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23 August 2017

Council President Herb Wesson
Council Member José Huizar
Members of the Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street, Room 360
Los Angeles, CA 90012
c/o City Clerk

RE: C.F. 16-0503 – Lorena Plaza project

Dear Council President Wesson and Councilman José Huizar:

I am writing as a member of the Homeless Action Committee of the League of Women Voters in support of the Lorena Plaza project, and in opposition to the Planning and Land Use Management Committee report to grant the CEQA appeal filed by El Mercado. Please deny the CEQA appeal.

Lorena Plaza consists of 49 apartments and 10,000 square feet of commercial space. To require a full environment impact report on a project of this size is setting a precedent for future similar projects. Given his past advocacy on behalf of the homeless, I am especially dismayed that Councilmember Huizar has handled this matter in such an unsupportive manner. Lorena Plaza will help Los Angeles address the homeless crisis the City is experiencing. Half of the apartments will also be dedicated for veterans and their families; this is particularly important as veteran homelessness increased 56% in the City in the past year.

Lorena Plaza is a good project that has community support. The Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council voted 15-1 in support the project in 2015. There must be something the City Council can do to help the project become a reality. Please deny the appeal and support the Mitigated Negative Declaration recommended by Planning Department staff.

Sincerely,

Virginia Wexman
1111 South Grand Ave., #818
Los Angeles, CA 90015

Copy: Mayor Eric Garcetti