

LETTER NO. 35

Dated: 2/26/01

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COMMENT 35.1

Our St. Sophia Cathedral has been playing a leading role in trying to improve the quality of life for those who live in the Pico-Union area. We have led in the development of the Byzantine-Latino Quarter and have engaged the residents, business owners, public officials and numerous community groups in an effort to meet the needs of the people of this area and to make economic and social improvements that are beneficial to all.

RESPONSE 35.1

The comment is noted for the record and will be forwarded to the City decision makers for their review and consideration.

COMMENT 35.2

We have heard many concerns regarding the proposed Sports and Entertainment District in the area of Staples Center and are writing to provide our comments to the draft EIR. Specifically, we request the following:

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

RESPONSE 35.2

Refer to Response to Comment 16.2.

COMMENT 35.3

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

RESPONSE 35.3

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 35.4

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;

RESPONSE 35.4

Refer to Response to Comment No. 15.3.

COMMENT 35.5

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

RESPONSE 35.5

Refer to Response to Comment No. 15.2.

COMMENT 35.6

5. The City request that the Developer incorporate into the Project proposal community benefits such as affordable housing, quality jobs and community services that will help mitigate negative Project impacts. These benefits are outlined in the FCCEJ's comments to the DEIR.

RESPONSE 35.6

Refer to Responses to Comment 15.7 to 15.16 and 15.36.

COMMENT 35.7

We will actively oppose and resist any effort to change the traffic patterns that cross our high population district. The neighborhood environment of our city must play a primary role in city development. Although Staples Center is a benefit to our city, we will not sacrifice the quality of life in our area at the altar of the proposed Sports and Entertainment District. We learned our lesson from the highly exaggerated claims of prosperity by our Staples Center friends.

We hope that our concerns will be given appropriate attention.

RESPONSE 35.7

Section IV.F.1, Traffic, of the Draft EIR includes a Residential Street Analysis. As stated in the Draft EIR, the occurrence of impacts to residential streets is considered unlikely due to the fact that the arterial streets provide the most direct and convenient access to the Project site and that experience with STAPLES Center has shown no significant traffic intrusion into the neighborhood.