

Mall project needs more thought

Gardena's City Council should carefully consider the proposed Galaxy Mall that developer Michael Su hopes to build on the site of the former Golden Nursery on Redondo Beach Boulevard, two blocks west of the Radium Swap Meet, for many reasons.

First, as evident by the number of concerned citizens that have so far protested by either signing a petition or attending meetings of the council and the planning commission, a great number of Gardena residents are against the proposal.

Council members should remember who it was that put them in office and they should keep in mind that when they accepted the job on the council, they also accepted the responsibility of serving the community.

In a society based on government of the people, by the people, and for the people, the community response makes it very clear what it is the people want.

Second, while the new mall would draw new jobs, those jobs would be the type that pay minimum wage, not quality jobs that add to the community and attract new families. The businesses would only add to the incredible amount of competition between small shops and

restaurants that already exist in Gardena.

As for the added tax revenue that backers claim the project would provide, property values near the new mall could drop enough to offset any gain that might be realized.

Furthermore, the added traffic that the mall would bring could cause problems of gridlock proportions. Add to that the predictions of rising crime rates due to the tendency for malls to attract the criminal element, and it becomes clear why so many Gardenans oppose the project.

The council should also keep in mind that the developer has little interest in the city of Gardena (being a resident of Rancho Palos Verdes) besides the obvious one — that it would be a good investment for him and his company.

Critics complain that the project has not been well-thought out, by the council or by the developer. That is a fair assessment of the situation.

If the council really has the community at heart, they will heed the protests of so many citizens and deny approval of the Galaxy project, at least for the time being.