

Communication from Public

Name: Will Wright

Date Submitted: 06/20/2023 09:02 AM

Council File No: 23-0623

Comments for Public Posting: As the director of government & public affairs for AIA Los Angeles, I am writing to share our support of Council File #23-0623, Councilwoman Yaroslavsky, Raman, and Krekorian's motion to make permanent the Mayor's Executive Directive 1. In the few months it has been in place, ED 1 has dramatically expedited the production of affordable housing, with nearly 1,600 units approved in an average of just 37 days, with another 2,600 new units in the pipeline. The City has committed to building 184,721 Very Low and Low Income units by 2029, but so far have met less than three percent of that goal. Expediting affordable housing not only saves developers time and money, but actually allows for the completion of more units overall. A recent study from the Los Angeles Business Council Institute and UCLA showed that, had ED 1 been in place for projects started in the last decade, 2,268 more units would have been completed, which represents a 25% gain. That's to say nothing of the add-on effects of predictability and certainty in the market that will encourage additional new development. We strongly support the CLA convening with the Los Angeles Business Council, SCANPH, and others to examine ways to build on this effort to streamline and expedite housing development in Los Angeles. The same Los Angeles Business Council report found that, for example, expanding ED 1 to mixed-income projects would have yielded 3,277 more units, or a 36.3% over the baseline since 2010. The affordable housing crisis is creating a "brain drain" of young professionals leaving Los Angeles, preventing businesses from attracting workers, and contributing to vast inequality and homelessness in our region. We applaud the Mayor's Executive Directive 1 and urge you to build on this critical streamlining measure. Thank you for your time and we urge a yes vote.

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