I am a long-term resident of Hollywood and request that you reject the Application for Environmental Leadership Development Project protection to the Hollywood Center Project based on the following facts and observations:

1. The original Millennium Project, the precursor project for the HCP, was filed by Millennium Hollywood LLC in 2013. The project did not go forward due to court order in 2015 and due, in part, to the question as to whether or not the Hollywood earthquake fault line ran under the project or was next to it in addition to CalTrans concerns for the impact on the adjacent freeway entrances. The HCP is simply the old plan with some minor changes with the major issues unresolved.

2. There are concerns about the developer’s methods that they will bring to this project as this developer is also responsible for the Millennium Tower in San Francisco that is now sinking into the ground because of their decision that it was unnecessary for the foundations to go down to bedrock.

3. Both the “old” Millennium Hollywood project, the San Francisco Millennium project, and the Hollywood Center Project involve extremely tall buildings and dense development and requires (or required) substantial and unusual variances. As a result, all of the above demand a greater scrutiny by the public. The fact that the developer’s earlier version of the HCP as well as the current project is to build next to an earthquake fault and they made a decision to build the San Francisco Millennium Tower on inadequate footing makes it clear that limiting the time for any lawsuit would be detrimental to the public interest. The public safety concerns are the potential problems of an earthquake and any damage that might occur to the HCP as well as the extensive problematic issues and potential public area problems that will result from the extreme size of the development if not built with adequate safeguards and oversight.

4. Hollywood is geographically at the center of Los Angeles. This project is of such a massive scale that any major failure on its part could negatively impact the ability of the city to transact business or for safety vehicles to get to the areas of need. This is especially true if the Hollywood Freeway is compromised due to the lack of complete and transparent planning and construction of the HCP.

4. The extreme size of the project and complexity of the major issues of public safety and potential infrastructure failure due to stress that this project will cause makes it virtually impossible for any of the potential major problems to be able to be litigated in a 275 day period under the Environmental Leadership Development Project designation. It will, in effect, cut off all public legal remedies for the public. To deny the public this right of remedy in light of the extraordinary safety issues that are raised and by the developer’s prior construction record would be a major disservice to the public. Relieving the developer of the potential of any lawsuits being filed could encourage them to make what would be expedient and perhaps cost saving construction decisions that could cause major safety and environmental problems that would affect a significantly populated geographical area. It is critical that all manner and methods of review and redress be available to the public to ensure that this project is built in a safe and responsible manner.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely yours,
Jim Van Dusen
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