

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at [NCsupport@lacity.org](mailto:NCsupport@lacity.org).

This is an automated response, please do not reply to this email.

#### Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Zapata - King

Name: Chelsea McElwee

Phone Number: (323) 451-9485

Email: [chelseamcelwee.zknc@gmail.com](mailto:chelseamcelwee.zknc@gmail.com)

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(7) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 03/17/2021

Type of NC Board Action: Against

#### Impact Information

Date: 05/12/2021

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 20-1044

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: We, the Zapata-King Neighborhood Council (ZKNC), strongly oppose CF 20-1044 Land Use Reform / High-Value Projects. As written, this motion would significantly restrict public engagement in the planning process, give unfair advantages to large corporate developers, and increase corruption within the City Council.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS**

**Chelsea McElwee**  
*President*

**Ron Gochez**  
*Vice President*

**VACANT**  
*Secretary*

**Luz Núñez**  
*Treasurer*

**Mary Freeman**  
*Parliamentarian*

**ZAPATA-KING  
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

CITY OF LOS ANGELES



4920 SOUTH AVALON BLVD.  
LOS ANGELES CA. 90011

Email: [zknc@empowerla.org](mailto:zknc@empowerla.org)

Website: [zapatakingnc.org](http://zapatakingnc.org)

**ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS**

***At-Large Representatives***

*Brigette Kidd*

*Marilyn Greene*

*Ana-Isabel Gonzalez*

*Velvet Yvette Victorian*

*Victor Vasquez*

**Community Interest Representative**

*Luz Núñez*

**Youth Representative**

*VACANT*

**Re: Community Impact Statement for Council File: 20-1044 Land Use Reform / High Value Projects**

Los Angeles City Council Planning and Land Use Management and Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committees  
200 N. Spring Street Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Honorable Members of the Planning and Land Use Management Committee and Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee,

We, the Zapata-King Neighborhood Council (ZKNC), strongly oppose CF 20-1044 Land Use Reform / High-Value Projects. As written, this motion would significantly restrict public engagement in the planning process, give unfair advantages to large corporate developers, and increase corruption within the City Council.

ZKNC strongly opposes any action that strips communities and constituents of their ability to engage in public hearings. By bypassing the Planning Land Use and Management (PLUM) committee, stakeholders will have a reduced opportunity for comment and the ability to influence council decisions. Any restrictions of public hearings, including the foregoing of committee hearings for "high-value projects," reduce public participation and goes against the democratic spirit of the Brown Act. As is, community members are often not informed of these projects until one or two weeks before the City Council PLUM meeting. Community members are given little to no time to mount an opposition, a further reduction in the time that community members have to prepare to voice their support or opposition is wholly unacceptable.

Allowing "high-value projects" to bypass the PLUM committee would provide preferential treatment to large business developers and put smaller development companies, non-profit organizations, and public land trusts at a significant disadvantage. As a neighborhood where we hear numerous "high-value projects," many of which are funded by developers who have demonstrated a complete disregard for the good of the community and the voice of its residents.

In the past, efforts to communicate with such developers have been met with disrespect and disregard and, at times, threats of violence and other abusive behaviors. These developers should not be given any further advantage and should not be treated differently because they have profited most from the current affordable housing crisis.

ZKNC is deeply concerned about corruption in the City Council with respect to planning and land use. Many of these corporate developers and investment companies are significant contributors to city council members' election campaigns and the mayor. We do not think that moving "high value" projects out of the PLUM committee and to the full City Council board is a solution for the corruption issues recently brought to light. City Councilmembers tend to defer to the Councilmember in whose district the project resides.

In summary, ZKNC strongly opposes CF: 20-1044. We believe the special treatment of "high-value projects" is completely inappropriate and is likely to have the unintended consequences of increasing preference towards these developers, increasing the likelihood of corruption. Additionally, reducing public input on our city's future is against the very spirit of our democracy. In the interest of government transparency, the ZKNC asks that the proposed motion be revised, so there is a truly independent review of future land use and development.

Respectfully submitted,



Chelsea McElwee, President  
Zapata-King Neighborhood Council

Yea (7) Nay (0) Abstain (0) Ineligible (0) Recusal (0)