

LETTER NO. 27

Dated: 2/22/01

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COMMENT 27.1

I am writing on behalf of Esperanza Community Housing Corporation regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Report on Staples Sports and Entertainment District. ECHC has developed 150 units of large family affordable housing for low income families earning 30%-50% of median income in the Hoover-Adams and Maple-Adams neighborhoods. We have a waiting list of over 600 families who are desperate for decent, safe, affordable housing.

We are very concerned how the proposed project will affect the surrounding neighborhood – low-income families already impacted by the loss of affordable housing, increased traffic and noise pollution. The families who live the closest to this development project bear the greatest environmental and economic burden.

The proposed 3.75 million square foot development expansion with a 7 year construction plan will profoundly affect the surrounding neighborhood with predictable gentrification and physical deterioration of buildings due to neglect and loss of affordable housing in the area.

RESPONSE 27.1

Existing conditions, such as those associated with operation of STAPLES Center, were carefully considered in the planning of the Los Angeles Sports and Entertainment District Project and also contributed to the assessment of identifying the potential impacts of the Project and mitigation measures. It is important to note that although the STAPLES Center is owned by the Project Applicant, it is separate and distinct from the proposed Project, consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(c) which states, “[t]he term project refers to the activity which is being approved and which may be subject to several discretionary approvals by governmental agencies.” STAPLES Center underwent its own environmental review process and the Final EIR for that project was certified by the City in 1997.

Regarding affordable housing, refer to Responses to Comments Nos. 15.7 to 15.16 and 15.36. The potential impacts of the proposed project on traffic congestion were analyzed in the Draft EIR in Section IV.F.1. Traffic. Also refer to Responses to Comments 15.19 and 15.20 for discussions

regarding traffic. Refer to Response to Comment 15.29 regarding noise impacts. Refer to Response to Comment 15.4 regarding the Project's construction period.

COMMENT 27.2

Specifically we request the following:

1) The City thoroughly and properly address the significant environmental impacts identified in the draft EIR through mitigation measures that are community developed and community based;

RESPONSE 27.2

Refer to Response to Comment 16.2.

COMMENT 27.3

2) The City review and implement requests for additional analysis and mitigation measures developed by the Figueroa Corridor for Economic Justice in their comments to the draft EIR;

RESPONSE 27.3

The City has reviewed the requests developed by the Figueroa Corridor Coalition for Economic Justice and has responded to these requests. Refer to Letter No. 15 and associated Responses to Comments.

COMMENT 27.4

3) The City request that a full energy analysis be completed in the final EIR, including appropriate mitigation and conservation measures as required by CEQA and;

RESPONSE 27.4

Refer to Response to Comment 15.3 for discussions regarding the Project energy analysis.

COMMENT 27.5

4) The City provide all of the final EIR materials translated into Spanish so that community residents can take an active part in this important decision-making process. To refuse to translate that materials would be a violation of civil rights law and bad public policy.

RESPONSE 27.5

Refer to Response to Comment No. 15.2.

COMMENT 27.6

I was disappointed that the 30-day extension for the comment period for the EIR was not granted. Obviously this is a complicated and extremely technical document that will have lasting and profound consequences on the residents of this Figueroa Corridor. It is also about the families who live and work in this community and who have had little opportunity to raise the quality of life issues of pollution, noise, traffic and loss of affordable housing.

It is the hope of Esperanza Community Housing Corporation that the City will give thoughtful and deliberate consideration to our requests.

RESPONSE 27.6

Refer to Response to Comment 15.2 regarding the public review period.