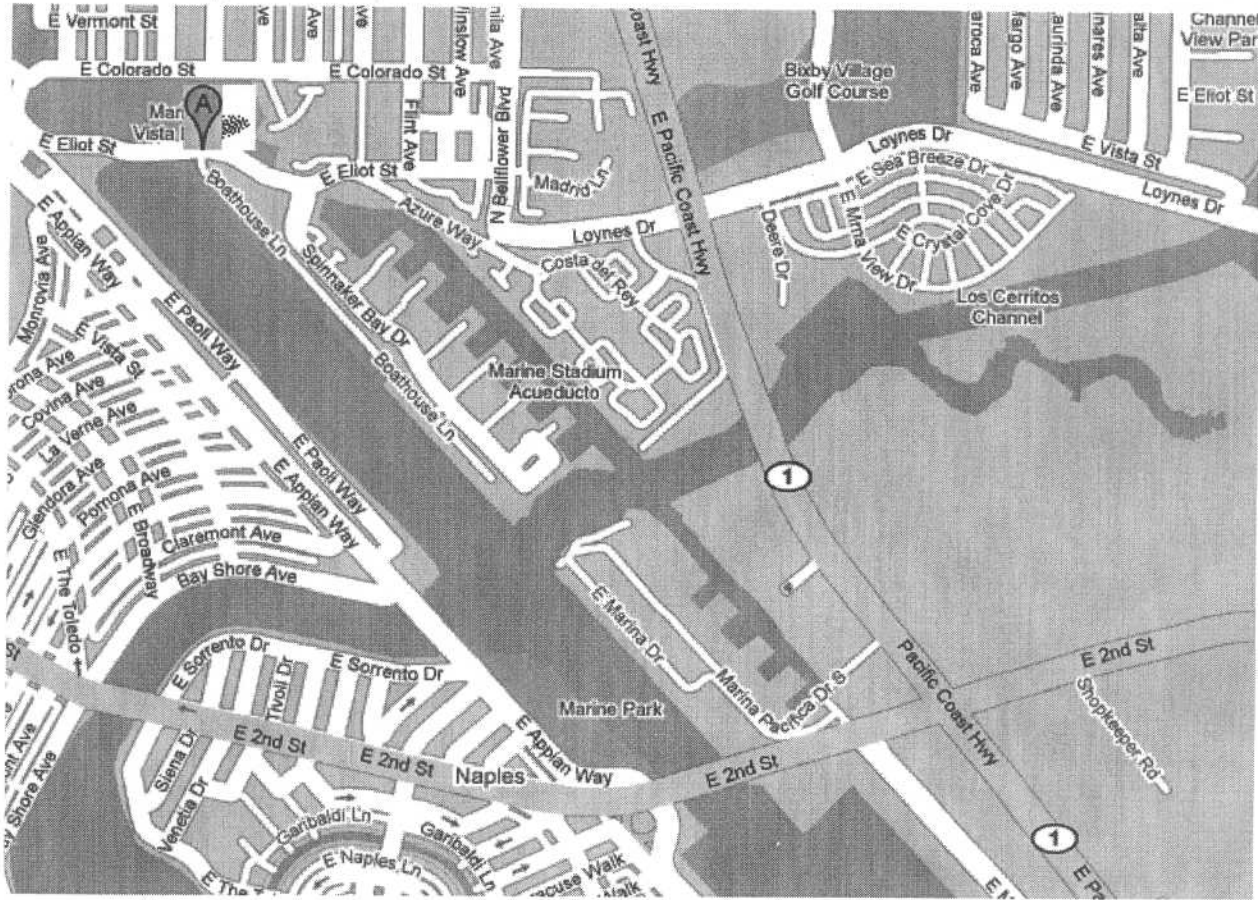


H-1
Larry Goethue

Google Maps Address



October 14, 2008

Dear Mayor Foster and Members of the Long Beach City Council,

I am writing, and appearing before you today, October 14, 2008 to ask that you not approve the environmental impact report (EIR) regarding the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project in its current form. The EIR does not sufficiently address numerous issues regarding the proposed development of an open channel, nor does it sufficiently consider several aspects of alternative proposals.

In its current state, the EIR suggests that the development of an open channel is the recommended means of improving the water quality of the Lagoon. However, doing so would mean causing irreparable damage to Marina Vista Park, and to the use of that park by members of the community and of greater Long Beach.

