March 19, 2019

Los Angeles City Council President Herb Wesson
Chair, Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee
200 N. Spring Street, Room 430
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: SUPPORT for Developer Contribution Limits (CF 19-0046)

Dear Council President Wesson and Honorable Committee Members:

The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Inc., founded in 1952, represents 43 homeowner and resident associations with approximately 250,000 constituents spanning the Santa Monica Mountains. At its meeting of February 6, 2019, the Federation voted to support the Council’s motion regarding developer contribution restrictions, which we note was moved by six councilmembers (Bonin, Buscaino, Koret, Krekorian, Martinez, and Ryu) and seconded by President Wesson.

In its recommendation to the Rules Committee, the City Ethics Commission cites a Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal case holding cities have a strong interest in “[p]reventing corruption, the appearance of corruption, or circumvention of the law.” Thalheimer v. City of San Diego (9th Cir. 2011) 645 F.3d 1109. This is especially true in Los Angeles where, as detailed in the Commission’s letter, “[a]ctual corruption and widespread ethics violations are [ ] associated with developers.” Councilmember Ryu’s January 16 letter quotes a Second Circuit case finding “the public perception of quid pro quo corruption . . . alone justifies limitations or an outright ban.” Ognibene v. Parkes (2nd Cir. 2011) 671 F.3d 174, 187.

The Hillside Federation agrees that the above concerns justify pro-active local legislation to limit developer contributions, and strongly supports the motion.

Sincerely,

Charley Mims
Charley Mims
President, Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Inc.