

Appendix B

Public Hearing Transcripts

B.1 – Public Hearing, December 10, 2022 (In-Person)

B.2 – Public Hearing, December 13, 2022 (Virtual)

B.3 – Public Hearing, January 12, 2023 (In-Person)

B.4 – Public Hearing, February 8, 2023 (Virtual)

Appendix B Note Regarding Transcripts

The Appendix B transcripts for the public meetings on December 10, 2022, December 13, 2022, January 12, 2023, and February 8, 2023 are presented as certified by the court reporters. Accordingly, these transcripts contain a few typographical errors as they present the phonetic spelling or understanding of the court reporter tasked with compiling the transcript. Examples of such errors include spelling typos (e.g., “Dodger Scandium” rather than Dodger Stadium) and similar sounding words replacing the intended meaning of the speaker (e.g., “zero admissions transit” rather than zero emissions transit, and “Legion Park” rather than “Elysian Park”).

Appendix B.1
Public Hearing, December 10, 2022
(In-Person)

LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

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LOS ANGELES AERIAL PUBLIC TRANSIT (LA ART)
PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

+ + + + +

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 10, 2022

+ + + + +

The Public Comment Session took place
on the Ticket Concourse at Los Angeles Union
Station, 800 N. Alameda Street, Los Angeles,
California, at 10:00 a.m.

COMMENTERS

XIANGTIAN XU
ANDY HALL
JULIE RICO
MIGUEL MELGOZA
JENNIE LINHEYA
PATRICK CHEN
REBECCA OCEGUEDA
ESPERANZA RAMIREZ
ROBERT MACIAS
GLORIA ANDRADE

RENEE YOUNG

JUNIPER WONG

BILL CHIN

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P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

10:18 a.m.

Comment - PH1

MS. XU: My name is Xiagtian Xu. I've been a resident of Chinatown for over 20 years and now that the government has invested a lot of resources into the LA ART project, once I heard of the news, I was very happy along with a lot of my neighbors. Not only is this project not going to cause any environmental impact in any negative way, it provides great convenience to people who want to get around.

In Chinatown, many years we haven't seen many other issues and I hope that the government is able to invest more resources to bring about more projects like this that is going to provide great convenience and reap benefits to the people who live in this area.

In terms of our environment and our ecology, these are the things that we find very beneficial. And other problems that I mentioned before, the bus arriving on time, is making our commute very difficult and inconvenient. So this

PH1-1

PH1-2

PH1-3

1 time, the LA ART project is bringing huge
 2 benefits to us. We are very much supportive.
 3 We're happy and we hope to see more of similar
 4 projects in our community to benefit the people
 5 and to benefit our environment.

cont'd
PH1-3

6 And I would like to thank the
 7 government and everybody who are in involved in
 8 this project to bring such great convenience and
 9 benefits to us and as a community.

Comment - PH2

10 MS. HALL: I was born and raised in LA
 11 and I'm a long time community member of
 12 Chinatown. I, my family, my neighbors, and the
 13 people of LA do not need the gondola project.
 14 This project is yet another misuse of our
 15 collective time, funds, and energy. No one asked
 16 for this and no one wants it. There are already
 17 public transportation and shuttles that bring
 18 people specifically to Dodger Stadium.

PH2-1

PH2-2

19 \$125 million for a limited worth and
 20 limited use project is an irresponsible use of
 21 funds when what we desperately need is better
 22 public transportation and infrastructure. I am

PH2-3

1 all my elderly-working neighbors should not have
2 to wait an hour or two hours for the bus just to
3 get home or anywhere.

cont'd
PH2-3

4 There is no hospital in Chinatown
5 because of gentrification. Many residents have
6 to go to the USC hospital and the quickest bus
7 route from Chinatown can be a 28 minute bus ride.
8 Nineteen minutes of that is walking.

PH2-4

9 Many residents in Chinatown are
10 elderly or disabled living on \$1,000 a month with
11 limited support networks. Put \$125 million more
12 towards eliminating transit fare and faster
13 public transit to station hygiene to bus shelters
14 and real ventures to affordable and free housing.

PH2-5

15 Chinatown and LA as a whole has seen
16 too many developments that ultimately harm this
17 place and gentrify our communities. It's
18 insulting that the people behind this project
19 tried to mislead us into thinking that this
20 project is a community good, to fool people into
21 thinking that this is good for us. We know
22 better than that.

PH2-6

cont'd
PH2-6

1

Yes, that's it. Thank you.

Comment - PH3

2

MS. RICO: I am opposed to the gondola

3

project. I don't want the cars that are going to

4

be displaced from the Dodger Stadium parking lot

5

sent down to Chinatown where I live as a senior.

6

It will create havoc in our neighborhood. It

7

will suck all of the energy out of our

8

neighborhood. There will be pollution, garbage,

9

disease, and people will get run over because

10

there's a lot of seniors in Chinatown.

11

It doesn't -- the gondola does not

12

belong in Chinatown or anywhere near Chinatown.

13

It will be intrusive to homes. It will be

14

intrusive to our lives. It will change the flow

15

of Chinatown as it is now.

16

I'm just vehemently opposed to the

17

gondola project. That's it.

Comment - PH4

18

MR. MELGOZA: I have been a proponent

19

of this project from the beginning. As a 15 year

20

business operator in East Chinatown, I believe

21

that this will be helpful to the community and

22

also with transportation to Dodger Stadium. It

PH3-1

PH3-2

PH4-1

1 will ease up on congestion with traffic.

cont'd
PH4-1

2 I think that we need to push this
3 project and with the new city council coming
4 into office, I think that she should also be very
5 supportive of this project. Thank you very much.

PH4-2

Comment - PH5

6 MS. LINHEYA: I find the gondola ugly
7 because I've been to like several cities and I've
8 never seen a gondola in big cities. The only
9 city that I saw that gondola is Medellin, Colombia
10 because they have no roads and it would cause --
11 I don't want the taxpayer to shoulder the cost of
12 this project because McCourt is rich enough to
13 pay for his own.

PH5-1

14 If that's going to be built with
15 public funding, the public funding should be for
16 the people, not for a private company. And I
17 know that they -- I read somewhere that it would
18 cost \$300 million with the inflation rate. I
19 don't think it would be costing us more than \$300
20 million to build this gondola. I'm done.

PH5-2

Comment - PH6

21 MR. CHEN: My name is Patrick. I'm a
22 resident of Chinatown for over seven years and I

PH6-1

1 just want to give my comment on this proposed
 2 project, LA ART. It does not look like it has
 3 the community's welfare in mind with its proposed
 4 plans. It doesn't seem like it's prioritizing
 5 the needs of the community in terms of
 6 transportation, housing, and other impacts. It
 7 seems like it's just like a vanity project for a
 8 billionaire.

cont'd
PH6-1

PH6-2

9 And yes, Chinatown is facing lots of
 10 challenges, especially around gentrification,
 11 displacement of tenants, due to rising costs of
 12 housing and threats of eviction and another Metro
 13 project like that does not have community
 14 interest in mind does not seem like it would help
 15 the community at all.

PH6-3

16 So I oppose this project as it stands
 17 and I don't see really a path forward for it to
 18 actually benefit the community. Thank you.

Comment - PH7

19 MS. OCEGUEDA: Hello, good morning.
 20 My name is Rebecca Ocegueda. And I am a resident
 21 of Northeast Los Angeles.

PH7-1

22 As a resident, I am concerned about

PH7-2

1 this project for many reasons. First of all, the
 2 enormous towers of the gondola will cause
 3 aesthetic impacts on my community. I am
 4 concerned that the towers and the views of the
 5 wagons of the gondola will be used for publicity
 6 and as billboards. The gondola project will
 7 promote gentrification of our communities, in
 8 particular in Chinatown.

cont'd
PH7-2

PH7-3

9 The gondola project will have a great
 10 impact on our public lands, especially in the Los
 11 Angeles State Historic Park with its enormous
 12 towers. This project will increase the impacts
 13 of air pollution on account of the emissions from
 14 the vehicles in the area that are already
 15 overloaded with air emissions.

PH7-4

PH7-5

16 This project will provoke displacement
 17 and will increase the cost of rent in the area
 18 and we cannot allow that and this is especially
 19 because for a lot of people it will increase the
 20 cost of rent and people will not be able to pay
 21 that and then we will have more homeless people.

PH7-6

22 And I beg you not to approve this

PH7-7

1 project which will use federal funds and will use
 2 our taxes. And this will just enrich one person
 3 who will be benefitted by the project. And do
 4 not allow yourselves to be deceived by Mr.
 5 McCourt who has plans to develop the parking lot
 6 in the Dodger Stadium with the pretext that he's
 7 concerned about environmental pollution.

cont'd
PH7-7

8 Thank you very much. Thank you.

Comment - PH8

9 MS. RAMIREZ: My name is Esperanza.
 10 And I'm here regarding the gondola project that
 11 does not have benefits for our community. It is
 12 a lie that they will replace the vehicles that
 13 are going to the Dodger Stadium. The gondola
 14 project will impact our cultural and historical
 15 resources such as our state parks, Union Station,
 16 and El Pueblo.

PH8-1

PH8-2

17 The Chinatown community and our
 18 neighbors will be seriously impacted with the
 19 displacement from the property. The draft
 20 environmental report does not take into account
 21 our complaints and is concentrated on the
 22 benefits for our community and it's nothing but

PH8-3

1 lies.

2 The gondola will be nothing more than
3 an invasion of the properties of the Chinatown
4 residents whose homes are underneath the
5 trajectory of the gondola.

6 Mr. McCourt is taking advantage of our
7 resources for his personal benefit. We do not
8 want the gondola and we will fight for this
9 project not to take place. That's all. Thank
10 you.

Comment - PH9

11 MR. MACIAS: My name is Robert Macias.
12 And I am the president of the Youth Soccer
13 organization and community organization, the name
14 is Anahuak. For many years, we have been
15 fighting for the welfare of our families and for
16 better recreational opportunities for our
17 community.

18 We are strongly opposed to someone
19 with personal interest constructing an air
20 highway over our state parks. I ask myself where
21 will we retain privacy for persons?

22 I beg you not to approve this project

cont'd
PH8-3
PH8-4
PH8-5
PH9-1
PH9-2
PH9-3
PH9-4

1 which will be use our federal funds and our
2 taxes. We oppose this gondola. Our communities
3 have stated our opposition and now it corresponds
4 to you to say no to the gondola.

cont'd
PH9-4

5 We do not want you to repeat the
6 history that removed hundreds of Latino families
7 from Chavez Ravine. Thank you very much.

PH9-5

Comment - PH10

8 MS. ANDRADE: Hello. My name is
9 Gloria Andrade. I am 76 years old. I have lived
10 in East LA here for 35 years and for me I would
11 say stop the gondola forever.

PH10-1

12 Our taxes and federal funds should not
13 be used to make rich people richer. At this
14 time, there's a lot of problems in the streets
15 and we should also focus on these homeless people
16 who are human beings. And we should be watching
17 out for them. That's all.

PH10-2

18 INTERPRETER: Interpreter correction.
19 Where it said -- where I said there are a lot of
20 problems in the streets, I should have translated
21 as there are a lot of indigent people in the
22 streets. Thank you.

1 MS. OCEGUEDA: Thank you very much for
2 your time. So I already said part of it.

cont'd
PH10-2

3 It is nothing but lies. Mr. McCourt
4 only wants to fill up his pockets with more money
5 from our taxes. We oppose this gondola. Our
6 communities have already stated their opposition
7 and now it corresponds to you to say no to the
8 gondola.

PH10-3

9 We do not want to repeat the history
10 that pushed so many hundreds of Latina families
11 out of Chavez Ravine. The gondola will not do
12 anything to save the environment. Those are
13 lies. Thank you very much for everything.

PH10-4

Comment - PH11

14 MS. YOUNG: My name is Renee Young and
15 I am the president of NAWBO-LA, the National
16 Association of Women Business Owners and we are
17 the unifying voice for more than 750,000 local
18 women business owners in the region and we are
19 very excited about the LA ART project. We believe
20 very strongly that this will bring business to
21 local, small businesses in particular,
22 entrepreneurs.

PH11-1

PH11-2

1 We, as women, are one of the fastest-
 2 growing groups of entrepreneurs in the country
 3 and anything that drives business into our
 4 community, into our stores, into our companies we
 5 support. So we're very, very excited about this.

cont'd
PH11-2

6 We are also very excited about the
 7 local business participation goal for 35 percent
 8 and we encourage the project as they move forward
 9 to make sure that we keep that as part of the
 10 goal and engagement because again the more we can
 11 drive business into our community, the more women
 12 business owners and all business owners can
 13 thrive and bring money back into our communities
 14 and this just goes to build back. Women who left
 15 the business world in droves during COVID, we
 16 want to be able to re-engage those women. We
 17 want to be able to offer them jobs and we believe
 18 that this project allows us to do that.

PH11-3

19 So again, we encourage the Metro and
 20 the team to really move forward with this project
 21 and we're looking forward to seeing it soon.

PH11-4

22 Thank you.

1 MS. WONG: As a volunteer and worker
 2 in Chinatown who works with low income Chinese
 3 seniors, I do not support this project. Seniors
 4 with limited mobility do not want to be lifted
 5 into the sky. They want suspended buses and
 6 services in the area. They want reduced traffic
 7 on game days, not redirecting more traffic from
 8 the stadium to Chinatown where most people are
 9 projected to park with no accommodations.

PH12-1

10 This past year, I've been canvassing
 11 for civic outreach in Chinatown. I've knocked on
 12 every door, met with nearly every resident asking
 13 what people wanted for the city. The answer was
 14 not a train in the sky to watch baseball games.
 15 The answer was affordable housing, a market, a
 16 grocery market in the neighborhood, a halt to the
 17 rising cost of living which this gondola, as a
 18 tourist attraction, would only contribute to.

PH12-2

19 Where College Station was built, where
 20 one of the towers for this project is slated for,
 21 has already been developed into a Chinese center
 22 catering to well-off newcomers, not the long-

PH12-3

1 time, low-income residents who they've already
2 displaced and who continue to displace.

cont'd
PH12-3

3 I believe LA Metro's priorities are
4 skewed. There are other entryways to Dodger
5 Stadium. Why choose to run this project through
6 the second poorest neighborhood in LA? It says
7 everything that you would spend time and money
8 catering to a seasonal entertainment issue and
9 not the truly urgent actually life-threatening
10 issues of displacement that our most vulnerable
11 Chinatown residents face which is becoming
12 unhoused.

PH12-4

13 And to that greater point, this whole
14 process has been obfuscated and inaccessible for
15 community input. Just today, I had tenants,
16 Chinese seniors in attendance who wrote written
17 comments. One of the interpreters read her
18 comments in Chinese, came up to me and said her
19 point of prioritizing affordable housing over the
20 gondola was illegitimate. That is not his
21 jurisdiction to say that to me. He cannot
22 overrule a long time resident's personal point of

PH12-5

1 view, that the land this is being built on should
2 be used to better the most vulnerable in the
3 neighborhood is absolutely a legitimate and
4 glaringly urgent point of all of this.

cont'd
PH12-5

Comment - PH13

5 MR. CHIN: Okay. My name is Bill
6 Chin. B-I-L-L C-H-I-N. I've been looking at the
7 boards that are on the easel. They tend to be
8 very vague and I think they're very vague
9 intentionally, so it's not within the
10 capabilities of actually seeing towers when there
11 are supposed to be towers very long and tall and
12 they look very faint on purpose.

PH13-1

13 And there's also no scaling on there
14 and the people from, I guess, MTA, who are
15 running the show, they're kind of vague in terms
16 of their language. They say it's a station as
17 Bishop and Broadway. I said are you sure it's a
18 station? Oh, no, it's a tower. No, it's a
19 facility. I said what do you mean by facility?
20 Well, it's like a tower, but it's bigger than a
21 tower. I said well, what does it do? And he
22 wasn't sure except that it has to be big, so they

1 could turn.

2 So at that point I thought even I
3 speak very clearly, concisely, and correctly in
4 English, and when somebody is trying to help me
5 understand the project, it doesn't seem to work
6 out very well. It's very frustrating to read and
7 not read too much which is vague and then
8 somebody not being very clear, it's even worse.
9 So I don't know if reading and listening is going
10 to do anything because I can't experience it or
11 understand it without some kind of preliminary
12 sources. That's all I want to say.

13 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
14 went off the record at 11:55 a.m. and resumed at
15 11:55 a.m.)

16 MR. CHIN: Okay, my name is Bill Chin,
17 B-I-L-L C-H-I-N. I don't -- I'm against the
18 gondola, but there are two things that I do like
19 that I think can be done to improve the community
20 where I live in Chinatown. One is to put more
21 parkway that was proposed around the Chinatown
22 station on the sidewalk, like trees and bathrooms

cont'd
PH13-1

PH13-2

PH13-3

1 and bicycle facilities that could be used for the
2 Gold Line.

cont'd
PH13-3

3 And the other things is the bridge,
4 pedestrian bridge, they come from Broadway into
5 the park could be very useful to cut down on
6 traffic, so I don't have to take my car to the
7 east side of the historical park in order to walk
8 into the park. I can just walk while I'm shopping
9 across Broadway into the park by way of a
10 pedestrian bridge.

PH13-4

11 So I am officially against the
12 gondola, but I do see these two things as
13 beneficial. I also want to say that the gondola
14 station and the Union Station gondola station
15 seems to be repetitive of the Gold Line since we
16 do have people coming from Union Station who
17 would go to Chinatown by way of the Gold Line and
18 there is a Gold Line station in Chinatown
19 already.

PH13-5

20 So I think all that's needed is
21 electric vehicles that would transport people
22 from wherever that they need to come to to Dodger

PH13-6

1 Stadium either from Union Station or from Gene
2 Autry Museum or from the airport or any other
3 places, just like they do with the Hollywood
4 Bowl. You can take a charter bus from Gene Autry
5 to Hollywood Bowl. Thank you.

cont'd
PH13-6

6 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
7 went off the record at 11:57 a.m.)

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6

C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: LA ART Public Comment Session

Before: LA County Metropolitan Transit Authority

Date: 12-10-22

Place: Los Angeles, CA

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under my direction; further, that said transcript is a true and accurate complete record of the proceedings.



Court Reporter

NEAL R. GROSS

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

+ + + + +

LOS ANGELES AERIAL PUBLIC TRANSIT (LA ART)
PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

+ + + + +

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 10, 2022

+ + + + +

The Public Comment Session took place
on the Ticket Concourse at Los Angeles Union
Station, 800 N. Alameda Street, Los Angeles,
California, at 10:00 a.m.

COMMENTERS

ANDREW VOUGHT
BILL CHIN
MARC FUTERNICK
TERI VANDERBERG
DOUGLAS CARSTENS
KENNETH CHAN
JONATHAN BERMAN
BALDOMERO CAPIZ
MARIA ELENA PADINO
DISRAELY BUTLER

TANY LING

PHYLLIS LING

P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

(10:00 a.m.)

Comment - PH14

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MS. KING: All right. Recording is going. If you please state your name and spell it for the record.

MR. VOUGHT: My name is Andrew Vought. V as in Victor, O-U-G-H-T.

MS. KING: Great.

MR. VOUGHT: And I'm an Angeleno resident. I'm here today to voice my strong opposition to the proposed gondola. The only benefit from the gondola is that it allows a real estate developer to get richer developing the Dodgers parking lot. The rest of us all lose. Private gain equals public pain.

The Angelenos who use our beautiful state park lose. Two acres will be carved out of Los Angeles State Historic Park for a station, and gondolas will fly directly over the park. No more kite flying.

Dodger fans lose because the arithmetic does not work for the thousands of

PH14-1
PH14-2
PH14-3
PH14-4

1 rides promised. Fans will need to wait one or
2 two hours after the game for a six-minute ride.
3 Who wants that?

cont'd
PH14-4

4 Taxpayers lose because the cost of
5 operating the gondola will not be paid by the
6 billionaire developer. These costs will be paid
7 by tax-payers.

PH14-5

8 This park was won in 2000 in a fight
9 with real estate developers who wanted to put in
10 big box warehouses. The people wanted a park
11 instead, and we got our State Park. Now the
12 State Park is again threatened by a real estate
13 developer. Please don't destroy our State Park.
14 Thanks. I'm sorry, I tapped that --

PH14-6

15 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
16 went off the record at 10:17 a.m. and resumed at
17 10:22 a.m.)

CONTINUED
Comment - PH13

18 MR. CHIN: What do you need from me?

19 MS. KING: If you could just state and
20 spell your name, please, and then you can begin
21 your comment.

PH13-7

22 MR. CHIN: Bill Chin. B-I-L-L, C-H-I-

1 N.

2 MS. KING: Great.

3 MR. CHIN: So this is being recorded
4 and typed?

5 MS. KING: Recorded. The typing is
6 just notes for now. It will later be transcribed
7 I believe.

8 MR. CHIN: Oh, okay. So I heard that
9 there might -- I heard that the California State
10 Park that runs the historical park has not given
11 permission yet or they're thinking about the
12 gondola being part of or on the State Park
13 property. So I was wondering, why is that? Is
14 that because they're not committed? Or they just
15 want to see what the interest level is before the
16 state decides, okay. We'll go with public
17 interest and compromise the design and the plan
18 of our state park. Period.

19 My concern is, the state park has a
20 goal in mind, and they've designed it well for
21 the community. And I would not like to see their
22 original plan compromised in any way by the

cont'd
PH13-7

PH13-8

PH13-9

1 gondola project, whether that means cutting trees
2 or putting structure very close to the State Park
3 where the State Park will feel like there is a
4 compromise of the original design and landscaping
5 or of cutting of trees because the cables are too
6 low, or they need some height in the park to run
7 their cars through the park. Period. Is that
8 concise enough?

9 PARTICIPANT: That was perfect.

10 MR. CHIN: Oh, really?

11 PARTICIPANT: Yeah.

12 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
13 went off the record at 10:24 a.m. and resumed at
14 10:32 a.m.)

15 MS. KING: All right. Your name
16 again?

17 MR. CHIN: Bill Chin. B-I-L-L, C-H-I-
18 N. I looked at the project and the
19 environmental. I probably don't have any
20 problems with the five or six towers in terms of
21 the height. But LA and Los Angeles being so
22 creative and also very close to the art industry

cont'd
PH13-9

PH13-10

PH13-11

PH13-12

1 and Hollywood, that there should be something
2 done about concrete and more fashionable other
3 than flat surface and square corners.

4 If you make it look like a tree or
5 round off the corners like you see in modern
6 apartments, where you take a piece of metal and
7 nail it on the stud and then put sheet rock to
8 it, then it softens the corner, just like in
9 museums throughout the world. So that's not much
10 to ask for because concrete can be molded into
11 rounder corners. Make it look more organic.
12 Period.

13 MS. KING: Thank you.

14 MR. CHIN: I have something --

15 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
16 went off the record at 10:34 a.m. and resumed at
17 10:40 a.m.)

cont'd
PH13-12

PH13-13

18 MS. KING: -- minutes. Great, we're
19 recording.

20 MR. FUTERNICK: Hi. My name is Marc
21 Futernick. M-A-R-C. Last name F-U-T-E-R-N-I-C-K.

22 MS. KING: Please.

PH15-1

1 MR. FUTERNICK: I'm an emergency
 2 physician. I live in Pasadena, but I drive,
 3 every day that I come to work, through this area.
 4 I'm really focused on the impact of climate
 5 change and air pollution on our health, and this
 6 gondola will improve both of those. It'll open
 7 the door to another mode of zero-emission
 8 transportation here in Los Angeles.

cont'd
PH15-1

PH15-2

9 The gondola will serve as a first and
 10 last-mile connector from our main central
 11 transportation hub at LA Union Station to Dodger
 12 Stadium, the most-attended venue in major league
 13 baseball that lacks a permanent transit option,
 14 and not just for games but for many events. This
 15 also makes a key transit connection to Elysian
 16 Park, the city's oldest and second-largest park
 17 and, again, is not currently served by transit.

PH15-3

18 And my main interest, personally, are
 19 the co-benefits of connectivity, active
 20 transport, reduced congestion, reduced greenhouse
 21 gas emissions, and decreased local air pollution
 22 in the surrounding communities of Solano Canyon,

PH15-4

1 Victor Heights, and William Mead Homes. This
2 will protect their health and improve people's
3 daily lives in the area.

cont'd
PH15-4

4 And lastly, zero-emission transit was
5 formed to advance and accelerate zero-emission
6 technology in the transportation sector, which is
7 critical to a climate-resilient future for Los
8 Angeles. And this project will demonstrate the
9 value of this approach to the community and to
10 our environment. Please approve this project.

PH15-5

11 MS. KING: Thank you.

12 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
13 went off the record at 10:42 a.m. and resumed at
14 10:46 a.m.)

Comment - PH16

15 MS. KING: All right. We are
16 recording.

17 MS. VANDERBERG: Hi. My name is Teri
18 Vanderberg, and I am a resident of Chinatown.
19 I've lived here over a year. And the whole idea
20 of a gondola would upset the entire feeling of
21 Chinatown and all the elderly Chinese people that
22 live here. And this is their livelihood. This

PH16-1

1 is where they work.

2 They created that park for a safe
3 place for us to all go walk, and I use that park
4 twice a day for peace and quiet and tranquility.
5 And having a gondola placed over in the park
6 where people are going to be, by the thousands,
7 getting on a gondola that is going to be charging
8 \$30 a person to go one mile, which is a free ride
9 if you take it on the bus here at the train
10 station, and which is what thousands of us do.
11 And then they all park free on our little
12 streets, and we all take a bus over there.

13 There's no reason for a gondola. This
14 is all about money. This is all about the
15 gentleman who's proposing it because he wants to
16 build beautiful buildings up there when the
17 Dodgers aren't playing. So this has nothing to
18 do with helping people, nothing for our
19 community. It's all about money and wealth, and
20 I'm very much against the gondola.

21 MS. KING: Thank you.

22 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter

cont'd
PH16-1

PH16-2

PH16-3

1 went off the record at 10:48 a.m. and resumed at
2 10:49 a.m.)

Comment - PH17

3 MS. KING: All right. We are
4 recording.

5 MR. CARSTENS: Hello. I am Douglas
6 Carstens on behalf of the California Endowment.
7 We've been reviewing the gondola EIR and have
8 some initial comments with more to follow in
9 writing. We oppose the gondola project. Metros
10 should not be pursuing this private project at
11 Frank McCourt's behest at all, and Metro should
12 not be the lead agency because the city of Los
13 Angeles is in a much better position and is more
14 properly designated as the lead agency. These
15 points will be expanded in our comment letter.

16 First, regarding the EIR, the
17 California Environmental Quality Act, it's a bill
18 of rights for an environmental democracy. It
19 ensures the twin goals of public participation
20 and environmental protection are met, and EIR is
21 the heart of CEQA. An EIR is not supposed to be
22 a sales brochure or an infomercial for the

PH17-1

PH17-2

PH17-3

1 project.

2 It's supposed to be a unbiased, full-
3 disclosure document that advises the public and
4 decision makers of the impacts of a project and
5 how those impacts can and will be reduced. The
6 draft EIR presented by ARTT and Metro falls
7 woefully short of these legal requirements for
8 full and accurate disclosure and is biased in
9 favor of the project.

10 The aesthetic impact analysis is a
11 good example of how, instead of meaningful and
12 accurate depictions of what the gondola towers
13 and stations will look like in context, the EIR
14 preparers have chosen distortions and force
15 perspective depictions that minimize the visual
16 impact of the towers and stations in context.

17 Instead of --

18 MS. KING: It's been two minutes.

19 MR. CARSTENS: Okay. Thank you.

20 Useful information, the EIR provides misleading
21 depictions and half-truths. Information about
22 whether the gondola cars will be used for

cont'd
PH17-3

PH17-4

PH17-5

1 advertising and billboards is not disclosed,
2 though it's known advertising will be a major
3 component of the project. The omission and
4 misleading half-truths is a common theme of
5 different types of analysis in the EIR. In fact,
6 the gondola's entire financial plan, when -- is
7 my time up? It looks like you're --

8 MS. KING: Your time is up.

9 MR. CARSTENS: I just wonder, like can
10 I make another set of comments or come back?

11 MS. KING: You can come back and
12 restart your two minutes. Yeah.

13 MR. CARSTENS: Okay.

14 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
15 went off the record at 10:51 a.m. and resumed at
16 10:52 a.m.)

17 MS. KING: And we are recording.

18 MR. CARSTENS: Hello. This is Douglas
19 Carstens, and this is the second half of my
20 testimony because it was apparently two minutes
21 on the first half.

22 In fact, the gondola's entire

cont'd
PH17-5

PH17-6

PH17-7

1 financial plan, which the Metro board was
 2 promised would be made available before the end
 3 of September 2022, is missing altogether. The
 4 gondola's missing financing is critical to
 5 understanding how impacts identified in the EIR
 6 will be mitigated by the project proponent and
 7 how they will not be.

8 Since the proponent, Frank McCourt,
 9 and his company, McCourt Global, has only
 10 committed to funding about three percent of the
 11 entire project budget, the shortfalls in
 12 construction and operating revenues will need to
 13 be made up somewhere, and it is most likely that
 14 some, if not all, will come from public transit
 15 funding sources, better used for public projects.
 16 Mitigation of identified impacts will be
 17 expensive but will be critical to protect the
 18 neighborhoods and people living and working near
 19 the project route.

20 Traffic, air pollution, parking,
 21 noise, and recreation will all be impacted. The
 22 noise section of the EIR identifies that there

cont'd
PH17-7

PH17-8

PH17-9

1 will be significant and so-called unavoidable
 2 impacts from construction equipment. This noise
 3 and vibration will affect the neighborhoods
 4 around El Pueblo and in Chinatown. The vibration
 5 will threaten the physical integrity of the El
 6 Grito Mural and the Avila Adobe.

cont'd
PH17-9

7 These impacts can be avoided by
 8 denying the project altogether or choosing the
 9 environmentally-superior alternative which, in
 10 the EIR is called transportation systems
 11 management, what comes down to enhancement of the
 12 Dodger express buses system.

PH17-10

13 The California Endowment opposes Frank
 14 McCourt's gondola and the potential waste and
 15 gifting of tax-payer resources that it
 16 represents, including public land, such as
 17 allowing Alameda Street and at the State Historic
 18 Park. The implications of which --

PH17-11

19 MS. KING: Thank you.

20 MR. CARSTENS: Oh, is that time?

21 MS. KING: That's time.

PH17-12

22 MR. CARSTENS: Okay. And let me see

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(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 10:54 a.m. and resumed at 10:55 a.m.)

MS. KING: And just your name again.

MR. CARSTENS: Okay. My name is Douglas Carstens, and I'm here on behalf of the California Endowment. So the California Endowment opposes Frank McCourt's gondola and the potential waste and gifting of tax-payer resources that it represents, including public land such as allowing Alameda Street and at the State Historic Park, the implications of which the Environment Impact Report only partially discloses in more incomplete and misleading half-truths.

Instead of promoting a private gondola to a private sport stadium, more like an amusement park ride than actual public transit, Metro should focus on enhancing actual public transit options with its limited resources and staff and board time.

cont'd
PH17-12

PH17-13

PH17-14

1 We ask that you terminate the project
2 review process immediately. If you do not
3 terminate the project immediately, you, Metro,
4 should transfer lead agency status to the city of
5 Los Angeles to complete review and processing of
6 the gondola project. Metro should not let itself
7 be co-opted to serve the private interests of a
8 billionaire, especially one who has bankrupted
9 such a revered organization as the Los Angeles
10 Dodgers. Stop the gondola now. Thank you.

11 MS. KING: Thank you very much.

12 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
13 went off the record at 10:57 a.m. and resumed at
14 10:58 a.m.)

PH17-15

Comment - PH18

15 MS. KING: We're recording. If you
16 could just state your name and spell it before
17 you begin.

18 MR. CHAN: Yeah. Kenneth Chan. K-E-
19 N-N-E-T-H. Last name, C-H-A-N.

PH18-1

20 MS. KING: Thanks. Go ahead.

21 MR. CHAN: Yeah. Coming out. I think
22 I'm against this project. There's not enough

1 analysis on housing and gentrification from what
 2 we've seen. Every time Metro comes in here and
 3 builds one of these projects, it encourages
 4 market-rate development and displaces longtime
 5 tenets.

cont'd
PH18-1

6 In addition, this is really treating
 7 our neighborhood like a playground. It is not a
 8 good use of funds. You know, we still have some
 9 of the worst-maintained sidewalks, streets in our
 10 neighborhood. We have a huge demand and need for
 11 affordable housing in our neighborhood. This will
 12 not resolve Chinatown's transportation issues.
 13 It should not take me two buses to get to
 14 downtown.

PH18-2

15 Overall, I think this project is a
 16 waste of funds, and the show that's been put on
 17 today completely ignores the community. And
 18 yeah. I think that building this project would
 19 be a huge waste of funds and a huge mistake, and
 20 if folks continue to proceed with this and ignore
 21 the voices of the community, they're going to
 22 meet some real resistance. And I think it'll be

PH18-3

1 a waste of time for everybody.

2 So again, you know, we have a real
3 need for affordable housing and a real need for
4 real transit solutions, not some playground BS
5 that's being funded by Frank McCourt.

6 MS. KING: Thank you very much.

7 PARTICIPANT: All right. Thank you.

8 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
9 went off the record at 11:00 a.m. and resumed at
10 11:05 a.m.)

cont'd
PH18-3

Comment - PH19

11 PARTICIPANT: State and spell your
12 name

13 MS. KING: All right.

14 MR. BERMAN: Does the two minutes
15 include my name-spelling?

16 PARTICIPANT: No. I'm going to start
17 it right after you finish.

18 MS. KING: We're recording now, so.

19 MR. BERMAN: I have a very long name.
20 Ready?

21 MS. KING: Yes.

22 MR. BERMAN: Jonathan Berman. J-O-N-

PH19-1

1 A-T-H-A-N, B-E-R-M-A-N.

2 MS. KING: Please.

3 MR. BERMAN: Now? I am currently
4 against this project for a number of reasons.
5 First of all, it feels like a massive boondoggle
6 of the ownership of the area of Dodger Stadium.
7 My understanding of it is Frank McCourt and
8 related people, who's already bankrupted the
9 Dodgers and other professional teams, and that
10 the end game of all of this is the development of
11 those parking areas in Dodger Stadium as some
12 kind of mall or LA live type of situation. So
13 not being transparent about what that is.
14 Furthermore -- let me know if I'm going too fast.

15 MS. KING: Okay.

16 MR. BERMAN: Furthermore, this
17 particular event here is incredible biased. You
18 have 20 booths manned by people, persons, by
19 people who are in the employ of the people who
20 want to move this forward. And the results seem
21 pretty ordain. It's always no significant
22 impact.

1 Crowd control. You're going to have,
 2 for the games, 10 -- are we out of time? Are we
 3 going to have like 10,000 more people getting out
 4 of the stadium at the same time getting into
 5 these gondolas? That's going to be a special
 6 show of consternation. So yeah.

PH19-4

7 My main -- also the environmental
 8 review. The idea that there are 10,000 parking
 9 spots in Chinatown is laughable at best given
 10 that most of these, many of these properties are
 11 being redeveloped as commercial or residential
 12 properties, some of the lots close at night.

PH19-5

13 So I just think it's not that well
 14 thought out. I mean the ultimate thing is that
 15 this funding that will ultimately come out of
 16 taxpayers' dollars should go towards homeless,
 17 helping get people off the streets, mentally-ill
 18 people and other people who are living on the
 19 streets, rather than putting billions towards a
 20 project that's not going to happen in the four --
 21 that this will come out in four years is insane.
 22 That's not going to happen.

PH19-6

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PARTICIPANT: Thank you.

MS. KING: Thank you.

(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 11:08 a.m. and resumed at 11:09 a.m.)

cont'd
PH19-6

Comment - PH20

MS. KING: So we're recording now, and you can just start by stating his name and spelling.

MR. CAPIZ (Speaking through translator): My name is Baldomero Capiz. B-A-L-D-O-M-E-R-O. I am the president of the organization National Union of Ex Berceros. As a community leader, it is our responsibility to ensure that our taxes are not used for the benefit of third parties.

PH20-1

The gondola project is nothing more than an attraction, which has nothing to do with the protection of the environment. Metro already has a bus system which takes fans to the Dodger Stadium, and it is free. This project will only take advantage of our taxes for the benefit of a person who wants to make him or herself more

PH20-2

1 rich.

2 The gondola will only displace many
3 residents in Chinatown, just as Latino residents
4 were displaced from the lands where they now are
5 living in Dodger Stadium -- where Dodger Stadium
6 is now located, rather. Correction.

7 We oppose the gondola in honor of
8 people who are known as landless, including the
9 Ex Barceros. We robustly oppose that anyone with
10 personal interests would construct an aerial
11 transport.

12 MR. CAPIZ: That's it.

13 MS. KING: Great. Thank you.

14 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
15 went off the record at 11:12 a.m. and resumed at
16 11:14 a.m.)

Comment - PH21

17 MS. KING: Okay. Name and spelling,
18 please.

19 MS. PADINO (Speaking through
20 translator): My name is Maria Elena Padino. M --
21 or sorry. Correction. M-A-R-I-A, E-L-E-N-A, P-
22 A-D-I-N-O.

1 MS. KING: She can begin.

2 MS. PADINO: I am a member of the
3 organization Anahuak. Our organization has
4 fought to be able to have more green spaces and
5 parks so that our children are able to play. For
6 many years, we have fought for our well-being,
7 the well-being of our families, rather, and for
8 better recreational opportunities for our
9 community.

10 We do not want people with money, with
11 personal interests to build an air highway above
12 our State Park because it is abusing the privacy
13 of people by having a gondola that would go over
14 the homes of these people. Doesn't the privacy
15 of these people count?

16 We ask for you to listen to us and for
17 you to reject this project which will use our
18 federal funds and our taxes. We oppose this
19 gondola. Our communities have already
20 demonstrated our opposition, and now it
21 corresponds to you all to say no to this gondola.
22 Thank you so much.

cont'd
PH21-1

PH21-2

PH21-3

1 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
2 went off the record at 11:16 a.m. and resumed at
3 11:19 a.m.)

Comment - PH22

4 MS. KING: We are recording. If you
5 could please state and spell your name.

6 MR. BUTLER: My name is Disraely
7 Butler. D as in David, I-S-R-A-E-L-Y. Butler
8 the way it sounds.

9 MS. KING: Got you. And you can
10 begin.

11 MR. BUTLER: All right. And do I need
12 to state my case, honey?

13 MS. KING: Yes, please.

14 MR. BUTLER: Okay. Wonderful project.
15 Of course, our Founding Fathers would be so proud
16 of what we're doing here and what you guys are
17 doing. And, of course, the great Nubian
18 Pharaohs. My only concern is the noise factor.
19 LAPD needs to relocate their heliports. They're
20 flying too low, it's too noisy, and because of
21 the Kobe Bryant incident, there is a situation
22 that could be very dangerous, you know, with some

PH22-1

PH22-2

1 mechanical failures.

2 The other situation, there needs to be
3 more regulation of the actual train horn
4 industry. You can't always have everything on 16
5 when you can turn it down to 8 and 7 and still
6 have the same results. What's happening in our
7 communities? People are getting vertical, the
8 rooms are spinning around, blood pressure levels
9 are going up, and all the other complicates
10 related to frequencies. So those can be taken
11 care of, I think everything else will take care
12 of itself.

13 MS. KING: Great.

14 MR. BUTLER: See? I made it short.

15 MS. KING: Look at that. Thank you
16 very much. Appreciate you.

17 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
18 went off the record at 11:21 a.m. and resumed at
19 11:30 a.m.)

CONTINUED 19
Comment - PH13

20 MS. KING: Go right ahead.

21 MR. CHIN: My name is Bill Chin. B-I-
22 L-L, C-H-I-N. I was at the booth for the

1 aerospace. So the question was, will there be
2 trees that will be cut? They said yes. And then
3 I asked, why is it that all the maps in your EIR
4 and on your project shows no scaling? Like no
5 millimeter per feet or how many feet per
6 millimeter on the two-dimensional maps? And he
7 says, oh, we don't know. I said, it's not
8 appropriate within your capabilities if you guys
9 are all engineers.

10 But it's appropriate if somebody told
11 all the engineers, don't put any scaling on it
12 because we don't want the public to figure out
13 how much distance or height is involved. And
14 therefore there's not scale. Just a map and a
15 legend. And I really, really oppose that. Why
16 do you want people to review the information when
17 they can't scale down any distances on every map
18 on thousands of pages?

19 PARTICIPANT: All done?

20 MR. CHIN: Thank you.

21 MS. KING: Thank you very much.

22 Appreciate that.

1 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
2 went off the record at 11:32 a.m. and resumed at
3 11:36 a.m.)

Comment - PH23

4 MS. KING: All right. So just your
5 name and the spelling, first, please?

6 MS. T. LING: My name's Tany Ling. T-
7 A-N-Y, L-I-N-G.

8 MS. KING: Perfect. And you can
9 begin.

10 MS. T. LING: Okay. I'm a resident of
11 Chinatown. I am against this project. I think
12 it's a giveaway to a billionaire, and I think
13 Metro should listen very closely to the people
14 who are raising alarms about this. Why are we
15 constantly giving away the city to billionaires?
16 Who are they really serving because it's not
17 really the people? It's usually -- and the
18 bottom line is, it's all about money, okay?

19 So I think the project is masquerading
20 as a, it's masquerading as a public transit
21 project for the greater good, but it's really a
22 means for a billionaire to use public money to

PH23-1

1 take a step forward towards achieving his planned
 2 huge development project at Dodger Stadium and
 3 all the while promising that it won't cost
 4 taxpayers money. But he has already transferred
 5 the operation of this project to a nonprofit.
 6 And guess what? Nonprofits can apply for federal
 7 and state funding, which is paid for by
 8 taxpayers.

cont'd
PH23-1

PH23-2

9 There's been studies done to show that
 10 this will not improve traffic in the area. It
 11 will not improve air quality. It will actually,
 12 could possibly bring more cars into the area.
 13 It's going to be traveling not near people's
 14 homes but over people's homes and not 400 feet in
 15 the air but possibly as low as 40 feet in the air
 16 above people's heads, above people's roofs.

PH23-3

PH23-4

17 I am against this project also because
 18 it's going to completely change the character of
 19 the State Park. Cutting down trees, putting
 20 these tall imposing towers and stations in the
 21 State Park that the community worked so hard to
 22 bring to life and to have this beautiful, open

PH23-5

1 space for everybody to enjoy. It can't happen.
2 Let's not let it happen.

3 MS. KING: Thank you very much.

4 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
5 went off the record at 11:38 a.m. and resumed at
6 11:39 a.m.)

CONTINUED
Comment - PH13

7 MS. KING: All right. Just state your
8 name one more time for us, please.

9 MR. CHIN: My name is Bill Chin. And
10 it's spelled C, B-I-L-L, C-H-I-N. As I
11 demonstrated to the recorder here that the
12 Cantonese speaker does not really speak Taishan,
13 and there were four Taishan speakers that came
14 in. But they chose not to come in because they
15 saw the sign that says Cantonese and no Taishan.

