

03/12/2025 - Reno City Council Meeting - Item J.1 Public Comment

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Reno City Council 3/12/25 Item E.1 - opposition

From Alicia Barber <aliciambarber@gmail.com>

Date Wed 3/12/2025 8:04 AM

To Public Comment - CC <PublicComment@reno.gov>

Dear Mayor Schieve and members of the Reno City Council,

I am writing to respectfully discourage the adoption of an ordinance to delete the expiration date for sewer connection fee credits, as proposed under Item E.1. While, as the Staff Report indicates, the current economic climate may be delaying the onset of new construction, that is no reason to permanently alter the development code to discourage timely construction on newly cleared sites.

The Staff Report's encouragement of clearing blight in combination with eliminating this deadline could have unintended consequences, promoting the premature demolition of structures that could harbor great potential for adaptive reuse should circumstances or ownership change. The definition of "blight" is far too subjective.

At the same time, eliminating the credit expiration date altogether, combined with the high cost of new construction, could leave sites vacant indefinitely, which is not something the City of Reno should be facilitating.

Please reject this proposed ordinance and seek out new, less extreme ways to encourage construction on key parcels, with the recognition that the City's own Master Plan and Downtown Action Plan encourage preservation and adaptive reuse, and that the economics of construction will not always be characterized by the current situation.

Thank you so much.

Alicia Barber, PhD
Resident, Reno Ward 2