

COMMUNITY DESIGN OVERLAY DISTRICT

DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING



What is a Community Design Overlay District (CDO)?

A Community Design Overlay District (CDO) is a tool used for a distinct geographic area to improve and/or preserve the quality of building and site design through the application of Design Guidelines and Standards. Design Guidelines and Standards, developed for each CDO, provide guidance and direction in the design of buildings by addressing physical elements such as color and materials, landscape, facade and wall treatments, and site orientation.

Why is a CDO necessary and what is its purpose?

A CDO is an effective tool to regulate the design and character of development in order to prevent inconsistent, haphazard, and unrelated design. The purpose of a CDO is to assure that development:

- promotes a distinctive character;
- improves aesthetic attractiveness;
- protects areas of interest;

- prevents unacceptable design uses or structures; and
- provides a sense of place.

The design benefits of using a CDO are numerous. For example, a CDO can be used to:

- preserve unique architecture;
- regulate the style and design of signs;
- improve building facades; and
- incorporate murals, art, and landscaping.



When does a CDO become effective?

A CDO becomes effective only after the CDO's guidelines and development standards are approved by the City Planning Commission and its boundaries are adopted by City Council. Once approved, any project within its boundaries should follow its guidelines and development standards.

Is there a CDO in my community?

You may go to the Planning Department's website at <http://cityplanning.lacity.org> to see if there is a CDO in your community. Once at our website go to General Plan, Community Plans, select your Community Planning Area, then choose Other Plans/Guidelines. If there is a CDO in your area, it would be listed under this section.

