



# Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294  
www.VeniceNC.org Email: info@VeniceNC.org



December 26, 2022

By email: Traci.Park@LACity.org, Los Angeles City Councilperson District 11

**Re: RESTORATION OF THE VENICE LIFEGUARD HEADQUARTERS TOWER**

Dear Councilwoman Park:

Please be advised that at a regular public meeting of the Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) Board of Officers held on December 20, 2022, the following motion was approved.

**MOTION:** Whereas the iconic, architecturally, culturally and historically significant Venice Lifeguard Headquarters Tower located at 2300 Ocean Front Walk is a 3 story building, built in 1968, is owned by the City of Los Angeles, within Council District 11 and leased to the County of Los Angeles Department of Beaches and Harbors for use by the Los Angeles Lifeguards through a Joint Powers Agreement;

Whereas, in 2017, LA County chose to move the lifeguard headquarters to the South Bay and not repair and maintain the building including its Tower which was lifeguard headquarters for over 50 years, despite County's contractual duty to maintain;

Whereas, with no public notice nor outreach, including to adjacent neighbors or the Venice Neighborhood Council, The Department of Beaches and Harbors requested and was awarded July 2022 a Coastal Development Permit de minimis waiver from the CA Coastal Commission, to demolish the tower, only, erroneously stating County ownership and authority to demolish, and, while retaining the nondescript first story base building. No documentation nor feasibility study was presented as to why this unique, iconic tower would be destroyed, nor that any effort was made to repurpose it, if no longer needed by lifeguards. A 2014 Assessment Report describing recommended repairs and upgrades attributes a fraction of the repairs to the tower;

Whereas, Venice has few publicly owned buildings and the demand for such exceeds availability, including for museums by LA County Lifeguards and the Venice Oceanarium;

Whereas, the Tower provides an outstanding, and unmatched, expansive view of Santa Monica Bay and is identified as historic by the LA Department of Historic Resources;

Whereas, if the Tower were demolished, it would leave a nondescript eyesore single story building with no visual merit on our public beach and the Tower would likely never be rebuilt;

Whereas, if made accessible to the public, funds for restoration could be available from nonprofit organizations, private donors, LA Olympics, tourism entities and the public, in addition to government sources;

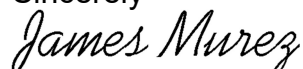
Whereas, repurposing the Lifeguard Tower as a community asset would create an exceptional cultural enrichment, environmental and educational venue for the entire community, including residents and visitors of all ages and cultural heritages;

Whereas, over 1000 Venice residents, current and retired LA lifeguards & lifeguard chiefs, ocean ecologists, cultural and historic preservationists, surfers and beach goers have signed a petition to save the Venice Lifeguard Tower. Supporters include: Retired Lifeguard Section Chief, LA County Fire Department: Mickey Gallagher, Venice Oceanarium Founding Director: Tim Rudnick, Adjacent Property Owner: Diana Lorber, Educator & Chair VNC & Venice Chamber Education Committees: Joelle Dumas, Estate of Venice Black Forefather Arthur L. Reese: Sonya Reese Greenland, Trustee

**NOW THEREFORE**, The Venice Neighborhood Council, Board of Officers requests that the California Coastal Commission, Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors, and the City of Los Angeles refrain from demolishing the Venice Lifeguard Headquarters Tower until the feasibility of its repairs and restoration for use by lifeguards OR other purpose such as a public observation tower and/or lifeguard / ocean or other museum can be fully evaluated in conjunction with representatives of the Venice Neighborhood Council, and public and private nonprofit organizations.

**ACTION:** The motion was approved by a vote of 13/0/0.

Sincerely



James Murez  
VNC President  
James.Murez@VeniceNC.org

Supporting Documents:

Joint Powers Agreement: <https://www.venicenc.org/ncfiles/download/60>  
Dedication: <https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/meeting636ee6723b371.jpg>  
Rendering: <https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/meeting636ee6e18ca69.pdf>  
Assessment: <https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/committee63784cf025ff5.pdf>  
CDP Waiver: <https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/meeting636ee6e18ae62.pdf>  
ZIMAS: <https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/meeting6396113406d1e.png>  
SurveyLA: <https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/meeting639611340776c.pdf>  
Petition: <https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/meeting6396113405920.pdf>

Copy to:

California Coastal Commission Kate.Huckelbridge@coastal.ca.gov,  
Steve.Hudson@coastal.ca.gov, Shannon.Vaughn@coastal.ca.gov,  
chloe.seifert@coastal.ca.gov,  
Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath thirddistrict@bos.lacounty.gov,  
Los Angeles County Department of Beaches & Harbors gjones@bh.lacounty.gov,  
wontiveros@bh.lacounty.gov, cbaker@bh.lacounty.gov, ilopez@bh.county.gov,  
MTashjian@bh.lacounty.gov,

Los Angeles Department of Recreation & Parks California Coastal Commission  
RAPCommissioners@lacity.org, Jimmy.Kim@lacity.org, Darryl.Ford@lacity.org,  
Mayor of the City of Los Angeles Karen.Bass@LACity.org,  
Los Angeles Office of Historic Preservation lambert.giessinger@lacity.org,  
Los Angeles County Department of Public Works ssioufi@dpw.lacounty.gov,  
mail@viniestra.com,  
Los Angeles City Department of Planning ira.brown@lacity.org,  
Los Angeles City Department of Public Works aura.garcia@lacity.org, mike.davis@lacity.org,  
jessica.caloza@lacity.org, teresa.villegas@lacity.org,  
Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs dca.digital@lacity.org,  
Secretary@VeniceNC.org

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