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SENIOR DEMOCRATIC MEMBER
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MEMBER
COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0530

HENRY A. WAXMAN
30TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

June 23, 2004

Mr. Javad Soltani
General Services Administration
Portfolio Management Division
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California 94102-3661

Dear Mr. Soltani:

I am writing in regard to the General Services Administration's (GSA) *Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement* for the New Federal Building at 11000 Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles, California, which is in the congressional district I represent. GSA is proposing to build a new facility for the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), including 937,000 gross square feet of space plus 1,200 secured parking stalls. I want to reiterate a number of issues members of the community have raised with me about the proposal and to discuss a concern I have about the scoping process.

The community's primary concern is that the infrastructure is wholly inadequate to absorb this additional office complex and parking structure. As you know, the federal building in Westwood is adjacent to two of the busiest street intersections in the nation — Wilshire and Westwood Boulevards and Wilshire Boulevard and Veteran Avenue. It also borders the 388-acre Veterans Affairs (VA) Greater Los Angeles Health Care System and Westwood Village, and it is in close proximity to the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA). In addition, the heavily-traveled 405 freeway has an on-ramp and off-ramp within one block of the building.

Construction of a large new facility could severely impact this heavily congested area and its already strained transportation infrastructure. The community believes that transportation congestion, air quality, emergency response times, and overall quality of life would worsen should this project proceed. In addition, it fears that a concentration of the FBI's operations in this location could make it a special security concern.

I also want to inform you of my concern that the scoping process has failed to identify alternatives in sufficient specificity to be adequately evaluated in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). As you know, GSA is required to collect a comprehensive list of all issues as part of the scoping process to ensure that the EIS thoroughly analyzes each major issue identified. To provide for the wisest use of taxpayer dollars and coherent community development, it is important that a number of specific alternative locations for this facility be

Mr. Javad Soltani

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investigated. A full examination may determine that Westwood is not the most suitable site to meet needs of the FBI, and that the facility would better fit into the development plan of another location that does not face the congestion problems of Westwood.

To fully understand the ramifications of this project and to determine whether this would be the best location to centralize and expand the FBI's operations, GSA should conduct a comprehensive review of employee commute patterns for the area. Considering and optimizing the location with employees in mind would address important quality of life issues for them. GSA should also begin a discussion with local government, communities, and businesses to identify those areas which would be most interested in hosting this facility.

I request that GSA identify the efforts it has undertaken or will undertake to examine all of the above issues. Additionally, I request your assurance that GSA will consider a number of specific locations so that the best location is selected for the facility.

I appreciate your attention to my concern, and look forward to your response.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,



HENRY A. WAXMAN
Member of Congress

HAW:lp



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GSA Pacific Rim Region

JUL 01 2004

Henry Waxman M.C.
District Office

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Member, United States
House of Representatives
8436 West 3rd Street, Suite #600
Los Angeles, CA 90048

Dear Representative Waxman:

This is to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of June 23, 2004 to Mr. Javad Soltani, commenting on the Notice of Intent and the scoping process for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the New Federal Facility at 11000 Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles, California.

We value your concerns and will address them in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Peter G. Stamison
Regional Administrator