



November 9, 2020

Ventura County Board of Supervisors
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

RE: Item 42 Opposition to 6 Project Labor Agreements, do not shut out local workers (Please read during the meeting)

Dear Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of the Associated Builders and Contractors and the workers and apprentices we train I am writing in opposition to the proposal for 6 Project Labor Agreements.

Simply put, 6 projects is not a pilot; this is a PLA on a very specific project list. Why would you tie the hands of future boards and staff by locking yourself into 6 PLAs? Should the PLAs be a total disaster there is no way to cancel and remove them from the projects.

Second, PLAs raise costs and discriminate against workers that choose not to work union. For example, apprentices from Unilateral Apprenticeship Programs are prohibited from working on projects with a PLA. A PLA harms our apprentices as it only allows apprentices from the Building Trades Joint Apprenticeship Programs to work. Furthermore, by discriminating against Unilateral Apprentices you will be limiting local residents that are enrolled from completing their required on the on-the-job-training hours.

Last, the proposal as presented in the letter from Supervisor Zaragoza calls for six projects to gather a sampling of statistical data. Should you truly wish to get statistical data, the projects should be bid with and without a PLA. Without true apples-to-apples comparisons, we are confident you will see that less contractors bid when there is a PLA, costs go up when there is a PLA, and workers are shut out when there is a PLA.

Once again, we urge your board to end the discussions regarding a proposed PLA pilot, or otherwise Ventura County taxpayers and construction workers would be worse off if a PLA were implemented.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin Garrett".

Kevin Garrett

President / CEO

Associated Builders and Contractors Southern California Chapter