Marina Vista Park is utilized for many activities, by young and old alike. Organized activities, such as soccer and cricket, and less formal activities (e.g. baseball practices, flying kites and model airplanes, etc.) all rely on the park as the single largest open flat space in the area. Additionally, access through the park to frequent activities and events, such as the farmer's market, concerts in the park and trips to school by elementary and middle schoolers, would be diminished by this project. And though destruction of Marina Vista Park in its current usable state would be appalling, the actual use of the park is not addressed by the EIR.

A second deficiency of the EIR is in not adequately exploring alternative proposals. The proposal for a parallel culvert (along the existing culvert) is also mentioned in the EIR. The conclusion that the open channel is preferred does not follow from careful consideration of the alternatives. The EIR does not even address how different size culverts might impact water flow. Obviously, larger culverts allow greater water flow. The EIR is deficient in its consideration of alternative proposals.

It has been suggested that use of the park will not be diminished. If this is true, an unchanged number of individuals will continue to use the park. However, due to the construction of the bridges, numerous parking spots will be lost. The impact of this on the community was not sufficiently addressed in the EIR

In addition to the above mentioned reasons, I also believe that this project would create an attractive nuisance to the community, and a likely financial liability to the city. Common sense, as well as the reaction I have observed from some children in hearing about the channel (we can jump off the bridge into the water!), would lead to the conclusion that a channel will attract unintended and dangerous usage. This will cause a hazard, which will be exacerbated should the flow of water through the channel become rapid. Such rapid flow is inevitable during high water runoff periods. Chasing balls from

the immediately adjoining baseball field will also lead to risks. Again, the potential for such risks, and the use of the park in general, are not addressed by the EIR.

To address such risks and liability, the city will need to act. The simplest, and most likely alternative, would be to raise a fence. An open channel project will eventually become an eye sore.

The proposal for a parallel culvert has been addressed by Kimberly Garvey of Moffat and Nichol as an equally efficacious alternative to improving the water quality of the Lagoon. Following this approach would effectively accomplish the desired outcome of addressing the Lagoon habitat, while preserving the human habitat of Marina Vista Park.

Although the culvert will not create additional habitat within the boundaries of Marina Vista Park, it will improve the habitat of the Lagoon and afford wonderful opportunities to utilize that area for teaching and personal enjoyment. The argument that the increased wildlife habitat is a benefit is erroneous as it increases only at the expense of families and children in the community. Other locations as alternative wildlife habitat locations are not addressed in the EIR.

Rarely are we afforded the opportunity to solve a problem in a manner that satisfies all interested parties. Accomplishing the goals of both addressing the Lagoon and preserving Marina Vista Park is the obvious solution to the needs of all community members.

I ask that you approve the EIR on this project ONLY if the culvert plan is adopted as the preferred option. If this cannot be done, I ask that you NOT approve the EIR.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mark Michaels, Ph.D.

Dear Council Members,

October 12, 2008

I am writing this in regards to the Colorado Lagoon Restoration EIR that is up for approval by City Council on October 14. I will try to make this as brief as possible. However, I believe all my points should be considered carefully. I have been a resident of Alamitos Heights for over 14 years. I am a registered Civil Engineer and have over 20 years of project manager experience in the planning, designing and construction of drainage and traffic improvement projects. I was a design engineer and project manager for 5 years for Los Angeles County Flood Control District. In addition, I have over 15 years of experience with a very reputable private engineering firm as a project manager for numerous drainage and transportation projects.

I am not opposed to the cleanup of Colorado Lagoon. I believe the efforts of the City and Friends of Colorado Lagoon (FOCL) are noteworthy in this regard. However, I am opposed to taking away valuable Marina Vista Park land to build an open channel as proposed in the EIR document (Phase II). My reasons are outlined below. I do see a lot of benefits from completing Phase I and am in favor of completing Phase I then implementing a monitoring program to review the results of Phase I; and then, if necessary complete a Phase II project which only includes construction of a parallel underground culvert to aid in the restoration of Colorado Lagoon. All of this would be in compliance with the final Colorado Lagoon Restoration Feasibility Report completed in February 2005 and the goal to restore Colorado Lagoon.

