



## WILMINGTON NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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*LA's 1<sup>st</sup> Certified Neighborhood Council*



Valerie Contreras, Chair  
Carlos Sanchez, Co-Chair  
Santiago Sedillo, Secretary  
Gina Martinez, Treasurer  
Barbara Zepeda, Parliamentarian

September 24, 2019

Reference: Oppose AB 1197

Dear Governor Gavin Newsom,

The Wilmington Neighborhood Council held a Brown Act public meeting on Tuesday, September 24, 2019 and passed a motion to submit a letter to you on behalf of our stakeholders to express our strong opposition to AB 1197.

This bill will negatively impact our community. It would unfairly deprive Los Angeles of crucial environmental protections and longstanding legal rights enjoyed by the rest of the State. Further, I understand AB 1197 was amended just a few weeks ago to exempt Los Angeles's controversial permanent Supportive Housing Ordinance from CEQA review and to kill a lawsuit to block the PSH Ordinance that is currently pending in California Superior Court.

There is no sure outcome that supportive housing will solve the homeless problem since there is nothing previously done in our City with a sure success rate to compare it to. Should these housing projects later be used for a different purpose such as section 8 housing or any other purpose, **our future generations will suffer serious health risks. No CEQA is just reckless on the part of LA City officials.**

Additionally, the CEQA provides a process for evaluating the environmental effect of a project, including but not limited to, water quality, land use and agricultural resources, transportation and circulations, air quality and greenhouse gas emission. Therefore, this would greatly change the quality of life for all in Los Angeles and Wilmington leaving our residents with serious health risks.

It hardly bears stating that environmental issues must be taken seriously, that all California residents deserve that same legal rights regardless of where they live, and that the state legislature should be set to protect all people.

The California Environmental Quality Act was put in place to protect the people and it defeats the purpose to have the Los Angeles City officials impose a categorical exemption from it. To build housing for anyone on contaminated lands puts everyone's health at risk. Homeless crisis or not. Homeless housing can be built, but built with the same CEQA regulations and other set standards. The City of LA

has temporary housing in place to take people off the streets while the PSH is being prepared. In the name of emergency aid programs, nothing has been done by our LA City official to resolve the worsening problem.

AB 1197 would negatively affect our community that is already overwhelmed by environmental pollution from the LA Port, refineries, railroads, and it sits on a methane zone. Additionally, the "Clean up, Green up" Ordinance was also put into action by the Mayor to help clean up our community of Wilmington.

We strongly urge you to VETO the AB 1197.

Sincerely,

*Valerie Contreras*

Valerie Contreras, Chair

On behalf of the Wilmington Neighborhood Council