

## ARCADIA FIRST!

A Coalition for Sensible Growth

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A Coalition for Sensible Growth

Arcadia First! A Coalition for Sensible Growth is a group of concerned residents and business owners with financial support provided by community members and Westfield Santa Anita.

# NEWS

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## **Arcadia residents continue to oppose Caruso/Magna Mall in e-mail letters as City Council prepares to take final action Tuesday morning on project at Santa Anita Racetrack**

In addition to the 1,900 opposition letters submitted to the Arcadia City Council at their April 11 meeting, more than **110 new letters to members of the Council** have continued to come in through an automated response system created by Arcadia First! as members of **the public who were not able to testify at the public hearing** have made known their opposition to the Caruso/Magna Mall project at the Santa Anita Racetrack.

"These letters have continued to come in despite the fact that the public hearing is closed," said Sung Tse, spokeswoman for the Arcadia First! Executive Committee and the mother of two children who live and attend school in Arcadia. "We are simply passing these letters on to City Hall – contrary to recent accusations we are in no way attempting to disrupt the process, we are simply trying to give the citizens a voice using the same public comment process used in cities throughout California."

**(Editors Note: Samples of these letters are attached for your review.)**

**The Arcadia City Council is expected to take final action at 8 a.m. tomorrow (Tuesday, April 17, City Council Chambers, Arcadia City Hall, 240 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia) on whether to approve the controversial "Shops at Santa Anita" regional mall project proposed for the existing parking lot of the Santa Anita Racetrack.**

The Caruso/Magna Mall project includes an 806,405 square foot commercial retail and office center, arranged as a pedestrian-oriented "Main Street" to be constructed on the southern parking lot of the Santa Anita Racetrack property literally next door to the existing Westfield Santa Anita mall.

The project also includes construction of a new 98,000 square foot Simulcast Center, the size of two football fields, within the racetrack grandstand which can lead to expansion of on-site gambling.

Documents prepared for the project indicate the development will increase traffic in Arcadia by more than one million new car trips each month, creating problems for at least 20 intersections in and around the city.

The proposal by developer Rick Caruso, developer of "The Grove" in Los Angeles, is actually 57 percent larger than "The Grove."

For more information, contact Arcadia First! at (626) 215-2232 or visit [www.arcadiafirst.org](http://www.arcadiafirst.org).

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