



# City of Whittier

13230 Penn Street, Whittier, California 90602-1772  
(562) 567-9999 www.cityofwhittier.org

Joe Vinatieri  
Mayor

Cathy Warner  
Mayor Pro Tem

Octavio Martinez  
Council Member

Fernando Dutra  
Council Member

Mary Ann Pacheco  
Council Member

Brian Saeki  
City Manager

April 29, 2024

The Honorable Buffy Wicks  
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 8220  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1820 (Schiavo) Housing Development Projects: Applications:  
Fees and Exactions (As Amended 4/15/24)  
Notice of Opposition**

Dear Assembly Member Wicks:

As Mayor for the City of Whittier, I am writing to express our opposition to AB 1820 (Schiavo), which as currently drafted, would require all local agencies to provide within 20 days of a request by a developer, an itemized list and the total sum of all fees and exactions for a proposed development project during the preliminary application process.

While the City of Whittier understands and appreciates the intention behind AB 1820 to streamline and clarify the development process, the bill, as it stands, imposes an unrealistic and burdensome requirement on local government agencies. The City of Whittier posts a fee schedule on its website, as required by Government Code Section 65940.1, to promote transparency of costs for specific project types that are common across similar projects. However, the fee schedule does not account for project-specific fees or CEQA mitigation measures which cannot be estimated during a preliminary application process. Project-specific fees vary on a project-by-project basis and cannot be determined before the project is fully designed and approved.

Moreover, 20 days is not nearly enough time for our City staff to estimate and provide the necessary materials to the project applicant. This could lead to rushed or incomplete assessments, ultimately compromising the quality and accuracy of the information provided to developers, which in turn, could increase the likelihood of disputes and litigation. Developers may challenge the accuracy or completeness of the information provided within the tight deadlines, leading to legal challenges that could delay projects further and burden local agencies with additional legal costs.

Finally, there is a concern that the City of Whittier would be unable to charge fees after the preliminary application process, which is problematic as fees may differ from the preliminary estimate as construction begins to address necessary local infrastructure upgrades due to a new development project proposal.

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The City of Whittier urges the committee to consider these concerns and the potential negative impacts that AB 1820 could have on local governments and, by extension, the communities they serve. While efforts to improve the efficiency of the development process are commendable, they should not come at the expense of thoroughness, accuracy, and the well-being of local communities.

For these reasons, the City of Whittier respectfully opposes AB 1820.

Sincerely,



Joe Vinatieri  
Mayor

c: Senator Bob Archuleta  
Assembly Member Pilar Schiavo  
Assembly Member Lisa Calderon  
Whittier City Council  
Kristine Guerrero, League of California Cities  
League of California Cities