

From: Gail Goldberg

Sent: Thursday, August 07, 2008 11:32 AM

To: JEUsher@aol.com ; keowen@ggpnc.org ; Jane.Usher@lacity.org

Subject: Re: Request for Vacation of Hearing before Hearing Officer CPC2008-2548

Dear Mr. Owen,

Commissioner Usher has asked the Department to respond directly to your request. We have received your communication about the subject matter, in particular the notice of a hearing on August 18, 2008 before a City Planning Department hearing examiner. In your communication, you expressed concern that the EIR referenced in that notice had not yet been finalized and that there would be insufficient time to comment on the adequacy of that EIR.

The draft EIR which comprises the bulk of the final document was available for public comment officially for two months, from August 16, 2007 to October 18, 2007. I am told that the City continued to accept comments even after the official comment period. Comments were received and City staff has prepared written responses. That process is now complete. Attached is a copy of the notice of availability of the final EIR, which explains how to obtain a copy. Since the public hearing before the hearing examiner has already been scheduled, and since the EIR will have been available at that point, we do not plan to continue that hearing.

It is important to note, however, that the purpose of the August 18 hearing is for the examiner to obtain information and evidence relating to the project and its environmental clearance. The hearing examiner will not be taking action to approve or disapprove the project, or to certify the EIR. After the hearing, the examiner will prepare a report to the City Planning Commission, which at a later date, probably not earlier than mid October, will conduct another public hearing for the purpose of receiving additional comments and considering information gathered by City staff and interested parties. At the point that the CPC determines whether to approve the project, it will then have the final EIR before it, and will make any required findings under CEQA.

Thank you,

Gail Goldberg

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