



**WENDY GREUEL**  
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January 20, 2006

Ms. Jeri Burge  
Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney  
200 North Main Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re: Proposed Home Depot Store at 8040 Foothill Blvd.**

Dear *Jeri* Ms. Burge:

On July 19, 2005, I wrote to the Director of City Planning about a number of concerns that I had with the proposed Home Depot project in the Sunland community (see attached letter). In that letter, I asked the Director whether the City had the ability to require an economic impact study as part of the environmental review of the proposed project. The Director responded that the City lacks the authority to require such a study (see attached response).

A few days ago, I learned that Wal-Mart was abandoning its effort to locate a new store in Northridge. The reason given for Wal-Mart's decision to abandon the Northridge site was the City's requirement of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and an Economic Impact Study (EIS) for the proposed project.

In a related event, the City's Department of Transportation (DOT) recently reviewed a traffic report for the proposed Home Depot and concluded that the project would generate less traffic than the K-Mart department store that occupied the property until October, 2004. Given the small volume of traffic that was actually generated by the K-Mart store during its last few years, I cannot accept DOT's conclusion. I raise this point because the accuracy of the traffic report was also a factor in the Wal-Mart case.

My staff and I have worked on the Home Depot project with members of the Sunland-Tujunga community for more than a year. We discussed a wide range of issues, and I am committed to ensuring that the project will receive the strictest level of environmental review that the City can lawfully require.

It seems to me that Home Depot stores create many of the same impacts as Wal-Mart stores (unusually large traffic volumes, destruction of existing businesses and jobs, etc.). Based on the Wal-Mart case, it appears that we may be able to require an EIR, an EIS and a more precise traffic study than the one that was submitted to DOT.

I would appreciate your guidance as to whether the City's actions in the Wal-Mart case are applicable to the Sunland Home Depot situation. I look forward to discussing these issues with you at your earliest convenience.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. Greuel", written over a horizontal line.

Wendy Greuel  
Councilmember, 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
Los Angeles City Council