

**LETTER NO. 42**

Dated: 02/23/01

Susan Halcomb Craig  
United University Church  
Rev. Bear Ride, Peace Center Director  
817 W. 34th St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90007-3502

**COMMENT 42.1**

We write as Pastor and Peace Center Director of United University Church, located on Jefferson at the Hoover intersection, the north side of the USC campus. Our congregation is a diverse mix of University and neighborhood friends, and has traditionally identified with University workers who live in the immediate vicinity of the University.

We write to express my concern about how the proposed project will affect our community members, particularly low-income people of color who engage in our church programs. They already suffer negatively from current operations, especially the ongoing elimination of affordable housing and increased traffic, with its attendant rise in air and noise pollution. We believe these friends bear the heaviest environmental and economic burdens of all those affected.

**RESPONSE 42.1**

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 Responses to Comments 15.18 and 15.29 regarding impacts to air quality and noise, respectively.

**COMMENT 42.2**

We also believe that the proposed project expansion will even more negatively affect our neighbors and members -- especially the loss of affordable housing. And we are especially concerned about the lack of an environmental energy analysis in the draft EIR and possible violation of air pollution and water quality regulations.

**RESPONSE 42.2**

Refer to Responses to Comments 15.7 through 15.16 and 15.36 for discussions regarding affordable housing. Refer to Response to Comment 15.3 for discussions regarding the energy analysis for the Project. Refer to Response to Comment 15.18 for discussions regarding air quality. Refer to Response to Comment 15.17 for discussions regarding the water quality analysis for the Project.

**COMMENT 42.3**

On behalf of our community, we request that you address these concerns in writing and public publication, providing materials in, both English and Spanish for all to see.

**RESPONSE 42.3**

In accordance with Section 15132 of the CEQA Guidelines, responses to all comments on the Draft EIR received by the Lead Agency will be included in this Final EIR. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15095, the Final EIR will be made available for public review. In regards to the provision of Final EIR materials in Spanish, refer to Response to Comment No. 15.2.

**COMMENT 42.4**

We know we share with you a commitment to addressing the needs of all members in the community, but first, the needs of those who are the poorest and have the most to lose.

**RESPONSE 42.4**

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