

**UNITED CALTRANS TENANTS
UCT**

March 31, 2015

Brent L. Green Chief,
Division of Right of Way and Land Surveys
ATTN: Affordable Sales Program
California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street, MS 37
Sacramento, CA 95814

Jennifer S. Lowden
Assistant Chief, Division of Right of Way and Land Surveys ATTN: Affordable Sales
Program
California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street, MS 37
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Affordable Sales Program: Caltrans SR-710 Surplus Properties Sales

Dear Mr. Green and Ms Lowden:

The United Caltrans Tenants (UCT) is sending this notice to formally call for an extension of the review and public comment period on the proposed rules and regulations for the Affordable Sales Program. We specifically ask that the comment period be extended from the current 45-day period to 120-day comment period. We ask for this extension in the spirit of the Roberti Law, with all its intent and purpose of protecting our communities from further destruction and trauma.

This is also in the democratic and participatory spirit of APA that was established in 1946 with the precise purpose of allowing all stakeholders to be heard.

We, as renters, are the major stakeholders on the sale of our homes. We have the right to a comment period that would allow us meaningful participation.

Administrative Procedure Act of 1946 was established with the following stated reasons:

"The language of many regulations is frequently unclear and unnecessarily complex...The language is often confusing to the person who must comply with the regulations."

“The complexity and lack of clarity in many regulations put small businesses [the public] which do not have the resources to hire experts to assist them, at a distinct disadvantage. 11340-11334.4”

Caltrans residents from El Sereno, in particular, are at a disadvantage for the following reasons:

- We have documented information that some of the tenants did not receive notice.
- The new proposal is inaccessible since it now comes as a document in the Internet. Many of those that did receive the packet did not realize that they had to go to a website to access the proposal.
- Many of the tenants, particularly but not exclusively in El Sereno, do not have Internet and to this day not been able to access the 2/26/15 proposal.
- Many of the tenants, particularly from El Sereno, do not have the resources to hire experts to assist them.
- Working class Caltrans tenants particularly from El Sereno are forced to rely on their own resources, therefore it takes longer to study and comment on the proposed regulations.

We look forward to Caltrans understanding that the above reasons constitute legal, moral and conscientious reasons for a minimal extension of an additional 75 days to the initial 45 days allowed.

UCT hopes that this time around that we receive a response. When we requested an extension last time we did not hear back from Ms. Lowden. When the City of South Pasadena sent a letter asking for an extension it was granted the next day.

We are also requesting that a meeting be held in the middle of the community of El Sereno at the following venue for these reasons:

- A meeting could be held at the Los Angeles Christian Presbyterian Church facility located at 2241 Eastern Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90032. This church is centrally located in the community of El Sereno, no farther than 2 miles from all furthest points. This facility is also far superior logistically.
- Parking: Parking at the church is more than adequate and a lot closer to the meeting hall than the meeting room at CSULA.
- Seating capacity: The church seating capacity is more than ample.
- Unless you're a student, CSULA is not a location that El Sereno residents are familiar with. Residents are far more familiar with the Church facility and in fact have been there for several meetings related to Caltrans and Metro 710 matters.

Thank you for a prompt response to our request.

Regards,

Hugo Garcia
UCT-El Sereno
(323) 718-1223
hgarcia4432@gmail.com

Roberto Flores
UCT-South Pasadena
(213) 304-5424
robertof2@socal.rr.com

CC:

Senator Kevin de Leon
Assemblymember Jimmy Gomez
Senator Ed Hernandez
Councilmember Huizar
LA County Supervisor Hilda Solis