



CITY OF  
**EL SEGUNDO**

# Urban Bee Keeping And Ordinance Requirements

Public Works Department/Environmental Committee

October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020

# Ask

To amend City ordinances to allow for urban beekeeping.

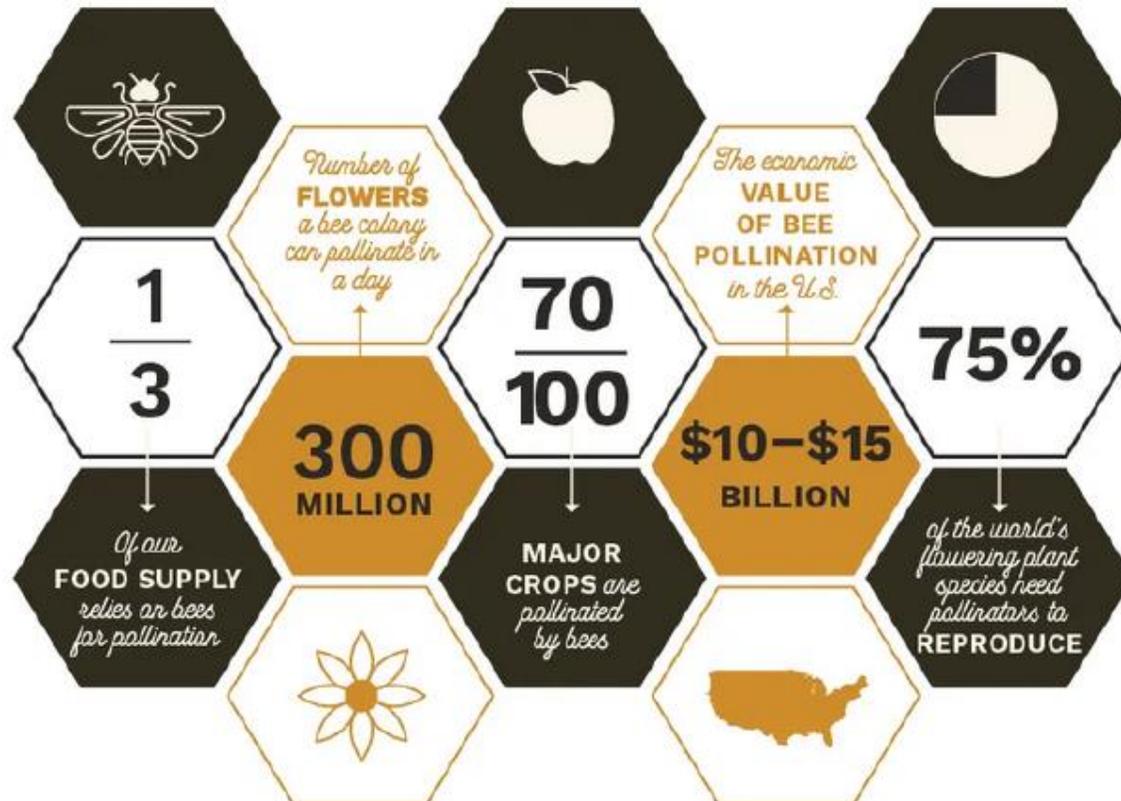
## Executive Summary

Current El Segundo ordinances list bees under nuisance ordinances along with chickens and other livestock but does not include another ordinance that allows safe beekeeping as it does for chickens. Nearby cities such as Santa Monica, Redondo Beach, and Torrance allow for hives with very specific safety measures as well as registering and permitting of the hives with the city.

With the current pandemic outbreak, we have all witnessed firsthand the challenges to our local food security with the extensive lines and scarcity at the grocery store. The tremendous surge of interest in growing food crops has left nurseries depleted of vegetable seedlings, fruit trees, and sometimes even soil. No matter how much we plant, we need bees because one in three bites of food we eat depends entirely on bees. With bees pollinating 80% of the world's plants including 90 different food crops, they are a crucial piece to the equation for sustainability.

# REASONS TO BEEKEEP: 1. POLLINATION

BEES PERFORM APPROXIMATELY 80% OF ALL POLLINATION WORLDWIDE.





# 2. HONEYBEE DECLINE

## 4 MOST LIKELY CAUSES OF HONEYBEE AND POLLINATOR DECLINE



Pesticide poisoning from an onslaught of toxic insecticides used on field crops and home gardens.

