



March 10, 2015

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
City of Long Beach  
California

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt the attached Resolution closing to vehicular traffic a portion of the public right-of-way known as West La Reina Way, between Del Rey Court and Chestnut Avenue, and adopt and accept Categorical Exemption No. CE 42-12. (District 1)

**DISCUSSION**

In 2011, the City of Long Beach (City) applied for Proposition 84's Urban Greening for the Sustainable Communities Program (Program). The Program is administered by the Strategic Growth Council and provides funds to preserve, enhance, increase or establish green areas such as urban forests, open spaces, and community gardens. In 2012, the City was awarded \$170,000 for the construction of the Willmore Courts and Ways Demonstration Project located at La Reina Way and Chestnut Avenue in the Drake Park/Willmore City Historic Landmark District.

The proposed demonstration project involves closure of West La Reina Way, between Del Rey Court and Chestnut Avenue, to vehicular traffic shown on the attached vicinity map. This project will transform an alley within an urban residential block into a model for a sustainable pedestrian way by improving the walkability, incorporating stormwater management features, planting drought tolerant plants, and other sustainable enhancements. Willmore City Historic Association, a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, was established to improve, preserve, and promote the community of Willmore City, has signed a contract agreeing to perform the necessary maintenance of the green pedestrian way, including repairs, maintenance of landscaping, and custodial services for a minimum of 20 years.

The proposed closure will serve a variety of functions. The proposed pedestrian way will provide access to front yards and side entrances, safe play space for children, a meeting place for neighbors, and enhanced pedestrian and bicycle circulation in the neighborhood. The area will still remain public and open to pedestrian and bicycle traffic. The City has been in close communication with the neighboring residents and the Willmore City Historic Association, who are in support of the proposed project.

Pursuant to California Vehicle Code Section 21101(a)(1), which provides that local authorities may adopt rules and regulations closing any street or alley in its jurisdiction to vehicular traffic when, in the opinion of the legislative body having jurisdiction, the street or

alley is no longer needed for vehicular traffic. The City adopted such rules and regulations in 1997 with Resolution No. C-25791, providing that public park and/or recreational use is a valid justification for street closure to vehicular use.

Findings must establish that the subject portion of right-of-way is unnecessary for vehicular use. The Public Works Department (PW) supports this action based on the following evidence, facts, conditions and findings establishing that the street to be closed is not needed for vehicular traffic:

1. West La Reina Way, between Chestnut Avenue and Del Rey Court, is to be closed to vehicular traffic but will remain open for pedestrian and bicycle use;
2. The proposed pedestrian way demonstration project shall not be dedicated or designated as a public park or recreation area for purposes of Long Beach City Charter Section 905 entitled Parks in Perpetuity. Therefore, the recommended action would not subject the proposed park to the 2:1 replacement ratio under Section 905. If it is determined, due to future land development or for any other reason, that the subject alley would better serve the public as a vehicular thoroughfare, vehicular use can be restored and the closed area would not need to be replaced by other park or recreation areas; and
3. The improvements to the proposed pedestrian way will be overseen by PW and maintained by Willmore City Historic Association. Notwithstanding, the non-dedication and non-designation of the subject area as a public park within the meaning of Section 905, the proposed pedestrian way shall continue to be controlled and operated by the City.

In conformance with the California Environmental Quality Act, Categorical Exemption No. CE 42-12 was issued for this project.

This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Linda Vu on February 24, 2015 and by Budget Management Officer Victoria Bell on February 23, 2015.

#### TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action on this matter is requested on March 10, 2015, to allow the City to proceed with the project.


#### FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact or local job impact associated with this recommendation.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



ARA MALOYAN, PE  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

AM:DW:ME:db  
P:\CL\LA Reina Way CL.doc

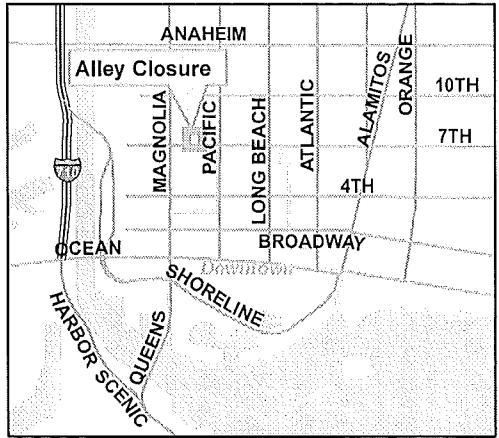
Attachment – Site Map

APPROVED:



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PATRICK H. WEST  
CITY MANAGER



VICINITY MAP

CHESTNUT AVE

W LA REINA WAY

DEL REY CT

W 7TH ST




CITY OF LONG BEACH - CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ENGINEERING BUREAU



NOT TO SCALE

**ATTACHMENT**  
**WEST LA REINA WAY ALLEY CLOSURE**

**LEGEND:**

-  AREA FOR CLOSURE
-  ASSESSOR PARCEL
-  STREET CENTERLINE

1 RESOLUTION NO.  
2

3 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
4 CITY OF LONG BEACH CLOSING TO VEHICULAR  
5 TRAFFIC A PORTION OF THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY  
6 KNOWN AS WEST LA REINA WAY LOCATED BETWEEN  
7 DEL REY COURT AND CHESTNUT AVENUE IN THE CITY  
8 OF LONG BEACH, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE  
9 OF CALIFORNIA  
10

11 WHEREAS, California Vehicle Code Section 21101(a)(1) authorizes local  
12 authorities to adopt rules and regulations by ordinance or resolution providing for the  
13 closing of any street or alley in its jurisdiction to vehicular traffic when, in the opinion of  
14 the legislative body having jurisdiction, the street or alley is no longer needed for  
15 vehicular traffic; and

16 WHEREAS, the City of Long Beach adopted such rules and regulations on  
17 November 1, 1994 with Resolution No. C-25728 and as amended on March 7, 1995 by  
18 Resolution No. C-25791; and

19 WHEREAS, in 2011, the City applied for Proposition 84's Urban Greening  
20 for the Sustainable Communities Program ("Program"); and

21 - WHEREAS, the Program is administered by the Strategic Growth Council  
22 and provides funds to preserve, enhance, increase or establish green areas such as  
23 urban forests, open spaces, and community gardens; and

24 WHEREAS, the City proposes to transform an alley within an urban  
25 residential block into a model for sustainable pedestrian way by improving the walkability,  
26 incorporating stormwater management features, planting drought tolerant plants, and  
27 other sustainable enhancements; and

28 WHEREAS, to provide access to front yards and side entrances, safe play

1 space for children, meeting place for neighbors, and enhance pedestrian and bicycle  
2 circulation in the neighborhood, the City is interested in closing to vehicular traffic a  
3 portion of the public right-of-way known as West La Reina Way located between Del Rey  
4 Court and Chestnut Avenue, as shown on Exhibit "A" attached to this resolution and  
5 described more particularly as follows:

6 That portion of La Reina Way, formerly known as the unnamed alley,  
7 10 feet wide, in the City of Long Beach, County of Los Angeles, State of  
8 California, abutting Lots 1 and 3, in Block 35, Town Site of Long Beach, as  
9 shown on map recorded in Book 19, pages 91 to 96 inclusive, of  
10 Miscellaneous Records, described as follows:

11 Bounded westerly by the northerly prolongation of the westerly  
12 boundary of said Lot 3, and prolongation beginning at the northwesterly  
13 corner of said Lot 3 and terminating at the southwesterly corner of said Lot  
14 1;

15 Bounded easterly by the northerly prolongation of the easterly  
16 boundary of said Lot 3, said prolongation beginning at the northeasterly  
17 corner of said Lot 3 and terminating at the southeasterly corner of said Lot  
18 1.

