



Westside
Regional
Alliance of
Councils

westsidecouncils.com

Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council
Brentwood Community Council
Del Rey Neighborhood Council
Mar Vista Community Council
Neighborhood Council of Westchester-Playa
Pacific Palisades Community Council
North Westwood Neighborhood Council

Palms Neighborhood Council
South Robertson Neighborhoods Council
Venice Neighborhood Council
West LA-Sawtelle Neighborhood Council
Westside Neighborhood Council
Westwood Community Council
Westwood Neighborhood Council

February 27th, 2021

Hon. Nury Martinez, President, Los Angeles City Council and Chair, Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee (REIRC)

Hon. Joe Buscaino, Vice-Chair, REIRC

Hon. Mark Ridley-Thomas, Member, REIRC

Hon. Paul Koretz, Councilmember, CD 5

Re: CF 21-0002-S18 (Koretz); assigned to Council REIRC – SUPPORT Resolution to Oppose SB 9

Dear REIRC Chair Martinez, Vice-Chair Buscaino and Member Ridley-Thomas; and Councilmember Koretz:

The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) is an alliance of fourteen Neighborhood and Community Councils on the Westside of Angeles, located in CDs 5 and 11 and portions of CDs 4 and 10.

Many Westside Neighborhood and Community Councils have expressed concerns about Senate Bill 9 (Atkins). Therefore, WRAC has passed, by a majority of voting Councils in our alliance, a motion to **oppose Senate Bill 9 and support City Council File 21-0002-S18** (Resolution to oppose SB 9). The full text of the WRAC motion is attached below.

The language of the motion has been approved by the following WRAC member Councils: Brentwood Community Council, Neighborhood Council Westchester/Playa, West LA-Sawtelle Neighborhood Council and Westwood Neighborhood Council. Modified versions that maintain the spirit of the above motion have been passed by Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council, Mar Vista Community Council, Pacific Palisades Community Council and Westside Neighborhood Council.

No member Councils have opposed this measure or submitted a minority letter to accompany this position.

We have just learned that the Senate Housing Committee will be hearing SB 9 on March 18, 2021, and that position letters must be submitted by March 12. WRAC therefore respectfully requests that the REIRC set a special meeting at the earliest opportunity, in order to hear this matter and pass the resolution in CF 21-0002-S18 for the full Council's consideration in sufficient time prior to the Senate Committee's submission deadline.



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Please contact me with any questions regarding the above motion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Wersinger".

Matt Wersinger, Chair
Westside Regional Alliance of Councils
C 310.721.2980

cc:

Hon. Eric Garcetti, Mayor, City of Los Angeles
Hon. Mike Bonin, Councilmember, CD 11
Hon. Nithya Raman, Councilmember, CD 4

Attachment

Motion: Oppose Senate Bill 9; support resolution in CF 21-0002-S18

Whereas, Senate Bill 9 violates the California Coastal Act (Public Resources Code §§30000 et seq.) by failing to exempt parcels within the Coastal zone, by purporting to eliminate hearings for Coastal Development Permits, and by requiring by-right/expedited approval of all projects permitted under the bill, including projects within the Coastal zone which otherwise require discretionary review, including hearings, under the Coastal Act;

Whereas, Senate Bill 9 violates the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code §§ 21065 and 21080) and shortcuts required CEQA review by declaring preemptively that a project permitted under the bill is not a “project” under CEQA, without regard to the test established by controlling caselaw, that is, whether the ordinance in a given case is “capable of causing a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect change in the environment” (Union of Medical Marijuana Patients, Inc. v. City of San Diego (California Coastal Commission, Real Party in Interest), (2019) 7 Cal.5th 1171);



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Whereas, Senate Bill 9 compromises public safety and puts the lives and property of thousands of California residents in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) at risk from increased density by failing to provide any exemption for parcels within the VHFHSZ;

Whereas, Senate Bill 9 fails to address the state's affordable housing crisis or to further the purported goal of "ensuring an adequate supply of affordable housing" by not specifying or requiring any particular amount or level of affordable housing (low to moderate income/workforce housing) in projects permitted pursuant to the bill;

Whereas, Councilmember Paul Koretz has introduced a resolution in Los Angeles City Council, CF 21-0002- S18, calling for the City of Los Angeles to oppose Senate Bill 9;

Therefore, the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) opposes Senate Bill 9 (Atkins) and supports the resolution in CF 21-0002-S18 (Koretz) calling for the City of Los Angeles to oppose Senate Bill 9.