October 14, 2025 City Council Meeting

Written Public Comments

Item 3.13

Revision to Funding Designation for 617, 625, and 637 W. La Veta Avenue





www.kennedycommission.org 17701 Cowan Ave., Suite 200 Irvine, CA 92614 949 250 0909

October 14, 2025

Mayor Dan Slater Members of City Council City of Orange 300 E. Chapman Avenue Orange, CA 92866

RE: Agenda Item 3.13 – Revision to Funding Designation for the Sale of 617, 625, and 637 West La Veta Avenue for the Development of Six Affordable Housing Units

Dear Honorable Honorable Mayor Slater and Orange City Council,

The Kennedy Commission (the Commission) is a broad-based coalition of residents and community organizations advocating for the production of homes affordable for families earning less than \$30,000 annually in Orange County. Since 2001, we have successfully partnered with jurisdictions across the county to create housing and land-use policies that increase affordable housing opportunities for lower-income working families.

The Commission supports staff's recommendation to revise the funding allocation to ensure compliance with fund use requirements and to preserve the integrity of the City's Low- and Moderate-Income Housing Asset Fund. These adjustments represent an important administrative action that will properly record the residual receipts loan under a fund where affordable housing activities are eligible, helping to safeguard resources for future housing developments.

We commend the City of Orange for utilizing surplus public land to create affordable housing through its partnership with Shelter Providers of Orange County, Inc. (HomeAid). The reuse of surplus parcels to develop six affordable homes reflects a positive example of how the City can leverage public land to advance its Housing Element goals and strengthen the overall supply of affordable homes.

However, we note that the staff report does not specify the affordability levels for these six units. As the City continues implementing its Housing Element, we strongly encourage that future surplus land opportunities prioritize homes affordable to **low- and very-low-income households**, who experience the most severe housing cost burdens in Orange. Ensuring that limited public resources serve the households most in need will help the City make meaningful progress toward fulfilling its lower-income RHNA obligations.

This action demonstrates responsible stewardship of affordable housing funds and the value of public land in addressing local housing needs. We appreciate the City's continued efforts to create and preserve affordable housing opportunities for working families in Orange.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (949) 250-0909 or cesarc@kennedvcommission.org.

Sincerely.

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Cesar Covarrubias Executive Director

Item 9.2

Fire Code Ordinance

Corina Perez

From: Janice Brownfield

Sent:Monday, October 13, 2025 9:04 PMTo:City Council Public CommentSubject:Public Comment Agenda Item #9.2

Canyon Fires 1 and 2 in Anaheim Hills were a frightening and devastating experience in 2017 that destroyed 15 homes, damaged 45 others, increased air pollution and caused ash to fall on our homes and surroundings. Increasingly, wildfires are coming into urban spaces from wildlands, meeting at the wildland-urban interface. The WUI Code is "a State-mandated building code, effective January 1, 2026, that sets minimum standards to protect life and property from wildfire in high-risk areas by addressing both building construction and defensible space." The Code "mandates the use of ignition-resistant building materials and establishes requirements for fuel reduction around structures to a zone up to 100 feet away from the building, known as defensible space."

Orange is affected by updated California Fire Hazard Severity zones, which classify areas as Moderate, High or Very High risk based on factors like fire history, vegetation and weather patterns. Five new cities - Buena Park, Costa Mesa, Huntington Beach, Laguna Hills and Placentia - were added to the fire hazard severity zones in May.

Every ZIP code in California is exposed to wildfire smoke, which researchers estimate caused more than 52,000 premature deaths between 2008 and 2018 due to chronic, long-term smoke exposure. Wildfire smoke has led to a spike in people with asthma seeking treatment at emergency rooms for increased breathing problems.

By taking action on the Citywide Sustainability Plan for climate resiliency and adaptation, the City can help prevent our air quality from deteriorating from "poor" and "unhealthy" to "very unhealthy." A July 2025 study in Nature of "never-smokers indicated that air pollution is a significant factor in the development of lung cancer, potentially being more mutagenic than secondhand smoke" and "suggests that policies aimed at regulating toxic emissions and promoting clean energy technologies are crucial for public health."