### MASS USE OF DANGEROUS PESTICIDES



Climate change disrupts the timing between bees and bloom; e.g. When bees come out of hibernation, important flowers they need to start the season are not available as a food supply.

### CONSTANT CHANGE IN CLIMATE



Tenacious parasites like Varroa mites and small hive beetles can take heavy tolls on colonies, as can diseases such as Nosema and American Foulbrood.

### RAPIDLY SPREADING PESTS & DISEASES



Behemoth, single-crop plantings create food deserts for bees and other pollinators unable to thrive on a single food supply. Diversity of vegetation is key to a healthy bee habitat.

### INCREASE OF MONOCULTURE

# 3. HONEY



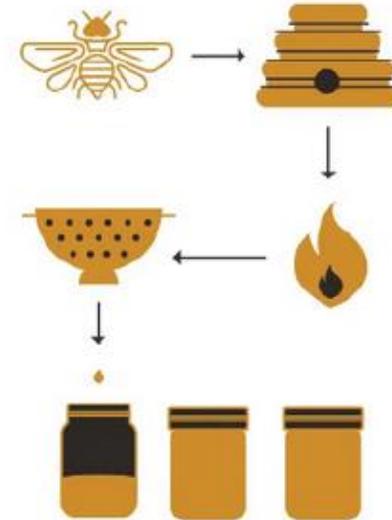
## RAW HONEY

vs.

## PASTEURIZED



Raw, unprocessed honey is a healthier choice because it contains antioxidants, vitamins, and enzymes which can be destroyed in the pasteurization process. Raw honey crystallizes faster than pasteurized honey because these particulates remain.



If you buy your honey from the supermarket, chances are that it has been heated, strained, and processed to remove particulates for the purpose of preventing crystallization. This process also removes vital nutrients that give honey its unique beneficial qualities.

# BEEKEEPING IN LA

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In October 2015, Los Angeles City Council unanimously approved urban beekeeping across the county. The effort was spearheaded by non-profit HoneyLove.org in 2011

## NEARBY CITIES THAT ALLOW BEEKEEPING:

- Culver City
- Fullerton (2018)
- Long Beach (2015)
- Manhattan Beach
- Palos Verdes
- Redondo Beach (2012)
- San Diego (2012)
- Santa Monica (2011)
- Torrance

## LA COUNTY BEEKEEPING ORDINANCE

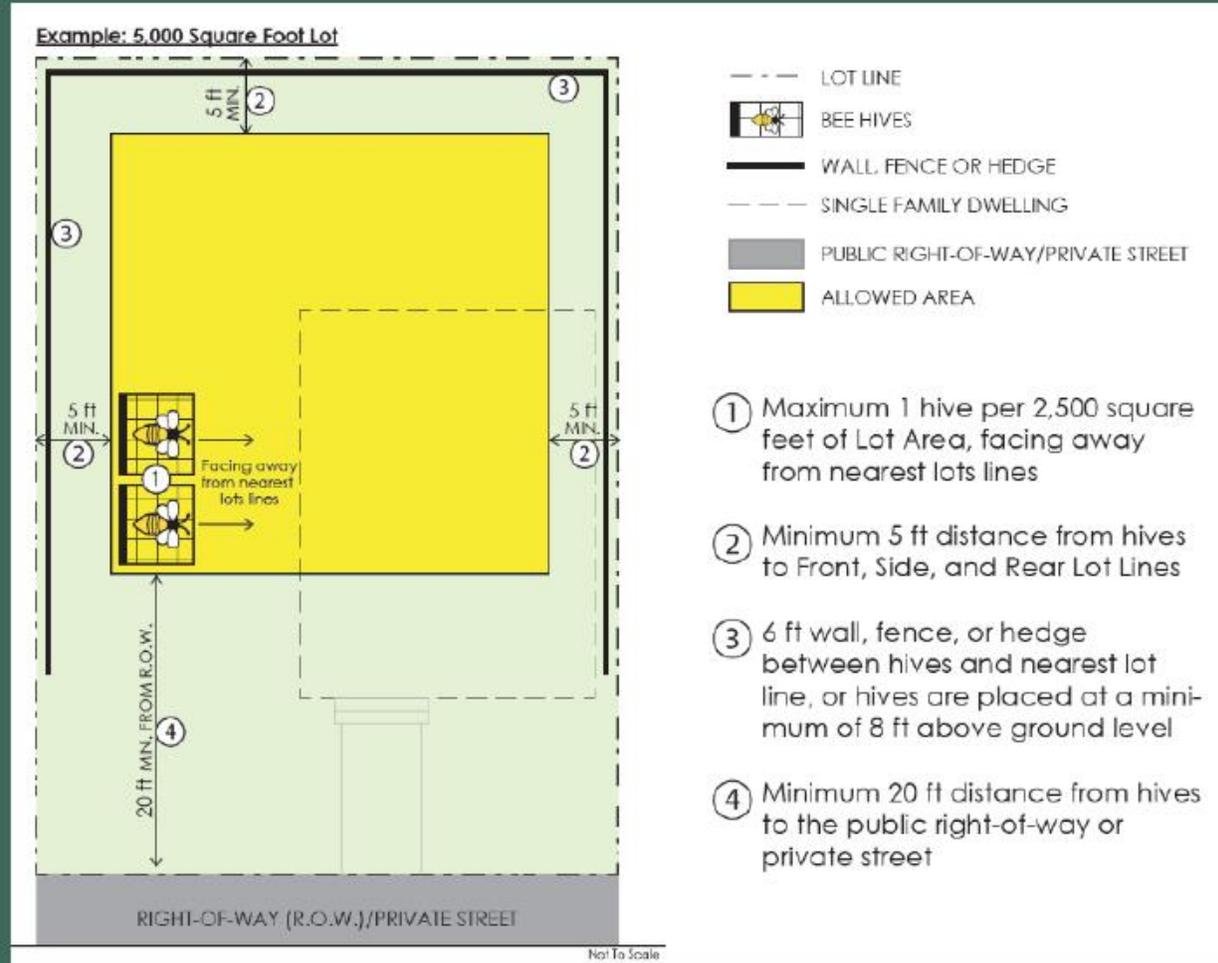
The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of a beehive, showing the golden-yellow hexagonal cells of the honeycomb. The top portion of the image is in focus, while the bottom portion is blurred. A white rectangular box is overlaid on the top part of the image, containing the title text.

