

Millennium Hollywood Center Project
Tracking # 2018051002
Hollywood and Vine

Cross streets included in projects, impacted, and should REQUIRE STUDIES:
Yucca, Ivar, Vine, Argyle...

Case # CPC-2018-2657-CA
CPC-2018-2658-CE

To Whom It May Concern:

We would like to express our opposition of any 'streamline - ELDP' process for Millennium Hollywood Center Project.

Millennium's controversial Vine St. projects have a deeply worrying and quite controversial and corrupt history.

From the lack of the city's transparency to the Millennium funded area councilmember, the Mayor, and the other councilmembers.

These dangerous projects were obviously a 'done deal' before any pseudo hearings occurred.

Having participated in all the Millennium hearings, where the turnout and the opposition was overwhelming, and very active in our community, it was shocking to witness how Millennium succeeded in paying off so many city politicians, organizations opposed, city departments, and even succeeded in getting many law suits against the projects withdrawn by spreading around 'community benefits' to all that would be negatively impacted and were originally against Millennium Vine projects.

Having witnessed all of this, over the course of many months and many hearings, one could not help but wonder is this what went on in San Francisco..and how and why the Tilting and Leaning Millennium San Francisco Tower was occupied (then evacuated) when Millennium evidently knew of the problems, but kept them quiet until they couldn't any longer.

Are the risks of bad projects, and gambling with lives worth it?

Were 'community benefits' thrown around to keep people who also may have suspected the Leaning and Tilting Millennium San Francisco Tower problems quiet?

How different is this from Millennium hiring an unqualified geological consultant to contradict the State Geologist findings of the dangerous active earthquake fault line running through Hollywood Vine building site?

'Community benefits' and generous campaign contributions were spread around to help city politicians turn a blind eye to both State Geologist warnings (Dr. John Parrish confirmed active EQ fault line going through building site) and Caltrans warnings (deadly unsafe traffic conditions) and ignore it all and approve massive projects they were warned could actually risk human lives.

The State Geologist confirmed Active EQ Fault Line issue has not been resolved, has not been ruled on, yet the area councilmember, whose campaigns have been funded by Millennium, continues to misrepresent the issue, claiming to the public that the Judge found no active EQ fault line and all is safe. When the truth is that has not been ruled on since documents were not ready to be submitted by the deadline.

Please do not allow Millennium to have a 'streamlined ELDP' process.

Lives could be at stake and the Los Angeles leaders cannot be trusted to do due diligence to assure projects are safe and will not risk lives..

Unfortunately and potentially tragically, city leaders have consistently ignored dangerous project warnings, have always sided with developers and have been willing to risk human lives and risk law suits from communities throughout the city, whom they refuse to listen to, ignore and dismiss, in favor of accommodating developers funding their political careers.

MASSIVE HOLLYWOOD PROJECT SITS ATOP QUAKE FAULT, CALIFORNIA SAYS
<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-hollywood-fault-map-20141106-story.html>

“Our conclusion from the data is that there is an active fault, and it does run right along the course that’s right along the map,” state geologist John Parrish said.

NEW STATE FAULT MAPS SHOW HIGHER EARTHQUAKE RISKS IN HOLLYWOOD
<http://articles.latimes.com/2014/jan/08/local/la-me-0109-hollywood-fault-20140109>

The state's new map shows that three prominent Hollywood developments — the proposed Millennium Hollywood skyscraper project, The Blvd6200 development and a planned apartment complex on Yucca Street — are within the roughly 500-foot fault zone.

State geologist John Parrish said the state's fault line goes underneath both Millennium and Blvd6200.

"We feel very confident about where we drew that line, within a 50-foot accuracy back and forth..we're very confident it's there," Parrish told reporters at a downtown Los Angeles news conference.

"Surface rupture is very dangerous. In fact, it's calamitous to structures that are built across the surface trace of an active fault."

Los Angeles officials did not order trenching for any of the three projects before the City Council approved those projects.

We also are opposed to any new project blocking from view (and a very iconic view looking north up Vine St.), and compromising a historic resource, as Capitol Records Building is Historic Cultural Monument #857..

The historic building and the valuable recording studios and famous echo chambers could be compromised, building so close to Capitol Records Building and on top of an active EQ fault line.

HOLLYWOOD HERITAGE'S REASONS FOR OPPOSING MILLENNIUM VINE PROJECTS:

<http://www.hollywoodheritage.org/contact>

"Our organization has nominated many of the current Historic Cultural Monuments, listed the Hollywood Boulevard Commercial and Entertainment District in the National Register of Historic Places at the national level of significance, provided technical assistance to developers and owners of significant properties, and participated in public policy discussions through the formulation of the Community Redevelopment Plan of 1986 and subsequent urban design plans, specific plans and in property entitlement discussion involving historic resources.

These efforts have resulted in the rehabilitation of significant landmarks and districts in Hollywood.

