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Sunday, February 25, 2001

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**RECEIVED**
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

FEB 27 2001

ENVIRONMENTAL
UNIT

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

Dear Mr. Sholebo:

St. Philip's Episcopal Church is a historic congregation in South Los Angeles. We have served generations of residents in the Figueroa/Central Avenue community just south of downtown Los Angeles. We have been very involved, together with other congregations in Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice, to insure that all of the development that is going on in our area benefit the local residents who have long been deprived of a good quality of life in this community.

We are writing to comment to the draft EIR for the proposed development of a Sports and Entertainment District. We are especially concerned about how this project will affect the community residents, who are predominantly low income, black and Latino families. We have met many of the residents who have expressed the many ways that the development of the Staples complex has already negatively impacted their daily living. Affordable housing has been eliminated without replacement, there is a dramatic increase in traffic which has in turn increased air and noise pollution, as well as safety concerns posed by drunk and disorderly patrons of events at the sports arena. For those living near the Staples Center it is difficult to see the benefits from this development directly on their lives. It seems unfair, that those with the least resources and options should suffer the most from the negative impact of this project.

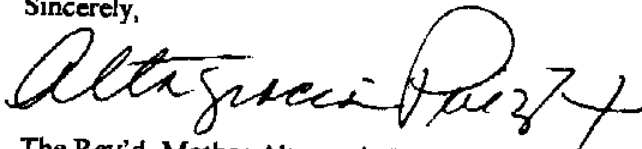
This is only made more urgent because the proposed expansion will make life impossible for the residents. We are very concerned about the failure of the draft EIR to adequately address the imminent gentrification of the surrounding community, including physical deterioration of buildings due to neglect and the loss of affordable housing in the area; the complete lack of an environmental energy analysis in the draft EIR; the identified negative air and noise quality impacts of the construction and operations; and the possible violation of water quality regulations.

I would hope that in the spirit of quality planning and truly benefiting all of the residents of Los Angeles, and especially the neighbors of this complex the following concerns would be addressed:

- 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 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 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.

I hope that these very reasonable requests will be addressed immediately. Failure to do so would only show that development in our communities is rarely good news for the low income residents who have already suffered from a lack of enforcement of housing standards and services from the City.

Sincerely,



The Rev'd. Mother Altagracia Perez, STM
Rector

cc: Figueroa Corridor Coalition for Economic Justice (FCCEJ)