



Peninsula Community Planning Board
1220 Rosecrans Street PMB 549
San Diego, CA 92106
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September 5, 2026

Re: **Senate Bill 344 (Weber Pierson) As Enrolled – Request Bill Veto**

Dear Governor Newsom:

We urge your **VETO** of Senate Bill 344 when it comes up for your signature. This is a gut and amend bill by its author – Senator Akila Weber – and sponsor – Mayor Todd Gloria - which previously dealt with funeral remains; and the amendments changed it completely at the end of the legislative session to grant a blanket exemption of the Midway Rising mega-development from any further review or lawsuits pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

This, along with its sister bill - SB958 by the same author - carves out CEQA exemptions for Midway Rising, and establishes a very bad precedent whereby wealthy developers can get their projects (such as data centers) exempted from CEQA review (thereby eviscerating the California Environmental Quality Act) through special interest legislation such as SB344. The Midway Rising mega-project is promoted by developers Stan Kronke (owner of the Los Angeles Rams), market rate housing developer Zephyr, “affordable” (but not affordable for those truly needing affordable housing) rate housing developer Chelsea Investment Corp, and sports-and-entertainment operator Legends. It was taken off the Senate inactive file on August 13th where it skirted through the legislature on consent files, amended into its current form on August 27th, and passed in the dead of night on August 30th before it could be adequately reviewed by the Legislature and surrounding community. This subterfuge resulted in it having no noted opposition even though the community strongly objects to the project.

Midway Rising has many unmitigated environment impacts such as traffic congestion, density, flooding, critical water table issues, project sinking, and lack of adequate roads and utilities. Its 2,000 units of so called “affordable housing” is not needed because it is not affordable. It is being built in conjunction with 2,250 market rate units; and 10,000 additional proposed housing units by the nearby Navwar project, which will overrun the infrastructure of the area. This is why the environmental impact report of its sister bill SB958 (which allows its violation of the coastal 30-foot height limit) was invalidated by the fourth district court of appeal which SB344 overrides.

SB344 and its sister bill (SB958) both have substantial opposition from the local community. SB958 is opposed by the San Diego Community Planners Committee and Peninsula Community Planning Board which did not have time to take a position on this spot bill as it was jammed through the legislature. It therefore represents an egregious and corrupt attempt to override CEQA, strong local opposition, legislative review, and an adverse court decision to give this project a “get out of jail free card” from further CEQA review or lawsuits..

We therefore strongly urge your veto of SB344 to save CEQA and the San Diego Community..

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Respectfully submitted,

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Chair, Peninsula Community Planning Board