



Westside
Regional
Alliance of
Councils

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

August 17, 2025

TO: MAYOR BASS AND ALL LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMEMBERS

Via Email

Mayor Karen Bass; Council President Marqueece Harris-Dawson, President Pro Tem Bob Blumenfeld and Assistant President Pro Tem Nithya Raman; Councilmembers Eunisses Hernandez, Adrin Nazarian, Katy Yaroslavsky, Imelda Padilla, Monica Rodriguez, Curren D. Price, Jr., Heather Hutt, Traci Park, John S. Lee, Hugo Soto-Martinez, Ysabel Jurado and Tim McOsker

Re: CF 25-0002-S19 (opposition to SB 79 to be added to the City's 2025-26 State Legislative Program); Item 44 on the August 19, 2025, Council Agenda – SUPPORT CF; OPPOSE SB 79

Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers:

The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils ("WRAC") is a cooperative coalition of all 14 neighborhood and community councils in CDs 5 and 11 and parts of 4 and 10 on the Westside of Los Angeles. Founded in 2009, our Alliance collectively represents over 500,000 Angelenos.

WRAC strongly opposes SB 79 and supports CF 25-0002-S19 (Lee/Park).¹ The bill erodes local land use control; requires streamlined approval of very high multifamily buildings near transit in single-family neighborhoods, even when municipalities such as Los Angeles already have a state-approved and compliant Housing Element; and compromises public safety by failing to include an unconditional exemption for the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (which would impact large areas of CDs 11, 5 and 4 on the Westside).

Moreover, as recognized by City Attorney Hydee-Feldstein Soto in her opposition to SB 79, the bill fails to provide a funding mechanism for crucial required infrastructure and public safety improvements, and would "impose billions of dollars of costs on Los Angeles and other local jurisdictions, undermine local governance, circumvent local decision-making processes, and impose unintended burdens on communities."²

As the City Attorney also stressed in her letter: "Article XIII, Section 25(a)(3) of the California Constitution expressly provides that '**public safety is the first responsibility of local government.**'" *[Emphasis added.]*

SB 79 will dangerously compromise public safety in our communities, thus violating the California Constitution. It would impermissibly and severely strain the City's budget, substantially undermine local decision-making

¹ <https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/WRAC-letter-Assembly-Rules-re-SB-79.pdf>. At this writing, ten WRAC member councils have voted to support CF 25-0002-S19, with Del Rey NC now taking this position since our original position letter was written.

² <https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Microsoft-Word-05.23.2025-SB-79-Opposition-Letter.docx.pdf>. See also WRAC's adopted position opposing all bills mandating housing density that fail to provide funding mechanisms to accompany the bills: <https://westsidecouncils.com/motion/oppose-legislation-mandating-housing-density-without-funding-mechanisms/>.

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processes, and destroy traditional neighborhoods *in all areas of the City*. Further, the bill does not require any affordable housing, and is unnecessary in Los Angeles, which, as you know, already has a *state-approved and compliant Housing Element*.

For these compelling reasons, and in the overriding interest of public safety, **we urge all members of the Los Angeles City Council to vote Yes on CF 25-0002-S19**, so that opposition to SB 79 can be added forthwith to the City's state legislative program, and the City's position can be advocated with legislators as the bill is advancing in the state legislature.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Robin Greenberg and Christina Spitz
Robin Greenberg, Chair, and Christina Spitz, Vice-Chair
Westside Regional Alliance of Councils

cc (via email):
Hon. Hydee Feldstein Soto, Los Angeles City Attorney