact Film L.A. prior to your event and give them a date, they will not issue a filming permit that conflicts with your event. So, if you live in a neighborhood with frequent filming and are planning an important event, consider notifying Film L.A. and request that they withhold a filming permits that conflicts with your festivities.

And, it wouldn't be a bad idea to remind Film L.A. as the event approaches and to notify your Town Council Member.

Note: In the event you haven't notified FilmLA of your event or project (or maybe FilmLA just dropped the ball) and you are notified there will be a conflicting film shoot in two days, not all is lost. You should contact the 'production representative' identified on the door hanger ASAP. In many cases the film company will try to work out an accommodation.

Q: Who decides who get compensated for a film shoot?

Compensation is negotiated between the film production company and the neighbors who host the shoot. Typically host compensation is negotiated by the Location Manager. Sometimes nearby neighbors are compensated. Typically, the production company will negotiate with each neighbor separately.

Film L.A. will not get involved in compensation, and the County ordinances are silent on the topic.

Q: Does Altadena get any financial benefit from a film shoot?

Altadena, as a community, does *not* receive any direct financial benefit from film shoots.

No permit fees are allocated to the community. Permit fees go to fund Film L.A.

Note: Film L.A. is entirely self-funded. It receives no financial support from the County.

Fees related to road use, encroachment and parking go to the Department of Public Works.

Q: My question is not covered here. Where should I go to find an answer?

Post a comment or send us an email at altadenafilmingcommittee@gmail.com and we'll try to find out the answer or refer you to a better resource. If the Q&A is of general interest, we'll add it to this FAQ.

Q: There's an error in the FAQ. How do I set the record straight?

We want our site to be as accurate as possible. Please post a comment in the comment section or send us an email at altadenafilmingcommittee@gmail.com.

Contact information LA County Services

Film L.A. contacts:

Film L.A. all-purpose,24/7 contact phone number		213-977-8600 (For after-hour problems select option #2)	
Arturo Pina	Community Outreach Liaison	O: 213-977-8642	apina@filmla.com
Josh Mingo	Director of Permit Operations	O: 213-977-8607	jmingo@filmla.com
Jennifer Morelos	Operations Manager		JMorelos@filmla.com
Philip Sokoloski	VP, Integrated Communications	O: 213-977-8630	psokoloski@filmla.com
Donna Washington	VP, Operations	O: 213-977-8600	dWASHINGTON@filmla.com
Paul Audley	President		paudley@filmla.com

Altadena Sheriff & CHP contacts:

Sgt. Wayne Waterman	Station scheduling	O: 626-296-2104 (6a – 5p)	wpwaterm@lasd.org
Sgt. Brian Mann	Community Relations		BJMann@lasd.org
Officer Kristi Cardoza	CHP, Liaison to California film commission	213-703-2070	kcardoza@film.ca.gov
Officer Mike Ulloa	Altadena contact for CHP	626-298-8100 (M, Tu, Th, F: 8a-5p) (Wed: 8a-6p) No after hours contact info	Mulloa@chp.ca.gov
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Information Bureau: film and media projects		213-229-1700	
Altadena Local CHP station		(626) 296-8100	

Los Angeles County Public Works

Gregory Graham	Department of Public Works, Supervisor, Contract Construction Contact for parking restriction approvals	O: 626-458-4917	ggraham@dpw.lacounty.gov
Anthony Moran	Permit Office	626-338-9515	amoran@dpw.lacounty.gov

Altadena Government Contacts

Sussy Nemer	Field Deputy Office of Supervisor Kathryn Barger	(626) 356-5407 (626) 568-0159 FAX	snemer@bos.lacounty.gov
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LA County Film Liaison

Gary Smith	LA County Film Liaison LA County CEO Program Manager for FilmLA Contract Chief Executive Office	(213) 974-2504	gsmith@ceo.lacounty.gov
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Resource about filming in Altadena

AltadenaFilming.org	altadena.neighbors.4.ok.film@gmail.com
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