The five main reasons (and there are several more) I oppose approval of the aforementioned EIR as written are:

1. The construction of the open channel greatly increases the City's liability and compromises the safety of children. I believe that the EIR has not completely and thoroughly addressed and assessed the City's liability of an open channel that is within feet of ball and soccer fields. In addition, during storms children and persons could be endangered by the high storm velocities and water levels i.e. being swept away in dangerous flood water. The solution for this would be to construct a fence (probably chain link fence) which would be aesthetically unappealing and not meet the objective of this project.
2. I am concerned that the EIR does not support the technical Feasibility Report. The report recommends that the first alternative is to perform cleaning out the existing culvert and removing other impeding structures of the existing culvert. I support this 100%. The report also recommends monitoring the success of doing this work before proceeding with work outlined in Phase II.
3. I also sincerely believe that the construction of this open channel is fiscally irresponsible due to the unknown cost of construction for the channel, bridges, and

landscaping at this time. The documents I was able to research in my short time of review and limited time to get information from City personnel never reveals a good sense of what the total cost for Phase I and Phase II are. From the documentation I have read it seems that the focus is on trying not to lose grant funding. Furthermore, it appears that the money received probably does not even cover the entire project costs recommended in Phase I and Phase II. (**So where is all the money going to come from?**) I would recommend determining the costs of the project and identifying funding sources before over extending the City on projects such as this; especially in these times of economic uncertainties.

4. In addition, I'm concerned that the ongoing maintenance costs of Phase II project (open channel) are grossly underestimated. The costs would be \$33,000 (number from the 2005 Feasibility Report) annually for just the open channel. The debris removal costs alone could exceed that. I am concerned not enough funds will be provided annually to maintain this channel properly. I am concerned that other City Council Members, officials and residents will disapprove of funds being spent to maintain this project and thus reduce if not eliminate the maintenance funding for this channel due to the state of the City's budget. This will leave vegetation to become overgrown and debris lingering for months in the channel. This now becomes more of a health and safety issue of stinking rotting debris and our ability to see and watch our children safely around the channel. We all know what state our economy is in and an ongoing annual maintenance cost of this proposed open channel is not something the City should be taking on especially when our streets are in such despair and so many other public facilities need to be upgraded and maintained properly.

5. I am vehemently opposed to how local residents were, and at time it seems blatantly not informed of this project. I and my husband first learned of this proposed project approximately 12 days ago through a flyer put out on our doorstep by FOCL requesting residents to come to the Oct 14th meeting to show support for the Colorado Lagoon Restoration EIR. I was shocked that such a large project that affects so many community members was being considered. I began researching and printing out the Feasibility Report and EIR information from online sources. After spending some time trying to get some questions answered by City staff that was available, or returned my calls, I began talking to other local residents and found there was indeed a large part of the community who were also not informed or misinformed about the project; and once approached about the project were in shock of the extent of the proposed project. It seems that this project is being supported by special interest groups albeit with good intentions but without any regard to issues I have expressed above. I also found that many people seem to agree with this statement. Having had such limited time to read, investigate and pursue discussions with our local community I feel that we are being ambushed and rushed to make a decision that the public and city council members are not

prepared to make based on this EIR. Even though city staff may have good intentions by informing certain Alamitos Heights Improvement Association board members the information never got out to association members!

I apologize for communicating my concerns on what may seem short notice but I too have had a very short time to do investigation, inquire and the seeking out of information from city staff. So I have tried conveying my major concerns in hope that you all will consider my position and the position of many others to **NOT** approve the Colorado Lagoon Restoration EIR as written.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Teresa (aka Terry) Kelley, P.E.

610 Havana Ave

597-7896

H-1
10-14-08

Paul Urn

Honorable Mayor and City Council
333 W Ocean Blvd
Long Beach, CA 90802

Honorable Mayor and City Council,

Re: Colorado Lagoon Restoration EIR and the Open Channel

The Environmental Science & Policy Club along with our fellow California State University Long Beach students would like to show our support for the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project. As a part of this community, we care deeply about our surrounding environment. We are writing to express our strong desire to see that the Colorado Lagoon restoration project becomes a reality.

We believe that the open channel will significantly enhance water quality and restore marine habitat while enhancing the biological diversity of native plants and species in Long Beach. Attached is a list of CSULB students who are unable to attend this meeting but would like to voice their support for this restoration project. We would like to thank you for your time and again reiterate our full support for the Colorado Lagoon Restoration.

