



NANDC
North Area Neighborhood Development Council
www.NANDC.org



June 1, 2020

Ana M. Lasso, General Manager at 700 Exposition Park Drive Los Angeles, CA 90037

Via e mail: info@expositionpark.ca.gov

**“Master Plan Comments”
Draft SEIR Exposition Park**

Please accept and consider our comments on behalf of the Empowerment Congress North Area Neighborhood Development Council (NANDC). NANDC is the Neighborhood Council in which Exposition Park is located. We appreciate the effort to create a holistic view to guide the future of Exposition Park as it develops in the next 25 years. This Master Plan is critical to the future of the park and the neighborhoods surrounding it.

NANDC is a self-governed, self-directed and independent organization empowered by the Los Angeles City Charter. This charter offers neighborhood councils a role in the City’s decision-making process. NANDC was certified by the City of Los Angeles on April 27, 2002 and was the 24th neighborhood council formed under the guidelines of the City Charter. We promote public participation in city governance and decision making processes, to make government more responsive to our local needs and requests, creating more opportunities to build partnerships with government and private entities to create more opportunities for our neighborhood.

The NANDC Board reviewed the SEIR at two public meetings, the full Board on May 7, 2020 and the Policy/Joint Board Committee meeting on May 26. In addition to our remarks in this letter, we would like to incorporate by reference the comments made by stakeholders at the Exposition Park Master Plan Draft SEIR Virtual Public Meeting on April 29. There are many unresolved issues that in our view require further study and analysis.

The goals of the Exposition Park Master Plan: to *“guide the development of Exposition Park during a 25-year period to link Exposition Park to the City of Los Angeles around it; connect the park’s segments to one another; and encourage the community members and visitors to linger with the inclusion of more plentiful pathways, plantings, and visitor amenities. The proposed project would connect the park’s segments by improving pedestrian and recreational use of the spaces between its buildings and*

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moving surface parking spaces underground” are laudable. The manner in which this is done requires further research and evaluation particularly in the areas of Traffic and Circulation, Aesthetics/Historic Resources, Effects on housing and the population, Access to the park, Noise impacts, Parking, and Hazardous Materials. None of these areas are fully examined in the present SEIR.

Traffic and Circulation

The reduction of Bill Robertson Lane to one lane with drop off lanes for buses and cars does not take into consideration that the Lane provides some of the only north/south traffic other than Vermont Avenue which is often jammed with traffic. The closure of 39th Street also makes traffic mobility for residents less varied. NANDC and other stakeholders present have traffic/congestion concerns.

Aesthetics/Historic Resources

While there is a list of historic resources and districts, there is lack of acknowledgement of historic importance of Christmas Tree Lane. Why not now return it to purpose/function/original intended design? Would like further historic assessments on it this National Historic Register eligible property and the design concepts provided appear to do serious harm to character defining features of Christmas Tree Lane.

Further thematic design should be explored in the implementation of the solar park project wherein the context of the park and its historic setting and eligible historic district can be reinforced.

The Rose Garden and the impacts of some of the design elements such as the cycle track needs to be further considered.

Effects on Housing and Population

NANDC asks that the effects on housing in immediate area are considered with development of this scale. While OPEN may believe that there is no impact on the housing availability, such a statement appears somewhat self-serving. How do you preserve the affordable housing surrounding the park and insure the livability and quality of life of residents? The Park is a fabulous resource which needs to serve all of the residents and enhance the quality of the lives of neighbors. The Master Plan is silent on the effects on the surrounding neighborhoods. NANDC asks that the effects on housing in immediate area be considered with development of this scale.



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Noise

The SEIR does not adequately analyze the impacts of potential events activities on area noise nor insure neighborhood liveability. The statement that this is an entertainment area does not sufficiently justify noise which may be created by concerts, special events

Parking

The replacement of surface parking with underground parking is a positive step. What is unclear is how free or low cost parking that currently is available for residents using the EXPO Center will be continue to be provided. The imposition of event type fees on neighborhood park users would have a chilling effect on the ability of neighborhood stakeholders to avail themselves of the amenities provided. Secondly there vents is no adequate plan to handle parking during special events and games.

Hazardous Materials

Adverse effects of contaminated soils, need to properly mitigate hazardous materials threat. Guaranteed no net loss of historic materials (including flora/fauna).

This comment is provided as part of NANDC and stakeholder comment on the Draft SEIR for Exposition Park as authorized by the NANDC Board for submission by June 1, 2020. We would encourage further clarification and evaluation in the SEIR. We offer the opportunity to meet with you at your convenience to further provide dialogue with the community for your consideration and evaluation.

Sincerely,

Empowerment Congress North Area Neighborhood Development Council (NANDC)
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Cc: Senator Holly Mitchell
Assemblymember Reggie Jones-Sawyer
Steve Wesson, USC Village Ombudsman
Councilmember Gil Cedillo, CD 1
Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson, CD 8
Councilmember Curren Price, CD 10
NANDC Board and Policy Committee