



Sharon Dickinson <sharon.dickinson@lacity.org>

Dunstan Way Project Council file 16-1155

1 message

John Perlstein <japerl1164@icloud.com>
To: sharon.dickinson@lacity.org

Mon, Nov 7, 2016 at 9:55 AM

From: John Perlstein <japerl1164@icloud.com>
Subject: 11600 Dunstan Way Project development haul route Council file 16-1155
Date: November 7, 2016 at 11:13:12 AM PDT
To: sharon.dickinson@lacity.org

To the Honorable members of the Los Angeles City Council:**I strongly object to the planned project the east end of Dunstan Lane.****Size of Project is beyond scale compared to existing buildings to be demolished**

I have lived at 530 south Barrington for nearly 30 years. This building is immediately south of Dunstan Way . We were notified recently regarding the demolition of the 3 buildings to the east of us abutting the VA property. Also were made aware of the size of the project which was to replace it.

The project intends to raze the **existing 2 story buildings and replace them with a 4 story complex.** Adding larger units and a 2 level underground garage requiring the removal of over 33,000 cubic yards of dirt. The location of the project is right up against the VA property.

Apparently, the garage will **add over 150 cars** using Dunstan Way which is narrow and more of an alley than a street. We were also made aware of the additional traffic in the alley caused by machines that will be tearing down the existing buildings and trucks carting away dirt and remains of the buildings. They we will use large trucks and machines hauling in and the materials for the construction of the project which is massive in area including a two level underground parking lot for 198 cars..

Serious health dangers involved including proximity to a VA Hospital toxic and nuclear waste sight.

The destruction of the buildings involved will put asbestos dust, mold and other toxic particles into the air and free many pests who had inhabited the buildings that will create unhealthy situation for all the neighboring buildings despite what precautions the construction company involved takes. **Included is a letter from a Cal Tech Physicist, Ryan Mishmash PHD regarding the issue. As it appears no soil samples have been taken by the builder in this matter, it is as issue which should be settled before removing and hauling the sample to some other sight**

The route of trucks and vehicles used to accomplish the project creates a danger to others

It is unfortunate that this narrow alley and all the cars using it must use Barrington as an exit point. They will conflict with trucks and other vehicles connected to the project. We have people who use the alley to walk to Barrington with or without pets that may be endangered by the extra traffic. It is hard to see how the bigger trucks will be able to turn around or back up without hitting vehicles or people exiting the buildings immediately to the west of the project.

To exit Dunstan way onto Barrington Avenue is a dangerous venture. Vehicles are blind to traffic coming in either direction. Construction vehicles will suffer the same problem. It is evident with the increase in traffic exiting there will be major traffic snarls from either directions on Barrington seriously backing up traffic for blocks.

Barrington by itself is a dangerous street to enter or exit with high use by large vehicles which compounds the problem

Barrington is a narrow street with one lane each way. It is near the 405 freeway and is used heavily as a means to get there by not only the residents but cars heading to other areas of the city such as the Valley, South Bay and east side. The street parking is 100% filled with resident parking.

It is difficult to exit at any time during the day and especially tough and dangerous during rush hour. The traffic connected to the project will only make it worse and more dangerous for the residents.

If you could see for yourselves you would see how difficult it is to enter or exit driveways. In addition to cars we have buses, delivery trucks, trash trucks and emergency vehicles. Since Barrington is such a busy street delivery trucks must park in the alley adding additional safety problems during the pendency of the construction. There are many driveways exiting buildings in this particular area which are close enough to have cars exiting the buildings conflicting with the construction trucks exasperating the situation.

It is unclear if a traffic study has been done regarding the increase in traffic on Dunstan Lane and Barrington Avenue.

Project area:

Trees at top is the south boundary of the VA Property. Project involves the 2 buildings bordering the VA property and the smaller one on the right beneath. Project is at the east end of Dunstan Way. 514 S. Barrington fronts Barrington on the north side of Dunstan Way and 530 S. Barrington is on the south side of Dunstan way fronting Barrington.

Thank You for your kind consideration;

John Perlstein
530 So Barrington Avenue #103
Los Angeles, California 90049

2 attachments

thumb_IMG_0303_1024.jpg
333K



Ryan's letter VA radioactive waste.pdf
656K



Dr. Ryan V. Mishmash
11620 Dunstan Way #4
Los Angeles, CA 90049
719-250-6640 (cell)
mishmash@caltech.edu

To:

Honorable Members of the City Council
City Hall Office
200 N. Spring St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Via delivery to:

Ms. Sharon Dickinson, Legislative Assistant
Office of the City Clerk
200 N. Spring St., Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012
213-978-1074

Re:

APPEAL of Board File 160040
11600 West Dunstan Way Haul Route
Council File 16-1155

October 24, 2016

Dear Honorable Members of the City Council:

This letter is in regards to the decision by the Board of Building and Safety Commissioners (BBSC) to approve a Haul Route for the excavation and export of 33,120 cubic yards of dirt from the project site and adoption of the associated Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) ENV-2016-0457-MND. My neighbors and I respectfully, but strongly, disagree with this decision.

