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**Submitted Electronically**

Kate Huckelbridge  
Chair, California Coastal Commission  
California Coastal Commission  
301 E Ocean Boulevard  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
Email: [Kate.Huckelbridge@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:Kate.Huckelbridge@coastal.ca.gov)

**RE: Venice Lifeguard Station (2300 S. Ocean Front Walk, Venice, CA, 90219)**

Dear Commission Chair Huckelbridge,

On behalf of the Los Angeles Conservancy, I am writing to request the Coastal Commission rescind the De Minimus Waiver issued for demolition at the Venice Lifeguard Station at 2300 South Ocean Front Walk.

SurveyLA identified the Venice Lifeguard Station as a “[r]are example of a lifeguard station headquarters building in Venice; appears to be the only example along this stretch of the beach.” The Lifeguard Station was designed for the City of Los Angeles in 1968 by the Los Angeles-based architectural firm Prescott, Whalley, and Weit and the esteemed landscape architecture firm Cornell, Bridgers, and Troller. The building is an excellent example of Mid-Century institutional development, with a hexagonal first story and a two-story central tower. The 40-foot tower, also hexagonal in shape with a third story observation deck, is the building’s most distinctive feature. It served as the Venice Lifeguard Headquarters from 1968 to 1975 when the Joint Powers Agreement was established, then as the County Lifeguard Headquarters from 1975 to 2017.

In their application, the Los Angeles County of Beaches and Harbors stating that the building is “County-owned” and the central tower has “reached the end of its development lifecycle.” According to the Joint Powers Agreement, the Lifeguard Station is owned by the City, which it leases to the County along with three other City-owned lifeguard stations for one dollar a year. Numerous community members along with Council District representative Traci Park have contested the second claim that the tower is at the end of its lifecycle. According to the County-issued 2014 Building Assessment Report, the Venice Lifeguard station was found to be in need of structural repairs due to dry rot on the observation at the floor and roof. However, the Report recommended rehabilitation rather than demolition. Since the 2014 report, the County Department of Beaches and Harbors deferred maintenance and repairs on the structure and instead filed permits for demolition.



Due to contested claims of the County in their permit, we ask that the Coastal Commission rescind the De Minimus Waiver for partial demolition of the Venice Lifeguard Station. We request a meeting with your staff to discuss this issue further and to determine how we might best proceed.

**About the Los Angeles Conservancy:**

The Los Angeles Conservancy is the largest local historic preservation organization in the United States, with nearly 5,000 members throughout the Los Angeles area. Established in 1978, the Conservancy works to preserve and revitalize the significant architectural and cultural heritage of Los Angeles County through advocacy and education.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (213) 430-4203 or [afine@laconservancy.org](mailto:afine@laconservancy.org) should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Adrian Scott Fine  
Senior Director of Advocacy

cc:

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