

February 25, 2001

Lateef Sholebo
Los Angeles Planning Dept
221 N. Figueroa St
Los Angeles, Ca

RE: EIR 2000-3577

Dear Mr. Sholebo

The DEIR for the Specific Plan for the Los Angeles Sports and Entertainment District grossly understates the impacts on the communities to the west of the project by incorrectly reporting the effects of Staples Center on the area and extrapolating that therefore no effects will be experienced as a result of this development. No supporting evidence is given for these assumptions. Cumulative impacts are likewise grossly understated.

This sort of posturing is not surprising given the Staples Center track record which demonstrates a lack of responsiveness to the majority of concerns of the western communities and failure to meet all of the conditions of the settlement agreement of the lawsuit against the arena development project by the Coalition for Community Rights and me.

The communities of Pico-Union, Westlake and the Byzantine-Latino Quarter are situated to the the west. They are now and will continue to experience significant negative environmental impacts on: traffic, parking, public transportation, pedestrian safety, air quality, increased crime, and historic resources. Other issues which are recognized as important to the Entertainment District are also vitally needed in the western communities: jobs and economic benefit, parks, schools, landscaping and infrastructure improvements.

Issues which are not addressed in the DEIR but which are required by these communities are: emphasis on the value and reuse of historic resources (home ownership programs for low to medium income families), bike facilities and lanes, childcare facilities, senior citizen assistance, access to facilities and events by community groups at affordable rates.

The creation of a specific plan which addresses these goals has long been a need in Pico Union, Westlake and the Byzantine-Latino Quarter. Several years ago when I investigated establishing a specific plan in Pico Union, I was told by the CRA staff and city agencies that the city no longer creates specific plans. Since the policy seems to have changed, a specific plan for the western communities as well as the Entertainment District must be a requirement of this project. Otherwise the western communities languish, sacrifice zones for the already wealthy to become even-more-so.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Terry duSoleil
Windmill Links Environmental Fund
Coalition for Community Rights