Sincerely,

The Environmental Science & Policy Club and CSULB students

Shirley Durrant
Cecilia Pimentel

~~Harold P~~

Brend Robinson
Kathryn Lutz

~~John M~~

~~John P~~
Kendrick P

John W
Douglas Dore

Michael Buchanan
Eugene J

~~John M~~
Kenton Doudney

~~John M~~
Ariumbayar Ayer
Antonio Delgado

Mary Barnes
~~John P~~
Derek Nutt

Bonnie Bell
Jeff McCarthy

~~John P~~
Amy Jones
Paul C
Chris Pugh

H-1
10-14-08



Surfrider Foundation
Long Beach Chapter

Post Office Box 14627 • Long Beach • California 90853

October 13, 2008

Honorable Mayor and City Council
City of Long Beach, California,

RE: Approval of the Colorado Lagoon EIR

The Final Environmental Impact Report for the restoration of Colorado Lagoon is on the Long Beach City Council's agenda for the October 14th, 2008 meeting. We, the Long Beach Chapter of Surfrider Foundation, strongly support this project and urge approval of the EIR.

Restoration of the Colorado Lagoon is long overdue. This once healthy urban wetland has been neglected for decades and has deteriorated to the point where most families will not allow their children to swim or play in the water. There are good reasons for their hesitance, as regular beach closures at the Colorado Lagoon and our ocean facing beaches highlight the problems that plague our recreational waters.

The importance of full tidal flushing in restoring wetlands and cleaning water cannot be understated. The state of California has lost 95% of its coastline due to overdevelopment and in Long Beach is reported to be an even greater amount. Please vote for the EIR approval, so that we can begin to restore the beauty of Long Beach wetlands and our coastal areas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Palmer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert Palmer
Chairman
Surfrider Foundation
Long Beach Chapter
562-438-8089

Virginia Kortz

From: Virginia Kortz
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2008 12:58 PM
To: 'garydelong@longbeach.gov'; 'district1@longbeach.gov'; 'district4@longbeach.gov'; 'district9@longbeach.gov'; 'district8@longbeach.gov'; 'district7@longbeach.gov'; 'district6@longbeach.gov'; 'district5@longbeach.gov'
Cc: 'MKirk@ikece.net'; 'dppruett@cktfmlaw.com'; 'philhester@longbeach.gov'
Subject: EIR RE: Restoration of Colorado Lagoon Project

Dear Council Members:

I have lived at 357 Ultimo Avenue, Long Beach for 32 years. I actively participated in several citizen committees dealing with oil issues, traffic patterns as well as the creation of MVP. The latter occurred as a result of tradeoffs for zero lot and density far in excess of the permitted zoning for residential housing that was planned for this area. I attended in excess of 18 Coastal Commissions Hearings and participated in numerous ad hoc committee meetings with other residents and city staff to ensure that the "planned" development of the only vacant land in the city resulted in a thoughtful process which would benefit the City as a whole.

One of the major issues, in addition to getting compromises from both the existing residential community, i.e. Alamitos Heights, and the oil industry operating drilling sites, was the establishment of a green area, a park intended for the use of the residents of the new housing, Alamitos Heights as well as citizens at large. The expectation was that this would be an active park so as to increase the number of venues for sports activities, including soccer and other sports. This was an amenity that was an inducement for the sale of these new residences. Obviously, the City of Long Beach would also benefit from the additional revenue generated by the new residents.

Along with this was the concept that this was the only "park" in which children could play sports in the southeast portion of the city and in close proximity to both Lowell and Rogers schools. Certainly, with the increased residential housing that was being created as well as an already existing need for an active park, this was a very valuable recreational resource which was a scarce commodity.

I have had an opportunity to review the EIR Report dated May 2008 and believe it fails to address a number of issues which I know you as our elected representatives have concerns about as well.

My concerns are as follows:

(1) FUNDING - 2 phases to this project, the initial phase appears to be funded (although it is not clear whether the future funding at page 3-24 truly will completely fund that phase). The study is conspicuously silent on phase 2 and the issue of funding that phase.

Now is not the time for this City with all the infrastructure needs as well as the financial commitments it already has to its residents to take on another unknown mega project with not even addressing that in the present study.

(2) ACTUAL USE OF PARK - nowhere in the study is there an adequate analysis of the actual use of the park, the numbers of children and adults who utilize the park for organized sports activities as well as those who may utilize it for family outings and the actual number that would be negatively impacted, i.e., displaced in favor of a 100 foot open channel with at least one eight foot path (not clear if there would be one on either side of the open channel)

(3) OPEN CHANNEL - inadequate analysis of negative impact in that MVP would essentially be divided with a decrease in the actual open park area; absolutely no discussion on the issue of safety as to the children who utilize the park to get to both Lowell and Rogers; no discussion as to the potential opportunity for vandalism and the COSTS of maintaining this open channel; as the closed culvert has not been cleaned according to the study since 1960, what guarantee do the residents have that the City has funding for this additional project;

10/14/2008

(4) ALTERNATIVE CREATION OF A CLOSED CULVERT - EIR main argument in favor of this project "Restoration of Colorado Lagoon" is the benefit of improving water and water quality. It would appear that there is an alternative would achieve almost the exact same results, i.e. 90+% of the anticipated benefit and that was for a second culvert the same size as the existing one. No analysis as to what would occur if the second culvert was made larger. No analysis was made as to the costs to construct and maintain an open culvert v. a closed culvert. Certainly, that should have been part of this study.

