

Families of Park Mesa Heights
(A Group of Concerned Community Leaders/Members)
5444 Crenshaw Blvd., Suite 205
Los Angeles, CA 90043
Ourcommunity90043@gmail.com

Subject: Opposition to SB 1120 (Atkins) as amended June 18, 2020

The City Council /
City of Los Angeles
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear City Council Members,

Families of Park Mesa Heights, a group of concerned community leaders and members, **strongly opposes SB 1120** for the following reasons:

SB 1120 is a reckless concept that breaks a contract with, and harms, 7.4 million homeowners of all income levels, ages, races and backgrounds.

This experimental bill eliminates single-family zoning statewide, letting buyers split any lot of 2,400 sq ft or more to build four market-rate homes without yards. In cities with their own “granny flat” laws, eight market-rate units could be built.

As a major draw for speculators, SB 1120 will force home buyers to compete with giants like Irvine Company and Blackstone, severely eroding homeownership and family wealth across California at the worst possible time.

Pushed by Bay Area legislators who represent few Black or Latino homeowner areas, SB 1120 will devastate SoCal’s older, diverse, well-located suburbs such as Paramount, South Gate, and Altadena, and much of South L.A., at a time when protecting sensitive areas should be the overriding concern.

In the SB 1120 Gold Rush, thousands of older homes will be destroyed and replaced by market-rate housing more expensive than the ones lost, fueling a state-created contribution to California’s affordability and homeless crisis.

Scores of vibrant communities such as East Los Angeles and Boyle Heights, known for their decades of battles against gentrification and displacement, will be in the crosshairs because they have transit stops — an investor “amenity.”

SB 1120 bans public hearings for these projects, silencing cities, communities, and homeowners, whether wealthy and gated, or low-income and diverse. In a time when the country is battling for its life because the president is doing his best to silence our voices, a Democratic Legislature in California is doing just that to its citizens.

Requiring no garage and just one parking space per house, SB 1120 will add severe mobility problems to crowded, urbanized Black, Latino and Asian communities. As legislators pretend to be concerned about climate change, this move adds to air, noise and space pollution.

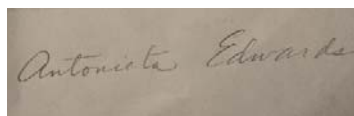
SB 1120 bans cities from requiring parking at housing projects within ½ mile of transit — a failed concept that did not spur ridership but instead added to plummeting transit use in the years before the pandemic. This idea leads to crowded streets, as constituents battle for parking. As long as California remains a vast expanse, its population will require private transportation to move from A to B. Periodic car rentals is not an option for low income families who will be forced to limit, and curtail the expanse of family outings due to lack of funds for public transportation.

Misleadingly described by advocates as preserving 25% of a home's outer walls, homeowner-occupied houses will be fully demolished. Vast swaths of trees, greenery and yards will be built over, significantly worsening state GHG emissions. Demolitions of sound housing will add to the SB 1120 GHG load.

This housing bill and others are being rushed through limited committee hearings during an international pandemic and social unrest, severely limiting debate as the public and media focus on keeping their jobs and surviving COVID-19. It is wrong to advance such profoundly controversial legislation at this time. The bills starkly reduce the legislature's commitment to affordable housing — or offer none at all.

We urge you prevail on your colleagues in Sacramento to vote no, on SB 1120.

Best Regards,

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Antonietta Edwards". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper.

Antonietta Edwards, Secretary
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