

# COALITION for COMMUNITY HEALTH

(Formerly the Health Care Consortium of Central Los Angeles)

*Increasing health access in Central Los Angeles*

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February 23, 2001

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ENVIRONMENTAL  
UNIT

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

RE: Draft EIR 2000-3577, Los Angeles Sports and Entertainment District

Dear Mr. Sholebo:

The Coalition for Community Health (CCH) has been working since 1991 to improve the health status of community members in Central and South Central Los Angeles. CCH is a collaborative of hospitals, clinics and community-based organizations collaborating in the creation of a healthy community in Central Los Angeles for those members of the community most in need, including the medically indigent and medically under-served. More than a dozen of our stakeholder organizations work with populations living in and near the area targeted for expanded development by the Staples Center.

We are writing to express our comments on the draft EIR for the proposed Staples Sports and Entertainment District. We are especially concerned about how the proposed project will affect community residents in the area. We have heard directly from our clients and community representatives that they are being negatively impacted by the current Staples Center development. The issues include the on-going elimination of affordable housing; dramatically increased traffic and resultant air and noise pollution; a significant rise in crime and vandalism; difficulty in obtaining parking spaces; and decreased pedestrian and public safety. While others may benefit from the Staples Center, those who live and work closest to the site have had to suffer significant environmental and economic burdens.

We believe the proposed 3.75 million square foot expansion will greatly exacerbate the problems noted above. We are most concerned about the failure of the draft EIR to adequately address the imminent gentrification of the surrounding areas, linked to the physical deterioration of buildings due to neglect by landlords who anticipate selling their buildings, and the loss of affordable

February 23, 2001  
Lateef Sholebo  
Page 2

housing. Especially alarming is the complete lack of an environmental energy analysis, given the issues of air and noise quality deterioration due to construction and general operations, and the possible violation of water quality regulations.

In light of the above concerns, 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;
2. The City review and implement the requests for additional analysis and mitigation measures developed by the Figueroa Corridor Coalition for Economic Justice in their comments on 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 CEQA; and
4. The City provide all of the final EIR materials translated into Spanish so that community residents can take part in this important decision-making process. To refuse to translate the materials would be not only bad public policy, but also a violation of civil rights law.

The proposed Staples' Sports and Entertainment District project will have a large-scale and permanent impact on the communities our Coalition represents. For this reason, it is imperative that the final EIR be as thorough as possible. We look forward to a response from your office regarding this request.

Sincerely,



Tina Christopulos, MPH  
Programs Director  
Coalition for Community Health

Cc: Figueroa Corridor Coalition for Economic Justice