

Date: May 25, 2016

To: Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD), Board of Education
351 S. Hudson Ave
Pasadena, CA 91109

Subject: West Pasadena Resident's Association (WPRA) Requests that the PUSD Reconsider Its Position to Abstain from Voting on the Five Star Coalition's Resolution to Oppose SR-710 Tunnel Alternative

The WPRA is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to maintaining and enhancing the quality of life in southwest Pasadena. We represent 7,000 households, including 1,000 paid members who live near the proposed SR-710 tunnel north portal in Old Pasadena.

The WPRA asks that the PUSD reconsider its position to abstain from voting on the Five Star Coalition's resolution to oppose the SR-710 Tunnel Alternative. We firmly believe that there is a direct correlation between the SR-710 tunnels and children's health and academic performance.

Prior to the March 10, 2016 PUSD meeting, the school districts of Burbank, Glendale, La Cañada Flintridge, Sierra Madre and South Pasadena all voted to support the Five Star Coalition's resolution to oppose the SR-710 tunnel because of the large impact it will have on local schools and the health of the students that they serve. Unfortunately we do not believe that the PUSD board was adequately briefed on these impacts before being asked to vote on the resolution. Therefore, we request that the PUSD board consider adding an agenda item to a future meeting (and notifying the WPRA when such a meeting would take place), where the public can respond to questions from board members raised at the March meeting, such as whether the SR-710 project "is a child-related issue" or tied to "public education."

The SR-710 Tunnel Alternative proposed by Metro includes one or two 4.9-mile-long tolled tunnels, 4 lanes each, connecting the 710 in El Sereno to the 210 north and east in Pasadena. This project would bring a projected 136,000 new vehicles through Pasadena and to the San Gabriel Valley. Many of these vehicles would be high-polluting diesel trucks serving the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, and the transloading facilities and warehouses of the Inland Empire. In Metro's own words, "the 710 north gap closure between the I-10 and the I-210 would complete the natural goods movement corridor that was begun several decades ago. It would address the demands of commerce – specifically goods movement from the twin ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach and the goods movement from California's Central Valley" (Metro press release 3/21/11).

Unfortunately, the proposed tunnel designs do not include any intermediate entrances or exits, nor do they include any intermediate vents along their length. Thus, all exhaust will be directed to the tunnel portals in Pasadena and El Sereno. In Pasadena, large exhaust tower(s) are planned near Colorado Boulevard – adjacent to schools, the Huntington Hospital and Old Pasadena. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Southern California Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) and

a group of eminent Southern California physicians and scientists, the air quality and health impact analyses for the tunnels presented in the SR-710 Draft Environmental Impact Report/Study (EIR/EIS) was grossly deficient. According to the SCAQMD, "the tunnel alternatives will present a significant health risk to local residents when compared to a No Build scenario...." See attachments C,D, and E.

Many reputable studies have demonstrated that exposure to near roadway emissions result in the following health impacts:

- Exacerbation of asthma and new cases of asthma;
- Reduced lung function;
- Risk for cancer;
- Cardiovascular heart disease;
- Preterm birth, low birth weight and pregnancy disorders;
- Autism and
- Possibly obesity and Type 2 diabetes.

These risks are significantly elevated in the presence of diesel trucks. Children and the elderly are particularly vulnerable. Poor health can affect a child's ability to learn. Increased absence from school can also impact a child's academic performance.

In Pasadena alone, there are 51 schools near the tunnels' north portal and nearby connecting freeways. See Attachment A. This includes, but is not limited to, the following public schools: Roosevelt Elementary School, John Muir High School, Washington Elementary School, San Rafael Elementary School, Cleveland Elementary School and Blair High School. According to CalEnviroScreen – California's tool for identifying disadvantaged communities that are currently suffering from high pollution burdens – the schools of Northwest Pasadena and El Sereno reside in "disadvantaged" communities. They currently suffer the states highest rates of asthma, unemployment, linguistic isolation, poverty, and low educational attainment. Clearly, they would be very vulnerable to additional pollution effects if the tunnels were built. Additional information on CalEnviroScreen and the Environmental Justice issues related to the Tunnel alternative and Northwest Pasadena and El Sereno can be found in Attachment B.

While impacts to air quality and health are probably the largest threat to PUSD students, significant noise can also affect children's health and education. Metro's SR-710 tunnel noise impact analysis indicates that there will be up to an 11 dB increase in noise adjacent to the '210 stub' at the north portal, which far exceeds Federal Transportation Agency noise thresholds for allowable increases. Most of these noise impacts cannot be mitigated. There are currently approximately 16 schools within a thousand feet of the Pasadena portals and proposed 210/710 interchange.

