

Dear Governor Brown and/or members of the Governor's Office of Planning & Research,

I am writing about the Hollywood Center Project, which I know as the Millenium project.

As a regular person, who does not make my living in urban planning, architecture, or lobbying, I did not have enough time to do this topic justice. I haven't been able to run down very much evidence. It is my hope that the fine community organizations here such as the Hollywood United Neighborhood Council, and Fix the City, have been more successful.

Indeed, the inability of normal people to allocate time to things like this is one of the reasons that you should not be giving out CEQA streamlining privileges - to *anyone*. I am not even particularly against the Millenium project getting such treatment - although I *am* against it. You should know better. As if anyone ever *needed* a stadium, or an arena.

The only things I can add to this that might be helpful are my personal experiences. I moved to Hollywood in 2004, and in the fullness of time, I ended up serving 4 years on my neighborhood council. (Wonderful people, by the way. What Sen. De Leon said was unforgivable for someone who purports to be from LA. Then again, I'm not sure he really does, much.)

Politics in LA are dysfunctional. These CEQA privileges may sound reasonable if you live in a functional place - but we don't. The City of LA gets sued a lot because its officials ignore their own attorneys. Making it harder to sue here is a sin.

I feel confident that you will not listen - why should you? The city council sure didn't - but I persist. Most of the neighborhood councils in this area opposed the first project, but this did not matter. The project was in the area of my neighborhood council, and the councilmember would not even meet with us. (We were redistricted out of his district. Not by accident, I shouldn't think.)

I'm sure you are familiar with the term "soft corruption." Well, it is apt. (I hope I don't sound too harsh - I don't think the Councilmembers are technically "corrupt." At least I hope not. But getting into all *that* would take too long.)

Then, there's the earthquake fault. Millenium says it is not under their project. I hope they are right. As I will probably never step foot in it, that isn't really an issue for me.

What *does* bother me is that the person who realized that the City had failed to do its duty in finding the fault was a *regular person*. Not someone in Building & Safety. Not one of our fine state geologists, who apparently had assumed for decades that LA was on the job. I don't recall his name, but he was just some guy who lives in the Hills. I have a link but it won't have his name either - just some background. (<http://articles.latimes.com/2013/aug/02/local/la-me-hollywood-fault-millennium-20130802> If I can, I will try to scare up a better link, but it will be after your deadline.)

Does this sound to you like a place in which projects should move *faster*???

Then there's TOD. I have a working theory that all you insider types already know that it's complete hogwash. Hollywood has been hammered by development in the last few years, and the traffic gets worse and worse. There is one street into my neighborhood and it goes through an intersection with a 101 on-ramp. I live on a hill, there is no public transit, there isn't going to be any, and I don't believe in the gig economy (I respect working people - well since I *am* one, after all). I'm not rich enough to take cabs. *I drive*. So shoot me already.

Here is a link. I know you won't care, and that the suffering of the thousands upon thousands of ordinary people like me - people who are so normal, they don't have *time* to write anonymous screeds to public officials that they know are futile before they strike the first key - means nothing to you in your grand scheme of reducing GHGs by making commuting so miserable that people move away from California. Oops, I mean, so miserable they start *taking transit*. In *Los Angeles*. It's not *as* bad as Chairman Mao ... but I bet somewhere, he's getting a chuckle out of it. <http://www.laweekly.com/news/hollywoods-urban-cleansing-2612554>

Again, I realize this sounds like a First World Problem, and from your lofty post saving the planet it all sounds so whiny. The thing is, I don't actually think your plans are that green. I don't think we can fit all 9 billion people in one city, and if we did, it would be so miserable we'd all kill each other. (Wait - is *that* the plan? You might have something there.) You also run the risk of a backlash. Not much of one around *here* - the voters here are inert. But statewide, you could run into some issues.

I guess I just don't want you to think you're getting away with anything. That is, you *are* getting away with it ... but I know what you're up to. You're not fooling me. Densification isn't going to decarbonize transit, you are just rearranging people - to the *enormous profit* of people who already have a lot. And, you try to make people like me feel guilty to boot. Nice try, but no cigar for you.

As for Millenium, they actually aren't that bad. Very nice people, very easy to work with (they came to my committee a lot). If we could've made a deal with *them*, and canceled all the hideous cr*p that has been thrown up in the intervening years, we may have been better off. But in LA, that kind of long-term thinking doesn't happen. Their project is *egregiously out of scale*, mind you, and the traffic was too bad *then*, and it is *worse* now. (Ask Caltrans! Ha. Ha.)(Did you get that?) But, at least they would have built something that didn't hurt my eyes.

This won't mean anything either, but even with all this, you're still my favorite pol. I feel like you b.s. less than the others. I wish we didn't have term limits (except for on planning).

Well, thanks for reading this, if anyone did. I almost feel a little better.

Sincerely,
Anonymous