


CARECEN

CENTRAL AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER / CENTRO DE RECURSOS CENTROAMERICANOS

February 22, 2001

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

 Glenda Martinez, Esq., Chair
 Univision Communications, Inc.

 Martha I. Arevalo, Vice Chair
 Rogers & Associates

 Hector Aquiles Magaña, Secretary
 California State University Northridge

 Susan Lefebvre, Esq., Treasurer
 Los Angeles City Attorney's Office

 Maribel S. Medina, Esq., At Large
 Richards, Watson & Gershon

 Gloria P. Annicchiarico
 Department of Water and Power

 Oscar Chacon
 Salvadoran American
 National Network

 Linton Joaquin, Esq.
 National Immigration Law Center

 Herbert A. Medina, Ph.D.
 Loyola Marymount University

 Douglas F. Mirell, Esq.
 Loeb & Loeb, LLP

 Fernando de Necochea
 Southern California Edison

 Steven T. Nutter, Esq.
 SEI, Local 399

 Edwin Urbino
 Community Organizer

 Francisco J. Uribe
 GTE Service Corporation

 Angela Sanbrano
 Executive Director

 Affiliations listed for
 identification purposes only

RECEIVED
 CITY OF LOS ANGELES

FEB 23 2001

 ENVIRONMENTAL
 UNIT

 Lateef Sholebo, Project Coordinator
 Environmental Review Section
 Los Angeles City Planning Department

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

Dear Mr. Sholebo:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Central American Resource Center (CARECEN) of Los Angeles. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization providing immigration legal services, youth and family technology and education classes, and civic and cultural participation programs to over 24,000 individuals each year through direct service. Many of our clients live in Pico Union and downtown L.A., where the Sports and Entertainment District is planned.

We are writing to provide our comments on the draft EIR for this project. As a nonprofit agency serving the economically disadvantaged, we are concerned about the negative effects the proposed project will make on the families living in those neighborhoods. The existing Staples Center already provides a number of negative outcomes to the local community, such as the ongoing elimination of affordable housing; a marked rise in crime and vandalism; greatly increased traffic, and with it, the associated air and noise pollution; and decreased pedestrian and public safety. While the rest of the region benefits from the Center's operations, residents who live and work closest to the Staples Center endure the heaviest environmental and economic suffering.


With the proposed 3.75 million square foot project expansion, it is our belief that these families will be even more adversely impacted by both the proposed seven-year construction and the ongoing operations of the project. One of our primary concerns is the failure of the draft EIR to adequately address the imminent impact of several issues: the physical deterioration of buildings due to neglect and the loss of affordable housing in this vicinity, due to the planned gentrification of the surrounding community; the complete lack of an environmental energy analysis in the draft EIR; the possible violation of water quality regulations; and the identified negative air and noise quality impacts of the construction and operations.

We respectfully request the following courses of action from the City of L.A. :

1. To properly and completely address the significant environmental impacts identified in the draft EIR through mitigation measures that are developed with and based by the community;
2. To review and implement the requests for additional analysis and mitigation measures developed by the Figueroa Corridor Coalition for Economic Justice in their comments to the draft EIR;
3. To request that a full energy analysis be completed in the final EIR, including appropriate mitigation and conservation measures as required by CEQA; and
4. To provide all of the final EIR materials translated into Spanish so that the community residents can take active part in this important decision-making process. A refusal to translate the materials would be a violation of civil rights law, and bad public policy.

We hope the City will take the safety and well-being of the community into account in this matter.

Sincerely,


Angela Sanbrano
Executive Director

Cc: Figueroa Corridor Coalition for Economic Justice