

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL CHURCH

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February 26, 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

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CITY OF LOS ANGELES
FEB 27 2001
ENVIRONMENTAL
UNIT

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

Dear Mr. Sholebo:

St. Vincent de Paul is a Roman Catholic church located at Figueroa and Adams about fifteen blocks south of the Staples Center. On an average Sunday, 7,000 people attend Mass at St. Vincent's. Most of our faithful are minority families, mainly latino low-income workers who struggle to make ends meet. Our parish community not only lives close to the Staples Center, but also will feel the impact the Staples expansion makes on housing, noise, and traffic.

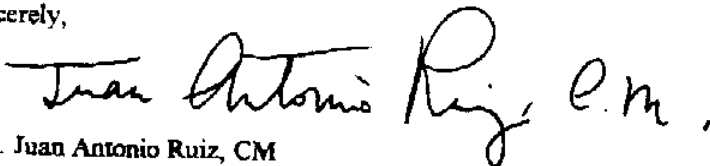
This letter concerns the draft EIR for the proposed Sports and Entertainment District. The residents of this area already suffer negative impacts from current operations of the Staples Center, especially the elimination of affordable housing, increased traffic and associated air and noise pollution, a rise in crime and vandalism, and decreased pedestrian and public safety. Because these residents are low-income, many non-citizen immigrants, there is a tendency to ignore both their voice and their needs. Justice demands that the EIR and all aspects of the proposed Staples expansion receive close scrutiny to be sure that the residents of the area benefit along with the business community.

With the Figueroa Corridor Coalition for Economic Justice, we specifically request that-

- 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.

Thank you for your attention to this letter and for your concern for the residents of Central Los Angeles impacted by this important project.

Sincerely,



Rev. Juan Antonio Ruiz, CM
Pastor

Cc: Figueroa Corridor Coalition for Economic Justice (FCCEJ)