



**APPLICATION SUMMARY SHEET**

**RECEIVED** PAGE 1

PROJECT NAME Yes WE Can – Green Our School		MAR 6 2009
BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION (50 WORDS OR LESS) <b>To provide our students with opportunities to become knowledgeable, joyous stewards of the environment and to connect students with food systems. To that end we're greening our campus and expanding our organic garden. We seek funds for benches for our reading garden, soccer field and organic garden.</b>		
PROJECT SITE NAME AND FULL ADDRESS Westminster Ave. Elementary School 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd. Venice, CA. 90291		
PROJECT COMPLETION DATE September 2009	# OF VENICE STAKEHOLDERS TO BENEFIT BY THIS PROJECT 500+	

ORGANIZATION OR STAKEHOLDER NAME Karen Brown Principal, Westminster Ave. Elementary School		
QUALIFYING ADDRESS 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd. Venice, CA 90291		
DAY PHONE 310 392-3041	EVENING PHONE	CELL PHONE
E-MAIL ADDRESS Kbrown6@lausd.net		FAX 310 392 6506

PROJECT MANAGER Nora Dvosin		TITLE Garden Project Manager
MAILING ADDRESS 117 Wavecrest Ave. Venice, CA 90291		
DAY PHONE 310 392 8115	EVENING PHONE 310 392 8115	CELL PHONE 310 866 8488
E-MAIL ADDRESS Dvosin@me.com		FAX 310 396-0896

BY SIGNING BELOW, I agree to the terms of the 2009-10 Community Improvement Project funding guidelines. I also acknowledge that the information submitted in this application is accurate to the best of my knowledge. Submitting an application with misleading information may be cause for disqualification.

AMOUNT REQUESTED \$2000.00
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STAKEHOLDER SIGNATURE

2/25/09  
DATE

REVIEW (For Office Use Only)
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PROJECT MANAGER SIGNATURE

2/25/09  
DATE

PROJECT # (For Office Use Only) <b>G</b>
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**PROJECT DESCRIPTION SHEET**

**PAGE 2**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION** (Include how many stakeholders will be working on this project.) (Maximum 500 words)  
For the past four years Westminster has had an active organic garden, staffed by two certified Master Gardeners and parent and community volunteers. Having won a Community Beautification Grant, the garden was recently expanded to 6,000sq.ft. With monies from another grant, the children planted a Native California garden. The two gardens stimulated us to rethink our entire campus and we've now embarked on several massive projects that will ultimately change not only how the students use the school campus but how the community relates to our campus. Essentially, we want to open up our campus and invite the community in.

We hope to eventually realize our Master Plan (see attached) that includes an ecological water run-off wetlands, a California woodland area, a deciduous tree forest, a soft running track, an equipped outdoor kitchen for the organic garden, a council circle for school gatherings, a small orchard, a literacy garden, a teacher's patio, and more.

But in the short term we desperately want to have benches for our children, their parents and community volunteers who come to our campus gardens. In keeping with our environmental concerns, we will buy benches made of recycled plastic. We think this will not only be aesthetically pleasing but also a teaching opportunity for our students. We are asking that you help us as we create a conscious and focused green community for our students, families, and friends.

The benches will be shipped to us in parts and our parents and volunteers will assemble and place them. We will have a dedication ceremony for our newly planted areas, and for the benches we will enjoy for years to come.

IS THIS PROJECT PART OF A LARGER PROJECT?  YES  NO

**COMMUNITY BENEFIT** (Description of benefit to the entire community and justification for these benefits)

We believe school gardens and campus greening projects foster a sense of community among the students, and that sense of community grows into a shared sense of responsibility for the planet. If we meet our "joint use" goal and open various areas of the campus to the local community, we think Westminster Ave. Elementary School can become a vital community center.



