

## Significant Actions taken at Venice Neighborhood Council's August 16th Board Meeting

**The Venice Neighborhood Council takes positions on an RFP for a Charter School at Walgrove Elementary and Redevelopment in Marina Del Rey at its Board Meeting on August 16th.** At the meeting, the Venice Neighborhood Council approved a motion that recommends the LAUSD focus on charter applicants' capacity and ability to address middle school needs -- without excluding elementary or high schools -- in its upcoming Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Walgrove Elementary Campus. The LAUSD plans to release an RFP inviting charter school operators to participate in a bid for a land lease at Walgrove Elementary beginning 2012-2013. The lease would allow a charter school to construct a permanent facility for its future use. This RFP will not impact operation in the upcoming school year.

A second motion submitted by a community member sought the VNC's support for the continuation of Ocean Charter School's co-location at the Walgrove campus. This motion did not receive a second and died. Several board members stated their desire to revisit the subject after the RFP has been published.

The Board and LAUSD School Board Member Steve Zimmer (who attended the meeting and described the RFP process for the Board and the overflow audience) heard public comment on both motions. During Mr. Zimmer's presentation the community learned that the temporary "Escutia Bungalows" used at many LAUSD campuses must be removed by December, 2012 (the removal will be completed before the 2012 school year starts to avoid disruption on campuses), requiring facilities changes across the District. Several charter schools co-located on LAUSD campuses using the bungalows (including Ocean Charter) will have to relocate. These charter operations had year-to-year co-location agreements because of the upcoming facilities change.

**The VNC Board also voted overwhelmingly to oppose reduction of public parking in Marina Del Rey at the meeting. In another resolution, the Board called for putting 17 redevelopment projects in Marina Del Rey on hold until a flawed Traffic Study analyzing the impacts of the development can be revised or replaced.**

A proposed amendment to the County's Local Coastal Program (LCP) for the Marina makes significant changes to the MDR Land Use Plan, including the reduction to public parking. The flawed Traffic Study is required by the amendment process. Six of the 17 parcels to be developed require that this amendment to the County's LCP be approved by the California Coastal Commission before proceeding.

The LCP amendment includes language that would change the current use of several parcels from public parking to other uses, reduce the total number of public parking spaces in the Marina and allow transfer of control of public parking spaces to private operators. Meanwhile, the flawed Traffic Study concluded that no changes to street infrastructure in the City of Los Angeles would be needed to maintain current traffic service levels if proposed development in the Marina takes place. However, the study failed to consider the impact of additional traffic on the City of LA outside of the study area and relied on a problematic technical analysis to come to its conclusions. In fact, the independent consultant who analyzed the County's study said: "*there is 'substantial evidence' that the Proposed Project will have adverse traffic impacts (both inside the unincorporated Marina del Rey and in the neighboring cities that surround the Marina) that have not been properly disclosed, analyzed, and mitigated... each of the significant traffic impacts outside the County's jurisdiction must be considered 'significant and unavoidable.'*"

The Board's resolutions ask that the City of Los Angeles oppose the LCP Amendment as proposed and that the California Coastal Commission reject the amendment until the problems pointed out by the VNC can be addressed.