

From: Mindy Nguyen <Mindy.Nguyen@lacity.org>
Sent time: 05/26/2020 05:11:47 PM
To: Jill Stewart <jilltepleystewart@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Vince your handling of Hollywood Center is not transparent, not increasing openness

Dear Jill,

Thank you for your email. Your comments have been received, by way of the Director of Planning, and will be included in the administrative record for the Hollywood Center Project EIR.

The City has received many requests for an extension of the Hollywood Center Project Draft EIR comment period in light of COVID-19. As has been explained to others, Per CEQA Guidelines Section 15105, the public review period for a Draft EIR should not be less than 30 days nor should it be longer than 60 days, except under unusual circumstances. While we agree that these are unprecedented times, as indicated in the Notice of Completion and Availability (NOA) for the Hollywood Center Project Draft EIR, the Draft EIR, the documents referenced in the Draft EIR, and the whole of the case file, are available for public review on our website at the following location: <https://planning.lacity.org/development-services/eir/hollywood-center-project-1>.

If you are having difficulty accessing the document in any way (i.e. if links are not working or the attachments cannot be viewed), or if you are aware of anyone who has limited access to the document online, we have also offered that the Draft EIR be made available on CD-ROM, USB flash drive or hard copy for anyone who requests one, as we are committed to making the document as accessible as possible from the safety of your own homes, and in compliance with the "Stay at Home" Order.

While we understand that the "Stay at Home" Order prevents neighborhood groups from meeting in person, please be advised that CEQA does not require people to meet and confer on the EIR, and should not preclude anyone from reviewing the EIR and providing comments.

Furthermore, pursuant to the Governor's [Executive Order N-54-20](#), signed April 22, 2020, deadlines for filing, noticing, and posting of CEQA documents with county clerk offices have been suspended for 60 days. However, deadlines for public review and comment periods for CEQA documents, such as for draft EIRs, have not been suspended and the provisions governing public review remain unchanged.

As such, please be advised that, as the Draft EIR remains accessible to all individuals, the comment period will not be extended at this time. We understand your concern regarding this Project, and ask that you let us know if you have any difficulty accessing the Draft EIR or if you need additional accommodations to be able review it offline.

If it would be helpful to schedule a phone call to discuss any specific questions you may have, or to walk you through the logistics of the Draft EIR, please let me know and I will coordinate accordingly.

Regards,

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

From: Jill Stewart <jilltepleystewart@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, May 26, 2020 at 11:16 AM
Subject: Vince your handling of Hollywood Center is not transparent, not increasing openness
To: VINCE BERTONI <VINCE.BERTONI@lacity.org>

Hello Vince,

I hope all is well with you. Your transparency newsletter today was nicely written but very disappointing given its lack of transparency about how things are unfolding on the most controversial project on your desk, Hollywood Center, as well as a few other projects I now hear are moving too fast for the public to catch up.

I completely agree with Sean Hecht, at Frank G. Wells Environmental Clinic, who urged you to not follow the path of fast-tracking environmental review times on important projects -- because the public is highly constrained, and there is no getting

around that fact. Hecht should know, as he is in the thick of these issues.

I keep getting emails from various Neighborhood Council leaders about how they have urged you to give them more time. How can these highly aware people deal with complex environmental document in any cogent manner when you go for fast-tracking?

It's a bad precedent and I hope you rethink this approach.

Be well,

Jill Stewart

--



Mindy Nguyen

City Planner

Los Angeles City Planning

221 N. Figueroa St., Suite 1350

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Planning4LA.org

T: (213) 847-3674

