



Kathryn Schloessman
 President and CEO of the Los Angeles Sports and Entertainment Commission
 633 W 5th St, Suite 1800
 Los Angeles, CA 90071

Dear President Kathryn Schloessman,

We are writing on behalf of organizations and individuals in and around Los Angeles who are deeply concerned about the future of mega sporting events in the region. As a local entity involved in bringing and supporting major sporting events in Los Angeles, LASEC had a responsibility to the communities that will be

most impacted by these events to help ensure that human rights planning was transparent, concrete, and informed by local workers, service providers, advocates, and community experts.

We recognize the power of soccer to bring people together across cultures, neighborhoods, and countries. That is exactly why LASEC had a responsibility to ensure that the World Cup planning process reflected and prioritized the communities, workers, fans, and local residents who make these events possible.

That responsibility was not met in the planning process for the FIFA World Cup 2026 games in Los Angeles. On May 1, the Host Committee, which LASEC serves as the local lead, publicly posted the [LA FIFA 26 + Human Rights](#) website and a summary of its approach to human and civil rights.¹ The core of what a meaningful human rights plan should include was missing: a thorough analysis of documented risks, a prevention strategy, operational planning, implementation timelines, accountability measures, and concrete resource commitments. The lack of transparency throughout the process, combined with the absence of prevention and investment commitments, raises serious concerns about how LASEC arrived at this outcome and how it intends to fulfill its responsibilities for future mega-events.

These events bring in billions in profits for sport governing bodies like FIFA, corporate sponsors, and related industries, including hotels, tourism companies, and vendors, often without adequate protections for the workers and communities that make them possible.

FIFA and its corporate sponsors, like Hyundai-Kia, stand to generate substantial financial benefits from the World Cup, while many of the communities and workers most impacted by the games have been left out of the planning process and benefits of these mega sporting events. These 18 organizations, alongside the Fair Games Coalition and Recall Injustice Coalition, have also sent the attached letter to FIFA detailing the specific harms perpetuated by FIFA, and emphasizing the importance of ensuring corporate sponsor accountability in achieving human and labor rights goals, particularly with major corporate partner and sponsor Hyundai-Kia.

In the next two years, Los Angeles will host the Super Bowl and the Olympics and Paralympic Games. These events will rely on city and county resources, public infrastructure, local workers, and community services. Without a commitment to develop comprehensive human rights plans early, publicly, and with input from local communities and experts, these events may increase risks for human and labor rights violations and further burden local communities. As the Sunita Jain Anti-Trafficking Initiative explained in its report, "[Preventing and Addressing Human Trafficking Related to Major Sporting Events in Los Angeles: Recommendations for the 2026 World Cup and 2028 Olympics](#)", these risks are connected to large-scale infrastructure projects, temporary labor needs, recruitment abuses, wage theft, unsafe working conditions, and weak oversight.²

The same report recommended approximately \$3 million in dedicated funding to support worker outreach, multilingual know-your-rights materials, survivor- and worker-informed planning, community-based services, reporting mechanisms, independent monitoring, and evaluation. This level of investment is small compared to the revenue FIFA, corporate sponsors, and related industries stand to generate from these events. Yet the Los Angeles human and civil rights approach did not identify dedicated funding for these safeguards or explain who was responsible for paying for them. Without dedicated funding, human rights commitments remain aspirational rather than actionable.

Local leaders must help chart a different path. LASEC cannot treat human rights planning as separate from its role in bringing mega sporting events to Los Angeles. If these events are promoted as opportunities for the

¹ "Human Rights," *Losangelesfwc26.Com*, n.d., accessed July 8, 2026, <https://losangelesfwc26.com/human-rights/>.

² Sunita Jain Anti-Trafficking Initiative (SJI), *Preventing and Addressing Human Trafficking Related to Major Sporting Events in Los Angeles: Recommendations for the 2026 World Cup and 2028 Olympics*.

region, then **LASEC must also take responsibility for ensuring that workers, immigrants, fans, and local communities are protected before, during, and after the games.**

We are coming together to demand that future mega sporting events operate under the following principles to ensure fair, just, and equitable outcomes:

1. **Protect Human Rights:** A resource guide is not a substitute for a real human rights strategy. LASEC and local organizing entities must help ensure that each mega sporting event has a comprehensive human rights plan that includes funding for implementation, enforcement, prevention, and accountability. These plans must be developed transparently in collaboration with workers, service providers, survivor leaders, advocates, and community experts.
2. **Commit to Transparency:** Public resources help transport fans to venues, support public safety and emergency response, clean up after major events, and keep Los Angeles functioning during these large-scale gatherings. Decisions about mega sporting events cannot be made behind closed doors or only in ways that prioritize corporate interests. LASEC and local officials must regularly inform the public about planning, risks, budgets, roles, implementation, and create meaningful opportunities for community input throughout the process.
3. **Deliver Real Economic Benefits:** These events should create real benefits for communities and workers across the supply chain that make them happen. LASEC and local partners must support high-road labor standards across supply chains and event-related work, prevent coercive and forced labor practices, and advance good union jobs with family-sustaining wages and safe working conditions.
4. **Investigate Corporate Sponsors:** Mega events provide enormous advertising opportunities for corporations, including companies with documented records of human rights, labor, and environmental harms. Companies, such as [Hyundai-Kia](#), must be subject to scrutiny and review by LASEC, public officials, and relevant oversight bodies to ensure that public resources and local partnerships are not helping bolster corporate profits while low-road practices go unaddressed.³

A transparent evaluation by LASEC is needed to assess the failure to develop and implement a comprehensive human rights strategy for the FIFA 2026 World Cup games in Los Angeles. LASEC should also publicly explain how it will ensure that future mega sporting events in Los Angeles include concrete protections for workers and communities, dedicated funding, transparent implementation plans, and meaningful opportunities for community feedback.

We stand ready to engage in a conversation that centers prevention, transparency, and the experience of workers and communities. We request a meeting with LASEC leadership and Board members, and we welcome the opportunity to present at your next Board meeting to discuss our concerns and recommendations.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Gutierrez, Executive Director
Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice

Mike Miller, Director
UAW Region 6

³ "Child Workers Found throughout Hyundai-Kia Supply Chain in Alabama," *Reuters*, December 16, 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/usa-immigration-hyundai/>.

Valerie Lizárraga, Assistant Director of Organizing & Policy
Jobs to Move America (JMA)

Abhilasha Bhola, Climate Campaigns Director
Public Citizen

Paloma Bustos, Policy Associate
LMU Sunita Jain Anti-Trafficking Initiative

Jessica Durrum, Deputy Director of Policy & Campaigns
Los Angeles Alliance for New Economy (LAANE)

Eddie Sanchez, Codirector
Southern California Coalition for Occupational Safety & Health (SoCalCOSH)

Irene Montantes, Founder
Los Angeles Baby Cooperative

Nancy Berlin, Tri-chair
California Poor People's Campaign

Jessica Martinez, Executive Director
National Council for Occupational Safety and Health (National COSH)

Sim-Marcel Bilal, Executive Director
Youth Climate Strike Los Angeles

Julia Figueira-McDonough, Associate Vice-President, Economic Justice
Bet Tzedek

Clio Byrne-Gudding, Organizer
Production Assistants United

Trina Traylor, Campaign & Coalition Manager
Los Angeles Black Worker Center

Alex Aguilar Jr., Business Manager & Secretary-Treasurer
LiUNA Local 724

Matthew Groch, Industrial Campaigns Director
Mighty Earth

Sergio Vargas, Co-Director
Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE)

Mickey Chavez, President
ILWU Southern California District Council

CC:

Mayor Karen Bass, Los Angeles

City Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez, District 1

City Councilmember Adrin Nazarian, District 2

City Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, District 3

City Councilmember Nithya Raman, District 4

City Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky, District 5

City Councilmember Imelda Padilla, District 6

City Councilmember Monica Rodriguez , District 7

City Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson, District 8

City Councilmember Curren D. Price, Jr., District 9

City Councilmember Heather Hutt, District 10

City Councilmember Traci Park, District 11

City Councilmember John Lee, District 12

City Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martínez, District 13

City Councilmember Ysabel J. Jurado, District 14

City Councilmember Tim McOsker, District 15

City Controller Kenneth Mejia, Los Angeles