(5) TRAFFIC - EIR mentions removing the parking lot at the Colorado Lagoon yet stressing that the "improvements" it proposes would result in an increased use of the Lagoon. WHERE IS THE PARKING FOR THIS INCREASED USE! Additionally, if phase 2 occurs there will be less parking then exists presently for this increased use as well as for MVP.

My overall impression of this "Plan" is that it appears to lack the balance between creating a habitat at the expense of MVP and the "people," including our most valuable resource, our children, who actively use MVP today. There are other areas which the City has preserved which provide such "habitat," including Sims Pond, areas at Eldorado Park and the new natural environment/walking trail immediately adjacent to Marina Pacifica. One other point, destroying beautiful old coral trees among others in favor of planting new trees does not appear to be in the spirit of conservation, economy and/or common sense. WHERE IS THE BALANCE.

The above are only a few of my concerns. As a result, I urge you to :

(a) NOT deny the appeal as I believe the EIR did not adequately address the concerns or controversy which have been raised;

ALTERNATIVELY

(b) NOT APPROVE the EIR as prepared by staff but rather request the staff to more adequately address the issues as to the Lagoon (parking, traffic) and resubmit a revised EIR that deals with "restoration" of the Lagoon only - phase 1 which appears to have funding;

(c) OMIT PHASE 2 from the EIR at present until a much more comprehensive study can be completed which truly presents an unbiased evaluation of the alternatives and before committing the residents of Long Beach to another mega project of unknown magnitude and expense when we are in deficit spending position and having to eliminate valuable services

Finally, the overall impression is that the interests of the children and adults who actually use MVP were not represented and/or even appropriately evaluated in this study.

Thank you in advance for consideration of the above and for your continued service to this community.

VIRGINIA M. KORTZ

October 11, 2008

City Council & Mayor

Bonnie Lowenthal District 1, Suja Lowenthal District 2, Gary DeLong District 3, Patrick O'Donnell District 4, Gerrie Schipske District 5, Dee Andrews District 6,
Tonia Reyes District 7, Rae Gabelich District 8, Val Lerch District 9, Mayor Bob Foster

Re: Case No. 807-11 & LCP 2-08 Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project & Marina Vista Park Improvements

Dear City Council & Mayor,

I grew up on Park Avenue directly adjacent to the golf course and the Colorado Lagoon. My mother, Grace Laffoon still lives in this same house and I am writing you about the City of Long Beach's plan to use the residential street in front of my mother's house as a truck haul route for the Colorado Lagoon Restoration & Marina Vista Park Improvement project.

Although Grace is in her late 80's she is still able to live independently. I live over a 1,000 miles away in Seattle Washington. I am very worried about the negative affect increased traffic with additional thousands of diesel trucks and dust from dredging, soil removal and loading will have on my mothers's health.

My mother and I are long time supporters of the Friend of Colorado Lagoon's efforts. The City should restore the Colorado Lagoon's water quality and surrounding habitat back to the beautiful condition we saw so many decades ago.

It is my understanding that construction plans do not exist and that much of the mitigation for this project has been unidentified. I am sure there are other ways that the City can accomplish these same goals, of improving water quality in the Colorado Lagoon without significantly impacting residents who are already suffering from existing traffic, air, and noise issues.

Sincerely,



Barrie Laffoon Huff
(206)522-0331

October 10, 2008

City Council & Mayor

Bonnie Lowenthal District 1
Suja Lowenthal District 2
Gary DeLong District 3
Patrick O'Donnell District 4
Gerrie Schipske District 5
Dee Andrews District 6
Tonia Reyes District 7
Rae Gabelich District 8
Val Lerch District 9
Mayor Bob Foster

Re: Case No. 807-11 & LCP 2-08 Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project & Marina Vista Park Improvements

Dear City Council & Mayor,

I am a long-time resident of our city and have lived in my Park Avenue home for over 70 years. I am writing to express my concern about the recent Planning Commission approval and the pending appeal that would use the residential street in front of my home as a truck haul route for the Colorado Lagoon Restoration & Marina Vista Park Improvement project.

