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From: Joe Williamson <williamsonjoseph@me.com>

Date: Tue, Oct 10, 2017 at 8:39 AM

Subject: Opposition to the Proposed Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Ordinance

To: councilmember.wesson@lacity.org

Herb Wesson Jr. 10th District,

I am writing to share my concerns and objections related to the Permanent Supportive Housing Ordinance.

This ordinance will impact the proposed development at Thatcher Yard as it will deem certain projects on land zoned as Public Facilities to be "by-right" projects, allowing them to bypass environmental review and other zoning approval processes that would otherwise be required.

PSH Projects should not be permitted "By Right" in public facilities zones. It is clear that this provision is included solely to enable PSH projects such as the Thatcher Yard. This completely contradicts the purpose and intent of the Specific Plan adopted for this community.

The Ordinance would limit basic planning and public review procedures, and would remove critical code requirements designed to protect lower-density zoned neighboring properties. Councilman Bonin and other officials in the City of Los Angeles have promised that any proposed PSH projects would undergo all required environmental review and would obtain necessary zoning approvals. Yet, the proposed Ordinance completely EXEMPTS almost all PSH projects from both CEQA and the City's zoning approval process. This is both unacceptable and unlawful.

The Ordinance FAQ makes it clear that this Ordinance is designed to facilitate the projects currently in the planning stages as well as future PSH projects. Under state law, specifically CEQA, the City must consider the "whole of the action," which means the proposed projects already in the planning stages, such as Thatcher Yard, and the impacts of those projects must be taken into consideration when the City considers the environmental impacts of the Ordinance. Otherwise, the City will be engaged in piecemealing, which is prohibited under CEQA.

Lastly, the proposed Ordinance does not provide for community input. While it does require community notice, there is no public hearing and no right to appeal the decision of the Planning Director. Further, the Director cannot add specific conditions of approval to mitigate unique impacts that may derive from the particular facts and circumstances in the area. The Ordinance states that applications "shall be approved by the Director of Planning through a ministerial Public Benefit process if the eligibility criteria and performance standards of this subsection are met." The City would be abrogating their responsibilities by allowing projects which, while admittedly beneficial from a social perspective, also may have negative impacts on the community if not properly assessed, evaluated and mitigated. The City should provide for a discretionary process with a public hearing and an appeal procedure.

Housing our homeless has rightly become one of our City's priorities. However a comprehensive, inclusive and transparent process must be followed. As residents and homeowners, our input is vital in this process.

This Ordinance should not be passed. Please ensure my comments are filed and are noted as opposing the action.

Joe Williamson

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July 13th, 2017

Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors

700 North Alameda Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Subject: Oppose California Water Fix / Tunnels

Dear Board of Directors:

Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 721 urges you to oppose the proposal to build massive water tunnels in Northern California, known as the so-called California Water Fix. Our 97,000 members deliver public services in counties, cities, sanitation and water districts and non-profits across six counties including Los Angeles. Water quality is vital to our members both as residents and workers.

Fixing aging infrastructure for Southern California is linked with creating environmentally sustainable water capture at the local level. During the recent storms in L.A., the region enjoyed a deluge of rain that turned yards and hills green again. But we also saw the negative impacts to aging infrastructure, with road sink holes, emergency calls to Sanitation Districts and, most importantly, a rush of uncaptured water rolling through storm drains to the ocean.

We support efforts to capture our stormwater, and last month's LA County Supervisors motion to determine an appropriate parcel tax to fund stormwater capture and water quality projects and programs in the coming year. We also support the partnership between Metropolitan Water District and L.A. County Sanitation Districts to build a new recycled water facility and upgrade our treatment plants in Carson and the City of Los Angeles, producing a new water source.

We support Mayor Eric Garcetti's goals to increase reliability and double local water sources by 2035. The City of Santa Monica, the City of Camarillo, Ventura County Water, Orange County and L.A. County are also proposing similar efforts to increase local and regional water projects.

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Neither the State nor Metropolitan Water District has released a credible financial plan on the real impacts to ratepayers, and there is good reason to suspect the costs will be much larger. We oppose the so-called California Water Fix to build massive water tunnels in Northern California.

Sincerely,

Bob Schoonover, President SEIU Local 721

CC:

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti

Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia

Compton Mayor Aja Brown

Beverly Hills City Council

Burbank City Council

Central Basin Water Agency

Compton City Council

Glendale City Council

Long Beach City Council

Los Angeles City Council

Pasadena City Council

Santa Ana City Council

San Diego City Council

San Fernando City Council

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Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District

West Basin Municipal Water District

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