**VENICE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT APPLICATION PACKET 2009**



**BUDGET SHEET**

**PAGE 3**

Applicants previously receiving Community Improvement Funds must complete Parts A & B (see instructions)

Applicants previously unfunded should only complete Part A – No match is required

PART A - VENDOR AND MATERIALS/SERVICES INFORMATION	TOTAL COST	NOTES
Highland Products Group 3 6' Recycled Plastic Sport Benches	\$ 762	We will pay shipping costs and taxes with garden funding.
Highland Products Group 3 6' Recycled Plastic Central Park Benches	\$1392	
PART B - MATCH - NAME OF SOURCE	MATCH	

**PROJECT TOTAL (PARTS A & B)     \$2,154\_\_\_\_\_**



## PROJECT PLANNING SHEET

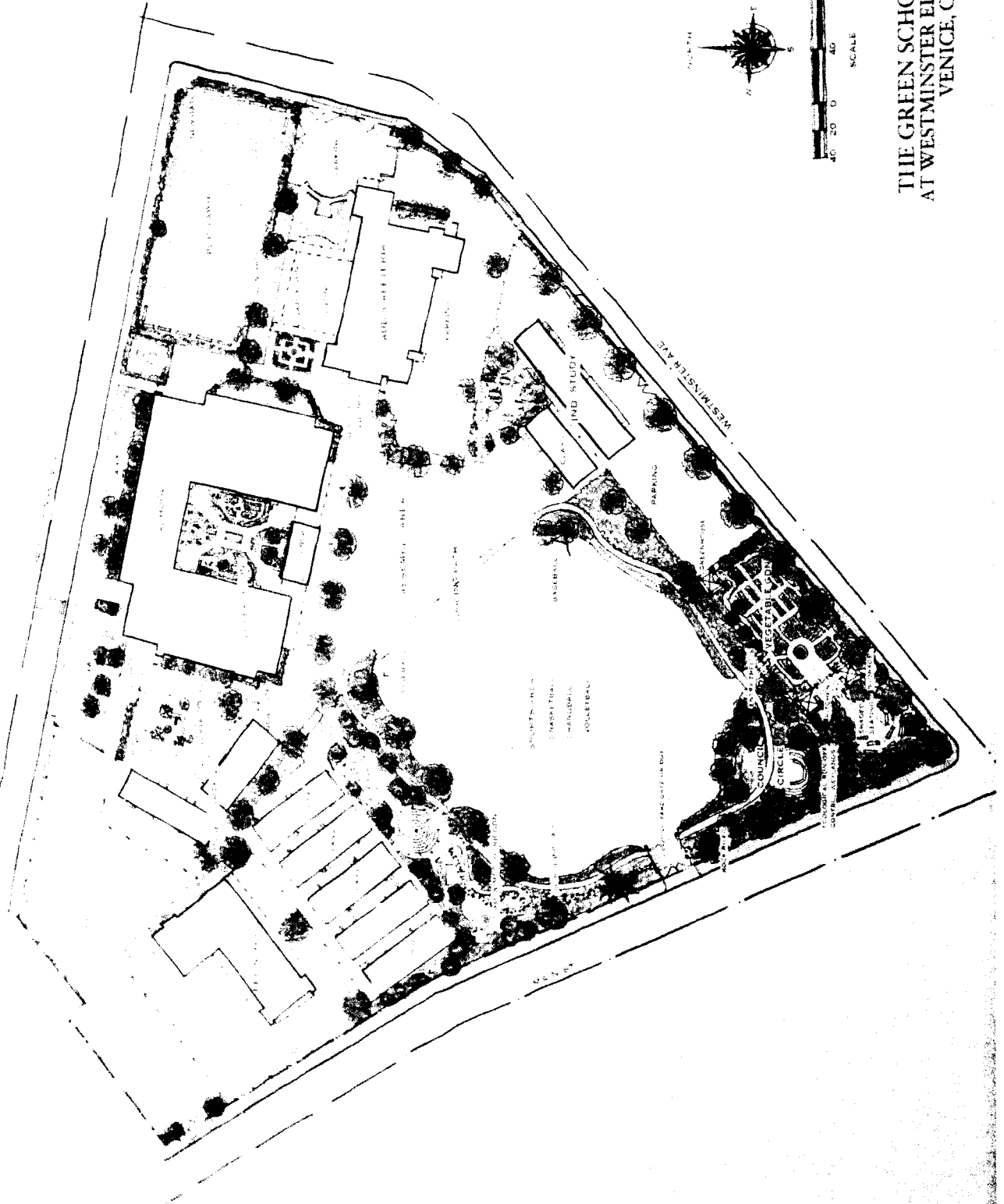
PAGE 4

**WORK PLAN** (Include a TIME-LINE for the project with beginning date and completion date of each phase)

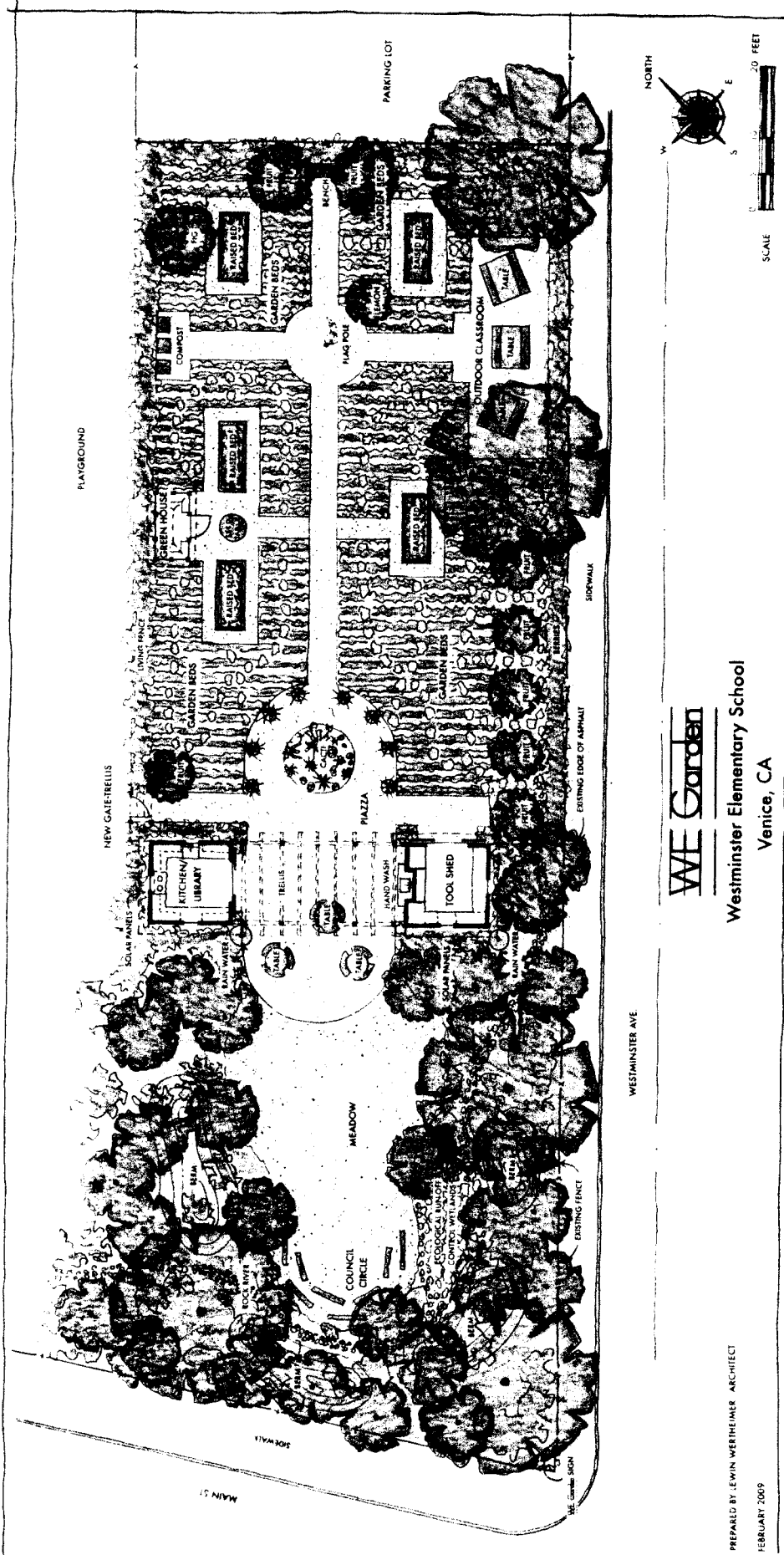
We will order the benches in July. Parents volunteers will assemble the benches and place them over the summer and they will be in place by the beginning of the fall semester, 2009.