16 And it makes a big difference because
17 Taishan could be intimidated. They're not
18 educated, they're barely skilled, and to come
19 into a big, unfamiliar place like this, it's not
20 comforting for them to know that people don't
21 speak their dialect. And I hope that changes in
22 the future because it's been a misleading thing

1 to not bring enough people from the community
2 already. Thank you.

3 MS. KING: Thank you.

4 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
5 went off the record at 11:40 a.m. and resumed at
6 11:48 a.m.)

Comment - PH24

7 MS. KING: All right. And your name?

8 MS. P. LING: Phyllis Ling.

9 MS. KING: And could you spell that
10 please?

11 MS. P. LING: P-H-Y-L-L-I-S, L-I-N-G.

12 MS. KING: Great. And please.

13 MS. P. LING: Yeah. I think with this
14 draft Environmental Impact Report, I think
15 something that needs to be said is that there's
16 still no funding plan and that all of these
17 impacts and mitigations proposed are meaningless
18 if there isn't sufficient funding for this
19 project.

PH24-1

20 The fact that Metro is doing this
21 draft EIR before there is any funding plan is a
22 huge disrespect to our communities. It's wasting

1 our time. It's putting residents like me in the
 2 position of having to spend thousands of dollars
 3 on consultants and thousands of hours reading an
 4 8,000 plus page draft Environmental Impact
 5 Report.

cont'd
PH24-1

6 It costs a lot of money to operate and
 7 maintain systems like this, and it would run over
 8 our homes and public spaces. A system that isn't
 9 properly maintained will be noisy and unsafe and
 10 fall into disrepair, be graffitied over, and be a
 11 visual blight.

PH24-2

12 Crowd control is a huge control. It's
 13 largely ignored or dismissed in this draft EIR.
 14 People can die from crushing injuries and
 15 stampedes. It's a huge issue. You're trying to
 16 squeeze 40 people into each cabin. After events,
 17 a lot of people will be drunk. There's very
 18 little consideration for the impacts that will
 19 have, the liabilities that will impose on the
 20 city if it takes responsibility for this system.

PH24-3

21 I think you have to consider what
 22 happened after the Elton John concert in the

1 parking lot. People bumping into each other in
2 crowded spaces, bumping into cars, bumping.
3 That's a huge issue. A lot of fights start that
4 way, especially at Dodger Stadium.

5 And crowd control at the stations is
6 a big issue also. There's very little
7 explanation for how the lines will be spread out.
8 We can't expect a magical ticketing system,
9 reservation system to spread people out evenly
10 over a two-hour period before and after games.
11 And how are people going to arrive on time for a
12 gondola reservation if they're supposedly taking
13 transit to the gondola stations? And who will be
14 able to reserve these tickets anyway? Is this
15 going to be equitable or will VIPs and certain
16 members of clubs have early access to reserve
17 tickets? I think I've used up my time, but can I
18 keep going?

19 PARTICIPANT: Go ahead.

20 MS. P. LING: I think visual impacts
21 are a big issue as well. You have these leaning
22 towers that don't look very stable or balanced.

cont'd
PH24-3

PH24-4

PH24-5

1 They don't have the sense of good Fung Shui. I
2 don't know if that's going to be addressed in the
3 final EIR. Seems that it would be important to
4 consider Fung Shui in Chinatown.

5 And then visual blight of advertising
6 all over the gondola cabins, stations, and
7 towers. This is going to be owned by a private
8 company. Are there any limits to what they can
9 advertise? Personally, I wouldn't want to see
10 advertisements for liquor, alcohol, online
11 gambling, cannabis, campaign and political ads,
12 ads for authoritarian governments' propaganda, PR
13 during the Olympics constantly streaming over my
14 neighborhood. Those are just a few things.

15 And would we have any say as a
16 community as to what messages are constantly
17 being streamed over our neighborhood? The visual
18 impact is that this would turn our neighborhood
19 into an advertising district and Disneyland type
20 of amusement park. It would cause destructive
21 driving, it would hurt seniors, pedestrians, and
22 cyclists. All right. Thank you.

cont'd
PH24-5

PH24-6

1 MS. KING: Thank you. Appreciate it.

2

3 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
4 went off the record at 11:53 a.m. and resumed at
5 11:55 a.m.)

6 MS. KING: All right. Go right ahead.

7 MS. P. LING: Phyllis Ling. P-H-Y-L-
8 L-I-S, L-I-N-G.

9 MS. KING: Oh, go right ahead.

10 MS. P. LING: Okay. So my comment is
11 that the parking study, I think we were told it
12 was not part of the Environmental Impact Report.
13 But it is being presented here on a board, and so
14 it's a little bit confusing. Personally, I do
15 think it should be a part of the Environmental
16 Impact Report because it would -- people driving
17 to the gondola stations and parking in our
18 neighborhoods will have an impact on traffic flow
19 in our neighborhoods.

20 And the fact that it's being presented
21 here but then not a part of the Environmental
22 Impact Report, to me, that's just very confusing.

1 And it seems like it sets it up as where it's,
 2 the parking study doesn't need to be as thorough
 3 or doesn't need to meet a certain standard as a
 4 separate study outside of the Environmental
 5 Impact Report.

cont'd
PH24-7

6 It's just very confusing as to the
 7 status of that. And I think it should be
 8 officially included in the final report. And I
 9 think there should be additional public review
 10 and extended review time when the final EIR is
 11 released. Thank you.

PH24-8

12 MS. KING: Thank you.

13 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
 14 went off the record at 11:57 a.m. and resumed at
 15 12:02 p.m.)

CONTINUED
Comment - PH13

16 MS. KING: And we're recording.

17 MR. CHIN: By name is Bill Chin. B-I-
 18 L-L, C-H-I-N. I've lived here for over 54 years
 19 in Chinatown. And I'm against the gondola
 20 because it seems like a repeat of the Gold Line
 21 with stations and Gold Line at Union Station and
 22 in Chinatown. But I do like to have a couple of

PH13-17

1 the benefits, which is a pedestrian bridge from
2 Broadway into the historical park and to maybe
3 see more trees along where the Chinatown Gold
4 Line is located.

5 But I wanted to say that, when I'm
6 traveling on Alpine and going eastward toward the
7 post office, I see that the Gold Line has three
8 towers that are very thick. And it's daunting
9 that there's no trees all around those towers,
10 very grey, massive, concrete towers. And even
11 though these towers may be just as thick and not
12 as closely sequenced, they should also have very
13 well-maintained vegetation, if not because there
14 are towers. It is because those places where
15 those towers are, they should be landscaped with
16 even more vegetation and without the gondola.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. KING: Thank you.

19 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
20 went off the record at 12:04 p.m. and resumed at
21 12:10 p.m.)

22 MS. KING: Just go ahead and state

PH13-18

PH13-19

PH13-20

1 your name one more time.

2 MR. CHIN: Yes. My name is Bill Chin.

3 MS. KING: Okay.

4 MR. CHIN: B-I-L-L, C-H-I-N.

5 MS. KING: And go right ahead, please.

6 MR. CHIN: I'm still concerned that
7 information on the board is so very vague. When
8 I ask questions about the parking study, it
9 wasn't articulated what day of the week and
10 whether it was a weekend. It was just said that
11 it was game day. And game day could fall on
12 weekends as easy as it does on weekdays.

13 Especially on weekends, where
14 Chinatown is highly, highly, highly tourist, and
15 people from adjacent neighborhoods always come
16 back to Chinatown to buy bags of rice or bring
17 family members or even tourists. And they really
18 occupy a lot of their private, as well as street
19 parking, in the parking lot from very early
20 morning all the way to the evening time on
21 weekends throughout the year, especially during
22 the summer months during game season as well.

cont'd
PH13-20

1 So this is very vague because you
 2 don't read it on the board. You don't see it on
 3 the writing. You hear it only if you ask
 4 questions. But you don't get to experience it at
 5 a glance. And so you assume that the experts are
 6 telling the truth about how many parking spaces
 7 that are available.

8 But if you come on a weekend, it is
 9 not true. All the parking lots are filled, paid
 10 parking lots. And all the streets, you have to
 11 like double-park to wait for somebody to leave
 12 before you find parking. Thank you.

13 MS. KING: Okay. Thank you.

14 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
 15 went off the record at 12:12 p.m. and resumed at
 16 12:15 p.m.)

17 MS. KING: Ready when you are. Just
 18 state your name one more time.

19 MR. CHIN: My name is Bill Chin. B-I-
 20 L-L, C-H-I-N. I had a comment about LA Art,
 21 whether it's McCourt or whether it's a nonprofit.
 22 It seems the nonprofit, I have no confidence that

cont'd
PH13-20

PH13-21

1 they will be around after a gondola project like
2 this is built, that they would be able to sustain
3 the maintenance and the ongoing operating
4 expenses for an endeavor like This throughout the
5 year.

6 Whoever was chosen may be certified
7 with nonprofit with the state, but I don't see
8 that they have any resources that could manage
9 with the operating expenses of a project like
10 this and the amount of experience that they have.
11 Thank you.

12 MS. KING: Thank you.

13 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
14 went off the record at 12:16 p.m. and resumed at
15 12:17 p.m.)

16 MS. KING: Recording.

17 MR. CHIN: My name is Bill Chin. B-I-
18 L-L, C-H-I-N. I've seen and read parts of the
19 EIR, so I understand the different heights of the
20 tower, but they don't delineate where the heights
21 are at every hundred feet or interval. It just
22 is a very vague, saying that there's average

cont'd
PH13-21

PH13-22

1 height and maximum height. But they don't
2 demarcate where they're located.

3 But being vague like that still
4 doesn't stop me from asking if you are able to
5 calculate the height of the towers and where the
6 cables need to be. I would like to see
7 statistics on how deep each of the seven towers
8 are in terms of footing and how deep they go into
9 the ground and whether there's been any
10 preliminary soil report to determine at what
11 height those footings should be. Thank you.

12 MS. KING: Thank you. Appreciate you.

13 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
14 went off the record at 12:18 p.m.)
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PH13-22

PH13-23

A	<p>allowing 14:17 15:12 allows 2:12 Alpine 36:6 alternative 14:9 altogether 13:3 14:8 amount 39:10 amusement 15:19 33:20 Anahuak 23:3 analysis 11:10 12:5 17:1 Andrew 1:12 2:6 Angeleno 2:9 Angelenos 2:16 Angeles 1:1,3,9,9 2:18 5:21 7:8 8:8 10:13 16:5,9 anyway 32:14 apartments 6:6 apparently 12:20 apply 28:6 Appreciate 25:16 26:22 34:1 40:12 approach 8:9 appropriate 26:8,10 approve 8:10 area 7:3 8:3 19:6 28:10 28:12 areas 19:11 arithmetic 2:22 arrive 32:11 art 1:3 5:22 38:20 articulated 37:9 ARTT 11:6 asked 26:3 asking 40:4 assume 38:5 attraction 21:17 authoritarian 33:12 AUTHORITY 1:1 available 13:2 38:7 average 39:22 Avila 14:6 avoided 14:7</p>	<p>barely 29:18 baseball 7:13 beautiful 2:16 9:16 28:22 behalf 10:6 15:7 behest 10:11 believe 4:7 benefit 2:12 21:15,21 benefits 36:1 Berceros 21:12 Berman 1:15 18:14,19 18:22,22 19:3,16 best 20:9 better 10:13 13:15 23:8 biased 11:8 19:17 big 3:10 29:16,19 32:6 32:21 bill 1:13 3:22 5:17 10:17 25:21 29:9 35:17 37:2 38:19 39:17 billboards 12:1 billionaire 3:6 16:8 27:12,22 billionaires 27:15 billions 20:19 bit 34:14 blight 31:11 33:5 blood 25:8 board 13:1 15:22 34:13 37:7 38:2 boondoggle 19:5 booth 25:22 booths 19:18 bottom 27:18 box 3:10 bridge 36:1 bring 28:12,22 30:1 37:16 Broadway 36:2 brochure 10:22 Bryant 24:21 BS 18:4 budget 13:11 build 9:16 23:11 building 17:18 buildings 9:16 builds 17:3 built 39:2 bumping 32:1,2,2 bus 9:9,12 21:19 buses 14:12 17:13 Butler 1:17 24:6,7,7,11 24:14 25:14 buy 37:16</p>	<p>C-H-I- 3:22 5:17 C-H-I-N 25:22 29:10 35:18 37:4 38:20 39:18 cabin 31:16 cabins 33:6 cables 5:5 40:6 calculate 40:5 California 1:10 4:9 10:6 10:17 14:13 15:8,8 called 14:10 campaign 33:11 cannabis 33:11 Cantonese 29:12,15 Canyon 7:22 capabilities 26:8 Capiz 1:16 21:9,10 22:12 care 25:11,11 cars 5:7 11:22 28:12 32:2 Carstens 1:14 10:5,6 11:19 12:9,13,18,19 14:20,22 15:6,7 carved 2:17 case 24:12 cause 33:20 central 7:10 CEQA 10:21 certain 32:15 35:3 certified 39:6 Chan 1:15 16:18,18,21 change 7:5 28:18 changes 29:21 character 28:18 charging 9:7 children 23:5 Chin 1:13 3:18,22,22 4:3,8 5:10,17,17 6:14 25:21,21 26:20 29:9,9 35:17,17 37:2,2,4,6 38:19,19 39:17,17 Chinatown 8:18,21 14:4 20:9 22:3 27:11 33:4 35:19,22 36:3 37:14,16 Chinatown's 17:12 Chinese 8:21 choosing 14:8 chose 29:14 chosen 11:14 39:6 city 10:12 16:4 27:15 31:20 city's 7:16 climate 7:4 climate-resilient 8:7 close 5:2,22 20:12 closely 27:13 36:12</p>
B	<p>B-A-L- 21:10 B-E-R-M-A-N 19:1 B-I- 25:21 35:17 38:19 39:17 B-I-L-L 3:22 5:17 29:10 37:4 back 12:10,11 37:16 bags 37:16 balanced 32:22 Baldomero 1:16 21:10 bankrupted 16:8 19:8 Barceros 22:9</p>	<p>C</p> <p>C 29:10 C-H-A-N 16:19</p>	

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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: LA ART Public Comment Session

Before: LA County Metropolitan Transit Authority

Date: 12-10-22

Place: Los Angeles, CA

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under my direction; further, that said transcript is a true and accurate complete record of the proceedings.



Court Reporter

NEAL R. GROSS

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Appendix B.2
Public Hearing, December 13, 2022
(Virtual)

LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

+ + + + +

LOS ANGELES AERIAL PUBLIC TRANSIT (LA ART)
PUBLIC HEARING

+ + + + +

TUESDAY
DECEMBER 13, 2022

+ + + + +

THE HEARING CONVENED VIA
VIDEOCONFERENCE, AT 5:00 P.M. PST, JESSICA SISCO,
MODERATOR, PRESIDING.

+ + + + +

PRESENT

JESSICA SISCO, FACILITATOR
CORY ZELMER

COMMENTERS

KATHERINE CHRISTMAN
CHRIS WILSON
MARY
KATHLEEN JOHNSON
BILL CHEN
ELIAS GARCIA
PHYLLIS LING
TABITHA
SPEAKER 18
SPEAKER 19
ERNEST LI
SPEAKER 21
WONG

KING
LUKE MACDONALD
MICHAEL
DOUGLAS CARSTENS
SPEAKER 27
JIM STARR
MELISSA
MICHAEL CHONG
EDWIN LEE
ALAN WEEKS
DARRYL SAUCEDO
SPEAKER 35
CARLOS GOMEZ
LESTER
SPEAKER 40-41
KAYLA
MONICA VASQUEZ
MS. WONG
JASON
SHARON COLEMAN
SARAH VAN DE CAMP
BILL
DIANE WEISS
DREW MILLER
DAWN HUANG
CARLOS
ERIC
MONICA CRUZ
MICHAEL BERG
ALEX ALVAREZ
SPEAKER 58
CRYSTAL
RON
KATIE

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 Jessica: Okay.

3 All right. We'll go ahead and get started. So I'd
4 like to welcome you to this public hearing for the Los
5 Angeles Aerial Rapid Transit Project Draft Environmental
6 Impact Report. This project is proposed by Los Angeles
7 Aerial Rapid Transit Technologies LLC. And thank you for
8 taking time out of your day to participate in this meeting.
9 I'm going to say a few words about language accommodations
10 during the meeting, and as I do so, I just wanted to give
11 you all a heads up that even if you're listening to the
12 meeting in English, you're going to want to select English
13 as I go through these instructions.

14 So let's see here. I'm going to provide this
15 information in English, and then I'll ask our Spanish,
16 Cantonese and Mandarin interpreters to repeat it. So you're
17 going to want to click on the interpretation button in your
18 Zoom screen. This button is typically at the bottom of your
19 screen, but the location will depend on the device you're
20 using. And when I get through, the instructions will go
21 ahead and enable that so you can find it.

22 And you're going to want to either click English
23 if you're listening in English or Spanish, Cantonese or
24 Mandarin. Then you'll want to, you're also welcome to
25 download a translated version of the presentation at
26 metro.net/aerialrapidtransit to follow along in the
27 language of your choice. And we've got that URL in the chat
28 for you. And on the next slide, I'll show you exactly where
29 to access the translated PowerPoint.

1 And I will now ask the Spanish interpreter to
2 repeat these instructions.

3 Spanish Interpreter: [Spanish]

4 Spanish Interpreter: [Spanish]

5 Jessica: Thank you. I'll now ask the Cantonese
6 interpreter to repeat the instructions.

7 Cantonese Interpreter: [Cantonese]

8 Cantonese Interpreter: [Cantonese]

9 Cantonese Interpreter: [Cantonese]

10 Cantonese Interpreter: [Cantonese]

11 Cantonese Interpreter: [Cantonese]

12 Cantonese Interpreter: [Cantonese]

13 Jessica: Great. Thank you. And finally, I'll ask
14 the Mandarin interpreter to repeat these instructions.

15 Mandarin Interpreter: [Mandarin]

16 Mandarin Interpreter: [Mandarin]

17 Jessica: Great. Thank you very much. Okay. So
18 we'll now enable the audio interpretation feature so that
19 you can access it. So you'll want to look for the
20 interpretation globe and you're going to click on it and
21 select your language. I see a few people joined a little
22 bit after the hour, so I do want to reiterate that if
23 you're listening to the meeting in English, you'll want to
24 click on the globe and click English so that you can hear
25 any comments that might come through that get interpreted
26 back into English.

1 So everyone should select the language. And we're
2 also going to activate the recording for the meeting. So
3 you may hear a slight break in audio as we activate that
4 recording. And finally, I do want to note that if you're
5 calling in via the phone, the interpretation feature,
6 unfortunately, is not available in Zoom for phone-only
7 participants. So you'll want to please log in to Zoom to
8 access interpretation if you can.

9 Okay. So I'll just make sure that we got the
10 recording enabled and we'll move forward. And I see one
11 note came in from someone that wasn't able to find the
12 global marker on their Zoom screen. So I'm going to have my
13 team reach out to you and see if they can help you find it.
14 Okay, so this is a quick screenshot of where you can find
15 the presentations in all four languages at metro.net/aerial
16 rapid transit.

17 And we'll put the links in the chat for you as
18 well. All right. Now that we have the interpretation
19 enabled, I'd like to welcome everyone to tonight's meeting.
20 And I know that we have some representatives from Janice
21 Hahn's office and the supervisor herself wanted to welcome
22 you all and appreciate you participating in the meeting
23 tonight. And with that, we'll go through the agenda.

24 Item number one is the purpose of the meeting.
25 Item number two is how to participate in this virtual
26 meeting. Item number three is a general overview and
27 introduction. And item number four is a sequel process
28 overview. Then we'll move into the overview of the L.A.
29 A.R.T. project and then an orientation to the draft EIR,
30 Key analyses and conclusions and finally a public comment

1 session and we'll provide more information about how to
2 participate in the public comment session later in the
3 meeting.

4 The meeting is scheduled to conclude around
5 7 p.m. And finally, if you need assistance with Zoom,
6 please use the chat function or you can see up on the
7 screen you can email mary.nooristani@aecom.com or call
8 6192519180 and we'll put that information in the chat for
9 you. And I think there might have been one or two people
10 that were reaching out about the interpretation so we'll
11 have the team get in touch with you.

12 All right. So the purpose of this meeting is to
13 inform the public about the draft Environmental Impact
14 Report, key analyses and conclusions and to accept public
15 comment on the draft EIR. And today's meeting is one of
16 three public hearings being held during the draft EIR
17 public review period. At today's meeting, you will have an
18 opportunity to learn about the draft EIR, key analyses and
19 conclusions, as I said, and you'll have an opportunity to
20 provide public comment. Since the focus of the meeting is
21 to provide an opportunity for verbal public comment, there
22 won't be Q&A today.

23 And I want to note that during tonight's public
24 comment session, we'll be taking verbal public comment, and
25 communications typed into the Zoom chat will not be
26 considered a formal public comment. But on the next slide,
27 I'm going to look at all of the additional opportunities
28 that there are to provide official public comment through
29 January 17th, 2023.

1 So let's take a look at the ways that you can
2 comment on the draft EIR through January 17th. Our third
3 public hearing will be held at Cathedral High School on
4 Thursday, January 12th, from 5 to 7 p.m. And you can also
5 comment via email, regular mail and phone, and we'll put
6 that information in the chat for you. The phone number for
7 providing official public comment through January 17th is
8 2139226913.

9 Okay. So how to participate in this meeting. When
10 we get to the public comment session, you can raise your
11 hand icon in Zoom by clicking on the hand icon or dialing
12 star nine if you're calling in via phone. And you'll be
13 called on to unmute yourself and provide public comment. A
14 few notes about today's meeting. I wanted to reiterate that
15 the last four meetings that were held in October, we had an
16 opportunity for questions and answers.

17 However, today, because we will be focusing on
18 public comment, there won't be any Q&A, it will be all
19 public comment. And with that, I would now like to
20 introduce Cory Zelmer, Deputy Executive, excuse me,
21 Executive Officer with L.A. Metro.

22 Cory Zelmer: Thank you, Jessica. Good evening,
23 everyone. I will start with a brief overview of the roles
24 and responsibilities for [both] project and as Jessica
25 already mentioned, the Los Angeles Area Rapid Transit
26 Project is proposed by L.A. Aerial Rapid Transit
27 Technologies LLC. Metro's role in the project is to serve
28 as the lead agency for the preparation of an Environmental
29 Impact Report, EIR are under the California Environmental
30 Quality Act, or CEQA, for the draft.

1 The EIR, which is out now for review, evaluated
2 the potential environmental effects associated with both
3 the construction and operation of the proposed project. As
4 the lead agency, Metro has the responsibility to ensure
5 that the EIR adequately assesses the potential project
6 impacts of the proposed project, that the proposed
7 mitigation measures to address the project impacts are
8 appropriate and the CEQA process has been complied with for
9 all public noticing, public outreach and the distribution
10 of documents.

11 And as Jessica mentioned, we're currently
12 accepting public comments on the draft, the EIR for CEQA,
13 and she also went through a few of the ways you can provide
14 comments, the public hearings that we're having tonight, in
15 January by email, by mail, and also by phone, and we
16 encourage you to make comments at any time that's
17 convenient for you and to make comments as many times as
18 you like up until the of the commentary.

19 Also as part of this project, we are utilizing
20 Senate bill 44, which contains the CEQA process and was
21 adopted last year to streamline judicial review for what
22 are called environmental leadership transit projects in Los
23 Angeles County.

24 Jessica: Cory, I'm going to ask that you speak up
25 a little bit. It looks like we've got a couple of comments
26 that came in that folks are having trouble hearing you.

27 Cory Zelmer: Sure.

28 Jessica: Thanks very much.

1 Cory Zelmer: The proposed project would be the
2 first in environmental leadership transit project under
3 Senate Bill 44. As part of SB 44, there are several
4 requirements related to two public meetings. The first
5 requirement is to hold at least one informational workshop
6 within the first ten calendar days of the public comment
7 period to inform the public about the draft EIR, analyses
8 and conclusions.

9 Cory Zelmer: The second requirement is to hold at
10 least one public hearing within the last ten calendar days
11 of the public comment period to obtain public testimony and
12 comments on the draft EIR. Now transitioning to an overview
13 of the CEQA process itself.

14 Jessica: Really quickly, Cory, I just want to
15 interject. There were a couple of people that were saying
16 they were having trouble hearing, so I wanted to provide a
17 reminder that you're going to want to click on the globe
18 icon at the, usually at the bottom of your screen and
19 select whatever language you are listening to the meeting
20 in. So if you're listening in English, you need to select
21 English to preserve that audio for you.

22 Please go ahead. Cory. Sorry about the
23 interruption.

24 Cory Zelmer: That's okay. So for CEQA.

25 CEQA is required for all projects undertaking
26 funded or requiring approval by a public agency.

27 The process is intended to inform the public and
28 decision-makers about the proposed project, to disclose any
29 potential environmental impacts that may result from a

1 proposed project and to provide multiple opportunities for
2 the public to comment on environmental issues.

3 Typically with the CEQA process, there are two
4 public comment periods.

5 The first is a scoping period which happens at
6 the beginning of the CEQA process, and the second is a
7 draft EIR public review period, which is what we're in
8 currently. And also, as I mentioned, this project is
9 utilizing SB 44, which has certain requirements related to
10 the number and timing of public meetings during the draft
11 EIR public review period.

12 So here's a timeline for the CEQA process and the
13 preparation of the environmental impact reports. In the
14 yellow box is where we are today. To the left of the yellow
15 box are the activities that we've completed to date and to
16 the right of the yellow box for activities we still have
17 yet to complete. Starting on the far left, we started the
18 CEQA process with what's called a notice of preparation,
19 which was released in October of 2020.

20 The notice was intended to inform the public and
21 agencies about Metro's intent to prepare an environmental
22 impact report. The notice also started what is referred to
23 as the public scoping period, which is the time allowed for
24 the public and agencies to provide comments about the
25 project and about the scope of the environmental impact
26 report itself. During the public scoping period, we held a
27 virtual open house from October 1st to November 16th, 2020,
28 and a virtual scoping meeting on October 22nd. Following the
29 public scoping period in June of 2021, we held a community
30 information session which was intended to inform the public

1 about the project and any updates to the project since the
2 start of the CEQA process.

3 We held a second round of community information
4 sessions in October of this year where we informed the
5 public about the upcoming release of the draft EIR and then
6 as we mentioned, the EIR itself. The draft EIR was released
7 on October 17th, which initially began a 60-day public
8 review period, which we have since extended to 90 days, now
9 concluding on January 17, 2023. After this public review
10 period, the process includes preparing what's called a
11 final environmental impact report.

12 In large part, it includes responses to all
13 comments received during this period with the completion of
14 the final EIR. We will then take it to the Metro Board for
15 certification and project approval soon after followed by
16 the filing of a notice of determination that the EIR
17 process is complete and the project was approved by the
18 lead agency.

19 In terms of the public meetings held during the
20 draft EIR public review period, we held two informational
21 workshops, both in October, which were intended to inform
22 the public about the key analyses and conclusions in the
23 draft EIR. We have also held one public hearing so far;
24 tonight is the second of the public hearings, and we have a
25 third and final public hearing scheduled for Tuesday,
26 January 12.

27 And again the [inaudible] for tonight the third
28 public hearing is to obtain public testimony from the
29 public about the draft EIR. And with that, I'll turn it now
30 to David Grannis to provide a project description.

1 David Grannis: Thank you very much, Cory. My name
2 is David Grannis and I'm a long-term transportation
3 consultant for the project. I'm going to go through the
4 project description. The project would provide the first
5 permanent transit connection to Dodger Stadium. The travel
6 time between Union Station and Dodger Stadium would be
7 approximately 7 minutes for the 1.2-mile gondola ride. Up
8 to 20% of fans could ride the gondola before and after each
9 Dodger game. In addition to games and events at the
10 stadium, the project would operate daily to serve existing
11 residents, workers, park users and visitors to Los Angeles.

12 The project is zero-emission, environmentally-
13 friendly rapid transit that would reduce greenhouse gas
14 emissions as a result of reduced vehicle trips in and
15 around Dodger Stadium and on neighborhoods, streets,
16 arterial roadways and freeways. The graphic on this slide
17 shows the project location and alignment. The project would
18 commence adjacent to Union Station and El Pueblo and
19 terminate at Dodger Stadium with an intermediate station at
20 the southernmost entrance to the Los Angeles State Historic
21 Park.

22 The project would connect surrounding communities
23 of Chinatown Mission Junction, the Legion Park, Echo Park
24 and Solano Canyon, as well as the Los Angeles State
25 Historic Park to the regional transit system at Union
26 Station. This slide shows several modern aerial transit
27 systems which are feasible modes of urban transit operating
28 in numerous cities around the world. Established
29 [inaudible] transit systems worldwide, such as La Paz,
30 Bolivia; Mexico City, Mexico are being used as rapid
31 transit for urban populations that they serve.

1 Similar to the systems used in Koblenz, Germany;
2 Phu Quoc, Vietnam and Toulouse, France, the proposed
3 project is a 3S gondola with cabins that carry
4 approximately 30 to 40 passengers and offer a smooth,
5 stable ride. As shown in the graphic on this slide. Pardon
6 me. A gondola system includes passenger stations, a non-
7 passenger junction, towers to support the aerial cables
8 that carried the gondola cabins. The 3S system includes
9 three cables. That's two track ropes for stability, to hold
10 the cabins, and a third [haul] rope to circulate the
11 cabins.

12 Cabins detach from the continuously circulating
13 [haul] rope and slow down upon entering a station for
14 passenger exit and entry. Then they re-attach to the [haul]
15 rope. The cabins allow for sitting or standing. They're
16 fully [ADA] accessible and provide room for baby strollers
17 and bicycles. As to purpose and need, the project will be a
18 first last mile connection between the regional transit
19 system at Union Station and Dodger Stadium [at] Legion
20 Park, which draws large regional crowds approximately 100
21 days per year.

22 The vast majority of visitors to Dodger Stadium
23 drive their personal vehicles, creating congestion and
24 associated emissions throughout the surrounding
25 communities, which are identified as being in the 90th to
26 100th percentile of communities disproportionately burdened
27 by multiple sources of pollution in the state. The Draft
28 EIR identifies numerous project objectives, including
29 reducing transportation-related pollution and greenhouse
30 gas emissions as a result of reduced vehicle congestion,
31 providing a sustainable form of transit with the use of

1 zero emission electricity and battery storage backup,
2 enhancing safety in the neighborhoods around Dodger
3 Stadium, identifying comparable, affordable and accessible
4 fare opportunities, attracting new riders to the metro
5 system.

6 The project alignment maximizes alignment along
7 public rights of way and publicly owned property and
8 minimizes aerial rights over private properties, taking
9 into account existing and future adjacent land uses. The
10 graphic on this slide shows the alignment primarily over
11 public right of way and publicly owned property in teal. A
12 national standard for roadways governing California by Cal
13 OSHA regulates vertical and horizontal clearances between
14 the roadway and cabins, the elements such as vehicles,
15 pedestrians, vegetation, buildings and other structures.

16 The project's design goal is to develop a common
17 architectural design that unifies the overall aerial
18 gondola system, while allowing for each component to
19 contribute to the respective localized urban conditions and
20 conform with the surrounding urban environment. Of equal
21 importance is the desire to minimize the perceived scale
22 and mass of the stations, non-passenger junction and
23 towers.

24 This slide shows the Alameda Station, which will
25 be over Alameda Street adjacent to the planned Los Angeles
26 Union Station forecourt and [inaudible]. The station
27 stairs, elevators and escalators would be introduced on the
28 west to the north of the [inaudible] in a proposed new
29 pedestrian plaza at El Pueblo and on the east from the
30 planned forecourt at Union Station.

1 The Alameda Tower will be located on the Alameda
2 Triangle, a city right of way between Alameda Street, North
3 Main Street, and Alhambra Avenue. The project includes
4 landscape and hardscape updates to the Alameda Triangle,
5 including reuse and irrigation of existing pavers. In part
6 the integration of existing pavers. The Alpine Tower will
7 be located at the northeast corner of Alameda Street and
8 Alpine Street, adjacent to the elevated metro L or Gold
9 mine.

10 This site is a city-owned parcel currently being
11 used as non-public parking storage for city vehicles. The
12 Chinatown State Park Station will be located adjacent to
13 Spring Street in the southernmost portion of the Los
14 Angeles State Historic Park. The southern portion is
15 located on city right of way, and the northern portion is
16 integrated into the southern boundary of the park.

17 The project would integrate the park's granite
18 pavers. Station amenities include a mobility hub where
19 passengers would be able to access a suite of first and
20 last-mile multi-modal options such as a bike share program,
21 as well as pedestrian improvements, including hardscape and
22 landscape improvements, shade structures and potential
23 seating. The project also proposes park amenities,
24 including concessions and restrooms.

25 The Broadway Junction is a non-passenger junction
26 that would be located at the intersection of North Broadway
27 and Bishop's Road. The junction will turn the alignment and
28 cabins up toward Dodger Stadium. Stadium Tower will be
29 located on Hillside private property north of Stadium Way
30 between the Dodger Stadium, downtown gate and State Route

1 110 to carry the cabins over state Route 110 and to Dodger
2 Stadium.

3 The Dodger Stadium Station will be located at the
4 southeast portion of the Dodger Stadium property near the
5 downtown gate. Cabins at this station would arrive and
6 depart from an [inaudible] boarding platform. One Dodger
7 Stadium station would also include a pedestrian connection
8 to Dodger Stadium, including hardscape and landscape
9 improvements and potential seating. This station would
10 include a subterranean area below the platform for storage
11 and maintenance of cabins.

12 The project would provide a sustainable high
13 capacity, zero-emission aerial rapid transit option for
14 visitors to Dodger Stadium, while also providing access
15 between Dodger Stadium, the surrounding communities and the
16 regional transit system accessible at Union Station.
17 Gondola technology is quiet, and the project would reduce
18 vehicle miles traveled and congestion, leading to reduce
19 greenhouse gas emissions and improved air quality.

20 The Draft Environmental Impact Report includes
21 detailed construction assumptions and analysis, including
22 the timeline. Project construction is anticipated to take
23 approximately 25 months, working hours construction
24 equipment, the number of construction jobs, temporary lane
25 closures. The project would implement a construction
26 traffic management plan that would include detours and
27 ensure emergency access is maintained throughout all
28 construction activities. And thank you very much.

1 With that, I'll turn it over to D.J. Allison with
2 AECOM, who will go through the draft EIR's key analyses and
3 conclusions.

4 D.J. Allison: Thank you, David. My name is D.J.
5 Allison. I'm a member of the CEQA EIR team, and I'm going
6 to be presenting on the CEQA draft analysis and conclusions
7 today. We're going to be going, we're now going to move
8 into the draft EIR, key analyses and conclusions. We want
9 to note that we have included quite a bit of detail. Can
10 you go back a few slides there? We have included quite a
11 bit of detail on these slides to be able to summarize the
12 key analyses and conclusions of the draft EIR. In the
13 interest of time, we're not going to read through the full
14 content of each slide.

15 Instead, this portion of the PowerPoint will
16 provide a summary of the draft EIR's analysis and
17 conclusions. For those who would like to review the content
18 of the PowerPoint in more detail, you may download it,
19 download the PowerPoint from Metro's web page. I also
20 believe links to the PowerPoint have been put in the chat
21 of today's meeting. All environmental resource topics, CEQA
22 guidelines Appendix G are addressed in the draft EIR.

23 Next slide. The esthetics analysis concludes that
24 the project would not significantly impact visual character
25 in its urban environment, significantly block scenic views,
26 including that of the downtown skyline from the Los Angeles
27 State Historic Park, or create a substantial source of
28 light or glare. Impacts to esthetics would be less than
29 significant. Agriculture and forestry. While the Dodger
30 Stadium property has agricultural zoning, the property does

1 not contain agricultural uses and is subject to a
2 conditional use permit which allows for the operation of a
3 major league baseball stadium and ancillary structures and
4 uses including mass transportation service. Impacts to
5 agriculture and forestry would be less than significant.

6 The air quality analysis concludes that impacts
7 would be less than significant because 1) project
8 construction emissions would be less than significant,
9 would be less than the significance thresholds for
10 pollutants and emissions, and the project would result in a
11 net reduction in criteria pollutant emissions by reducing
12 vehicle miles traveled and thereby decreasing emissions
13 compared to existing conditions.

14 To minimize impacts off-road diesel powered and
15 construction equipment greater than 50 horsepower must meet
16 tier four emission standards for non-road diesel engines.
17 The biological resources analysis concludes that the
18 project area generally does not 1) provide a habitat for
19 special status species or 2) contain riparian habitat or
20 other sensitive natural communities or protected wetlands,
21 or 3) serve as a regional wildlife corridor. The project
22 would implement pre-construction nesting surveys and
23 measures to avoid and minimize impacts to bats and nesting
24 birds during construction.

25 The project would replace removed trees pursuant
26 to the trees to the city's native tree protection ordinance
27 and other applicable requirements. Finally, impacts to
28 biological resources would be less than significant, with
29 mitigation incorporated. The cultural resources analysis
30 included analysis of potential impacts to build historic

1 resources within the area of potential impacts, which
2 includes Los Angeles Union Station Passenger Terminal and
3 Grounds, Los Angeles Plaza Historic District, Cathedral
4 High School and Arroyo Seco Parkway Historic District.

5 Potential impacts from ground disturbance to
6 archeological resources within the area of direct impacts,
7 including [inaudible] and Southern Pacific Railroad
8 Station. To minimize impacts to cultural resources, the
9 project would implement 1) project design features for pre
10 and post construction documentation and protection of the
11 winery and El [inaudible] mural, as well as protection of
12 the mural during construction and 2) vibration monitoring
13 and restrictions on force-adjustable ground compaction
14 devices during Alameda stations construction.

15 To minimize impacts archeological resources, the
16 project would implement 1) a cultural resources monitoring
17 and mitigation plan and archeological resources worker
18 implementation program, 2) a pre-construction archeological
19 testing plan for the Alameda Station and Chinatown State
20 Park Station and 3) potentially redesign of the Los Angeles
21 State Park amenities to avoid archeological resources.

22 Impacts to cultural resources would be less than
23 significant, with mitigation incorporated. The energy
24 analysis concludes that impacts would be less than
25 significant because 1) temporary energy consumption
26 associated with the project construction would allow for a
27 long-term reduction in energy consumption associated with
28 project operations.

29 And 2) the project would reduce vehicle miles
30 traveled and increase the number of people using public

1 transit, resulting in decreased use of fossil fuels.
2 Geology and soils analyzed seismic hazards, unstable
3 geology and expansive soils. This section also analyzed the
4 potential for project construction to destroy unique
5 paleontological resources. With implementation of a site-
6 specific final geotechnical report, impacts to geology and
7 soils would be less than significant with mitigation.

8 The northern portion of the project has the
9 potential to encounter paleontological resources. However,
10 impacts would be mitigated to less than significant with
11 compliance with a paleontological resources monitoring and
12 mitigation plan. The greenhouse gas analysis concludes that
13 impacts would be less than significant. The project would
14 not result in an incremental contribution of greenhouse gas
15 emissions and would reduce greenhouse gas emissions
16 compared to existing conditions.

17 The lifetime emissions of the project would
18 result in a reduction of approximately 166,000 metric tons
19 of greenhouse gases. Hazards and hazardous materials. The
20 hazards analysis assessed project activities to determine
21 their potential impact on creating conditions hazardous to
22 the public or the environment during construction and
23 operation of the project. With implementation of a soil and
24 groundwater management plan, which would specify methods
25 for handling and disposal of hazardous materials in the
26 event that contaminated groundwater or soil are encountered
27 during construction impacts would be less than significant
28 with mitigation.

29 Construction of the project would not
30 substantially impair or physically interfere with an

1 adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation
2 plan. Finally, the operation of the project would not
3 affect emergency response. The hydrology and water quality
4 analysis concludes that, 1) the project would comply with
5 all applicable water quality protection laws and
6 regulations and water quality control and sustainable
7 groundwater management plans, and 2) the project would
8 incorporate best management practices and implement low-
9 impact development plans.

10 Impacts to hydrology and water quality would be
11 less than significant. The land use and planning analysis
12 concludes that through temporary closures during
13 [inaudible] temporary closures during construction would
14 disrupt vehicular pedestrian and bicycle access. There
15 would be a variety of options available for connections and
16 access within the project area that would prevent closures
17 from physically dividing established communities.

18 The project would enhance community connectivity
19 by providing first and last-mile transit and pedestrian
20 access enhancements. The project is consistent with
21 policies, regulations, goals and objectives of all
22 applicable plans, codes and ordinances. State Parks
23 considers there to be an inconsistency between the project
24 in the Los Angeles State Historic Park general plan and
25 therefore a potentially significant impact because the
26 general plan does not identify transit as a use for the
27 park.

28 With the implementation of mitigation measure
29 LUP-A which would require the project to obtain a general
30 plan amendment, impacts would be less than significant. The

1 project would have no impacts to mineral resources. Noise
2 and Vibration. The noise analysis concludes that the
3 project's significant and unavoidable on-site construction
4 noise impacts would be a function of the noise generated by
5 construction equipment, the location of the equipment, the
6 timing and duration of the noise generated in construction
7 activities and the relative distance to noise sensitive
8 receptors.

9 Noise from offsite construction-related traffic
10 would be less than significant, and noise from project
11 operations would be lessened. The vibration analysis
12 concluded that vibration generated from on-site
13 construction activity would have significant and
14 unavoidable human annoyance impacts. Potential building
15 damage impacts during construction would be less than
16 significant with mitigation and vibration generated from
17 project operations would be less than significant.

18 The project will implement a construction noise
19 management plan, including noise barriers, equipment
20 maintenance and community outreach, including a noise
21 disturbance coordinator with placement of vibration
22 monitoring equipment for the Avalon Adobe, the 1970s
23 edition, the [inaudible] mural and the winery, as well as
24 restrictions on the use of force adjustable ground
25 compaction devices during construction of the [Alameda]
26 Station. Potential building damage would be less than
27 significant.

28 The population and housing analysis concludes
29 that impacts could be less than significant because, as a
30 first and last-mile transit connection to Dodger Stadium,

1 the project would not induce substantial population growth
2 either directly or indirectly, and the project would not
3 displace existing people or housing. The public services
4 analysis concludes that while project construction and
5 operation would create an increased demand for emergency
6 services, the project would not create an additional demand
7 that would result in the need to add any new or physically
8 alter any existing public facilities.

9 The Los Angeles Fire Department and the Los
10 Angeles Police Department would have adequate access during
11 project construction. The project does not include housing,
12 so would not increase demand for school services or other
13 public facilities. With the implementation of the Traffic
14 Construction Traffic Management Plan, impacts related to
15 emergency access would be less than significant, with
16 mitigation incorporated.

