

**LETTER NO. 38**

Dated: 2/23/01

William J. Delaney  
St. Agnes Church  
Missionaries of the Precious Blood  
2625 South Vermont Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90007-2223

**COMMENT 38.1**

My name is Rev. William Delaney and I am pastor of St. Agnes Catholic Church a parish on the corner of South Vermont and Adams Boulevard with over 1400 families many of whom live near or immediately around the proposed Los Angeles Sports and Entertainment District. I am also a member of the Figueroa Corridor Coalition for Economic Justice.

I am writing to provide comments to the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR 2000-3577) for the proposed Sports and Entertainment District. I am most concerned about how the proposed project will affect community residents in the area, many of whom are predominantly low income people of color. I believe the people living in the neighborhoods surrounding the existing Staples Center already suffer negative impacts from the current operations, including the ongoing elimination of affordable housing, dramatically increased traffic and associated air and noise pollution, a marked rise in crime and vandalism and decreased pedestrian and public safety. While the rest of the region benefits from the Staples Center operations, the residents who live and work closest to Staples bear the heaviest environmental and economic burdens.

The proposed 3.75 million square foot project expansion is of grave concern to me. I suspect these residents and my parishioners will be even more negatively impacted by both the proposed seven year construction plan and the on-going operations of the project. I am most concerned about the failure of the draft EIR to adequately address the imminent gentrification of the surrounding community, including physical deterioration of buildings due to neglect and the loss of affordable housing in the area, the complete lack of an environmental energy analysis in the draft EIR, the identified negative air and noise quality impacts of the construction and operations and the possible violation of water quality regulations.

**RESPONSE 38.1**

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 and increased criminal activity were analyzed in the Draft EIR in Sections IV.F.1. Traffic and IV.I.2. Police. Refer to Responses to Comments 15.19 and 15.20 for discussions regarding traffic. Refer to Responses to Comments 15.18 and 15.29 regarding impacts to air quality and noise, respectively. Pedestrian safety issues are addressed in Response to comment 15.27. Refer to Response to Comment 15.4 regarding the Project’s construction period. Energy is addressed in Response to Comment 15.3 and water quality is addressed in Response to Comment 15.17.

**COMMENT 38.2**

Specifically, I 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 38.2**

Refer to Response to Comment 16.2.

**COMMENT 38.3**

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

**RESPONSE 38.3**

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 38.4**

- 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 38.4**

Refer to Response to Comment No. 15.3.

**COMMENT 38.5**

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

**RESPONSE 38.5**

Refer to Response to Comment No. 15.2.

**COMMENT 38.6**

I hope you recognize the seriousness of our concerns. I most eagerly look forward to a response from you with the hope that you will include these concerns in further deliberations about the proposed 3.75 million square foot expansion project.

**RESPONSE 38.6**

Refer to Response to Comment 15.2.