**MAINTENANCE PLAN** (if applicable)

We are intentionally buying recycled plastic benches in order to support environmentally sustainable best practices and also to ensure that the benches will not need upkeep, as wood benches often erode due to weather and water.



THE GREEN SCHOOLYARD  
 AT WESTMINSTER ELEMENTARY  
 VENICE, CA



**WE Garden**

Westminister Elementary School  
Venice, CA

PREPARED BY: LEWIN WETHEIMER ARCHITECT  
FEBRUARY 2009



**ORGANIZATION SHEET (If applicable)**

6

(Only complete this form if the applicant is an organization. If so, do not complete Page 10)

<b>ORGANIZATION NAME</b> Friends of Westminster Ave Elementary School Yes WF Can - Green Our School
<b>ORGANIZATION ADDRESS</b> 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd Venice CA 90291
<b>ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE (Include the experience that your organization has in the execution of similar projects)</b> For the past four years Friends of Westminster Ave. Elementary has supported a hugely successful organic gardening and nutrition program at our school. The project leaders are Nora Dvosin, a California Certified Master Gardener and LAUSD Adult Education teacher, and Nancy Giffin, a Master Gardener and landscape architect teaching through UCLA's Landscape Architecture program. Our garden provides a "seed to table" experience for all of our students. They plant, tend, harvest, cook and eat the fruits and vegetables of their labors. It's a joyous experience for all. Our outdoor classroom is fully integrated into the science, language and history components of our in-class curriculums. We have won an LA Office of Beautification grant, garnered financial support from our local School Councilmember, Marlene Canter, won a private grant from the CA Fertilizer Foundation, and attracted the financial and in-kind support of many local businesses and community volunteers. We have a Master Plan (see attached) to revitalize our entire school campus expand and green our kindergarten yard, expand yet again our organic garden (see attached) to accommodate an ecological runoff/control wetlands area. We hope, within the near future, to work in partnership with LAUSD in a "joint use" contract that would allow us to open certain areas of our schoolyard to the public on weekends or after school. All of our projects have been completed on time or are currently in process.

TOTAL MEMBERS 50	<b>The proposal must include the names and SIGNATURES of 5 members of the organization (preferably Board members)</b>	YEAR ESTABLISHED 2005
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BY SIGNING BELOW, I declare in good faith that I am a member of the organization named above. I realize the Venice Neighborhood Council may contact me to verify my membership and participation in this organization.

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	SIGNATURE
TODD LESNER	1010 ABBOT KINNEY	(310) 392-3041	
MELISA LAVER	1010 ABBOT KINNEY	(310) 392-3041	
Bake Maehamer	943 Superba Ave	310 306-4237	
Marilyn Matsumoto	1010 Abbot Kinney	310 392 3041	
LEWIN NEUBERGER	115 WAYNES S. AVE.	310-392-4252	



**VENICE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT APPLICATION PACKET 2009**



**PERMISSION FOR USE OF PROPERTY SHEET (If applicable)**

**PAGE 8**

Use this form to show the approval of the use of the project site from the property owner, school principal, city agency, etc. Attach as many as necessary.

