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HOLLYWOOD UNITED
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Certified Council #52
P.O.Box 3272 Los Angeles,
CA, 90078
www.HollywoodUnitedNC.org
huncoffice@gmail.com

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CITY OF LOS ANGELES

JUN 08 2011

ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT

23 May 2011

Michael J LoGrande
Los Angeles City Planning Department
200 Spring Street, Room 750
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Hollywood Community Plan Update
ENV-2005-2158-EIR
CPC no. 97-0043
State Clearinghouse No. 2002041009

The Board of Directors of the Hollywood United Neighborhood Council comment upon the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report on the proposed Hollywood Community Plan Update as follows. [Underlined references are to the published DEIR] [This letter was approved unanimously by the Board at its regular meeting on 16 May 2011.]

1. We wish to commend and thank Mary Richardson and Kevin Keller of the City Planning Department for their work on this intimidatingly large project. The format is handsome and readable. Their presentation to our Council was excellently organized. 11-1
2. We wish to note that this revision to the Hollywood Community plan is by law years overdue. The time for considering it allotted to us-----60 days--- --is very short when compared with the time that the Planning Department has taken to prepare it, replete with numerous postponements, often six months in length.
3. We have found many reasons to object to the Plan. Prime among them is the overloading of already inadequate Hollywood infrastructure. 11-2
 - Traffic: "...the Proposed Plan would result in an increase in trips of nearly 55% as compared to Existing (2005) conditions." Page 4.5-29 As expressed, the data supporting this figure are six years old. However, traffic in Hollywood increases annually. At present Franklin Avenue, for example, has severe gridlock morning and evening.

The EIR promises that there will “result in an unavoidable significant adverse transportation impact.” Page 4.5-30 The lost time, annoyance, increase in smog and dust resulting from a 55% increase in traffic are daunting to contemplate. The Plan offers no relief from this impact.

11-2
cont.

- Utilities: Most of Hollywood’s sewers and water mains are almost a century old. Notable lately in the news have been explosions of water mains in other parts of the city, attributed by the DWP to aging mains. With an increase in pressure to obtain more water for the new dwellings and enterprises projected for Hollywood such failures can be expected here. The EIR is silent on the impact on sewers in the Hollywood area, only remarking that the Hyperion plant on the seacoast can accommodate the projected increases. Electrical and fuel gas service lines will be overloaded as well. It is true that all these pipes, mains and cables can be replaced with larger, adequate lines. The cost will be very great, and it will fall upon the taxpayers and ratepayers, not the developers involved in this growth.

11-3

A further detailing of objections is redundant. The operant philosophy underlying the Hollywood Community Plan is mistaken. We challenge what we feel is an unexamined assumption in the Draft EIR and the Plan itself----- namely, that the Hollywood area should be forced to accommodate an increase in population density. Many impacts that seem “unavoidable” are in fact avoidable, if we simply choose to delay further population growth (other than natural increase from current residents, of course). This should not seem like a radical idea. Additionally, Hollywood has already met its population goals.

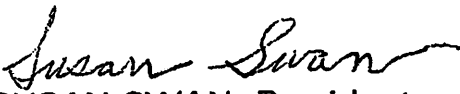
11-4

We do not believe the report adequately demonstrates any evidence that greater population density is either desired or necessary. Recent studies have indicated that previous population increase projections have not taken place.

Our public officials, Federal, State and City are all currently engaged in a desperate search for funds to maintain the present social and material facets of our country, state and city. This is not the time for projecting increased loads on the environment and infrastructure. Additionally, we challenge the idea that our HUNC area, and the larger Hollywood area in general, can be designed as a discrete piece, without regard to the other changes planned in our City. We challenge the impacts of putting more projects in “Redevelopment Areas,” since these do not increase the tax base. Hollywood is already resurgent, no longer subject to large areas of “blight.”

And we challenge the notion that increased density, on the model of New York City is appropriate or desirable for Hollywood, where our climate and our customs and traditions are different to other cities’.

Please direct your earnest efforts toward changing the plans contemplated for Hollywood.


SUSAN SWAN, President
Hollywood United N C


DAVID H SCHLESINGER,
PLUM Committee, HUNC

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