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Subject: Public Comment on Closed Session City Council Meeting (11/28)
Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 3:09:47 PM
Attachments: [Whittier Blvd Anex..png](#)
[Widening Study.pdf](#)

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Dear Whittier City Council and LALAFC,

I encourage the city council to STOP negotiations with the Local Agency Formation Commission, Los Angeles to acquire properties along Whittier Boulevard. The public knows this is not a good faith effort to incorporate unincorporated Whittier. If the City of Whittier was truly invested in incorporating unincorporated Whittier, they would incorporate all of West Whittier/Los Nietos.

The real intention of the City is to expand Whittier Blvd. from two lanes to three lanes. Whittier makes this clear on their website. (*See* attached PNG below). This would disproportionately and negatively affect the communities that are being annexed since they live right along the Boulevard. Multiple studies have proven that widening roads worsens the air quality of the surrounding area by increasing Vehicle Miles Traveled. (*See* attached PDF). This community is predominantly low-income and people of color. Allowing the City to annex this community will worsen the disparate environmental impact that they already face.

LALAFC must consider how the annexed community will be affected. If the deal goes through, Homes for Whittier and I will knock on every door and ensure every resident knows the true intentions of the City of Whittier, which is widening the Blvd.. In the alternative, LALAFC can also include in their annexation agreement a promise on Whittier's part to NOT widen in any way the Boulevard.

Lastly, this annexation will require a FULL environmental analysis under CEQA. The analysis must include the widening project because of the changing infratrurce and significant impacts on air quality. The widening will increase VMT and worsen air quality for nearby residents.

Please consider the health, environmental impacts, and the heavy burdens of the CEQA study.

Best,
Christian Israelian

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