

ARLETA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

May 16, 2023

RE: **Assembly Bill 1700**

Dear Councilmembers/elected officials:

The Arleta Neighborhood Council *does not* support [Assembly Bill 1700](#).

This bill proposes to add Section 21085 where "for purposes of this division, population growth, in and of itself, resulting from a housing project and noise impacts of a housing project are not an effect on the environment."¹

This bill is another expression of the State of California's sustainability mandates with unwanted lifestyle changes upon its citizenry. One example of this is the City of Berkeley's People's Park which has become a hotbed for confrontation between university student housing supporters on one side and the preservation of open space for property owners and residents on the other side. UC Berkeley (Cal), instead of adhering to the 1960 Master Plan for Higher Education and "tightening UC admissions standards" and/or "distributing students to other (new) UC campuses" in efforts to control the number of admitted students for itself and the city—Cal (with 42,237 students in 2020 versus 27,500 in 1970) pushed to construct towers of student housing over the objections of Berkeley's neighbors.² A melee ensued in the confrontation between police and protesters on August 3, 2022. Even a Berkeley resident lamented, ""Our city claims to believe in equity and climate resilience, and I've just seen dozens of trees felled"" behind California Highway Patrol officers separating the protesters from [university construction crews] that used "chainsaws and other equipment to cut down old trees on the property."³ For the moment construction has been halted by a state appellate court due to noise among other considerations for which the California Environmental Quality Act exists—which is to protect the people of California, even from themselves.

It is naive to believe that construction does not impact an environment nor generate noise in the process and thereafter. The federal highway system cut through developed communities within the City of Los Angeles in the 1950s—mostly poor neighborhoods with some exceptions. Taxpayers in the lower-income brackets continue to live in the immediate vicinity of polluting facilities in the East San Fernando Valley, communities East of the Los Angeles River, and in South Los Angeles and only in recent years has environmental justice (or attempts at it) begun to shed light on the subject. "*We have met the enemy and they are us*", said one Stringfellow Hawke in the 1984 Donald P. Bellisario American drama television series titled *Airwolf*.

Assembly Bill 1700 grossly impacts Arleta and all communities and cities of the State of California. The Arleta Neighborhood Council opposes AB 1700 and it requests that the City of Los Angeles Council and the Mayor communicate to State representatives and other elected officials to oppose this bill.

Respectfully,

The Arleta Neighborhood Council

¹ https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB1700

² <https://www.berkeleydailyplanet.com/issue/2023-03-26/article/50231?headline=CEQA-NIMBYs-or-UC-Who-s-the-Problem-Here---Sharon-Hudson>

³ <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2022-08-03/berkeley-peoples-park-cleared-for-housing>

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