



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS  
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS  
HOLLY J. MITCHELL  
LINDSEY P. HORVATH  
JANICE HAHN  
KATHRYN BARGER

**Correspondence Received**

The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
CS-1.		<b>Oppose</b>	Mara Mather	<p>August 4, 2024</p> <p>Dear the Honorable Members of the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors,</p> <p>I read an article in the Los Angeles Times regarding the County's purchase of Gas Company Tower. As a lifelong resident of downtown Los Angeles, I have seen the ebb and flow of our city – and especially our downtown – but one thing that has always been consistent is the accessibility and unintimidating nature of public buildings in the Civic Center.</p> <p>To hear that the Board of Supervisors had not been presented a plan on how this purchase would affect the community and its long-standing history of constituents is a shame. It is also a shame that last year the Board of Supervisors took bold leadership to pledge to make all of their buildings earthquake-safe– serving as a much-needed leadership position when others argued such an effort is too expensive, too burdensome, and too prescriptive.</p> <p>To reverse course without public hearings or a vote of the Board of Supervisors is insulting not only to the public, but to the Board of Supervisors – who each represent millions in the County. Many of us took the effort to show up, to do our homework, and to share our informed thoughts with this esteemed body. Now – without even the courtesy of a report out – I read that staff is leading the abandonment of these previously approved agreements to purchase a skyscraper that has unannounced long-term costs and retrofits of its own that would likely need given it was built in 1991 – 3 years before the Northridge earthquake that brought much devastation to me and my neighborhood in 1994.</p> <p>While I do not write to debate the terms of the sale – though \$215 million seems to be a lot of money for the County to spend without any input from the public or from the Board, I do feel compelled to wonder if there is more negotiating room here. Especially as the New York Times just recently wrote an article about a 97.5% price reduction on a large office building in New York the same day this article was published in the Los Angeles Times.</p> <p>The point here is that the process here is very much a clarion call for leadership and vocal questioning of staff who felt emboldened to pursue the abandonment the retrofit of County buildings for a fancy skyscraper – without ever once wondering, should I ask the Board or public for input?</p> <p>Very truly yours, Mara Mather</p>

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CS-1.		<b>Oppose</b>	Mara Mather	Pardon my second submission, but it was only after I submitted my comments that I realized that this discussion has been placed on the agenda in CLOSED SESSION. While I understand terms and conditions of negotiations are worthy of closed session, I do hope you will reconsider and have some of this conversation in public where we can all better understand what public activities and offices would be conducted in this new space - which is NOT in Civic Center but in the adjacent Bunker Hill area. For those of us with accessibility/mobility issues, I hope you will not underestimate the importance of a "few mere blocks." All I respectfully ask for is a public hearing to better understand WHY AND WHAT is being proposed, and how this affects the community writ-large. Understanding the \$215 million price tag and where this money will be siphoned from is also critical for all of us. Coming to the public AFTER a deal has been struck is not how this Board has operated in the past, and I hope and pray that you will ask our staff to reconsider its approach - which has left us all in the dark. Please remember that this is ALL of our government - and the physical environment in which business is conducted is a big part of that fabric of community.
		<b>Other</b>	Daniel White	Can you post the RFP that led to this purchase please, if one exists?
			Monisha Parker	Dear Supervisors,  I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to bring to your attention the County Negotiator's request for a per RSF rate of \$2.60 per square foot at 555 W. 5th Street and 350 S. Figueroa Street in Los Angeles, California.  It is crucial that we consider this request carefully as it will have a significant impact on our budget and resources. The Negotiator has provided compelling reasons for this rate, and we must weigh the benefits against the costs before making a decision.  Thank you for your time and consideration.  Sincerely, Monisha Parker
		<b>Item Total</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>4</b>		