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Warehouse Project Opposed by Community goes before March Joint Powers Authority -- Again

A controversial warehouse project proposed for Riverside's Mission Grove and Orangecrest neighborhoods, which last year drew more than 500 community residents in opposition, will again be heard Monday, May 12, 2025 by the March Joint Powers Authority.

The West Campus Upper Plateau project, which in its original form would have developed more than 4 million square feet of mainly mega-warehouses, is surrounded on three sides by long-established residential neighborhoods, including a park, a church, a school, and day-care facilities. The project was tabled by the March JPA on June 12, 2024 after more than 500 residents showed up to oppose the project.

In the months since, the project has been rebranded as the March Innovation Hub, which is a slightly downsized version of the original project. It still includes more than 3.5 million square feet of mega-warehouses, along with the attendant noise, air pollution, wildlife, and traffic impacts that come with warehouses. During a community meeting in April to unveil the "new and improved" project, representatives of the developer could not explain how giant warehouses would spur "innovation."

"This is the same unacceptable project which the community has been united in opposing," said Jen Larratt-Smith, Chair of Riverside Neighbors Opposing Warehouses, the grassroots community group formed three years ago after the West Campus project was proposed. "Building giant warehouses in the middle of an established and thriving residential neighborhood is bad land use policy, as it will forever damage the character of our community."

The March JPA was formed in the mid-1990s to redevelop land around March Air Force Base after it was downsized to the March Air Reserve Base. It is governed by an eight-member commission comprising two council members each from Riverside, Perris, and Moreno Valley and two Riverside County supervisors. The JPA will transfer its land use authority to the County of Riverside on July 1, 2025.

What: March JPA to vote on West Campus Upper Plateau warehouse project.

When: 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 12, 2025

Where: Riverside County Administration Center, 4080 Lemon Street, Riverside 92501

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