

REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS September 12, 2017

Support for SB 789 Related to Boosting the Infrastructure and the Economy in the City of Inglewood

While the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) was originally designed to allow agencies to identify potential environmental impacts of proposed projects, and to reduce those environmental impacts to the extent feasible, in application CEQA has, at times, been improperly used by project opponents as a tactical tool to delay projects. Recognizing this, the California Legislature has repeatedly granted exemptions to CEQA for specific, large-scale projects across the State to expedite the environmental review process. These projects foster economic development and generate jobs and revenue for the region. Examples of this type of initiative include the constructed Kings Arena in Sacramento as well as the proposed Farmers Field football stadium in downtown Los Angeles.

Senate Bill 789 (Bradford) similarly proposes to streamline the timeline for environmental review of the Inglewood Sports and Entertainment Project (Project) in the City of Inglewood. The Project would include a basketball arena and practice facility, up to 75,000 square feet of office space, and up to 50,000 square feet of ancillary retail, restaurant, and similar uses. In addition, SB 789 would streamline the CEQA process and thereby expedite construction of public transportation projects that would connect to the Project and other nearby venues that would be utilized during the 2028 Olympic Games. SB 789 also ensures that no existing residential uses can be taken under

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eminent domain for purposes of completing the Project.

SB 789 could significantly expedite the renaissance of Southwest Los Angeles by enabling the timely development of this Project and related transportation improvements. In addition to the recreational, cultural and transit amenities that will be made possible through this investment, the author's office indicates that in the aggregate, the development in the area will generate over 30,000 full-time jobs construction and permanent jobs.

In recent years, the County of Los Angeles (County) has taken positions on a number of bills which would streamline CEQA compliance or which would have provided narrow and tailored exemptions for specific projects such as SB 52 in 2012, relating to the Jobs and Economic Improvement Through Environmental Leadership Act of 2011, the County-sponsored AB 1486 (Chapter 690, Statutes of 2012) relating to the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS), and in this current legislative session, County-sponsored AB 239, which would provide urban counties with the same authority that cities are afforded under current law to exempt infill (affordable and other housing) projects from CEQA. Support for SB 789 would similarly ensure a comprehensive and streamlined environmental analysis, consistent with the County's position on the aforementioned bills.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Express to the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisor's support for Senate Bill 789 (Bradford), **if amended to focus solely on streamlining** ~~that would streamline~~ the review of the proposed Inglewood Sports and Entertainment Project under the California Environmental Quality Act, **consistent with other similar State-approved CEQA actions.**

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