In addition to the many points raised in the appeal letter by Dr. Harel Simon, I have become particularly concerned about the site's extremely close proximity to a nuclear and chemical waste dump present on the adjacent U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) property. This alarming issue has been well-documented over the years in, for example, Ref. [1] (and links therein) and Refs. [2, 3, 4, 5].

As shown in Fig. 1 below, the proposed project site on Dunstan Way *nearly touches* the area studied by the VA in their 2010 report on the dump. 11600 Dunstan Way thus potentially sits on top of nuclear/chemical waste via *contamination migration* from the VA dump site. However, it appears that this extremely serious environmental issue *has not even been considered in the MND*. In fact, the VA itself was not even notified of the project. Thus, as a community, how can we be assured that nuclear and/or chemical waste are not present in the ground beneath the project site, especially given that 33,120 cubic yards of earth are to be removed? Due to the extremely serious nature of this matter in regards to the health, safety, and well-being of the Brentwood community, our neighborhood demands that this project *cannot proceed* until a proper *scientific* analysis of this issue has been conducted, for example, through the completion of an Environmental Impact Report.

I can ensure you that not doing so will likely lead to a widespread public outcry.

Specifically, I find that the current MND is defective in the following ways:

- In the ENVIRONMENTAL SETTINGS section of pg. 5/238 of the MND (pdf document), it is stated “. . . immediately northeast and east of the site is property owned by the federal government. The federally-owned land maintains the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs Greater Los Angeles Medical Center and is comprised of various uses; the portion of the campus adjacent to the project site is comprised of an undeveloped open space/landscape buffer.” This is a false statement. In fact, the land adjacent to the project site is actually a *closed site* (see Fig. 2) and is regulated by the California Integrated Waste Management Board (now California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery). Furthermore, the VA itself calls the land an “inactive waste burial site” in Sec. IV. (Existing Conditions and Site Analysis) [8] of the Greater Los Angeles VA’s Master Plan [9]. Characterizing the VA land in question as “undeveloped open space/landscape buffer,” as in the current MND, is thus incorrect. This flaw in the MND calls into question the potential of contamination migration to locations underneath the project site. In the context of this project, there have clearly been no tests to show that contamination migration has not occurred. Therefore, dust due to excavation could potentially expose people nearby to dangerous toxins. If the dirt were to be reused, it could be hazardous to people in its future location as well. Before proceeding with the project, it is thus imperative that the developer prove that the adjacent dump site has not impacted the soils of the project site.
- In Sec. I.a. on pg. 16/238 of the MND, it is stated “. . . immediately northeast of the project site is the landscape buffer to the VA Campus.” Again, this land is not a “landscape buffer to the VA Campus,” but is actually a closed dump site on the VA land.

In conclusion, this nuclear/chemical waste issue—in addition to the multitude of other highly consequential matters as exposed by Dr. Harel Simon’s letter—will make the land in the vicinity of the project site *nearly uninhabitable* for the duration of the project (~3 years), as well as cause serious health and safety problems for people along the entire Barrington corridor; this includes children at the Brentwood School which lies only 0.2 miles from 11600 Dunstan Way. I strongly encourage you to *not adopt* the currently flawed MND but to instead take a *serious, proper* consideration of the project’s vast impact on our community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ryan V. Mishmash

References

- [1] <http://www.enviroreporter.com/vanukedumpinvestigation>
- [2] <http://articles.latimes.com/2006/nov/30/local/me-brentwood30>
- [3] <http://www.laweekly.com/news/brentwoods-toxic-grave-2162845>
- [4] http://digitaledition.qwinc.com/display_article.php?id=402104
- [5] <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=VA-2015-VACO-0001-1167>
- [6] <http://www.enviroreporter.com/investigations/va-nuclear-dump/maps-of-the-va-nuclear-dump>
- [7] <http://www.enviroreporter.com/gallery/va-nuclear-dump-gallery/va-nuke-dump-today/drought-reveals-heart-of-dump-2007>
- [8] <http://www.losangeles.va.gov/documents/04-VAGLAHS-Campus-Draft-Master-Plan-IV-Existing-Conditions-and-Site-Analysis-final.pdf>
- [9] <http://www.losangeles.va.gov/masterplan>

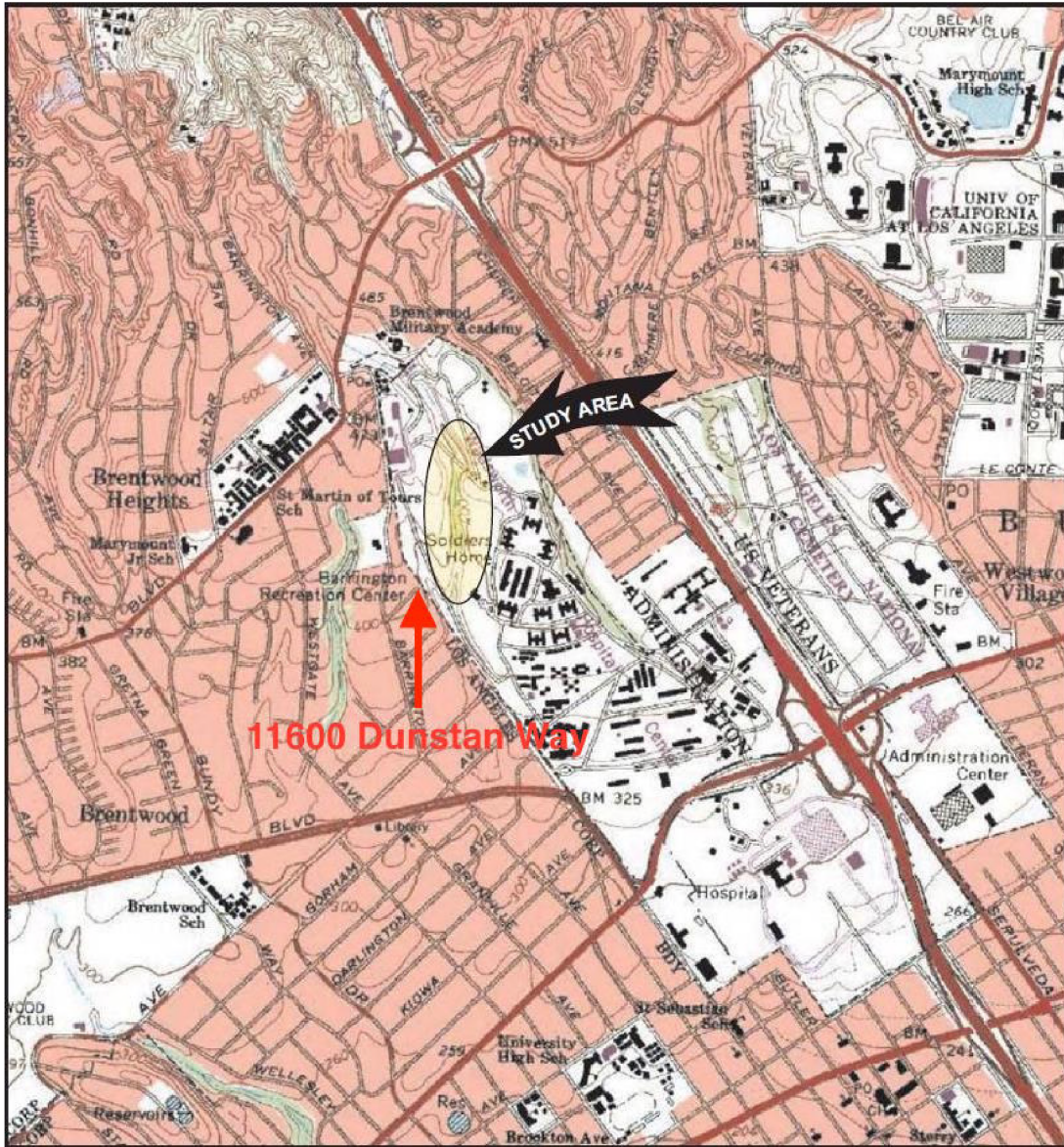


Figure 1: Map showing the location of the project site (11600 Dunstan Way) in relation to the area studied by the VA in its assessment of the nuclear/chemical dump (labeled “STUDY AREA”). Source: Ref. [6]. The following quote can be found on this same webpage: “Perhaps the place could be named *Radium Plaza* since it sits on top of groundwater hot with the stuff according the VA’s own \$2 million tests.”



Figure 2: Fence surrounding the closed-off VA dump site. The sign reads “DO NOT ENTER – AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY – NO DUMPING – NO TRESPASSING – NO EXCAVATING – THIS IS A CLOSED SITE – In Accordance with California Integrated Waste Management Board – Title 27, California Code of Regulation 21135 – Please contact VA Industrial Hygiene for more information at 310-268-3563.” Source: Ref. [7].