

St. Agnes Church
Missionaries of the Precious Blood
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February 23, 2001

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

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Dear Mr. Sholebo,

My name is Rev. William Delaney and I am pastor of St. Agnes Catholic Church a parish on the corner of South Vermont and Adams Boulevard with over 1400 families many of whom live near or immediately around the proposed Los Angeles Sports and Entertainment District. I am also a member of the Figueroa Corridor Coalition for Economic Justice.

I am writing to provide comments to the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR 2000-3577) for the proposed Sports and Entertainment District. I am most concerned about how the proposed project will affect community residents in the area, many of whom are predominantly low income people of color. I believe the people living in the neighborhoods surrounding the existing Staples Center already suffer negative impacts from the current operations, including the ongoing elimination of affordable housing, dramatically increased traffic and associated air and noise pollution, a marked rise in crime and vandalism and decreased pedestrian and public safety. While the rest of the region benefits from the Staples Center operations, the residents who live and work closest to Staples bear the heaviest environmental and economic burdens.

The proposed 3.75 million square foot project expansion is of grave concern to me. I suspect these residents and my parishioners will be even more negatively impacted by both the proposed seven year construction plan and the on-going operations of the project. I am most concerned about the failure of the draft EIR to adequately address the imminent gentrification of the surrounding community, including physical deterioration of buildings due to neglect and the loss of affordable housing in the area, the complete lack of an environmental energy analysis in the draft EIR, the identified negative air and noise quality impacts of the construction and operations and the possible violation of water quality regulations.

Specifically, I request the following:

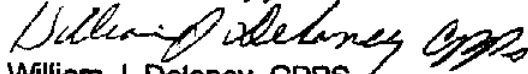
1) The City properly and thoroughly address the significant environmental impacts identified in the draft EIR through mitigation measures that are community developed and community based;

2) The City review and implement requests for additional analysis and mitigation measures developed by the Figueroa Corridor Coalition for Economic Justice in their 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 role in this most important decision making process. To refuse to translate the materials would be an egregious violation of civil rights law and make for bad public policy.

I hope you recognize the seriousness of our concerns. I most eagerly look forward to a response from you with the hope that you will include these concerns in further deliberations about the proposed 3.75 million square foot expansion project.

I am most sincerely yours,



William J. Delaney, CPPS

Pastor

St. Agnes Church

cc: Figueroa Corridor Coalition for Economic Justice