

# Residents to rally for alternatives to 710 freeway expansion project

By **Eric Bradley**, *Press-Telegram*

POSTED: 10/08/13, 8:01 PM PDT



State Sen. Ricardo Lara: He wrote a bill to consider alternatives to widening the freeway.

LONG BEACH >> A bill on Gov. Jerry Brown's desk to protect disadvantaged communities along the path of the 710 Freeway expansion will get a show of support Wednesday in North Long Beach.

The legislation, Senate Bill 811, requires that alternatives be considered to address air quality, public health and other impacts of the expansion that would widen the freeway from eight lanes to 14 lanes in a 17-mile stretch between Long Beach and the 60 Freeway in East Los Angeles. The plan is a decade behind schedule.

Brown has until Sunday to sign the bill, which passed last month in the Senate by a 27-10 vote following a 55-20 Assembly vote.

The Coalition for Environmental Health and Justice is organizing a press conference for 11 a.m. at West Carson and Via Alcalde Avenue.

A representative said the event will be attended by an aide of SB 811 author, Sen. Ricardo Lara, D-Bell Gardens, 9th District Councilman Steve Neal, other elected officials and hundreds of residents from Long Beach, Bell, Commerce, Huntington Park and other neighborhoods affected by the 710 project.

According to a consultant for the Gateway City Council of Governments, a revised environmental impact report for the project won't be ready until the end of 2013 or early 2014.



Eric Bradley covers Long Beach City Hall and politics. He joined the Press-Telegram in August 2011 and previously reported for the Daily Breeze and the Cincinnati Enquirer. Reach the author at [eric.bradley@presstelegram.com](mailto:eric.bradley@presstelegram.com) or follow Eric on Twitter: [EricBradleyPT](https://twitter.com/EricBradleyPT).