



Venice Neighborhood Council

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March 16, 2010

Senator Jenny Oropeza
2512 Artesia Blvd., #200
Redondo Beach, CA 90278

Assemblyman Ted Lieu
500 Center Street
El Segundo, CA 90245

Re: Opposition to exemption of 125 projects from environmental review

Dear Senator Oropeza and Assemblyman Lieu,

Four identical bills in California's Assembly and Senate (ABX8 37, AB 1805, SBX8 42, SB 1010) will provide the Secretary of Business, Transportation, and Housing Administration with the authority to exempt 25 public or private projects per year, for five years, from having to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Since 1970, the environmental review process has contained new development within important environmental parameters. These parameters have protected Californians from dangerous pollution and profligate development, and have preserved precious habitats.

Exempting 125 development projects from CEQA guidelines will undoubtedly risk community health and natural resources, while exacerbating socioeconomic issues.

Furthermore, such a program diminishes an open and honest process, and disregards the input of local governments and constituents.

For these reasons, the Venice Neighborhood Council strongly disapproves of the proposed bills.

Sincerely,

Mike Newhouse
President
Venice Neighborhood Council



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Cc: secretary@veniceNC.org