17 The Parks and Recreation Analysis studied the
18 potential to impact parks during construction and
19 operation, including Los Angeles Plaza Park, and
20 [inaudible], Los Angeles State Historic Park and Elysian
21 Park. The project would not increase the demand for parks,
22 such that substantial deterioration of parks would occur or
23 be accelerated. Impacts to parks and recreation would be
24 less than significant.

25 The transportation analysis utilized both the
26 CEQA guidelines and the city's transportation assessment
27 guidelines. The analysis of vehicle miles traveled for the
28 project employed a variety of data, methodologies and
29 models in order to estimate project ridership, vehicle
30 trips reduced vehicle trip length, and ultimately the

1 vehicle miles traveled. Benefit of the proposed project
2 Ridership estimates are provided for Dodger Stadium game
3 and event attendees, employees, tourists, neighborhood
4 riders and Los Angeles [inaudible] for park visitors and
5 event attendees.

6 The lifetime vehicle miles traveled reduction for
7 the project would be approximately 130 million miles
8 traveled. The project would have no impacts to vehicle
9 miles traveled. The project would have less than
10 significant transportation impacts during construction,
11 with implementation of a city-approved 1) construction
12 traffic management plan, including street closure
13 information, detour plans, [inaudible], and 2) a temporary
14 disaster route plan, which would include street closure
15 information and detour plans in order to facilitate the
16 movement of emergency vehicles.

17 The project would implement visibility
18 enhancements at the Alameda Tower and Chinatown State Park
19 Station to reduce potentially unsafe physical conditions to
20 less than significant with mitigation.

21 Tribal Cultural Resources. The draft EIR analyzes
22 potential substantial adverse changes to significant tribal
23 or cultural resources. Metro consulted with eight
24 California Native American tribes pursuant to Assembly Bill
25 52. During construction of the Alameda Station, the project
26 will 1) implement a cultural resources monitoring and
27 mitigation program and archeological testing plan for the
28 planned Los Angeles Union Station forecourt and 2) retain a
29 Native American monitor to monitor ground disturbing

1 construction activities at the location of the Alameda
2 Station.

3 Impacts to tribal resources are less than
4 significant with mitigation.

5 The utilities analysis concludes that
6 construction of the project would require relocation of
7 existing utilities, which would be coordinated with utility
8 providers and conducted in compliance with the applicable
9 codes and regulations. Existing utilities would be
10 sufficient for project operations. To minimize the
11 potential interference with existing utilities associated
12 with utility relocations, the project would implement a
13 utility relocation plan. Impacts to utilities and service
14 systems would be less than significant with mitigation.

15 Wildfire. The portion of the alignment containing
16 the Broadway Junction Stadium Tower and Dodger Stadium
17 Station are classified as being within a very high fire
18 hazard severity zone. The wildfire analysis concludes that
19 construction and operation of the project would not inhibit
20 access to identify disaster routes and would not
21 substantially impair implementation of an emergency
22 response or evacuation plan. The project would adhere to
23 applicable codes and regulations and best construction
24 practices and would not exacerbate existing wildfire risks.

25 Implementation of project design features,
26 including a fire protection plan and a fuel modification
27 zone surrounding the stadium tower construction site would
28 further reduce these risks. Impacts to wildfire would be
29 less than significant. Alternatives. The draft EIR includes
30 analysis of three alternatives. First, the no project

1 alternative. Second, the Spring Street alignment
2 alternative. And third, the transportation systems
3 management alternative, which is an enhanced Union Station,
4 Dodger Stadium express service.

5 The no project alternative and the transportation
6 systems management alternative would not improve
7 connectivity for the surrounding communities or provide the
8 same reduction of vehicle miles traveled, greenhouse gas
9 emissions or improved air quality as the proposed project.
10 The transportation systems management alternative would be
11 considered the environmentally superior alternative because
12 it would not result in a [inaudible] determination of a
13 significant and unavoidable impact and would result in the
14 fewest environmental impacts overall.

15 However, the transportation systems management
16 alternative's impact would be greater for air quality
17 energy, greenhouse gases, hydrology and water quality and
18 transportation. But the transportation systems management
19 alternative would not meet the majority of the project's
20 objectives. The draft EIR includes analysis of Los Angeles
21 State Historic Park usage. Due to the location of the
22 proposed project alignment, which traverses over the
23 western edge of the park adjacent to the metro [L] line and
24 pedestrian pathway, the project does not significantly
25 reduce the safe high-flying area within the park.

26 Due to the location of the proposed project
27 alignment, which crosses over a portion of the park not
28 typically used for screens and stages and because events
29 can take place under the majority of the project alignment,

1 the project does not significantly reduce the event space
2 available within the park.

3 The draft EIR includes an airspace evaluation of
4 heliports in the project vicinity, which concludes that the
5 project will be clear of the airspace associated with the
6 existing heliports and will not result in impacts to
7 heliports in the project's vicinity. Design Option A The
8 draft EIR includes analysis of project variations as design
9 use options, which are included in response to stakeholder
10 feedback.

11 Design Option A shifts the alignment between the
12 Broadway Junction and Dodger Stadium Station to avoid the
13 area rights over 451 East Savoy Street. This design option
14 would result in additional utility relocations and
15 construction durations. Design Option B analyzes the
16 potential for a single tower along Alameda Street, which
17 results in the removal of the Alpine Tower and a 50-foot
18 overall height increase at the Alameda Tower.

19 The tall Alameda Tower has potential technical
20 constraints and would potentially result in the need for
21 additional private aerial rights. Design Option C analyzes
22 a taller Chinatown State Park Station, which would result
23 in additional construction activities and has the potential
24 to reduce the passenger experience. Use Option D
25 substitutes a non-passenger junction for the proposed
26 Chinatown Park Station. This use option would have the same
27 height, location, width, length and architectural finish as
28 the project, but would not enhance community connectivity
29 to the park, Chinatown and the Mission Junction
30 Neighborhood.

1 Finally, Design and Use Option E analyzes the
2 [inaudible] Americans with Disabilities Act accessible
3 pedestrian and bicycle bridge that would provide safe
4 access between the Chinatown, Savoy and Solano Canyon
5 communities in the park. I'm now going to turn it over to
6 Michael Kennedy to provide an overview of the project's
7 [parking site].

8 Michael Kennedy: Thank you. Thanks. Good evening.
9 I'm Michael Kennedy with [inaudible]. I'm going to share
10 the key findings of the project's parking study. Parking
11 analysis is not required for the EIR but was of key
12 interest to Metro, the city and the community. Metro
13 conducted a peer review of the study and it has been
14 available on Metro's website for review. While our
15 ridership modeling and data indicate that most riders will
16 take transit to get to the project as Dodger Stadium
17 Express riders do today, some riders will choose to drive
18 and park.

19 The parking study counted all publicly available
20 spaces in parking lots and garages and all on-street spaces
21 within a half-mile walking distance of the Alameda and
22 Chinatown State Park Stations. Nearly 10,300 parking spaces
23 were counted. Next slide, please. Of those 10,300 spaces,
24 nearly 6,900 of them are in publicly available off-street
25 lots and garages.

26 On the Dodger game day when the study was
27 conducted, Dodger Stadium had a paid attendance of over
28 48,000, which is higher than the 2019 season average for
29 weekday evenings. The study found that a bit less than
30 2,200 vehicles were parked and over 4,700 spaces were

1 vacant in those off-street lots and garages. Since the
2 study was conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic, we used
3 historic data to develop an adjustment factor that we
4 reviewed with Metro and L.A. DOT to estimate pre-pandemic
5 conditions.

6 Based on the peer-reviewed ridership forecasting
7 model and data for the projects, we forecast between 307
8 and 790 vehicles are expected to park around project
9 stations on game days. With the addition of this peak
10 project-related demand, all of those vehicles can be
11 accommodated in off-street lobbies and garages, and there
12 would still be over 3,900 spaces remaining.

13 There's plenty of off-street parking capacity,
14 even if future developments are constructed on some of
15 those parking lots. While the project will work to ensure
16 that as many people as reasonably possible take transit to
17 connect to the system, a parking management plan will be
18 finalized before project operation to ensure that riders
19 will park where they will be welcome and are discouraged
20 from parking where they are not.

21 Strategies such as business-to-business
22 partnerships to pre-sell bundle packages that include off-
23 street parking and patronage at a local restaurant are one
24 example strategy under consideration. Through the
25 preparation of the parking management plan, the project
26 team will work with L.A. duty to support the implementation
27 and expansion of on-street parking management strategies.
28 Example strategies include adjusting time limit and parking
29 meter hours during Dodger games to encourage riders,
30 discourage riders rather, from parking in the community.

1 Thank you.

2 Jessica: We're going to get ready to move into
3 the public comment session. As we do so, it looks like we
4 have some representatives from Mayor Karen Bass' office,
5 the City of West Hollywood Supervisor Hahn's office and
6 Supervisor Solis office, so wanted to convey that we
7 appreciate your participation in tonight's meeting. As we
8 get started with the public comment session, I wanted to
9 review some housekeeping items.

10 So just as a reminder, for those of you that
11 might have joined late, you will need to click on the globe
12 icon and select your language of choice.

13 Laura Adelman: Sorry, folks, I think we're having
14 a technical difficulty. Give us a moment. I think... Sorry
15 about that. I may have to step in here for Jessica. Sorry
16 about that. I'm Laura Adelman, also part of the project
17 team. Let me take over here, Jessica's portion, and maybe
18 in just a moment she can come back in. So just to pick up
19 where she left off.

20 As a reminder, everyone does need to select a
21 language for this portion of the meeting. So that global
22 icon appears at the bottom of your screen. So even if
23 you're listening in English, please do select English from
24 that icon. So the purpose of this session is to allow the
25 public an opportunity to comment on the draft EIR here. And
26 since we are focused on accepting public comments this
27 evening, we won't be responding to questions.

28 Jessica, are you back with us?

1 Jessica: I am back. Thank you, Laura, for jumping
2 in. I think I might have a little bit of an unstable
3 Internet connection. So thank you for filling in.

4 Laura Adelman: No problem. Just getting started
5 with those instructions. I'll let you, I'll let you pick
6 up.

7 Jessica: Okay, great. Thank you. So apologies,
8 everyone. So there will be a two-minute time limit for
9 comment, just as we had at the in-person hearing recently.
10 And we'll ask you to stay and spell your first and last
11 name as you begin your comment. Once you have identified
12 yourself, we will start the two-minute clock and you can
13 provide your comment. If you're using interpretation, the
14 interpreter will repeat your comment in English once you
15 conclude your comment and we will allow extra time for your
16 comment to be interpreted.

17 If you exceed your 2 minutes, we will interrupt
18 you and thank you for your comment and will encourage you
19 to provide any further comment at a future hearing. And
20 we'll go over all that information again for you via email,
21 phone or via mail. And it's important that we keep to the
22 two-minute time limit because we want to be fair and give
23 everyone who is providing comments in this meeting the same
24 amount of time.

25 We also want to take a moment to remind everyone
26 to be respectful of others and use appropriate language
27 when making comments. And very quickly, before we get
28 started, I just want to review on the next slide all of the
29 various ways that you can provide comment through January

1 17th, 2023, so that you have that information. Tonight's
2 hearing is not your only opportunity to provide comment.

3 We have an additional public hearing coming up at
4 Cathedral High School on January 12th from 5 to 7 p.m. And
5 you can also provide comment via email, phone and mail. And
6 we're putting that information in the chat for you as well.
7 All right. So with that, we're going to go ahead and move
8 into the public comment session.

9 We'll ask that you please raise your hand if you
10 would like to provide a verbal public comment. Okay. Looks
11 like we've got some hands raised, so I'll go ahead and call
12 on you and you can unmute yourself and provide your
13 comment. We'll start with Katherine Christman, please.

Comment - PH280

14 Katherine Christman: Hello, can you hear me? Yes.

15 Jessica: Yes.

16 Katherine Christman: Hi, I'm Katherine Christman
17 from West Los Angeles. I'm a 31-year-old entrepreneur from
18 our city with Parkway [inaudible]. I'm also a proud board
19 member on the National Association of Woman Business Owners
20 [inaudible], currently serving in the VP role. I am in full
21 support of this project for a variety of reasons, but to
22 keep it short, the most pressing and urgent to me is the
23 air quality for the beautiful community surrounding the
24 stadium.

25 [inaudible] deserves a better scenario than
26 they're currently enduring. I also love the opportunity for
27 Dodger Stadium to become more accessible and available from
28 other Southern California [inaudible] from Union Station.
29 And so I think it's a beautiful project. I'm very proud of

PH280-1

1 the [inaudible] and I'm in full support of it, as is our
2 Association of Women Business Owners.

3 We are so excited about it. A lot of value in it.
4 Thank you so much.

5 Jessica: Great. Thank you for your comments. I
6 wanted to provide a reminder for those of you that are
7 calling in on the phone that if you would like to raise
8 your hand and you're calling in via the phone and you're
9 not logged into Zoom, you can press star nine to raise your
10 hand. And then when we call on you, we'll call on you by
11 the last four digits of your phone number, and you'll be
12 able to unmute yourself by pressing star six.

13 With that, I'm going to go to Chris Wilson.
14 Chris, would you like to provide public comment?

Comment - PH281

15 Chris Wilson: Good evening. My name is Chris
16 Wilson with the Los Angeles County Business Federation.
17 This is in full support of this project as proposed. LA ART
18 will provide the first public transit connection to Dodger
19 Stadium, which has the highest attendance out of any
20 stadium in the country and is one of the few without a
21 dedicated transit connection. It will improve traffic and
22 parking for residents by potentially removing up to 3,000
23 car trips from neighborhood streets, easing local traffic,
24 improving safety and reducing the need to park in the local
25 community.

26 The LA ART system will be emissions free,
27 emissions free and will provide the opportunity to connect
28 communities who have been dis-appropriately impacted by
29 traffic and pollution. This would significantly improve
30 traffic conditions and air quality in the neighborhood for

PH281-1

1 these reasons, and more [inaudible] supports the zero-
2 emission gondola from Union Station to Dodger Stadium.
3 Thank you so much.

cont'd
PH281-1

4 Jessica: Thank you for your comment. I'm going to go
5 to a phone number now, so I'm going to go to 3233657680. You
6 can press star six to unmute yourself and provide your comment.

Comment - PH282

7 Mary: Hello, my name is [Mary] and I live in
8 Solano Canyon.

9 I support the gondola since it would eliminate
10 the traffic as well as the cars that park and block our
11 driveway. That would be greatly appreciated that this
12 project passes and it will make everyone happy in Solano
13 Canyon. Thank you so much.

PH282-1

14 Jessica: Great. Thank you for your comment. I
15 appreciate it. I'm going to move on. It looks like Kathleen
16 Johnson has her hand raised. So please go ahead and unmute
17 yourself and provide your comment.

Comment - PH283

18 Kathleen Johnson: Hi, can you hear me? My name's
19 Kathleen Johnson. I'm executive director of L.A. River State
20 Park Partners, the support organization for our state
21 historic park and the two other parts of the park. The
22 gondola will not only adversely affect nearby neighborhoods,
23 it will severely and permanently compromise people's
24 experience of LA State Historic Park, a publicly funded green
25 space that residents fought for decades, literally, to
26 establish, and a site with deep historic significance to L.A.
27 as the former home of the [inaudible] Station. LA ART seeks
28 to take what we feel is a significant portion of land to the
29 station with towers and gondola lines running over the
30 southwestern section just 20 feet above people's heads.

PH283-1

1 This aerial road to the park will disrupt as much
2 as an actual road would with at least 10% of the park under
3 the constant traffic of gondola cars, the thoughtfully
4 designed sense of tranquility and open space will be
5 degraded and the park's open skies and magnificent views of
6 the downtown skyline, [Legion] Park and Broadway Viaduct
7 forever altered. These park impacts have been severely
8 downplayed or glossed over in the draft EIR, so we request
9 any use of this hard-fought public park, land airways
10 [inaudible] for private enterprise.

PH283-2

PH283-3

PH283-4

11 And despite the traffic study, there are 3,000
12 cars that the planners hope will be eliminated at Dodger
13 Stadium we have little faith about. We feel that they would
14 just be re-routed to the park and surrounding
15 neighborhoods, just further compromising park users' access
16 and experience of this treasured urban greenspace. Thank
17 you very much.

PH283-5

18 Jessica: Thank you for your comment. We'll move
19 to Bill Chen. Bill Chen, if you'd like to unmute yourself
20 and provide comment. Okay. We'll come back to.

21 Bill Chen: Can you hear me?

22 Jessica: There we go.

23 Bill Chen: Thank you. I am not at my computer. I
24 want to say that the park should have its own autonomy and
25 that there should be no compromise from the original park
26 design tree cutting and/or taking of any of the land. That
27 said is one thing, but traffic with MTA and I understand
28 events for athleticism, it's just discretionary money that
29 is more important for MTA to look at transportation when

PH284-1

PH282-1

1 people are actually working in downtown [inaudible] into
2 the downtown.

3 I'm talking about the intersection of Sunset and
4 [inaudible], where the central city West specific plan says
5 there should be widening of [inaudible] onto Sunset. And
6 I'm talking about the 101 freeway that needs to have more
7 lanes. If it has more lanes, it would help with commuter
8 traffic going in and out of downtown. And it would also
9 help with moving transportation into Dodger Stadium by way
10 of traffic south of Sunset on [inaudible] going in and out
11 on Sunset Boulevard by way of [inaudible] and to
12 [inaudible] Way up to the mesa.

13 And I also wonder why people don't talk about
14 having free shuttle from the Chinatown Go station to go up
15 to the [inaudible] because there is buses from Union
16 Station. Why not from Chinatown as well? Thank you.

17 Jessica: Thank you for your comment. Next, we'll
18 go to Elias Garcia.

19 Elias Garcia: Good evening. My name's Elias
20 Garcia. On behalf of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of
21 Commerce, we'd like to offer our strong support for this
22 project and join others on this call that have supported
23 us, have stated their support. The Rapid Transit Project is
24 a transformative project that offers the capacity to move
25 approximately 5,000 people per hour per direction, using a
26 quiet, safe, environment-friendly and a proven zero-
27 emission technology.

28 It will connect such communities as [inaudible]
29 Union Station, Chinatown, Mission Junction to Newark,
30 Solano Canyon, while also providing access to the L.A.

cont'd
PH284-2

PH284-3

PH284-4

PH285-1

Comment - PH285

1 State Historic Park, the LA River and [inaudible] Park. Of
2 course, this connectivity is great, but it also means this
3 project also means better health outcomes for these
4 communities as a result of lower pollution and fewer
5 congestion.

6 So we urge to move this project forward. Thank
7 you.

8 Jessica: Thank you for your participation in the
9 meeting and for your comment. We're going to move to
10 Phyllis Ling.

cont'd
PH285-1

Comment - PH286

11 Phyllis Ling: Hello.

12 Jessica: Hi, Phyllis. We can hear you.

13 Phyllis Ling: Okay, hi, my name is Phyllis Ling.
14 I'm a resident by the Broadway Junction. I'm completely
15 opposed to this project. It makes no sense. Logistically,
16 it shifts parking and traffic further into Chinatown and
17 this project would dangle less than 40 feet above my
18 property, which invades my air rights. The noise study is
19 vague and needs some more details. Gondola stations and
20 junctions are noisy and you're talking about running this
21 18 hours per day and then doing maintenance and testing
22 during the other 6 hours.

PH286-1

23 You don't even name the gondola system that was
24 used to take measurements to estimate the noise that the
25 stations would cause. There's no discussion of the
26 differences between these systems the drive [inaudible]
27 pulling the gondolas all the way from Union Station is in a
28 junction across the street from my house. So that's going
29 to have a huge impact.

PH286-2

PH286-3

1 There's also hardly any disclosure about how this
2 project would be operated and implemented, which would
3 impact ridership and greenhouse gas emissions.

PH286-4

4 Security management of cues and crowd control are
5 hardly discussed at maximum capacity. People could have to
6 wait in line for 1 to 2 hours, and you're relying on a
7 magical ticket reservation system to even out the crowds.
8 You need to explain how that works.

PH286-5

9 I don't even have time to get into the flight
10 from advertisements constantly streaming over our
11 neighborhoods.

PH286-6

12 There's also cutting down 50-foot trees and oak
13 trees in the park. And this faulty parking study that
14 includes a lot of parking that isn't even open until, such
15 as parking at the state park, which closes at sunset. So
16 how are people going to get their cars out of the state
17 park parking lot? And then also, I want to say that the
18 pedestrian bridge into the park from Broadway, it shouldn't
19 be held hostage to this project.

PH286-7

PH286-8

PH286-9

20 Of course, you want the bridge, you don't want
21 the bridge to be held hostage.

22 And then I think an option to get to Dodger
23 Stadium is all fine and good, but not when it sucks away
24 resources from all other options that we're not even
25 discussing. This would be a tourist trap. There should be
26 additional studies. The Dodger Stadium Express from other
27 locations, such as Pasadena.

PH286-10

28 Jessica: Thank you for your comment. I wanted to
29 review the instructions for call in participants, so we've

1 had a couple of questions. If you're calling in via phone,
2 you can press star nine to raise your hand, and then I'll
3 remind you, when we call on you that you'll press star six
4 to unmute. So again, if you are calling in via phone and
5 you'd like to raise your hand to provide public comment,
6 please press star nine and we'll get to the raised hands in
7 the order that they're coming through in our Zoom box.

8 We'll go to Tabitha next.

Comment - PH287

9 Tabitha: Hi, my name is Tabitha, I'm an organizer
10 with Power Out Way. We do organizing in this area,
11 especially around Chinatown. I have a few issues with the
12 draft EIR and I'm completely opposed to the project.

PH287-1

13 The first one being that the EIR studies are
14 routinely conducted by outside entities that are selected
15 by the developers of the project. [inaudible] disclosure,
16 public input in deciding who's going to conduct the EIR.

PH287-2

17 So it's very convenient for them, that they found
18 everything to be less than significant.

PH287-3

19 Second is it's unclear to me that this project
20 will reduce vehicle miles traveled. It seems like we'll
21 just displace those vehicle miles traveled to Union Station
22 and Chinatown Station. Chinatown is the neighborhood with
23 the lowest [inaudible] after Skid Row. And this community
24 cannot become a giant parking lot.

PH287-4

25 Citizens need actual services. During the land use
26 and planning analysis, they talk about how this will remove
27 first the last mile transit. I don't see how that's possible.
28 People are still going to have to drive to the gondola in order
29 to take it. So that is, I don't see how that makes any sense.

PH287-5

1 I'm also opposed to giving any sort of exceptions to the
2 general plan for the park to cut down the trees.

PH287-6

3 As several members of the communities have
4 voiced, I don't know if you know, but Chinatown has an
5 increasing aging community and the construction impacts, I
6 don't know if they were calculated for average people of
7 like average age or if they're calculated, considering that
8 this elderly community has special needs. The elderly
9 population is more sensitive to air pollutants and noise
10 pollutants.

PH287-7

11 Will the gondolas affect property values?

12 A lot of planners like to say that displacement
13 will not happen because you're not removing any houses,
14 you're not building on an existing housing site. But if
15 it's going to hike property values and that's going to
16 cause gentrification to come into the neighborhood, again,
17 this is the poorest house neighborhood in the city, but
18 you're not going to add or alter any existing facilities.

PH287-8

19 This is a community that needs more investment in
20 services. So the fact that you're making it harder to add
21 more is a problem for wildfire. Existing wildfire routes
22 are already inadequate a lot of times.

PH287-9

23 Jessica: Thank you for your comment.

24 We'll move to the phone number with the last
25 4873.

26 You can press star six to unmute yourself.

Comment - PH288

27 Speaker 18: My name is [inaudible]. My family
28 owns and operates the [inaudible] in Olvera Street, and we

PH288-1

1 are in full support of the project. Not only would it help
2 reduce traffic, good for the environment and provide much
3 needed infrastructure and resources to an underserved part
4 of downtown L.A., but as we enter a global recession, the
5 L.A. region would benefit greatly from this world class
6 project, a proven, innovative mode of transportation, and
7 would attract much needed visitors from around the region
8 and the globe.

cont'd
PH288-1

9 It can also be a catalyst for future innovative
10 transport solutions. This is a huge opportunity for L.A.
11 and I hope it is approved. Thank you.

12 Jessica: Thank you very much for your comment. To
13 move to Free SoCal.

Comment - PH289

14 Speaker 19: Hello, my name is [inaudible],
15 Manager of Advocacy and Public Policy for [inaudible],
16 Southern California. We're an environmental health non-
17 profit that focuses on clean air and healthy lungs. We
18 would like to convey our support for the L.A. Aerial Rapid
19 Transit Project. The project provides a zero-emission form
20 of transportation that would decrease greenhouse gas
21 emissions, cut smog and reduce the number of cars on the
22 road, all of which provide significant public health and
23 environmental benefits.

PH289-1

24 Thank you.

25 Jessica: Thank you for your comment.

Comment - PH290

26 We'll go to Ernest Li next.

27 Ernest Li: Thank you. My name is Ernest Li from
28 the [inaudible] Chinese Consolidated Benevolent
29 Association. I'm speaking in full support of the gondola

PH290-1

1 project. It is a good project that is almost zero emission.
2 This green project is good for the environment. And also
3 it's at the iconic structure through the Chinatown area,
4 and this is good for Chinatown, and also it provides an
5 opportunity to link up the key cultural institution like
6 Olvera Street, the Chinese [inaudible] Museum, and it links
7 to Chinatown and allow a lot of the traffic and the
8 opportunity for the local merchants to promote visitors, to
9 eat and shop locally.

10 So it's good for the local economy. So I'm
11 speaking in full support of this project. Thank you.

12 Jessica: Great. Thank you for your comment. We're
13 going to go to phone number with the last four digits 4460.

14 To reiterate, if you could please state your name
15 at the beginning of your comment. So, 4460, you want to
16 dial star six. There you go.

cont'd
PH290-1

Comment - PH291

17 Speaker 21: Hello? Hello? Can you hear me?

18 Jessica: I can hear you.

19 Speaker 21: Okay. What's [inaudible] this project
20 cause the people that we live here, we get stuck when
21 there's anything. And if we come back from work and we
22 forget something from our groceries we have to go away to
23 [inaudible] come back into our own houses. This will help a
24 lot, you know, [inaudible] we move around the city.

25 Also, zero emissions. I am here to support the
26 [inaudible]. Thank you very much.

27 Jessica: Thank you for your comment. That's
28 [inaudible] Wong next.

PH291-1

1 Wong: Hi, I organize with Power L.A. and
2 Chinatown Community for Equitable Development, providing
3 tenant support to low-income Cantonese seniors and I
4 absolutely oppose this project. Seniors with limited
5 ability, with limited mobility have no need for a train in
6 the sky that only goes to Dodger Stadium. Their needs are
7 on staying housed, securing affordable housing and a halt
8 to the rising cost of living, which this gondola as a
9 tourist attraction would only contribute to.

PH292-1

10 If you look at just College Station alone, where
11 one of these gondolas support towers is slated to be built,
12 that area's already been flipped into this upscale
13 expensive area to dire effects, pricing out long-time low-
14 income residents. This gondola is just more of the same.
15 And before you think that affordability of the neighborhood
16 is not an issue with this project, which I know you're
17 thinking because one of the L.A. ART Cantonese-speaking
18 interpreters tried to tell me so after reading a resident's
19 written comment at the Union Station hearing on Saturday,
20 You're wrong!

PH292-2

21 This gondola is being built public land where
22 that land should be used for public good. To serve the most
23 good, you must protect and be in alignment with the most
24 poor. You want to fly over red lanterns and go to rooftops.
25 You want to flash Chinese culture without paying a lick for
26 the Chinese immigrants who built it and risk being
27 displaced from it.

PH292-3

28 This gondola is not a community serving project.
29 It is a private billionaire serving project. Chinatown is
30 the second poorest neighborhood in L.A. It doesn't even

1 have a full-service grocery store. It does everything that
2 you would spend time and money catering to a seasonal
3 entertainment issue and not honoring the truly urgent life-
4 threatening issues of displacement that our most vulnerable
5 residents face.

cont'd
PH292-3

6 So every time I saw this project for the good of
7 people, do not build this gondola. Thanks, maybe.

8 Jessica: Thank you for your comment. We're going
9 to move to King next.

Comment - PH293

10 King Cheung: Hi, my name is King [inaudible], a
11 member of the Chinatown Community for Equitable
12 Development, which is located in Chinatown. I strongly
13 oppose the gondola project. It is nothing but a rip off of
14 the taxpayers using public space, public money and is only
15 for the good of one guy who want to build a kind of LA
16 life, kind of a project up on the parking lot and near the
17 Dodger Stadium.

PH293-1

18 And I think that is not going to be good for the
19 Chinatown community, for small businesses. Why would
20 anybody stick around Chinatown when they can just get up
21 there, eat and drink and attend games? So I think that the
22 line that is good for Chinatown business is not are not
23 going to [inaudible], in fact it make things worse, make
24 things a lot worse.

PH293-2

25 If there's a station near LA State Historic Park,
26 who want to walk up there to Chinatown, maybe for
27 [inaudible] and the [inaudible] area. But who are going to
28 [inaudible] and Alpine area to eat and shop, which is a
29 [inaudible]. Nobody would do that. Convenience is they're
30 going to just take the gondola and go and shop up there.

1 So it is going to be worse for Chinatown, but
2 that is going to be cause more gentrification, making
3 housing a more expensive and less affordable for the low-
4 income residents in Chinatown. [inaudible] oppose the
5 project.

6 Jessica: Thank you for providing your comment.
7 We're going to move to Luke next. And please [inaudible]
8 your comments. Thank you.

9 Luke MacDonald: Hello? Can you hear me? My name
10 is Luke MacDonald. I live nearby Union Station and I wanted
11 to comment that I think this is a really bad idea. I don't
12 really trust the arguments for lower pollution and I think
13 that the money would be much better invested in public
14 transportation. The [inaudible] application, not just going
15 to Dodger Stadium, baseball games.

16 I'm definitely also concerned with the
17 gentrifying of the communities and also like the thing that
18 like that's going to improve parking I think is also very
19 [inaudible]. It seems like it's just going to move
20 [inaudible] thing making Chinatown a big parking lot. It
21 doesn't seem like great idea. So it's just kind of like a
22 really strange and kind of a waste of money.

23 So yeah, yeah, I think [inaudible].

24 Jessica: Thank you for providing your comment.
25 We're going to move to Michael [inaudible] next.

26 Michael: Hi, good evening. Michael [inaudible]
27 with Central City Association. We support the proposed L.A.
28 ART zero emission project and appreciate the community
29 engagement that the project team has conducted in downtown

PH294-1

PH294-2

PH295-1

1 and in surrounding areas. In addition to making progress on
2 our state's climate goals, the proposed gondola would
3 reduce emissions, and some of the L.A. community is very
4 most impacted by air pollution.

5 I think LA ART is expected to take 3,000 cars off
6 the road before and after Dodger Stadium events. It will
7 reduce vehicle congestion, which frees up stadium visitors
8 and the surrounding communities' time and improves
9 accessibility to surrounding residences and local
10 businesses in the project area. Thank you.

11 Jessica: Thank you for your comment. We'll move
12 to Doug Carstens.

cont'd
PH295-1

13 Douglas Carstens: Hello. Good evening. This is
14 Douglas Carstens on behalf of the California Endowment. We
15 oppose the gondola project. Metro should not be pursuing
16 this private project at Frank McCourt's behest at all.
17 Metro should not be the lead agency because the City of Los
18 Angeles is in a much better position and there's more
19 property designated as the lead agency. First, regarding
20 the EIR CEQA, the California Environmental Quality Act is a
21 Bill of Rights for an environmental democracy. An EIR is
22 the heart of CEQA, an EIR is not supposed to be a sales
23 brochure or an infomercial for a project.

PH296-1

24 It's supposed to be an unbiased, full disclosure
25 document that advises the public and decision-makers of the
26 impacts of the project and how those impacts can be
27 reduced. This draft EIR presented by ART and Metro falls
28 woefully short of those legal requirements for full
29 disclosure and accuracy, and instead it's biased in favor
30 of the project.

PH296-2

Comment - PH296

1 I wish I could repeat verbatim everything that
2 Kathleen Johnson, [inaudible], Tabitha, Phyllis Ling, Bill
3 Chen, Luke McDonald said.

4 Because a lot of that I'd like to say, but I only
5 have this 2 minutes, so I will say the analysis in the
6 gondola, instead of being meaningful and accurate, is
7 distorted and misleading.

8 The entire financial plan, which the Metro Board
9 was promised would be made available before the end of
10 September 2022, is missing altogether. The missing
11 financial information is critical to understanding how
12 impacts identified in the EIR would be mitigated by the
13 project proponent and how they will not be.

14 The project proponent, Frank McCourt, has only
15 committed to funding 3% of the entire project budget, so
16 the shortfalls in construction and operating revenues will
17 be need to be made up somewhere, most likely from public
18 transit funding sources. Better use for public projects.

19 We ask that you terminate the project review
20 process immediately if you don't terminate it immediately,
21 Metro should transfer the lead agency status to the city of
22 L.A. to complete the review and process it.

23 Thank you for your time.

24 Jessica: Thank you for providing comment this
25 evening. Next, we'll move to [inaudible].

Comment - PH297

26 Speaker 27: Thank you.

27 From the very start of this project, I knew I
28 wanted to keep an eye on it because it impacts both my

PH296-3

PH296-4

PH296-5

PH297-1

1 communities of Chinatown and my community of Pueblos or
2 [inaudible]. My name is [inaudible], I grew up in
3 Chinatown, and I am currently, after retiring from Cal
4 State L.A. as a professor of [inaudible] education, I am
5 now associated with the Chinese American Museum.

6 So from the very beginning I was keeping my eye
7 on this project, and what I found very worthy of supporting
8 is the fact that I agree that this project would benefit
9 both Chinatown and El Pueblo. Very often when I had
10 questions or wanted to push back on some of the plans, I
11 was able to communicate with L.A. ART and they listened and
12 they tried to incorporate as much of our community's
13 suggestions as possible.

14 For the EIR tonight. I just want to comment that
15 as an academic, I understand what significant means and
16 what less than significant means. And so while on one hand,
17 I like the reporting that it lessened significant with
18 mitigation, but even then I like to connect that with
19 community input to look at what that, what those
20 mitigations might be so that we can have a more well-
21 rounded view on how we can resolve some of the problems
22 that not everybody would agree with. Thank you.

23 Jessica: Thank you for your comment. I just
24 wanted to remind attendees that you can provide comments in
25 languages other than English. We have interpretation
26 available for Spanish, Cantonese and Mandarin, so please
27 raise your hand if you'd like to provide a comment. We'll
28 move to Jim Starr.

29

cont'd
PH297-2

PH297-3

Comment - PH298

1 Jim Starr: Hello, this is Jim Starr. I'm against
2 Frank McCourt [inaudible] because it's Alameda Street
3 Terminal, which is designed like a Disneyland attraction,
4 will harm the view of Los Angeles Union Station's Hispanic
5 architecture. And one of the reasons it is a national
6 historic landmark. Thank you.

PH298-1

7 Jessica: Thank you for providing comment this
8 evening. Next, we'll move to Melissa [inaudible].

Comment - PH299

9 Melissa: Hello.

10 Jessica: Hi, we can hear you.

11 Melissa: Hi, good afternoon.

12 I'm calling today because I support the gondola
13 project.

14 One of the reasons is because I feel like, there
15 will be actually more visitors to Chinatown than people
16 just jumping into their cars after the game and going back
17 home.

PH299-1

18 They'll pass by Chinatown. And, you know, be
19 curious and come back and visit. Also because of the
20 pollution and less traffic. Thank you for your time.

21 Jessica: Thank you for your comment. We'll move
22 to Mary next. Mary, are you able to get yourself unmuted to
23 provide your comment? If not, we'll come back to you.

24 Jessica: Okay. We'll come back to Mary. We're
25 going to go to Michael [inaudible].

Comment - PH300

26 Michael Chong: Hi. This is Michael [Chong], and
27 I'm calling in favor of the L.A. ART project. I'm currently
28 a Chinatown resident, and, you know, Metro has, in the past

PH300-1

1 couple of decades, has made us understand that Los Angeles
2 can have a strong network of public transportation along
3 the side of cars and other variables. The [inaudible] is a
4 good example of that.

5 But unfortunately, it doesn't [run] on non-Dodger
6 events. We have a lot more activities in Dodger Stadium
7 lately, which is a good thing, but also causes a lot of
8 concerns in regards to traffic and congestion, air traffic
9 congestion and pollution. I believe that the gondola
10 project is the next step in our future. It would be a
11 marker and an important infrastructure that people can
12 visually see that Los Angeles can be centered around
13 alternative modes of transportation, finding creative
14 solutions for people to get out of their vehicles and
15 hopefully as a result, supporting the surrounding
16 businesses instead of driving past them.

17 Thank you.

18 Jessica: Thank you for your comment. We'll move
19 to Edwin Lee next.

cont'd
PH300-1

Comment – PH301

20 Edwin Lee: Hi, my name's Edwin Lee and I'm a
21 resident at the Bishop and Broadway Junction and I'm
22 against the project.

23 I don't, I think the visual impact assessment is
24 biased and dismissive. These are massive concrete
25 structures and five-ton gondola cabinets flying over our
26 streets and parks. Of course, this will have a negative
27 visual impact. If this was a more rich, more wealthier
28 neighborhood, this would not be allowed.

PH301-1

PH301-2

1 And the noise from the gondola station in our
2 neighborhood is not adequately studied. The noise analysis
3 is vague and does not even disclose the gondola system used
4 to take reference measurements. We are the difference. What
5 the difference and similarities in these gondola systems?

PH301-3

6 And furthermore, there's still no funding plan
7 for this project. Thank you.

PH301-4

8 Jessica: Thank you for providing comment tonight.
9 We will move to Alan Weeks.

Comment – PH302

10 Alan Weeks: Okay. Okay. Thank you. My name is
11 Alan Weeks and I'm very interested in the project. I think
12 it's interesting, it's unique and it will make a great
13 tourist attraction.

PH302-1

14 But I do have one objection, and I think it's a
15 major one. I've lived here, I'm 90 years old. I've lived
16 here all my life. And I remember my mother took me to the
17 Union Station opening in 1939.

18 And as you know, when you come in from the Plaza,
19 you get a tremendously beautiful view of really historical
20 monuments. And if you build that station and it appears to
21 be quite significantly large, and will definitely block the
22 view from people coming in on the west side of the station,
23 it's going to block their views. So for that reason alone,
24 if you find another location for the station, otherwise I
25 don't have any objection to the project.

PH302-2

26 Thank you.

27 Jessica: Thank you for providing your comment.
28 Let's try to go back to Mary.

1 She's able to unmute herself.

2 Mary, [inaudible]. Oh, looks like Mary is having
3 some trouble getting unmuted, so I'm going to go to Darryl
4 Saucedo. Okay, we'll come back to. Let's try for eight,
5 six, nine, five.

6 Darryl Saucedo: Did it work?

7 Jessica: Yes, Darryl, go ahead.

8 Darryl Saucedo: Did it work? Okay. Well, good
9 afternoon. My name is Darryl Saucedo. I'm the chairman of
10 the board of the Los Angeles Latino Chamber of Commerce,
11 and we support this project as well.

12 But I would like to go on record that the LA
13 [LCC] has strongly recommended that if this project moves
14 forward, that the project hires at least 35% small, local,
15 small, diverse businesses, not only in construction but to
16 provide maintenance and staffing through our local AGC
17 participants.

18 And I think that they should be given a
19 preference for anybody that uses our local workforce. Thank
20 you.

21 Jessica: Okay. Sorry about that. We will next go
22 to the phone number ending in 8695. Give me a moment. And
23 we'll get you [inaudible]. Just one moment.

24 Eight, six, nine, five. It, can you unmute
25 yourself?.

26 Okay, Maybe we'll. Okay, go ahead. Good.

27 Speaker 34: [inaudible]

Comment – PH303

PH303-1

PH303-2

1 Speaker 34: [inaudible]

2 Speaker 35: So my name is [inaudible]. I'm a
3 local resident of the Chinatown community. I'm here in
4 support of the gondola project because I believe it brings
5 a lot of benefits to our neighborhood and community. First,
6 it improves the traffic, improves the air quality, also
7 brings visitors to different locations and thereby improve
8 our business structure. Thank you.

9 Jessica: Thank you very much. Okay. And next,
10 we'll go to the phone number ending in 4460.

11 Speaker 36: I already participate.

12 Jessica: Oh, sorry about that. Thank you very
13 much for letting me know. If we could possibly go to phone
14 number 513.

15 Thank you very much. 5137. Yes. Thank you very
16 much. Go ahead if you're able to unmute yourself.

17 Phone number ending in 5137.

18 If you can go ahead. There you go. Five, one,
19 three, seven. Are you able to go ahead?

20 Okay. Looks like we're not able to hear you at
21 the moment. We'll move on. We'll give you a minute and
22 we'll move on. Okay. Carlos Gomez, we'll take you next
23 here. Carlos.

24 Carlos Gomez: Yes? Can you hear me?

25 Jessica: Yes.

26 Carlos Gomez: Hi. Yeah. Carlos Gomez, long-time
27 Dodger season ticket holder. I fully support the gondola

PH304-1

PH305-1

1 project. I think it's very innovative. You know, this
2 specific year, you know, attending so many games, I caught
3 myself waiting longer than usual for the Dodger Stadium
4 Express. I don't know if there was maybe like, a lack of
5 funding or but I know there were just like, you know,
6 maybe two buses going out every 50 minutes or so.

7 And, you know, anything that we can do to really
8 alleviate any type of congestion or traffic, you know, for
9 the what is 30 to 40,000 Dodger fans that go to the games
10 or millions throughout the season would be great. I fully
11 support this project. And we really need this project. I
12 mean, I think it would help the surrounding community and
13 Dodger fans in general. Go Dodgers!

14 Jessica: Thank you very much. Okay. And next, we
15 will go to the phone number ending 8838. If you're able to
16 speak. And just as a reminder, if you're dialing in by
17 phone, you can dial star six to unmute yourself. Go ahead
18 please

19 Speaker 38: [inaudible]

20 Jessica: Okay. Looks like we may have lost that
21 commenter or maybe we can come back to them. Okay. Next,
22 we'll take Lester [inaudible].

23 Spanish Interpreter: And while Lester's getting
24 unmuted, I'll just note that we do have a number of hands
25 raised still, so we will extend the meeting until 7:30 so
26 that we can make through all of the hands raised to provide
27 comment tonight.

28 Lester: Oh, hello.

29 Jessica: Yes, go ahead, Lester.

cont'd
PH305-1

PH306-1

1 Lester: Yeah, Lester [inaudible].

2 I just wanna say that I'm a big Dodgers fan and I
3 support this project.

4 Jessica: Thank you for your comment. Okay. And
5 next, we'll ask 6909 to provide comment. And if you're able
6 to unmute, 6909.

