

**LETTER NO. 43**

Dated: 2/25/01

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[No Address]

**COMMENT 43.1**

The DEIR for the Specific Plan for the Los Angeles Sports and Entertainment District grossly understates the impacts on the communities to the west of the project by incorrectly reporting the effects of Staples Center on the area and extrapolating that therefore no effects will be experienced as, a result of this development. No supporting evidence is given for these assumptions. Cumulative impacts are likewise grossly understated.

This sort of posturing is not surprising given the Staples Center track record which demonstrates a lack of responsiveness to the majority of concerns of the western communities and failure to meet all of the conditions of the settlement agreement of the lawsuit against the arena development project by the Coalition for Community Rights and me.

The communities of Pico-Union, Westlake and the Byzantine-Latino Quarter are situated [sic] to the the west. They are now and will continue to experience significant negative environmental impacts on: traffic, parking, public transportation, pedestrian safety, air quality, increased crime, and historic resources. Other issues which are recognized as important to the Entertainment District are also vitally needed in the western communities: jobs and economic benefit, parks, schools, landscaping and infrastructure improvements.

**RESPONSE 43.1**

The cumulative impacts of the Project were analyzed in the Draft EIR for each environmental issue included in Section IV. Environmental Impact Analysis. Traffic and public transportation were analyzed in the Draft EIR, Section IV.F.1, Traffic. Refer to Responses to Comments 15.19 and 15.20 for discussions regarding traffic. Parking was analyzed in the Draft EIR, Section IV.F.2. Parking. Refer to Responses to Comments 15.21 through 15.26 for discussions regarding parking. Pedestrian safety was analyzed in the Draft EIR in Section IV.F.3, Pedestrian Safety. Refer to Responses to Comments 15.27 and 15.28 for discussions regarding pedestrian safety. Air quality was analyzed in Section IV.E, Air Quality. Refer to Response to Comment 15.18 for discussions regarding air quality.

Crime and public safety were analyzed in the Draft EIR in Section IV.I.2, Police. Historic resources were analyzed in the Draft EIR in Section IV.L, Architectural/Historic Resources. Employment impacts were analyzed in the Draft EIR in Section IV.C, Population, Housing, and Employment. Impacts to parks were analyzed in the Draft EIR, Section IV.I.4, Parks and Recreation. Refer to Responses to Comments 15.30 and 15.32 for discussions regarding parks and open space. School impacts were analyzed in the Draft EIR in Section IV.I.3, Schools. Infrastructure improvements, including storm drains, water, and sewer facilities, were analyzed in the Draft EIR in Sections IV.D, Drainage and Surface Water Hydrology, IV.J.1, Water, and IV.J.2, Sewer, respectively.

**COMMENT 43.2**

Issues which are not addressed in the DEIR but which are required by these communities are: emphasis on the value and reuse of historic resources (home ownership programs for low to medium income families), bike facilities and lanes, childcare facilities, senior citizen assistance, access to facilities and events by community groups at affordable rates.

**RESPONSE 43.2**

As discussed in Section IV.L, Architectural/Historic Resources, the Project would not result in any impacts on historic resources. Refer to Response to Comment 15.7 regarding affordable housing. The Project would not have any effect on bicycle facilities or bicycle lanes. Childcare, senior citizen assistance, and public access to facilities and events by community groups are not CEQA-related issues and are not addressed in the EIR.

**COMMENT 43.3**

The creation of a specific plan which addresses these goals has long been a need in Pico Union, Westlake and the Byzantine-Latino Quarter. Several years ago when I investigated establishing a specific plan in Pico Union, I was told by the CRA staff and city agencies that the city no longer creates specific plans. Since the policy seems to have changed, a specific plan for the western communities as well as the Entertainment District must be a requirement of this project. Otherwise the western communities languish, sacrifice zones for the already wealthy to become even-more-so.

Thank you for considering my comments.

**RESPONSE 43.3**

Refer to Response to Comment 15.6 regarding the extension of the Los Angeles Sports and Entertainment District Specific Plan.