

Communication from Public

Name: Rabeya Sen

Date Submitted: 11/24/2021 10:53 AM

Council File No: 20-1213

Comments for Public Posting: On behalf of Esperanza Community Housing, we are submitting this comment for items 36, 35, and 43. We applaud the city for a strong Housing Element that lays the groundwork for implementation programs to address LA's need for affordable housing. In the coming months, we encourage the city to prioritize implementing affordability-required rezoning programs with a focus on high opportunity areas and a public lands program that prioritizes housing models that achieve permanent affordability coupled with strong anti-displacement protections. However, remain concerned by LA City's efforts to (1) expedite an Environmental Justice Element, and (2) suggest that state law requires LA City's Housing Element to be approved concurrently with the City's revised Health & Safety Element. Entertaining this notion threatens to set a dangerous precedent for rushing planning updates, circumventing meaningful community outreach, and fast-tracking SB 1000 compliance. (1) First, the cornerstone of SB 1000 is community outreach and public participation. Yet, LA City's compliance update relies on old data and community outreach that took place years ago. LA City's Health and Safety Element "update" is based on data gathered before 2015, which predates SB 1000 by 3 years. (2) Second, LA City's identification of disadvantaged communities is based on outdated CalEnviroScreen maps, which undermines the very essence of SB 1000's intent in recognizing the cumulative impacts that our frontline communities continue to face. Given we are still in a global pandemic in the midst of a worsening climate crisis, accurate data is vital to identify disproportionately impacted communities and craft programs and policies that will improve quality of life in those communities. (3) Finally, although we do not oppose LA City's technical updates to the Health & Safety Element, we oppose claiming that it satisfies SB 1000 requirements. Moving forward with a compliance update is a missed opportunity to reverse decades of racist land use decisions that have concentrated toxic industries such as oil drilling in vulnerable communities and sited affordable housing on toxic land. Therefore, LA City must draft a stand-alone EJ Element to ensure EJ goals, policies, and programs are legally enforceable between LA City & the state. Our frontline communities deserve better and deserve due process. We call on the city to commit

additional resources that would allow the city to complete state-required environmental justice analysis of the Housing Element and environmental justice-focused community engagement. Housing is a health and human right. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Laura Gracia

Date Submitted: 11/24/2021 10:18 AM

Council File No: 20-1213

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Laura Gracia, with Communities for a Better Environemtn. As a member of ACT-LA we applaud the city for completing a strong Housing Element that lays the groundwork for implementation programs to address LA's need for affordable housing. In the coming months, we encourage the city to prioritize implementing affordability-required rezoning programs with a focus on high opportunity areas and a public lands program that prioritizes housing models that achieve permanent affordability coupled with strong anti-displacement protections. However, we remain concerned by LA City's efforts to expedite an Environmental Justice Element. LA City's targeted amendments to the Health & Safety element are insufficient and do not do not satisfy state law, SB 1000, or community resilience planning for the following reasons: First, the cornerstone of SB 1000 and community resilience is community outreach and public participation, we do not believe that the outreach was sufficient for the level of impact the Health & Safety Element has on vulnerable populations. We urge the City of LA to draft a stand-alone EJ element to ensure EJ goals, policies, and programs are capturing the existing climate exposure of vulnerable populations as they relate to energy and communities with a heavy industrial presence. We call on the city to commit additional resources that would allow the city to complete state-required environmental justice analysis of the Housing Element and environmental justice-focused community engagement. Housing is a health and human right. Thank you.