7 Spanish Interpreter: If you're on the phone press
8 star six.

9 Jessica: Yes. Thank you.

10 Once again, phone number 6909. If you're able to
11 provide your comment and unmute, you can press star six on
12 the phone. Okay. Looks like we may have some technical
13 issues, there you go. Please go ahead.

14 Speaker 40: [inaudible]

Comment - PH307

15 Speaker 41: I support the project.

16 Speaker 40: Hello?

17 Jessica: You may provide your comment.

18 Speaker 40: [inaudible]

19 Speaker 41: I support the gondola project in
20 Chinatown because it brings more attention business to the
21 area.

22 Speaker 40: [inaudible]

23 Jessica: Okay. I think that comment is complete.
24 Thank you very much.

25 Okay. Next, I'll take Kayla

cont'd
PH306-1

PH307-1

1 Kayla: Good evening. This is Kayla. I am a
2 resident of Chinatown, and I wanted to call in today to
3 oppose the gondola project for a few reasons. There's no
4 additional parking accommodations for those 3,000 vehicles
5 you mentioned that would presumably be arriving at Union
6 Station. So the traffic won't really be alleviated at all.

PH308-1

7 The congestion will just shift south a few
8 blocks. It's also hard to be convinced of an emission
9 reduction plan that's only one mile long, especially when
10 the vehicles will still be driving to the gondola terminal,
11 but more so than the traffic in the parking.

PH308-2

12 I'm concerned about the impacts of gentrification
13 and displacement that were mentioned by some other
14 commenters earlier, especially due to that property value
15 increase in this historic but unfortunately very under-
16 supported neighborhood.

PH308-3

17 The gondola won't support Chinatown businesses.
18 It'll detract from them, people going from Union Station
19 and flying right over.

PH308-4

20 It's the gondola's plan to use public rights of
21 way public airspace, public land. It'll impose itself on
22 our skyline. Cars moving thousands of camera-phone equipped
23 sports spectators back and forth between Union Station and
24 Dodger Stadium with a full view down into our patios or
25 gardens or homes.

PH308-5

26 The gondola's not needed year-round, but it'll be
27 visible and audible year round like a permanent string of
28 cables and towers and our sidewalks and our skies.

PH308-6

1 Lastly, it's unclear who will pay for this
2 project, but it's clear that a billionaire will profit from
3 it. It's for these reasons that I oppose the gondola. Thank
4 you. Thank you very much.

PH308-7

5 Jessica: Okay. Next, we'll ask phone number
6 ending and 6343.

Comment – PH309

7 Monica Vasquez: Yes. Hi. Yes.

8 My name is Monica Vasquez, and I fully support
9 the gondola project. This not only will help with the
10 traffic and pollution and stuff like that, but now I live
11 [inaudible] and it has some of the worst traffic, too. And
12 this is [inaudible]. Less traffic and more [inaudible]
13 transportation, which the gondola will provide all of that.

14 Plus it'll be good for the people. And this
15 project will help the region with traffic. Like I said, the
16 pollution, the time of traffic as well, because driving
17 [inaudible] my house to the Dodger Stadium. It's only a
18 short distance, but once in traffic it's a long way. And
19 like I said, I just called to support the [inaudible] and
20 gondola project and I hope you guys do, too.

PH309-1

21 Thank you so much.

22 Jessica: Thank you. And next, we'll take the
23 phone number ending in 7886.

24 Please go ahead and unmute if you're able to.
25 Just a reminder, you can press star six to unmute.

26 Ms. Wong: Hello?

Comment – PH310

27 Jessica: Yes, we can hear you.

PH310-1

28 Ms. Wong: [inaudible]

1 So my name Ms. Wong, I'm a local resident of the
2 Chinatown area. I'm pulling support in favor of this
3 project because it's going to bring a lot of good things to
4 the area. It's going to help with the air quality and
5 relieve the traffic and various benefits and welfare for
6 the neighborhood. Thank you.

7 Jessica: Thank you. And next, we will ask Jason
8 to provide comment.

9 Jason: Hi. Yes, this is Jason [inaudible]. I'm
10 with the Los Angeles Chinatown Corporation. We are the
11 founding organization that actually founded Chinatown when
12 it was displaced, when it moved from Union Station to where
13 it's at now. We own Central Plaza and we are one of the
14 oldest organizations in Chinatown. Conceptually, the board
15 has voted to support the gondola project, but conceptually
16 there are still things that still need to be worked out.

17 But in general, we do support it for several
18 reasons. Reasons to for reasons no other than Chinatown is
19 completely dead. It has been dead for many, many years. I
20 have lived in Chinatown before I moved out and nothing has
21 happened. And so with the gondola project, this attraction
22 will hopefully bring in visitors, people to see Chinatown,
23 shop, visit, eat, and our merchants need it.

24 Despite what all the opposing arguments are, our
25 merchants do need some kind of revitalization and right now
26 our merchants are suffering. I speak to our merchants all
27 the time and they support the gondola because they need
28 people in Chinatown to serve, to make money, and to
29 hopefully get Chinatown out of being one of the poorest
30 area in the community.

PH311-1

cont'd
PH311-1

1 Thank you.

2 Jessica: Thank you very much.

3 Before we move to the next commentary, I'll just
4 note that we are coming up on 7:00 and we are planning to
5 extend the meeting until 7:30 and we'll take comments up
6 until 7:30 this evening.

7 Thank you, Jessica. And next, we will take the
8 phone number ending in 9509. 9509, if you're able to unmute
9 yourself by dialing star six.

10 Phone number 9509, if you can hear us. Okay,
11 maybe we'll come back to that participant. How about we
12 move on to the phone number ending in 6909? Actually, I
13 don't see that one on my list anymore. Okay, we'll try
14 9520.

15 Participant ending in 9520.

16 If you're able to dial star six on your phone, to
17 unmute your cell. We'll try one other. Sharon Coleman, if
18 you'd like to provide your comment, Sharon.

Comment – PH312

19 Sharon Coleman: My name is Sharon Coleman. I am
20 president of the National Association [inaudible]
21 Contractors. And I just want to say I support this mission
22 and I agree with the previous caller in reference to making
23 sure that we have not only minority participation on the
24 building of the actual structure, but on the long-term
25 aspects of it. That's my comment.

26 Jessica: Thank you very much. Okay. And next,
27 we'll go to Sarah Van de Camp.

PH312-1

cont'd
PH312-1

Comment – PH313

1 Sarah Vande Camp: Hi. Thank you so much. My
2 name's Sarah Van de Camp and I'm a resident of East L.A.,
3 specifically Cypress Park. I support this project. I think
4 it's really no secret that we desperately need zero-
5 emission solutions and climate solutions. We also need more
6 public transportation options and connectivity in Los
7 Angeles. So I wholeheartedly support this project and the
8 efforts by climate resolve.

PH313-1

9 And I'm also really excited about the opportunity
10 that aerial gondola technology presents in Los Angeles as
11 well. This is a super innovative idea and I really do think
12 it would be good for the city. Thank you so much.

13 Jessica: Thank you, Sarah. Ground Game L.A., if
14 you'd like to provide your comment.

Comment – PH314

15 Bill: Hi, my name is Bill [inaudible] with people
16 organized for Westside Renewal. Yes, we oppose this
17 project. I'm concerned about a couple of things in the EIR
18 in particular.

PH314-1

19 One is I'm concerned about the way this project
20 fits in with the larger plan to redevelop the parking lots
21 around Dodger Stadium. I do not believe that the actual
22 goal of this project is to facilitate the growth of
23 business in Chinatown, but to facilitate an excuse to
24 redevelop the parking lots that Frank McCourt still has an
25 interest in.

PH314-2

26 This is not really a secret that this was part of
27 the goal. They were discussing it in the press over a
28 decade ago, and I always find very, very wealthy
29 individuals boosting a project that serves their interests

cont'd
PH314-2

1 and trying to use the public infrastructure to do that as
2 very suspect.

3 I think people have already talked about the way
4 that the traffic study is flawed.

5 I don't see how adding a gondola really takes
6 cars off the road. It doesn't do anything to get people to
7 take transit to where they can get the gondola. I do not
8 believe it's a first and last-mile solution. I think it's
9 going to become an only mile solution. And what folks will
10 do in practice is really take the gondola as kind of more a
11 tourist attraction type thing and bring traffic and parking
12 into the community.

13 And of course, once that redevelopment around
14 Dodger Stadium happens, I don't see those folks even
15 spending that much money or time in Chinatown. When we talk
16 to members in the community, nobody says the thing that we
17 need most is a gondola. Folks need affordable housing, but
18 they also need like local level traffic solutions, like a
19 traffic light to get from William Meade Public housing
20 community to the historic state park, for instance.

21 We need to invest in what folks actually need and
22 do bottom-up planning. This is a misuse of the public
23 process. Thank you.

24 Jessica: Thank you.

25 And next, we'll go to Diane Weiss.

PH314-3

PH314-4

1 Diane Weiss: Hi. Can you hear me? Okay. Hi. I am
2 100% opposed to this project.

PH315-1

3 In the last 50 years, which is barely a blip of
4 time, we have lost two-thirds of our worldwide wildlife.
5 Two-thirds in 50 years. Recently, it was documented, also
6 that documentation can be found through the World Wildlife
7 Fund. It's also been documented that currently there are
8 over 150,000 species that are threatened or extinction
9 currently due to man-made endeavors such as this kind of
10 short-sighted one,

11 We are the stewards of the environment and we
12 just forget about that every time some billionaire wants to
13 have a seasonal vanity project that they will benefit from.

PH315-2

14 I know the wildlife doesn't buy Dodger tickets.
15 Wildlife doesn't buy amusement park tickets.

16 And it doesn't want a tourist trap. We already
17 have enough of all of those things. At some point we have
18 to realize that we have to preserve our environment because
19 even if you're a billionaire developer, you have to
20 understand that when we kill the environment, we kill
21 ourselves.

22 And even the highly skilled greenwasher, like
23 this whole plan has been presented as, it's pretty dubious.

24 We need to get our priorities straight and quit
25 thinking so short term in our city.

26 Jessica: Thank you. And next, we'll go to Drew
Miller.

28 Drew Miller: Hi, my name is Drew Miller, and I am
29 calling to voice my full support for the gondola. The
30 proposed Los Angeles Aerial Rapid Transit Project presents

PH316-1

1 an important opportunity to advance zero emissions
2 transportation and slash carbon emissions at a crucial time
3 in human history. It would be the first permanent rapid
4 transit connection from the region's transportation hub,
5 Union Station, to Dodger Stadium, as well as a region park.

6 This will remove thousands of vehicles from the
7 road, reducing congestion and pollution while providing a
8 unique and safe experience for the community. As rising
9 temperatures from human-caused greenhouse gases threaten
10 the city of Los Angeles and the world as we know it, the
11 time for action is now. Thank you.

12 Jessica: Thank you very much. Next comment will
13 be [inaudible].

cont'd
PH316-1

14 Dawn Huang: Hi. Can you hear me? My name is Dawn
15 Huang and while I agree that Los Angeles is much more in
16 need of public transportation, a gondola going to a sports
17 stadium is a bizarre choice. Have any of you ridden a
18 gondola? How many people does a gondola move and how
19 quickly? I know taking gondolas in my life, including the
20 Roosevelt Island gondola, known as the aerial tramway,
21 they're very slow and they're huge expense that will be
22 funded by our city for a slow moving mile that doesn't take
23 that many people.

24 I lived in New York City for years and saw the
25 aerial tramway overhead and underneath.

26 Few people felt like walking underneath it.

27 Apparently only two properties in the world,
28 according to Roosevelt Island's aerial tramway, can make
29 these systems. So it's a French company that built the

PH317-1

PH317-2

PH317-3

Comment - PH317

1 Roosevelt Island one that was only used temporarily and
2 meant to be used temporarily.

3 It's currently privately run and pays New York
4 City a franchise fee, while subways and cars are much more
5 often used by residents due to speed. I never went to
6 Roosevelt Island in those 20 years on the tramway while I
7 did drive and take the subway. Not all people are
8 comfortable with aerial travel.

9 There's a large percentage of the population who
10 are afraid of heights. The tram often wasn't used by the
11 residents because of its slowness and was used often by
12 tourists or in a Spider-Man movie. Although the tramway was
13 opened in 1976 in July it was intended to be just temporary
14 transportation while the subway was getting connected. And
15 then the subway fell behind schedule and it became a
16 permanent fixture.

17 But in the 50 years it was in existence, it was
18 only moved 26 million people while the subway moved
19 millions a day, billions of people since. And then when the
20 subway was completed in 1989, ridership drastically went
21 down. So as a historian and documentary filmmaker, I've
22 studied the impacts of public policy and transport policies
23 on community [inaudible].

24 Chinatown's historically suffered from being
25 moved already, past harassment and a past massacre
26 perpetrated by non-Chinese. In the past, China and the US.
27 California looks like.

28 Jessica: Looks like we're at the two-minute mark.
29 I need to move to the next comments.

cont'd
PH317-3

PH317-4

PH317-5

PH317-6

PH317-7

1 Dawn Huang: Well, racism is a part here. You
2 chose a community that can't speak enough for itself and is
3 in depression. So I believe that I should be able to speak
4 and to use fund public funding to fund a private enterprise
5 for a specific group of people, baseball fans, which is not
6 the whole population. You could funnel your money into
7 actual metro service for the entire city. Thank you very
8 much.

cont'd
PH317-7

9 Jessica: Thank you very much. Okay. Next, we'll
10 go to the phone number ending in 4080. Go ahead.

Comment – PH318

11 Carlos: Hi, my name is Carlos [inaudible] Senior.
12 [inaudible] I support the project, the gondola. We are
13 taking people out of town, so I'm fine with [inaudible] and
14 it's really a pain in the neck trying to get parking
15 [inaudible]. Now [inaudible] much benefit for the
16 community. It will be [inaudible] the gondolas going to go
17 through [inaudible] support the project is also [inaudible]
18 going to Dodger Stadium and it's good for people who don't
19 [inaudible] parking lot [inaudible] and they like to take
20 their kids and their families for, you know, [inaudible]
21 and bottom line 100%, hopefully that this project can get
22 approval. Thank you for listening.

PH318-1

23 Jessica: Thank you.

24 Okay. Next, we will go to Ron. Ron, if you're
25 able to provide your comment. Ron, can you provide your
26 comment please? Looks like Ron is unmuted. Ron, are you
27 there? Okay. Maybe we will come back to Ron. Next, we will
28 go to Eric.

29

1 Eric: Yeah. Hello. My name is, my name is Eric.
2 I've lived in Echo Park within a gondola ride of Dodger
3 Stadium for about 13 years, but on the other side of the
4 stadium. On game nights when I'm leaving my house, it often
5 means waiting like ten minutes just to exit my driveway. So
6 I totally understand how important it is to find new ways
7 to bring visitors to Dodger Stadium.

PH319-1

8 But this project won't bring enough people fast
9 enough to justify the intrusion into the community's
10 backyards. It's not the answer to our problems. It will
11 divert cars to Chinatown in Union Station if anything. If
12 you don't get rid of the parking, you'll never get rid of
13 the cars. Let's call this gondola project what it is. It's
14 silly. It's a novelty and it's a [inaudible].

15 This [inaudible] achievement will enrich Frank
16 McCourt and be a shiny new thing to show up at the
17 Olympics. The community doesn't want this. Stop wasting
18 time and money talking about it.

PH319-2

19 Please just run more buses and dedicated lanes to
20 run even when there is no game. There's a beautiful park up
21 there that's more or less inaccessible by transit. We don't
22 want novelty tourist transit. We want robust systems to
23 access our green spaces. This project ain't it. Thank you.

PH319-3

24 Jessica: Thank you. The next commenter will be
25 phone number ending in 8635. If you're able to press star
26 six on your phone to unmute. Just give us one moment here.
27 Perhaps that person is not on anymore. Okay. Next, we will
28 go to Monica Cruz.

29 Monica Cruz: Hi everyone. I am Monica and I
30 support the [inaudible] congestion wants to find a solution

1 that will enhance our communications [inaudible] as a zero
2 emission transit. So in this case, [inaudible] we support
3 this project as we know that aerial rapid transit through
4 this road, through extraordinary innovation [inaudible].

PH320-1

5 Jessica: Thank you. And next, we'll go to Michael
6 [inaudible]. Let's go ahead, Michael [inaudible]. Please go
7 ahead. Michael, if you're able to unmute.

Comment – PH321

8 Michael Berg: Hello.

9 Jessica: Yes, go ahead.

10 Michael Berg: I'm so sorry. I started talking
11 without even [inaudible]. Anyway, thank you. My name is
12 Michael Berg and I am a Los Angeles Union Station
13 Historical Society board member, also the founder of the
14 Aliso Street Manufacturer [inaudible] Society, and also a
15 member of the Chinese Historical Society that's along the
16 route. This is nothing more than a carnival ride.

PH321-1

17 Los Angeles private transport projects
18 historically have proven to be financially and viable for
19 carrying [inaudible] passengers, i.e. [inaudible]. And I
20 agree with the California Endowment's position that the
21 ruining of the view scape of their building severely
22 degrades the quality of their company, and that by doing
23 the same, [inaudible] damage in front of Union Station by
24 that enormous terminal on Alameda Street blocks a world
25 class architectural wonder, one of the most iconic and
26 culturally significant architectural masterpieces in all of
27 Los Angeles.

PH321-2

PH321-3

28 We would like to, I would like to say that I
29 believe this project is not viable for anything, and the

1 damage to these [inaudible] is completely irresponsible and
2 unacceptable. And it's amazing to me to think that all of
3 this could be changed if they just put in a subway to
4 Dodger Stadium would solve all of the issues you're talking
5 about.

PH321-4

6 And I did a little calculation. You have to
7 unload 80 people every minute, to 5,000 people an hour. And
8 I'd like to know how you plan to load and unload 80 people
9 a minute to meet that 5,000 number. I believe that traffic
10 stats that you gave a flood of.

PH321-5

11 Jessica: Thank you, Michael. We've reached the
12 end of your time here.

13 Michael Berg: Thank you.

14 Jessica: Thank you very much. Okay, next, we'll
15 take Alex Alvarez.

Comment – PH322

16 Alex Alvarez: Oh, sorry about that. Good evening.
17 My name is Alex Alvarez. We all have to deal with the
18 traffic around Dodger Stadium on game days.

19 The gondolas could take 3,000 cars off the road,
20 making it easier to get around and reducing our pollution
21 from cars.

22 I support the gondola, [inaudible] because it
23 would be great for Los Angeles, for the Dodgers and their
24 fans.

PH322-1

25 And you for taking the opportunity to take my
26 comment and have a good night.

27 Jessica: Thank you. And next, we have the phone
28 number ending in 0616.

Comment – PH323

1 Speaker 58: Hello?

2 Jessica: Yes.

3 Speaker 58: Yes, my name is [inaudible] for the
4 community and I am [inaudible] and I would like to thank
5 you for your time.

6 Jessica: Thank you.

7 Next, we have the phone number ending in 0569.

8 Let's see if they are still available here.
9 Actually, my team could help me out here. I don't think
10 they're on the line any longer.

11 Going to [Crystal] at this point. Okay. Yes,
12 Crystal, go ahead.

PH323-1

Comment – PH324

13 Crystal: Hi. My name is [Crystal]. [inaudible].
14 Thank you.

15 Jessica: Thank you.

16 And Laura, I think we've made it through all the
17 folks that had their hands raised at 7 that are still on
18 the line. I know we did get a note from Ron Frank that he
19 was having some trouble with his computer. So let's take a
20 quick look and see if he's on. Otherwise, I think we'll do
21 one last double check and wrap up the public comment.

22 Laura Adelman: Thank you Jessica.

23 Spanish Interpreter: Ron, are you on and able to
24 unmute yourself?

PH324-1

Comment – PH325

Jessica: Looks like Ron is on.

26 Ron: Hello.

PH325-1

1 Spanish Interpreter: Yeah, there we go. We can
2 hear you.

3 Ron: Right. Thank you. I can't stress enough how
4 opposed I am for this project.

5 There's not enough time really to address the
6 countless reasons that this is a bad idea. Even if I didn't
7 live in the neighborhood, I'd still be against this
8 project. I'm all for environmental protection and for
9 business people to do well and to be successful. But this
10 whole project is built on a lie. It's not about saving the
11 environment, but about increasing the fortunes of a
12 billionaire.

13 There's no way that this project will be paid for
14 by proponents or pay for itself, and taxpayers do not need
15 to be put on the hook for this. There are other ways to
16 reduce emissions. California's already on track to have
17 automobiles become environmentally safer. If you live in
18 the neighborhood, there's nothing environmentally friendly
19 about this project. Rather, it's environmentally ruinous to
20 everything it touches or is in its vicinity.

21 It offers nothing but [inaudible]. Generally
22 impacts would not be significant until they are, and they
23 will be. If whatever benefits to the business community
24 there could possibly be would already be provided by the
25 Metro rail. This will not add to anything. If anybody
26 thinks Chinatown is dead, maybe they could encourage
27 businesses to paint their buildings so that the buildings
28 looked alive.

29 Jessica: Thank you very much, Ron.

cont'd
PH325-1

PH325-2

PH325-3

PH325-4

1 Ron: But actually I have one more comment. The
2 scheme just screams the old saying about preferring to ask
3 for forgiveness instead of permission. And surely things
4 are going to go wrong and there'll be no way to forgive
5 those things from happening. Thank you.

6 Jessica: Thank you.

7 Spanish Interpreter: Jessica. I think we just
8 have one more that that commenter that perhaps could not
9 unmute earlier. We'll just give them one more try five nine
10 excuse me, 9509. Would you be able to try again? 9509 if
11 you're able. Okay. Looks like we're having trouble there.

12 Jessica: Okay. I think I'll go ahead and move us
13 into wrapping up the meeting and providing an overview of
14 all the additional ways that the public can provide comment
15 through January 17th, 2023. So we do have an additional
16 public hearing in addition to the one that we held tonight
17 and also on Saturday, December 10th. There's one more
18 public hearing on Thursday, January 12th, from 5 to 7 p.m.
19 at Cathedral High School.

20 And you can also provide comment via email or
21 mail through January 17th, 2023. And again, you can access
22 all of this information as well as the draft EIR at
23 metro.dot/aerialrapidtransit.

24 It looks like I'm getting a note that we have one
25 more commenter with a hand up. Okay. It looks like Katy.
26 Let's see if we can get you unmuted and then we'll move
27 into wrapping up the meeting once you conclude your
28 comment.

1 Katie: Hey, can you hear me? Yes, thank you. My
2 name is Katie. I live right by Dodger Stadium. I do agree
3 that we need better public transit on game days. It's very
4 difficult to leave my house and go anywhere, but the
5 gondola is the opposite of that. The gondola won't make it
6 easier to take public transit to Dodger Stadium. It won't
7 help our neighbors access effective and affordable public
8 transit.

PH326-1

9 And frankly, it won't help anyone get anywhere
10 that they need to go. It's going to disrupt our
11 neighborhood. And it's, as other people have said, an
12 entirely unrealistic plan. The numbers that are, that it
13 says it will bring of people is just like, that's a wish.
14 That's not reality. And as a taxpayer, I do not agree with
15 the city paying hundreds of millions of dollars, of dollars
16 of our own money for something that none of us want or
17 need.

PH326-2

18 We need affordable housing. We need streets where
19 we can ride our bikes and use accessible public
20 transportation. We need to be able to have public
21 transportation that goes to places that we actually need to
22 go in a way that gets us there.

PH326-3

23 And that's not what the gondola does. So we
24 really do not need the gondola and we are opposed to it in
25 our neighborhood. Thank you.

26 Jessica: Thank you for that final public comment.
27 We'll move back to the overview of all the ways that the
28 community can provide comment during the public review
29 period. So we'll move on to the next slide here.

1 Jessica: Okay. So we were reviewing all of the
2 various ways that you can provide public comment. So again,
3 we do have the additional public hearing on January 12th
4 and you can provide public comment via email, phone and
5 mail through January 17th, 2023. We had a very good turnout
6 tonight, and I want to thank everyone for their
7 participation this evening and for staying on the line a
8 little bit longer to allow more of our community members to
9 provide public comment.

10 So we appreciate your time this evening and we'll
11 go ahead and conclude the meeting. So moving on, just a
12 final thank you. And we will now conclude this virtual
13 public hearing.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: LA ART Public Hearing

Before: LA County Metropolitan Transit Authority

Date: 12-13-22

Place: Los Angeles, CA

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under my
direction; further, that said transcript is a true
and accurate record of the proceedings.



Manager, Linguistic Services



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Appendix B.3
Public Hearing, January 12, 2023
(In-Person)

LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

+ + + + +

LOS ANGELES AERIAL PUBLIC TRANSIT (LA ART)
PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

+ + + + +

THURSDAY
JANUARY 12, 2023

+ + + + +

The Public Comment Session took place
at Cathedral High School, 1253 Bishops Road, Los
Angeles, California, at 5:00 p.m.

COMMENTERS

KEVIN LAU
KATHLEEN JOHNSON
OLIVIA VIERA
MELISSA ARECHIGA
XIANGTIAN XU
CHRIS GIBSON
GABRIEL OWENS-FLORES
XULAN CHEN
EDWIN LI
CHRIS HANNAN
HOWARD AMSTER

P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

5:02 p.m.

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Comment - PH171

MR. LAU: All right. I just wanted to express concern about the gondola in Chinatown. There are a lot of questions I don't think have been like really answered.

Economically, I'll ask, like how much will the project cost? How much will riders be charged? Will they be charged each way? I know top parking usually is \$40 to \$50 regularly over at Dodger Stadium.

Will the gondola be open during non-event days? Who would use it and why? Do they plan on holding other events up in the parking lot?

I'm concerned for the businesses in Chinatown and Olvera Street that I think will be negatively affected by having less of a friction from Union Station up to the Dodger Stadium.

I don't want it to be just something like Angels Flight, some sort of like something stupid that's there.

PH171-1

PH171-2

PH171-3

1 Will air rights be negotiated for
2 property owners that have the gondola over them?

PH171-4

3 Environmental impact. I'm concerned
4 about the positive, what they're saying about the
5 traffic reduction. Because if they're just
6 taking passengers from Union Station who would
7 normally take the Dodger Express, are you really
8 reducing any traffic? All right. What are the
9 carbon emissions that will be used to build the
10 gondola system? All right. How many passengers
11 have to use the gondola in order to offset the
12 carbon produced in order to build the gondola?

PH171-5

PH171-6

13 Safety. Definitely, especially with
14 the past week with the amount of rain we had,
15 there's a lot of soil instability.

PH171-7

16 And then, let's see. I don't see any,
17 I haven't seen any third-party independent data
18 that states if it supports this is a good idea.
19 Are there any? Can that be provided? All right?

PH171-8

20 Is there any data about Dodger fans or
21 people in Chinatown that want this?

22 I think we need to focus more on

PH171-9

1 affordable housing or getting a supermarket.

2 Let's see. I don't think I have
3 enough time for anything else. It's like two
4 seconds. I just wanted to make a closing. Oh,
5 okay.

6 So, a lot of my research says that the
7 '84 LA Games of the Olympics was one of the most
8 successful Olympics ever, and a lot of that was
9 because it did not lose any money. But, more
10 importantly, it revitalized the urban core of the
11 cities, but not at the expense of its residents.
12 And I feel as if this is just a plan that's being
13 pushed without actually taking into account the
14 actual people affected by this being built in our
15 community.

PH171-10

16 And I just want these -- I want these
17 answers, as a resident.

18 Thank you.

19 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
20 briefly went off the record.)

Comment - PH172

21 MS. JOHNSON: My name is Kathleen
22 Johnson, K-A-T-H-L-E-E-N J-O-H-N-S-O-N. My name

PH172-1

1 is Kathleen Johnson, Executive Director of the
2 nonprofit LA River State Park Partners, the
3 support organization for LA State Historic Park.

4 A gondola through LA State Historic
5 Park would significantly alter the park's
6 southern and middle sections and their mature
7 native landscapes and compromise users'
8 experience of the peaceful, quiet, open land and
9 skies of the entire park.

10 Taking public parkland for a looming
11 station building and 98-foot tower, the route
12 would convey cars just 26 feet overhead on six
13 massive cables. The gondola would destroy 81
14 mature trees, permanently alter the park's
15 thoughtfully-designed vistas, jeopardize event
16 revenues and vital maintenance, and threaten
17 historic features.

18 These major park impacts, grossly
19 underexamined in the Draft EIR, represent an
20 environmental injustice. The park was born from
21 community activism that transformed a former rail
22 yard brownfield into an urban green oasis -- with

cont'd
PH172-1

PH172-2

PH172-3

1 all of the related health and community benefits.
2 After this long struggle, residents deserve to
3 have their original designs and uses for the park
4 respected and their land protected.

cont'd
PH172-3

5 I'm not here to comment on the wisdom
6 of the gondola enterprise, but simply to insist
7 that taxpayer-funded public parkland not be
8 commandeered for its use.

PH172-4

9 Thank you.

10 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
11 briefly went off the record.)

Comment - PH173

12 MS. VIERA: Hi. My name is Olivia
13 Viera, spelled O-L-I-V-I-A V-I-E-R-A.

14 I'm a resident of Solano Canyon, which
15 is east, adjacent to Dodger Stadium. So, I've
16 been affected by the traffic for the last 22
17 years.

PH173-1

18 I'm also the founder of a community
19 arts organization called Indigenous Wellness
20 Collective, which serves hundreds of BIPOC folks
21 in the area.

22 There is a lot of trauma in this area

PH173-2

1 going back to the era of my great uncle, Tony
2 Montez, who was displaced when the Dodgers moved
3 from Brooklyn to Los Angeles. His family was
4 robbed of housing.

5 So, I'm distinctly aware of the trauma
6 in the area regarding government or big
7 corporations coming in and making decisions for
8 the community that directly affect the community.

9 One of the best things that has
10 happened so far is the Metro non-gas buses coming
11 in and bringing hundreds of people to the
12 stadium. This has relieved traffic immensely,
13 although I realize there are some improvements
14 that need to be made there.

15 The gondola is offensive to the
16 neighborhood of Chinatown, Solano Canyon, Echo
17 Park, and Lincoln Heights. It is blatant
18 capitalist greed.

19 If the gondola were a free ticket, I
20 would reconsider my position. But, as of now, I
21 stand 100 percent against the construction of
22 this gondola in this part of the city. I would

cont'd
PH173-2

PH173-3

PH173-4

1 like to see it overlooking the marina instead.

2 Thank you.

3 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
4 briefly went off the record.)

Comment - PH174

5 MS. ARECHIGA: Melissa Arechiga, M-E-
6 L-I-S-S-A Arechiga, A-R-E-C-H-I-G-A.

7 Okay. My name is Melissa Arechiga.

8 I stand here before you as a representative of
9 surviving families that were vitally evicted from
10 Palo Verde, La Loma, and Bishop, three Mexican
11 indigenous communities that were destroyed to
12 build Dodger Stadium.

PH174-1

13 I am here today opposing the gondola
14 project from Union Station to Dodger Stadium.
15 While this may be exciting to some, it is a sign
16 of change, and change that is not inclusive to
17 all, specifically people of color.

18 The Dodgers Corporation and the City
19 of Los Angeles have a long partnership together
20 working to destroy and exploit communities of
21 color. The gondola represents gentrification,
22 the destruction of not only our communities, but

PH174-2

1 environment and our beloved wildlife.

2 The gondola project is no different
3 than the deal that was made to take away our
4 families' generational wealth by destroying our
5 three communities to build Dodger Stadium. The
6 Dodgers and the Los Angeles City Council set to
7 build the gondola in the middle of our
8 communities, and this would only benefit the Los
9 Angeles Dodgers. Our residents and small
10 business owners will suffer. And with the so-
11 called Revitalization Project, this is code word
12 in our communities of color as gentrification, a
13 long term that leaves our most vulnerable
14 community members displaced with no benefits.

15 The history between the Los Angeles
16 Dodgers and the Los Angeles City Council has left
17 our city in worst conditions from the deal in the
18 1950s, when our homes in our three communities
19 were destroyed, and the lies that were told to
20 the public of building public housing today leave
21 us with the current issues of our houseless, our
22 unhoused and affordability crisis that affects us

cont'd
PH174-2

1 all today.

2 It is a win-win for the Dodgers and
3 has been since Black Friday, May 8th, 1959, when
4 our three communities were bulldozed and our
5 families dragged out.

6 It is time to put a stop to Dodgers
7 Corporation on exploiting the people of Los
8 Angeles. I am strongly urging that everyone in
9 the public and all elected officials oppose this
10 project, as it will have damaging effects for
11 generations to generations.

12 (Pause.)

13 It is time to put a stop to the
14 Dodgers Corporation of exploiting the people of
15 Los Angeles. I strongly urge that everyone in
16 the public and elected officials oppose this
17 project, as it will have damaging effects that
18 will last for generations to generations.

19 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
20 briefly went off the record.)

Comment - PH175

21 MS. XU: (Speaking through a
22 translator): My name is Xiangtian Xu. I have

cont'd
PH174-2

PH175-1

1 been a resident in the Chinatown area for more
2 than 28 years.

3 I came here today to -- I want to say
4 that I am very happy and I welcome and express
5 support to the project, the LA ART Project by
6 Metro.

7 Chinatown has had a lot of problems in
8 the past, and I think this project is going to
9 bring a great solution to those problems because
10 it's going to alleviate the traffic issues. It's
11 going to bring great businesses to this area.
12 It's going to bring extra tourists. It's going
13 to revitalize the Chinatown area, and it's also
14 going to make the air quality much, much better.

15 In the past, we don't have a
16 supermarket; we don't have a hospital; we don't
17 have a library. People don't come to our area
18 because the traffic is too bad.

19 But the LA ART Project is going to
20 change all of that. It's going to make our
21 community more prosperous and it's going to bring
22 a lot of benefits for its residents. It's going

cont'd
PH175-1

1 to make our area more lively, and this project
2 brings great effect on the aesthetics. I really
3 like it.

4 In the apartment community that I live
5 in, there are more than 500 residents just like
6 me. Because of the weather, because they're old
7 age, they are not able to come here today, but
8 they have told me to must tell you that they also
9 express support and welcome to this project. And
10 they also wish for this project to finish
11 rapidly, so we can start enjoying the benefits
12 that it brings to us.

13 I want to express my sincere thanks
14 and gratitude to the project and the company
15 behind it.

16 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
17 briefly went off the record.)

18 MR. GIBSON: Hello. My name is Chris
19 Gibson, G-I-B-S-O-N, and I'm here to say that we
20 do not want the gondola, for a variety of
21 reasons, one being that there's no guarantee that
22 the city won't be paying for this and the

cont'd
PH175-1

PH176-1

Comment - PH176

1 benefits of it will be privatized.

2 Another issue is that the UCLA
3 Mobility Lab has shown that it won't reduce
4 traffic, and it certainly won't help with
5 emissions because it's not an actual public
6 transit. It's a novelty.

7 And then, the third is that it will be
8 a disaster for the people who live in this area
9 and who are already being burdened by increasing
10 rents, and will only be further pushed out by the
11 gentrification as a result of the gondola.

12 And that's it. Thank you.

13 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
14 briefly went off the record.)

Comment - PH177

15 MR. OWENS-FLORES: Hey, my name is
16 Gabriel Owens-Flores. That's Gabriel Owens, O-W-
17 E-N-S, dash, F-L-O-R-E-S.

18 As a member of this community, I've
19 lived here all my life. We're vehemently opposed
20 to this. Every single one of my neighbors that I
21 talk to on my street is opposed to this.

22 There has truly been no period of

cont'd
PH176-1

PH176-2

PH176-3

PH176-4

PH177-1

PH177-2

1 public comment where we felt that we've been
2 listened to. Every single part of this process
3 has felt very -- has not felt transparent at all.

4 COURT REPORTER: Give me one second.
5 (Pause.)

6 Whenever you're ready.

7 MR. OWENS-FLORES: Okay, cool.

8 It has not felt transparent in the
9 slightest.

10 What we need, instead of a very
11 expensive gondola, is more sidewalks. We need
12 buses. We need all of these other resources that
13 we've been systematically denied all this time.

14 I remember, like from my house, I have
15 to walk about 30 minutes to get to a bus.

16 There's no reason the buses can't go through
17 every single one of the major arteries in and out
18 of Dodger Stadium, and a single gondola is both
19 something static that cannot be reused in other
20 days and it is also way more expensive. Buses
21 can be recommissioned and can be put on any
22 different route on any different day; whereas,

cont'd
PH177-2

PH177-3

1 with the gondola, 283 days of the year, it
2 supposedly will have no service.

cont'd
PH177-3

3 The other thing is I'm afraid of the
4 gentrification that will occur. Like I said, 283
5 days of the year, this won't be used for game-day
6 transit, which means it will just not be used at
7 all. Instead, I suggest that it will be used,
8 and what it will be used for is for building up
9 of, basically, like a mall at Dodger Stadium and
10 the continued gentrification of Chinatown, where
11 people come, drive in, park at Dodger Stadium,
12 and then, shop around there, and then, go to
13 Chinatown to get food, or whatever, or go to any
14 of the new, like any of the new buildings, then
15 all of the commercial properties there and do
16 retail there as well.

PH177-4

17 So, I'm entirely against this. I
18 think that it is a very, very wild and
19 disrespectful use of public funding.

PH177-5

20 And I just want buses. I just want
21 more buses. Just like have a bus at every single
22 artery in and out, on Scott, on Academy, every

PH177-6

1 single one. Just have them run through and just
2 like create a network of buses instead.

3 Thank you.

4 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
5 briefly went off the record.)

Comment - PH178

6 MS. CHEN (Speaking through a
7 translator): She wants to stop the gondola in
8 Chinatown. We waste a lot of tax money. I hope
9 the tax money can be spent on the hospitals and
10 the low-income housing. We want the tax money to
11 spend on senior housing and housing for the
12 homeless.

13 So, we want the tax money spent on
14 building a hospital, 24-hour urgent care, a
15 hospital, so the seniors, then, have a place to
16 go to when they need it.

17 Also, we would like our tax money
18 spent on building more -- a grocery store,
19 shopping more, public restrooms. Also, the
20 bridge across the street to help the people with
21 disability.

22 Thank you so much.

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(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
briefly went off the record.)

MR. LI: All right. My name is Edwin
Li. I am a Chinatown resident. My name is
spelled E-D-W-I-N L-I.

And I am against the gondola. I don't
believe that it will benefit Chinatown or its
residents. Most of the business that the gondola
people claim will benefit Chinatown, those people
will fly over Chinatown. The gondola will not
help.

I also believe it's such an invasion
of privacy.

(Pause.)

I am definitely against this gondola,
and I believe this whole meeting is a farce.
Everything here is promoting the gondola with
these big-time billboards. I don't think the
people with the gondola have the community's best
interests. Most of the people who are pro-
gondola don't live in the neighborhood, and I
think it will displace a lot of elderly.

PH179-1
PH179-2
PH179-3
PH179-4

Comment - PH179

1 Before, I never knew what a gondola
 2 was. It never even came into my vernacular. I
 3 think a more reasonable and practical form of
 4 transportation, if that is their goal, which I do
 5 not believe so, is to use the Dodger Express
 6 which we already have. It will be a lot less
 7 money and it would actually transport people in
 8 and out of Dodger Stadium.

PH179-5

9 Thanks. Yes, that's it.

10 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
 11 briefly went off the record.)

Comment - PH180

12 COURT REPORTER: Whenever you're
 13 ready, sir.

14 MR. HANNAN: Hello. My name is Chris
 15 Hannan, C-H-R-I-S, separate word Hannan, H-A-N-N-
 16 A-N.

17 Again, my name is Chris Hannan. I
 18 represent the Los Angeles/Orange Counties
 19 Building and Construction Trades Council. We
 20 represent 48 affiliates with over 140,000
 21 members. We're located at 1626 Beverly
 22 Boulevard, Los Angeles 90026.

PH180-1

1 Our members are going to build the
 2 project which is going to take cars off the
 3 streets. It's going to reduce traffic. It's
 4 going to reduce pollution. We're going to do it
 5 all union with local hire, giving an entry point
 6 into our apprenticeship programs and our local
 7 unions for local community.

8 We 100 percent support the project and
 9 believe it will be good for the City of Los
 10 Angeles. It will be good for workers and it
 11 would be good for the environment.

12 Thank you.

13 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
 14 briefly went off the record.)

15 MR. AMSTER: Okay. My name is Howard
 16 Amster, A-M, as in Mary; S, as in Sam; T, as in
 17 Tom; E-R. I live in the San Fernando Valley.

18 I am very much for the gondola.
 19 However, I posted the LA Daily News article from
 20 a couple of days ago. I posted that on Facebook
 21 and I got back a bunch of replies, one of which
 22 said, from a fellow named David Swartz, "I don't

cont'd
PH180-1

PH181-1

PH181-2

Comment - PH181

1 know, Howard. I used to ride the red line to
2 work every day and I stopped because it got so
3 unpleasant." I have since spoken with him. He
4 is referring to the homeless problem.

5 I would be riding the red line to get
6 to the gondola at Union Station. I often ride
7 the gondola to the Ahmanson and the Dorothy
8 Chandler. And I'm embarrassed to take a date
9 there because it is so unpleasant because of the
10 homeless problem.

11 My concern is affecting ridership on
12 the gondola and just I have to drive down there
13 now to the Ahmanson, but I would prefer to take
14 the red line to get there, and to the gondola,
15 when it's running. But something needs to be
16 done to make this red line -- and I am also told
17 the blue line is an even bigger problem -- to
18 make it a more pleasant ride.

19 Another friend of mine said, "I'm not
20 going to bring my 8-year-old son on a homeless
21 train like this. This is like a billion-dollar
22 mobile homeless shelter, is what the subway has

cont'd
PH181-2

1 become."

2 Those are my concerns. Thank you very
3 much.

4 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
5 briefly went off the record.)

6 COURT REPORTER: Whenever you're
7 ready.

8 MR. AMSTER: Wait. I forgot my --
9 don't start again because now I forgot what I was
10 going to say.

11 COURT REPORTER: Okay. That's fine.

12 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
13 went off the record.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: LA ART Public Comment Session

Before: LA County Metropolitan Transit Authority

Date: 01-12-23

Place: Los Angeles, CA

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under my direction; further, that said transcript is a true and accurate complete record of the proceedings.



Court Reporter

NEAL R. GROSS

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1716 14TH ST., N.W., STE. 200

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009-7831

LOS ANGELES COUNTY METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

+ + + + +

LOS ANGELES AERIAL PUBLIC TRANSIT (LA ART)
PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

+ + + + +

THURSDAY
JANUARY 12, 2023

+ + + + +

The Public Comment Session took place
at Cathedral High School, 1253 Bishops Road, Los
Angeles, California, at 5:00 p.m.

COMMENTERS

KEVIN JAMES
CHRIS WILSON
ANDREW VOUGHT
ELEANOR BRAY
KENNETH CHAN
RICHARD ZALDIVAR
SUAN LEE
ANNE FREIERMUTH
WILLIAM WONG
JUDY CHOW
ELVA YANEZ
JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ
MIRIAM BAR-ZEMER
RON FRANK
XOCHITL MANZANILLA
MIHO MURAI

P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

5:03 p.m.

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Comment - PH182

REPORTER: Hi, your name?

MR. JAMES: My name is Kevin James, K-E-V-I-N J-A-M-E-S. Okay, I'm here representing almost 19,000 members of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local Number 12, the majority of which reside here in Southern California.

Our members are the people who survey, inspect, build, and repair roads, bridges, and other critical infrastructure such as water systems, sewers, and storm drain systems, along with high-rise buildings and rail systems.

I'm here today to communicate the International Union of Operating Engineers' unconditional support for the proposed project labor agreement.

Please consider the benefits of project labor agreements such as providing contractors with a reliable and uninterrupted supply of qualified workers, ensuring the project

PH182-1



1 will be completed on time and on budget due to
2 the consistent supply of skilled and trained
3 labor and creating an avenue to implement
4 provisions to require contractors to participate
5 in the improvement of local residents, and
6 providing access to Union employment
7 apprenticeship and training programs for women,
8 minorities, veterans, and other under-represented
9 groups.

10 I encourage you to join our membership
11 in support of this important project labor
12 agreement. Thank you for your time and
13 consideration.

14 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
15 went off the record at 5:05 p.m. and resumed at
16 5:09 p.m.)

cont'd
PH182-1

Comment - PH183

17 REPORTER: And your name?

18 MR. WILSON: My name is Chris Wilson,
19 spelled C-H-R-I-S. Last name is W-I-L-S-O-N.

20 REPORTER: Okay, please proceed.

21 MR. WILSON: Good evening, and thank
22 you. My name is Chris Wilson, representing the

PH183-1

1 Los Angeles County Business Federation, known as
2 BizFed. We are a grass roots alliance of 213
3 diverse business groups mobilizing 410 employers
4 with five million employees in LA County.

5 We continue to be in support of the
6 proposed aerial gondola for several reasons. For
7 one, this project will have the capacity to move
8 approximately 5,000 people per hour out of the
9 cars and into a zero admissions transit, thus
10 reducing traffic congestion, pollutants, and
11 greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to
12 climate change. In other words, you will be able
13 to get to a Dodger game without having to get
14 into a car.

15 And secondly, the LA aerial rapid
16 transit will operate daily to connect communities
17 of El Pueblo, Chinatown, Mission Junction, Solana
18 Canyon, and William Mead Homes to Union Station
19 while creating a pedestrian link between the
20 Chinatown goal line and LA's State Historic Park.

21 This is a win/win for LA, its local
22 economy, and Angelenos everywhere, to get there

cont'd
PH183-1

1 by air. Thank you so much.

2 REPORTER: Thank you.

Comment - PH184

3 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
4 went off the record at 5:09 p.m. and resumed at
5 5:11 p.m.)

6 MR. VOUGHT: My name is Andrew Vought,
7 V-O-U-G-H-T. I'm a resident of Los Angeles. I'd
8 like to state my opposition to the proposed
9 gondola which goes over Los Angeles State
10 Historic Park.

PH184-1

11 The project would defile an
12 historic state park for the private profit of a
13 real estate developer, and none of the economics
14 add up.

PH184-2

15 This costly solution will be an
16 environmental disaster, lots of un-needed
17 investment in concrete while, according to UCLA
18 research, it would be many times worse for the
19 environment than that current free, commissions-
20 free shuttle solution for electric vehicles.

PH184-3

21 The project will gentrify our
22 community, but the whole point here will vastly

PH184-4

cont'd
PH184-4

1 enrich the real estate developers. The idea of
 2 gifting the gondola to a non-profit merely means
 3 that the developer will wash his hands of any
 4 responsibility for operation and maintenance.
 5 That will be paid for either by your tax dollars
 6 or by philanthropy which, instead, should be
 7 going to support our community and our open
 8 space.

PH184-5

9 People say LA should get on the
 10 program because countries like Bolivia, Chile,
 11 and Germany use gondolas. I say we don't need to
 12 imitate these other countries. We need to do
 13 what is right for Los Angeles. Shame on Metro
 14 for promoting this sham project which will
 15 destroy our community. Thank you.

PH184-6

16 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
 17 went off the record at 5:14 p.m. and resumed at
 18 5:17 p.m.)

Comment - PH185

19 REPORTER: Thank you.

20 MS. BRAY: My name is Eleanor. It's
 21 spelled E-L-E-A-N-O-R, last name, Bray, B as in
 22 boy, R-A-Y. So Los Angeles has been my home for

PH185-1

1 the past seven years. I am deeply concerned
2 about the Los Angeles aerial rapid transit
3 project.

4 I'm currently pursuing my Master's in
5 Social Work at Cal State LA, and social work is a
6 profession where the foundation of it is to solve
7 problems, but solving problems with the
8 understanding that those closest to the problem
9 are closest to the solution.

10 So what problems does the gondola
11 solve, and who determined that billionaire Frank
12 McCourt is the right person to be providing a
13 solution to these problems.

14 Problem number one is the claim that
15 the gondola will have a traffic. However, based
16 on the research done by the UCLA Mobility Lab, it
17 only reduces traffic around the stadium by one
18 percent on game nights, but it does significantly
19 increase traffic in other areas.

20 Problem number two is the claim that
21 the gondola will help reduce greenhouse
22 emissions. However, the likelihood that people

cont'd
PH185-1

PH185-2

PH185-3

1 will simply just drive to the gondola station
2 instead of driving to the stadium means that
3 emissions won't be reduced at all. The traffic
4 will just be displaced.

5 Problem number three is the claim that
6 the gondola provides much needed public
7 transportation to Dodger Stadium, but we already
8 literally have a shuttle bus that runs from Union
9 Station on game night. And it's free, and people
10 like using it.

11 So why are we asking those in the
12 communities this will affect what their actual
13 problems are and going to them for actual
14 solutions. What about problems like investing in
15 real public transit in needed areas of LA,
16 affordable housing, community services, services
17 for unhoused. No one asked for this gondola, and
18 we shouldn't allow billionaires to use low income
19 areas of Los Angeles as their play place. Thank
20 you.

21 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
22 went off the record at 5:19 p.m. and resumed at

cont'd
PH185-3

PH185-4

PH185-5

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5:33 p.m.)

Comment - PH186

MR. CHAN: My name is Kenneth Chan, K-
E-N-N-E-T-H, last name, C-H-A-N. I'm a resident
of the neighborhood. I am against this project.
I think that the process has been undemocratic.
I think that the fact that we've had these fake
public hearings where they shuttered everyone out
in the back to make public comment without
actually being public comment, that's no
definition of public.

And I'm also against this project
because it's a bad use of public lands and it's a
bad use of public funds. There's no transparency
around the financing and what any of that looks
like.

It's so obvious that McCourt funneled
this project through a non-profit to get this
through and has plans to develop the outlying
area. This neighborhood needs more grocery
stores, needs more affordable housing, needs an
actual laundromat. And we are barely, you know,
we're fighting for crumbs.

PH186-1

PH186-2

PH186-3



1 And yet whenever people come into this
 2 neighborhood, developers, et cetera, people like
 3 LAR, they just see it as a playground where they
 4 can throw up the gondola under the guise of
 5 public transportation, which we know is BS.

cont'd
PH186-3

6 They haven't given us any indication
 7 on what the pricing will be. They haven't given
 8 us any indication on, like, how efficient it will
 9 be as use of public transit. There's the UCLA
 10 study out that actually shows that it won't
 11 improve traffic.

PH186-4

PH186-5

12 This is just another luxury type
 13 development that they're trying to push into this
 14 neighborhood just like every luxury apartment
 15 that they build in this neighborhood that they
 16 say will be good for us. Yeah, and I'll yield
 17 the rest of my time.

PH186-6

18 REPORTER: Thank you.

19 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
 20 went off the record at 5:35 p.m. and resumed at
 21 5:41 p.m.)

22 REPORTER: And your name, please?

Comment - PH187

1 MR. ZALDIVAR: Yeah, it's Richard
 2 Zaldivar, R-I-C-H-A-R-D , Zaldivar, Z-A-L-D-I-V-
 3 A-R. I am a community leader and I own, run a
 4 non-profit here in Los Angeles in downtown.

PH187-1

5 I oppose this project. One, it is not
 6 environmental friendly. It will create a lot
 7 more noise in the community. Our civic leaders
 8 fought many years to develop a state park, not to
 9 have something that's not natural to fly over
 10 their heads. It's not going to alleviate traffic
 11 going to cause called more traffic and new access
 12 points.

PH187-2

PH187-3

13 And finally, I don't think that it
 14 makes sense, when the Dodgers have such a big
 15 problem with alcohol abuse, and fights, and
 16 stabbings, to entice Dodger fans to ride over a
 17 park.

PH187-4

18 And lastly, in any kind of business,
 19 when you apply for a license, when you apply for
 20 funding, or any kind of permit, you are also
 21 looked upon in your past history. The current
 22 owners or the leaders of this, the McCourts, have

PH187-5



1 had a poor record of bankrupting the Dodgers and
2 bringing in embarrassment to the City of Los
3 Angeles. I don't think we want to do this again
4 with a gondola project.

5 REPORTER: Thank you.

6 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
7 went off the record at 5:43 p.m. and resumed at
8 5:50 p.m.)

9 (Simultaneous Speaking.)

10 MR. LEE: Okay, my name --

11 (Simultaneous Speaking.)

12 REPORTER: Go ahead, you're next.

13 MR. LEE: My name is Lee Suan, L-E-E
14 S-U-A-N. I live in Chinatown. My zip code is
15 90012. I am living here almost, like, in
16 Chinatown, on this area, around this area 30
17 years. I grew up here, almost a traffic jam
18 every night when the games started. And after
19 the game, it would get worse until people
20 complained.

21 People from outside parking on, I
22 mean, like, housing area, you know, public area,

cont'd
PH187-5

PH188-1

Comment - PH188

1 and not convenient for tenants to come back to
2 park their car. So I agree that they want to
3 build, they call it a train, so what, like ---

4 REPORTER: The gondola.

5 MR. LEE: The gondola, yes. I agree
6 they build the gondola. It's the best thing that
7 -- even other countries are doing that. And why
8 can't our area do it?

9 And people need for Chinatown, people
10 moving around easy, you know, that area. And
11 then from that side, I mean, from, I mean, area
12 town that even every, what do you call,
13 Medicenter, Civic Center, and here they have, I
14 mean, how do you say. And even they have a
15 traffic jam and then for three hours for people
16 to get in the parking lot.

17 And we come back to that, on that side
18 of any concert, you know, for an area that they
19 are not, I mean, inconvenient for us to pass
20 through any traffic lights, and even a lot of
21 people moving around the area looking for
22 parking.

cont'd
PH188-1

1 My comment is I agree with them to
2 build, I mean, the location is okay. It's not
3 big deal, and we'll get dollars for it too.

4 And convenient for people from outside
5 who are taking the line, red line, blue lines,
6 any line from Union Station so that is easy for
7 them to go to Dodger Stadium. And even at night,
8 you know, there's more traffic. I mean, for
9 this, I mean, what do you call, is a thing --

10 REPORTER: The gondola.

11 MR. LEE: Okay. And then at least no,
12 I mean, after the season is over people can go
13 and see Chinatown and go downtown. That area
14 people, I mean, the people from other counties
15 can visit, get down from Union Station.

16 REPORTER: Is that your comment?

17 MR. LEE: Yes.

18 REPORTER: Thank you very much.

19 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
20 went off the record at 5:54 p.m. and resumed at
21 5:55 p.m.)

22 REPORTER: And we're recording.

cont'd
PH188-1

1 MS. FREIERMUTH: Thanks. My name is
 2 Anne Freiermuth, F as in Frank, R-E-I-E-R-M, as
 3 in Mary, U-T-H. I live in West Los Angeles, and
 4 I am opposed to the gondola project.

5 I really troubled at the idea that the
 6 city would spend billions if dollars for a
 7 tourist trap that has nothing to do with public
 8 transit. I would love to spend billions of
 9 dollars improving our public transit system.

10 And I don't think the gondola, which
 11 covers a very small amount of land, is going to
 12 get people out of their cars, it's not going to
 13 improve any part of going to Dodger Stadium.

14 It just seems so insanely, just such
 15 a insanely bad way to spend money and does not, I
 16 think, accomplish any of the goals that as
 17 they're stated.

18 This proposal was put forth earlier.
 19 The community defeated it. It has now been moved
 20 to Metro, given brand new branding, but the base
 21 problem is still there. This doesn't help
 22 transportation, it's very much opposed by the

PH189-1

PH189-2

PH189-3

1 people who live nearby. It's a poor use of
2 resources and makes no sense.

cont'd
PH189-3

3 REPORTER: Thank you so much.

4 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
5 went off the record at 5:57 p.m. and resumed at
6 6:04 p.m.)

Comment - PH190

7 REPORTER: We are on the record for
8 William Wong.

9 MR. WONG: I oppose the gondola being
10 built here in Chinatown.

11 (Simultaneous Speaking.)

12 MR. WONG: The reason being the
13 gondola is very detrimental to the interests of
14 Chinatown. The airspace above Chinatown should
15 not have any gondola going through it.

PH190-1

16 The developer had the freedom and
17 liberty to develop the gondola all the way over
18 by the hilltop but definitely not in the airspace
19 above Chinatown, because it has no advantage or
20 benefits to Chinatown.

21 I am just wondering what's the reason
22 behind centering the project here in Chinatown.

PH190-2

1 What was the reason behind all this? I suppose
2 its motivation is to stop Chinatown from ever
3 developing again.

4 Currently, Chinatown is not doing well
5 economically. The gondola is not going to bring
6 any kind of benefit to Chinatown. Instead it
7 will be all detriment.

8 Chinatown is ours, for the Chinese
9 community, the general Asian population. It's
10 the home to this group of people. I don't know
11 how long -- it's about 200 years of U.S. history
12 with Chinatown here.

13 There are more and more illegal
14 structures, which goes against the planning for
15 the land, a lot of buildings whose purpose are
16 against the interest of the park, the skyscrapers
17 or tall buildings where low income foreigners
18 will never be able to afford, those with limited
19 resources, or the low income earners find some
20 way to improve our living conditions.

21 You know what I'm saying? Do you
22 agree with me? I'm just talking practically.

cont'd
PH190-2

PH190-3

1 Again whatever defines the facility they're
2 setting up, who will be there? How many people
3 are visiting that stadium?

4 I've been here about 30 years. I
5 never visited there even one time, no money, no
6 talk. They're not going to be happy. That's
7 why. I'm 75 years of age. So we fight for our
8 interest. Thank you.

9 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
10 went off the record at 6:08 p.m. and resumed at
11 6:09 p.m.)

PH190-4

12 REPORTER: Ready when you are.

13 MS. CHOW: First of all, I really
14 oppose the construction if the gondola.
15 Chinatown should have more hospitals, more
16 markets, so that we get more prosperous.

PH191-1

17 Immediately stop the construction of
18 the gondola. Whatever they're doing is not
19 respecting the citizens and residents of
20 Chinatown. If they want better public
21 transportation, do some subway building,
22 whatever, but never a gondola, never.

PH191-2

Comment - PH191

1 Also implication in terms of air
 2 quality will obviously get even worse.
 3 Construction should immediately cease and never
 4 again. I recommend build some more bus stations,
 5 more metro subway stations, probably that.

PH191-3

6 That's all, thank you.

7 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
 8 went off the record at 6:11 p.m. and resumed at
 9 6:13 p.m.)

Comment - PH192

10 REPORTER: And we are recording.

11 MS. YANEZ: My name is Elva Yanez.
 12 I'm a resident of El Sereno. I'm also active in
 13 environmental and environmental justice issues.

14 (Simultaneous Speaking.)

15 MS. YANEZ: And I am here today to
 16 basically say that I'm a former California State
 17 Park and Recreation Commissioner. I served from
 18 2011 to 2019 during the time when LA State
 19 Historic Park was finishing up the interim use
 20 and moving into construction.

PH192-1

21 That entire time there was never a
 22 mention of a gondola. There was never a mention

1 of the gondola during the environmental impacts
2 report process. There was never a mention of
3 gondola to public members who attended 65 public
4 meetings about what they wanted to see in the
5 start park when it was constructed.

6 And very simply, this is a violation
7 of CEQA. The idea that the EIR indicates no
8 major impacts on the park and it's users is
9 ludicrous.

10 So I fully expect a law suit. And
11 really, at the end of the day, I believe that is
12 where this issue will be resolved and justice for
13 the communities who fought so hard to stop the
14 warehouses on this land and to put a state park
15 to provide rest, respite, for the people who have
16 no park, who had no park before this park built
17 in this region. So thank you.

18 REPORTER: Thank you.

19 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
20 went off the record at 6:15 p.m. and resumed at
21 6:17 p.m.)

22 REPORTER: We are recording.

cont'd
PH192-1

PH192-2

Comment - PH193

1 MS. RODRIGUEZ: My name is Jennifer
2 Rodriguez, J-E-N-N-I-F-E-R, Rodriguez, R-O-D-R-I-
3 G-U-I-E-Z.

4 REPORTER: Thank you.

5 MS. RODRIGUEZ: And my public comment
6 is to not build this project, the gondola
7 project, on our land. Because it is not
8 something that the community wants or needs at
9 this time.

10 We need more public infrastructure of
11 not in this manner. We also need more park
12 space, more open space. And this project would
13 take that away. And we also need the Metro to
14 listen to the community that clearly does not
15 want this project as well.

16 And this will not help with traffic,
17 or congestion, or whatever the project is
18 claiming to help with. I know this because I
19 live in Cypress Park, so I'm a nearby resident
20 and I ride my bike though here all the time.

21 And Dodger Scandium just makes the
22 traffic awful when they have games. And I am

cont'd
PH193-1

PH193-2

PH193-3

1 pretty certain that adding an, like, an
2 attraction is only going to increase that
3 traffic, not decrease it as is proposed or
4 thought to happen.

5 (Simultaneous Speaking.)

6 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
7 went off the record at 6:19 p.m. and resumed at
8 6:20 p.m.)

Comment - PH194

9 REPORTER: We are recording. Your
10 name, please?

11 MS. BAR-ZEMER: Miriam Bar-Zemer.

12 REPORTER: And could you spell that
13 for me, please?

14 MS. BAR-ZEMER: M-I-R-I-A-M, last
15 name, Bar-zemer, B-A-R - Z-E-M-E-R.

16 REPORTER: Great, and please proceed.

17 MS. BAR-ZEMER: So I have been opposed
18 to the gondola project since I first learned
19 about it, that it hadn't gone through a proper
20 bidding process. And there didn't seem to be an
21 honest review of various transportation modes
22 that could potentially serve the Dodger Stadium

cont'd
PH193-3

PH194-1

PH194-2

1 if that was the initial intention.

2 LA transportation is notoriously
3 horrible. And I don't think the proposal really
4 reveals the continuity of the cost that will be
5 basically revealed for this -- sorry, I'm not
6 expressing myself.

7 REPORTER. No, that's okay. If it
8 gets a little loud, we'll give you some extra.

9 MS. BAR-ZEMER: Okay. And I started
10 the draft environmental report. I have lived in
11 downtown for basically 30 years at this point. I
12 was raised here. And I am really saddened to
13 know that the path -- I'm not anti-gondola in
14 principle, but the path that it's taken is
15 directly over our beloved state park which will,
16 honestly, just ruin the view shed.

17 And all the concerns that this
18 community is raising in terms of gentrification I
19 find very valid. It's been a long battle for
20 Chinatown to maintain its status here. And
21 reportability is obviously one of the biggest
22 concerns. And this is just not a asset to the

cont'd
PH194-2

PH194-3

PH194-4

PH194-5

1 people who live here.

2 It really feels like a vanity project.

3 Yeah, it's really more about the transparency of
4 the process that feels really lost. So thank
5 you.

6 REPORTER: Thank you.

7 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
8 went off the record at 6:23 p.m. and resumed at
9 6:25 p.m.)

Comment - PH195

10 REPORTER: We are recording.

11 MR. FRANK: Okay, I'm Ron Frank, R-O-N
12 F-R-A-N-K.

13 REPORTER: And please proceed, Ron.

14 MR. FRANK: I do live in this
15 neighborhood, but if I didn't I would still be
16 against this project. It's very much obviously a
17 scam, and this should not be happening just to
18 enrich one person.

19 Ostensibly, this is about saving the
20 environment. Actually, it's a moving goal post,
21 a moving horizon. They have so many different
22 reasons for saying they want this gondola project

1 to go through, and none of them will solve any
2 problem with our -- the gondola is not a solution
3 to any environmental or neighborhood problems.

4 It's a solution for Frank McCourt's
5 problem with what to do with his half of the
6 Dodger Stadium parking lot. And nobody talks
7 about all the environmental damage that will
8 happen when he does end up developing his half of
9 the parking lot. And that's down the line, and
10 that's something that's not at all addressed in
11 any way.

12 And I'm certain that whatever project
13 he comes up with will create environmental damage
14 in the building of it and in the people
15 patronizing it afterwards. It'll increase the
16 attendance at Dodger Stadium when there's not a
17 game.

18 As well, and this is just a personal
19 thing, I have come to really love the wildlife in
20 my neighborhood. And this would greatly affect
21 that. I realize that's seen as a lesser thing in
22 these matters, but the wildlife is important in

cont'd
PH195-1

PH195-2

1 the neighborhood. And it's great that it's here.

2 REPORTER: That concludes your
3 comment?

4 MR. FRANK: I'm sure I have much more
5 to say, if I was a little more organized, but
6 that's it off the top of my head.

7 REPORTER: Okay, thank you.

8 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
9 went off the record at 6:27 p.m. and resumed at
10 6:34 p.m.)

11 REPORTER: We're recording. If I
12 could have you say and spell your name, please.

13 MS. MANZANILLA: Yes, my name is
14 Xochitl Manzanilla.

15 REPORTER: And could you spell that
16 for me?

17 MS. MANZANILLA: I spell it, like, X-
18 O-C-H-I-T-L.

19 REPORTER: Yes.

20 MS. MANZANILLA: And my last name is
21 Manzanilla, M-A-N-Z, as in zebra, A-N-I-L-L-A.

22 REPORTER; Okay, and your comments,

cont'd
PH195-2

PH196-1

Comment - PH196

1 please?

2 MS. MANZANILLA: My comments is that
3 I oppose the gondola project very strongly for
4 many reasons. We do not need it, the first --
5 number one. We do not need it. We already have
6 free transportation to Dodger Stadium.

7 And it will be a big mistake doing it
8 on areas where only low income families live.
9 These are communities, the people work hard to
10 put the bread on the table. And this will be a
11 big mistake for that reason, because they are
12 poor people. And having to pay \$40 to ride the
13 gondola, I think it will be not fair.

14 And it will affect terribly all the
15 programs that we have at LA State Historic Park,
16 Los Angeles State Historic Park. Like, flying
17 the kites is a program, the farmers market that
18 we have in the park, CiBiC Bike, Art in the Park,
19 Tai Chi class, Yoga class, baseball, and all
20 concerts in the park, and more programs that I
21 cannot mention.

22 The real estate will be affected very

cont'd
PH196-1

PH196-2

PH196-3

PH196-4

1 badly with this gondola. People fought very hard
2 so this land will be the beautiful park that it
3 is today. And it's our beautiful LA State
4 Historic Park. We don't want nothing to mess or
5 destroy, come and destroy our beautiful park that
6 we enjoy so wonderfully. Thank you.

7 REPORTER: Thank you.

8 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
9 went off the record at 6:37 p.m. and resumed at
10 6:40 p.m.)

Comment - PH197

11 REPORTER: We're recording. If you
12 could please state and spell your name?

13 MS. MURAI: Am I being recorded? Oh,
14 can I start?

15 (Simultaneous Speaking.)

16 REPORTER: So you can state your name
17 and spell it now for the record, please.

18 MS. MURAI: Okay. Miho Murai, M-I-H-
19 O, last name is M-U-R-A-I.

20 REPORTER: And then now you can begin
21 your comments.

22 MS. MURAI: Hi, my name is Miho Murai.

cont'd
PH196-4

PH197-1

1 And I am a Chinatown resident. And I am here
 2 because I want to show my opposition to the
 3 gondola project. I do not believe there's enough
 4 transparency regarding the funding for the
 5 project from Metro and Frank McCourt.

6 The construction costs could go up to
 7 \$300 million. And the question that I have is
 8 who will be paying for this? Will taxpayers'
 9 dollars be used to fund this project? And if so,
 10 how much of our public funds are estimated to be
 11 used? And when will we find out about this?
 12 Also, who will pay for the maintenance and daily
 13 operations of the gondola?

14 Another major issue is, as a resident
 15 of Chinatown, there is no need for a gondola,
 16 because the transportation from Union Station to
 17 Dodger Stadium already exists as a free shuttle
 18 system.

19 People that are going to use the
 20 gondola are tourists that are going to come in
 21 because they want to have the view. But the
 22 reality is the people that live in the community

cont'd
PH197-1

PH197-2

PH197-3

1 will be the ones affected by the transportation,
2 by the traffic.

3 And we do not have -- and we don't
4 even know how much the gondola is going to cost.
5 Most likely, it's going to not even be affordable
6 to the residents. Chinatown is one of the most
7 lowest income and cities within the LA County.

8 And then finally, I want to -- the
9 gondola project will impact historic and culture
10 resources such as the LA State Historic Park, the
11 Union Station, and the Pueblo de Los Historic
12 Monument. The towers that are going to be built
13 are not suitable to the locations at where
14 they're at. And more importantly, a gondola,
15 it's just going to look weird. I'm sorry.

16 And then finally, this project will
17 lead to displacement and increase the cost of
18 rent in the area. And that's already happening
19 all the time, gentrification.

20 Where I live currently, there's an
21 apartment building right across from me. For a
22 two-bedroom apartment, it's \$5,000. And as a

cont'd
PH197-3

PH197-4

PH197-5

PH197-6

PH197-7

1 result of that, they raised our rent in December.
2 And so projects like this are not for the
3 community.

4 And what it's going to lead to is the
5 gentrification of our community. And it's going
6 to lead to tourists coming into our community
7 that can enjoy the gondola. But then they can go
8 home and leave.

9 And then who is going to be impacted
10 by the air, who's going to be impacted by the
11 traffic? It's us, the community. So we ask you
12 to first ask the community what we want.

13 What we want is we want more
14 affordable housing. We want markets, we want
15 public transportation, we need to address the
16 unhoused. And these are the things that we need
17 right now as we're fighting the COVID pandemic.

18 We do not need a gondola project
19 that's going to ruin our community and not at all
20 support our community. Thank you.

21 REPORTER: Thank you.

22 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter

cont'd
PH197-7

PH197-8

PH197-9

1 went off the record at 6:43 p.m. and resumed at
2 6:49 p.m.)

Comment
PH195 (cont'd)

3 REPORTER: And we are on record.

4 MR. FRANK: My name is Ron Frank, R-O-
5 N F-R-A-N-K. And another concerning thing about
6 this whole process is that it's very much that
7 they don't -- there's no transparency in so many
8 aspects of this, from even this here today. Who
9 are all these people manning these booths? I
10 imagine they're employees.

11 And it seems like a lot of people here
12 are against the gondola, and a lot of people here
13 who are for it are employed to be for it.

14 As well, there are so many changing
15 names of who's trying to make this happen. It
16 started out with Frank McCourt, then Climate
17 Resolve, then Zero Emissions, then Metro, and who
18 knows who else.

19 And another big secret has to do with
20 -- involves the budget. If somehow this project
21 does get jammed through, what provisions are
22 there for this to be paid for when they go over

PH195-3

PH195-4

1 schedule and over budget? And how are they going
2 to prevent the tax payers from having to rescue
3 this boondoggle?

4 REPORTER: Does that conclude your
5 comment? Please continue.

6 MR. FRANK: It offers nothing but
7 blight and ruin. And it must be stopped before
8 it gets to a point where it's gone too far, and
9 it's just going to be a big bus wreck. Okay,
10 thank you.

11 REPORTER: Thank you very much,
12 appreciate you.

13 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
14 went off the record at 6:50 p.m.)
15
16
17
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22

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PH195-4

A

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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: LA ART Public Comment Session

Before: LA County Metropolitan Transit Authority

Date: 01-12-23

Place: Los Angeles, CA

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under
my direction; further, that said transcript is a
true and accurate complete record of the
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Appendix B.4
Public Hearing, February 8, 2023
(Virtual)

LOS ANGELES AERIAL RAPID TRANSIT
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

+ + + + +

PUBLIC HEARING

+ + + + +

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 8, 2023

+ + + + +

The Hearing convened via
Videoconference, at 5:00 p.m. PST, Jessica Sisco,
Moderator, presiding.

PRESENT

- JESSICA SISCO, Facilitator
- LAURA ADLEMAN
- ANTHONY CRUMP, LA Metro
- DAVID GRANNIS, Point C
- RYAN HUTCHISON
- MARY NOORISTANI
- PAOLA PENA
- CORY ZELMER, LA Metro

COMMENTERS

MARTA WOODHULL
CHRIS HANNAN
PETER KWAN
GAY YUEN
KRIS CHAN
ERIC ADAMS
JOHN CHRISTENSEN
MARIA FLORES
PAT SUZAK
SARAH HARRIS
MARK McCRAE
TED GREEN
OMAR GALINDO
GUS TORRES
MARIANNA GATTO
ERICA GARCIA
ALEX ALVAREZ
RON FRANK
CASA WILSON
KATIE NORIAN
SUNJANA SUPEKAR
JASON FUJIMOTO
PHYLLIS LING
SOPHAT PHEA
ERNEST LEE
TANY LING
SAKAE KOYAMA
RICK GARCIA
JUNIPER WONG
PATRICK CHEN
LARRY JUNG
AMY HO
KING CHEUNG
DANA MARTINEZ
CHARLY LIGETY
JOE RINCON
MELANIE BELLOMO
ALEJANDRO CAMPILLO
JULIE RICO
IRAN CARRANZA
ALBERT HOLM

COMMENTERS

ERIK VAN BREENE
LILIANA CORTEZ
JENNIFER WONG
BILL CHIN
FERNANDA SANCHEZ
CHENG YANG
YU HANG TANG
EDWIN LI
LUIS GUERRERO
MIGUEL CASTELLON
RICHARD ROJAS
DAHMA CHO
BILLY YATES
ANNIE SHAW
MARIA CERVANTES
LYNNE DWYER
VALERIE MORISHIGE
PAUL DES MARAIS
VINCENT MONTAGO
MELISSA ARECHIGA
CARLOS GOMEZ
TOM SAVIO
LISA DUARDO
MICHAEL CALAREZA
BRENDA MIRAMONTES
MARIA MANZANILLA
JENNIFER MARTINEZ
MARLOW CERVANTES
ALI RUBINFELD

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 (5:03 p.m.)

3 MS. SISCO: So I would like to welcome
4 you to this continued public hearing for the Los
5 Angeles Aerial Rapid Transit Project Draft
6 Environmental Impact Report.

7 This project is proposed by Los
8 Angeles Aerial Rapid Transit Technologies, LLC.
9 Thank you for taking time out of your day to
10 participate in this continued hearing.

11 So, now we'll get into the
12 interpretation logistics. I'll provide this
13 information in English, and then I'll ask our
14 Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, and Taishanese
15 interpreters to repeat it.

16 I want to note that even if you're
17 listening to this meeting in English, you're
18 going to want to follow these instructions so
19 that you can hear any comments that come through
20 in another language interpreted back into
21 English.

22 So, in just a moment, we'll enable the

1 interpretation and you'll be able to click on the
2 interpretation button in your Zoom screen. That
3 button looks like a globe, and it's usually at
4 the bottom of your screen, but the location will
5 depend on the device you're using. You're going
6 to want to select your preferred language, so
7 even if you're listening to the meeting in
8 English, you'll want to select English.

9 And, finally, note that if you are
10 calling in via phone, unfortunately, the
11 interpretation feature is not available in Zoom
12 for phone-only participants. So, please log into
13 Zoom to access interpretation, if you can.

14 I'll ask the Spanish interpreter to
15 repeat these instructions now.

16 (Foreign language spoken.)

17 MS. SISCO: Thank you, Madeline.

18 I will now ask the Cantonese
19 interpreter to repeat those instructions.

20 (Foreign language spoken.)

21 MS. SISCO: Thank you very much.

22 Could the Mandarin interpreter please

1 repeat those instructions now?

2 (Foreign language spoken.)

3 MS. SISCO: Thank you.

4 And, finally, could the Taishanese
5 interpreter please repeat the instructions?

6 Looks like maybe the Taishanese
7 interpreter is having trouble coming off mute.

8 (Foreign language spoken.)

9 MS. SISCO: Thank you very much.

10 So, now, give us just a moment. We're
11 going to enable the audio interpretation feature
12 so that you can access it. You should be able to
13 see the globe icon, and you're going to want to
14 select your language of choice for the meeting.

15 And give us just a moment here. We're
16 going to start recording in all five languages,
17 so you may hear just a short break in the audio
18 as we activate the recording.

19 And these recordings will be available
20 on Metro's project webpage as well.

21 (Pause.)

22 MS. SISCO: If you need assistance

1 during the public hearing, please send us a
2 message in the chat.

3 And we're just going to give it a
4 moment here to confirm the team is all set with
5 the recordings in the various audio channels, and
6 then we'll move on.

7 (Pause.)

8 MS. SISCO: Okay. So, hopefully,
9 everyone has had a chance to select their
10 language, so we'll go ahead and move on.

11 Now that we have the interpretation
12 enabled, I'd like to welcome everyone to
13 tonight's continued public hearing. My name is
14 Jessica Sisco, and I will be serving as the
15 moderator for tonight's public hearing.

16 I would like to introduce Anthony
17 Crump, Interim Executive Officer for Community
18 Relations at L.A. County Metro.

19 MR. CRUMP: Good evening, everyone,
20 and thank you for joining us.

21 The purpose of tonight's hearing is a
22 continued public hearing provided in recognition

1 that interested members of the public may have
2 been unable to provide testimony at the January
3 12th, 2023 in-person public hearing due to
4 certain disruptions from some attendees.

5 This continued public hearing is for
6 the sole purpose of receiving verbal public
7 testimony on the Draft Environmental Impact
8 Report for the proposed project. The verbal
9 comments received at this continued public
10 hearing will be deemed timely received for the
11 purposes of the Draft Environmental Impact Report
12 comment period, which officially concluded on
13 January 17th, 2023.

14 Next, I'd like to talk a little bit
15 about some of the ground rules for tonight's
16 meeting.

17 Metro is committed to ensuring that
18 all participants can fairly and clearly share
19 ideas, comments, and concerns about the Draft
20 Environmental Impact Report. To provide a safe
21 and equitable process, we're asking for your
22 help.

1 During this meeting, please respect
2 the format of the meeting and allow everyone an
3 opportunity to comment.

4 Please turn off cell phones and
5 background noise when speaking.

6 Please treat your fellow community
7 members, agency representatives, Metro staff, and
8 others with respect.

9 Please address all comments to Metro
10 staff and our consultants.

11 And, most importantly, please maintain
12 a conversational tone.

13 And with that, I'll turn it back over
14 to Jessica.

15 MS. SISCO: Thank you, Anthony.

16 Metro hosted two informational
17 workshops and three public hearings during the
18 Draft Environmental Impact Report public review
19 period. To review materials that were presented
20 during these meetings, such as presentations and
21 exhibit boards, you can go to
22 metro.net/aerialrapidtransit. And we will put

1 this link in the chat for you as well.

2 Okay. So, before we get started with
3 public comment, we need to address a few
4 housekeeping items.

5 And just as reminder in case anyone
6 joined late, you do need to select a language
7 tonight. Even if you're listening to the meeting
8 in English, that will allow you to hear the
9 interpretation comments that come through in
10 languages other than English, so you'll want to
11 click on the globe icon and select your language
12 of choice.

13 Since we are focused on accepting
14 public comment this evening, we won't be
15 responding to questions. If you would like to
16 make a verbal comment, you can raise your hand
17 using the Zoom icon or by dialing star-9 if
18 you're calling in on the phone.

19 We will call on you by name or the
20 last four digits of your phone number, and it may
21 take just a moment to get you unmuted.

22 There will be a 2-minute time limit

1 for comments. We ask that you please state and
2 spell your first and last name as you begin your
3 comments. Once you have identified yourself, we
4 will start the 2-minute clock and you can provide
5 your comment.

6 If you are using interpretation, the
7 interpreter will repeat your comment in English
8 once you conclude, and we will allow extra time
9 for your comment to be interpreted.

10 If you exceed your 2 minutes, we will
11 move on to the next commenter. It's important
12 that we keep to the 2-minute time limit, as we
13 want to be fair and give everyone who is
14 providing comments in this meeting the same
15 amount of time.

16 We also want to take a moment, as
17 Anthony mentioned, to remind everyone to be
18 respectful to others and to use appropriate
19 language when making comments.

20 I should also note that communications
21 that are typed into the Zoom chat will not be
22 considered a formal public comment, so please

1 raise your hand if you would like to make a
2 formal public comment.

3 Okay. So, let's go ahead and get
4 started with the public comment session. I see
5 that we have some hands raised, and we'll go
6 ahead and start calling on people. We'll call on
7 you to unmute yourself and provide your public
8 comment.

9 So, Marta Woodhull. We'll get you
10 unmuted so you can provide your comment.

Comment-PH198
Woodhull

11 MS. WOODHULL: Hello.

12 MS. SISCO: Hi. We can hear you.

13 MS. WOODHULL: Yes, good. Don't start
14 the clock yet. I want to turn mine on real quick
15 so I can parallel yours. And I can do that
16 whenever you're ready, and I can begin.

17 Shall I start my clock?

18 MS. SISCO: Sure. Please go ahead.

19 MS. WOODHULL: Thank you very much.

20 My name is Martha Woodhull. My professional name
21 is Marta. I'm a resident of the Metro Chinatown
22 Senior Lofts. Forgive the slurring sound in my

PH198-1

1 speech. I have a Invisalign in, yes? At the age
2 of 68, I'm getting Invisalign, finally.

3 The reason I'm commenting is due to
4 health issues. I had COVID and long COVID. I
5 was unable to attend any meetings, but I have
6 followed all of the documents.

7 Early on, when you first proposed this
8 project, there was a representative actually at
9 our building at Metro Chinatown, and I asked her
10 to walk into my apartment to observe the impact
11 of the Alpine Tower. I don't know that anyone
12 has ever actually come inside any of our homes to
13 experience what it will be like as a resident of
14 the Metro Chinatown.

15 We have one window. We are a loft,
16 narrow loft type of building, and our only window
17 faces the Alameda Quarter. I am literally
18 directly opposite the Alpine Tower, and I'm at
19 about 100, 125 feet in the air. So, I'm very
20 glad to see, looking at the EID today -- EIR, I
21 mean, that you are going to be above my head.

22 So, so I was quite concerned about

cont'd
PH198-1

PH198-2

1 that. You're going to be 175 feet. By the way,
2 that drawing is very not to scale.

3 But I'm the daughter of a civil
4 engineer. My father was a mayor. I understand
5 the difficulty of a massive project of this
6 nature, minimally, but it's very distressing to
7 me that no one has experienced, to my knowledge,
8 the boots on the ground reality of the people
9 living in extreme proximity to these structures.
10 I think the tower will be about 50, 75 feet in
11 front of my face, and it will probably occupy
12 half of my window.

13 That isn't worrying me. I was mostly
14 worrying about gondolas passing in front of my
15 window. I see by the plans that they won't.

16 So, my time is up. I wanted to just
17 give you that inform --

18 MS. SISCO: Thank you, Martha.

19 Next, we will go to Liliana Cortez.

20 Liliana?

21 Liliana, are you able to provide your
22 comments?

cont'd
PH198-2

1 We may need to come back to Liliana,
2 so we'll return and see if we can get Liliana's
3 comment.

4 For now, we'll go to Chris Hannan.
5 Chris Hannan, we'll get you unmuted so you can
6 provide your comments.

Comment-PH199
Hannan

7 MR. HANNAN: Hello?

8 MS. SISCO: Yes.

9 MR. HANNAN: Hi. This is Chris Hannan
10 with the Los Angeles-Orange Counties Building and
11 Construction Trades Council, 1626 Beverly
12 Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, here to speak
13 in support of the project on behalf of 48
14 affiliate local unions and district councils
15 representing over 140,000 members.

16 This project is not only going to
17 create good jobs, but it's going to have a
18 tremendous benefit to the Los Angeles Community
19 by getting thousands of cars off the road and
20 encouraging public transportation.

21 This is the second largest city in the
22 country, and we need to have more access to

PH199-1

1 public transportation, the last mile when we
 2 complete the trip on public transportation, and
 3 the Gondola Project is a fantastic project. It's
 4 going to get people off the roads and onto public
 5 transportation. It's going to be safe, and it's
 6 going to minimize the impact to the local
 7 community.

8 We've been in Los Angeles for over 119
 9 years and strongly support the project. The
 10 project will be constructed with local community
 11 and the highest skilled membership in the world
 12 to make sure it's done as safe as possible.

13 Thank you very much.

14 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
 15 comment.

16 We'll go to phone number ending in
 17 7780. We'll get you unmuted here so you can
 18 provide your comment.

Comment-PH200
 Kwan

19 MR. KWAN: Hi.

20 MS. SISCO: There we go.

21 MR. KWAN: Hi. Can you -- hi. Can
 22 you hear me?

cont'd
 PH199-1

PH200-1

1 MS. SISCO: Yes. Thank you.

2 MR. KWAN: All right, thank you.

3 This is Peter Kwan (phonetic). I am
4 a born and raised Chinatown kid -- actually, born
5 in Sacramento, but moved here when I was one. I
6 am now 60. My family's been here for well over
7 59 years with our businesses in Chinatown, and I
8 am calling in support of the project.

9 One of the things that we are lacking
10 right now in Chinatown is commercial activity.

11 We have no supermarkets. We have no stores, and
12 I just took a walk around Chinatown today, and a
13 lot of them were already closed by 3:00 p.m.

14 Chinatown is dying a slow death.
15 You'll notice that commercial property owners are
16 -- when they pass away, their heirs sell all
17 their properties. Well, that's because there's
18 no commercial activity. If the commercial
19 activity was healthy, the buildings would be
20 worth more than the land. Right now, it's the
21 opposite. The land is worth more than the
22 building, so they're all moving on. The old

cont'd
PH200-1

1 generations are dying, and the young generation
2 won't come back.

3 I'm probably one of five businesses in
4 Chinatown that has stayed, and we're making it
5 work.

6 The other issue I'd like to address
7 that people are concerned with is rising rents.
8 Rents don't rise because of a gondola. The
9 reason why rents rise because there's a lack of
10 housing. And the reason some areas have more
11 demand than others, people are moving in for the
12 quality of schools, for the sick --

13 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
14 comment.

15 Next, we'll go to Gay Yuen.

16 So, Gay Yuen, you should be unmuted
17 now and able to provide your comments.

Comment-PH201

G Yuen 18 MS. YUEN: Hello. You can hear me
19 now, right?

20 MS. SISCO: Yes.

21 MS. YUEN: Thank you. My name's Gay
22 Yuen. I was raised in Chinatown, taught in

cont'd
PH200-1

PH201-1

1 Chinatown, and still very active with the
2 community there. On top of that, I'm the chair
3 of the Chinese-American Museum, which is located
4 at El Pueblo Historical Monument across from
5 Union Station.

6 So, I'm intimately connected with the
7 gondola in terms of the present design and
8 proposal, and I've spoken several times in favor
9 of the gondola because to me, it's a win-win,
10 both for the El Pueblo Monument and also for
11 Chinatown in terms of visitors coming in,
12 visiting our vendors, eating in our restaurants,
13 and visiting our public places.

14 So, I won't go into that as much as
15 saying that my direct comment on the EIR is that
16 I'm hoping, when we get to the point of community
17 benefits, that there will be a concerted effort
18 to include participants from Chinatown and from
19 El Pueblo so that we can talk specifically about
20 what the residents, what the merchants, and what
21 all the others who are directly impacted by the
22 gondola will be able to tell you what we want and

cont'd
PH201-1

PH201-2

1 what our community needs.

2 I think that I agree with Peter Kwan,
3 that Chinatown can only survive if we infuse it
4 with visitors who will come to our places of
5 business. And, therefore, I urge that we
6 continue to look at how to build the gondola with
7 respect to what the needs of our communities are.

8 Thank you very much.

9 MS. SISCO: Thank you.

10 Next, we will go to Kris with a K.

11 And if you could please state your full name
12 before your comment.

Comment-PH202

K Chan

13 MS. CHAN: Hi. I don't know why you
14 need my full name, but fine. My name is Kris
15 Chan. I am a member of the Chinatown community,
16 and frankly, I am so frustrated that we continue
17 to have these hearings without any public
18 transparency.

19 This is clearly a cosmetic project of
20 Frank McCourt, and this will do nothing to
21 benefit actually community members of Chinatown.

22 We -- you literally said it yourself.

cont'd
PH201-2

PH202-1

PH202-2

1 We need a market. We need a hospital, and yet,
2 you think building a gondola will save Chinatown?

3 Chinatown is not dying because we lack
4 visitors. We need real community needs. We need
5 things to benefit the older generation of
6 Chinatown. We need actual affordable housing,
7 and we're trying to spend millions of taxpayer
8 dollars on these fucking stupid fucks.

9 I am respectfully asking you all to
10 think about what low income community needs. You
11 all are just doing this garbage work that doesn't
12 actually amount to anything.

13 How much of the construction will
14 decrease the air quality? None of this makes any
15 sense. How many years will it take to build the
16 goddamn gondola?

17 We -- there's so many things going on
18 right now. We're in a pandemic. Rents are
19 increasing because of this lack of affordable
20 housing, and yet, we're all here sitting here
21 listening to this as if Chinatown needs to be
22 revitalized.

cont'd
PH202-2

PH202-3

PH202-4

1 No. Chinatown community -- you all
 2 are just ignoring members who actually live
 3 there. They have been surviving, and they don't
 4 need a gondola. They need real community access,
 5 health care, hospital, market.

PH202-3

6 I don't know how many times we have to
 7 stress this: we don't need a gondola, and we're
 8 demanding that you get out.

9 MS. SISCO: We're going to move on to
 10 the next commenter, Eric Adams.

Comment-PH203
E Adams

11 MR. ADAMS: Hello. Can you hear me?

12 MS. SISCO: Yes.

13 MR. ADAMS: Thank you.

14 This project is a master class in
 15 deception and defrauding of the people. Everyone
 16 getting paid to work on this boondoggle should
 17 feel a deep sense of shame.

PH203-1

18 Do you want to know more about this
 19 project? You're going to find dead ends and
 20 feel-good fantasies.

21 You want to know who's paying for it?

22 Good luck. Because no one knows.

1 Want to know who's designing it? It's
2 very vague, but we do know for sure it's not a
3 gondola manufacturer. The reputable ones want
4 nothing to do with this project.

PH203-2

5 Want to know who's operating it? A
6 non-profit climate change parasite group with
7 zero experience operating an attraction or
8 anything relating to the public. In fact, all
9 they claim to do is partner with other orgs that
10 are actually doing the work.

PH203-3

11 But, hey, public-private partnerships
12 yield paychecks. Right?

13 Who's asking for this? That, we know
14 concretely. Not the people of Los Angeles, not
15 the residents of Chinatown and nearby
16 communities, only the owners of the Chavez Ravine
17 parking lots, so they can build the Dodgers
18 Americana Grove Live. This is not public
19 transit. It is an attraction.

PH203-4

20 So, let's start the push on what we
21 really need to do. Eminent domain, bringing the
22 Chavez Ravine back to the people. Let's right a

PH203-5

1 wrong decades in the making.

2 We will not go kicking and screaming
3 this time, but we are keeping notes, and taking
4 receipts and names. Shame on you all.

5 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your comment.

6 I'm going to try to give people a
7 heads-up in terms of the next few comments that
8 I'm going to so that you all can be ready to get
9 unmuted, because I do see we have a number of
10 hands up.

11 So, we'll go to Jon Christensen next,
12 and following that we'll go to Maria Flores, and
13 then phone number 4821.

14 So, Jon Christensen is the click.
15 You're unmuted.

cont'd
PH203-5

Comment-PH204
J Christensen

16 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Okay.

17 MS. SISCO: Yes.

18 MR. CHRISTENSEN: Great.

19 My name is Jon Christensen. I teach
20 and do research on environmental policy with a
21 focus on equity and environmental justice in the
22 Institute of the Environment and Sustainability,

PH204-1

1 the Luskin Center for Innovation, and the Luskin
2 Center for History and Policy at UCLA.

3 I'm deeply concerned about the lack of
4 environmental justice and equity in this proposed
5 project, as well as in the Draft Environmental
6 Impact Report itself.

7 Environmental justice is defined by
8 four important concepts: recognition justice,
9 participatory or procedural justice, capabilities
10 or capacity justice, and distribution justice.

11 This project fails on all four fronts,
12 and the DEIR itself fails on three of the four.

13 First, the DEIR and the project have
14 failed to adequately recognize the neighbors of
15 this project who will bear the greatest brunt of
16 its impact.

17 Second, the DEIR process has been
18 flawed from beginning to end. It has been
19 designed and carried out as a dog and pony show
20 promoting the project and gaslighting neighbors
21 about its true impacts. Neighbors have not been
22 given adequate opportunities to participate, to

cont'd
PH204-1

PH204-2

PH204-3

1 be heard and listened to.

2 No wonder they made their voices heard
3 at your last meeting. That is a tried and true
4 method of environmental justice when authorities
5 refused to enable authentic participation in the
6 process.

7 Third, Frank McCourt and the other
8 proponents of this project have done nothing to
9 support the capacity and capability of
10 disadvantaged neighbors to participate in this
11 DEIR process or the planning that preceded it.

12 Fourth, this project is a classic case
13 study of distribution injustice. The burden of
14 the project would fall on disadvantaged
15 neighbors, who would enjoy none of the supposed
16 benefits of the project which, by the way, will
17 not significantly reduce traffic and pollution
18 around Dodger Stadium, and will be used by very,
19 very few people locally to get around the
20 neighborhood and visit El Pueblo, Chinatown, Los
21 Angeles State Historic Park, and Elysian Park.

22 I urge you to analyze and respond to

cont'd
PH204-3

PH204-4

PH204-5

PH204-6

1 these environmental justice concerns in this
2 environmental impact review.

cont'd
PH204-6

3 Thank you.

4 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your comment.

5 Next, we'll go to Maria Flores.

6 MS. FLORES: Hello. Hello, good

7 evening. Can you hear me?

Comment-PH205
M Flores

8 MS. SISCO: Yes.

9 MS. FLORES: Yes. Thank you.

10 Good evening. My name is Maria

11 Flores. I am here in solidarity with the

12 Chinatown Community for Equitable Development, an

PH205-1

13 organization that builds grassroots community

14 power that is based on the L.A. Chinatown area.

15 They are all volunteer-run, and I am here because

16 I am actually a resident of the South Central

17 L.A. neighborhood.

18 And something that we have in common

19 is that our neighborhoods are both working class

20 and immigrant family based, primarily. And we

PH205-2

21 understand the struggles that happen in our

22 neighborhoods when gentrification happens.

1 And I would just like for it to be
 2 clear to Metro and anybody supporting this
 3 project that we know, people in our community,
 4 the families, the students, the workers, know
 5 that all the projects coming into our primarily
 6 working class neighborhoods should be housing
 7 focused.

8 So, nothing comes into a neighborhood
 9 that is not directly benefitting a community,
 10 especially one that is primarily made up of
 11 Chinese immigrant families that have nowhere else
 12 to go.

13 We also have nowhere else to go, so
 14 I'm just here to make -- to let people know that
 15 we will stand with you, and that projects like
 16 these will stop happening because we will become
 17 united.

18 And, you know, it's really unfortunate
 19 to see why Metro decides to prioritize a project
 20 that they know clearly will displace families.
 21 So, know that if it comes need to be, we will be
 22 there physically to prevent these kinds of

cont'd
PH205-2

PH205-3

1 projects happening in our neighborhoods.

2 We're tired. We have nowhere else to
3 go, and we're going to take a stand. So, prepare
4 to be disappointed.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your comment.

7 We'll go next to the phone number
8 ending in 4821, and following that, we'll go to
9 Sarah Harris.

Comment-PH206

P Suzak

10 MR. SUZAK: Hi. Good evening. Pat
11 Suzak (phonetic) with CREED LA here.

12 First, I want to say that although
13 there have been some people on the call that are
14 opposed to the project, there are a lot of people
15 that are excited about the project. And I think
16 that you can look online and you can read a lot
17 of the reviews, maybe a lot of the people that
18 aren't on the call tonight, but most of what I'm
19 seeing and understanding is there's a ton of
20 people that are extremely excited about the
21 project.

22 It does have a big environmental

cont'd
PH205-3

PH206-1

PH206-2

1 benefit for the people that are going to be
2 riding the gondola, for the reduction of cars on
3 the road, and the huge traffic benefit, and I
4 think we'll see. We're going to see the
5 difference, especially for Dodgers fans and
6 congestion that sometimes takes place in the
7 Dodger Stadium parking lots. So, you're going to
8 see a noticeable benefit there.

9 There's a tourism benefit. We always
10 want to make sure that we're continuing to
11 promote Los Angeles as a city that's welcoming
12 technological innovation and all of the things
13 that benefit a city when it comes to how we
14 present ourselves. So, we want to continue to be
15 right there on the bleeding edge of those kinds
16 of innovations.

17 And continuing the benefit, the
18 upgrade to Chinatown. There's some features and
19 attractions that, obviously, once we get the
20 gondola system going then there are going to be
21 some other things that people are going to want
22 to suggest, and there's going to be an additional

cont'd
PH206-2

1 attraction to that area.

2 There are people that are also seeing
3 the vision of this project and thinking, you
4 know, where else could it go? Crypto Arena, L.A.
5 River Bike Path, Echo Park. So, people are
6 becoming invested in this vision and deciding
7 that they want to look at where that could expand
8 to.

9 And so, all of that being said, CREED
10 is absolutely in favor of this project. We think
11 it's great, and we are in total support.

12 So, thank you for your time. Have a
13 good evening. And God bless you.

14 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
15 comment.

16 We'll go to Sarah Harris next, and
17 following Sarah, we'll go to the attendee that's
18 logged in as Mark McCrea/Chris Janowski.

Comment - PH207
S Harris

19 MS. HARRIS: Yes. Hello. Thank you.

20 My name is Sarah Harris. I am calling
21 on behalf of the Black Business Association in
22 support of L.A. ART, the zero-emissions gondola

cont'd
PH206-2

PH206-3

PH207-1

1 for Union Station, from Union Station to Dodger
2 Stadium.

3 Most importantly, the BBA supports the
4 gondola and the 35 percent goal for local, and
5 small, and diverse businesses.

6 So, we look forward to seeing that
7 happen, and thank you very much.

8 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
9 comment.

10 Next we'll go to Mark McCrea/Chris
11 Janowski.

cont'd
PH207-1

Comment - PH208
M McCrea

12 MR. McCREA: Hello there. My name is
13 Mark McCrea, and my comments are twofold.

14 One, as a private citizen, I am
15 totally against this project. It is an eyesore
16 and would be a disruption to so much of the
17 community. Everything Frank McCourt does is as a
18 profiteer. He only wants money. I think it
19 would be a very unfortunate thing for anyone
20 around.

PH208-1

21 I do fear that there is going to be
22 more drunkenness of the Dodger attendees, and

PH208-2

1 when they get in the gondola, I am sure there is
 2 going to be violence. Would you want to be one
 3 of the two San Francisco fans in the gondola full
 4 of Dodgers? No.

cont'd
 PH208-2

5 Secondly, I'm on the board of Friends
 6 of Elysian Park, which is an organization that
 7 has been protecting Elysian Park since 1965 from
 8 development.

PH208-3

9 We, as an organization, are completely
 10 opposed to this development. It is a destruction
 11 of viewscapes from Elysian Park, from the State
 12 Historic Park, from people in Chinatown, even
 13 Cathedral High School's athletic field. This
 14 will be disruptive to everything and visually
 15 horrible.

16 There are obviously abilities to have
 17 more electric shuttles going up to the stadium
 18 and transport many more people than the gondola
 19 would. If you've ever gone to Mammoth Mountain,
 20 can you imagine how long it takes to get 500
 21 people on the gondola? The lines would be
 22 immense.

PH208-4

1 And this is also the development, you
 2 know, the first foray into a commercialization of
 3 the parking lot areas. It would bring more
 4 people and destruction into the pristine area of
 5 Elysian Park. Elysian Park means paradise, and
 6 we don't want to violate that with a Frank
 7 McCourt project that is a totally useless, ugly
 8 eyesore, and not good for us.

PH208-5

9 Thank you very much.

10 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
 11 comment.

12 Next, we're going to go to Ted Green,
 13 followed by the phone number ending in 0973, and
 14 then the phone number ending in 9153.

Comment-PH209
 T Green

15 MR. GREEN: Thank you very much. I
 16 unmuted on my end. Can you hear me?

17 MS. SISCO: Yes, we can hear you.

18 MR. GREEN: Excellent. Thank you.

19 My name is Ted Green. I'm the
 20 legislative consultant for the Los Angeles LGBTQ
 21 Chamber of Commerce. The Los Angeles LGBTQ
 22 Chamber of Commerce strongly supports this

PH209-1

1 project, and there are really three reasons why.

2 One, for what this project would mean
3 for the utilization of Union Station and
4 transportation coming into and out of Union
5 Station. Union Station happens to be my favorite
6 building in Los Angeles, and this would be
7 terrific for its future.

8 Number two, what this project would
9 mean for tourism. Tourism underpins the Southern
10 California economy and it's really important. A
11 gondola would attract tourists to our area.

12 I've ridden the gondola in Spokane,
13 Washington. It's wonderful. All due respect to
14 Spokane, there aren't a whole lot of reasons to
15 visit there, but the gondola is one, and that
16 would be the case in Los Angeles as well.

17 And probably number three, it's
18 because of the project developer's significant
19 commitment to spend 35 percent of its money with
20 diverse businesses, minority-owned, veteran-
21 owned, LGBTQ-owned businesses.

22 You know, how do you remedy historic

cont'd
PH209-1

PH209-2

PH209-3

PH209-4

1 and current discrimination, marginalization
2 against certain communities? It's by projects
3 like this spending good money with vendors from
4 those communities. That funding lifts all boats
5 and is worthy of our support.

6 MTA has said it's open to
7 extraordinary innovation and private part --
8 private-public partnerships. This project
9 absolutely delivers that on a plate and is well
10 deserving of our support and the MTA board's
11 support.

12 Thank you very much.

13 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your comment.

14 We'll go to phone number ending in
15 0973 next.

Comment-PH210
O Galindo

16 MR. GALINDO: Good evening. My name
17 is Omar Galindo on behalf of UA Plumbers No. 78
18 and our 2,000 members. I'm proud to be here in
19 support of this project.

20 This project will reduce greenhouse
21 gas emissions by reducing traffic around Dodger
22 Stadium, as well as making the city more

cont'd
PH209-4

PH210-1

1 attractive to residents and tourists alike.

2 The developer has agreed to use
3 responsible contractors, local hire, and livable
4 wages, and that's a development that, in Los
5 Angeles, most of us like.

6 Our local is encouraged by this
7 project and eager to see it begin construction.

8 Thank you.

9 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
10 comment.

11 We will go to the phone number ending
12 in 9153 next, followed by MG, and then the phone
13 number ending in 5137.

Comment-PH211

G Torres

14 MR. TORRES: Good evening, everybody.

15 Can you hear me?

16 MS. SISCO: Yes, we can.

17 MR. TORRES: Yeah. My name is Gus
18 Torres (phonetic), and I represent UA Local 255
19 Pipefitters, Welders, and Apprentices.

20 We're glad for the opportunity to
21 speak tonight to support this project. Nearly
22 5,000 people per hour per direction will be

cont'd
PH210-1

PH210-2

PH211-1

PH211-2

1 shuttled through these gondola routes, and the
2 time between Union Station and Dodger Station
3 will become approximately 7 minutes. This means
4 a huge impact on our local traffic in that area.

cont'd
PH211-2

5 I also support and applaud the gondola
6 project's commitment to work with the building
7 trades. We need more examples of projects like
8 this which involve the building trades and their
9 skilled and dedicated local workforce of eager
10 men and women.

PH211-3

11 Thank you very much for your time, and
12 God bless.

13 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
14 comment.

15 Next, we're going to go to MG, and
16 then we'll go to phone number ending in 5137 and
17 4959.

18 And I'd like to ask that you state
19 your name before you begin your comment, please.

Comment-PH212
M Gatto

20 MS. GATTO: Yes. Good evening,
21 everyone. My name is Marianna Gatto. I am the
22 director of the Italian American Museum of Los

PH212-1

1 Angeles, which is located across from Union
 2 Station overlooking Olvera Street. I am also a
 3 native Angeleno whose family settled in Lincoln
 4 Heights back in 1947 when the neighborhood was
 5 one of the city's Little Italys.

6 I've been the Director of the Italian
 7 American Museum of Los Angeles since 2010, and
 8 have worked at El Pueblo since 2005.

9 We support this project and feel that
 10 this investment of private dollars will
 11 contribute to the vibrancy of the neighborhood
 12 and increase awareness of the city's birthplace,
 13 its history, and promote visitation to its
 14 various museums, businesses, and cultural sites,
 15 as well as their preservation.

16 We also feel that this project will
 17 prove to enhance security in the neighborhood,
 18 which is sorely needed.

19 Thank you for your taking the time to
 20 listen.

21 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
 22 comment.

cont'd
PH212-1

PH212-2

1 We'll go to the phone number ending in
2 5137 next.

Comment-PH213
E Garcia

3 MS. GARCIA: Hi. My name is Erica
4 Garcia (phonetic), and I am very excited to
5 support the gondola project.

6 I was recently in Mexico City, and I
7 was fortunate enough to ride the gondola. And I
8 hope it comes to Los Angeles. It's a fantastic
9 experience that I had in Mexico, and I would like
10 to have the same transportation system here in
11 Los Angeles.

12 But I'm very upset at the protestors
13 from the last meeting on January 12th. How dare
14 they try to silence us and the supporters with
15 their opinions? The protestors took the meeting
16 and yelled profanities all night long, and Metro,
17 you should be ashamed for allowing this to take
18 place.

19 So, thank you for allowing me to
20 share, and I hope the gondola project comes to
21 life. It's a great project.

22 Thank you very much. Have a good

PH213-1

PH213-2

1 night.

2 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
3 comment.

4 We'll go to phone number ending in
5 4959, followed by Alex Alvarez, and then phone
6 number ending in 1242.

7 So, phone number ending in 4959.

8 If not, we can come back to this
9 participant.

10 Okay. Let's go to Alex Alvarez.

Comment-PH214
A Alvarez

11 MR. ALVAREZ: Good afternoon. Can you
12 hear me?

13 MS. SISCO: Yes.

14 MR. ALVAREZ: Okay. Good afternoon.
15 My name is Alex Alvarez. I'm a lifetime Dodger
16 fan, and we have to deal every single time with
17 traffic around Dodger Stadium on game days,
18 especially myself, that I have been going to
19 Dodger games all my life. This gondola project
20 could take 3,000 cars off the road, making it
21 easier to get around, and reduce air pollution
22 from cars.

1 In my case, and I believe most Dodger
 2 fans will agree, I support the gondola project
 3 because it will be great for Los Angeles, for the
 4 surrounding areas, for Dodger fans and, of
 5 course, for Dodger Stadium. And it will reduce
 6 the traffic, especially when we leave at game
 7 time at the end of the game.

8 So, please, consider this project.
 9 And I yield back, and thank you for the time.

10 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
 11 comment.

12 We'll go now to the phone number
 13 ending in 1242, and after that we'll go to Casa,
 14 and then Katie Norian.

cont'd
PH214-1

Comment-PH215
R Frank

15 MR. FRANK: Hello.

16 MS. SISCO: Hello.

17 MR. FRANK: Hi. This is Ron Frank,
 18 and I'm calling because I'm very, very, very much
 19 opposed to the gondola.

20 Anyone who pays attention to how this
 21 is all proceeding can't help but notice how
 22 deceptive this all is. It's a scam to benefit

PH215-1

1 just one person. And before this, what did Frank
 2 McCourt ever do to protect the environment?
 3 Here, he's only protecting his bank account, I
 4 believe.

5 As well, the lack of transparency and
 6 ever-shifting aspects of the project are
 7 incredibly concerning. It's bad whack-a-mole.
 8 This will not take cars off the road; it will
 9 just shift the traffic. It will not diminish
 10 pollution; in fact, the building of the gondola
 11 will only create more pollution, and there will
 12 be more pollution after Frank McCourt develops
 13 his half of the Dodger Stadium parking lot.

14 So, the things that they're putting
 15 forth are all lies, and it really is just bad
 16 whack-a-mole: the changing budget, the shifting
 17 developers under whose auspices this is
 18 proceeding under keeps changing, and even the
 19 reasons for building the gondola change all the
 20 time.

21 Unclear how much will it cost. Not
 22 \$125 million anymore. Last they said was \$300

cont'd
PH215-1

PH215-2

PH215-3

1 million, and that was long ago, so I'm wondering
2 what the cost is now. Must be getting close to
3 half a billion dollars by now, I would think.

4 Let the taxpayers vote on whether or
5 not this should go forward. That's why the
6 public meetings are doing all they can possible
7 to keep the public participants separate from
8 each other at Union Station and at the high
9 school. To have people give their comments to a
10 stenographer behind the curtain makes you wonder,
11 why hide us from each other?

12 It's clear the proponents have much to
13 hide.

14 Stop the gondola, please.

15 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
16 comment.

17 We'll go to Casa, and then Katie
18 Norian, and then Sunjana Supekar.

Comment-PH216
C Wilson

19 MS. WILSON: Hello. Can you hear me?

20 MS. SISCO: Yes.

21 MS. WILSON: Okay. My name is Casa,
22 C--A-S-A. My last name is Wilson. I live in the

cont'd
PH215-3

PH215-4

PH216-1

1 neighborhood.

2 I attended the last hearing at the
3 high school. I had no problem leaving a public
4 comment, despite the protests, and I talked to
5 people who work on this project at length, and
6 I'm even more against it now after that.

7 Let me run down the list:

8 Light pollution. This thing's going
9 to run until midnight every single day. Dodgers
10 fans ruin our lives half the year. Now they're
11 going to ruin it every day of the year.

12 No parking. I guess we can't park on
13 our streets anymore. One of the consultants told
14 me that's not their problem.

15 No transparency. Who's behind this?
16 How much will the taxpayer have to pay for this?
17 How much will these tickets cost? They couldn't
18 even tell me.

19 They're ripping up the park to put
20 this hideous thing in, which is honestly just a
21 tourist trap and gimmick.

22 Part of the Angeles National Park is

cont'd
PH216-1

PH216-2

PH216-3

PH216-4

PH216-5

1 going to be ripped up where the farmer's market
2 is, where people picnic, where they fly kites, to
3 put in a private company's product to make money.

cont'd
PH216-5

4 I find it curious not a single person
5 has spoken up in favor of this project who isn't
6 going to make money off of it -- or is a Dodgers
7 fan, of course. But these aren't people who live
8 here and have to live with this every single day.

PH216-6

9 Also, one of the consultants for the
10 project told me, when I asked him what the point
11 of it is since there aren't Dodgers fans every
12 day, said that they're going to put a transit hub
13 up at Dodger Stadium and provide shuttles and
14 electric scooters all over Elysian Park. And I
15 haven't really heard much about that, so I wonder
16 if it's even true.

PH216-7

17 This is not a project for people that
18 live here. This is not a project for people in
19 Los Angeles.

PH216-8

20 You know, I guess we're all in our own
21 echo chambers. I don't know a single person in
22 favor of this. I haven't heard a single peep

1 about someone who wants this and doesn't think
2 it's an absurd waste of money, except Dodgers
3 fans commenting on it on Instagram.

cont'd
PH216-8

4 And it's really nothing that adding
5 more electric buses couldn't also do. This is a
6 waste of money, and I hope you'll stop this
7 ridiculous project.

PH216-9

8 Thank you.

9 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
10 comment.

11 We'll go to Katie Norian, followed by
12 Sunjana Supekar, and then Jason Fujimoto.

Comment-PH217
K Norian

13 MS. NORIAN: Can you hear me?

14 MS. SISCO: Yes.

15 MS. NORIAN: My name is Katherine
16 Norian. I represent Chinatown Station Owner,
17 which opposes the project.

PH217-1

18 Our client's December 16th letter
19 identified the Draft EIR's many fundamental
20 defects, including a project description that
21 shifts from section to section and omits
22 information critical to the impact analyses,

PH217-2

1 impact analyses that are incomplete and rely on
 2 speculation, and significant conclusions based on
 3 defective mitigation measures.

4 But most critically, the Draft EIR
 5 analyzes only part of the true project. That
 6 true project is a two-phased project, all of
 7 which must be analyzed in the Draft EIR.

8 This project, Phase 1, provides
 9 transit to Dodger Stadium to reduce vehicle
 10 travel and thus the need for the parking lot, and
 11 therefore clears the way for the Phase 2 project
 12 to redevelop the parking lot with the offices,
 13 shops, and entertainment uses planned for only
 14 the Dodgers' parking lot lease.

15 The Draft EIR evidences the need for
 16 this Phase 1 project to both enable and support
 17 the Phase 2 redevelopment. For example, several
 18 sections narrow the focus of their analyses on
 19 how the project would reduce Dodger Stadium
 20 vehicle traffic.

21 The project relies primarily on
 22 tourism, not game day and neighborhood ridership,

cont'd
PH217-2

PH217-3

PH217-4

1 for its projected 18-hour a day operation. So,
 2 why assume so many tourists would be drawn to an
 3 empty stadium and an unimpressive view unless a
 4 shopping and entertainment venue is planned at
 5 the redevelopment parking?

cont'd
 PH217-4

6 The Draft EIR also discredits any need
 7 for the project other than to serve Dodger
 8 Stadium: that is, to serve the underserved
 9 neighborhoods. Chinatown and Mission Junction
 10 are already served by the Gold Line and don't
 11 need the disruption of another stadium -- or
 12 another station.

PH217-5

13 And the project can't serve
 14 neighborhoods near Dodger Stadium because it
 15 doesn't have a first mile/last mile hub at the
 16 Stadium to serve the projected ridership from
 17 these neighborhoods.

PH217-6

18 Metro must reside --

19 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
 20 comment.

21 We're going to try to move between
 22 commenters as quickly as we can because we do

1 have a number of hands up.

2 Next commenter is Sunjana Supekar,
3 followed by Jason Fujimoto, and then Phyllis
4 Ling, and Sophat Phea.

Comment-PH218
S SUPEKAR

5 MS. SUPEKAR: Can you hear me?

6 MS. SISCO: Yes.

7 MS. SUPEKAR: Thank you. I'm Sunjana
8 Supekar of Chatten-Brown, Carstens & Minter, and
9 on behalf of the California Endowment, we wish to
10 express our strong opposition to this
11 unsolicited, private tourist attraction
12 representing itself as public transportation.

PH218-1

13 We oppose this project because the
14 community did not ask for it and does not want
15 it. They want real public transportation
16 solutions.

17 The project will not reduce but
18 actually displace traffic noise and pollution
19 from Dodger Stadium to already impacted
20 communities in and around Chinatown, disrupting
21 businesses and services and accelerating
22 gentrification.

PH218-2

1 This private project will require the
2 use of public land, airspace, and likely public
3 resources to be able to operate.

PH218-3

4 Finally, a superior, low emission
5 public transportation option already exists by
6 using electric buses to expand the already
7 effective free Dodger Express Bus.

PH218-4

8 The Draft EIR presents misleading and
9 incomplete analysis to the detriment of the
10 public who, instead of getting information, are
11 given an infomercial.

PH218-5

12 We submitted two letters detailing the
13 DEIR's deficiencies. Please carefully consider
14 the points raised in those letters.

15 We are also concerned because the
16 proposed Alameda and Alpine towers are located in
17 an earthquake liquefaction zone.

PH218-6

18 We close by highlighting the numerous
19 other public comment letters expressing concern
20 about the project or opposition to it. These
21 letters are from groups including Homeboy
22 Industries; Gabrieleño/Tongva San Gabriel Band of

PH218-7

1 Mission Indians; Playbold Park Association; Los
 2 Angeles Parks Alliance; California State Park
 3 Rangers Association; Natural Resources Defense
 4 Council; Sierra Club, Los Angeles Union Station
 5 Circle Society; SOCA Gondola, including but not
 6 limited to Phyllis Ling; L.A. River State Park
 7 Partners; Coalition for a Beautiful Los Angeles;
 8 State of California Natural Resources Agency,
 9 Department of Parks and Recreation, and the
 10 Department of Fish and Wildlife; City of L.A.
 11 City Administrative Officer; Los Angeles
 12 Conservancy; Land Protection Partners; S&R
 13 Partners, LLC, a revolving family company; Trust
 14 for Public Land; and Latino Outdoors.

cont'd
PH218-7

15 There are better solutions for Metro
 16 and the City of L.A.'s actual public
 17 transportation needs. We ask that you please
 18 stop this gondola project now.

19 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
 20 comment.

21 We'll go to Jason Fujimoto.

22 MR. FUJIMOTO: Thank you. My name is

PH219-1

Comment-PH219
J FUJIMOTO

1 Jason Fujimoto. I'm calling on behalf of the Los
2 Angeles Chinatown Corporation. We are the
3 founding organization of Chinatown when it was
4 displaced.

5 Our family has been in Chinatown for
6 well over 80 years. Most of our family and
7 friends have owned businesses and currently still
8 own businesses. A lot of our family members
9 still live in Chinatown, and we support the
10 gondola project general concept.

11 We definitely have concerns, as some
12 of the others do, in terms of some of the
13 environmental issues and impacts, but in general,
14 we do support it.

15 So, we don't oppose it, and the reason
16 we do is that we, as I think one speaker has
17 mentioned, is that we need activity in Chinatown.
18 Chinatown is dying, despite some of the other
19 comments.

20 Speaking to the businesses, merchants,
21 even family members, there is no tourism. There
22 is no activity. There is no foot traffic in

cont'd
PH219-1

PH219-2

PH219-3

1 Chinatown, and with the concept of the gondola,
2 it might help bring in people into the Chinatown
3 community to help revitalize some of the
4 businesses.

5 And so, some of those mom and pop
6 businesses that we're trying to protect,
7 hopefully, if we can bring in the tourism, we
8 will help support and bring business to these mom
9 and pop stores. And if we don't, then those mom
10 and pop stores will close up, close down.

11 So, we, as a family, as an
12 organization, we support, again, in concept. We
13 don't oppose it, and we hope that all the
14 different sides can come together to make it
15 happen.

16 Thank you.

17 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
18 comment.

19 We'll go to Phyllis Ling next,
20 followed by Sofat Sia, and then Ernest Lee.

21 And just as a reminder, if you'd like
22 to raise your hand and you're calling in the

cont'd
PH219-3

1 phone, you can dial star-9, and then, once we
2 call on you, you can dial star-6 to unmute.

Comment-PH220

P LING

3 MS. LING: Hi. I have five seniors
4 here.

5 MS. SISCO: Oh, hold on.

6 MS. LING: I have five seniors here
7 who would like to speak, and I hope that they can
8 each be given 2 minutes. It's hard for them to
9 join the meeting. That's why I'm here helping
10 them with my computer.

11 So, is that okay?

12 MS. SISCO: Do you have a comment,
13 Phyllis? Or is it the five seniors that are
14 there with you?

15 MS. LING: I have a comment, but I'm
16 also on another device listening in English. And
17 I'm on this device, and they're with me, but
18 we're listening in Cantonese on here.

19 So, I would make the comment I'm
20 sharing another device with my sister. So, I'm
21 logged in on another and have my hand raised on
22 another.

PH220-1

1 MS. SISCO: Okay. Yeah, thank you.

2 So, let's take one comment for now and
3 let me think about the logistics of taking five
4 people, because we've generally been going in the
5 order that the hands are raised.

6 So, let's do one comment now, and then
7 we'll think about how to take the five additional
8 comments. So, is there one of the individuals
9 that are with you, Phyllis, that's prepared to
10 provide a comment?

11 (Foreign language spoken.)

12 MS. SISCO: Phyllis.

13 MS. LING: Uh-huh?

14 MS. SISCO: I want to give the
15 interpreter a chance to relay the comments. I'm
16 not sure if that was two speakers or one.

17 MS. LING: It was two speakers.

18 MS. SISCO: Okay, so the interpreters
19 are providing consecutive interpretation, so I
20 want to give them a chance to relay the comments
21 that were made, and then we can go to the other
22 three individuals that wanted to provide comment.

cont'd
PH220-1

1 So, I'm going to ask the interpreters
2 to repeat the two comments that were just
3 provided.

cont'd
PH220-1

Comment-PH221
PLING SPEAKER #1

4 INTERPRETER: I oppose the Chinatown
5 gondola project because Chinatown already has a
6 lot of cars and the Go Line runs through
7 Chinatown as well. I live in the Chinatown
8 senior building, and that's for speaker one.

PH221-1

Comment-PH222
PLING TAN #2

9 MS. SISCO: Thank you.

10 INTERPRETER: For speaker two, I also
11 live in Chinatown. My last name is Tan. I am
12 over 80 years old. I live near the railway
13 station, and if we have the gondola in the
14 future, this is going to affect our life because
15 building a gondola will produce a lot of dust,
16 noise, and it's going to be a safety issue as
17 well, so I oppose this gondola project.

PH222-1

18 If we really need to develop
19 Chinatown, we need to make sure to add more
20 parking for cars that are coming in. This
21 project is for wealthy individuals, and for the
22 benefit of Chinatown, we need to make sure we

PH222-2

1 have enough parking for the public. Thank you.

2 MS. SISCO: Thank you for interpreting
3 those comments. So, Phyllis, I'd like to go back
4 to you and we can have the three other
5 individuals provide their comments. If you could
6 please ask them to pause when they're done so
7 that the interpreters can relay their comments in
8 English?

9 And I see a couple of notes coming
10 through that folks aren't hearing the comments
11 interpreted into English. You want to make sure
12 to click on the globe icon if you're
13 participating in the meeting in English and
14 select English so that you can hear the
15 interpreter's interpretation of the comments that
16 are coming in in other languages.

17 Okay, so Phyllis, we're going to
18 unmute you and we'll go to the next speaker.
19 We'll get the timer set and then we'll pause when
20 the next speaker is done so that the interpreter
21 can relay that comment.

22 (Foreign language spoken.)

1 MS. SISCO: Okay, we need to pause now
2 to allow the interpreter to interpret that
3 comment and then we'll come back to the final two
4 commenters there.

5 INTERPRETER: I live --

6 MS. SISCO: So, let's -- Phyllis,
7 we're going to mute your line for just a moment
8 just to make sure that we can hear the
9 interpreter relay that comment back in English.

10 INTERPRETER: I live in the senior
11 apartment near the Metro station. The address is
12 808 Spring Street and I personally live in
13 apartment 909.

14 I have lived here for approximately
15 ten years. A lot has changed over the past ten
16 years. Over time in Chinatown, gradually we lost
17 a hospital and some supermarket.

18 A lot of visitor going to Chinatown,
19 they are just here to do the shopping, but a lot
20 of them have gone currently, and Chinatown
21 desperately needs the hospital to come back and
22 more stores in Chinatown, and the government

Comment-PH223
PLING-SPEAKER 3

PH223-1

1 needs to think about the need of their people.

2 Even though I live here, I do most of
3 my shopping, grocery shopping in Rosemead and San
4 Gabriel because it's cheaper there and it's more
5 convenient. I can do all of my shopping there
6 all at once. There are a lot of street vendors
7 in the streets in Chinatown. It's like a third
8 world.

9 And Chinatown currently already has an
10 electric bus that is running through Chinatown
11 from the bus terminal, so we don't need the
12 gondola anymore. Thank you.

13 MS. SISCO: Thank you. So, we're
14 going to move to the fourth commenter that is
15 waiting to provide comment with Phyllis.

16 (Foreign language spoken.)

17 MS. SISCO: Okay, we're going to allow
18 the interpreter to interpret that comment and
19 then we'll come back for the final participant in
20 this group.

Comment-PH224
P LING

21 INTERPRETER: Thank you. My name is
22 Ling Lee. I also live at 808 Spring Street and I

cont'd
PH223-1

PH223-2

PH224-1

1 have lived here for --

2 (Simultaneous speaking.)

3 MS. SISCO: Oh, you know what? I'm
4 going to pause the -- I think we have two
5 interpreters that are interpreting right now, so
6 it's hard to hear. I'm going to ask that one of
7 you provide the interpretation, please.

8 INTERPRETER: Okay, my colleague can
9 go ahead.

10 MS. SISCO: Thank you.

11 INTERPRETER: So sorry about that. My
12 name is Ling Lee and I'm a senior citizen living
13 in the senior apartments too. The address is 808
14 Spring Street and I have been living there for
15 ten years and I'm 75 years old.

16 And every time I open my window in my
17 apartment, so the bus line was running through
18 outside, so it generates a lot of like noise and
19 vibrations. It caused me like a headache and I
20 couldn't sleep at night.

21 So, you want another gondola outside
22 of my building. That's going to basically kill

cont'd
PH224-1

PH224-2

PH224-3

1 me. So, you mentioned that it would bring more
2 business. You can just invest on more shops in
3 Chinatown.

4 And so, also the gondola is not, you
5 know, would bring a lot of benefit to us as
6 senior citizens, so, because it's hard for us to
7 like go into the gondola or take the gondola.

8 And also, it also would cause us some
9 like safety issues, some safety issue in our
10 neighborhoods, so I'm strongly opposed to the
11 gondola project. Thank you.

12 MS. SISCO: Okay, so I'm going to ask
13 that that final comment in that group of five be
14 interpreted and then we'll move to Sophat Phea
15 and then Ernest Lee.

16 (Foreign language spoken.)

17 MS. SISCO: Is that comment completed?

18 PARTICIPANT: Yes.

19 MS. SISCO: Okay, I'll ask the
20 interpreter to repeat the comment, please. Thank
21 you.

22 INTERPRETER: I am very much in

cont'd
PH224-3

PH224-4

PH224-5

PH225-1

Comment-PH225
PLING-SPEAKER 4
22

1 opposition of this gondola project. You are
2 talking about this gondola is going to reduce
3 pollution and noise. That is not true. I am in
4 so much opposition of it. A gondola is only used
5 in not-so-developed countries and cities.

6 Look around us. Look at the world.
7 Only very backwards cities and cities that are
8 not so developed are still using gondola. Look
9 at Beijing. Are they using gondolas? Look at
10 all the very developed countries.

11 If you want to build a gondola here in
12 Los Angeles, that means Los Angeles is a not-so-
13 developed country. Is that what LA is?

14 Such way of transportation is
15 obsolete. It's definitely going to bring a lot
16 of negative impact to people. It's going to
17 bring more pollution. It's bad for seniors'
18 health.

19 And also, if you put a gondola right
20 there above our window, above our building, the
21 moment we open up our windows, they're able to
22 see everything we're doing inside.

cont'd
PH225-1

PH225-2

1 We are sacrificing or you are actually
 2 putting our privacy on the line. We would not
 3 have any more privacy. I firmly oppose the
 4 gondola project.

cont'd
 PH225-2

5 MS. SISCO: Thank you. Okay, so now
 6 we'll move to Sophat Phea, followed by Ernest Lee
 7 and Tany Ling.

Comment-PH226
 S PHEA

8 MR. PHEA: Hi, my name is Sophat Phea
 9 and I have lived in Chinatown for over 30 years
 10 and still live in Chinatown today. As there's
 11 been a rise of developments and gentrification in
 12 Chinatown, I fear this project will contribute to
 13 it and put my home more at risk.

PH226-1

14 Parking has been a huge barrier to the
 15 small businesses in Chinatown in thriving,
 16 including for my mom and her shop. They were
 17 told that it would bring businesses to Chinatown,
 18 but tell me how.

PH226-2

19 It is no doubt going to take up a lot
 20 of parking spaces in Chinatown where people are
 21 already having trouble finding. Even tenants
 22 living in Chinatown have trouble finding parking.

1 I personally don't see myself using
 2 the gondola and would love the money and effort
 3 go toward what the community would actually use
 4 instead, such as our current public
 5 transportation. How much does it cost to ride
 6 the gondola? Tell me why no one was able to
 7 answer.

PH226-3

PH226-4

8 Money and effort could have been put
 9 into improving the parking situation and
 10 improving our public transportation instead. At
 11 the end of the day, who does it really benefit
 12 and who is being harmed? Thank you.

PH226-5

13 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
 14 comment. We'll go to Ernest Lee next.

Comment-PH227

E LEE

15 MR. LEE: Can you hear me?

16 MS. SISCO: Yes.

17 MR. LEE: Okay, my name is Ernest Lee.

18 I'm the President of the Chinese Consolidated
 19 Benevolent Association in Chinatown. We're the
 20 oldest Chinese association in Chinatown, with
 21 over 130 years of history. We have 27 family
 22 associations affiliated with us and we have over

PH227-1

1 2,000 membership.

