

From: Swami Atmatattwananda <dougshiva@gmail.com>
Sent time: 05/30/2020 10:17:53 PM
To: mindy.nguyen@lacity.org
Subject: PROJECT CASE NUMBER ENV - 2078 - 206 - EIR, STATE CLEARING HOUSE NUMBER 201 805 1082

Mindy Nguyen -- City Planner

Dear Mindy Nguyen

I represent and speak on behalf of the

Vedanta Society of Southern California of Southern California and the residents of the various properties which comprise our religious community. We maintain and own these properties and sustain the well being, safety, and health of the people who live here on some portion of 2 blocks, right across from the Capitol Record building, on the north side of the Freeway (101.)

Vedanta Society of Southern California
1946 Vedanta Place
Hollywood, CA 90068

William A. Scott
Administrative Officer

1946 Vedanta Place
Main Residences and
Sanctuary
and Departments

1942 Vedanta Place

1944 Vedanta Place

1953 Vedanta Place

1956 N. Ivar Avenue

2000 N. Ivar Avenue
(15 unit Apartment

House)

6310 Vedanta Terrace
6317 Vedanta Terrace

6323 Vedanta Terrace
6325 Vedanta Terrace

6323 Vedanta Terrace
6327 Vedanta Terrace

6329 Vedanta Terrace
6331 Vedanta Terrace

6329 1/2 Vedanta Terrace
6333 Vedanta Terrace

2001 Vine Street
2011 Vine Street
2017 Vine Street

2027 Vine Street

162 - 163 Hollywood Park Place
Temple Gardens

We have many dimensional questions about the buildings proposed in this project case.

- 1) Has to do with the whole geological foundation, with the extreme risks associated with this proposal.

It does not take a rocket scientist (and I have studied geology under one of the leading scientists of his day, the textbook writer, who, incidentally taught David McCullough, author of *John Adams*, et al.) -- to realize that the extremely steep incline of Vine Street at Yucca, the site of the heart of the construction, is the product of an earthquake fault. The senior geologist expert for the Hollywood fault systems used to bring his students over to show them what a fault looks like. 5 feet one side or the other, especially with maps that were alleged to have been doctored, does not make a difference. Would anyone want to build an enormous building 5 feet, or 50 feet from the epicenter of the San Francisco earthquake of 1906? I happen to know quite a bit about the epicenter of that quake in Olema, California. We happen to own the property, across from the Epicenter Cafe. We have no plans to build any structure of any such irrational size on that property, which is surrounded by national forest.

Imagine the impropriety
of such an idea!

This is actually what lies at the base of the whole thing. Who would think of such a thing? This is a dangerously defective plan. And only a corporation headquartered thousands of miles away, based only on "take the money and run," would even *think* of such an idea.

What about the Residents? Ask them. Their opposition is 100%.

In an earlier incarnation of this ill-begotten, and ultimately ill-fated scheme, the proposal was two buildings, one 55 stories and one 50 stories high. Within feet of each other, flanking the Capitol Records building, one of Hollywood's architectural icons. Despite and contrary to everything they said, "Goodbye, Capitol Records." No more blue sky, and architectural feature of Los Angeles, no more stand out, no more honoring one of the grand features of Hollywood, its foundational relation to music.

At the time, I was pointing out
that if you stood one on top of the other they
would have reached one floor higher than the
Empire State (104.)

This is madness.

And this, and this
in the same block as the heart
of the capital of the Motion Picture
industry in the second largest city in America

Have you asked the Residents?

No, this is a direct question. Have you any idea --
any idea -- as to how opposed they are? No one
wants it, even in its current modified, and somewhat
more insidious form. It is, furthermore, unwelcome.

Unanimously

How can you, in good conscience proceed without
polling the delegation, and giving us some
statistics on the survey?

And before you turn away, consider this

When builders wanted to build in the air space above Grand Central Station,
a personal friend of mine, Donald Elliott, the Building and Safety head in the legendary
John Lindsay era, said,

"It is the wrong building, in the wrong place,
at the wrong time."

And stopped it.

Our highly qualified lawyer, Robert Silverstein, who won our case when they tried this before, said,

"You are building a coffin."

I see no signs of sufficient erosion of the uplift and torsion of the Yucca and Vine fault zone to
qualify for extending the time zone of the last earthquake to declassify it as active. The Yucca fault
is fresh.

