



**Dale T. Steele**

916-804-6013   daletsteele@yahoo.com   301 27th Street, Sacramento, Ca 95816

January 25, 2014

Scott Johnson, Associate Planner  
City of Sacramento, Community Development Department Environmental Planning  
Services  
300 Richards Boulevard, Third Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95811 SRJohnson@cityofsacramento.org

Dear Mr. Johnson,

Re: Comments on the DEIR for the Downtown Entertainment and Sports Arena

I am writing to submit comments on the DEIR for the proposed sports arena downtown. The DEIR includes several proposed digital billboard sites, two of which would impact Sutter's Landing Park. My comments focus on these proposed billboards.

The two locations in question currently provide foraging habitat for several sensitive raptor species including the state threatened Swainson's hawk. This species has been documented at several nearby locations and successfully fledge young hawks while foraging at Sutter's a Landing Park. Placement of new billboards would reduce available habitat for these species and would need to be fully mitigated elsewhere in the immediate Park area. The DEIR does not include adequate and full mitigation for these impacts. The DEIR should be updated to address these impacts. It would be preferable to relocate these billboards away from the park so as to avoid these impacts. Billboards on Sutter's Landing Park would also alter the viewshed at the park causing further impacts to those coming to enjoy wildlife, open space and the park's natural resources. Removal of all existing billboards on Park lands would be appropriate mitigation for such impacts.

These resources and mitigation issues have been documented in the Friends of Sutter's Landing Park have developed a vision for conserving the wildlife and natural resources at the Park. The Friends of the River a Banks have led field outings and educational activities that focus on and have documented these values. Recent projects that would impact Sutter's Landing Park have also been identified as causing similar impacts. Cumulatively, these impacts pose a major threat to the Park.

The two sites in question are described below.

**Business 80 at Sutter's Landing Regional Park**

The Business 80 at Sutter's Landing Regional Park site is located within the former City landfill site adjacent to Interstate 80 Business (Business 80) (APN 001-0170-026) (see Figure 2-32b, Site 3). The site is designated as Parks and Recreation and zoned as A-OS Agriculture-Open Space. The proposed digital billboard site is within the existing Sutter's Landing Regional Park.

The proposed digital billboard footprint at this location would be a single face billboard on a center pole about 45 feet in height, oriented to the west to be seen by eastbound motorists on Business 80.

The proposed digital billboard site is sloped downward toward Business 80. The area is vegetated with low grasses, shrubs and mature trees. Methane release valves and piping lie above ground, immediately adjacent to the proposed digital billboard site.

The proposed digital billboard site is surrounded by Sutter's Landing Regional Park and the former landfill to the west, north and east. A static billboard is approximately 500 feet east of the proposed digital billboard site. Business 80 is immediately south of the site, and the proposed McKinley Village project site is located to the southeast, across Business 80.

### **Business 80 at Sutter's Landing Regional Park/American River**

The Business 80 at Sutter's Landing Regional Park/American River site is located within a triangular parcel in Sutter's Landing Regional Park. The American River lies to the northeast of the site. Business 80 forms the southeastern boundary of the site. The site is located immediately southwest of an existing levee and east of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks. It is covered with short grasses, small shrubs, gravel, and exposed soil. The site is located within an area identified and approved by the City as a habitat mitigation site associated with the 28th Street Tree Removal Mitigation Project. Construction of the Mitigation Project was initiated in November 2013.

The overall height, including the digital billboard, would be from approximately 40' to 50' above existing grade of the adjacent freeway.

In summary, the DEIR includes proposed locations for two billboards associated with the sports arena would include impacts to sensitive wildlife, their habitats, open space and viewshed resources at Sutter's Landing Regional Park. The DEIR does not include adequate and full mitigation for these impacts. The DEIR should be updated to address these impacts. These impacts would require full mitigation in the immediate area of the Park and would be better avoided by relocating the billboards away from the Park or dropping them from the proposed project.

Sincerely yours,



Dale T Steele

301 27th Street  
Sacramento, Ca 95816  
[daletsteele@yahoo.com](mailto:daletsteele@yahoo.com)

## Scott Johnson

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**From:** Dale Steele <dtsteele@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 28, 2014 1:34 PM  
**To:** Scott Johnson  
**Subject:** Draft Arena DEIR Comments  
**Attachments:** Draft Arena DEIR Comments.pdf

Hi Steve,

I can't tell if this was received yesterday so I'm trying again. Please confirm when you receive this.

Thanks, Dale

In summary, the DEIR includes proposed locations for two digital = billboards associated with the entertainment and sports arena that would impact sensitive wildlife, their habitats, open space and viewshed resources at Sutter's Landing Regional Park. The DEIR does not include adequate and full mitigation for these impacts. The DEIR should be updated to address these impacts. These impacts would require full mitigation in the immediate area of the Park and would be better avoided by relocating the digital billboards away from the Park or dropping them from the proposed project.

Please let me know if you have any questions about my comments or need me to mail a hard copy as well.

Thanks for the opportunity to provide comments on this DEIR.

Sincerely,

Dale T. Steele  
[301 27th Street](#)  
[Sacramento, Ca 95816](#)  
[daketsteele@yahoo.com](mailto:daketsteele@yahoo.com)

Sent via Dale's mini iPad

## Scott Johnson

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**From:** Dale Steele <daletsteele@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 28, 2014 1:46 PM  
**To:** Scott Johnson  
**Subject:** FW: Re: Comments on the DEIR for the Downtown Entertainment and Sports Arena

Trying to resend my original email.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

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**From:** Corey and Marcy Brown <[coreymarcy@earthlink.net](mailto:coreymarcy@earthlink.net)>;  
**To:** Dale T Steele <[daletsteele@yahoo.com](mailto:daletsteele@yahoo.com)>;  
**Subject:** Re: Comments on the DEIR for the Downtown Entertainment and Sports Arena  
**Sent:** Tue, Jan 28, 2014 8:36:05 PM

Dale

I heard that SMUD bought the Blue Diamond property near Sutter's Landing where they plan to place significant infrastructure related to the electrical capacity the arena will need. Did the EIR mention that? If not, it should.

Corey

On Jan 27, 2014, at 12:31 PM, Dale T Steele <[daletsteele@yahoo.com](mailto:daletsteele@yahoo.com)> wrote: