

## Department of Regional Planning & Department of Public Works Building and Safety Staff Relocation

A project spearheaded by outgoing LA County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich proposes to relocate county employees working at the Department of Regional Planning, the Department of Public Works Building and Safety Office, and related staff from Fire, Business License, and Public Health, to a Regional One-Stop Development Center in Alhambra.

The staff relocation will impact as many as 200 county workers, delay projects and cost millions of dollars.

Antonovich's office claims the staff relocation is necessary to establish a "one-stop shop" for discretionary project design review for applicants, contractors, developers and architects seeking approval for projects in the County's unincorporated areas. A "one-stop shop" for DRP already exists at the Hall of Records Building in Downtown Los Angeles.

Supervisor Antonovich's relocation proposal is fundamentally flawed for many reasons, including:

- The enormous cost. The CEO estimates an upfront cost of \$5 million to relocate development services and staff to Alhambra.
- Supervisor Antonovich's version of "one-stop shop" will not be one-stop for applicants. Applicants for any projects still need to get building, electrical, plumbing and mechanical permits from the local field offices.
- The delay of permitting and plan approval services resulting from the move will cost applicants and developers millions more. Hundreds of projects will be put on hold while County employees are moved from downtown L.A. to Alhambra.
- Uprooting the entire department to streamline a small percentage of the work is costly and inefficient. The move is billed as a way to streamline discretionary permit review. However, discretionary reviews constitute only a small fraction, roughly 13%, of the total number of permits reviewed by Regional Planning regional planning staff, according to a CEO report.
- Discretionary reviews are already processed online. The County's multimillion dollar investment in EPIC-LA/EnerGov for online permitting makes department collocation under one roof unnecessary.
- The existing online system, called eConsultation, already achieves a "one-stop" service. Additionally, DRP has an existing "one-stop" service at the Hall of Records in Downtown L.A. where applicants can consult all County departments.

- The staff relocation project fails the transparency test. The determination to utilize a privately-owned parcel was pre-selected without a rigorous and transparent RFP process.

The County Board of Supervisors should reconsider the staff relocation project and all of the issues raised in the points above. The Board should consider whether the proposed staff relocation for DRP and DPW staff will achieve the purported service improvements alleged with a so-called "one-stop," whether the significant costs and delays of a major staff relocation are necessary given Regional Planning's already available online technologies, and whether this proposal is consistent with the planning principles advocates in the County's General Plan.

For more information about the proposed staff relocation, and how constituents and applicants are respectfully opposing Mr. Antonovich's proposal, please contact the California Association of Professional Employees at (626) 243-0340.