

From: John Given <john@johngivenlaw.com>
Sent time: 09/23/2020 12:34:36 PM
To: Mindy Nguyen <mindy.nguyen@lacity.org>
Cc: Kevin Keller <kevin.keller@lacity.org>; vince.bertoni@lacity.org
Subject: Fwd: Comment Period Extension for Draft EIR - Downtown Los Angeles Community Plan Update

Dear Ms. Nguyen -

Please add this email and the attached email from the Department of City Planning regarding extension of the DEIR comment period for the Downtown Community Plan Update to the record in the Hollywood Center matter, as clear evidence that the City is well aware it has the discretion to extend comment periods for Draft Environmental Impact Reports. The comment period currently posted at the Downtown Community Plan update website (available at <https://planning.lacity.org/development-services/eir/downtown-community-plan-updatenew-zoning-code-downtown-community-plan>) shows the comment period as August 6 to October 20, 2020 (75 days). As described in Planning's email of yesterday, that comment period has now been extended by an additional 45 days, to December 4, 2020 (a total of 120 days).

By way of comparison, the entire comment period for the Hollywood Center project was only 45 days. The City refused to extend the comment period despite repeated requests to do so from a number of concerned citizens complaining there was insufficient time to review, assimilate, and comment on the especially lengthy Hollywood Center DEIR, especially in light of the recent COVID pandemic lockdowns that made public participation considerably more difficult.

You stated the following in your email of May 5, 2020 to Mary Ledding, who on May 4, 2020 requested a comment period extension due to COVID-19:

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>.

[Currently available at:

[https://planning.lacity.org/eir/HollywoodCenter/Deir/ELDP/\(H\)%20Remainder%20of%20Administrative%20Record/Agency%20Correspondence/Email%20Correspondence/Mindy%20Nguyen/20200505%200827%20M.%20Nguyen%20HC%20Request.pdf](https://planning.lacity.org/eir/HollywoodCenter/Deir/ELDP/(H)%20Remainder%20of%20Administrative%20Record/Agency%20Correspondence/Email%20Correspondence/Mindy%20Nguyen/20200505%200827%20M.%20Nguyen%20HC%20Request.pdf).]

If your above response to Ms. Ledding is true, community members deserve to know what the "unusual circumstances" are that caused the comment period in the Downtown Community Plan Update to be extended to 120 days, almost three times the time provided for the Hollywood Center project, when the City could find no such "unusual circumstances" to permit extension of the comment period in the Hollywood Center case. The public reasonably perceives the only distinction between these two cases is that the City may actually care what the community thinks about the Downtown Community Plan Update.

Sincerely,

John Given

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Begin forwarded message:

From: Los Angeles City Planning <brittany.arceneaux@lacity.org>

Subject: Comment Period Extension for Draft EIR - Downtown Los Angeles Community Plan Update

Date: September 22, 2020 at 11:38:19 AM PDT

To: john@johngiven.com

Reply-To: brittany.arceneaux@lacity.org



Dear Downtown Stakeholder,

In August, City Planning released the **Downtown Community Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report** (DEIR), along with other **draft documents**.

Public input and engagement are critical to this process, and we appreciate your thoughts and comments. To better facilitate public review of the DEIR, City Planning has extended the deadline to submit comments on the DEIR to **December 4, 2020**.

If you wish to submit comments on the Draft EIR, please submit your written comments (*including a name, telephone number, and contact information and the following file number ENV-2017-433-EIR*), via mail or e-mail to the following addresses:

Brittany Arceneaux, City Planner
City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning
200 North Spring Street, Room 667
Los Angeles, CA 90012
brittany.arceneaux@lacity.org

Beyond the DEIR comment period, general public comments are also welcome continually until the Plan is adopted by City Council.

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