



Gary DeLong Long Beach City Council District 3

December 2008 Issue II

Los Cerritos Wetlands

On Wednesday November 12th the City held a press conference to announce the framework of a proposal to swap City land in exchange for 175+ acres of the Los Cerritos Wetlands. The City would then be reimbursed by selling the Wetlands area to the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority.

While more due diligence is appropriate, and public meetings will be held to disseminate information about this huge undertaking as well as provide answers to residents' questions, I believe the proposal potentially offers a "once in a lifetime" opportunity to move the Wetlands from private ownership to the public sector. Both Councilmembers Doug Drummond (1990 – 1998) and Frank Colonna (1998 – 2006) worked hard to acquire the Wetlands during their terms, and it is a priority of mine as well. If we can successfully conclude the transaction, future generations of Long Beach residents will reap the rewards.

In the meanwhile, if you have an opinion on this important issue, please let me know at 562/570-6300 or DeLong@LongBeach.gov

Belmont Plaza Pool

The revitalization of the Belmont Plaza Pool will restore a community asset that has a long and distinguished history.

- Councilmember Gary DeLong, December 2008

We are seeking to restore the Belmont Plaza Olympic Pool as a premier aquatics facility while balancing competitive, recreational, and therapeutic uses; creating an environmentally green facility and reducing operating cost deficits.

On October 23, 2008, the City officially kicked off the revitalization project. After receiving proposals from twenty firms across the United States, the final selection was MDM Architects. The scope of work for the project includes a feasibility study and reviewing structural research to determine the facility's current condition, which will in turn facilitate direction to either rehabilitation of the facility or a complete rebuild.

In addition to the feasibility study, project direction will be driven by community feedback. Community meetings will be held after the New Year to garner input and feedback on the project's concept design. The estimated time line for final design concepts is Spring 2009.

Eastside Gateways

As mentioned in my previous newsletter, the City was close to receiving \$250,000 from CalTrans to landscape 7th Street west of Studebaker. The project has now been approved and is in the design stage.

If you would like to be added to our email distribution list, please let us know at (562) 570-6300 or District3@LongBeach.gov

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Upcoming Events

3rd District Neighborhood Association Meeting 1/15

E-Waste Collection 2/21 & 2/22

Household Hazardous Waste @ Veteran's Stadium 3/28

Contact City Hall

Abandoned Shopping Carts (800) 252-4613

Graffiti Hotline – (562) 570-2773

Police & Fire – (562) 435-6711 (Non Emergency)

Pothole Repair – (562) 570-3259

Street Repairs

Earlier this year Governor Schwarzenegger expressed a desire to move forward next year's Proposition 1B infrastructure funding to the current fiscal year. Accordingly, on Tuesday, November 11, 2008 the City Council submitted a list of potential projects to the State of California for Prop 1B funding, a measure designed to improve transportation safety. Prop 1B funding will be used to rebuild residential streets.

Additionally, on Tuesday, December 2, 2008 the County of Los Angeles certified the passage of Measure R, a County sales tax increase, which will bring approximately \$11.88 million annually to the City of Long Beach. This funding will also be used to rebuild our residential streets.

2nd & PCH Traffic Synchronization

The City is making progress on plans to improve traffic flow at the intersection of 2nd Street and Pacific Coast Highway, one of the busiest in the City. Improvement plans are under way to widen the southbound approach of PCH at 2nd Street in order to provide a second southbound left-turn lane and a southbound right-turn only lane. After approvals are in place, Public Works expects to move forward with this project by mid 2009.

In the meantime, City traffic engineers have moved ahead with a plan to synchronize two closely spaced intersections, 2nd Street & PCH and Marina Drive & PCH. CalTrans owns and operates the 2nd Street & PCH intersection and the City owns and operates the 2nd Street & Marina Drive intersection. Because the intersection computers running the two intersections are incompatible, City traffic engineers have worked with CalTrans to construct an underground conduit link between the two intersection computers so that they can be connected together. Construction is almost complete.

Secondly, City traffic engineers will be upgrading the 2nd Street & Marina Drive intersection computer to the latest technology to allow the two intersection computers to not only work in unison but to run the latest traffic adaptive software program. By linking the two intersections together and having the computers work together, traffic flow and synchronization will greatly improve.

This joint effort between CalTrans and the City of Long Beach is the first of its type in Los Angeles County. City traffic engineers hope to be able to bring the new system on-line after the first of the year.

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