19 Contains 1,500 square feet or 0.034 acres, more or less.

20 WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Long Beach does hereby make  
21 those findings of facts set forth in Exhibit "B" attached to this resolution that such portion  
22 of the public street is no longer needed for vehicular traffic;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Long Beach resolves as  
24 follows:

25 Section 1. Pursuant to Vehicle Code Section 21101(a)(1), the City  
26 Council of the City of Long Beach makes those findings set forth in Exhibit "B" that a  
27 portion of the public right-of-way known as West La Reina Way located between Del Rey  
28 Court and Chestnut Avenue as shown on Exhibit "A" is no longer needed for vehicular

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY  
CHARLES PARKIN, City Attorney  
333 West Ocean Boulevard, 11th Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802-4664

1 traffic.

2 Section 2. Pursuant to the authority granted by Vehicle Code Section  
3 21101(a)(1), such portion of the public street shall be closed to vehicular traffic.

4 Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption  
5 by the City Council, and the City Clerk shall certify to the vote adopting this resolution.

6 I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the City  
7 Council of the City of Long Beach at its meeting of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015,  
8 by the following vote:

9

10 Ayes: Councilmembers: \_\_\_\_\_  
11 \_\_\_\_\_  
12 \_\_\_\_\_  
13 \_\_\_\_\_

14 Noes: Councilmembers: \_\_\_\_\_  
15 \_\_\_\_\_

16 Absent: Councilmembers: \_\_\_\_\_  
17 \_\_\_\_\_

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19

20 \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

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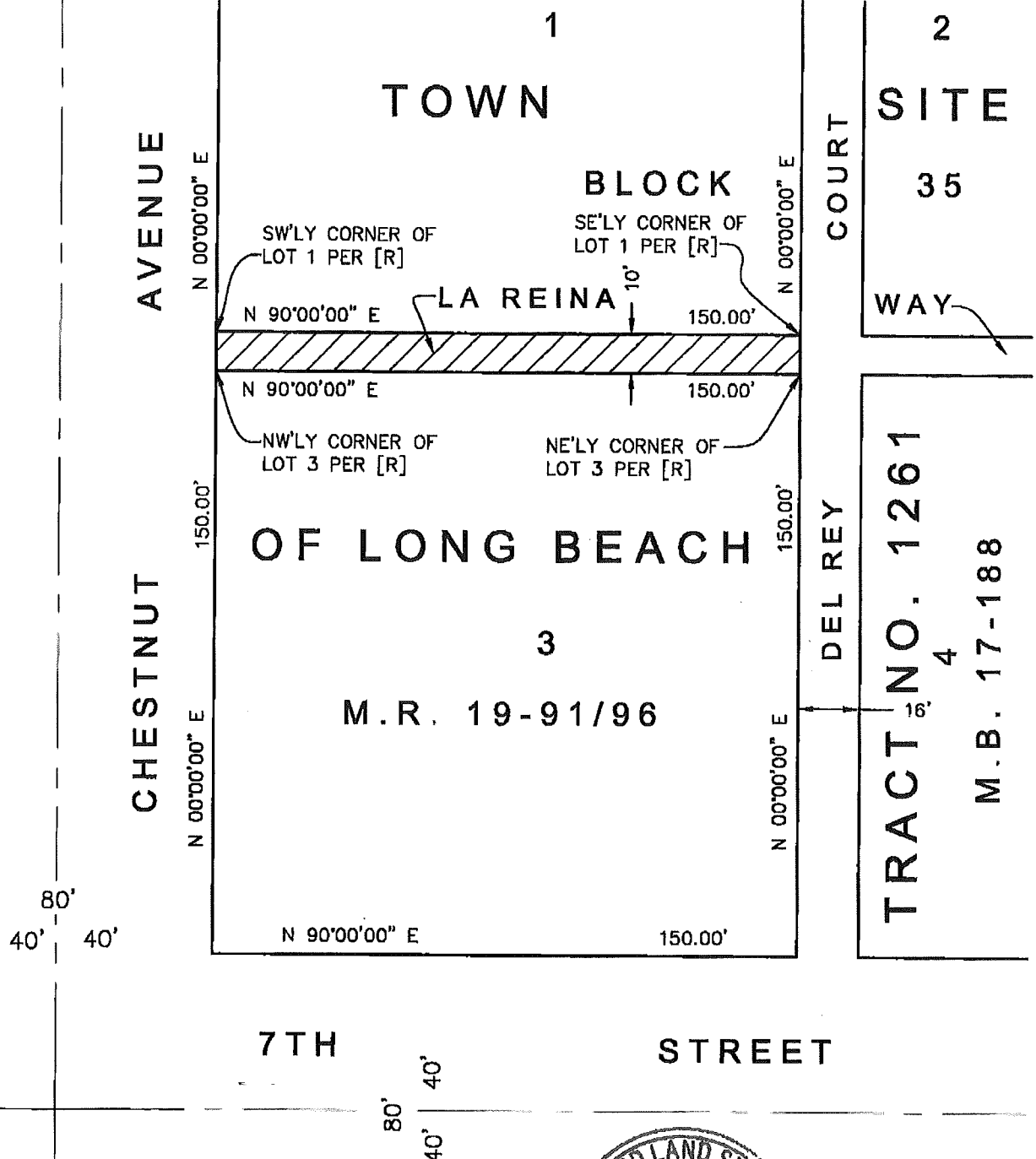
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NOTE: THIS EXHIBIT DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A LAND SURVEY AND IS ONLY INTENDED TO ILLUSTRATE THE ATTACHED LEGAL DESCRIPTION



