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CITY ATTORNEY

REPORT NO. R 22 - 0392
NOV 10 2022

REPORT RE:

**DRAFT ORDINANCES AMENDING THE CONVENTION AND
EVENT CENTER SPECIFIC PLAN AND SIGN DISTRICT**

The Honorable City Council
of the City of Los Angeles
Room 395, City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Council File No. CF 22-0536
CPC File No. 2019-4572-GPA-VZC-HD-SP-SN

Honorable Members:

This Office has prepared and now transmits for your consideration the enclosed draft ordinances, approved as to form and legality. One draft ordinance would amend and restate the Convention and Event Center Specific Plan, including renaming it the Convention and Arena Specific Plan. The other draft ordinance would amend and restate the Convention and Event Center Sign District, including renaming it the Convention Center and Arena Sign District.

Amendment of Convention and Event Center Specific Plan (to be renamed
Convention and Arena Specific Plan)

The existing Convention and Event Center Specific Plan was intended to govern the development of a stadium/event center used by a National Football League team, a modernized Convention Center, and the arena formerly known as Staples Arena that is now known as Crypto.com Arena. This specific plan was adopted on September 28, 2012 (Ordinance No. 182282, effective November 25, 2012). However, because the

NFL decided not to locate a team at the site, it has become necessary to again amend the specific plan to facilitate modernization of the Convention Center without development of a stadium.

Amendment of the Convention and Event Center Sign District (to be renamed Convention and Arena Sign District)

The Convention and Event Center Sign District was originally adopted on September 28, 2012 (Ordinance No. 182281, effective November 25, 2012). The sign district ordinance provides signage regulations for the specific plan area.

The existing sign district ordinance created a set of sign regulations that would allow digital and other signage for a stadium/event center used by a National Football League team, a modernized Convention Center, and the arena. However, because the NFL decided not to locate a team at the site, the City's plans for the site changed, and it has become necessary to amend the provisions of the sign district ordinance.

We note that language authorizing inflatable signs and captive balloon signs was inadvertently left out of the sign district ordinance when it was considered by PLUM on June 21, 2022. This language is needed in the sign district ordinance because the Convention Center regularly uses these types of signs to advertise events. If the City Council agree that this language should be added back into the sign district ordinance, it may adopt the enclosed draft ordinance and instruct our Office to revise the sign district ordinance to include this language.

More details of the enclosed draft ordinances are provided in the staff report prepared by the Department of City Planning.

Charter Findings

Pursuant to Charter Section 559, the Planning Commission approved the enclosed draft ordinances and recommended that the City Council adopt them. If the City Council chooses to adopt these draft ordinances, it may comply with the provisions of Charter Section 558 by either adopting the findings prepared by the Director of Planning attached to the file or by making its own findings.

CEQA Findings

This Office recommends that if you adopt the enclosed draft ordinances, you do so based on your consideration of the environmental effects of the project shown in the Convention and Event Center Project Environmental Impact Report (ENV-2011-0585-EIR) and the Addendum and Joint Analysis dated December 2021. The EIR was certified by the Los Angeles City Council in October 2012.

Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the City Council may approve a project with an addendum when the City Council does both of the following: (1) reviews the previously prepared EIR along and the addendum; and (2) finds, in its independent judgment, that based on the entire administrative record there are no substantial changes to the project or to the circumstances under which the project will be undertaken, and no new information that was not available at the time the EIR was certified, that would require major revisions to the EIR. Under CEQA Guideline Section 15162, major revisions to the EIR would be required when the changed project, changed circumstances or new information would result in a new significant effect not identified in the EIR or a substantial increase in the severity of a significant effect previously identified in the EIR.

The findings prepared by the Director of Planning, attached to the Council file and recommended by the Planning Commission and the PLUM Committee, include findings that are intended by staff to comply with CEQA Guidelines Sections 15091.

Council Rule 38 Referral

Copies of the draft ordinances were sent, pursuant to Council Rule 38, to the Department of Building and Safety, the Fire Department, the Department of Transportation and the Department of Public Works with a request that all comments, if any, be presented directly to the City Council at the time this matter is considered.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Deputy City Attorney Kenneth Fong at (213) 978-8202. A member of this Office will be present when you consider this matter to answer questions you may have.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL N. FEUER, City Attorney

By 

DAVID MICHAELSON
Chief Assistant City Attorney

DM:KTF:sa
Transmittals