



County of Fresno

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May 1, 2018

The Honorable Eloise Reyes
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4015
Sacramento, California 95814

**Re: AB 2447 (Reyes) – OPPOSE
California Environmental Quality Act: land use: environmental justice – As
Amended April 10, 2018**

Dear Assembly Member Reyes:

On behalf of the County of Fresno, we write to express our opposition to your Assembly Bill (AB) 2447. This bill would require additional unnecessary California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) notices, meetings, and special findings when State and local agencies consider projects involving “subject land uses” in “disadvantaged communities.”

Communities and advocates closely watch decisions involving environmentally impactful land uses, and existing law under CEQA, the Planning and Zoning Law, and related statutes already provide extensive public noticing and opportunities for input. The County supports transparency and public input for all projects, and recognizes that these are especially important for historically vulnerable communities. However, existing law already provides for a robust public process, typically used for projects of the nature addressed in this bill.


Furthermore, the scope of projects covered in AB 2447 is unclear and may potentially include projects (e.g. grocery stores, housing developments) that provide desperately needed access and services to disadvantaged areas. Also unclear is the affirmative finding by the lead agency as to discriminatory effect, based on the classes of persons protected pursuant to Section 12955 of the Government Code. It will be difficult for a lead agency to find that the project will not result in a discriminatory effect, since the lead agency may be unable to identify who will live or work at or near the project, or the manner in which the project may eventually be operated.

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For these reasons, the County of Fresno opposes AB 2447.

Sincerely,


Fresno County Board of Supervisors



Sal Quintero, Chairman
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Andreas Borgeas, Vice-Chairman
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Brian Pacheco, Supervisor
District One



Ernest Buddy Mendes, Supervisor
District Four



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cc: Fresno County Legislative Delegation
Paul J. Yoder, State Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties