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Assembly California Legislature

PAUL KORETZ
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CONSUMER PROTECTION



April 21, 2006

Mr. Morris J. Angell, MAI, CCIM, MCR
Regional Environmental Quality Advisor (REQA) & Senior Asset Manager
Portfolio Management Division Capital Investment Branch (9PTC)
U.S. General Services Administration
450 Golden Gate Avenue, 3rd Floor East
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Mr. Angell:

I am writing to amend my comments offered in a letter dated March 10, 2006 that was submitted at the public hearing on March 14, 2006. These comments are in response to the Draft Environment Impact Statement of the U.S. General Services Administration on the Los Angeles FBI Building. This letter takes into consideration issues raised by concerned citizens and elected officials at the March 14th hearing and written comments submitted to date.

My original comments began with my concerns about the decision arrived at to construct this facility at this site and the process used to select this site. I had initially expressed some receptivity to Alternative 2, but I now believe that there have been a number of worthy concerns expressed about even this option. I am now opposed to any major changes made by GSA to this site. I would strongly recommend that the GSA and FBI reevaluate the criteria used to address the future facility needs in this region.

One major failure in this DEIS process is that it fails to take into consideration the cumulative impact of potential changes to the nearby Veterans Administration land and the Army National Guard site. Federal government agencies such as GSA will be failing the communities of Westwood, Brentwood, West Los Angeles and other surrounding communities if all agencies fail to coordinate planning for these sites. I am distressed about the prospect of intensified development of these sites for purposes other than providing services for our military veterans for which this land was originally donated. I would like to see a moratorium on the planning for the FBI facility and the other sites until Federal government agencies are willing to take a closer look at the impact of any new projects upon quality of life issues in our community.

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I have serious concerns about the criteria used to locate the most appropriate site for this project. In particular, the geographic boundaries given for the site search area causes me to suspect that those involved in this process already believed that there would not be other viable options available beyond the current location. Perhaps geographic boundaries could be widened to include areas such as the Los Angeles Air Force base, a prime Westside/South Bay location that would likely have excess land that could be easier to secure from a security perspective.

I also have concerns that the evaluation of Alternative 2 was made to appear as if it does not have a net gain of traffic as opposed to the current facility. We have found from analysis done by community leaders and other elected representatives that in reality this alternative will still result in a significant net increase in traffic.

These are a few of my major concerns with this site. I would urge the GSA and the FBI planning staff to seriously weigh the clear overwhelming opposition to this project in our community. I am not sure that your agencies would find this climate an appropriate one to still move forward with this project. I wish to thank you for allowing me this opportunity to add these comments as a revision to my original comments.

Sincerely,



PAUL KORETZ
Assemblymember, 42nd District