<b>PROJECT NAME</b> Yes WE Can – Green Our School
<b>APPLICANT</b> Nora Dvosin – Garden Project Manager

<b>ENTITY OR NAME OF PERSON WHO CONTROLS USE OF THE PROPERTY</b> Karen Brown	<b>TITLE</b> Principal, Westminster School
<b>FACILITY/BUSINESS NAME</b> Westminster Ave Elementary School	<b>PHONE</b> 310 392-3041
<b>SITE ADDRESS</b> 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd Venice CA 90291	

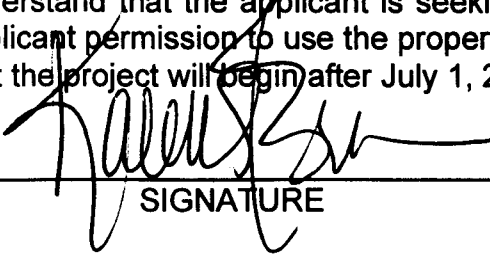
**DESCRIPTION OF USE AND PERMISSION NEEDED FOR THIS SITE**

We will place recycled plastic garden benches in the existing organic garden.

We will place recycled plastic garden benches in the reading garden courtyard.

We will place recycled plastic athletic benches in the community field.

BY SIGNING BELOW, I declare in good faith that I own or am responsible for the named property. I understand that the applicant is seeking funding through the Venice Neighborhood Council. I grant the applicant permission to use the property for the implementation of the above named project. I understand that the project will begin after July 1, 2009.

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 SIGNATURE

2.25.09  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE





VENICE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT APPLICATION PACKET 2009



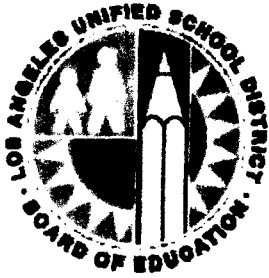
**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT SHEET**

Use this sheet to establish the involvement of Venice stakeholders in this project. This sheet may also be used to document pledges of volunteer hours.

PROJECT NAME Yes We Can - Green Our School	APPLICANT Nora Dvorsin
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NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE	DATE	NATURE OF INVOLVEMENT	HOURS PLEDGED
Blake Machamer	943 Sepulba Ave	<i>Blake Machamer</i>	2/27/09	Volunteer	10
Emil Curo	1570 Manning Ave	<i>Emil Curo</i>	2/27/09	Volunteer	50
Austin Deales	7027 chelsea Ave	<i>Austin Deales</i>	2/27/09	volunteer	50
NANCY GIFFIN	3013 STANFORD AVE	<i>Nancy Giffin</i>	2/27/09	Volunteer	15
NORA DVORSIN	117 WAVECREST AVE	<i>Nora Dvorsin</i>	2/27/09	VOLUNTEER	50

Attach letters of support from the community behind this page. Letters that state something unique about the project or from people who will be directly affected by the project will have a greater impact.



LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Local District 3  
*Westminster Avenue Elementary*  
*Westminster Avenue Computer Science/Math Magnet*  
1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd.  
Venice, CA 90291  
(310) 392-3041 Fax: (310)392-6506

**Ramon C. Cortines**  
*Superintendent of Schools*  
**Michelle King**  
*Superintendent, Local District 3*  
**Karen E. Brown**  
*Principal*

February 25, 2009

Community Improvement Projects  
Venice Neighborhood Council  
P.O. Box 550  
Venice, CA 90294

Dear Neighborhood Committee:

I strongly support our Master Gardener/PTA-led project to expand our organic garden, green our school campus and eventually open areas of our campus for joint-use with the community.

