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January 25, 2017

**Submitted electronically**

Ms. Jennifer Caira  
City of Los Angeles  
Department of City Planning, City Hall  
200 N. Spring Street, Room 621  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Email: [jennifer.caira@lacity.org](mailto:jennifer.caira@lacity.org)

**Re: 601 S. Main SB Omega project, ENV-2014-2907-MND**

Dear Ms. Caira,

On behalf of the Los Angeles Conservancy, I'm writing to provide additional comments on the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the proposed 601 S. Main SB Omega project, in follow-up to our previous comments submitted on October 19, 2016 and the applicant's letter from December 8, 2016. I understand a hearing on this project is scheduled for this week.

We have been in conversations with the applicant's representatives on this project and believe many of our previous concerns are being addressed. They have listened to us and have been very willing to offer corresponding modifications to the project design. We feel these conversations are headed in a positive direction and greatly appreciate their willingness to reconsider some of the design aspects.

As we have stated previously to the City, the proposed project and others already approved or currently being reviewed represents an important opportunity to reexamine the role of new infill construction in Downtown L.A.'s historic urban setting. While the Conservancy does not often comment or weigh in on new construction projects unless there is a clear and direct impact on a particular historic building or area, the character of Downtown's Historic Core is changing in part due to these projects. We are not against change and welcome the blending of old and new when guided and executed through thoughtful design.

We're very encouraged by our conversations to date with the applicant's project team. We hope our comments, here and in October, will not be seen as an attempt to oppose this specific project, but rather press the City to engage in a

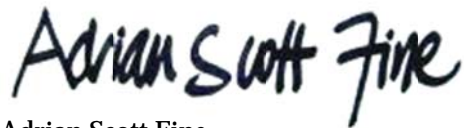


broad dialogue that can eventually result in modifications and an overall update to the Downtown Design Guide standards. We need a better set of tools that works both for the broad community as well as development interests to guide us toward outcomes we can all get behind and fully support, especially those that add to and contribute to the unique character of L.A.'s Historic Core.

We acknowledge and appreciate the applicant's thorough environmental analysis and efforts to comply with the various necessary design standards and regulations. We look forward to continuing our conversations as the project moves forward.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (213) 430-4203 or [afine@laconservancy.org](mailto:afine@laconservancy.org) should you have any questions and if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Adrian Scott Fine  
Director of Advocacy