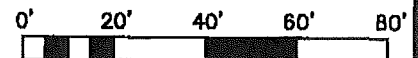
**LEGEND:**

[R] INDICATES RECORD DATA PER TOWN SITE OF LONG BEACH M.R. 19-91/96

 LAND DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A" AREA = 1,500 SQUARE FEET OR 0.034 ACRES ±



*Mark J. Farestveit*  
2-18-15



|   |   |   |       |            |
|---|---|---|-------|------------|
| <b>CITY OF LONG BEACH</b><br>DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS<br>ENGINEERING BUREAU<br>SURVEY<br>333 W. OCEAN BL. 10TH FL.<br>LONG BEACH, CA 90802<br>(562) 570-6992 | <b>EXHIBIT "A"</b><br>LEGAL DESCRIPTION LA<br>REINA WAY CLOSURE | <b>PREPARED FOR:</b><br>DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS<br>PROJECT MANAGEMENT<br>DIVISION | DATE: | 02/13/2015 |
|   |   |   | JOB # | PW5244 10  |
|   |   |   | DRAWN | M.J.F.     |
|   |   |   | SCALE | 1" = 40'   |
|   |   |   | SHEET | 2 OF 2     |



## CITY COUNCIL FINDINGS

### CLOSURE TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC THE PORTION OF WEST LA REINA WAY BETWEEN CHESTNUT AVENUE AND DEL REY COURT

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1. The subject right-of-way is unnecessary for vehicular use. This finding is based upon the following subfindings:
  - a) Vehicular access will be closed at both ends of La Reina Way between Chestnut Avenue and Del Rey Court. The east end of La Reina Way will be blocked by bollards and the east end will have a raised sidewalk curb on Chestnut Avenue preventing cars from driving in to the alley.
  - b) The interested City departments, including Fire, have reviewed the proposed street closure and have no objections to this action.
  - c) Emergency access to the adjacent properties will use Chestnut Avenue and Del Rey Court.
2. Closure of the street to vehicular traffic will have no impact on the existing public utilities in this right-of-way.
3. The subject right-of-way will be improved for pedestrian and bicycle access only and amenities, such as drought tolerant landscaping, bioswales, benches, decorative pavers, and bicycle racks.
4. The vacation of said right-of-way will not have a significantly adverse environmental effect. This finding is based upon the following subfindings:
  - a) The right-of-way will remain available for public pedestrian and bicycle use.
  - b) In conformance with the California Environmental Quality Act, Categorical Exemption Number 42-12 was issued for this project.