Our expertise in this area has led us to the conclusion that the Millennium Hollywood project has significant and adverse impacts on a number of Hollywood's historic resources.

CEQA guidelines define a project as having a significant environmental impact when the project causes a substantial adverse change in significance of a historical resource as defined in State CEQA Section 15064.

The City of Los Angeles CEQA Thresholds Guide (2006, p. D.3-3) also maintains that a project would have a significant impact on historic resources if the project results in a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic resource by construction that reduces the integrity or significance of important resources on the site or in the vicinity via alteration of the resource's immediate surroundings.

....we believe that the proposed project would substantively alter the context in which these buildings gained their significance by compromising the immediate surroundings.

Portions of the project are grossly out of proportion with the identified resources, thereby minimizing them and irretrievably altering their setting.

Additionally, while we appreciate the inclusion of open space, the current design significantly changes the pedestrian environment of Hollywood.

Like many previous developments, it draws pedestrians away from the street and irrevocably alters the historic street wall along Vine and Argyle.

We also find the current version of the Millennium Hollywood Draft EIR to be deficient in its assessment that the project would not cause an adverse change in significance for the Hollywood Boulevard Commercial and Entertainment Historic District.

The heart of Hollywood is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and functions as one of the City of Los Angeles' major tourist destinations and economic engines.

The Hollywood Boulevard Commercial and Entertainment Historic District is a 12 block area of the commercial core.

The district contains 103 of the most important buildings in Hollywood, listed at the national level of significance in the National Register of Historic Places.

The development pattern of the 1920s and 1930s was characterized by the construction of buildings of generally 12 stories at major intersections, flanked by one and two-story retail structures.

The District was formally designated by the National Park Service on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior in 1985.....

L.A. City Council also ignored Caltrans letters and warnings and claimed all to be safe with Millennium projects.....

Caltrans Waves a Red Flag on Millennium

<http://articles.latimes.com/2013/jun/19/business/la-fi-hiltzik-20130619>

JUDGE THROWS OUT HOLLYWOOD MILLENNIUM SKYSCRAPER PROJECT

<http://www.laweekly.com/news/judge-throws-out-hollywood-millennium-skyscraper-project-5530876>

"Superior Court Judge James C. Chalfant has stopped the Millennium Hollywood twin skyscrapers project in its tracks, finding that top city officials ILLEGALLY IGNORED required parts of the Environmental Impact Review process and warning that the project could dramatically worsen traffic on the Hollywood Freeway and in the surrounding neighborhood.

His ruling means the investors cannot get any building permits from the city.

THE JUDGE FOUND THAT TOP LOS ANGELES ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS IGNORED CALTRANS WARNINGS about the dual towers' effects on traffic heading on and off the often backed-up ramps on the nearby 101 freeway.

Chalfant lectured city leaders, saying:

"The congestion of freeways in L.A. is subject to review because it's so terrible, and anything that may make it worse needs to be examined.

The issue is whether you need to follow the provisions of the responsible agency, Caltrans.

And the language and scholarly work on the issue says overwhelmingly 'yes.' ...

There were many aspects Caltrans wanted you to look at, that you didn't look at."

Instead of including in its Environmental Impact Report, or EIR, the required traffic studies conducted by Caltrans, Garcetti and the City Council chose to press forward with their own freeway traffic studies.

Judge Chalfant says this was illegal.

He ruled, the city is not allowed to conduct studies on freeway traffic using its own definitions and methods.

"Freeway traffic is the responsibility of experts at Caltrans, specifically, and not of the Los Angeles Planning Department or any other city department."

An interesting (and somewhat sad, but ironic) note...

During city council hearings the Millennium Vine developer announced his offer, his 'benefit to the community' in an effort to prove Millennium Vine projects would not impact or add to the already out of control, always in gridlock traffic in the area (proven by Caltrans warnings and the Judges ruling) , because all those inhabiting his twin skyscraper projects, one proposed to be the tallest in the history of Hollywood at 49 stories (on an active EQ fault line), would not create worse traffic, because all that inhabited his twin towers would not have cars, but would all ride bikes... So his 'community benefit' offer was an on site 'bicycle repair shop'.

Had he any knowledge of the area he would have known a cyclist had just been killed on Vine St., down the street from Millennium's proposed projects, the week before.

These sorts of lies are why Judges intervene in dangerous, bad, and corrupt projects.

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And the language and scholarly work on the issue says overwhelmingly 'yes.' ... There were many aspects Caltrans wanted you to look at, that you didn't look at."..Judge Chalfant

Please do not allow a 'streamline - ELDP process' for Millennium Hollywood Center Project, a project confirmed to be dangerous by the State Geologist, and a project that is so oversized, it will be dangerous and destructive to an area already experiencing too many overly dense projects and already experiencing complete and dangerous traffic paralysis.

Thank you,
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Geoghan
Hollywood, Ca.