

LOS ANGELES DRONE PERMIT CHECKLIST

For the production office. From the Los Angeles Drone Filming Permit Guide at dronetechaerial.com. Last reviewed October 5, 2026.

BEFORE YOU LOCK THE LOCATION

- ☐ **Who owns the ground under the launch point?** That office issues the film permit. See the table below.
- ☐ **Is the location in controlled airspace?** LAANC covers most of the basin under the grid ceiling. Above it, a manual FAA request takes days to weeks.
- ☐ **Is there a stadium or event on the calendar?** A stadium restriction closes three nautical miles from one hour before to one hour after.

WHEN THE PERMIT APPLICATION GOES IN

- ☐ **Drone named on the application from the start.** Adding it later is an amendment and may not clear in time.
- ☐ **Drone paperwork to FilmLA by noon** on the date the permit application is due for that jurisdiction.
- ☐ **Operator compliance package, one PDF:** questionnaire, plan of activities with maps, airspace authorization, pilot certificate, aircraft registration, insurance.
- ☐ **Additional insureds sent to the operator:** production company, studio, location owner, permit office, jurisdiction.
- ☐ **Night work:** pilot certificate or knowledge test dated on or after April 21, 2021.
- ☐ **Fire safety officer budgeted** where the jurisdiction requires one for drone work.

THE WEEK OF THE SHOOT

- ☐ **Plan of activities approved** three business days before the shoot at the latest.
- ☐ **Flight restrictions checked** at scheduling, 72 hours out, and the morning of.
- ☐ **Paper on set:** film permit, airspace authorization, plan of activities, certificates of insurance.

WHO PERMITS WHAT

WHERE THE CREW STANDS	FILM PERMIT FROM	PLAN FOR
City and County of Los Angeles, contract cities	FilmLA (plus LAFD inside the City)	Days, by the application deadline
Santa Monica	Film Santa Monica	About five business days
Burbank	City of Burbank, with drone addendum	At least five business days
Pasadena	City of Pasadena Film Office	Up to five business days
Long Beach	Special Events and Filming, fire department drone permit	Up to seven business days
Malibu city streets and property	City of Malibu	Days to a week or more
Los Angeles County beaches	Beaches and Harbors, through FilmLA	Drones not allowed by county policy
State parks and state beaches	California Film Commission	Longer; aircraft named on the permit
State highways, including Pacific Coast Highway	Caltrans, through the Film Commission	Submit twelve business days ahead
National Park Service land	National Park Service	Weeks, with no assurance

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Rules change. Confirm current requirements with each office before filing.