# LA COUNTY REGULATIONS

## *Regulations*

- Register as a beekeeper within County of Los Angeles
- Maximum one hive for every 2500 sqft lot area
- Hives minimum 5 ft from lot lines, 20 ft from public right of way/private street
- Hive entrances face away from or parallel to nearest lot line
- 6 ft wall or vegetative barrier between hives and adjacent lots, or placement of hives minimum 8 ft above grade (ground level) of adjacent lot

# LA COUNTY DETAILED REGULATION EXAMPLE



# Proposed Permit Requirements

- Register as required by the California Food and Agricultural Code and the County of Los Angeles.
- Exhibit proof of some knowledge of beekeeping.
- House one colony per 3,750 S.F. of total lot area; maximum of two colonies allowed per lot.
- Public Notification (TBD range of 300' to 500' in radius) for residents & property owners for issuance of the permit and yearly subsequent renewals.

# Position of the Hive(s)

- Minimum (TBD range 10'-15' distance) from lot lines and 15' from public ROW.
- Entrance of hive to be faced away from or parallel to nearest lot line.
- 6' tall wall or vegetative barrier between hives(s) and adjacent lots, or placement of the hive(s) minimum of 8' above the grade of adjacent lot. This wall has to be consistent with Zoning regulations and directs bees to safe heights when leaving lot.

# Hive Management Requirements

- Proper maintenance.
- Equipment storage.
- Adequate water supply.
- Re-queen the colony.
  - Subsequent to any swarming or aggressive behavior
  - At least every other year
- TBD: Warning sign to be installed on property, clearly visible by the public (not required for dogs or chickens, FYI).
- TBD: Liability Insurance coverage needs to have a minimum dollar amount to be determined from the City's Risk Manager, and proof of insurance needs to be provided to the City prior to the issuance of the permit/renewal of the permit every year. The insurance policy must cover any injury to members of the household/guests as well as any pedestrian or neighbor, and must indemnify the City.

# Inspection

- Prior to issuance of a permit, property would need to be inspected by a certified beekeeper (hired as consultant, subsidized by permit fee).
- Colony to be inspected every year by a certified beekeeper prior to renewal of the permit.
- If there are any complaints from the residents, these may be grounds to revoke the permit and/or to not renew the permit.

# City Tasks

- Prepare new ordinance in coordination with Environmental Committee and citizens to amend City Code to establish the permit program.
- Need to hire consultant for detailed requirements and for inspections
- Establish permit fee to cover staff time in full for processing the permits/inspections/public notification, etc. This fee is expected to be high..

# Council Questions/Direction