

Communication from Public

Name: Anthony Dedousis
Date Submitted: 06/01/2021 09:07 AM
Council File No: 19-0603
Comments for Public Posting: Hello, Please see attached for Abundant Housing LA's letter
OPPOSING the expansion of Fire District 1. Thank you, Anthony
Dedousis



June 1, 2021

Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

[CF 19-0603](#) - City Building Code Fire District 1 Expansion - OPPOSE

Dear Councilmembers,

Abundant Housing LA is a pro-housing, nonprofit advocacy organization working to help solve Southern California's housing crisis. Our organization supports more housing at all levels of affordability and reforms to land use and zoning codes, which are needed in order to make housing more affordable, improve access to jobs and transit, promote greater environmental sustainability, and advance racial and economic equity.

We write to express our strong objection to the proposed motion to restrict wood-frame and mass-timber construction in Los Angeles. This ill-advised measure would worsen the City's housing and homelessness crises and undermine our climate change mitigation goals.

In our [January letter of opposition to this motion](#), we expressed our concerns that expanding Fire District 1 would effectively ban wood-frame and mass-timber construction in much of the City, unnecessarily driving up the cost of housing construction and mandating less climate-friendly forms of construction. New type IV and type V structures, including multi-family residential buildings, are fire-safe under current building codes, and it is disappointing to see that the concrete industry is making a cynical, inaccurate argument around safety.

The Department of Building and Safety's [recent report](#) on this topic supports our argument. The report cites evidence that wood-frame and mass-timber buildings are less costly to build compared to other building materials, and states that "an expansion of Fire District 1 would likely reduce the financial feasibility of affordable housing projects and may result in fewer affordable housing units in the City."

Los Angeles should not preemptively ban a new construction method that could help meet our city's housing needs and its climate change goals, and should not raise building costs and block affordable housing unnecessarily. Rather than banning heavy timber and wood-frame construction in more areas in Los Angeles, we respectfully urge you to instead amend Fire District 1 to legalize mass timber construction everywhere in Los Angeles, including Downtown and Hollywood.

Sincerely,

Leonora Camner
Executive Director
Abundant Housing LA

Anthony Dedousis
Director of Policy and Research
Abundant Housing LA