



Clínica Monseñor Oscar A. Romero

Providing Health Care and Education for the Indigent Residents of Los Angeles
Nonprofit Corporation Founded in 1983

February 26, 2001

Lateef Sholebo
Project Coordinator
Environmental Review Section
Los Angeles City Planning Department
221 N. Figueroa, Room 1540
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RECEIVED
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

FEB 26 2001

ENVIRONMENTAL
UNIT

VIA FACSIMILE: 213-580-5542

Dear Mr. Sholebo:

Clínica Monseñor Oscar A. Romero is a member of the Figueroa Corridor Coalition for Economic Justice. We provide over 30,000 medical and dental visits per year to individuals who lack health insurance.

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.

For example, during last week's Grammy Awards event at the Staples Center, one of the children at this clinic who is under six years old had to be hospitalized for a series of asthma attacks. Because of the traffic instigated and unmitigated by the Grammy event, an ambulance was unable to reach the clinic. The response time was significantly extended because of the event at the Staples Center and could have resulted in serious injury or death to this emergency patient.

With the proposed 3.75 million square foot project expansion to the site, we believe these residents will be even more negatively impacted by both the proposed 7-year construction plan and ongoing operations of the project. We are most concerned about the failure of the EIR to adequately address the traffic mitigation measures necessary to sustain a development of such magnitude.

At least some of the following measures must be taken to mitigate the damages evolved from this development:

- 1) The city must properly and thoroughly address the significant environmental impacts identified in the draft EIR through mitigation measures that are community developed and community based.

- 2) The city review and implement the requests for additional analysis and mitigation measures developed by the Figueroa Corridor Coalition for Economic Justice (of which Clinica Romero is a member) in their comments to the draft EIR;
- 3) The city request that a full energy analysis be completed in the final EIR, including appropriate mitigation and conservation measures as required by CBQA;
- 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 the materials would be a violation of civil rights law and bad policy, and;
- 5) That the city review and implement analysis on the direct health and safety dangers to the residents and children of the area given current asthma and lead statistics and develop mitigation measures to address the "lead hot zone" issues that are a direct result of the Staples Project and would be further exacerbated by the project expansion.

We hope you will seriously consider the requests and demands outlined in this letter. The health and safety of tens of thousands of children who live in the area are directly at stake!

Sincerely,

Roland Palencia
Executive Director

Cc: Figueroa Corridor Coalition for Economic Justice