East Area Progressive Democrats

May 21, 2024

Members of the State Assembly
Sacramento, CA 95814

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Dear Assemblymember:

Effective representation for the residents of the greater Eastside of L.A., respect for responsive local governance, and public integrity are core values of our organization, the largest grassroots Democratic club in L.A. County and in California.

We write to express our **opposition to AB 2986**, a bill resulting from a gut-and-amend performed during this session of the legislature. In its current form, this bill aims to allocate nearly $1 million of state funds to promote and facilitate stand-alone, municipal status for East Los Angeles.

This community is one in which our families have roots. It is a community in which dozens of club members have deep ties and enduring engagement as residents, workers, volunteers, business owners, worshipers, and students.

It is because of these abiding bonds of conscience, kinship, and solidarity that we question the haphazard way in which this effort to promote stand-alone status by East L.A. has surfaced in Sacramento, largely due to the action of one lame-duck lawmaker.

This slapdash effort has not undertaken to build any new broad-based campaign among constituents and local allies to achieve its purported goal.

The haste and failure of due diligence by this eleventh-hour legislative maneuver are apparent by ignoring the Local Agency Formation Commission of L.A. County. Its finding, in 2012, that stand-alone status would inflict a $19 million deficit on the residents of East L.A. for vital health and emergency services and local government, has not been rebutted. There is **no evidence responding to this analysis**. But real people would be left to shoulder and endure the consequences of that shortfall.

The nearly $1 million in state funds requested for this speculative scheme could be better allocated to meet the pressing human needs of local residents. The names of vulnerable neighbors – whose concerns we have endeavored in times past to call to the attention of the sponsor of this bill – come to mind as potential beneficiaries of such money.

Latching onto the debate over stand-alone status for East L.A. without a well-researched case for sustainability and without the warm embrace of a wide base of community support raises another question: Is this issue being exploited by the sponsor for other reasons of personal calculation or political benefit?

We caution against the bad precedent set by this recently revised bill, AB 2986. It indulges a last-minute gambit by an outgoing lawmaker to create a possible fiefdom at the short- and long-term expense of local residents. Rather than ratify the gamesmanship at play in this bill, we urge you to **reject AB 2986** and protect the public interest in genuine fiscal oversight without fear or favor.

Sincerely,

Ceci Dominguez — EAPD Treasurer
Hans Johnson — EAPD President
Rafael Chagoya — EAPD Veterans Chair

on behalf of more than 1,100 club members

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