



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
LINDSEY P. HORVATH
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

Correspondence Received

Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
73-F.		Favor	Carlos M Montes	I support setting an appeal hearing on this project for a future date. This project would cause an increase in traffic, noise, pollution, parking problems, blocking of home driveways in a quiet residential community.
		Oppose	Antonieta Garcia	Environmentally this school is not in a good and safe place. This location is next to a residential neighborhood next to homes . This location is not healthy is next to the freeway when children go outside and breath students will be inhaling fumes and all toxic of excide is not healthy for there lungs and children with asthma. The traffic of double parking . We already have Griffith steam Magnet middle school Stevenson college PrEP and awesome elementary. We rather have something else like more housing with underground parking . Please our East L.A community is to much saturated with charter schools. I know is not a new charter but make a charter school better have the community have a beautiful green space like a garden to clean the air quality in our community and families can learn about healthy fruits and vegetables.
			Delilah Cazares	Oppose permit and in favor of an appeal
			Jaleena Rodriguez	Oppose the permit to start construction of the new Charter School (Extera) and in favor of an appeal
			Jazmin Garcia	
			Jennifer Rodriguez	100% Oppose the permit for a New Charter School at S. Gage Avenue and in favor of an appeal to start construction
			Julie Regalado	<p>We're a group of residents, mostly parents from the Boyle Heights and East Los Angeles area. We would like to express our opposition to the proposed project. The project does not consider the existing educational landscape, this specific zone is over saturated with schools, with current declining student enrollment, there is no demand for a new school. Opening a new school that in a few years may close as a result of declining enrollment undermines the needs of our community. The proponents are seeking a project that does not reflect the needs of our community. Opening a new school in a community that is over saturated with schools is irresponsible. Adding a new school, will add more traffic, more noise and foot traffic to a dense residential community.</p> <p>In addition to residential, community concerns, we would like to raise student concerns; charter schools do not abide by environmental safeguards that protect students. We're concerned that this area is not safe or suitable for children.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>

Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
			The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:	
73-F.		Oppose	Julie Regalado	The construction of this extera charter will lead to more traffic in residential neighborhoods and will increase air and noise pollution. This will lead to more breathing and asthma cases in the community. The site is being renovaded is an old church which contains lead contamination and is toxic land. For the health and wellness of the community, I urge you to oppose and stop this insane extera project. Thank you.
			Maria T Valdez	I oppose the building of Extera Charter School.
			Ruben Rodriguez	I oppose this project and I respectfully request an appeal hearing.
			Ruben Rodriguez	I oppose the permit for the new construction on Gage Ave and I am in favor of an appeal.
			Stacey Feliciano	I am strongly against the construction, firmly in favor of the appeal.
		Tracy abbott cook		
		Item Total	13	
Grand Total			13	

April 22, 2024

To: L.A. County Board Supervisors

As a member of the E.L.A. community, I am pleading that you support the motion to appeal L.A. Planning Commission approval of Extera Charter School (TK-8). Instead, let's work on improving the public schools that have been in existence for many years.

Building more charter schools has a negative impact in our community. For one, charter schools take away students from community schools that have existed for many decades, and that have proved to be academically better than charter schools. Secondly, building another school in our already highly traffic dense community will bring more noise and emission pollution. We want to live in a serene community free of pollution that can be detrimental to our health. Increase in traffic also makes it unsafe for the many pedestrians that walk often in our streets. Traffic accidents tend to happen a lot in high traffic areas. Please keep us safe from more pollution and unsafe walking conditions in our community.

I ask whole heartedly that you please support the motion to appeal L.A. Planning Commission approval of Extera Charter School (TK-8TH). Support us, instead, in making our community schools better so that they serve its residents with the best education they deserve!

