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June 1, 2021

Los Angeles City Council
200 N Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council,

As the Representative for California's 44th Congressional District, I write to you to voice my support of my constituents' concerns regarding the planned housing development at 1309-1331 Pacific Avenue in San Pedro. Though this proposed development is a private endeavor, it has given me pause on the following grounds:

- An inadequate amount of affordable units
- Concerns regarding the potential for the displacement of residents
- The environmental impacts of the project

We all know that housing is a serious challenge in Los Angeles and every community deserves to experience equitable development. However, this kind of development, which is not in keeping with the San Pedro Community Plan agreed upon by my constituents, provides an inadequate number of affordable units. San Pedro already possesses hundreds of luxury market rate units to which this development would add without offering the residents of San Pedro a meaningful solution to the growing difficulty of living affordably in this city that we all love.

Another item of deep concern to me is this project's potential for driving displacement in the San Pedro community. The Mayor's Los Angeles Innovation Team Index has shown that the residents within the area of San Pedro in which this project is planned are at the highest risk of displacement. Building more luxury housing in working-class neighborhoods brings a rush of speculative investment that drives up rental costs and, in turn, prices many of my constituents out of their neighborhoods only adding to growing affordability concerns for all renters.

Lastly, this development has shown the potential to increase vehicle trips to and from the site by many hundreds daily, further impacting an area of my district already hit by increased risk of cancer and respiratory illness due to the advanced levels of diesel and other particulate matter in the air residents breathe.

I therefore urge the City Council to recognize the valid concerns of my constituents and ensure that this development undergoes the proper vetting by the appropriate authorities as well as members of the community in which it is planned to be located.

Sincerely,

Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress