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Via Email: [warriors@sfgov.org](mailto:warriors@sfgov.org)

Brett Bollinger  
City of San Francisco

Re: Comments on Warriors Entertainment Center draft Environmental Impact Report

Dear Mr. Bollinger,

I have serious concerns regarding the traffic flow projections for the proposed Warriors Arena, which appear to not have been adequately analyzed in the draft Environmental Impact Report (dEIR).

Unmanageable Traffic Flow

Based on the dEIR, I have significant concerns about how the traffic will be monitored, handled, and directed around the proposed stadium. The idea that busses will transport people from more distant parking structures ignores the immediate problem of the complete gridlock in the area that blocks all movement in and around Mission Bay for 2-3 hours after Giants games. In looking at another recent stadium example that was also executed poorly, the busses that transport people to the train station from the 49ers Levi's stadium are overcrowded, infrequent and delayed by gridlock, making the trip between Santa Clara and San Francisco a four-hour journey after events. I fear that the proposed Warriors stadium will devolve into a similar unmanageable outcome.

I believe that two dedicated traffic lanes will be insufficient to handle the surge of traffic to this small, landlocked site. I recall all too well that the traffic lanes at Candlestick Park that were specifically directed and reconfigured to handle pre- and post-game traffic did not solve the problem of gridlock and congestion. And Candlestick had direct access to the freeway with no traffic contributing other than game traffic. In contrast, traffic along 3<sup>rd</sup> Street is already a problem. There is a major traffic flow every afternoon through the area along 3<sup>rd</sup> Street toward the Giants stadium that contributes significantly to the gridlock that follows every afternoon Giants games. Traffic congestion in the Mission Bay area is certain to continue to worsen as other already approved construction projects are completed and is likely to be devastating to our environment if the Warriors project is approved. I am aware of businesses that have already moved from the area to escape the existing traffic problems, and it is certainly not wise public policy to contribute further to them.

The dEIR appears to assume that scheduling events in the evening will avoid traffic issues, but this seems unlikely if projections of traffic flow have not considered the contributions of all the approved projects that bring new residents and new businesses to the area, or the many occasions when there are coincident events at both the Giants and Warriors stadiums. Does the planning anticipate that attendees will arrive earlier and earlier as traffic and parking problems increase, so that the traffic to night games will inevitably encounter afternoon rush hour traffic? Does the planning address whether TV networks will be able to require earlier

than normal Warriors game times? Will there be a stipulation that no event can be scheduled earlier than a certain night hour?

Other major cities with stadiums and sports arenas in urban centers have infrastructure to handle traffic. Madison Square Garden in New York City is serviced almost entirely by public transport. Cincinnati, which has adjacent football and baseball stadiums in its downtown, has adjacent ample parking lots with direct freeway access. By contrast, Mission Bay has no infrastructure to support the increased traffic. The claim recently made on the Michael Krasny forum that the number of attendees to Warriors games is 20% of Giants games does not compute—18,500 is closer to 50% of 42,000. The notion that Warriors' games would only overlap with Giants games on rare occasions ignores the larger number of other events the facility will host – and the combination of other events happening in the City in large spaces such as the Moscone Center that draw traffic through this area. It is not just the Giants games that impact the area and must be considered.

It must be understood as a given that traffic and parking issues will reduce access for emergency and urgent care for patients seeking health care services and will add to the existing commute challenges for the nurses, doctors and medical staff who work at the Mission Bay medical campus. The dEIR ignores the health and safety impacts of interfering with access to essential medical facilities.


Additionally, the project will further hinder access to other parts of the City and the Bay Bridge to Mission Bay. Even with the improvements promised by the City, Mission Bay cannot handle a surge of up to 18,500 fans, especially when both stadiums have games. Parking will be a nightmare, with less than 200 dedicated parking spaces for the 18,500-seat entertainment center. While restricting the number of parking spaces may be considered a means of traffic management under the City's regulations, the practical effect will be yet more gridlock and unhealthy air emissions.

I am disappointed by the City's failure to realistically consider the inevitable traffic problems and the compatibility of the project with the homes, businesses and hospitals already located in the area. There is already a major problem with traffic that the City has not addressed and the modest improvements to public transport and efficiency of existing traffic lanes that have been proposed solution seem to be woefully insufficient. Certainly, the claim that there is already ample infrastructure and public transport to handle traffic is false, and the problem will only be exacerbated by the growth that is already approved.

**No new major projects should be approved unless and until a solution to the existing problem is solved.**

I ask that the City of San Francisco recognize the health and welfare of patients, families, employees and neighbors of the Mission Bay area and avoid the disastrous impacts of the proposed entertainment center. The prudent course would be for the City to consider alternative sites other than Mission Bay for this quality of life damaging project, and conduct a new and complete review process before any decisions are made. Additionally, please place my name on the notice list for this project so that I may receive notice of any future actions by the City with respect to this project.

Sincerely,



Thomas Kornberg, Ph.D.