Sincerely,
Maria T. Valdez
Eastside Padres & CSO Member

April 21, 2024

Good Evening Hilda Solis,

I have been a resident in my house for 74 years. It has been brought to my attention that they will build a school right next to the my property where the school building will be right next to my bedroom window and living room window, where will my husband and I have air to breathe. Everyday, my husband goes out to our porch to do his crossword puzzles, which helps him deal with the beginning stages of dementia. The noise from the students, parents, staff, traffic and the pollution will cause uneasy behavior to him. My husband will not have the peace and quiet he has been use to for over 50 years. The noise of 525 students is very disturbing. The cafeteria will be built directly behind our backyard attracting rodents, roaches, possums and other critters. As it is, our streets have limited to no parking available and with the dropping off and picking up of students, this will cause double parking, blocking our driveways, noise and an increase in pollution to an already polluted area. The request to knock down the building will bring dust and I'm sure asbestos, which is not good for our health. We are senior citizens and have been a part of the East LA Community for 74 years.

We already have schools in our area, and we don't need another one. Parents that don't drive will be hanging around our homes, selling things and will be extremely noisy. These are my concerns and I am very against the construction of the New Charter School on Gage Avenue.

Sincerely,

Delilah Cazares

To whom it may concern,

My name is Stacey Feliciano and I reside on Eastman Avenue. I strongly disagree with the alleged plans of building a school next door to where I reside due to the location is a wrong location because the proposed site is in the center of a packed residential area surrounded by homes.

With the immediate relocation of students (last I heard the number was 525) the traffic surrounding the residential area will substantially increase. In addition, the proposed school is unnecessary, as there are multiple K-12 schools within a ten-mile radius... Eastman ES-820 feet, Rowan ES -.5 miles, Kipp Academy -.2 miles and Stevenson MS -.5 miles.

With this point in mind, not only does the traffic pose a risk for the residents but also for the potential students because there is a limited amount of street space and with all the other students in nearby schools the amount of traffic is already significantly increased.

With the house myself and family reside in is immediately next to where the proposed school allegedly will be built causes not only traffic but also the loud level of noise, smell, and minimizing the air flow to where my yard and house is. Myself and my son's have health issues where we are considered and deemed high risk where a proposed building being built right next door will factor in significant health issues for me and my family.

To the attention of Hilda Solis,

It is with great concern that I am writing this letter, to be heard and to ask for consideration as I am addressing key points throughout this statement.

I am strongly against the approval of the Charter School construction on Gage Avenue in East Los Angeles, near the 5 Freeway. I am a proud community member and homeowner in East LA. My husband and I purchased our property approximately 2 years ago, from my Grandfather, after he passed away. I have raised 4 successful children in East Los Angeles, 2 Engineers, 1 in the field of Public Health (Rare Diseases for Minorities), and 1 currently studying Psychology.

I have lived in East Los Angeles, at my address 1058 S. Eastman Avenue for over 40 years. My property is right next to the Charter School on Gage Project. I oppose the permit for several reasons. The location of this charter school is wrong, for our community and especially for the residents residing on Eastman, Gage and Dennison. We are in an already dense residential area and with the Extera Charter School enrollment being 500+, it will further worsen the traffic congestion to our already over crowded traffic flow, and will have an impact on the few parking spaces available throughout the day, for the occupants of the homes on Eastman. Please understand that we do not need another school in our area, within our radius, we have 2 Elementary schools, within a few miles from us, Eastman Elementary, Rowan Elementary, Eastman Children Center, and Amanecer Primary Center. These schools have the capacity to accommodate the children residing in the school's perimeter. The building of a school holding 500 students will be a mistake for the residents in our area, especially the senior citizens. I attended the welcome meeting held by the staff of the Charter School and I got to see the landscaping of the project. The school's main building will be so close to my property, leaving a very small distance between my property and the school. Where our privacy will be taken from us and the room for air to come into our houses will be taken away. On the other side of the school is an upper deck playground and a drive up pick location for parents and students, this will cause so much exhaust to a very dense residential area, this is bad for our health to breathe on a daily basis, especially for my tenants who have respiratory issues.

I have shared some pictures of my yard and my property, I do not have a spacious yard, actually I have no yard space, so my house is extremely close to the wall that separates us from next door. This will change our way of life. We work from home on occasion and the noise will interfere with business and meetings.