In addition, the introduction of more than 136,000 new vehicles to Pasadena will affect transportation to and from schools. Local roads and interchanges will be modified, traffic patterns will change, and local streets will see increased cut-through traffic (approximately 30% of all tunnel vehicles are predicted to use local streets when tunnel traffic is congested or gridlocked). Construction of the two largest diameter road tunnels in the world will cause disruptions to the local street network for 5 to 10 years.

The WPRA will gladly provide additional information regarding the impact of the SR-710 tunnels on children's health and education upon request. Alternatively, we can provide a knowledgeable representative to meet individually with board members on topics of interest.

We believe that there are better solutions to solve both local and regional transportation needs in an environmentally responsible manner that does not jeopardize children's health. For example, on April 13, 2015, the Pasadena City Council approved the 'Pasadena SR-710 Preferred Alternative' – a multi-mode solution that includes light rail, new and improved bus routes, and extensive road improvements. The Beyond the 710 organization, representing the cities of Pasadena, South Pasadena, La Canada, Glendale, and Sierra Madre, has also proposed a meaningful multi-mode alternative. These proposals look beyond the antiquated freeway solutions of the past and toward environmentally responsible public transportation solutions for the future.

Thank you for considering our point of view. We look forward to working with you moving forward.



Geoffrey Baum
WPRA Immediate Past President



Sarah Gavit
WPRA Vice-President, SR-710 Lead

Kenyon Harbison

Kenyon Harbison
WPRA President

Attachments:

- A Schools and Vulnerable Populations Near the SR-710 Tunnel North Portal
- B SR-710 Environmental Justice Issues for Communities in Northwest Pasadena
- C Southern California Air Quality Management District - Response to the SR-710 Draft Environmental Impact Report/Study (Draft EIR/EIS)
- D Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - Response to the SR-710 Draft EIR/EIS
- E Southern California Scientists and Colleagues Who Study the Health Effects of Air Pollution and Other Public Health Impacts from Transportation Infrastructure Projects and Related Traffic - Response to the SR-710 Draft EIR/EIS

Distribution:

PUSD Board
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WPRA Board

WPRA Board Members

Connected Cities and Communities (C3)

Ara Najarian

Dr. Marina Khuberstrian

All members, via Margaret Lin

City of Pasadena

Terry Tornek

Steve Mermell

Fred Dock

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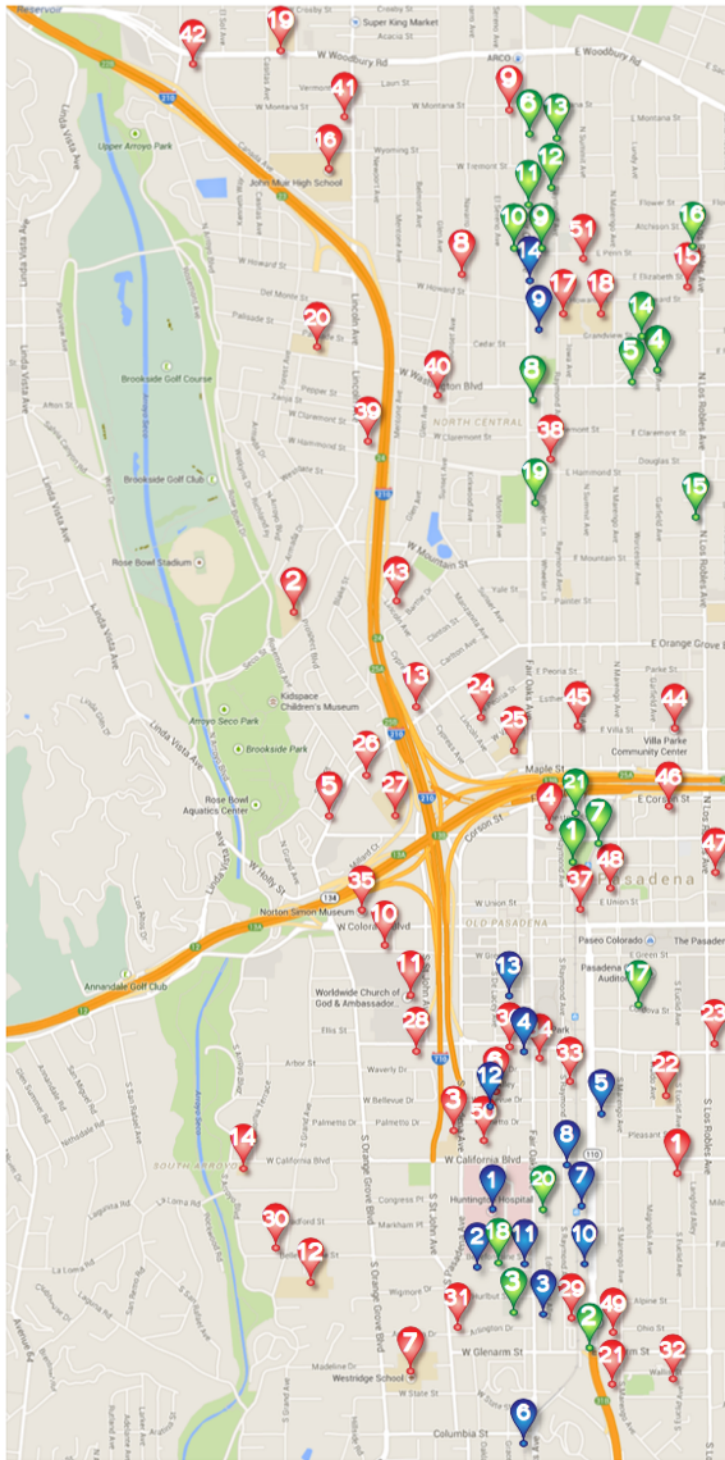
Other

