

Communication from Public

Name: Akhilesh K Jha
Date Submitted: 06/12/2024 03:39 PM
Council File No: 23-0497
Comments for Public Posting: Please see the attached letter requesting the item to put for a hearing.

Akhilesh K Jha, PhD
13123 Hoyt St, Pacoima, CA 91331
Phone: 310-995-4859, Email: contact.aj.jha@gmail.com

June 12, 2024

Los Angeles City Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
City Hall, Room 395
Los Angeles, California 90012

Re: Council File: 23-0497, 1848 South Gramercy Place; Related Case: CPC-2020-2115-DB-HCA, ENV-2020-2116-CE-1A

Dear Ms. Hutt and PLUM Committee Members,

I am writing to request that the Council File 23-0497 be placed on your calendar immediately.

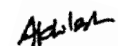
A CEQA appeal was raised by the neighborhood on May 10, 2023. Despite the passage of over a year since the appeal date, this item has not yet been scheduled for a final hearing. According to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), timely resolution of appeals is essential to ensure compliance with environmental review processes (CEQA Guidelines Section 15000 et seq.). The delays in scheduling this item are in violation of these guidelines and hinder the due process for this housing project.

The project in question was duly approved by the Planning Commission on February 23, 2023, after five exhaustive hearings. The ongoing delay contradicts the mandates of the Permit Streamlining Act (California Government Code Section 65920 et seq.), which requires timely processing of permits to avoid undue delays in development projects. To the merit of this appeal, here is to quote the Planning Department Staff Report on this matter:

“Having carefully considered each of Appellants’ points, planning staff has determined that Appellants have not demonstrated that the substantial evidence relied upon to find the project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15332 was not credible, or provided substantial evidence demonstrating that any of the exceptions to a categorical exemption set forth in CEQA Guidelines, Section 15300.2 applies. The appeal in its entirety is located within Council File No. 23-0497.”

In light of the above, I urge you to expedite the scheduling of this item for PLUM and Council hearings to comply with the legal requirements and uphold the integrity of the city’s planning process. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!

Best regards,



Akhilesh Jha