- COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT -

Senate Bill: 922

Title: California Environmental Quality Act: Exemptions: Transportation-related Projects

Position: Support

Council File: 22-0002-S42

Title: SB 922 (Wiener) / Sunset Date Elimination / Statutory Exception / Transportation Projects

Position: Support

Summary:

The North Westwood Neighborhood Council (NWWNC) supports this call to streamline the approval of desperately needed active transportation and transit projects, asks the legislature and our state legislators to approve SB 922, and asks the City Council to advocate for it.

Under the state's current environmental review regime, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) has been weaponized to delay, cancel, and drive up the taxpayer expense of projects for better transit, biking, and walking—while failing to consider the environmental harms and risks of our present transportation status quo. However, this bill would exempt a set of specified active transportation and transit projects from the onerous and ultimately inequitable CEQA process. While some of these projects are currently exempt, the exemption will expire next year without passage of SB 922.

Such projects will save lives and reduce traffic injuries and crashes. They will reduce emissions, pollution, and their resultant ill health effects. And they will improve access and mobility for all Angelenos, especially those who rely on public transit and active transportation. Removing roadblocks to these projects is vital.

For these reasons, NWWNC urges support for and passage of SB 922 without delay.

CC: California State Senator and Chair of the California State Senate Environmental Quality Committee Ben Allen

California State Assemblymember Isaac Bryan

Chair of the California State Assembly Natural Resources Committee Luz Rivas

Submitted also as a California Legislature position letter in support of SB 922