



Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 / www.VeniceNC.org
Email: info@VeniceNC.org / Phone or Fax: 310.606.2015



April 22, 2009

Councilmember Bill Rosendahl
City of Los Angeles
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Re: Saving Egret Park/Land Swap

Dear Bill:

The Venice Neighborhood Council ("VNC") supports the efforts of the Ballona Institute and The Committee to Complete the Park to secure and protect all of the privately-owned parcels of land located in the Ballona Wetlands area. The VNC urges you to help us complete the full preservation and conservation of all of the Ballona Wetlands.

Recently at the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils, Marcia Hanscom, Co-Director of Ballona Institute, pressed Mayor Villariagosa for support of the plan to swap the city owned Westchester Firehouse with the privately held north end of Del Rey Lagoon know as "Egret Park." The mayor was definitely receptive to the idea, and expressed interest in assisting the Ballona Institute.

This land swap is vitally important, not only for "Egret Park", but also for setting a precedent for future land disputes in the greater Ballona Wetlands area. In light of the City's budget crisis, it is essential to strike a deal before the Firehouse is put back up for sale. You recently were quoted as saying local residents, "must decide if the building is worth fighting for." Mr. Councilman, it is.

We further commend your commitment to providing low income/supportive services housing components in the future developments of the Firehouse properties and ask that you continue to require developers of the Firehouse properties to guarantee those components.

Thank you for your work thus far in forming a potential resolution. The VNC and our Environmental Committee are willing to help you and your office in any way we can to facilitate this deal in a timely manner. No matter what direction your office chooses to take, we hope that it is in-line with the goals of the Ballona Institute and The Committee to Complete the Park, which is the preservation and conservation of all of



Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 / www.VeniceNC.org
Email: info@VeniceNC.org / Phone or Fax: 310.606.2015



the Ballona Wetlands. To do that, we must first secure all of the outstanding, privately-held parcels to achieve those goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike R. Newhouse".

Mike Newhouse
President
Venice Neighborhood Council

Cc: secretary@veniceNC.org