2 We strongly support of this gondola
3 project because definitely it will bring benefit,
4 commercial benefit to Chinatown and the small
5 merchants. Chinatown, like the people said
6 earlier, Chinatown is dying. We need the
7 revitalization, so definitely, please bring on
8 the gondola project. We need it. Thank you.

9 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
10 comment. We'll move to Tany Ling, followed by
11 S.K., and then the phone number ending in 2658.

Comment CONT.
PH220 - P LING

12 MS. P. LING: This is actually Phyllis
13 Ling.

14 MS. SISCO: Okay.

15 MS. P. LING: I'm sharing the phone
16 with my sister. Can I go first?

17 MS. SISCO: Yes.

18 MS. P. LING: Okay, could you please
19 restart my time? Okay, thank you. Yes, so this
20 is Phyllis Ling. I'm a resident under the route
21 of the gondola directly across from the massive
22 Broadway junction.

cont'd
PH227-1

PH220-2

1 First of all, the draft EIR is
 2 deficient and deceptive. It needs to be redone
 3 or, better yet, stop this project. If you must
 4 continue, I have these comments.

PH220-3

5 The smart glass for privacy sounds
 6 like a lot of lip service to us residents.
 7 There's no explanation as to how it would be
 8 implemented. We need to know where it would be
 9 activated.

10 There are a lot of residents along the
 11 route, so if the windows are fogged up 50 percent
 12 of the time, that doesn't sound like a good
 13 experience for tourists who are supposedly
 14 funding this project, and there's maintenance.

PH220-4

15 If the smart glass is malfunctioning,
 16 will the cabin be taken out of service? How
 17 would the operator know? Would they just be
 18 relying on residents to report malfunctions?

19 We don't think the measures to protect
 20 our privacy should be treated lightly or like a
 21 courtesy. This is an essential part of the
 22 system.

1 The maps on the alignment profiles
 2 don't show enough detail. How are the additional
 3 buffers treated legally? How low is it? You
 4 want to go over my property, would I have to cut
 5 back my avocado tree for the gondola? Would I be
 6 required to allow McCourt's people access to cut
 7 back my tree whenever they want? These are
 8 little details, but they matter.

PH220-5

9 Most of the route is on an earthquake
 10 liquefaction zone. The mitigation in EIR is to
 11 do mitigants or whatever that says. Well, if the
 12 mitigation is to drill deeper, that's more noise,
 13 vibration, more possibility of groundwater
 14 contamination, more damage to our homes and
 15 (audio interference) historic El Pueblo.

PH220-6

16 Why isn't -- oh, okay, so you know
 17 what? This project would be like a cable car
 18 freeway over a neighborhood which is already
 19 sliced and diced by Hill Street and Broadway.
 20 I'm sorry, but the people who are supporting this
 21 aren't looking beyond the marketing hype.

PH220-7

22 This project is as sustainable as an

PH220-8

1 EV Hummer, which is also zero emissions by their
 2 standards. It's bloated and completely wrong for
 3 the supposed purpose. Go back to the drawing
 4 board with this EIR or just stop the gondola.
 5 Thank you.

cont'd
 PH220-
 8

6 MS. SISCO: Okay, I believe that there
 7 was another commenter on the same phone line,
 8 Tany, so if we could unmute that line real quick
 9 and see if there's another commenter? If not,
 10 we'll move onto S.K.

Comment-PH228
 T LING

11 MS. T. LING: Hey, Metro. My name is
 12 Tany and I'm a Chinatown resident who is against
 13 this project. Hey, Metro, if you are serious
 14 about making life better for Angelenos, you'd
 15 also be against this touristy sweetheart money
 16 grab for Frank McCourt.

PH228-1

17 Metro, if you're serious about
 18 reducing traffic and pollution on game days, you
 19 would choose practical, cost-effective measures
 20 like providing safe pedestrian access to Dodger
 21 Stadium and expanding the Dodger Stadium Express
 22 by adding more electric buses and dedicated bus

PH228-2

1 lanes, and creating new boarding hubs in other
2 parts of the city like Griffith Park, the Valley,
3 and the West Side.

cont'd
PH228-2

4 Metro, I support and actively use
5 public transportation, but this gondola proposal
6 is a scam masquerading as a free public service
7 project. You all forgot to include the residents
8 and stakeholders when you and LA ART met behind
9 closed doors during what was supposed to be the
10 initial public planning period.

PH228-3

PH228-4

11 Then, you held in-person hearings
12 where we could make so-called public comments,
13 but only if we were secreted away in the corner
14 behind a curtain talking only to a stenographer.
15 Metro, I think you have a lot of explaining to
16 do.

PH228-5

17 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your comment.
18 We'll now move onto S.K., followed by the phone
19 number ending in 2658, and then the phone number
20 ending in 2170.

Comment-PH229

S KOYAMA

21 MS. KOYAMA: Hi, can you hear me?

PH229-1

22 MS. SISCO: Yes.

1 MS. KOYAMA: Thank you. Hi, my name
 2 is Sakae Koyama, a born and raise lifelong
 3 Angeleno, and have lived in Echo Park/Elysian
 4 Park since 1975.

5 I'm also a board member of Friends of
 6 Elysian Park, who have helped protect and
 7 preserve Elysian Park from predatory developers
 8 since 1965. We have taken a firm stance of no on
 9 this project.

10 We remember our history, Chavez
 11 Ravine. We know what gentrification and
 12 displacement does to neighborhoods. This will
 13 not bring revitalization to Chinatown. They need
 14 supermarkets, hospitals, infrastructure. Elysian
 15 Park is not for sale.

16 There's a reason that Frank McCourt
 17 kept the parking lot after he sold the Dodgers.
 18 He had dollar signs in his eyes. As he has
 19 steadily raised the parking rates, it has
 20 negatively affected the surrounding
 21 neighborhoods.

22 This is not public transit. To where?

cont'd
PH229-1

PH229-2

PH229-3

PH229-4

1 The parking lot when Dodgers are there seven to
 2 eight months of the year when a perfectly good
 3 bus system exists? This is only the first phase
 4 of McCourt's Disney-fication of Elysian Park,
 5 turning it into an amusement shopping center like
 6 Universal Citywalk.

cont'd
PH229-4

7 It will ruin the natural beauty of the
 8 historic state park and the oldest city park
 9 since 1865, Elysian Park, and will ruin the
 10 scenic view of downtown. We adamantly oppose
 11 this project and it has no place in our
 12 community. Thank you.

PH229-5

13 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
 14 comment. We'll now go to the phone number ending
 15 in 2658.

Comment-PH230
ANDY

16 PARTICIPANT: Hi, can you hear me?

17 MS. SISCO: Yes, we can.

18 PARTICIPANT: Hi, my name is Andy.
 19 I've been part of Chinatown for 20 years and I'm
 20 speaking against the gondola project.

PH230-1

21 Respectfully, everyone involved is
 22 fucking kidding themselves if you actually think

1 this project does a community good. It's
2 insulting and disrespectful to us if you think
3 anybody living here actually believes this would
4 help Chinatown without first being lied to.

5 Chinatown is not dying. Chinatown is
6 being killed by you people. Projects and
7 corporate greed just like this are steamrolling
8 over our homes just like Union Station in Old
9 Chinatown, just like Dodger Stadium with La Loma,
10 Bishop, and Palo Verde. Trickle-down economics
11 didn't work then, why would it work now? Metro
12 and McCourt clearly have no respect for us.

13 Your own presentations say that the
14 most you should get out of this project is a
15 merely 20 percent by 2040 in two decades. You
16 won't be able to make a graph that shows how more
17 foot traffic and congestion translates over to a
18 better standard of living, housing, food, and
19 health access.

20 I hope you all sleep terribly tonight.
21 If your conscience isn't haunting you in your
22 nightmares, it will surely haunt your careers

cont'd
PH230-1

PH230-2

1 because everybody can see this project is a
2 fucking joke. Thank you.

3 MS. SISCO: Okay, thank you for your
4 comment. We'll move onto the phone number ending
5 in 2170, and we'd appreciate it if everyone could
6 keep their language civil for other attendees, so
7 2170.

Comment-PH231
R GARCIA

8 MR. GARCIA: Good evening. Can you
9 hear me?

10 MS. SISCO: Yes.

11 MR. GARCIA: Okay, thank you. My name
12 is Rick Garcia. I'm a sheet metal worker by
13 trade and union organization with SMART Local 105
14 representing the sheet metal trades in Southern
15 California.

16 All right, I'm here to support the LA
17 ART gondola project and I'm not ashamed to say
18 that. This project has been open for
19 consideration since 2018 when it was first
20 proposed to Metro's Office of Extraordinary
21 Innovations, and since then, a great deal of
22 traffic and pollution have plagued the area

1 around Dodger Stadium.

2 LA ART and Metro's gondola project
3 offers significant potential benefits by
4 increasing access to public transit and reducing
5 traffic congestion on local roads.

6 We are pleased with the changes coming
7 to our city transit via the project and happy for
8 the future of the area around Dodger Stadium.
9 Thank you for your time.

10 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
11 comment. We'll go to the phone number ending in
12 0523, followed by phone number ending in 9717.
13 Following that, we'll go to Juniper Wong and
14 Patrick Chen.

15 So, phone number ending in 0523?
16 Okay, we'll come back if needed. Let's go to
17 phone number ending in 9717. Okay, let's move
18 onto Juniper Wong and then we'll go to Patrick
19 Chen, followed by Larry Jung.

Comment-PH232
J WONG

20 MS. WONG: Hello, my name is Juniper
21 Wong and I'm a community organizer in Chinatown
22 with Power LA and Chinatown Community for

cont'd
PH231-1

PH232-1

1 Equitable Development, and I oppose this project.

2 This is supposed to relieve traffic
3 and have zero emissions, but this gondola doesn't
4 take anybody off the road, it just adds. By
5 being a tourism destination, it will just
6 redirect traffic and automobile emissions from
7 Dodger Stadium to Chinatown and the downtown
8 area.

9 You also say this will improve
10 connectivity for the city of LA. I fail to see
11 that when the transit being proposed is just a
12 mile and a half long. Fans come from all over
13 the city. There's traffic in all directions.

14 There's traffic in LA all day, every
15 day, but you choose to run this directly through
16 and over one of the poorest areas of Los Angeles,
17 making Chinatown residents suffer for your tragic
18 idea.

19 Every parcel of land this project is
20 slated for is on public land. That land should
21 be used for public good. Chinatown has been
22 deprived of services with no supermarket. You've

cont'd
PH232-1

PH232-2

PH232-3

PH232-4

1 already heard seniors say that they have to go to
2 San Gabriel Valley to access our cultural goods
3 and foods where there was just a devastating
4 shooting.

cont'd
PH232-4

5 The people of Chinatown are
6 dangerously under-resourced. The median income
7 is less than \$20,000, and like the rest of LA, is
8 in an absolutely crisis for fair housing. Do you
9 really think that when the right to live in one's
10 home and stay off of the street, that the
11 neighborhood's main concern is how flamboyantly
12 they can get to a baseball game?

PH232-5

13 Compare the less than \$20,000 a year
14 median income with the cost of this project.
15 After donating it to Climate Resolve, they
16 disclosed that the budget will be even more than
17 \$300 million. Who will be paying for that? Will
18 it be taxpayer money?

PH232-6

19 You're telling us you have access to
20 more than \$300 million to come into Chinatown and
21 build whatever you want and you won't choose
22 housing? You won't choose life-affirming

PH232-7

1 services, direct stimulus to small businesses?
2 You won't choose the people?

cont'd
PH232-7

3 In this draft EIR, you've also
4 addressed alternatives to the gondola. You ruled
5 out buses. There already exists a free shuttle
6 for game days that could be expanded, but your
7 reasoning for not doing that is that in order for
8 buses to fulfill the 5,000 people an hour per
9 direction the gondola would do, you need buses to
10 run every 47 seconds, therefore, that's not an
11 option.

PH232-8

12 Nobody is asking for buses that run
13 every 47 seconds. We're asking for just some
14 amount of additional buses. You're LA Metro.
15 Why do you suddenly think buses will not work?
16 Stop this project. Thanks.

17 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
18 comment. We'll move to Patrick Chen, followed by
19 Larry Jung, Amy Ho, and King Cheung.

Comment-PH233
P CHEN

20 MR. CHEN: Hello, can you hear me?

21 MS. SISCO: Yes.

22 MR. CHEN: Hello, my name is Patrick

PH233-1

1 Chen. I'm a resident of Chinatown and I am
2 opposed to this project, and I believe that this
3 draft EIR process has been a total sham.

4 You have been doing the bare minimum
5 to, quote-unquote, engage the community, which
6 has actually been sunny fantasies of
7 revitalization to suffering Chinatown residents
8 and small businesses, when in actuality, this is
9 nothing more than a cash grab for Frank McCourt
10 and, I guess, the consultants who are working on
11 this project.

12 Poor and working class tenants, the
13 taxpayers of LA, including the constituents of
14 many of these nonprofits that they claim to
15 represent, will be left with the bill.

16 And some Chinatown legacy groups have
17 claimed for over a decade that Chinatown is dying
18 and needs big, flashy tourism to save it, when
19 they could have been spending their political
20 capital to build up community strength that can
21 sustain itself instead of begging for
22 billionaires like Frank McCourt to leave them

cont'd
PH233-1

PH233-2

PH233-3

1 some spare change. This project is not good for
2 Chinatown and I oppose it. Thank you. Thank
3 you.

4 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
5 comment. We'll move to Amy Ho and then King
6 Cheung. And for those of you that are on the
7 phone, just a reminder that you'll want to press
8 *6 if you need to --

Comment-PH234
A HO

9 MS. HO: Hello?

10 MS. SISCO: Yes?

11 MS. HO: Yes, can you hear me now?

12 MS. SISCO: Yes, we can. Go ahead.

13 MS. HO: Yes, hi, my name is Amy Ho.

14 I'm a resident of Chinatown for 42 years. Okay,
15 the reason that I live here is because I love the
16 freedom of this country they gave me. I'm one of
17 the boat people who left Vietnam, went to a
18 communist camp. I don't like that. That's why.
19 I didn't like that. That's why I came to, you
20 know, America.

21 And I thought that, you know, if I
22 work hard, I can have the right to enjoy my life

1 here, but I can't believe the rich. They're
2 trying to, you know, take away the right of me to
3 live at peace.

4 Okay, now those people who support
5 this gondola, please, please think. Your
6 enjoyment is built on the suffering of the
7 resident people living here.

8 You know what? I worked hard when I
9 was young. I'm 70, okay. I used to work hard,
10 okay. I worked a full job with two part-time
11 jobs just to get my feet on the ground, to start
12 my life here, and I did that. I'm proud of that,
13 but to think some of the rich people now are
14 trying to take away from that for me.

15 Okay, I will support this program only
16 if Dodger Stadium stops selling food or beverage
17 in Dodger Stadium. You know what? It will not
18 benefit Chinatown at all. Those fans will go to
19 Dodger Stadium.

20 They go there, they watch the game,
21 and they eat, they drink. So, why, would they go
22 to Chinatown to drink and eat? No, I mean, they

cont'd
PH234-1

1 want just to, you know, see how it is, but I know
2 exactly.

3 So, this is to the benefit of, you
4 know, Dodger Stadium, not for us, and besides,
5 don't forget that they have only 82 games per
6 year and only a few hours per day. How are they
7 going to, you know (audio interference).

8 MS. SISCO: Okay, thank you for your
9 comment. I appreciate that. Larry Jung, I think
10 I accidentally skipped over you. You were
11 supposed to go next, so we'll go to you next and
12 then we'll go to King Cheung.

13 And just as a reminder, if you are
14 calling in on the phone, you'll unmute yourself
15 by pressing *6.

cont'd
PH234-1

PH234-2

PH235-1

Comment-PH235
L JUNG

16 MR. JUNG: Good evening. My name is
17 Larry Jung. I've been involved with Chinatown
18 since, and our family has been involved since,
19 for the last 80 years. My great-grandfather was
20 one of the original founders of New Chinatown,
21 and I also represent the Chinese-American Museum
22 in El Pueblo.

1 I support the project and I believe
2 that the main idea and concept is valid. I
3 believe that it will bring tourism into the El
4 Pueblo and also into Chinatown.

5 I've ridden several gondolas in
6 Pittsburgh, in Telluride, and Rio, and it is
7 quite a tourist attraction. I believe that it
8 will stimulate businesses, traffic for the small
9 businesses around Chinatown and the Gold Line, so
10 I am in support of the project. Thank you.

11 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
12 comment. Next, we'll go to King Cheung, followed
13 by the phone number ending in 0709, and then
14 Charly Ligety.

15 (Foreign language spoken.)

16 MS. SISCO: Okay, thank you for your
17 comment. We'll wait a moment to allow for
18 interpretation of that comment.

Comment-PH236
K CHEUNG

19 MR. CHEUNG: My name is King Cheung
20 and I oppose this gondola project because I
21 believe it's not going to help small business and
22 residents in Chinatown. If the gondola keeps

cont'd
PH235-1

PH236-1

1 running every day during the hour, it's going to
2 disturb residents' sleep.

3 And also, we need to be careful
4 because when the gondola is running in the air,
5 people in the gondola may be able to see
6 residents who are taking a shower or using the
7 restroom, so in that case, we don't need the
8 gondola.

9 And I also agree with some of the
10 people who call this gondola project as a scam,
11 because if the Dodger Stadium has hotels,
12 restaurants, Dodger fans will just go there and
13 eat, watch the game, and go home. Why would they
14 bother to go up to the slope and go to Chinatown?
15 They won't.

16 And if Dodger fans wants the traffic
17 congestion to be improved, I suggest them to use
18 the bus because there is a shuttle going from
19 Union Station to the Dodger Stadium, but actually
20 currently, not many people are using this bus and
21 there are only two buses.

22 If they are not using this free

cont'd
PH236-1

PH236-2

PH236-3

PH236-4

1 shuttle, why would they bother to pay and use the
2 gondola? So, I believe we don't need this
3 gondola.

4 MS. SISCO: Thank you for interpreting
5 that comment. We'll now move to the phone ending
6 in 0709. So, you'll want to press *6 to unmute
7 yourself.

Comment-PH237
D MARTINEZ

8 MS. MARTINEZ: Hi, can you hear me?

9 MS. SISCO: Yes.

10 MS. MARTINEZ: Hi, good evening,
11 everyone. My name is Dana Martinez (phonetic).
12 And I wanted to say that when we talk about
13 multimodal transit, we probably just think of a
14 few clicks outside a bus, or a train, or a
15 streetcar, maybe even a bicycle, but honestly, a
16 gondola starts to get us in the air.

17 And, well, when I think of the future
18 or other people think of the future, we might
19 call it sci-fi, but the reality is that we need
20 clean air, zero emission projects to be the first
21 to break the in-city sky barrier.

22 And when other ideas become

1 realizable, this measure will benefit the
2 community, the traffic, the environment, while
3 also taking into consideration specific
4 populations and their transportation needs.

5 So, I wanted to say that I'm extremely
6 encouraged by this and ready for the next step
7 for the future of the Los Angeles transportation
8 journey. Thank you.

9 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
10 comment. In case we had anyone join late, if you
11 -- you'll want to select a language by using the
12 globe icon even if you're listening to the
13 meeting in English. That will allow you to hear
14 comments that are made interpreted back into
15 English.

16 So, next we'll go to Charly Ligety and
17 then we'll go to the phone number ending in 5684,
18 followed by Melanie Bellomo and Alejandro
19 Campillo.

Comment-PH238
C LIGETY

20 MR. LIGETY: All right, great, thank
21 you for hosting this dialogue. I am Charly
22 Ligety. I am a resident of Echo Park, pretty

cont'd
PH237-1

PH238-1

1 adjacent to the stadium, and I own a home nearby,
2 raising a family.

3 And, you know, I'm kind of thinking of
4 this from the perspective of respecting all of
5 the people that have come before me in this
6 neighborhood and me only being here for, you
7 know, a few years, but also thinking kind of long
8 term of just where I want LA to grow and be more
9 visionary about how to bring people together and
10 move around this community or move in and out of
11 this community.

12 I think the gondola is a great first
13 step in that kind of vision. I support it
14 because it reduces traffic. You know, with
15 baseball, there's too many games, 80-plus games a
16 year, and the most unfortunate thing is all of
17 the cars.

18 Beyond games, you know, I think the
19 access the gondola will provide for park access
20 to Elysian to millions of people just based on
21 streamlining access between Union Station and the
22 park will be a huge kind of component that we're

cont'd
PH238-1

PH238-2

1 not even thinking about as a benefit beyond just
2 Dodger access.

3 And, you know, it really elevates our
4 medium of coming together and bringing a new
5 class of people into the public transit world,
6 especially here in Los Angeles. Gondolas are
7 sexy. Buses are not.

8 You know, I come from ski town where
9 many gondolas are located. They're quiet,
10 they're comfortable, they're exciting. They cost
11 \$10 million to \$15 million a mile, so they're not
12 expensive. Hopefully, we'll probably inflate that
13 a lot with all of the costs being in Los Angeles.

14 But the couple of suggestions, I think
15 there should be an affordable housing requirement
16 with this either around the station or somewhere
17 nearby to create sort of a gondola-oriented
18 development incentive.

19 And then better renderings, at least
20 a satellite imagery, a shape file, and a Google
21 Earth file would be great just to like sort of
22 show this better of how it works, and then also

cont'd
PH238-2

PH238-3

PH238-4

PH238-5

1 pairing the gondola with street closures along
2 Scott and other places so there's sort of a
3 carrot and stick approach to getting people out
4 of their cars and into the gondola so it actually
5 guarantees reduced traffic. Thank you.

PH238-6

6 MS. SISCO: Thank you. I'm sorry, we
7 had a little glitch with the timer there and
8 accidentally reset it. Okay, all right, so the
9 next speaker is 5684.

Comment-PH238
JRINCON

10 MR. RINCON: Hello and good evening,
11 everyone. My name is Joe Rincon (phonetic). I
12 want to talk a little bit about Chinatown.

13 Chinatown has a population of over
14 30,000 people, and considering the actual size,
15 that's pretty dense, and whether people walk,
16 take bikes, carpool, Uber, take trains, buses,
17 subways, or cars, that's 37,000 people moving
18 around at or below ground level, so it should be
19 no problem for us to imagine transportation that
20 gets everybody off the ground.

PH239-1

21 And realistically, it's not just
22 Chinatown. This project will impact the traffic

PH239-2

1 and daily commute of Angelenos from the areas
2 near Dodger Stadium, Mission Junction, Elysian
3 Park, Solano Canyon, and the LA State Historic
4 Park, not to mention traffic in and around Union
5 Station itself.

6 We are sick and tired of super
7 congested cities, and the people of not only
8 Chinatown, but all over LA believe in the future
9 of aboveground transit. LA, it's time to set our
10 minds on things above. Thank you very much.

11 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
12 comment. We'll move to Melanie Bellomo, and then
13 Alejandro Campillo, and then Julie Rico.

Comment-PH240
M BELLOMO

14 MS. BELLOMO: Hi, thank you. My name
15 is Melanie Bellomo. I am a resident of Lincoln
16 Heights. I am here to say that we stand with the
17 residents of Chinatown voicing strong opposition
18 to this project. I echo the sentiments shared so
19 bravely tonight.

20 I also want to point out that this
21 furthers the harm on the descendants of La Loma,
22 Palo Verde, and Bishop, otherwise known as Chavez

cont'd
PH239-2

PH240-1

PH240-2

1 Ravine. To further commercialize this area where
 2 there has been no moves toward reparations for
 3 these people who were forcibly removed from their
 4 homes and had their communities destroyed is
 5 wrong.

cont'd
PH240-2

6 I also ask for a public apology for
 7 the false narrative being pushed regarding the
 8 initial meeting for so-called public comment. It
 9 was nothing of the sort, and the disruptions you
 10 referred to were people of this community taking
 11 their power back and making the public comment
 12 time they were promised.

PH240-3

13 This meeting is inequitable
 14 considering the advanced age and lack of access
 15 for comments from the majority of Chinatown
 16 residents.

17 Lastly, I want to point out that the
 18 man at the helm of this disaster, Frank McCourt,
 19 as we all know, everything he touches turns to
 20 shit while he makes a fortune. This project will
 21 be no exception.

PH240-4

22 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your

comment. We'll move to Alejandro Campillo.

Comment-PH241
A CAMPILLO

MR. CAMPILLO: Hello, my name is Alejandro Campillo and I'm talking in opposition of the gondola.

I'm going to be reiterating some points, but they're important, one of which is that this is not going to reduce the amount of pollution because there's still going to be people driving to Dodger Stadium, to Chinatown, and I think that this project is just a way to keep money in the hands of the rich and keep money outside of the hands of Chinatown residents.

I also think that this is a waste of taxpayer dollars. If we're going to be using public land, it should be used for public good, right? And Chinatown needs so many other amenities such as a grocery store, a hospital, perhaps even better parking.

There's a long list and a gondola is definitely not something that is at the top of that list. In fact, it shouldn't even be on the

PH241-1

PH241-2

1 list, so I stand against the gondola.

2 And I just wanted to say about the
3 previous meeting with public comment, the public
4 comment was being held not as public comment, but
5 there was literally -- it was in the corner of
6 the gymnasium. There was a curtain. It was the
7 antithesis of public comment.

8 So, I just wanted to say that I'm very
9 disappointed in you guys for not allowing that,
10 and I'm happy you had one today, but there should
11 be more in the future so that people can actually
12 voice their comments. I yield the rest of my
13 time. Thank you.

14 MS. SISCO: Thank you very much for
15 your comment. We'll move to Julie Rico, followed
16 by Iran Carranza.

Comment-PH242
JRICO

17 MS. RICO: Hello, can you hear me?

18 MS. SISCO: Yes.

19 MS. RICO: Hi, my name is Julie Rico.
20 I'm a real art person and an active resident in
21 Chinatown. I'm vehemently opposed to the gondola
22 project. The people that have spoken today in

cont'd
PH241-2

PH241-3

PH242-1

1 favor of this project do not live in Chinatown.
2 I live here.

3 I know that the 3,000 cars that will
4 be displaced from McCourt's parking lots will be
5 sent down here to Chinatown where they'll be
6 roaming around looking for parking spaces,
7 trouncing around on our neighborhoods, spreading
8 disease to our senior community, launching
9 garbage all over the place, trouncing on our
10 neighbors, disturbing the historic state park and
11 the animals and the birds that are trying to live
12 there.

13 Yes, there are people excited about
14 this project. They are talking with dollars in
15 their eyes. We, in the community, are looking
16 for elements to shore up our community with low-
17 income housing, creative services, health and
18 human services, a grocery store, and other
19 benefits that will definitely benefit us.

20 I know a lot about business. This is
21 what's going to happen. McCourt will build them
22 all at the top of the hill, and the lots where

cont'd
PH242-1

PH242-2

PH242-3

1 he's displaced the 3,000 cars that will come down
2 into Chinatown, and people will spend their
3 disposable income not in Chinatown, but in
4 McCourt's parking lot.

5 Chinatown will be devastated both
6 socially and financially. It is a crying shame
7 that anybody believes the lies coming from LA ART
8 or anybody that wants to support this project.
9 Thank you.

10 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
11 comment. We'll move to Iran Carranza, followed
12 by the phone number ending in 6623. Iran, we
13 should be able to get you unmuted so you can
14 provide your comment.

Comment-PH243
I CARRANZA

15 MS. CARRANZA: There I am. Can you
16 hear me?

17 MS. SISCO: Yes.

18 MS. CARRANZA: Okay, so for context,
19 I grew up in Lincoln Heights in the '80s and '90s
20 when LA State Historic Park was an ugly, empty
21 field, and so I was so happy when I was able to
22 buy my home in Boyle Heights in 2020 and I saw

cont'd
PH242-3

PH243-1

1 that now it's this beautiful public space.

2 And I absolutely love LA. I'm an
3 Angeleno through and through. And I thought how
4 wonderful that people have this with their
5 families to enjoy, to exercise, to go to
6 concerts, and it's right in our very own
7 backyard.

8 I feel like we don't have enough
9 beautiful green space like this and I would hate
10 to see it ruined by an eyesore like this proposed
11 gondola, so I am against the project. I feel
12 like can we just have something nice and not
13 allow private interests to ruin it for us?

14 I want to address some of the points
15 that other commenters made. Gondolas as cutting
16 edge, so aerial gondolas first appeared in the
17 1900s. There's nothing cutting edge about
18 gondolas. It's not new technology. It's
19 nothing, you know, cutting edge about it.

20 Gondolas as tourist attractions, LA
21 has awe-inspiring tourist attractions already.
22 Like, a gondola does not hold a candle to what we

cont'd
PH243-1

PH243-2

1 already have. Gondolas are for Disney World in
2 Florida. It's tacky.

3 I can see why a place like Spokane
4 might need gimmicks like gondolas to give people
5 something to do, but LA has a lot more to offer.
6 We have culture. We have history. We have a lot
7 of attractions.

8 The idea of the gondola as a public
9 transportation solution and traffic congestion
10 relief on game days, surprise, I'm a Dodger fan.
11 I had season tickets last year and I took the
12 Dodger bus. We're not all bad. So, I can tell
13 you the people who are in cars now are going to
14 stay in cars. A gondola is not going to change
15 that.

16 The people who figured out how to get
17 to Union Station and are already taking the
18 Dodger shuttle are going to continue --

19 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
20 comment. Next, we'll go to 6623 and then Erik
21 Van Breene.

22 I want to make a quick note. We are

cont'd
PH243-2

PH243-3

1 coming up upon 7:00, which is the scheduled end
2 time for this public hearing. We're going to ask
3 that you please raise your hand by 7:00 p.m. if
4 you would like to speak this evening so that we
5 can get a final list of commenters at 7:00.

6 6623?

7 MR. HOLM: Hi, can you hear me?

8 MS. SISCO: Yes.

Comment-PH244
A HOLM

9 MR. HOLM: Hi, this is Albert Holm, a
10 born and raised Angeleno. I strongly oppose this
11 project.

12 At its core, it is a personal pet
13 project proposed by a white billionaire, Frank
14 McCourt, who has a history of being scumbag, and
15 it is a project that will negatively impact and
16 has absolutely no benefits for the low-income,
17 working class communities in and around
18 Chinatown.

19 The very well-respected and objective
20 UCLA Mobility Research Team recently published a
21 report that concluded that a gondola would have
22 virtually no impact on traffic on Dodger game

PH244-1

PH244-2

1 days.

2 So, in return for destroying the lives
 3 and dignity of working class communities in and
 4 around Chinatown, in return for taking away green
 5 space from the LA Historic State Park that's
 6 currently used and enjoyed by many every day, in
 7 return for building an ugly project that will
 8 ruin everyone's view of the skyline when they
 9 look up, you get a gondola that will have
 10 virtually no impact on traffic or carbon
 11 emissions.

12 And you get to enrich the scumbag,
 13 Frank McCourt's, pocket, because we all know the
 14 point of the gondola is to spur development of
 15 retail and entertainment complexes on the Dodger
 16 Stadium parking lots that are owned by Frank
 17 McCourt.

18 If that happens, then Dodger Stadium
 19 will become a year-round destination which will
 20 just increase the amount of traffic and carbon
 21 emissions overall throughout the year, so instead
 22 of traffic for 82 days a year when the Dodgers

cont'd
PH244-2

PH244-3

1 are playing, you get traffic every day of the
2 year, which will increase carbon emissions and
3 increase pollution.

4 Anybody who believes otherwise is
5 either being very disingenuous, very dishonest,
6 very ignorant, or they don't live here, because
7 they don't care what happens to other people.

8 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
9 comment. So, I do want to ask those of you that
10 have not had a chance to provide comment and
11 would like to provide comment, if you could
12 please raise your hands so we can get a log of
13 all of the raised hands?

14 We are going to extend the meeting to
15 allow participants who have not yet had a chance
16 to comment to provide comment. If you have
17 already provided a comment this evening, we will
18 not call on you a second time for your planning
19 purposes.

20 And, let's see, so I had said we would
21 go to Erik Van Breene, and then we'll go back and
22 try Liliana Cortez again, and then Jennifer Wong.

cont'd
PH244-3

Comment-PH279
E VAN BREENE

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MR. VAN BREENE: Good evening, Erik Van Breene from the Los Angeles Conservancy. The Conservancy submitted written comments prior to the January 17 deadline.

We have real concerns about the project in its current form and its impacts to Chinatown, Union Station, El Pueblo, and Los Angeles State Historic Park. Additionally, we have concerns about the proposed transfer of public lands to private hands.

We don't believe the draft EIR fully demonstrates the purpose and need when an environmentally superior alternative has been identified that would expand the already existing Dodger express bus line.

With the project's encroachment into Union Station's parking lots, it's foreseeable that this project will tap federal funding and therefore require additional environmental reviews that typically coincide with the CEQA process, which is not happening here.

Thank you for hearing my comments and

PH279-1

PH279-2

PH279-3

PH279-4

1 we encourage you to take these concerns
2 seriously.

3 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
4 comment. We'll go to Liliana Cortez and then
5 Jennifer Wong.

Comment-PH245
L CORTEZ

6 MS. CORTEZ: Yes, hi. Thank you for
7 calling. The irony of when you called on me
8 earlier is that I was on the bus and couldn't
9 answer due to how crowded and noisy the bus was
10 because it was running late.

11 I find it really funny to hear many of
12 you talk about how this gondola project will
13 bring public transportation to Chinatown and
14 reduce traffic in the area, but really, how many
15 of you are really willing to get out of your cars
16 and ride public transportation and deal with the
17 late schedules, overcrowding, rude bus drivers,
18 and dirty buses and trains due to lack of
19 cleaning and sanitation on a daily basis?

20 I ask because I'm also a cyclist and
21 many of my friends and I ride our bicycles not
22 just for fun like many of you might think, but as

1 actual daily commuters who use these roads and
2 streets to get from point A to point B, from home
3 to work, to school, to running errands, always
4 under the risk and threat of whether we'll make
5 it home alive.

6 How many of you are willing to get out
7 of your cars and deal with traffic noise, toxic
8 exhaust fumes from vehicles, and traffic
9 violence, or have you missed the news of
10 continuous assaults that have led to
11 hospitalization and death for us cyclists?

12 Of course, you're not. You're sitting
13 here being hypocrites about the benefits of this
14 project for public transportation and traffic. I
15 call balderdash.

16 The quiet streets that my friends and
17 I used to ride our bicycles to enjoy the
18 beautiful views of the Elysian Valley, Angel's
19 Point, and the LA Historic State Park would be
20 filled with entitled tourists and drivers who
21 already use violence to push us off the streets
22 with the racism and death machines.

cont'd
PH245-1

PH245-2

1 But obviously, some of you here feel
 2 we are not entitled to this as residents and
 3 patrons of these green spaces, and this is why we
 4 are against this project. Metro can start by
 5 improving the existing transportation system
 6 because this gondola project is not even part of
 7 the solution.

PH245-3

8 The gondola in Mexico City was built
 9 for the white American colonizers invading the
 10 city because of how cheap it is, while outpricing
 11 locals with exorbitant rents. For the caller who
 12 was gushing over this, this is called
 13 gentrification and this is exactly what this
 14 project will bring to Chinatown and the
 15 surrounding communities.

PH245-4

16 Chinatown is not dying. It's lacking
 17 real community investments and this gondola
 18 project is not one of them.

19 Long-term residents of Chinatown are
 20 mostly monolingual elders, seniors, and families
 21 with young children. They are immigrant, low-
 22 income, and facing continuous harassment and

PH245-5

cont'd
PH245-5

1 threats of eviction --

2 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
3 comment. We'll move to Jennifer Wong, followed
4 by Bill Chin.

Comment-PH246
J WONG

5 MS. WONG: Hi, my name is Jennifer
6 Wong. I am a resident of Chinatown and I oppose
7 this project.

8 I actually find it to be kind of
9 racially traumatic that this is going on, that
10 you are ignoring marginalized communities, the
11 Asian-American community, thinking that we would
12 just kind of take this without comment and
13 sitting down, so I really hope you take that into
14 consideration the next time that you propose
15 ridiculous projects.

PH246-1

16 I don't feel like this will help with
17 our traffic issues. I liked that idea where you
18 need to have shuttles, not just going from Union
19 Station, but other parts of the city. That makes
20 sense to me.

PH246-2

21 In terms of it bringing business into
22 our community, I don't believe that's true. It

PH246-3

1 would just bring businesses that are expensive
2 and would not be affordable to the residents
3 here.

4 What we need are things like a
5 laundromat, a grocery store, and I don't believe
6 tourists or people who would ride the gondola are
7 going to be using any of those types of things,
8 so it doesn't make any sense at all.

9 I also really enjoy the state historic
10 park and I don't want to see a gondola as I'm
11 trying to experience nature, take walks, and
12 enjoy my community. So, I really do hope you
13 just do not go along with this project. Thank
14 you.

15 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
16 comment. We'll move to Bill Chin and then Ned
17 T., followed by Fernanda Sanchez and Cheng Yang.
18 Bill Chin? Okay, it looks like Bill might be
19 having some technical issues. We'll come back to
20 Bill. I don't think I see Ned T. at the moment.
21 Fernanda Sanchez?

22 MS. SANCHEZ: Hello, my name is

cont'd
PH246-3

PH246-4

PH247-1

Comment-PH247
F SANCHEZ

1 profitable playgrounds.

cont'd
PH247-3

2 I also want to mention that for those
3 that are speaking in favor of this project, if
4 you really believe that this gondola will improve
5 traffic and reduce emissions, you are seriously
6 confused for believing such a blatant lie and
7 logical fallacy, or you are being paid to speak
8 in favor. If you have a contract riding on this
9 gondola and you're speaking in favor, you need to
10 be transparent about that.

PH247-4

11 Lastly, I want to comment on the
12 community advocates and activists who spoke up
13 during the last gondola hearing where there
14 really wasn't any public comment because the
15 developer did not want to listen to us.

PH247-5

16 I want to thank all of the brave
17 voices and their efforts for giving us the
18 opportunity for public comment and for the
19 meeting today.

20 I urge you to stop this project. Stop
21 the gondola. Nobody here in these communities
22 supports this project, and we will not accept

PH247-6

1 developers to further exploit, destroy, and
2 displace our communities. Thank you.

3 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
4 comment.

5 We'll go to Cheng Yang and then Edwin
6 Li, followed by Luis Guerrero and Miguel.

Comment-PH248
YU HANG TANG

7 MR. YANG: Hello.

8 MS. SISCO: Hi.

9 MR. YANG: Hi, this is Cheng Yang.

10 I'm here at Cassia Manor. I have the President
11 of Cassia Manor, Mr. Tyru Hung. He will be
12 speaking on behalf of several residents.

13 MS. SISCO: Okay. Could you please
14 ask him to move closer to the speaker, and we'll
15 restart the clock?

16 MR. TANG: (Foreign language spoken.)

17 MR. YANG: Thank you.

18 MS. SISCO: Okay. We'll provide a
19 moment for the interpretation of that comment.

20 INTERPRETER: Hi. My name is Yu Hang
21 Tang (phonetic), and I am speaking here on behalf
22 of ten other residents who are with me right now.

cont'd
PH247-6

PH248-1

1 I live at 917 Cafe Manor. I have
2 lived here for over 22 years. Besides me, there
3 is also residents from Unit 402, Unit 604, Unit
4 610, Unit 112, as well as Unit 508.

5 We all believe we don't need this
6 gondola. I live on the ninth floor. If the
7 gondola is going to fly over our home, the people
8 on the gondola will be able to see us change, and
9 for this reason, I oppose the gondola.

10 We don't need the gondola. What we
11 need is hospital, supermarket, and affordable
12 housing.

13 Our community will not benefit from
14 this gondola project. It will only bring harm.

15 So, I urge this project to be
16 withdrawn. Please remove this gondola project.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. SISCO: Thank you for that
19 interpretation.

20 We'll go to Edwin Li, followed by Luis
21 Guerrero, Miguel, and then we'll try Bill Chin
22 again.

cont'd
PH248-1

PH248-2

PH248-3

Comment-PH249

E LI

1 MR. LI: Hello. My name is Edwin Li.

2 Can you guys hear me?

3 MS. SISCO: Yes.

4 MR. LI: All right, thank you.

5 My name is Edwin Li, and I'm a local
6 resident of Chinatown. And I live near the
7 proposed pivot point of the gondola, and I oppose
8 this project.

9 I don't believe the gondola will help
10 Chinatown businesses because the tourists would
11 be flying over Chinatown, right into Frank
12 McCourt's parking lots.

13 I believe the Dodger Express, which is
14 actually more practical and less invasive, will
15 be a better solution. It also economically more
16 responsible and doesn't destroy the neighborhood.

17 I think it's wrong to use public funds
18 to help a private company, especially Frank
19 McCourt, and I don't think it's safe to build
20 objects that are flying over people in earthquake
21 zone areas.

22 And I think that's it for me. Thank

PH249-1

PH249-2

PH249-3

PH249-4

1 you.

2 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
3 comment.

4 We'll go to Luis Guerrero, followed by
5 Miguel, and then Bill Chin.

Comment-PH250
L GUERRERO

6 MR. GUERRERO: Hello, can you hear me?

7 MS. SISCO: Yes.

8 MR. GUERRERO: Hello, my name is Luis
9 Guerrero. My family is from the Williams Mead
10 Projects, and we are calling support of the
11 gondola.

PH250-1

12 We've seen that this is going to help
13 alleviate the traffic in the neighborhoods, but I
14 was actually calling as well because the last
15 meeting I tried to go to to give a public
16 comment, I got stopped by protestors, and I had,
17 like, my family with me. I had little kids with
18 me. They were cussing and, like, literally got
19 in my face.

PH250-2

20 I didn't know if Metro had security
21 there or what, but that was extremely
22 disgraceful, especially considering that was at a

1 school, and there was high schoolers and other
2 kids just everywhere. That was just -- I was so
3 ashamed of Metro and the city right there. That
4 was awful, but thank you, guys.

5 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
6 comment.

7 We'll go to Miguel and then Bill Chin,
8 followed by rrojassr@gmail.com.

cont'd
PH250-2

Comment-PH251
M CASTELLON

9 MR. CASTELLON: Hello?

10 MS. SISCO: Hello. We can hear you.

11 MR. CASTELLON: All right, good
12 evening. My name is Miguel Castellon and I am
13 with the Ironworkers Local 433.

14 I love this project and appreciate
15 that it will be built with partnership with
16 labor. That means good paying jobs for our
17 community and new, modern transportation for
18 everyone.

19 We need more zero emissions and
20 infrastructure in Los Angeles.

21 Thank you.

22 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your

PH251-1

1 comment.

2 Bill Chin, would you like to provide
3 a comment?

4 After that, we'll go
5 rrojassr@gmail.com, Jennifer Martinez, and then
6 Dahma Cho.

7 Bill Chin, let's see if we can get you
8 unmuted.

9 Okay, we'll come back.

10 Let's see, rrojassr@gmail.com.

Comment-PH252
R ROJAS

11 MR. ROJAS: Good evening. My name is
12 Richard Rojas. I currently serve on the Advisory
13 Board for Latino Outdoors.

14 We're a national organization that
15 connects youth and families with the outdoor
16 space, including Los Angeles State Historic Park.
17 Our organization vehemently opposes the project
18 as we see it another environmental injustice in
19 this community.

