

SUBJECT: HOLLYWOOD CENTER
TRACKING: 2018051002

Dear Government Officials,

I am a 45 year resident and activist in Hollywood, and I am writing to you about the Hollywood Center Project. I hope my comments will be part of the public record and that you will take them under consideration in making your decisions.

Several years ago when this project was first presented as the MILLENNIUM PROJECT I wrote and testified AGAINST THIS PROJECT. I feel even more strongly that THIS PROJECT MUST BE DENIED. Since this project was originally and mistakenly approved by the City of Los Angeles, these developers and the City have lost lawsuits filed by stakeholders. Now this project appears again. Changing the name and some of the details does not change the project.

The Hollywood Center is still GROSSLY AND DANGEROUSLY AND UNPRECEDENTEDLY OUT OF SCALE with the rest of Hollywood. Since this project was first presented other projects, much smaller ones, have been built in Hollywood, a 1920's small town, created neighborhood, with limited infrastructure---unlike for example downtown Los Angeles or Century City built with much wider streets. The streets in Hollywood used to be gridlocked for several hours a day and night, but since the recently built development, the streets are now NOT gridlocked for just several hours a day. Traffic is so much worse than when this project was first presented. Streets are already at over capacity most hours of the day. Also the Hollywood Center Project does not specifically mitigate its impact on the congestion that will occur since it is a block away from the 101 Freeway. Caltrans had expressed its grave concerns several years ago when this project was first presented, and nothing has changed since, except that conditions are even worse. Parking for bicycles and a repair shop are not sufficient. Why does this project have to be so big? Greed rather than safety is the priority. Hollywood can simply not sustain this. This project will not enhance Hollywood, but kill it. They do rightly reference "walkability" in regards to Hollywood. It will be the only way one will be able to access this significant part of Hollywood for miles.

Besides having streets navigable for transportation and emergencies in and through Hollywood there is another extremely important consideration. Hollywood is bordered to the north by the Hollywood Hills. In case of an emergency the ONLY way to evacuate these residential neighborhoods which sit in A VERY HIGH FIRE HAZARD ZONE is to the south through Hollywood. Many streets to the south are dead ended because they are cut off by the 101 Freeway, therefore the few streets that go through, like Vine and Gower are extremely important when there is limited infrastructure. For example, in the 1960's there was a fire where I now live, in Hollywoodland situated in the Hollywood Hills and almost directly north of Vine Street. There was only a small fraction of the traffic in Hollywood that there is now. Yet accounts of the fire say it took 200 LAPD just to handle the evacuation of the hills. It was the biggest traffic jam in the history of Hollywood to that time. What would happen today? Current conditions are already problematic. The addition of the Hollywood Center Project would make them utterly impossible. How many hundreds of people will die? How many lives are worth the temporary building jobs?

According to the state geologist this project sits on an ACTIVE FAULT which is against the law to build on. It is unbelievable that his project is being presented again. We all know why the word "MILLENNIUM" has been removed. These same developers built the Millennium Tower in San Francisco. Stakeholders had testified that the land was geologically unsuitable for that massive project. Their concerns were ignored, and the government approved it. The tower is now leaning and sinking, and it will probably be the largest real estate scandal and litigation in the history of the United States. Now unrepentant they want to repeat the same mistakes in Hollywood. Will the government repeat its same mistakes? At what point is this criminal? **The government should use the utmost skepticism in evaluating this project presented by these tainted and discredited developers instead of expediting it.** If you do approve this dangerous and irresponsible project than you might as well disband any planning departments and laws because it means that anything and everything can get approval regardless of safety.

You have the rare opportunity to view the future of a project before it is even built. Just look at San Francisco. I wish I could say "ignore it at your peril." But it's really "at OUR peril," because we are the ones that will have to live with it--not you. It will be our neighborhood you will be destroying and our lives you will be imperiling--not yours.

Don't be fooled by all of the "politically correct", "green", "senior living", "affordable housing," "public transportation", "bicycle" tap dance they are doing. It is the most massive, most dangerous, most inappropriate, and most destructive project ever introduced in Hollywood.

REJECT IT.

Sincerely,
Sarajane Schwartz