

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Valentin

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**Council File No:** 24-1063

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Councilmembers, My name is Valentin Marquez, community leader, co-founder of Concerned Neighbors of El Sereno, co-founder of The El Sereno Arroyo Playground Vecinos and homeowner in El Sereno for over 50 years. In that time, our community has had to fight off countless outside proposals — a 710 freeway extension, a tunnel, connector roads — all threatening to cut through and reshape the place we call home. We were treated as expendable, though we bore all the consequences. Through it all, the people of El Sereno stood together. We organized, we resisted, and we took care of our neighborhood ourselves — even building a community park where Caltrans once planned a tunnel portal. 2024 has been a turning point. Residents came out to multiple meetings with the LA City Planning Commission, where we made our position clear: we support restoring the 710 corridor properties to their original residential zoning. I'm here to speak in support of the decision to rezone from Public Facilities to, for the most part, single-family R1-1—and to keep RD2 where it makes sense. This isn't about nostalgia — it's about protecting the historical character of our neighborhood and ensuring it's not erased by high-density development that doesn't belong here. The end of the 710 expansion was a major victory for El Sereno, but we're still dealing with its consequences: hundreds of vacant homes, increased crime, squatters, and the lingering threat of aggressive development. We've waited long enough for stability. Passing this motion will hopefully put the 710 saga to rest once and for all — and mark the moment El Sereno takes control of its own story. To Councilmember Jurado: thank you for your leadership and for taking the time to make space for community voices. That leadership matters. Now, I urge the Council to stand with us — and vote YES on this motion. Sincerely, Val Marquez