

From: Kevin Keller <kevin.keller@lacity.org>
Sent time: 04/28/2020 07:31:53 PM
To: Bonstin, Shana <shana.bonstin@lacity.org>
Subject: Fwd: Further Objection to 45-Day Comment Period for Hollywood Center Project Draft Environmental Impact Report ("DEIR"); Case Number ENV-2018-2116-EIR; State Clearinghouse Number 2018051002
Attachments: 4-27-20 [SCAN] OPR Notice & Further Objection to City Planning (Nguyen) re 45-day comment period.PDF



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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Veronica Lebron** <Veronica@robertsilversteinlaw.com>
Date: Mon, Apr 27, 2020 at 3:38 PM
Subject: Further Objection to 45-Day Comment Period for Hollywood Center Project Draft Environmental Impact Report ("DEIR"); Case Number ENV-2018-2116-EIR; State Clearinghouse Number 2018051002
To: <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>, <david.ryu@lacity.org>, <kevin.keller@lacity.org>, <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, <mindy.nguyen@lacity.org>, <vince.bertoni@lacity.org>
Cc: Dan Wright <Dan@robertsilversteinlaw.com>, Esther Kornfeld <Esther@robertsilversteinlaw.com>, Robert Silverstein <Robert@robertsilversteinlaw.com>

Please see attached. Please confirm receipt.

Thank you.

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April 27, 2020

VIA EMAIL mindy.nguyen@lacity.org

Mindy Nguyen
City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning
221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 1350
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Further Objection to 45-Day Comment Period for Hollywood Center
Project Draft Environmental Impact Report (“DEIR”); Case Number ENV-
2018-2116-EIR; State Clearinghouse Number 2018051002

Dear Ms. Nguyen and City Officials:

As a follow-up to my April 17, 2020 letter requesting a tolling or extension of the minimal 45-day public comment period provided for the controversial “Hollywood Center” (aka Millennium Hollywood) project Draft EIR, and as a further follow-up to my April 20, 2020 email to you which, as of the date of this letter, has not been responded to, please see the link below and relevant language excerpted from the State Office of Planning and Research (“OPR”) encouraging public agencies to extend CEQA public review and comment periods during the COVID-19 crisis.

My office, my clients, many other community members with whom I have spoken, and governmental agencies – most of which are operating at extremely reduced capacity – are all severely prejudiced by the City’s imposition of a minimum comment period during these unprecedented times.

I renew my April 17, 2020 request for a tolling or extension of the current, 45-day public comment period on the Draft EIR.

<http://opr.ca.gov/ceqa/>

“Public Meetings and Public Review of Documents

“As to providing CEQA documents at public libraries, CEQA Guidelines section 15087(g) states that “[l]ead agencies should furnish copies of draft EIRs to public library systems serving the area involved.”

Providing copies of CEQA documents at libraries may not be feasible at this time, as many libraries are closed. Agencies should be considering other methods to make CEQA documents publicly available, such as posting on the Internet and on [CEQAnet](#), that do not require the public to obtain copies in person.

“Regarding public review and comment periods for CEQA documents, such as notices of preparation and EIRs, OPR encourages public agencies to consider extending those periods. Given that public agencies are using new methods to make public documents available in light of the current pandemic, additional time for public review and comment periods may be appropriate.” (Emphasis added.)

While Mayor Garcetti announces that “LA is ‘under attack’ and will need to furlough thousands of city workers” (LA Times, April 19, 2020), the public is doubly under attack by a process so transparently designed to harm community members and groups under attack not only by COVID-19, but by a cynical Draft EIR comment process meant to elevate the interests of a developer over the rights of the public that City officials were elected to serve.

The commencement of the running of the DEIR comment period, which period should be at least 90 days, should be tolled to a date after the lifting of local and state stay-at-home orders. At a minimum, it should be extended to 120 days.

Please confirm that the comment period will be tolled or extended as requested not only by this office and the groundswell of similar requests you are receiving, but also pursuant to OPR’s recommendation.

Alternatively, if the City refuses to act responsibly and fairly, please prominently announce to the public that the comment period will not be extended.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Robert P. Silverstein
ROBERT P. SILVERSTEIN
FOR
THE SILVERSTEIN LAW FIRM, APC

City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning
April 27, 2020
Page 3

cc: Mayor Eric Garcetti (mayor.garcetti@lacity.org)
Councilman Mitch O'Farrell (councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org)
Councilman David Ryu (david.ryu@lacity.org)
Vince Bertoni, Dir. Of City Planning (vince.bertoni@lacity.org)
Kevin Keller, Exec. Officer of City Planning (kevin.keller@lacity.org)