

LETTER 11

ANAHEIM HILLS CITIZENS' COALITION

May 1, 2004

To: Sheri Vander Dussen, Planning Director
City of Anaheim

From: Patrick J. Pepper, Chair 

Re: Request for extension of public review period for Draft EIR 330

Please extend the period of public review for Draft EIR 330:

- 11-1 1. To date, no copies have been available to the public for checkout from libraries. Jonathan Borrego indicated to us on April 19 that at least one copy would be taken to the Canyon Hills Library for checkout. This has not happened to date. The reference librarian at Canyon Library told us that they have requested their check out copy, have made inquiries to the Central Library, and no libraries have been given check out copies.
- 11-2 2. While it is laudatory that all documents are available on line, many citizens do not have computer access and/or their systems are not equipped to handle the memory load required. At best, it is unwieldy to review and compare all of the documents using the electronic copy.
- 11-3 3. Until the April 19, 2004 staff report was released prior to the Planning Commission hearing, regardless of the "outreach efforts" prior to the release of the Draft EIR, the vast majority of citizens had no clue about the content and far reaching changes of the document.
- 11-4 4. We attended outreach meetings. We are reasonably familiar with "the process." However, our impressions from the outreach meetings differ from the outcome of the documents, particularly with regard to the impacts on the canyon area community.
- 11-5 5. City Staff and members of the GPAC have been integrally involved in the process for several years. It is reasonable to give the public at least 60 full days for comment.

We respectfully ask that the review period be extended by at least two weeks, but preferably 30 days, to assure every possible opportunity for citizens to meaningfully participate in this monumental task.

2. *Response to Comments*

11. **Response to Comments From Patrick J. Pepper, Chair, Anaheim Hills Citizens' Coalition, Dated May 1, 2004**

11-1 Per CEQA Guidelines § 15087, the EIR is required to be available for public review at one location readily accessible to the public during the lead agency's normal working hours. In addition to a copy of DEIR being available at the City of Anaheim Planning Department consistent with the requirements of CEQA, the DEIR was also available on the World Wide Web, and at all five City library branches.

11-2 The City of Anaheim has made the documents available at multiple locations in multiple formats so that they are readily accessible to all who are interested in reviewing them.

11-3 As required by CEQA, the City of Anaheim issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP) and Initial Study of Environmental Impacts on April 16, 2003. The public review period extended from April 16, 2003 to May 15, 2003. Per CEQA Statutes § 21083.9, a public scoping meeting was held on May 7, 2003. The Draft EIR was distributed to responsible and affected agencies, residents, and other interested parties for the required 45-day public review period which extended from March 19, 2004 to May 4, 2004.

In addition to the CEQA public noticing requirements, the City of Anaheim also held five community visioning workshops between June and September 2001; a Planning Rally at Angel Stadium on May 4, 2002; eight General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) meetings; two design guideline workshops; meetings with the Anaheim Historical Society, the State Parks Department, Kiwanis Club, the Chamber of Commerce, the School Districts, West Anaheim Neighborhood Development (WAND), and homebuilders; and distributed a community survey over the course of the project. As such, there were multiple opportunities for the public to remain informed about the content of the General Plan and changes being considered by the Lead Agency. Furthermore, there was a public hearing on the General Plan and Zoning Code Update Final EIR at the Planning Commission meeting on April 19, 2004 and there will also be a public hearing at the City Council meeting on May 25, 2004 at which time there will be additional opportunity for public response and input. In summary, there were numerous opportunities to comment on the General Plan and Zoning Code and associated EIR as part of the administrative record for the project.

11-4 Although not related to the DEIR, your comments are hereby noted, included in the official environmental record of the proposed project, and will be forwarded to the appropriate City of Anaheim decision-makers for their review and consideration.

11-5 Consistent with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Draft EIR was circulated for a 45-day public review period. In addition, late letters are included in this Final EIR/Response to Comments document. There is an additional opportunity to comment at the City Council public hearing on May 25, 2004. As a result, the City found that extension of the 45-day public review period was not necessary.