

# April 26, 2021 letter from United Chambers of Commerce to the San Fernando Valley Business Journal

ANONYMOUS

## LETTER

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The United Chambers of Commerce recently voted to join the Save the Capitol coalition which takes exception to the high costs associated with rebuilding our state's Capitol Annex building.

Cost overruns are far too common with major projects in California. Look no further than the California High Speed Rail, now estimated at over three times the presented cost with no end in sight. Drive on the 5 Freeway, \$1.3 billion Caltrans project through Burbank and try to figure out when it is going to be completed and if the extra \$73 million will be the last cost overrun. Look at the replacement Bay Bridge that was to be built at a little over \$1 billion and be completed in 7 years. It opened 17 years later at a cost of \$6.3 billion.

Are these projects a reliable predictor for what might possibly happen if the Capi-

tol Annex project moves forward as now planned?

The annex, which was built in the 1950s, provides meeting and office space for our state legislators, has not been properly maintained through the years and does require upgrading. The issue is the exorbitant, huge project should be revisited and thoroughly reanalyzed so that the overall cost is more in line with actual need, predictable overruns and realistic budgeting.

These are real taxpayers' dollars, not just a number on a budget sheet. We hope that the state legislators reconsider this project.

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*Richard Fisk  
Chair of the Government Affairs Committee  
of the United Chambers of Commerce in  
Sherman Oaks*