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April 30, 2024

The Honorable Wendy Carrillo
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5620
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assembly Member Carrillo:

We write in opposition to Assembly Bill 2986, which would require the Local Agency Formation Commission for the County of Los Angeles (LA LAFCO) to establish an eleven-member task force which would hold quarterly community meetings to identify and evaluate the potential impacts of city incorporation for unincorporated East LA. Our Board unanimously adopted a [motion](#) on April 23, 2024, to oppose the bill because analysis has shown that incorporation is unlikely to prove beneficial for East Los Angeles (East LA) residents and businesses.

East LA is one of the earliest established communities in Los Angeles County (County). With a population of approximately 119,000 residents, it is the most populous unincorporated community in the County. As an unincorporated area, the County provides services to the community including law enforcement, fire services, street maintenance, lighting, trash collection, libraries, parks, housing, and animal control, covering costs regardless of revenue generated in the area.

Since the community's inception, there have been four attempts to incorporate the East LA community. In 1960, the Citizens' Committee for Incorporation of East LA initiated a petition drive for incorporation. It was defeated by the voters. In September 1963, the Mexican American Political Association filed for incorporation of East LA but did not meet the required number of petition signatures. In 1971, LA LAFCO approved a cityhood proposal, but it was again defeated by residents at the polls. Lastly, on February 8, 2012, LA LAFCO denied the proposed incorporation of East LA. At the time, the economic analysis determined that East LA would not generate enough revenue to sustain a healthy and financially sound city, as required by State law, facing a shortfall of \$19 million in its first year.

Incorporation would hurt residents who receive County support and resources. Becoming a city could mean residents and businesses in the area would have to pay more in taxes, experience reduced service levels, or outsource these services to private industry. Our communities have not fully recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic and the cost of food, gas, and rent are straining residents in East LA. This will negatively impact the most


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vulnerable low-income residents that rely on the County's safety net and potentially cause gentrification and displacement in the area.

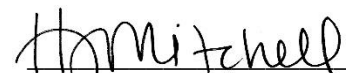
Typically, when cities do not have sufficient funds to cover the municipal requirements, they turn to the County and/or the State for relief. Neither are currently in a position to offer that kind of support. For these reasons, LA LAFCO unanimously opposed the bill at their April 2024 meeting. It should be noted that neither Los Angeles County nor LA LAFCO were consulted about this bill prior to its filing.


Therefore, as the governing body responsible for the well-being of East LA, the Board of Supervisors respectfully opposes AB 2986.


Sincerely,


LINDSEY P. HORVATH
Chair of the Board
Supervisor, Third District


HILDA L. SOLIS
Supervisor, First District


HOLLY J. MITCHELL
Supervisor, Second District


JANICE HAHN
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