08-0504

January 12, 2010

Members of the Los Angeles City Council Agenda Item #22

I am Lynne Shapiro, a member of the Marina del Rey community, and I would like to make a community impact statement against the Via Marina routing of the VENICE PUMPING PLANT DUAL MAIN FORCE.

Who will be affected for 12-18 months by this project?

Five thousand seven hundred County and City residents as live in close proximity to this designated scenic highway and use it to and from work, our major route Admiralty, Lincoln and 90 freeway, and many boaters, too.

Two thousand five hundred of us are your constituents. We reside in 700 single family homes in Silver Strand and in the four condo associations closest to the sewer tunnels.

How will we be affected:

Drilling noise and vibrations are to occur from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.weekdays and 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays less five or six feet from our windows.

Air pollution and noise will make our balconies and windows unusable.

There will be danger. Methane gas will required twenty-four hour monitoring, according to the project manager.

On Via Marina six thousand plus residents, boaters too, will have only one lane of traffic for a year.

What other dangers exist?

Vibrations from drilling and tunneling could impact the Marina sea walls, which, like the condominiums, are aging structures. The waters of the Marina are even closer to the project site than the ocean is to the current sewer.

In the future, were there to be a rupture, the residents and boaters would have to traverse the spills, whereas a beach route could be more easily quarantined to minimize direct exposure and disease.

Why is the County opposed?

One would have to be out of his mind to rent or buy while this work occurs. County and lessee revenues will be adversely affected; redevelopment, delayed.

Thus, citizens will endure eighteen months of sewer construction, followed by replacement of the roadway median and its mature trees, followed by more years of demolition, hauling and reconstruction by the County lessees.

There is a cheaper, faster, less pervasive alternative: the beach. Peninsula homeowners have approved this route. It is the fastest route across the main channel to Hyperion. It would protect the safety and sanity of Marina and Playa del Rey residents, thousands of us. Construct a second sewer there, where one has functioned so well for so many years. The beach is broad; the residents, fewer. The work could be completed off season. The birds can seek refuge elsewhere; the residents cannot. Since there are sound reasons to use the beach coupled with sound construction and an excellent safety record, the Coastal Commission should hear the case before you today and its alternative so that they have the right to avert a social catastrophe should a sewer rupture along the Via Marina route.

I thank you for your attention and pray that you will respect our safety,

our property and our right to live quietly in our homes. The sewer is of utmost importance, but there is a sound alternative.

Respectfully submitted,

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