I have also been informed that the lunch pavilion will be directly behind my house, I am familiar with the noise that occurs during lunch and the trash that is accumulated throughout the day in the trash bins. In an already rodent infested area, this will bring more rodents to our homes. We have contacted Animal Control many times and it has been difficult to get someone to come to our homes to help with the issue. And to add more to the issue, will be a problem.

Please consider, I am right next door to the Gage property where the Charter School will be located. This is not the right location for a Charter School, not for any school or units that will impact the traffic, parking and a normal living environment for the residents of East Los Angeles. Why not build a community center for Senior Citizens or a property with 3-4 houses to keep the area nice and balanced.

Jennifer Rodriguez

April 21, 2024

Dear Hilda Solis,

The purpose of this letter is to express the great deal of solicitude and worry I feel for the community as well as seek reflection and assessment for the New Charter School construction on South Gage Avenue and the Santa Ana Freeway in East Los Angeles. I have lived in East Los Angeles for as long as I can remember and this is a time where I feel more concerned for my community.

The first concern that immediately draws my attention is the idea of building a new school in an area with already a dense amount of traffic. It is hard enough on the street of Eastman Ave to find day to day parking with the residents who already live here and adding the morning traffic of parents dropping off students, students walking to school, and teachers or administrative staff vehicles will be a danger to everyone involved. By creating this situation, it is placing an emotional strain on the residents of this street by adding another factor of stress. The bridge located on the corner of Eastman and Dennison already creates density on the street with students traveling to and from other schools in the neighborhood in the morning by walking. Safety should always be the first priority and by adding over 300 people to an already compact area is only putting more lives at risk. Especially when considering that most children and adolescents walk alone in the city of East Los Angeles due to the high percentage of parents in the area working early in the morning and are unable to transport their children to school. By having more students walking in and out of school along with students going to other schools and residents going to work and school on a street with heavy amounts of traffic, the community is only put at risk by endangering more young lives when that does not have to be the case.

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There is also a heavy amount of concern for the elderly population in this community. It has been scientifically proven that air from schools can carry several amounts of pollutants including bacteria and viruses, chemicals from glue, paint, or cleaning supplies, heaters, and so much more. There are many elderly people living in this area who are already dealing with many health issues that come with age or genetic inheritance and by adding more pollutants and bacteria in the air creates an unsafe environment for the elderly. If the city plans to create a school that is supposed to be known as a respectful, kind, and safe place for children, then it should be planned to have the same amount of respect, kindness, and provide safety for residents in the area. To give a specific example would be my grandpa. My family and I currently live right next door to the property where this Charter School is planned to be built. My grandpa is currently battling diabetes, high blood pressure, and early onset alzheimers. As part of his routine provided by his medical professionals, it is recommended he spends a good portion of time outdoors whether that be walking, completing crossword puzzles, or having a chat with our neighbors. However, it is heartbreaking to know he would be put in more danger than he already is. This is just one of many examples of the elderly community being put at risk with this Charter School being built.

A further concern is the emotional and mental danger the newfound students would be facing at this location. I am currently studying to receive my Bachelors degree in Psychology and Ethnic studies with child development being a main focus of research. At the corner of Eastman and Dennison lives a man who has been widely known to walk the street while on drugs or at a high level of alcohol consumption. This street is also known to have one or two homeless people also dealing with drugs. By exposing over 300 children to this lifestyle when walking in and out of

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school, students are put at developmental and cognitive risks which can affect them in their early adult years or even as soon as their adolescence. In a city where a great portion of the population is involved in gang or street violence, drugs, and other harmful situations, it is our duty as a community to expose the new generation to a safer environment than that.

