

From: Mindy Nguyen <Mindy.Nguyen@lacity.org>
Sent time: 06/01/2020 07:09:48 PM
To: Julie Kremkus <president@nena.info>
Cc: Mayor Garcetti <mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>; Vince Bertoni <vince.bertoni@lacity.org>; David Ryu <councilmember.ryu@lacity.org>; Mitch O'Farrell <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>
Subject: Re: URGENT Hillside Federation - Hollywood Center requests for extension

Dear Julie,

Thank you for your email. Your comments have been received and will be included in the administrative record for the Hollywood Center Project EIR. However, please be advised that the comment period will not be extended at this time. Please also be advised that this is not your only opportunity to comment on the Project, as we continue to collect general public comment at any time throughout the process.

Let me know if you have any questions.

On Sat, May 30, 2020 at 12:11 PM Julie Kremkus <president@nena.info> wrote:
Dear Mayor Garcetti, Director Bertoni, Councilmember O'Farrell and Councilmember Ryu,

I am writing on behalf of the Nichols Canyon Neighborhood Association to strongly urge your support for an extension of the Hollywood Center Draft EIR comment period. As mentioned in the email below from the Hillside Federation, to not allow for fully informed public participation by extending the public comment period by a reasonable amount is completely unacceptable.

During these unprecedented times, it is imperative that there be adequate time for public comments. The public health, safety, and welfare of our community is at stake. The Hollywood Center project must undergo a thorough assessment and given the pandemic, delays and ample time should be honored as people are not working in normal conditions to say the least.

As noted in the documents filed with the planning department for the Hollywood Center project, there are numerous complexities and concerns as to its effects on the hillside communities and the citizens of our city. Mayor Garcetti has repeatedly implored the public to put safety first during this global pandemic. Not extending the public comment period for this complex project ignores the plea of our Mayor and the welfare of our citizens.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and ask you to put public safety before scheduling.

Sincerely,
Julie Kremkus

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Julie Kremkus - President

Nichols Canyon Neighborhood Association
president@NCA.info

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Marian A Dodge <chairman@hillsidefederation.org>
Subject: URGENT Hillside Federation - Hollywood Center requests for extension
Date: May 29, 2020 at 10:00:32 PDT

Dear Hillside Federation Friends,

The City has refused the many reasonable requests to extend the public comment period for the Hollywood Center Draft EIR. Interested members of the public, including many of our members, are currently scrambling to complete their initial review of this highly technical, 12,400-page document describing the potentially significant environmental impacts of this 4.5-acre, 1.3 million square-foot revision of the controversial Millennium Hollywood Project in time to make meaningful public comments. Comments are due this Monday, June 1.

But it is not too late for the City to do the right thing.

Please join us in reaching out to your councilmembers, Mayor Garcetti, and Director of Planning Vince Bertoni to demand that they allow for fully informed public participation by extending the public comment period by a reasonable amount.

The City is well aware of its broad discretion to extend the comment period. Mayor Garcetti requested just such an extension of the Millennium Hollywood DEIR when he was Councilmember for the 13th Council District. The City extended the comment period for its Citywide Sidewalk DEIR (twice) to allow a total public comment period of 157 days.[1] Nonetheless, the City hides behind the weak argument that "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." [2] Have there ever been more unusual circumstances?

Thursday the Hillside Federation received guidance from the Chief Counsel of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, the regulatory agency with primary oversight of CEQA regulations and environmental justice:

We agree that public review of projects is an important part of the CEQA process. CEQA provides a floor and not a ceiling for the deadlines for public review and comments. Accordingly, **public agencies may use their discretion to extend the time for public review and comment.** We have included language on our website making that clear.[3]

Please write to Mayor Garcetti, Director Bertoni, Planner Mindy Nguyen, Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, Councilmember David Ryu, and your own councilmember, to demand their support for a reasonable extension of the Hollywood Center Draft EIR comment period.

Mayor Eric Garcetti: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

Director of Planning Vince Bertoni: vince.bertoni@lacity.org

City Planner Mindy Nguyen: mindy.nguyen@lacity.org

Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org

Councilmember David Ryu: councilmember.ryu@lacity.org

Thank you for your continued support.

Best regards,

Marian Dodge, Chairman
Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Inc.
www.hillsidefederation.org

[1] See <https://sidewalks.lacity.org/environmental-impact-report>.

[2] Project planner Mindy Nguyen, in a boilerplate response made to numerous extension requests. (See, e.g., May 5, 2020 email response to Mary Ledding, available at: [https://planning.lacity.org/eir/HollywoodCenter/Deir/ELDP/\(H%20Remainder%20of%20Administrative%20Record/Public%20Comments/Public%20Correspondence/20200511%201819%20M.%20Ledding%20HC%20Request.pdf\)](https://planning.lacity.org/eir/HollywoodCenter/Deir/ELDP/(H%20Remainder%20of%20Administrative%20Record/Public%20Comments/Public%20Correspondence/20200511%201819%20M.%20Ledding%20HC%20Request.pdf))).

[3] Email from Jeannie Lee, Chief Counsel of Governor's Office of Planning and Research, to Charley M. Mims, President, Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Inc. (May 28, 2020) (emphasis added), available upon request.

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