



Heal the Bay

1444 9th Street
Santa Monica CA 90401

ph 310 451 1550
fax 310 496 1902

info@healthebay.org
www.healthebay.org

November 19th, 2008
Chairman Bill Rosendahl
Public Works Committee
Sent Via Email

Date: 11/19/08
Submitted in PW Committee
Council File No: 08-0509
Item No.: 10
Deputy: Adam R. Lid

Re: Venice Dual Force Main Pumping Plant Project

Dear Members of the Public Works Council Committee;

On behalf of Heal the Bay, we would like to communicate to the Committee the urgency of the proposed project to construct the new force main sewer from the Venice pumping plant to an existing Coastal Interceptor Sewer junction structure on Vista Del Mar.

The Venice Pumping Station is The City of Los Angeles's largest wastewater pump station serving Malibu through the Pacific palisades, Santa Monica, Venice and Marina Del Rey. However, it is served by one pressure force main that runs under the beach and the marina. This force main is over 50 years old and carries more than 30 million gallons a day of sewage. Since there is no way for this force main to be inspected or repaired, there is no way of knowing possible damage that may have occurred over the years. It is vital that this project proceeds as quickly as possible to prevent the possibility of a major environmental disaster.

Construction of the new force main sewer will allow maintenance and repair of the old force main as well as providing a back up in the case of an emergency. It is of the utmost importance that construction begins immediately to prevent any long term impacts to our coastal community.

We urge you to move this project forward.

Thank you for reviewing our comments.

If you have any questions, please contact us at 310-451-1500.

Sincerely,

Kirsten James, MESM.
Director of Water Quality
Heal the Bay

Polly Barrowman, M.Sc.
Water Quality Scientist
Heal the Bay

Venice Dual Force Main Public Outreach

11/19/08

4+ notices/articles in local papers & media; 9+ meetings; ~~44~~ mailings to as many as
7,100 stakeholders

Submitted in PW Committee

Council File No: 08-0509

Item No.: 10

EIR Scoping -- May 2005

- Notice in the *Los Angeles Times*
- 3,528 stakeholders notified by mail: elected officials, ~~government~~ government agencies, businesses and community-based organizations, and nearby residents
- Notice and project information posted on the **project website**
- Public meeting

Adam R. Lid

Draft EIR -- February 2006

- Notice in *The Argonaut* and the *Los Angeles Times*
- A Notice of Availability was mailed to 7,133 stakeholders
- Draft EIR placed in **local libraries** the Venice - Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library and the Lloyd Taber-Marina del Rey Library
- Information posted on the **project website**
- Presentation at meeting of **L A County Beach Commission**
- Presentation at meeting of **Marina Peninsula Neighborhood Association**
- Presentation at meeting of **Westchester Vitalization Corp**
- Presentation at meeting of Marina Affairs Committee of the **Westchester/LAX/Marina Del Rey Chamber of Commerce**
- Public meeting

Final EIR -- January 2008

- Final EIR mailed to all responsible and trustee agencies and all parties who commented on the Draft EIR.
- Final EIR placed in **local libraries** the Venice - Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library and the Lloyd Taber-Marina del Rey Library.
- Information posted on the **project website**

Project Selection Briefings -- Ongoing

- City staff briefed Los Angeles County staff about the staff's recommended project alternative, the Via Marina route, and the findings of the EIR. Present were: **County Supervisor (4th Dist), Dept Beaches & Harbors, Dept Public Works, Dept Regional Planning**
- Presentation at meeting of **Marina del Rey Design Control Board**
- Article in *The Argonaut*
- Briefed leaders of **Marina del Rey Lessee's Association**
- Presentation at meeting of **Marina del Rey Lessee's Association**
- **Fact sheet mailed** or emailed to 434 addressees including all parties known to have an interest in the project, all Marina del Rey lessee's, parties who are routinely mailed agendas of the L A County Small Craft Harbors Commission and the Marina del Rey Design Control Board
- Presentation at meeting of **L A County Small Craft Harbors Commission**

LYNN SHAPIRO

10

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE-L.A. CITY COUNCIL

November 19, 2008

Date: 11/19/08

Submitted in PW Committee

Council File No: 08-0504

Item No.: 10

Chairman Rosendahl and Committee Members:

Deputy Adam R. L.

I reside in Los Angeles City at Marina Strand Colony Homeowners' Association. These photographs illustrate the proximity of Venice Dual Main Force's construction sites to all our buildings, which are within 12 feet of the proposed tunneling and even less at the corners of Tahiti Way, Bora Bora and Via Dolce where entry holes will be drilled for five and six months according to Mr. Zahedi. The work day is 6 to 9 and and even 6 to 6 on Saturdays. The E.I.R. cites seismic, liquefaction, dewatering settlement and vibration concerns with in 1-200 feet of these buildings. These photographs prove that the distance of our homes is far less.

To mitigate these geological concerns (GEO 2 and 3 of the E.I.R.), the City will depend on compaction grouting and watertight excavation support systems to insure against subsidence. Therefore, the integrity of our homes will depend on workmanship, accurate inspections and the integrity of both equipment and performance. All of this is a geological gamble AND we who live within L.A. City and at this dangerous proximity to your project were not even noticed. That is, we were excluded from the original discussions with the public in 2003. We learned about Mr. Doty's presentation to the D.C.B. thanks to The Argonaut, our local paper, in 2008.

The Department that oversees this project does not even know or care how many residents are living in close proximity or that most of them are senior citizens who do not leave their homes all day long. In my building a survey shows that 71% are at home or work at home most of the day. Some two thousand residents live on both sides of the streets, where there are center medians with old growth trees and little possibility of maintaining a sane traffic pattern.

In light of the failure to notice us and the risk to our buildings, we request that you reopen the E.I.R. and hold meetings with expert geologists in our neighborhood, and please include experts from Hyperian which should probably have its capacity expanded before this sewer is built.

purpose intended

The excuse for not building a new sewer on the beach is the birds. This can be remedied. In addition, any inconvenienced birds can fly away; we residents cannot afford to leave our homes for months let alone forever. We love the birds, but they don't pay property taxes. If it is necessary to place concrete blocks by a beach sewer to prevent erosion, let us remember that these can be functional, picnic tables and back rests. The beach is no longer pristine: there are ugly public bathrooms and lease-tern internment camps. A new sewer in proximity of the old, successful one will still permit inspection and repair of the old one. It is not necessary to risk all these homes and the health and safety of the residents when another ^{feasible} route exists.