

NUMBER 11915

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Project Title: L.A. Arena Sports and Entertainment District
Case Number: EIR 2000-3577

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CITY OF LOS ANGELES
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ENVIRONMENTAL
UNIT

Los Angeles City Planning Department
Environmental Review Section
221 North Figueroa Street, Room 1500
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Sir or Madam,

As a downtown resident and Staples Center arena employee, I strongly oppose the L.A. Arena Sports and Entertainment District construction project. The potential problems far outweigh any benefits. Downtown Los Angeles will not be the recipient of any economic boom, merely one more neighborhood neglected at the expense of private profits.

TRAFFIC

Ever since the Staples Center arena opened in October 1999, traffic has increased dramatically. Before and after an event, the surrounding streets are filled with vehicles blocking the intersections, and freeways come to a complete stop. It is extremely difficult for downtown residents to reach their destination.

PARKING

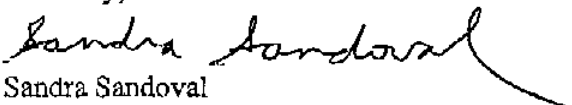
Street parking restrictions and parking lot fees have increased since Staples Center opened. For example Olympic, Flower, 11th, and 9th streets become occupied for hours by Staples Center patrons. I see vehicles parked illegally, even though signs clearly indicate parking is not permitted. If this construction project is built on property currently being used as parking lots, I do not understand how it will help improve the traffic and parking problem already occurring.

EXAMPLE

Part of the proposed project is to build a concert theater. Downtown Los Angeles already houses several theaters, for example the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Mark Taper Forum, Ahmanson Theater and (currently under construction) Walt Disney Concert Hall. Several other theaters: Million Dollar, Los Angeles, Loew's State, Orpheum, Palace, Tower, Olympic, Globe, Rialto, Roxie, Cameo, Arcade and Belasco could be renovated and open for use. Why should we build another theater while these Historic Broadway Theaters currently stand vacant?

Staples Center events do not benefit the downtown community at large. Such activities are insular by nature and detour people from visiting other downtown attractions. I strongly believe the L.A. Arena Sports and Entertainment District construction project needs to be re-evaluated.

Sincerely,


Sandra Sandoval