I hope to find that this letter is heavily considered and the amount of concern was demonstrated for the construction of the New Charter School construction on South Gage Avenue and the Santa Ana Freeway in East Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

Jaleena Rodriguez

To whom it may concern,

I am an active community member in the First District Cities and Communities you. I live in the unincorporated area of East Los Angeles, and I would like to inform you that I attended a Notice of Public Hearing regarding Project # PRJ2022-004416-(1) on 4/17/2024. I am opposed to the project planning; I live right next door to where this project is to be built. At this hearing, I was only given one minute to explain and express why I oppose the project which is unacceptable and unjustified due to the impact this project will have on my family, myself, and the hard-working members of this community. I only had the opportunity to mention in my limited time how this project will only add more congestion to an already over populated community. There are already (5) five TK thru 8th grade schools within 1 mile radius where they are planning to build yet another school. This will only contribute to additional pollution of the air and additional traffic to our streets and location which is right next to the freeway. They will open up land that is contaminated with lead, in which you may already be aware since there have been biohazard crews in my community due to the Excide recycling plant leakage/spill and have been working in the area for five years trying to clean up or change the landscape in homes and surrounding locations to my community. I did not get to mention at the Regional Planning Commission meeting on 4/17/24 that a city inspector had me tear down my patio because he said it was a fire hazard and if firefighters had to come to my house it would delay them in assisting my house in an emergency. He said it was to close to wall and they wouldn't have access because of the patio, however now they want to build a school right next to the wall and right next to my house which I believe it to be a Fire Hazard as well. How could this be any different, I am the homeowner, and my house is the house located towards the back of the property and the school they want to build will block any access the fire department would have to reach me, and family as mentioned by the city inspector in a timely manner. I have included pictures for viewing so you may see how close my house is to the wall and view where they are planning to build the building. The narrow walkway is what you see from the top of my roof and where the wall is located.

The cars in the picture below are parked next to the wall where they plan to place the building.

These here are pictures of the back of my house where they plan to build the cafeteria, which will bring more rodents and wildlife (possums, raccoons) to an existing issue that already is a problem.

The are picture below of the wall is where I walk out my front door.

Here you can see where the Church currently sits and is located right across from my front door which is ample and could currently allow emergency access to be provided in a safe and timely manner on either side of the wall.

Sincerely,
Mr. Ruben Rodriguez

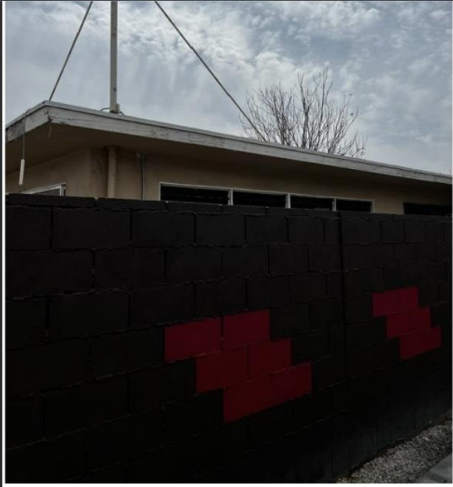
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Sincerely,
Mr. Ruben Rodriguez

Dear Supervisors

I am writing to you to ask that you deny Extera Charter Organization the ability to build a school on the site on Gage. There are multiple reasons why this project should not go further but one that is paramount is the health of children.

Due to a state legal loophole charter schools do not have to follow CEQA rules when building a school. All public schools must follow CEQA. If LAUSD wanted to build a school on that site it would not be allowed because of the incredible close proximity to the 5 freeway. This loophole that favors charter school allows charter operators-investors to buy property at a cheaper cost and not follow CEQA. In 2020, land that housed a metal smelter for six decades was purchased by KIPP Charter with the goal of using the loophole to build a school. The dirt was tested and was off the charts toxic with heavy metals. The reason why KIPP got even far enough through this process was that it requested and received a ministerial permit by the city of Cudahy. The Cudahy community was shocked, after all this is the same community that was impacted by the toxic air downwind for decades from Exide Battery Plant in Vernon which is now a superfund site. How could leaders look the other way and allow KIPP to do such a thing? The community is still asking that question. The children who live in the community are primarily Latino and come from low income families, similar to the Cudahy community. And when the wind came up from the south, East LA was also impacted by the toxic air spewed by Exide Battery plant in Vernon. CEQA is there for a reason. Until the state changes the law it is up to our local officials to do better by our children.

I am asking that you NOT give Extera permission to build this school on this site. What was permitted in Cudahy should not happen in East LA.

Thank you,

Tracy Cook
Public School Parent and environmental advocate.