July 12, 2018

Councilmember Mitch O’Farrell

200 North Spring Street, Room 480
Los Angeles, California 90012

Re: Request for Workshop on EIFDs

Dear Honorable Councilmember Mitch O’Farrell,

We believe a City sponsored community workshop, held at in a riverfront location (Friendship Hall) is required on what an enhanced infrastructure financing district (EIFD) is, how it works, benefits, possible drawbacks and proposed projects prior to implementation. This should include possible additional funding mechanisms available to a Public Financing Authority (PFA) that may impact residents beyond the incremental tax, such as bonds, “benefit” assessments and etc. In addition, operations and maintenance (O&M) funding sources for all proposed projects, since an EIFD cannot fund O&M.

Atwater Village, a riverfront community, should be informed of and able to comment on plans for EIFD district outlines and proposed projects. The process should be transparent and open for public comment in the planning process - prior to a public hearing and implementation.

For example, currently we are looking at a proposed Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) affecting a large percentage of the community (SFHA - approximately 3,000 parcels overall). EIFD funding could be used for levee repair and other mitigation measures lessening the financial burden and increasing the safety of affected residents. Atwater Village and other riverfront communities should have a direct benefit, such as addressing this SFHA issue, from the use of tax dollars collected in a River Revitalization EIFD.

In addition to flood risk reduction, funds can be used for the watershed, green streets and additional water infiltration and retention systems that would have a direct and positive local impact for stakeholders while contributing to the overall health of the River.

Funding used for these purposes support the LARRMP, A.R.B.O.R. Study and local use of tax contributions of Atwater Village stakeholders.

Thank you,

Courtney Morris
Co-Chair

Edward Morrissey
Co-Chair
CC: Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, Mayor Eric Garcetti, Sheila Khuel, Laura Freidman, Antony Portantino, Los Angeles Bureaus of Sanitation and Engineering.