20 As currently proposed, the project is
21 viewed by our community as an availed attempt to
22 degrade the land that was hard fought and

PH252-1

PH252-2

1 promised to be the Central Park of Los Angeles.

2 For seven generations of Californians
3 and beyond, recognizing the need for green space
4 in LAs urban area, three great environmental
5 warriors dedicated their lives to finding a way
6 to create this open space in the industrial-
7 commercial wasteland of Northeast Los Angeles.

8 The work of the late Robert Garcia
9 from the city project, Ted Jackson from
10 California State Parks Operations, Ron Schaefer
11 from the LA Parks District, now all deceased but
12 not to be forgotten, but cherished, protected,
13 and preserved.

14 We want LA State Park for the viewshed
15 and the experience for the community it provides.
16 It took 20 years to be envisioned and developed,
17 not to rely on the Draft Environmental Impact
18 Report that the state park should change the
19 general plan to accommodate this private venture.

20 This is not public transportation. It
21 seeks to get people to Dodger Stadium for a
22 private interest, for a private profit.

cont'd
PH252-2

PH252-3

PH252-4

1 On behalf of the Latino community and
 2 current future park users, we urge you to
 3 instruct the project proponent to properly
 4 identify, analyze, and mitigate all park impacts
 5 required by law and not usurp the legal
 6 responsibility to provide a clear, thorough, and
 7 complete, defensible project in the Draft
 8 Environmental Impact Report.

PH252-5

9 Thank you.

10 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
 11 comment.

12 We'll go to Jennifer Martinez, and
 13 then Dahma Cho, and then the number ending in
 14 6371, followed by Camarillo.

15 Jennifer, please provide your comment.

16 Okay, we can come back to Jennifer.

17 Dahma Cho?
 18 MS. CHO: Hi. Can you hear me?

19 MS. SISCO: Yes.

20 MS. CHO: Okay. My name is Dahma Cho.

21 I'm a resident of LA. I'm calling in solidarity
 22 with the Chinatown community in opposition to

PH253-1

Comment-PH253
D CHO

1 this gondola project.

2 This project is another case of
3 profits being prioritized over the people, of
4 private interests, of those more privileged being
5 prioritized over the well-being of marginalized
6 communities.

7 Also, this project is an extension of
8 the harm that Dodgers and Frank McCourt inflicted
9 on the local communities, including the people of
10 the Palo Verde, La Loma, and Bishop communities
11 that the Dodgers corporation forcefully
12 displaced.

13 This project just serves Dodgers fans
14 and other parties who have some kind of profit to
15 gain from this project, not the actual
16 communities that this project would be impacting.

17 Previous speakers have mentioned the
18 importance of tourism for the health of the
19 economy, but I think the well-being of the actual
20 community members is more important.

21 The aging, low income Chinatown
22 community does not need Dodger fans and tourists

cont'd
PH253-1

PH253-2

PH253-3

PH253-4

1 coming into their communities. They need actual
 2 resources like affordable, accessible grocery
 3 stores, green spaces, safe, affordable housing,
 4 and this project would only contribute to ongoing
 5 gentrification of Chinatown.

cont'd
PH253-4

6 The people and their needs have been
 7 neglected by Metro in this process.

8 Regarding the environmental impact, it
 9 just seems to be moving traffic and air pollution
 10 from one place to another, not really -- and in
 11 that regard, Climate Resolve and LA Art Metro all
 12 seem to be greenwashing this project, making it
 13 seem like it would be environmentally beneficial
 14 when it doesn't actually, it won't actually be.

PH253-5

PH253-6

15 Metro, you all are not being
 16 transparent, and you're being very deceptive
 17 throughout this process. I think Metro should
 18 focus on getting rid of their fares, considering
 19 it also costs more for them to keep it running,
 20 than moving forward with a project like this that
 21 just isn't public transit. It does not meet the
 22 transportation needs of the Chinatown community.

PH253-7

1 Thank you.

2 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
3 comment.

4 We'll go to 6371, then Camarillo, then
5 6343, followed by 6162, and then 4460, and then
6 Annie Shaw. So, 6371?

Comment-PH254

B YATES

7 MR. YATES: Hi, this is Billy Yates
8 (phonetic). I am the former bilingual Mandarin
9 and English civics instructor at the Chinatown
10 Library, and I maintain a close relationship with
11 a lot of my students who live and work in
12 Chinatown.

13 I'm also a transit rider because I
14 don't have a car. Everything is bike, bus, or
15 Metro for me, and that's why I feel that this
16 scam of a gondola is really deceptive.

PH254-1

17 And we want to talk about, oh, we
18 should be respectful. Oh, we should do all these
19 things. But public transit riders are
20 disrespected every single day in this city. We
21 are not thought of as actual people, and we know
22 that because of the head wait times, and how

1 dirty it is, and the lack of service, including,
2 if we just get, you know -- taking on like a
3 project like this when we already have so many
4 existing problems with public transit in this
5 city. It's like a glittery band-aid that we want
6 to put on for all these little things, and it's
7 just not a real solution.

8 What people need are frequent times to
9 be able to move around in LA with public transit.
10 People need free transit so that more people can
11 use it because it takes more time, when the bus
12 is already late, to go and add another person
13 who's looking for change.

14 You know, there's so many problems
15 that we could be focusing on with all this money,
16 and the fact that we're thinking about a toy
17 gondola is just -- it really is not the best of
18 us. And I want LA Metro to do so much better
19 because I know we can be a much better city if we
20 really just prioritize the least among us and
21 made it a public transit.

22 Not some dude over here from Colorado

cont'd
PH254-1

PH254-2

PH254-3

1 or whatever talking about buses are sexy and he
 2 comes from a ski town. That's not the community.
 3 Please, please, please let's focus on helping
 4 people as much as we can, and that starts with
 5 real public transit, and getting rid of this
 6 gondola, and focusing on what people need.

cont'd
PH254-3

7 Thank you very much. There's a lot of
 8 other concerns with transparency and
 9 environmental pollution, but we don't even need
 10 to go there. Let's just start with the basics.

PH254-4

11 Thank you, and I know we can do
 12 better.

13 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
 14 comment.

15 We'll go to Camarillo, followed by
 16 phone number ending in 6343, and then 6162.

Comment-PH255
CAMARILLO

17 MR. CAMARILLO: Hi. Thank you so
 18 much.

19 I just wanted to express my opinion
 20 and say that this gondola project is completely
 21 unnecessary and shameful. It's a luxury project
 22 designed by the privileged for tourists and

PH255-1

1 outdated, parlor, aging Dodger fans.

cont'd
PH255-1

2 We can hear the desperate concerns of
3 the local generations of the people who live in
4 Chinatown. Listen to the seniors, listen to the
5 families, and make their concerns valid. Provide
6 value to the opinions of people who will be most
7 affected by this money grab project.

8 And also, don't be foolish. Chinatown
9 has had lowered foot traffic from tourists over
10 the years, but this gondola project is just not
11 the way to acquire more foot traffic. It's truly
12 a scam. Invest in existing shops, invest in
13 Chinatown's business, and invest in Chinatown
14 itself.

PH255-2

15 By the way, how can Metro fully focus
16 on the success of this gondola project when Metro
17 cannot even clean their buses properly?

PH255-3

18 This gondola project will not
19 eliminate traffic, instead provide one of various
20 existing ways for fans to see a baseball game.

PH255-4

21 Stop valuing money and tourism over
22 long-time Los Angelenos and our well-being. This

PH255-5

1 gondola project is completely disingenuous and
2 unnecessary.

3 Thank you so much.

4 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
5 comment.

6 We'll go to phone number 6343,
7 followed by 6162, and then 4460, and then Annie
8 Shaw.

Comment-PH256
MONICA

9 PARTICIPANT: Yes, hi. My name is
10 Monica, and on January 12, I attended the meeting
11 at the Cathedral High School in LA and supported
12 the gondola project.

13 And there were some protesters there,
14 and they took over the meeting. I was so
15 disappointed in how the meeting turned out. The
16 protesters were shouting profanity and using bad
17 language in front of the children attending the
18 meeting, and most of all, it was in a Catholic
19 school.

20 Protesters had no respect for the
21 community nor the people attending the meeting.
22 They were so loud and obnoxious that we were not

cont'd
PH255-5

PH256-1

1 able to provide public comments on the day of
2 January the 12th. I felt scared and threatened
3 by these -- by the way these protesters were
4 acting.

cont'd
PH256-1

5 Me and the community, we approve the
6 gondola project. I believe it's a very perfect
7 and new, exciting way to Chinatown -- to come,
8 allow meaning. There's going to be more jobs,
9 more profit for the community as well.

PH256-2

10 And like I said, I approve this
11 project. Please, please approve it.

12 Thank you.

13 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
14 comment.

15 We'll move to phone number ending in
16 6162, and then 4460, followed by Annie Shaw, and
17 2605.

Comment-PH257
BILL

18 PARTICIPANT: Hello?

19 MS. SISCO: Yes?

20 PARTICIPANT: Can you hear me okay?

21 MS. SISCO: Yes, we can.

22 PARTICIPANT: My name is Bill. Oh,

PH257-1

1 excuse me. Yes. I live in the neighborhood, and
2 I support the proposed gondola project. We need
3 new transportation in our community that are good
4 for the environment and that don't have emission
5 problems.

cont'd
PH257-1

6 So, please vote for it. I support the
7 gondola project. Thank you very much.

8 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
9 comment.

10 We will move to phone number ending in
11 4460.

Comment-PH258
ANGELICA

12 PARTICIPANT: Hello. My name is
13 Angelica, and I support the gondola.

PH258-1

14 I also want to add that I'm really
15 upset that the meeting on January 12 was so
16 disrespectful to the community. We have no place
17 in the community for profanity, threats, shouting
18 at people, and disrespecting.

PH258-2

19 I protest something myself, but I
20 didn't like that and I found it scary enough to
21 attend another meeting because, just because a
22 lady said that she was supporting the gondola,

1 there was this man chasing her around with his
2 hand raised up like he was going to slap her,
3 just because she said that she supports the
4 gondola. He told her, why are you supporting it?
5 You can't be doing that.

6 I got scared. I wanted to get away
7 from there. We can't let this happen again. I
8 don't know if Metro -- why they allowed the
9 protesters to take over the community meeting and
10 create a terrible environment for other people
11 that were there with their families. Also, I
12 don't understand why they were jumping around the
13 gym and, you know, trying to create panic to the
14 people.

15 Like I said, I'm here to support the
16 gondola, and thank you for listening.

17 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
18 comment.

19 We'll go to Annie Shaw, followed by
20 phone number ending in 2605, then 4620, followed
21 by Lynn, Valerie M., and the phone number ending
22 in 1242.

cont'd
PH258-2

Comment-PH259

A SHAW

1 MS. SHAW: Hi. Can you hear me?

2 MS. SISCO: Yes.

3 MS. SHAW: Okay. You know what is
4 scary? The violence of gentrification, when a
5 white developer can come in and unleash an entire
6 project on a poor community that is in need of
7 the most basic, essential living.

8 This is a shameful project that will
9 kill the remaining of Chinatown. It is truly
10 shameful that in 2023, we still have
11 organizations, unions, and museums who are
12 willing to sacrifice poor peoples' survival in
13 exchange for their own community benefits.

14 Let's be real: if this gondola was
15 proposed in a wealthy, white neighborhood like
16 Beverly Hills or Malibu, it would have ended
17 yesterday. This is a racist, white elephant
18 project that takes advantage of disenfranchised
19 poor people who are fighting for their last
20 survival.

21 Let me be clear. The gondola will not
22 save Chinatown. Tourism has not saved Chinatown.

cont'd
PH259-1

PH259-2

1 New businesses that do not serve working class
2 community will not save Chinatown.

3 The gondola is a white elephant
4 project that wastes valuable resources, gentrify
5 community, increase pollution, and make parking
6 and food and housing even more expensive. Stop
7 imposing this project on the community when the
8 community have said it again and again that we
9 don't want this.

10 Entire community of seniors protested
11 your recent hearing. And how dare you? You
12 raised their concerns by calling it a disruption
13 when you are actually disrupting their homes and
14 ignoring their voice of concern.

15 Right now, everyone is facing
16 evictions and horrifying living conditions in
17 Chinatown. This money can be used so much more
18 constructively for peoples' lives in Chinatown,
19 for their survival, instead of creating a project
20 that a community can't even afford to
21 participate.

22 Once again, residents of Chinatown do

cont'd
PH259-2

PH259-3

PH259-4

PH259-5

PH259-6

1 not need these boxes above their heads and they
2 do not need their neighborhood to be --

3 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
4 comment.

5 We'll move to phone number ending in
6 2605.

Comment-PH260
M CERVANTES

7 MS. CERVANTES: Hi, my name is Maria
8 Cervantes (phonetic). Can you guys hear me?

9 MS. SISCO: Yes. Sorry about that.
10 Yes, we can.

11 MS. CERVANTES: My neighborhood has
12 some of the worst traffic and pollution in the LA
13 County. We want to -- we're deserving, we want
14 cleaner air, less traffic, and more zero emission
15 transportation opportunities.

16 This project is about less cars, less
17 pollution, and safe and healthy -- safety and
18 health of the neighborhood. I support the
19 project stated gondola.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
22 comment.

cont'd
PH259-6

PH260-1

1 We're going to go to Lynn, followed by
2 Valerie M., and then phone number ending in 1242,
3 followed by Paul Des Marais, Viva Palo Verde, and
4 Melissa Arechiga.

5 PARTICIPANT: Can you hear me?

6 MS. SISCO: Yes, I think we were --

Comment-PH261
EDGAR

7 yes, we can.

8 PARTICIPANT: Okay. Hi, my name is
9 Edgar. I'm a local resident, and I just wanted
10 to say that I support the gondola project.

11 I think, like some others have said,
12 it is definitely one of the ways we go into the
13 future with transportation, just provide
14 different modes of transportation to different
15 areas of the city.

16 This will connect the local parks and
17 hopefully relieve some of the traffic to get into
18 Dodger Stadium.

19 It's zero emission, no electricity.
20 So, I think it'd be, you know, a nice way to get
21 up to that area. I support the gondola project
22 and ask the council to do the same.

PH261-1

1 Thank you.

2 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
3 comment.

4 We'll move to Lynn, and then Valerie
5 M., phone number ending in 1242, Paul Des Marais,
6 and then Viva Palo Verde and Melissa Arechiga.

7 Lynn, are you able to get yourself
8 unmuted so you can provide your comment?

Comment-PH262
L DWYER

9 MS. DWYER: Okay, I think I'm here
10 now.

11 MS. SISCO: Yes, you are.

12 MS. DWYER: My name is Lynn Dwyer
13 (phonetic). I would like to document my concerns
14 that the project will have long-term, negative
15 environmental impacts to parks, historic sites,
16 and residents.

PH262-1

17 The gondola system will have a
18 negative impact on some of Los Angeles' most
19 iconic views, including streetscapes, historic
20 sites like Union Station in El Pueblo, and parks,
21 including the Legion Park and LA Historic Park.

22 The project will negatively impact the

1 environment during construction with air
2 pollution, traffic, and noise.

3 The ongoing operation of the gondola
4 will disrupt park users and residents with noise,
5 trash, and visual distractions.

6 There will be an invasion of privacy.

7 I believe a better solution would be
8 safe pedestrian access to Dodger Stadium.

9 Thank you.

10 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
11 comment.

12 So, we'll go to Valerie M., followed
13 by phone number ending in 1242.

Comment-PH263
V MORISHIGE

14 MS. MORISHIGE: Hello. My name is
15 Valerie Morishige (phonetic), and I just want to
16 say thank you to everyone that's been providing
17 public comment here. It's been very
18 illuminating, since what's been going on in the
19 press about this has been green washing and kind
20 of astroturfing at best.

21 So, when I first heard about this
22 project, I thought it was dumb, and now that I'm

cont'd
PH262-1

PH262-2

PH263-1

1 hearing from community members, I realize how
2 heinous it actually is.

3 So, they're trying to sow class
4 division to shove this through, and we're just
5 supposed to stand by and not listen to the
6 community? It's absolutely ludicrous.

7 Tourism is not going to save us, and
8 we see how up and down that tourism can be,
9 especially since the COVID-19 pandemic. So, that
10 -- I don't think we should be trying to rely on
11 that as a stable source of income for folks.

12 And regarding the quality of life
13 issues, I think that takes precedence over trying
14 to build, like, another LA Live that -- or, like,
15 a super-mall that's on top of a hill that only
16 out-of-towners are going to go to. And it's not
17 going to help any of our community members at
18 all.

19 So, I say, down with the gondola.
20 It's dumb, and thank you very much for everyone
21 that's here and providing comment.

22 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your

cont'd
PH263-1

PH263-2

1 comment.

2 We'll go to 1242, followed by Paul Des
3 Marais, Viva Palo Verde, Melissa Arechiga, and
4 Rafael.

5 PARTICIPANT: I have another quick
6 comment in opposition.

7 MS. SISCO: I'm sorry, excuse me. Did
8 you already speak? I might have -- did you
9 already provide a comment this evening?

10 PARTICIPANT: I did, but I forgot
11 something, and this is quick. Please.

12 MS. SISCO: You know what, I'm going
13 to have to ask you to hold because we have many
14 people who still have their hands up that haven't
15 provided a comment yet.

16 So, let's go to Paul Des Marais.

17 MR. DES MARAIS: Hello, can you hear
18 me?

19 MS. SISCO: Yes.

20 MR. DES MARAIS: Hi. My name is Paul
21 Des Marais, and I'm a resident of Lincoln Heights
22 and a former resident of Solana Canyon, and I'm

PH264-1

1 speaking today in opposition of the gondola.

2 It is a horrible idea, and as someone
3 who is primarily a pedestrian, transit rider, and
4 cyclist, getting to Elysian Park, LA State
5 Historic Park, and around the Chinatown area is
6 very difficult.

7 There are barely any bicycle lanes in
8 Elysian Park, there are barely any bicycle lanes
9 to get to LA State Historic Park, and like
10 previous speakers have said, bus waiting times
11 and Metro waiting times are insane.

12 This project does not prioritize the
13 residents of Chinatown. It does not prioritize
14 the residents of surrounding neighborhoods. It's
15 just a cash grab, and I believe that Metro should
16 be spending their time, resources, and dollars on
17 improving existing public transportation
18 networks.

19 There needs to be more Dodger Express
20 buses to the park, to Elysian Park, and if you
21 look at any game day, or any day, really, in
22 Elysian Park, it is a playground for cars. It is

cont'd
PH264-1
PH264-2
PH264-3
PH264-4

1 not a playground for people.

2 It's difficult to walk around Elysian
3 Park without having cars speeding past you,
4 speeding to get to the games, and there are
5 barely any bike lanes. And just recently, the
6 main road to get into the stadium was repaved.
7 Not a single bike lane was added to that road.
8 It's disgraceful.

9 Thank you very much, and I stand in
10 solidarity with previous commenters.

11 Thank you.

12 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
13 comment.

14 We'll go next to Viva Palo Verde,
15 followed by Melissa Arechiga, Rafael, and then
16 the phone number ending in 4331, and Yvonne
17 Savio.

cont'd
PH264-4

PH264-5

PH265-1

Comment-PH265
V MONTAGO

18 MR. MONTAGO: Hello, can you hear me?

19 MS. SISCO: Yes, we can.

20 MR. MONTAGO: Hi. My name is Vincent
21 Montago (phonetic). I am the son of Adele
22 Montago (phonetic) and the grandson of Adele and

1 John Denava (phonetic), former residents of the
2 three communities of Palo Verde, La Loma, and
3 Bishop that were violently destroyed by the
4 Dodgers and the City of Los Angeles. I come
5 before you today in full support of the Chinatown
6 residents opposing the gondola.

7 For far too long, corporations and
8 city entities have taken advantage of poor,
9 brown, and black communities to benefit their own
10 good. And the deal with the taking of our homes,
11 the land was supposed to be taken away for
12 housing, and instead was given to the Dodgers to
13 build their empire that they have today on the
14 backs of the poor people of Los Angeles. This
15 must stop.

16 This led me into my position of today,
17 which is an elected office, as I stand also from
18 that point of view in opposition of it as
19 Chinatown is being killed. It is not a dying
20 industry.

21 The plans were put into place 20 years
22 ago for most of our communities to be attacked,

PH265-1

1 and they're being implemented today. And this is
2 a tragedy, that public agencies like Metro would
3 participate in the destructions of our
4 communities when they are supposed to be here to
5 uplift and support local community businesses and
6 residents.

7 There has never been, in all the years
8 of our families' trauma history, looking at over
9 a 100 years of history with the city and public
10 entities, no good has ever come between the deal
11 between the Dodgers and the City of LA.

12 In fact, we find that these are
13 backdoor corrupt deals that don't benefit the
14 public but benefit people like Frank McCourt, who
15 has owned the parking lot and the stadium at one
16 point in time. And that's their invested
17 interest. So we strongly support the Chinatown
18 residents and all the local --

19 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
20 comment.

21 We'll move to Melissa Arechiga, and
22 that will be followed by Rafael, phone number

cont'd
PH265-1

PH265-2

1 ending in 4331, Yvonne Savio, and then Lisa
2 Duardo, and Michael.

Comment-PH266
M ARECHIGA

3 MS. ARECHIGA: Hello?

4 MS. SISCO: Hi. We can hear you.

5 MS. ARECHIGA: Okay. All right, here
6 we go.

7 My name is Melissa Arechiga, and I am
8 here today before you as a representative of the
9 surviving families that were violently evicted
10 from Palo Verde, La Loma, and Bishop, three
11 Mexican indigenous communities that were
12 destroyed to build the Dodgers Stadium.

13 I am here today to oppose the gondola
14 project from Union Station to Dodger Stadium.
15 While this may be exciting to film, it is a sign
16 of change and change that is not inclusive to
17 all, specifically people of color.

18 The Dodgers Corporation and the City
19 of Los Angeles have a long partnership together
20 working to destroy and exploit communities of
21 color. The gondola represents gentrification,
22 the destruction of not only our communities, but

PH266-1

PH266-2

1 the environment and our beloved wildlife.

2 The gondola project is no different
3 than the deal that was made to take away our
4 families' generational wealth by destroying the
5 three communities to build Dodgers Stadium.

6 The Dodgers and the Los Angeles City
7 Council set to build the gondola in the middle of
8 our communities, and this would only benefit the
9 Los Angeles Dodgers. Our residents and small
10 business owners will suffer with this so-called
11 revitalization project that is gentrification and
12 a long-term that leaves our most valuable
13 community members displaced with no benefits.

14 The history between the Los Angeles
15 Dodgers and the Los Angeles City Council has left
16 our communities in worse condition from the deals
17 of the 1950s, when our homes and the three
18 communities were destroyed. And the lies that
19 were told to the public of building public
20 housing today leave us with the current
21 conditions of our unhoused and affordability
22 crisis that affect us all today.

cont'd
PH266-2

PH266-3

PH266-4

PH266-5

1 It is a win-win for the Dodgers, and
 2 that has been since Black Friday, May 8, 1959,
 3 when our families were dragged out. It's time to
 4 put a stop the Dodgers Corporation of exploiting
 5 the people of Los Angeles.

6 I strongly urge that everyone in the
 7 public and elected officials oppose this project,
 8 as it will damage -- have damaging effects that
 9 will last for generations on generations.

10 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
 11 comment.

12 We'll move to Rafael, followed by
 13 phone number ending in 4331, 4959, Yvonne Savio,
 14 and then Lisa Duardo.

Comment-PH267
 RAFAEL

15 PARTICIPANT: Can you hear me?

16 MS. SISCO: Yes, we can.

17 PARTICIPANT: Hi. I'm Rafael. I'm
 18 bred and born Los Angeles and long-time Dodger
 19 fan.

20 Like, I would love to get to Dodger
 21 Stadium, like, fast and, you know, not deal with
 22 traffic, and it be environmentally friendly, and

cont'd
 PH266-5

PH267-1

1 I've taken the Metro Express. However, I don't
2 think that this gondola is the best way of going
3 about it.

4 Number one, you know, besides all the
5 comments that have already been said by people of
6 the community, the one thing for me is this is a
7 pet project and, you know, a way for Frank
8 McCourt to make money off Dodger fans after he,
9 you know, badly, you know, managed the Dodger
10 organization.

11 Number two, I don't think this is
12 going to be safe at all, and I'm not talking
13 about earthquakes or anything like that. I mean,
14 those who have been to Dodger games, especially
15 if you sit in the, you know, right and left of
16 the pavilion, you know people get drunk. There's
17 been fights after games.

18 You put them in a gondola, that one
19 fight in a gondola, I mean, how is that going to
20 get broken up, you know, when you're stuck in
21 midair for, what, seven minutes? Or maybe three
22 and a half, if you go from Dodger Stadium to

cont'd
PH267-1

PH267-2

PH267-3

1 Chinatown and -- or Union Station? That's a long
2 time to wait for security.

3 I oppose this, and I think Metro can
4 look into other resources of getting people into
5 Dodger Stadium.

6 That's all I have.

7 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
8 comment.

9 We'll move to phone number ending in
10 4331.

11 You'll want to press *6 to allow
12 yourself to unmute on your phone. There we go.

Comment-PH268
RAY

13 PARTICIPANT: Good evening, everyone.
14 My name is Ray, and I'm with Anchor Church of
15 DTLA.

16 First, I just want to say, go Dodgers.
17 We have the best baseball franchise in LA
18 history, and now that we've settled that, I want
19 to be clear on something else.

20 A lot of people are under the
21 impression that the churches as a whole aren't
22 concerned with climate change. However, any

cont'd
PH267-3

PH267-4

PH268-1

1 Bible based church knows that God cares deeply
2 about our climate.

3 For instance, Revelation, Chapter 11,
4 verse 18 reads, the nations are very angry and
5 your wrath has come. And the time of the dead,
6 they should be judged, and you should reward your
7 servants, the prophets and the saints and those
8 who fear your name, small and great, and should
9 destroy those who destroy who destroy the earth.

10 We want to see development at the
11 civic level that endorses positive climate change
12 and zero emission. Public transit shows people
13 at this city not only have the -- not only have
14 great baseball, by the way, and the greatest
15 sports franchise in all of baseball, great people
16 and a great God, but genuine care for this earth.
17 Because after all, this is His earth, too.

18 Thank you and God bless you.

19 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
20 comment.

21 We'll move to phone number ending in
22 4959, then we'll be going to Yvonne Savio, Lisa

cont'd
PH268-1

1 Duardo, Michael, and phone number ending in 3925.

Comment-PH269
C GOMEZ

2 MR. GOMEZ: Hello, hi. My name is
3 Carlos Gomez. Thank you for taking my call.

4 So, I've thought about this long and
5 hard. I am a Dodgers season ticket holder, but,
6 you know, I am a consumer of Chinatown and
7 surrounding areas, and, you know, I've got a
8 chance to talk to locals and some friends about
9 this.

10 But the reality is, LA's a city of
11 champions. It's, you know, filled with
12 championship in every single major sport. You
13 know, we're going to be the home to the 2026
14 World Cup, the 2028 Olympics. You know, let that
15 sink in. We're not your typical city.

16 We're LA. We deserve the absolute
17 best. Most stadiums have some form of train or
18 some form of trams or some, you know, for
19 transportation to the stadium.

20 We have two buses that leave from
21 Union Station that depart every 15 minutes.
22 Dodger Stadium is iconic, right? It's a rich

cont'd
PH269-1

PH269-2

1 culture that's bigger than just Chinatown. It
2 represents us as a whole. Right?

3 We, you know, we owe it to Dodger fans
4 and even visiting guests to provide them with,
5 you know, best possible game experience which,
6 you know, obviously, includes less traffic. This
7 gondola project will set us apart from basically
8 the rest and makes us that much better.

9 On another note, you know, Dodger
10 Stadium is no longer just a baseball stadium.
11 You know, we've had the Fluffy Show, the concert,
12 Elton John.

13 You know, I am a Chinatown consumer,
14 and the reality is that outside of a few
15 breweries and a few restaurants in the
16 neighborhood, it's sad, but Chinatown's a ghost
17 town. You know, it's filled with small shops
18 that come and go.

19 I really believe this project would
20 rejuvenate the city, eliminate traffic, and
21 really, you know, keep LA at the very top of the
22 sports industry.

cont'd
PH269-2

PH269-3

1 You know, like it, love it, it's
2 coming. You know, I support this gondola project
3 1,000 percent. Go Dodgers.

PH269-4

4 MS. SISCO: Okay. Thank you for your
5 comment.

6 We'll go to Yvonne Savio and then Lisa
7 Duardo, Michael, phone number ending in 3925,
8 Brenda Miramontes, and Maria Manzanilla.

9 Yvonne Savio, are you able to unmute
10 to provide your comment?

Comment-PH270
T SAVIO

11 MR. SAVIO: Okay, can you hear me?

12 MS. SISCO: Yes, we can.

13 MR. SAVIO: Okay. I'm Tom Savio,
14 Executive Director of the Los Angeles Union
15 Station Historical Society. This is our opinion.

16 We oppose billionaire Frank McCourt's
17 racist gondola real estate scheme because it's
18 obviously a Metro sweetheart deal after McCourt
19 paid millions of dollars to Metro's political
20 campaigns, this according to state records.

PH270-1

21 Metro's Cory Zelmer and company
22 falsified the gondola's Draft Environmental

PH270-2
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Report by not mentioning that the world's busiest helicopter airport is just a half a mile from the gondola's Union Station terminal, which is -- should the 13-story towers and cable be struck by a helicopter, many of Union Station's historical architecture and its trains and passengers could be harmed.

Union Station architecture will also be negatively impacted by the gondola's modernistic carnival ride architecture that's in front of Union Station.

We believe the real purpose of the gondola is to allow McCourt to build a high-end real estate development on Dodger Stadium's parking lots that he still controls, thus putting the local, low income minority community out of their homes by raising rents through gentrification.

Part and parcel of the gondola project is Metro's plan to use \$20 million in federal funds to build a water fountain next to the gondola's Union Station terminal to cool riders

cont'd
PH270-2
PH270-3
PH270-4
PH270-5

1 while they wait for their gondola rides in the
2 hot season. It's crazy for a new water fountain
3 to be built when LA is experiencing its worst
4 drought in history, which probably will go on for
5 decades.

6 Furthermore, McCourt's gondola will
7 trample Los Angeles State Historic Park.

8 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
9 comment.

10 We'll move to Lisa Duardo, and after
11 that, we'll go to Michael.

Comment-PH271
L DUARDO

12 MS. DUARDO: Hi. My name is Lisa
13 Duardo, and I'm born in raised in Los Angeles.

14 I responded to the Draft EIR earlier
15 via letter back on January the 17th, and I would
16 like to add on to the public record these other
17 points that the Draft EIR either dismisses or
18 omitted.

19 The Rim of the Valley Corridor
20 Preservation Act was passed by Congress, the
21 117th Congress. Adam Schiff introduced the bill,
22 and he just spoke about it at P22's Celebration

cont'd
PH270-5

PH270-6

PH271-1

PH271-2

1 Life at the Greek theater this past weekend.

2 What the Rim of the Valley Corridor
3 Preservation Act does is it preserves open space
4 for people and for wildlife from the Santa Monica
5 mountains, which include Griffith Park and
6 Elysian Valley Park, to the foothills of the San
7 Gabriel Mountains, which are the Repetto Hills
8 around Highland Park through South Pasadena,
9 Pasadena, connects to the San Gabriel Mountains
10 and the National Angeles Mountains, the Verdugo
11 Mountains, which then connect to the Pacific Rim,
12 which go to Canada and Mexico.

13 It creates a green wildlife corridor
14 for animals so that they can coexist in our LA
15 environment, and one of the lines on the points
16 of this Congressional Act is that the Rim of the
17 Valley unit would include habitat for iconic
18 wildlife such as the mountain lion, the bobcat,
19 the fox badger, the coyote, and the deer, as well
20 as some endangered species of our area.

21 The LA Rim --

22 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your

cont'd
PH271-2

1 comment.

2 We've got about a handful of hands we
3 need to get to, and then we'll wrap the meeting
4 up. So, we anticipate about another 10 or 15
5 minutes until we wrap up.

6 We'll go to Michael next, phone number
7 3925, Brenda Miramontes, Maria Manzanilla, and
8 then Jennifer Martinez.

Comment-PH272
M CALAREZA

9 MR. CALAREZA: Hello?

10 MS. SISCO: Hi.

11 MR. CALAREZA: Hi, yes. My name is
12 Michael Calareza (phonetic). I'm a resident of
13 Lincoln Heights, a stakeholder in this project.

14 I frequent the state park often. I go
15 to Dodger games, and North Broadway is
16 continually impacted by traffic on Dodger days.
17 However, if Metro wanted to be pedestrian
18 friendly, it would do more.

19 Metro is not pedestrian friendly. It
20 placates to the political powers or, in this
21 case, the money, pro quid pro -- quid pro quo, I
22 guess, is what's going on from McCourt and his

PH272-1

1 political contributions.

2 So, this is the fast track for him to
3 take advantage of public funds for his commercial
4 interests at the expense of public transportation
5 needs.

6 There should be a sidewalk and stairs
7 that gets people from North Broadway up into
8 Dodger Stadium. Simple, common sense things for
9 pedestrians, like safe sidewalks.

10 Transportation should be 21st Century
11 transportation. Gondolas? What's the capacity
12 of a gondola ride? How long is it going to take?
13 How many dozens of people are you expecting to
14 stand in line to take a gondola ride? Drunk
15 after a Dodger game? Before a Dodger game? Come
16 on, where's the common sense? This lacks it.

17 It's political. It stinks of
18 corruption. There should be no public funds for
19 this. Shame on Metro for even putting this in
20 front of people and trying to fast track it.

21 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
22 comment.

Cont'd
PH272-1

PH272-2

PH272-3

PH272-4

PH272-5

1 I think our -- one of our computers is
2 getting a little tired. The timer is jumping
3 around just a little bit, so I apologize for that
4 technical glitch, but we're almost done here.

5 We're going to move to phone number
6 ending in 3925, and then we'll go to Brenda
7 Miramontes, Maria Manzanilla, Jennifer Martinez -
8 - let's see, phone number ending in 3925. Okay.
9 We'll come back if needed.

10 Brenda Miramontes?

11 MS. MIRAMONTES: Hi, good afternoon.

Comment-PH273
B MIRAMONTES

12 Can anyone hear me?

13 MS. SISCO: Yes.

14 MS. MIRAMONTES: Okay, hi.

15 I am in today to support the gondola
16 project. I am a resident of the community, and I
17 am also a big Dodger fan.

18 I believe that we're all talking about
19 everything but the pollution. And I believe that
20 that is the most important thing because right
21 now, we have buses and, you know, cars, and all
22 that, and that's just affecting our pollution

PH273-1

PH273-2

1 even more, so why not try anything new?

2 We are already a city of tourism, so
3 it's not going to affect other -- make any, like,
4 anything worse. I think it's just going to make
5 it better for the Chinatown community. Also,
6 like, we're going to get more tourists, you know,
7 to come in and shop more for them, and it's going
8 to benefit them at the end. So, I'm all in for
9 it.

10 Thank you. Good night.

11 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
12 comment.

13 We'll go to Maria Manzanilla.

Comment-PH274
M SANCHEZ
MANZANILLA

14 MS. MANZANILLA: Hello? Hello, can
15 you hear me?

16 MS. SISCO: Hi, yes.

17 MS. MANZANILLA: Yes? This is Maria
18 Sanchez Manzanilla, and I'm calling just to say
19 that I oppose this gondola very, very strongly.

20 And I am talking for my community,
21 William Mead, and all the community surrounding
22 the park, LA State Historic Park. And all the

1 communities, William Mead, Chinatown, Solana
2 Canyon, Lincoln Heights, Highland Park, and all
3 of us oppose this horrible gondola. This project
4 is not good for our communities.

cont'd
PH274-1

5 And we know that billionaire Frank
6 McCourt is going to get his money back when,
7 after he raise \$300,000 -- \$300 million and
8 leases that there because he didn't even ask the
9 communities for doing this horrible gondola.

PH274-2

10 And I think this community, this
11 serves them some kind of, you know -- they just
12 deserve some respect because he didn't ask us
13 for, you know, for anything. He just said he was
14 going to start this project, and we oppose it.

15 We are opposed to this gondola because
16 it's not good for us. It will destroy our park,
17 LA State Historic Park, and a lot of very bad
18 things will happen to our communities in downtown
19 LA.

PH274-3

20 And all this is only lies because what
21 happens if one of these gondolas falls on top of
22 the head of people who is running in the park?

PH274-4

1 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
2 comment.

3 We'll go to Jennifer Martinez.

Comment-PH275
J MARTINEZ

4 MS. MARTINEZ: Hi. Can you hear me?

5 MS. SISCO: Yes.

6 MS. MARTINEZ: Okay. Thank you for
7 giving me a second chance because I was left off
8 last time. My name is Jennifer Martinez. I'm a
9 resident of Echo Park, and I oppose the gondola
10 project.

PH275-1

11 And I am grateful for this session
12 because I have learned a lot, and I also work
13 providing sessions like this, so I appreciate the
14 effort. But I have some common sense concerns
15 about the project, and what strikes me from this
16 discussion is, and what has bothered me about the
17 project is the process. This is a missed
18 opportunity for a wealthy member of Los Angeles
19 to come into a community and create
20 opportunities, perhaps, for that community.

PH275-2

21 So, my biggest problem is that the
22 public sessions, which I know are part of the



1 process, have not been made easily accessible to
2 all in the community.

3 And we're hearing this evening about
4 concerns about businesses in Chinatown. So, how
5 many restaurants and halls and public spaces are
6 there where LA Art and Frank McCourt could have
7 held sessions to create actual -- to just good
8 faith, you know, action? And I mean, not like --
9 I mean, two things about that.

10 One is, I don't understand why Frank
11 McCourt and LA Art are not courting the business
12 owners and the residents of Chinatown. They have
13 the capacity. They have --

14 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
15 comment.

16 Let's see. It looks like we have
17 three commenters remaining that had their hands
18 up at 7:00 p.m., so we'll give them a chance to
19 provide their comment, and then we'll conclude
20 the meeting.

21 Let's see. Phone number ending in
22 7680, could you please press *6 to unmute

cont'd
PH275-2

PH275-3

1 yourself?

2 PARTICIPANT: Hello.

3 MS. SISCO: Hi. We can hear you.

4 PARTICIPANT: My name is Mary, and I'm
5 a senior, and I want to make a comment about the
6 last meeting that Metro had.

7 I believe Metro should have had taken
8 better control of the meeting since the
9 protesters had all the control with the
10 disruption, the profanity, making people feel
11 threatened, scared of the situation happening in
12 front of them.

13 We should all feel safe no matter
14 where we are, as well as be able to speak and
15 share our support for the gondola.

16 Thank you so much.

17 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
18 comment.

19 We have someone that's logged in as
20 Samsung. It looks like it is Samsung SM-A526U,
21 and then, after that, we'll go to Ali Rubinfeld,
22 and we'll just double check that we captured all

PH276-1

1 the hands that were up at 7:00. And if so, we'll
2 move to concluding the meeting.

Comment-PH277
M CERVANTES

3 MR. M. CERVANTES: Hello?

4 MS. SISCO: Hi, we can hear you.

5 MR. M. CERVANTES: Yes. My name is
6 Marlow Cervantes (phonetic), and I am a LA
7 citizen born and raised, and I support the Dodger
8 Stadium gondola.

9 My neighborhood deserves less traffic,
10 less pollution for clean air with more
11 transportation options. I hope that this is a
12 better and for our future for us and our nation
13 to come. Thank you.

14 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your
15 comment.

16 Let's see. We'll go to Ali Rubinfeld.

Comment-PH278
A RUBINFELD

17 MS. RUBINFELD: Hi. My name is Ali
18 Rubinfeld. I'm a resident of Solana Canyon. I
19 don't think there are people in Los Angeles who
20 want to alleviate traffic to Dodger Stadium more
21 than the residents of Solana Canyon, but this is
22 just not the way.

PH277-1

PH278-1

1 This is a transparent power grab with
 2 the long-term goal of creating a high end
 3 development and shopping center at Dodger Stadium
 4 that does not meet the needs of a community
 5 currently living in the area.

6 There are so many ways to make Dodger
 7 Stadium more accessible that will not cause more
 8 harm to communities still healing from the
 9 violent taking of Chavez Ravine.

10 This gondola will completely change
 11 the socioeconomic landscape of Chinatown, which
 12 is one of the last affordable neighborhoods left
 13 in Los Angeles, and people have been fighting to
 14 keep their homes there.

15 This gondola will make Los Angeles a
 16 less affordable and less livable city and is
 17 completely ignoring the true needs of the
 18 community. It's here for a profit motive.

19 We need a grocery store. We don't
 20 need a gondola. Thank you.

21 MS. SISCO: Thank you for your comment.

22 I think Robert may have had his hand

cont'd
PH278-1

PH278-2

PH278-3

1 up, so we'll go to Robert. Can you please
2 provide your comment?

3 Let's see. Robert, you should be
4 unmuted now.

5 Looks like we may have lost Robert.

6 Let's see. Give him just a minute to
7 see if he logs back in. Otherwise, that was the
8 last raised hand that we had, and we'll move to
9 concluding the meeting.

10 Thank you all for staying with us an
11 extra hour here to allow additional attendees to
12 provide their comments.

13 Okay. We'll just give Robert maybe
14 another little bit to see if he gets logged back
15 in.

16 Okay. I do see Robert is logged in,
17 so let's see if we can get him unmuted so he can
18 provide his comment.

19 Robert, it looks like you're unmuted
20 if you'd like to provide your comment.

21 Okay. Well, we're working on the
22 technical difficulties there.

1 I did want to just let you know that
2 there are links to the Metro webpage, which
3 provides project information and information
4 about the SECWA process, that we've just placed
5 into the chat again.

6 Robert, are you able to unmute to
7 provide your comment?

8 Okay. It looks like we're having some
9 technical difficulties there. All right, he's --
10 it looks like, Robert, you're unmuted but we
11 can't hear you.

12 So, we're going to go ahead and move
13 to wrap up, but the -- as I mentioned, the
14 project webpage is in the chat if anyone would
15 like more information on the SECWA process of the
16 project.

17 And with that, I'll go ahead and thank
18 you for your time this evening and we'll go ahead
19 and conclude this virtual public hearing.

20 Have a good evening.

21 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
22 went off the record at 8:11 p.m.)

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This is to certify that the foregoing transcript


In the matter of: LA ART Public Draft EIS Hearing

Before: LA County Metropolitan Transit Authority

Date: 01-31-23

Place: Los Angeles, CA

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