

From: Wallace, Steven P. <swallace@ucla.edu>
Sent time: 05/18/2020 09:20:42 PM
To: mindy.nguyen@lacity.org
Subject: Hollywood Center Project - ENV-2018-2116-EIR
Attachments: Hollywood center.pdf

Dear Ms. Nguyen,

Attached please find my letter supporting the Hollywood Center Project. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Steven P. Wallace, Ph.D.
UCLA Fielding School of Public Health
Associate Director, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research
Professor, Department of Community Health Sciences

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May 18, 2020

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

Re: Hollywood Center Project - ENV-2018-2116-EIR

Dear Ms. Nguyen:

I am writing to express my personal support for the proposed Hollywood Center Project. As a professor of public health and gerontologist who has studied housing and health issues for many years, I am pleased to see this project assigning dedicated units to affordable housing for older adults.

As a certified Environmental Leadership Development Project (ELDP), Hollywood Center has committed to building a project that is carbon net-neutral. Hollywood Center will qualify as a LEED Gold project by providing environmentally sustainable design. Located 600 feet from the Hollywood and Vine Red Line station, the project is able to build around the use of mass transit, allowing residents, locals and visitors the opportunity to access Hollywood and other parts of Los Angeles without the need for an automobile. This is a direction that urban planners have advocated for years, and is especially helpful for older adults who may no longer drive.

Most important, this project speaks to the city's paramount needs including the need for jobs and housing, especially affordable housing for older adults. Those relying on their monthly income from only Social Security live very close to the federal individual poverty level. Even the maximum benefit -- which is very difficult to obtain -- nets an annual income that is far below the cost of a decent living in most of California, as documented by the [Elder Index](#) that we calculate at the UCLA CHPR. Our work has also shown that the majority of low-income LA County senior renters are [severely rent burdened](#), which these affordable units address.

The World Health Organization has identified Eight Domains of Livability that influence the quality of life for older adults, including Outdoor Spaces and Buildings, Transportation, Housing, Social Participation, Respect and Social Inclusion, Civic Participation and Employment, Communication and Information, Community and Health Services. Hollywood Center would provide older adults with access to these domains, by allowing future residents the opportunity to live in a vibrant community that provides access to essential resources such as convenient transportation options, well-designed pedestrian experiences, and access to world class healthcare all within a short subway ride from their home.

Hollywood's future residents will depend on this project. Just because they are not here now, we cannot ignore their voice. We must not continue to think that the Los Angeles planning of old will be the answer for the problems we will face tomorrow, or even now. For these reasons I support Hollywood Center, and I urge you to move this project forward without any delay.

Sincerely,

Steven P. Wallace, Ph.D.