Joanne Nuckols

Bill Sherman

Jan Soohoo

Attachment A



Schools:

1. Ana Montessori School
2. Chandler School
3. Sequoyah School
4. St. Andrew School
5. St. Monica Academy & Fair Oaks Preschool
6. The Waverly School
7. Westridge School
8. Harmbree Preparatory School
9. Harriet Tubman Preschool and Elementary
10. International Montessori Academy
11. Maranatha High School
12. Mayfield Senior School
13. New Horizon School Pasadena
14. Pacific Oaks Children's School
15. Pasadena Christian School
16. John Muir High School
17. Washington Accelerated Elementary School
18. Washington Middle School
19. Jackson Elementary School
20. Cleveland Elementary School
21. Blair High School
22. Mayfield Jr. School
23. Pasadena Montessori School
24. Celerity Exa Charter School
25. Pacific Oaks College
26. Scott United Methodist Preschool
27. Roosevelt Elementary School
28. Imperial Elementary School
29. Art Center College of Design
30. Arroyo Seco School
31. Cottage Co-op Preschool
32. Allendale Elementary School
33. Kids Klub Pasadena Preschool
34. Los Angeles College of Music
35. California Graduate School of Design
36. Concept Design Academy
37. Pasadena Language Center
38. Capstone College
39. Scale Academy Charter School
40. Head Start Deliverance CCFS Preschool
41. Opportunities for Learning Charter School
42. Head Start Arroyo CCFS Preschool
43. Pasadena School of Musical Arts
44. Head Start Villa Parke CCFS Preschool
45. Scott Edwards Computer Training School
46. University of Phoenix - Pasadena Learning Center
47. Fuller Theological Seminary
48. Theatre 360 Drama School
49. Campus Kids Learning Center
50. Garfield School
51. Washington Children's Center Kinder Garten



Medical facilities:

1. Huntington Memorial Hospital
2. Californian Pasadena Convalescent Nursing Home
3. HealthCare Partners Glen Oaks Office
4. HealthCare Partners Del Mar Office
5. HRC Fertility Clinic
6. South Pasadena Cancer Center
7. HealthCare Partners Pasadena Main Office
8. Pasadena CyberKnife Center (Cancer treatment)
9. Eisenhower Nursing Convalescent Hospital
10. Advanced Urgent Care of Pasadena
11. ChapCare Medical Clinic
12. General Medical Co Clinic
13. Pasadena Endoscopy Center
14. Sunrise Convalescent Hospital



Elderly care facilities:

1. Pasadena Senior Center
2. Episcopal Home Communities
3. regency Park Senior Living
4. Garfield Care Center
5. Pasadena Residential Care Center
6. Camella Gardens Care Center
7. MonteCredo Episcopal Home Communities
8. La Pintoresca Housing Inc.
9. Bella Vista Assisted living
10. Fairnooks Manor Assisted Living
11. Pasa Alta Manor Residential Care Centers
12. Brighton Convalescent Center
13. Rose Garden Convalescent Center
14. Castle View Retirement Estates
15. Pasadena Guest Home Assisted Living
16. Los Robles Guest Home Assisted Living
17. Concord Pasadena Retirement Community
18. Californian Pasadena Convalescent Nursing Home
19. Jackie Robinson Senior Citizen Retirement Home
20. GEM Transitional Care Center Nursing Home
21. Telacu Pasadena Housing Senior Citizen Center

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