June ??, 2018

Board of Directors
South Bay Council of Governments
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## **Dear Board Members:**

As you may be aware the City of Inglewood is in an exclusive negotiation with the Los Angeles Clippers Basketball Team to build a privately financed arena, practice facility and office complex. The site for this proposed project is located on the south side of Century Boulevard at Prairie Avenue. The land for this project is currently vacant and in possession of the City of Inglewood. The land is in the LAX landing path and was acquired by the city through a settlement with LAX over 25 years ago which does not allow housing. As you might imagine, the City of Inglewood would like nothing more than to see a viable revenue producing use for this parcel.

The City of Inglewood would like to enlist the support of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments in our effort to develop this project. Specifically, we are asking for the South Bay COG to go on record as supporting AB 987 (Kamlager-Dove) which will provide some certainty in the CEQA process. To be clear, AB 987 will not provide any exemptions to CEQA but will establish timelines for the legal proceedings. The CEQA streamlining provisions in AB 987 have been made available to several California cities building sports facilities in recent years

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including, Sacramento, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. We are not seeking anything more than has been the accepted standard in recent legislation.

In addition to the recently renovated Fabulous Forum, rebuilt Hollywood Park Casino, along with the Rams/Chargers stadium now under construction we believe this arena will provide greater economic vitality to the entire South Bay

Region, not limited to Inglewood. We have already seen increases in hotel stays and restaurant traffic as a result of recent activity at the Fabulous Forum. Based on this we anticipate even more business to the surrounding communities when our other venues open their doors for business.

With the current improvements being made to Century Blvd and the extension of the Crenshaw light rail line from downtown Los Angeles through Inglewood, ingress and egress to LAX will be much more efficient. These projects are all currently under construction. In addition as you know, METRO is planning to extend service from the Green Line from the 105 Freeway to LAX again taking more cars off the road. I mention this because when completed these projects will free up space on Century, Manchester and Imperial, alleviating traffic congestion.

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As mentioned above, between the food and beverage sales, hotel stays, and employment opportunities the benefits that will come to the region with the arena, we believe the region should be in support. For your review I have enclosed a fact sheet on AB 987, frequently asked questions about the project and a description of Economic and Community Benefits.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

## Ralph Franklin

Councilman District Four
City of Inglewood
Delegate, South Bay Council
Of Governments

**Enclosures**