

## Council may fight bill to limit L.A. power

By Rick Orlov

State legislation seen as taking away Los Angeles' power to control land use drew strong criticism Friday as the City Council indicated it would fight a proposal by Assemblyman Felipe Fuentes and explore how the measure escaped earlier notice.

In a 13-0 vote, the council went on record opposing AB212, which has cleared the state Assembly and is now pending in the Senate. The measure would limit the ability of the city to make zone changes in areas where the community plan is not consistent with the general plan.

And what angered council members was that the bill applies only to Los Angeles and has advanced so far in the legislative process without city officials being notified.

"The last thing we need is Sacramento telling us how to do land use," Councilwoman Wendy Greuel said. "If this is such good legislation, why is it being applied only to Los Angeles?"

She also complained that the measure contains an urgency ordinance, a provision usually limited to legislation with a public health or safety impact.

Fuentes said Friday that there has been a misunderstanding over the bill and that he hopes to meet with city officials next week to discuss possible changes.

"My concern was making sure that people who want to build affordable housing are not blocked by delays that could occur," Fuentes said.

Councilman Richard Alarcon, a former member of both the Assembly and Senate, urged the council to delay any action until members had an opportunity to talk with Fuentes.

"I think we should try to work with him to see why he introduced it and if it can be changed," Alarcon said.

"What disturbs me more is how this bill got so far without our knowledge."

Councilman Greig Smith said it is an increasing problem that resulted from City Charter changes that transferred all responsibility for city lobbyists to the Mayor's Office.

NOTE: AB 212 would directly affect the Verdugo Hills Golf Course.