THE NBA ARENA MOVES FORWARD. INGLEWOOD RISES AGAIN.

Mayor Butts

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Dan Morain

Ballmer notches a victory

Billionaire Steve Ballmer and his L.A. Clippers won approval from the California Air Resources Board to build a $1.2 billion Inglewood arena, despite objections from New York Knicks owner James Dolan, whose Madison Square Garden owns the nearby Forum.

The goal: Complete Murphy's Bowl (named for Ballmer's dog) in time for the 2024 basketball season.

To win air board approval, Ballmer agreed to spend tens of millions to make the arena a net-zero greenhouse gas emitter.

The air board gained jurisdiction because 2018 legislation authorizing the arena required that it be net zero. On the day before Thanksgiving, the board issued a letter declaring Ballmer "will meet the GHG requirements," assuming he follows through on the mitigation.

Some steps:
- planting 1,000 trees in Inglewood
- installing solar arrays on the arena’s roof and possibly over parking lots
- installing 330 electric vehicle chargers at the arena’s parking lot, and 1,000 residential EV charging stations in Inglewood
- providing 10 electric vehicles plus two electric shuttle buses to the city of Inglewood

Elbows fly: Sen. Steven Bradford and Assemblywoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove, who represent Inglewood, had accused the air board of subjecting the project to extra scrutiny because Inglewood is "comprised of black and brown residents."

Final buzzer has yet to sound. Ballmer needs approval from the California Office of Planning and Research, then must issue an environmental impact report, and fend off inevitable lawsuits.

Money matters: Ballmer has spent $2.1 million on his team of Sacramento lobbyists since 2018.

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