

Letters to the editor: Fairgrounds stadium is a home run; curtailing police stops

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Stadium would benefit economy

Re: Arlene Martinez's Jan. 31 guest column, "[Fairgrounds stadium is off-base](#)":

Ms. Martinez's column opposing the much-needed Ventura County Fairgrounds redevelopment proposal is off-base and misleading. She correctly points out that publicly funded single-use sports stadiums are an economic drain not a benefit.

However, stadiums that are part of a larger project and privately funded (as is the case here) are quite successful. Look to our south as the city of Inglewood is benefiting greatly from SoFi Stadium and the surrounding development. San Diego's Mission Valley is also being reinvigorated from San Diego State's Snapdragon Stadium and the surrounding redevelopment.

The Fairgrounds baseball stadium will host more than just 70 baseball games (concerts, other sporting events, etc.). The Fairgrounds quonset huts are old and tired, and the proposed convention center will be a welcome replacement to World War II-era buildings. Ms. Martinez is worried that a Fairgrounds restaurant threatens local businesses? So, no new restaurants should be allowed in town? The current Fairgrounds facilities are long overdue for replacement and upgrade, that will benefit the city of Ventura's economy. Time to move on.

Greg Smith, Ventura