

## Alexis Oropeza

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**From:** Hilda Gaytan <hildagaytan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 04, 2018 12:39 PM  
**To:** Alexis Oropeza  
**Subject:** Uptown Commons Project

My name is Hilda Gaytan and I am in opposition to the Uptown Commons project as currently designed.

I am currently a Long Beach Sustainable City Commissioner, UPLAN advisory committee member, co-chair of the Coalition for a Healthy North Long Beach, advisory board member for Walk Long Beach, founder and past president of the Hamilton Neighborhood Association Inc, UC Master Gardener

The Uptown Commons project is not in compliance with the objectives of the UPLAN, Coalition for Healthy North Long Beach and other community groups working to better the life of the North Long Beach community.

This development is outdated, unsustainable, and a threat to public health.

**Outdated;**

the project follows the unregulated zoning established in the master plan for North Long Beach in 1989 at a time when the developer's goal was to promote and encourage the use of the automobile.

The city has received a combined \$1 million-plus from the California Department of Transportation and the Southern California Association of Governments to help it create a road map, called the Uptown Planning Land Use and Neighborhood Strategy. The program aims to lure new development, change zoning codes and create more open space in North Long Beach.

The uptown commons project is not comparable to the new UPLAN vision for the North Long Beach area, or the overall city of Long Beach vision to offer its residents the opportunity to live, shop and socialize in a walkable, healthy and sustainable environment.

**Unsustainable;**

On average, a person in a parked car takes up about 17 times more space than a person in a chair, and when moving, a motorist can take up to 100 times as much space as a person in a chair. This level of wasteful land use by cars— (particularly in a town and in shopping centers where space is so dear and scarce) is unsustainable and promotes sprawl. The project INCREASES greenhouse gas emissions due to the induced increase in car trips. This prevents the intersection from ever evolving into a more walkable, compact, village-like setting and lowers the quality of life, among other detriments

**A threat to public health;**

The uptown commons project is inside the Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) zone Initiative area in North Long Beach. The HEAL zone is in partnership with the Long Beach Health department and the Coalition for a Healthy North Long Beach. The initiative was awarded \$2 million from Kaiser Permanente and is designed to help make healthy choices accessible to people in underserved communities, and in turn, help to prevent obesity related conditions such as diabetes and heart disease.

The Uptown Commons project goes against the HEAL zone's vision of a community where people eat better and move more as part of their daily life. The project increases the overpopulated fast food business in the area by bringing one more fast food restaurant and the automobile-oriented design does not encourage walkability.

It has been proven that greenhouse gas emissions cause health problems. The Uptown Commons design contains three (3) drive thru lanes and the main access to the center is by the alley adjacent to the backyard of the houses along the alley. The constant traffic in the alley and the drive thru lanes will increase the greenhouse gas emissions and will negatively affect the health of the residents of this area already impacted by its proximity to the nearby freeways.

I encourage the commission to not approve the recommendations for the Uptown Commons project. I also encourage the responsible parties to work to present a plan that takes into account the health and wellness of the surrounding neighborhood and future generations. The development of Uptown is a plan geared for the future and not so much the here and now. It is also a way to create a more cohesive community, so let's get this right.

Regards

Hilda Gaytan

## Hilda Gaytan

My name is Hilda Gaytan and I am a resident of North Long Beach and I am in opposition to the Uptown Commons project as currently designed.

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Respectfully

*Hilda gaytan*

## Alexis Oropeza

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**From:** Maria R. Gonzalez <mrgonzalez@me.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 04, 2018 1:01 PM  
**To:** Alexis Oropeza  
**Subject:** Regarding Application No. 1806-25

Dear Alexis,

i wanted to submit a few comments about the development plans in North Long Beach, specifically about the plans on Artesia and Atlantic.

First, as a homeowner in LBC I'm excited to know that work is being done to improve the neighborhood. I'm happy to hear that we'll have another coffee shop and a sit down restaurant where my family and I can enjoy a good meal and a cup of coffee. I'm also happy to know we'll finally have a bank.

I'm not too excited to know that there will be three drive-thru's given that we should be planning for a future that encourages more walking/biking, etc and relies less on vehicles. I can only assume it's a sacrifice that had to be taken to encourage businesses to NLB.

At this point, given that so much work has been done to get this plan in place I support it but wish it could've been done with one drive-through and no fast food restaurants - we have too many in NLB, and particularly, in that corner.

Thank you,

María

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [kirk davis](#)  
**To:** [Alexis Oropeza](#)  
**Subject:** Application # 1806-25  
**Date:** Thursday, October 04, 2018 10:43:06 AM

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I am opposed to the current plan for the development of Uptown Commons. Uptown Commons has 3 separate drive thru lanes and wants to add 15 more parking spaces. To accommodate the new bank, one drive thru for the project is enough. The wonderful renderings seem to promote walkability, visually appealing landscaping, and beautiful outside seating areas, but the plan seems to promote the LA car culture that the city has been trying to steer away from in recent years. The community has been working with UPLAN for over a year to have the proper design elements and community hub feel for the upcoming development of the area. While the area is already impacted from the nearby freeways and the Artesia/ Atlantic intersection, adding additional parking and the impact of three drive-thru lanes of idling cars makes outside seating or walking in the area less appealing and less healthy. As past co-chair of the Coalition for a Healthy North Long Beach, the immediate area was designated as a Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) zone because of the limited access to healthy food options and activities. The Long Beach Health Dept received \$2 million in grants over 6 years from Kaiser to work to improve the health of residents in the zone. Though I am in support of the development of the vacant lots, I am not in support of any plan that does not take into account the health of the areas residents. The development of the area is supposed to take into account the vision of the future for the area. The current plan seems more like a feel good, lets get something done now project and not a project sustainably designed for the use of the more environmentally conscience future generations. We have waited a long time for this and we can still wait longer to get it right.

Sincerely,  
Kirk Davis

