



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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KATHRYN BARGER
SUPERVISOR, FIFTH DISTRICT

May 2, 2023

AN OPEN LETTER TO MY SAN DIMAS AND LA VERNE CONSTITUENTS ABOUT THE 740 E. FOOTHILL BLVD. HOUSING PROJECT

There continues to be persistent misinformation about the proposed affordable senior housing project planned for 740 East Foothill Boulevard by developer [National CORE](#). I want to clearly state the facts and authorities relevant to the project and my position.

The property in question is located in unincorporated Los Angeles County and is **privately owned**. The County has no ownership of this property and National CORE has plans to build 53 apartment units to house seniors 55 years and older that are experiencing homelessness.

The County of Los Angeles and the cities of San Dimas and La Verne have no authority to stop this affordable housing project from being built. As mentioned in my [fact sheet](#), recent changes to state law have stripped local government of its power to deny affordable housing or supportive housing projects to house the homeless. The State Legislature and the Governor's Office enacted this legislation to address the statewide shortage of housing but have effectively **removed any ability for local input in the future of the development of local communities.**

This \$35M project is not required by law to have public hearings and National CORE can move forward with its development plans without public funds. Given the concerns that have been raised about process, transparency, and lack of community engagement, at my direction the agenda item scheduled for May 16, 2023 (for an award of County affordable housing funds for the project) will not come back to the Board of Supervisors for consideration until sufficient outreach has been completed.

I want to emphasize that what is happening in your community is not unique. Forcibly building affordable housing without local government or community input is a new practice that will continue to be replicated throughout our County and the state of California.

I have worked hard and consistently to empower the communities I represent so that their voice and input is included in development that occurs in unincorporated parts of Los Angeles County. I believe in a bottom-up approach that meaningfully engages community members in the development process. The size and scale of projects – especially height and design elements – and character should reflect the surrounding community. I will continue doing what is in my power to encourage the project's developer to address community concerns that remain within the Department of Regional Planning's authority.

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I value the collaborative nature of the National CORE team and their openness to community input. At my request, National CORE will host a virtual community information session on Tuesday, May 9 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. so you can receive more up-to-date information about this evolving project. A link to the meeting will be available at nationalcore.org/740-foothill. This will be the first of multiple meetings. I have also requested for National CORE to add an in-person component to future meetings so that meetings are accessible to all community members.

I appreciate the opportunity to represent your voice in our County government. As always, if you would like to share your thoughts or reactions to this letter, I am just an email (kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov) away.

Sincerely,



KATHRYN BARGER
Supervisor, Fifth District