



*Saint Sophia Cathedral* + Greek Orthodox Community

February 26, 2001

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CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
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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  
Fax: (213) 580-5542

Dear Mr. Sholebo:

Our St. Sophia Cathedral has been playing a leading role in trying to improve the quality of life for those who live in the Pico-Union area. We have led in the development of the Byzantine-Latino Quarter and have engaged the residents, business owners, public officials and numerous community groups in an effort to meet the needs of the people of this area and to make economic and social improvements that are beneficial to all.

We have heard many concerns regarding the proposed Sports and Entertainment District in the area of Staples Center and are writing to provide our comments to the draft EIR. Specifically, 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 Figueroa Corridor Coalition for Economic Justice 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 CEQA;
- 4) The City provide all of the final EIR materials translated into Spanish so that community residents can take active part in this important decision-making process. To refuse to translate the materials would be a violation of civil rights law, and bad public policy; and
- 5) The City request that the Developer incorporate into the Project proposal community benefits such as affordable housing, quality jobs and community services that will help mitigate negative Project impacts. These benefits are outlined in the FCCEJ's comments to the DEIR.

We will actively oppose and resist any effort to change the traffic patterns that cross our high population district. The neighborhood environment of our city must play a primary role in city development. Although Staples Center is a benefit to our city, we will not sacrifice the quality of life in our area at the altar of the proposed Sports and Entertainment District. We learned our lesson from the highly exaggerated claims of prosperity by our Staples Center friends.

We hope that our concerns will be given appropriate attention.

Respectfully,

  
Fr. John S. Bakas, Dean

  
Fr. Paul T. Paris

cc. Figueroa Corridor Coalition for Economic Justice (FCCEJ)

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