Los Angeles County Supervisor
HILDA L. SOLIS
First District

Statement from Supervisor Hilda L. Solis on AB 2986

The vote by the State Assembly to pass the fundamentally flawed AB 2986 demonstrates the serious reservations a majority of Los Angeles County delegates share about the significant taxpayer cost and the ultimate economic burden it would place on East Los Angeles residents and businesses.

Less than half of Los Angeles County's delegates voted to support AB 2986. The majority abstained from today's vote because they heard the voices of our labor partners, including California Association of Professional Employees AFL-CIO (CAPE), Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs (ALADS), Los Angeles County Firefighters Local 1014, Los Angeles County Probation Officers' Union , AFSCME Local 685, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL-CIO Local 11, Service Employee International Union (SEIU) 721, Union of American Physicians and Dentists (UAPD) California's Long term Caregivers, SEIU 2015 and LiUNA Local 300.

These unions lined up against this bill because they are rightfully concerned it will result in fewer, good-paying union jobs.

AB 2986 is a bad deal for East Los Angeles. The majority of LA County delegates know that with the State facing a historic budget deficit, taxpayers don't need to waste money on a study that will not reveal any information we don't already know. That's why more than 600 East Los Angeles residents and community organizations have signed a petition opposing AB 2986.

Our delegates abstained because they listened to the No Vote recommendations from the Local Agency Formation Commission for the County of Los Angeles (LALAFCO) – the state agency that would be tasked to conduct AB 2986's analysis – and the unanimous No Vote cast by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

They abstained because they understand AB 2986 will cost taxpayers nearly $6 million, and that this expensive, ill-conceived, and poorly crafted bill is a wasteful use of precious taxpayer dollars that would be better spent and used in East Los Angeles.

And they abstained because they know that every previous study has shown that incorporation or special district would create an immediate, multi-million-dollar budget deficit for East Los Angeles – which residents and business owners would have to close by either paying higher taxes, slashing vital community programs, or outsourcing services to private, possibly non-union, contractors.

Only 62 of the 80 Assembly members voted on AB 2986. Forty-seven Democrats and 15 Republicans voted in favor of AB 2986, while 17 Democrats and three Republicans voted to oppose. This lack of participation is a telling symbol of just how deeply concerning this bill is to a significant number of Assembly members.

I have dedicated the last 10 years of my public-service career to fight to provide the people and businesses of East Los Angeles with the resources they need to grow and thrive. That includes directing $500 million over the last decade to fund the Sheriffs and Fire department services, create more affordable housing, fund rent relief, and provide legal services to help families prevent evictions to name a few. That fight continues.