

Communication from Public

Name: Carey Bennett

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Comments for Public Posting: LA's Olympics organizers promised a "no-build" Olympics. The idea that city officials are now turning around and saying that not only do we need to build, but that we need to exempt these building projects from our primary oversight mechanisms is a shameful bait-and-switch. The motion lists temporary and permanent venues, training facilities, media centers, and transit infrastructure as possible examples of the type of building projects that should be exempt. These projects are significant construction projects that may have long-term impacts on their neighborhoods and the city. It is unacceptable to exempt them from regular planning processes. The potential for the abuse and exploitation of this proposed exemption is endless. The motion will create a vague exemption for Olympics-related infrastructure and "associated structures" that will be easily exploited by anyone seeking to advance their development projects by bypassing our standard planning approval processes. This exemption could be used by hotel developers, by landlords looking to deplete our rental stock by converting units into AirBnBs, by corporate sponsors looking to turn public space into "activation sites," and so many other opportunistic actors. The full motion also calls for LA's Department of Building and Safety to establish a dedicated unit to manage Olympic and Paralympic projects. DBS — like all other city and county agencies — needs to prioritize recovery and rebuilding from the recent disastrous fires, not planning a five-week party for the rich. The Olympics are an unacceptable drain on our resources. They're wasting our time and money right now as we debate this topic. You should cancel the Olympics outright, but at the very least, do not approve this outrageous exemption and loophole for unnecessary Olympics-related projects!