We have no reason to trust investigations which proceed from this company,
even to agreeing to "independent" outside research, by anyone but the government,
to justify a change from active and relatively surface -- to not "much older" and "much deeper."
Much.

That means a people sponsored review.

(State of California)

In the light of new studies which have taken place,
since the Millenium people's earlier doleful effort, which itself
has the sound of a knell to it,

it seems that Los Angeles
and Hollywood within it especially
has a fabric of earthquake lines,
dangerous ones, that must be taken
into account.

Higher up

and more recent. (Have you heard of one beyond Palm Springs
in the desert, heading straight for Hollywood,
with unimaginable damage?)

Have these studies in, say, the past 3 years
been analyzed and applied to this case?

We want to see the published results.

2) The second aspect of the geological foundation is this.

We have been given to understand

that the north side of
Vedanta Terrace,

a short, one block "barrier"
to the hillside above (we are
at the base of the Hollywood Hills,
and totally bounded, contained
by our property,

is basically rock or rocky,
fairly impervious to shaking
during an earthquake (excepting
"hillside creep" or slide.)

However,

the south side of
Vedanta Terrace,
still completely contained
by our property,

is a completely different kind of soil,
more porous and unstable.

This is supposed, then, to extend all the way down into the flatland
of Hollywood.

QUESTION: Do we have and may we have, we now request, as part of the ongoing and by no means sufficient
Environmental Impact Survey,

a relative percentage of the usual components of soil,
sand, silt and clay -- the so-called triangle of soil --
in the land under the "proposed" project?

Is it, in effect, subject to liquefaction during an earthquake? Or, even, significant displacement
and foundational instability for buildings?

We don't want this to be the postponed epitaph for anyone associated with this, especially the outside
company
which we feel, frankly, is motivated by greed.

This letter, probably, should be posted near the elevators in the lobby, along with their licenses,
as a reminder of the builders' liability.

This subject is brought up, because of a recent case of some years' enduring, here at Sunset and Vine.
On the southeast corner, is a handsome building, encased in green glass instead of "walls," in a modern nod
to art deco. The name is the SUNSET VINE TOWER. Some few years back, it was shut down. For a long time.
Years. It was leaning. Water problems. The owners thought the city should fix it. The city figured it the other way
'round.

The problem was resolved eventually. And our candidate to rival Pisa was relegated to history.

I found out, finally, what happened. I was told water undermined the "foundations." The
building did indeed lean. The cause, however, both "stories" were true, water was leaking into the
"light soil," a technical term, into the ground and unmoored it. 1480 Vine (Two blocks from the "project.")

The present building is 20 stories high. That is the limit of proportion and scale for Hollywood. For the foreseeable future, anything more is "the wrong building, in the wrong place, at the wrong time."

Is anyone going to see it from our point of view? All of us.

Please, stand with us, the residents,
at Hollywood and Vine -- I was just there --
and imagine one of the proposed buildings,
say, towering into the sky.

It is a

MONSTROSITY

3) Which leads us to a third point.

Overcrowding. It is our view that one can only walk near Hollywood and Vine between 10 a.m. and 2:30.

If one wished to go shopping, one is likely to feel one has to take a car -- and then parking is (?), a major concern.

At night, the Pantages, featuring popular Broadway shows, is teeming with people on the street at just the location we are considering. And all the available parking spaces, just like the Hollywood Bowl, will be taken -- to avoid parking fees.

This sort of thing has serious, even dreadful consequences. Our friends on Argyle, one block east, have no parking too much of the time. Women have had to park blocks from their home, if they can find space, and can be accosted or worse.

The Castle Argyle (at 1919 Argyle Avenue), our neighbor one block east, is a center of communication, election precinct, etc. over the years. They have sent out an intensive appeal for help.

What seriously have you done to alleviate this? No, realistically, how will 1000 extra inhabitants, with guests, be a part of the solution? The answer is, they will not.

What is already a glut, will become unbearable. **OVERBURDENED.**

The ground problem is that these units are expected to be high scale in rent. With pigeon crumbs for a few "affordable housing" places, as few as possible.

It is not that we do not need housing in Hollywood. Just not here. And not this kind. Young couples who may work here, cannot live here. Because the rents are obsessively high. The people have the right to design the kinds of housing space they like to live in. They have the right to design their cities. We must provide laws to ensure this.

