

PRESS RELEASE

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Los Angeles City Council Votes to Oppose Senate Bill 79 After Press Conference at City Hall

LOS ANGELES — Today, the Los Angeles City Council voted 8–5 to oppose Senate Bill 79, the controversial statewide density bill authored by San Francisco Senator Scott Wiener. The resolution, introduced by Councilmembers Traci Park and John Lee, follows a press conference earlier this morning where community leaders, preservation advocates, and residents warned of the devastating impacts SB 79 would have on Los Angeles neighborhoods.

SB 79 would strip cities of their authority to regulate large-scale development projects, imposing one-size-fits-all density increases across neighborhoods and leaving Los Angeles without the ability to amend or oppose projects that threaten public safety, infrastructure capacity, and the character of long-standing communities.

"SB 79 is Sacramento's attempt to hijack local planning and hand the keys to developers, while silencing the voices of the very people who live here," said Councilmember Traci Park. "Los Angeles is already leading on housing through programs like our Citywide Housing Incentive Program, which incentivizes smart, responsible growth. What we don't need is Sacramento overriding our plans and erasing the communities that make this city unique."

Councilmember John Lee added, "We have worked hard to create housing solutions that make sense for Los Angeles. In the San Fernando Valley, that meant years of community engagement to map out where new housing makes sense — and where it doesn't. The people of Los Angeles deserve to have a say in how their city grows."

At the press conference held on the steps of City Hall before the vote, community leaders echoed these concerns:

 Alix Gucovsky, Planning & Land Use Chair of the Venice Neighborhood Council, said: "SB 79 treats the residents of Los Angeles as commodities instead of community members. This bill erases history, culture, and lived experience in the name of unchecked development."

- Tracy Conyers, Westchester resident and land use activist, warned: "SB 79 strips away community input. It takes away our ability to shape the neighborhoods we live in and hands decision-making power entirely to Sacramento and developers."
- Andrew Salimian, representing the Los Angeles Conservancy, the largest historic
 preservation organization in the nation, explained that SB 79 is a direct threat to Los
 Angeles' irreplaceable historic and cultural assets. Communities that have endured for
 generations should not be collateral damage in Sacramento's top-down zoning
 legislation.

Today's vote marks a major step by Los Angeles in standing against the precedent-setting bill. SB 79 is scheduled to be heard by the State Assembly Appropriations Committee tomorrow, and could move to the full Assembly for a vote in the coming weeks.