

HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

25TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0525**

October 19, 2007

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Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa  
City Hall  
200 North Spring Street, #410  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mayor Villaraigosa:

As the U.S. House member elected to represent the 25<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, which includes the Santa Clarita Valley along with portions of the City of Los Angeles, I strongly oppose the 555-acre Las Lomas "mini-city" project located alongside the I-5 freeway in the Newhall Pass.

The developer is seeking annexation into the City of Los Angeles in an attempt to gain approval for a project that's already generated substantial opposition from the County of Los Angeles, the City of Santa Clarita, the West Ranch Town Council as well as neighboring organizations has caused concern among nearby permitting agencies.

This attempt to "venue-shop" a development proposal, ignoring substantial concerns raised by the local community would establish a dangerous precedent for future developments.

The developer is hoping the Los Angeles City Council will believe him when he claims that Las Lomas will be a "transit-oriented" and "smart-growth" development.

His transit claim is based on plans for a Metrolink station which would be located 300 feet below the project in an existing railroad tunnel, originally built in 1875. This plan was recently the subject of a *Los Angeles Daily News* article which quoted a December 26, 2006 Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) correspondence in which the LADOT refused to acknowledge the Metrolink station in the Las Lomas traffic study, labeling the claimed reduction in traffic from the station as "unreasonable."

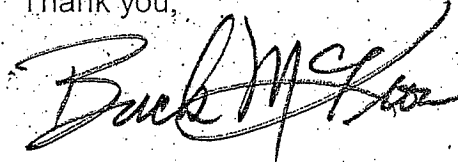
His claims that Las Lomas would embody "smart-growth" are equally refutable. The project is not infill development, it does not include any redevelopment, it does not use existing infrastructure and it does not reduce traffic. By every measurable standard of the term, Las Lomas is not "smart-growth."

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The Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, in an Aug. 7, 2002 letter during the project's Notice of Preparation said the proposed project "appears to request a density of almost 500 times greater" than the low-density threshold recommended by the County's standards for the hillside land which the project site occupies.

Developments should be approved by local governments representing the people most affected by the proposed project. By seeking annexation to the City of Los Angeles, the developer is showing blatant disregard for the communities most impacted by Las Lomas. I trust that you will join me in my opposition to this action.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Buck McKeon". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Howard P. "Buck" McKeon  
Member of Congress

Cc: Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich  
→ Mayor Marsha McLean  
Los Angeles City Council Members  
Ed. Reyes  
Wendy Gruel  
Dennis Zine  
Tom LaBonge  
Jack Weiss  
Tony Cardenas  
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Jose Huizar  
Janice Hahn  
Town Council President Dave Bossert