The unconscionable extreme rents, actually lead to a deficit in available housing.

Two facilities near the proposed "site" for unneeded and **really unwanted** counter-productive units, 1000 of them, are a case in point.

One, the Emory, at 1800 Yucca is a recently finished building of unprepossessing design and seemingly shoddy, or at least cheap construction. Yesterday, May 29, 2020, we were informed 1 guest was in the hotel during the month of May. The other, across the street on the same block as questioned in the project case we are considering, Argyle House, at 1755 Argyle, of much more beautiful design and build, was approved by the Hollywood Dell Association, with appropriate application and size. Nevertheless, it is 70% vacant. And the reason, again, is. Rents.

5) A closely related problem to overcrowding is Sound.

We are here dedicated to silent meditation. It is the heart and soul of our spiritual path, one which has room for endearment of all other great rivers of faith. And for one reason, they have all produced illumined souls.

Aside from the Hollywood Bowl, in the summer, which is creating decible-dinning (literally deafening for musicians) sound, especially percussion with its methodical boom and thump of mindless rhythm, we have a local competitor.

Just across the street from the proposed people opposed site, is the AMDA College of the Performing Arts, 6305 Yucca Street. When they wind up we cannot tell whether it is the Hollywood Bowl. Sound travels far. Except that it is much louder. Perhaps they also play outdoors. But it is, at-the-least, obtrusive.

May we be permitted to be wary of roof top and front window parties from the 1000 newcomers?

6) This brings us to the final point. "Without vision a nation perishes."

As we were walking to collect addresses of neighboring buildings on the same street as the irrational proposed structures: in size, price, destabilizing effect on the community in innumerable ways,

we had occasion to pass an encampment of the homeless underneath the freeway. They had recently put up a long plastic sheet against the fence, and could be heard having a regular conversation of people in their "tent city."

It is a moral outrage that we are condemning them to a life without running water or toilet facilities, in a pandemic situation, to a life below the means of a life worth living.

Have we truly descended into a third world country?

Are we willing to accept this?

I say NO.

It is really beyond the pale of comprehension, that we are considering this

MONSTROSITY

to this inconsidered whim of the rich, who are not considering providing good, meaningful, reasonable housing for the people. Something we the people of Hollywood, do not want. Defiantly do not want. In our residential place of home. For no other reason, on the part of the promoters, than to "line their pockets."

In Mayor Tom Bradley's epic 16 years, at the very beginning, he offered a vision, a plan, for the remodelling of Hollywood Boulevard west of Hollywood and Vine. Phidias would be rolling in his grave. This pre-eminent architect in Pericles' "glory that was Greece," in Athens created a symmetry and an inspiration which has not been exceeded until our own day.

Hollywood Boulevard has become a Coney Island of T-shirts and electronics and souvenirs (including license plates.) "Nothing over \$5" scream the moving signs. Is this really what we want as our legacy and that of our beloved Mayor Eric Garcetti?

Hollywood & Vine, the scene of this potential disaster, has (unfortunately) become a pit of architecture. What we have delineated here is not abstract. It is a cry from the heart, a dream, which will not die. Of what Hollywood can become, of what it has been, and what it yet can be. Some of our people have been here for 75 years. It was a town of bookstores, where Aldous Huxley would move the book sideways, instead of his head, a smaller town where even the stores were stage sets in a drama of which we all were part.

On Vine Street, at the northwest corner, is a house, unscreened for impact or beauty, built not that long ago. And called the Redbury. It looked like an old Railway Express Agency warehouse. Painted the color of venous (from the veins) blood, a dull dark purple red. Fortunately it has been repainted, and probably sold. But the hue is battleship gray. Equally depressing. This is the heart of our capital city. Hollywood, the destination of dreams -- including mine. The same street we are contemplating something that will as surely destroy Hollywood as the earthquake we are trying to defend against.

Fie!

There is an empty corner lot, currently. If we need laws to protect and define, implement the will of the people -- pass them. Give our mayor the scope, the will and the power to give substance to the dream and reclaim, reinvent Hollywood.

Give us a beautiful building on the corner of

Hollywood & Vine

proportional, shapely -- consonant with who we are
and who we want to be.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Douglas Overton Blue

(one of the ministers)

