

From: Emma Howard <emma.howard@lacity.org>
To:
Date: 8/19/2020 4:55 PM
Subject: Councilmember Ryu's Position on the Hollywood Center Project

Dear All,

I'm emailing to share the Councilmember's position on the Hollywood Center Project with those of you who have written in to ask us about the status of the EIR and shared your additional concerns.

///

When I consider development projects, such as the [Hollywood Center Project](#), I closely consider the reports prepared by experts in the relevant fields and verified as true by City Departments with review authority. I am not an expert in seismic engineering, and must rely on the conclusions of experts to help me determine if a development project can be constructed safely.

Which is why I am so deeply concerned by the results of the recent California Geological Survey report indicating the possible presence of an active fault strand at the project site. Given that previous studies and this new study differ so widely, I don't believe there can be confidence in the project's safety until there is clarity on the conflicting reports and data. Until such time as there is clarity, I stand in opposition to the Hollywood Center Project. Safety must be the first priority at the site.

I and my constituents are left with uncertainty, not only about the safety of the proposed future project, but also the current safety of existing buildings in the area. As I understand it, if the site has an active fault strand on it, it may not be possible for any future building at the site to ever be safe to build, no matter how sophisticated the engineering.

Furthermore, I believe that the Departments of Building and Safety and City Planning need to fully explain the review process used to verify seismic studies, namely, what the City does to independently confirm the information provided by the project applicants and address conflicting reports. - Councilmember David E. Ryu

///

I have also attached interdepartmental correspondence sent from a Geologist at the Department of Building and Safety containing recommendations for further study and verifications. Please feel free to contact our office if you have further questions. To submit a public comment to the project record also email Mindy Nguyen (Mindy.Nguyen@lacity.org), who is the lead planner at the Department of City Planning. And if you want to email Councilmember O'Farrell's office, my counterpart there is Craig Bullock (craig.bullock@lacity.org). This project is located in Councilmember O'Farrell's district, Council District 13.

Regards,
Emma

Emma G. Howard
Director of Planning
Office: (213) 473-7004
<http://davidryu.lacity.org>

BOARD OF
BUILDING AND SAFETY
COMMISSIONERS

VAN AMBATIELOS
PRESIDENT

JAVIER NUNEZ
VICE PRESIDENT

JOSELYN GEAGA-ROSENTHAL
GEORGE HOVAGUIMIAN
ELVIN W. MOON

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



ERIC GARCETTI
MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF
BUILDING AND SAFETY
201 NORTH FIGUEROA STREET
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

OSAMA YOUNAN, P.E.
GENERAL MANAGER
SUPERINTENDENT OF BUILDING

JOHN WEIGHT
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

August 7, 2020

To: Luciralia Ibarra, Principle City Planner
Department of City Planning

From: Daniel Schneidereit, Engineering Geologist II
Department of Building and Safety

Subject: The California Geological Survey's Comments Regarding the Hollywood Center
Fault Investigation

At the request of the Department of City Planning the Department of Building and Safety has reviewed a July 16, 2020 letter by the California Geological Survey (CGS) that concerns the proposed Hollywood Center development (Vesting Tentative Tract 82152). The CGS states they have new data they believe indicate there may be an active fault traversing the southerly portion of the site.

We acknowledge the CGS's concern and believe the best way to resolve this issue is for the developer to excavate another exploratory trench to demonstrate, or rule out, the presence of an active fault in the southerly part of the site. The trench needs to be approximately 30 feet deep or more to expose the necessary strata, and may require the use of shoring.

It is our understanding that the geologic consultants for the project are currently working on a scope of work for a trench. As part of the review, the Department of Building and Safety will ensure there will be transparency with the CGS, by requesting the CGS geologists to observe the trench and verify the exploration results.

Please contact me if you have further questions.

Thank you.

DCS