

NEWS

From

Richard Alarcón

Councilmember, 7th District



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

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COUNCILMEMBER ALARCON INTRODUCES MOTION FOR CITY TO SUBMIT OPPOSITION LETTERS TO MASSIVE NEWHALL RANCH DEVELOPMENT; AIMS TO CREATE SYSTEM TO MONITOR NEIGHBORING DEVELOPMENTS THAT WILL IMPACT LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles, CA – Councilmember Richard Alarcon today introduced a Motion asking the City of Los Angeles to proactively examine large land developments located outside the City, when they have the potential to negatively impact the health, well-being and quality of life of Los Angeles residents.

Alarcon's action was in the context of the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning's recommendation to approve the Landmark Village development, the first of four housing developments in the area that will be known as Newhall Ranch. As this development creates far more housing than job opportunities in the immediate area, residents will be forced to go over the Newhall Pass into the San Fernando Valley for their jobs. His motion asks Los Angeles City Departments to review the proposal and accompanying reports and draft letters in opposition to the development to be submitted to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

"Landmark Village is a perfect example of how the City of Los Angeles needs to work closer and better with its neighbors so we can protect all of our residents' quality of life," said Councilmember Alarcón. "Due to the lack of jobs in the area, residents will have to make long commutes over already jammed freeways into the San Fernando Valley creating further gridlock and adding pollution to our air. Unfortunately, the City of Los Angeles has not yet weighed in during the decision making process or taken a position on the impacts this development will have on our families. It's time for the City of Los Angeles to be proactive when it comes to mega-developments that will impact our residents and work with other jurisdictions to push for smart developments that create a job/housing balance and reduce the time that everyone spends on the roads."

The Newhall Ranch Specific Plan covers 11,963 acres and when built out, will have 21,000 new residential homes and at least 70,000 new residents but without any significant job locations. According to County documents, Newhall Ranch will generate 357,000 average daily trips with at least 211,300 stemming from residential land use. The Draft EIR and accompanying documentation failed to provide any significant study on pollution, traffic growth or traffic access south of the Newhall Pass into the Northeast San Fernando Valley.

The motion that Alarcón submitted today also asks that the Planning & Land Use Management Committee to be briefed by the departments on their findings and proposed opposition letters on February 19th and before the full Council on February 26th. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors may take action on the recommended approval of the Landmark Village project as early as February 26th.

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