

## RESOLUTION

RULES, ELECTIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

**WHEREAS**, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations, or policies proposed to, or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 23, 2025, the Los Angeles City Council adopted the Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee report and resolution in support for Senate Bill (SB) 71 (Wiener), which proposes to make permanent statutory California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exemptions for transit and active transportation projects that advance the State's climate, safety, and public health goals, while improving access and mobility options; and

**WHEREAS**, since Council's adopted its Resolution in support of SB 71, the bill has undergone several amendments in the State Senate and Assembly, introducing significant changes that were not part of the bill's original language; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 29, 2025, the State Senate amended SB 71 to add *Sec.3*, to change the rules for the first seven Environmental Leadership Transit Projects (ELTP) located wholly within the County of LA or connect to any existing transit project wholly located in the County of Los Angeles in Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21168.6.9, which among other things, imposes strict timelines requiring that CEQA challenges, including appeals, against ELTP Projects be resolved within 365 days of filing the certified record of proceedings, with an emphasis of streamlining the CEQA process for projects approved in 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, *Sec.3* amends subdivision (d) of Section 21168.6.9 to expand the judicial streamlining for ELTP Projects and require any legal challenge under *any* law, not just CEQA, to be resolved within 365 days, including appeals; and

**WHEREAS**, the expansion of legal challenges that are subject to ELTP judicial streamlining beyond CEQA are not reflected in the types of matters subject to the project applicant's payment of court costs, which are still limited to CEQA challenges in Paragraph (3), Subdivision (b) of Section 21168.6.9; and

**WHEREAS**, the *Sec.3* also amends subdivision (g) of Section 21168.6.9, which limits the streamlining process to Environmental Leadership Transit Projects that either receive initial approval from the lead agency by January 1, 2027, or have a draft environmental impact report circulated before January 1, 2025; however, these provisions do not apply to legal challenges filed after the project's initial approval; and

**WHEREAS**, On July 11, 2025, the State Assembly Natural Resources published an analysis of the bill, noting that one project stands to benefit from the amendments in *Sec.3*, the Dodger Stadium Gondola project, which has faced delays due to local opposition and litigation; and

**WHEREAS**, these provisions pose serious concerns for residents and local governments by creating financial and procedural barriers to challenging potentially harmful projects. They could deter valid legal action, limit the City's authority over land use decisions, and impose unrealistic legal deadlines that undermine due process and local accountability; and

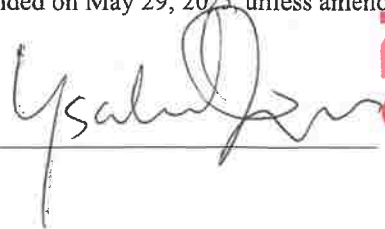
**WHEREAS**, state law should take a comprehensive approach to addressing the challenges associated with CEQA for transit and active transportation projects, rather than tailoring amendments to select projects at the expense of stakeholder input and local government authority to address legitimate concerns through legal and regulatory channels; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2025-2026 State Legislative Program in **OPPOSITION** to SB 71 (Wiener), as amended on May 29, 2025, unless amended to remove *Sec.3*.

PRESENTED BY:

EUNISSES HERNANDEZ  
Councilmember, 1st District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL

AUG 06 2025