



JOSÉ HUIZAR
COUNCILMEMBER OF THE FOURTEENTH DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 24, 2007

CONTACT: George I. Gonzalez (213) 473-7014
Cell (213) 200-9974

COUNCILMEMBER JOSE HUIZAR WINS FULL COUNCIL SUPPORT REINFORCING REQUIREMENT OF SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR EL SERENO DEVELOPMENT

LOS ANGELES— Councilmember José Huizar, District 14, led the Los Angeles City Council to vote unanimously today to determine that public development permits pending for the Elephant Hill project, located in El Sereno, should not be issued by city engineers until a supplemental Environmental Impact Report, which City Council this summer to require, is complete. Had the permits been issued, the development project would have moved forward.

“On June 20, City Council’s directive was quite clear,” Councilmember Jose Huizar said. “Council voted to require supplemental environmental review of the Elephant Hill project. No permits should be issued by any city agency which would contradict that action or allow this project to move forward without supplemental environmental review.”

The unanimous vote was largely seen by El Sereno residents as a community and environmental victory given the strong and long-standing community opposition to the project.

Councilmember Huizar took issue with the Elephant Hill proposal by developer Monterey Hill Investors because there have been substantial changes to the project since it was originally approved back in 1993 and the impacts of those changes cannot be known without further environmental review. He noted, for example, the grading area had expanded, additional parcels have been added roads have been realigned and evidence has come to light about significant subsurface water and potential sinkholes.

The original Environmental Impact Report anticipated water runoff, but now a hydrologist has discovered a stream,” said Huizar. “As policymakers, it is incumbent upon us that we exercise an abundance of caution to protect the health, safety and environmental well-being of the El Sereno residents. Likewise, when faced with a decision between ministerial and discretionary action, we have an obligation to err on the side of discretion.”

“Council did the right thing today.” Huizar said. “Now the entire city stands with the community to fight for environmental justice on the eastside and citywide.”

#

City Hall Office • 200 N. Spring Street, Room 425 • Los Angeles, CA 90012 • Phone (213) 473-7014 • Fax (213) 847-0680
Boyle Heights Office • 2130 E. First Street, Suite 202 • Los Angeles, CA 90033 • Phone (323) 526-3059 • Fax (323) 526-3066
Eagle Rock/Highland Park Office • 2035 Colorado Boulevard • Los Angeles, CA 90041 • Phone (323) 254-5295 • Fax (213) 485-8788
El Sereno Office • 5150 N. Huntington Drive, Suite 111 • Los Angeles, CA 90032 • Phone (323) 226-1646 • Fax (323) 226-1644

Computer Generated, Labor Donated