



Coastal Lands
CLAN
Action Network



The Honorable Michael Jensen, Chair
and Honorable Committee Members
Land Use and Planning Committee
Venice Neighborhood Council

July 31, 2024

Chair-LUPC@venicenc.org, LUPC@venicenc.org

sent via email

Re: CPC-2024-2010-GPA-ZC-CU2-SPPC – Venice Auxiliary Pumping Plant – 133
Hurricane Street **SUPPORT Motion**

Dear Committee Chair Jensen and Committee Members:

First, we support approval of this motion, in significant part because the historical Ballona Lagoon Marine Preserve and adjoining Ballona Grand Canal Lagoon have been designated as ESHA – Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area in the Venice LUP, has been treated as such by the Coastal Commission and a Supervisor Court Judge in San Francisco.

Ballona Institute has participated in City Planning Commission and community meetings for this proposed project. Numerous meetings were arranged by and supported by Councilmember Traci Park's office and leaders in the community, spearheaded by Steve Bradbury, who has worked diligently to seek a solution that would work for the City Public Works Department and also the neighborhood, which would be impacted significantly, and yet, the City Department driving this project has done little, if anything, to address these concerns.

Ballona Institute • Defend Ballona Wetlands • Coastal Lands Action Network
322 Culver Blvd., #317, Playa del Rey, CA 90293 ~ (310) 877-2634

*Ballona Institute/Coastal Lands Action Network/Defend Ballona Wetlands
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While we acknowledge that it is crucial for human waste infrastructure be adequate to process and move waste to the Hyperion Treatment Plant at the south end of Playa del Rey, we have been extremely disappointed that the City departments involved have ignored the requests of the community and most importantly, in furtherance of the missions of our organizations, the requirements of the Coastal Act.

As is noted in the motion you are considering, a Superior Court Judge in San Francisco ruled that the ESHA in the Grand Canal Lagoon needed to be protected – by law – and no heavy machines were to be allowed in a previously considered “restoration.” The City has refused, up until now, to address the impacts and harm that would result in this ESHA by its significant construction project. Sufficient mitigation must be required for the anticipated damage, and we have offered a possible solution for that eventuality.

Please pass the motion you are considering. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert J. ‘Roy’ van de Hoek /s/

Robert J. ‘Roy’ van de Hoek

Biologist & Environmental Scientist

Ballona Institute

Marcia Hanscom /s/

Marcia Hanscom

Community Organizer

Defend Ballona Wetlands

Dee Fromm /s/

Dee Fromm

Managing Director

Coastal Lands Action Network

Cc: Steve Bradbury, Robin Rudisill

Attachments – articles re: Grand Canal lawsuit, community restoration at Grand Canal Lagoon