



Bluff Park Neighborhood Association

March 19, 2021

Honorable Senator Lena Gonzalez
State of California Senate, 33rd District
3939 Atlantic Ave., Ste 107
Long Beach, CA 90807

RE: Opposition to Senate Bills 9 and 10 (SB-9 and SB-10) of the 2021 California Legislative Session

Dear Senator Gonzalez:

The Bluff Park Neighborhood Association (BPNA) represents the collective voice of those who live, own, and rent in the Bluff Park Historic District, a recognized historic landmark neighborhood, which is generally bounded by E. Ocean Boulevard to E. Broadway and by Junipero Avenue to Loma Avenue, and is located in the 3rd City Council District represented by Councilwoman Suzie Price in the city of Long Beach, California.

Celebrating nearly 50 years as an association, the BPNA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit entity with a mission of historic preservation and cohesion, working to foster a sense of unity, collaboration, community service and goodwill for all the city; to protect, preserve, safeguard and beautify the Bluff Park Historic District; and to support its neighborhood residents and their environment.

With utmost respect and appreciation for your hard work on our behalf and with our recognition that housing shortages, socioeconomic disparities, and homelessness in California are real, growing, and critical issues which would benefit from your leadership through multi-pronged, collaborative approaches, the BPNA Board of Directors would like to express its concerns with Senate Bills 9 and 10 in this year's term of the California State Legislature.

We believe these bills, while well-intentioned, could *undermine the integrity, charm, and value* of neighborhoods such as ours throughout the state. We are grateful to you for your known care and concern for historic districts and that the conditions of SB-10 are optional; however, we worry these bills could easily *usurp residents and planners* more familiar with local conditions, and these bills *may not be the right approach*. We invite you to engage with our community to build mutual understanding for these challenges and to help us together facilitate win-win solutions.

Since 1982, the Bluff Park Historic District Ordinance and the Bluff Park Historic District Design Guidelines – which were created by, for and with our neighborhood residents and elected city officials and city planners in Long Beach – continue to serve us well and stand as examples of how partnership with local neighborhoods yields mutually beneficial results in the face of ongoing development needs.

Thank you for your consideration of our perspectives as you address the important issues of our community.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Mallin, President

Megan Barry, Vice President of Historic Preservation

cc: Suzie Price JD, Councilwoman, 3rd District, City of Long Beach
Oscar Orci, Director of Development Services, City of Long Beach
Christopher Koontz AICP, Deputy Director of Development Services, City of Long Beach