For years, our neighborhood has expressed great concern to this Council about the speed, volume (15,000 cars per day) and number of traffic accidents on Park Avenue. Park Avenue was built in the 1920's and was never designed for this much traffic as it is narrow with many driveways, schoolchildren, and pedestrians.

I have seen too many injury accidents on this stretch of Park Avenue. A couple of years ago I was broadsided while backing out of my driveway. I have been just released from a 6-month stay at a local care facility due to respiratory problems and still have difficulty breathing. I am very concerned that the proposed diesel semi-trailer truck traffic will adversely affect my health and standard of living. It is well known that emissions from cars and diesel trucks give off pollutants that decrease air quality. My neighbors and I have installed sound proofing windows just to dim the current traffic noise. The City's proposal to direct thousands of additional trucks next to our homes is unacceptable.

I ask that you find another way to do this project, one that does not put so many construction trucks on our already congested residential street, Park Avenue.

I am also very concerned about the negative affect that dredging, stockpiling of soil, roadway repairs, excavation, and major construction will have on air quality and health. This project will affect many elderly people like myself and others who have respiratory problems, asthma, or compromised immune systems. Please require that every possible precaution be made to suppress dust and exposure to contaminants.

Sincerely,



Grace Lafoon
604 Park Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90803

H-1
10-14-08
Matt Kirlc

October 7, 2008

Re: Plan to Change Marina Vista Park, Long Beach

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

As a concerned parent, neighbor and taxpayer, with some legal experience, I have questions regarding the planned changes to Marina Vista Park. Specifically as I understand the plan, there would be a 100 foot channel running through the park just east of the baseball diamond. This channel is to have a path on each side which will be approximately 10 feet wide with no fence. My understanding is that this channel will be sloped and reach a depth of 14 feet. There will be a current which could lead to Marine Stadium as the tide moves in and out.

As currently constituted, this park has been created to attract children with both the aforementioned baseball diamond and a tot lot to the east of the tennis courts. There are also regularly scheduled children's soccer games located at the park. This park serves as the site for many families, with small children, to gather during the summer concert season.

All of this begs the question: Has there been a study of this plan relative to the city's tort liability? Is it prudent to place this "attractive nuisance" in the middle of a park designed for and utilized by children? This appears to be very different than the liability that the city faces with Marine Stadium alone. Have the possible hazards to children within a park built for them been addressed by the City Attorney?

I understand that this is part of an overall plan to improve the Colorado Lagoon which is laudable. When all is said and done, though, we are all neighbors who care about our surroundings and want the best for our city and families. Hopefully everyone's concerns can be aired in an atmosphere of understanding and the best solution can be reached without acrimony.

The current plan does appear to raise a number of questions, not the least of which is the proper utilization of the park. Is there another solution which does not pose an added danger to our children while eliminating large portions of our park?

Sincerely,

Beth L. Widmark
383 Los Altos Avenue
Long Beach 90814

October 10, 2008

Mr. Gary DeLong
City Council Member
Long Beach City Hall
333 W. Ocean Blvd., 1st Floor,
Long Beach, 90802

RE: Open Channel/Marina Vista Park

Dear Mr. DeLong,

I am a twelve year old boy who lives one block away from Marina Vista Park and the Colorado Lagoon. I play soccer and baseball year round and attend numerous practices every week at parks in Long Beach and Huntington Beach. Even though I play lots of sports I support the open channel for the following reasons:

1. The open channel will clean the Colorado Lagoon and improve the appearance of my neighborhood.
2. Funds from the open channel project will improve Marina Vista Park. The current condition of Marina Vista Park is very poor. There are lots of holes and the park is not level. For this reason none my teams, with the exception of the Rogers Soccer Team use Marina Vista Park. The FOCL people have promised to use extra funds from the grants they receive to improve Marina Vista Park and hopefully add a second soccer field. (The current soccer field is left intact with the open channel project) I would LOVE for the park to be improved.
3. It will be fun to fish in the new open channel.

I would appreciate you considering my opinions when you and the City Council make your decision on the Colorado Lagoon Improvement Plan.

Thank you,

Kelly Hess
Rogers Middle School Student
Soccer and Baseball Player
381 Panama Ave.
Long Beach, CA 90814

