



Esperanza Community Housing Corporation

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FAX / MAIL

February 22, 2001

Lateef Sholebo, Project Coordinator
Environmental Review Section
Los Angeles Planning Department
221 N. Figueroa Rm. 1540
Los Angeles, 90012 CA

Dear Mr. Sholebo,

I am writing on behalf of Esperanza Community Housing Corporation regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Report on Staples Sports and Entertainment District. ECHC has developed 150 units of large family affordable housing for low income families earning 30% -50% of median income in the Hoover-Adams and Maple-Adams neighborhoods. We have a waiting list of over 600 families who are desperate for decent, safe, affordable housing.

We are very concerned how the proposed project will affect the surrounding neighborhood – low-income families already impacted by the loss of affordable housing, increased traffic and noise pollution. The families who live the closest to this development project bear the greatest environmental and economic burden.

The proposed 3.75 million square foot development expansion with a 7 year construction plan will profoundly affect the surrounding neighborhood with predictable gentrification and physical deterioration of buildings due to neglect and loss of affordable housing in the area.

Specifically we request the following:

- 1). The City thoroughly and properly 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 requests for additional analysis and mitigation measures developed by the Figueroa Corridor 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 and;
- 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 that materials would be a violation of civil rights law and bad public policy.

I was disappointed that the 30-day extension for the comment period for the EIR was not granted. Obviously this is a complicated and extremely technical document that will have lasting and profound consequences on the residents of this Figueroa Corridor. It is *also* about the families who live and work in this community and who have had little opportunity to raise the quality of life issues of pollution, noise, traffic and loss of affordable housing.

It is the hope of Esperanza Community Housing Corporation that the City will give thoughtful and deliberate consideration to our requests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sister Diane Donoghue". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Sister Diane Donoghue
Executive Director, ECHC