Westminster Elementary (WE) believes that as the school grows and greens, not only our students, but our local community will enjoy the benefits of a healthier, more environmentally sound campus.


Our organic garden program is a dynamic and vital part of our curriculum. This out-door classroom enables every student, from 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, to develop a deeper understanding of environmental science, math and language arts. And, of course, it's brought joy to every participating student.

WE hopes to eventually realize our Master Plan (see attached) which includes an expanded kindergarten yard, an ecological water run-off wetlands, a California woodland area, a deciduous tree forest, a soft running track, an equipped outdoor kitchen for the organic garden, a council circle for school gatherings, a small orchard, a literacy garden, a teacher's patio and much more.

Toward those ends I will do whatever I can to facilitate the next phase of our school greening. Funding from the Venice Neighborhood Council will help to ensure that our projects, large and small, will go forward with all due speed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Ms. Karen Brown  
Principal, Westminster Avenue Elementary School  
Venice, CA



February 25, 2009

To Whom it May Concern:

As a 15-year resident of Venice I've watched the neighborhood gentrification from close range. Sadly and alarmingly, the population of our local public school, Westminster Elementary, has not changed commensurately. Newly arrived parents prefer to send their kids to wildly expensive private schools because they perceive that the public school simply doesn't measure up.

But there are seeds of change, and one of those is the Westminster Garden and Greening Program. The garden and campus greening programs offer our local students a much-needed eco-literacy program, creating a foundation of environmental awareness for the health of tomorrow's planet.

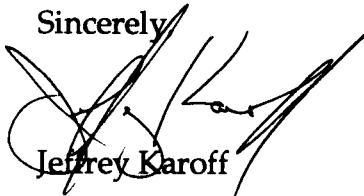
And it does more: The over-all greening offers a face to the street of a changing school. Parents stop and talk to the garden instructors from outside the fence, amazed to see such a rich program at a public institution. The garden has become a kind of welcoming ambassador to skeptical parents. In several recent garden/planting events the outpouring of teacher, student, parent and community support has set a new bar for Venice.

Expanding the garden and campus greening will improve both the garden's capacity to teach and provide an even greater indication to the community that Westminster is a viable choice for their children.

Westminster Elementary has more than enough asphalt – asphalt that is not only unsightly, but sends an unwelcoming message. The newly expanded garden and the newly planted trees and shrubs are a step toward making Westminster's population reflect the neighborhood's concerns and issues and is proof of the school's ongoing commitment to student and neighborhood improvement.

I encourage the VNC Community Improvement Projects to support the continued evolution of Westminster Elementary's environmental programs.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Karoff

February 24, 2009

Venice Neighborhood Council  
Community Improvements Projects

Dear Neighborhood Committee,

Westminster Avenue Elementary School PTA whole-heartedly supports the WE Organic Garden and the Yes WE Can – Green Our School projects.

Our PTA recently coordinated with our Master Gardeners to produce a very successful Tree Planting event on campus. We had almost 100 participants on that day: parents, teachers, students and community volunteers. It was a great day for Westminster Elementary and one we hope to repeat many times as we implement our Master Plan to convert our asphalt schoolyard into healthy, beautiful, environmentally sustainable heart-center for the community.

Now that we've planted a shady grove of trees in our reading garden, we're hoping to get funding for several benches for the children so they can read in comfort in our gorgeous courtyard. As well, we'd like to place a park bench in our organic garden so that children can sit and admire what they've created with their own very active hands. Finally, we'd like to place some benches on our soccer field, which has recently been edged with wonderful flowering trees.

In the not-too-distant future we're planning to open our campus to joint-use activities with the local community. We envision Sunday soccer games, or family activity days on our field. Wouldn't it be great if we have benches funded by the Venice Neighborhood Council? We think so!

Please consider us for a Community Improvement grant. We are a school on the move and we need your support.

Sincerely,



Coby Dahlstrom  
PTA President  
Westminster Ave. Elementary School

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