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**Subject:** Public Comment--Hollywood Center Project Environmental Case: ENV-2018-2116-EIR State Clearinghouse No.: 2018051002

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May 31, 2020

TO: Department of City Planning  
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221 North Figueroa Street, Suite 1350<sup>[SEP]</sup>  
Los Angeles, CA 90012<sup>[SEP]</sup>  
Attn: Mindy Nguyen, City Planner via Email: [Mindy.Nguyen@lacity.org](mailto:Mindy.Nguyen@lacity.org)

CC: Eric Garcetti, LA City Mayor ([mayor.garcetti@lacity.org](mailto:mayor.garcetti@lacity.org))<sup>[SEP]</sup>  
Mitch O'Farrell, LA City Council Member District 13 ([councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org](mailto:councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org))  
Central Hollywood Neighborhood Council District ([alex@mcapus.com](mailto:alex@mcapus.com))<sup>[SEP]</sup> David Ryu, LA City Council Member District 4 ([david.ryu@lacity.org](mailto:david.ryu@lacity.org))<sup>[SEP]</sup> Vince Bertoni, Director of City Planning ([vince.bertoni@lacity.org](mailto:vince.bertoni@lacity.org))<sup>[SEP]</sup> Kevin Keller, Officer of City Planning ([kevin.keller@lacity.org](mailto:kevin.keller@lacity.org))

RE: Public Comment--Hollywood Center Project Environmental Case: ENV-2018-2116-EIR State Clearinghouse No.: 2018051002

Dear Department of City Planning, Mindy Nguyen, Mayor Garcetti and Councilmember O'Farrell,

I am, Blumes Tracy, a resident at the Broadway Hollywood Building Stakeholder and Historic Resource: The building and sign are a LA Historical-Cultural Monument and the building is a contributor to the Hollywood Blvd Commercial and Entertainment District with its primary entrance and exit now located at 1645 Vine Street, at the corner of Hollywood Blvd. The building is identified in the EIR as: 6300 Hollywood Boulevard (B.H. Dyas Department Store Building/Broadway Department Store), Map No. B.12.

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I arrived in Hollywood the fall 1991. I lived in Hollywood Hills on Hillside Drive. I was just a kid from Bunkie, Louisiana with \$953.00 and a dream. I knew one person when I arrived in Hollywood. I remember on lonely nights I would walk from my place to the guardrail and sit with my journal as I gazed out at the Hollywood skyline. I would write about how awesome it was to see Capitol Records, the cool Neon Signs that littered the skyline, and the historic old buildings that I had seen in movies and documentaries as a boy. I would cry my eyes out yearning for my family. But I knew this was my journey...In my thirty years since, I have served the entertainment industry and the communities that I have resided. I have always paid taxes individually and as a company...plenty of taxes I might add. A few years back my life took an unexpected turn when I got divorced. I then settled back into a place that I now call home, The Broadway Hollywood. I was on my rooftop looking out at the Hollywood sign and Capitol Records building when I realized my life had come full circle now living less than one mile from where it all started. I began my new life in Hollywood.

I am appalled that the EIR was released on April 15, in the middle of a pandemic, with only a 45-day comment period. To expect me to review a 1500-page document in the middle of a Shelter at Home order that has completely disrupted my daily life is clearly inappropriate and unacceptable. My review has necessarily been limited by this administrative failure.

I am completely dumbfounded that a project of this magnitude is even being considered in the city of Hollywood at the proposed site. It really begs to question if our city council members have a hand on the pulse of our community at large because a project of this scale and scope doesn't belong anywhere in the heart of Hollywood. The EIR fails to adequately examine the very negative aesthetic impact of the Hollywood Center. Its two gigantic skyscrapers irreversibly damage the integrated

visual look of the Hollywood area from whatever direction you look. Additionally, an iconic feature of Hollywood is the Broadway Hollywood sign, which can be viewed by cars on the 101 Freeway as they enter Hollywood. This view will be lost. The aesthetic damage is equally severe at the Broadway Hollywood (and neighboring buildings), since the Hollywood Center will block views of such Hollywood landmarks as the Hollywood Sign and the Griffith Park Observatory, diminishing the aesthetic and cultural significance of the building.

Perhaps most importantly, the EIR is completely deficient in its conclusion that the Hollywood Center will have no significant transportation impact. Before the pandemic traffic was jammed at the Hollywood/Vine intersection. This has been exacerbated by the recent installation of a four-way walk sign (which was not taken into account in the EIR). Traffic will be even worse in future years since diminished ridership on public transportation will result from concerns over the spreading of infectious diseases in crowded spaces. Neither of these factors is considered in the EIR.

The Broadway Hollywood will be particularly negatively impacted because its only entrance and exit is a narrow alley that can be entered only by going south on Vine past Hollywood Blvd and then turning right. The increase in traffic at the Hollywood/ Vine intersection will make it even more difficult to enter our building.

Notwithstanding this, the EIR reaches the ridiculous conclusion that the Hollywood Center Project will result in no increased traffic. I am shocked by this conclusion and request that the traffic study be redone appropriately.

There is also no consideration taken into account in the EIR regarding the proposed closure of one lane of traffic heading east and one lane of traffic heading west on Hollywood Blvd as proposed by Council Member O'Farrell's office for, The Heart of Hollywood Project.

The EIR report is so egregious that it smells a lot like the article that posted on May 28 by Andrew Blankstein. Former Council Member, Jack Weiss said, "This is the worst corruption scandal in modern Los Angeles history."  
<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/ex-aide-l-council-member-confesses-massive-bribery-plot-implicates-n1216191>

Finally, the EIR notes that the Hollywood Center may take up to six years to build. This will clearly result in major traffic disruption for a long period. This factor by itself demands that the utmost scrutiny be given to the project before it disrupts Hollywood for the better part of a decade. It is clear to me that such scrutiny has not occurred and please consider the cumulative effect of all the capital and development projects happening in the city at the same time because when streets are closed and traffic redirected it leads to more traffic on fewer streets that will be impacted because there are only so many streets that we as residents and the commuters may access leading to more unsightly and intolerable traffic that continues to erode the very fabric of our quality of life.

I request that you all truly consider all the negative impacts that this project would bring to ours and the surrounding communities: totally altering the historical and cultural iconic skyline of Hollywood forever, disrupting our quality of life again, and a health hazard with what little we know of the Corona-Virus.

It would be irresponsible and negligent of our elected and appointed officials to even consider this project for development in our community.

Sincerely,

Blumes Tracy

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