

NEWS

From the Offices of Councilmembers
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ROSENDAHL, WEISS SUPPORT FEDERAL LEGISLATION BANNING COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT AT WEST LOS ANGELES VA

Los Angeles--In an effort to protect the Westside from overdevelopment, increased traffic gridlock and the loss of much-needed veterans' land, Councilmembers Bill Rosendahl and Jack Weiss today introduced a resolution in support of federal legislation that would prohibit any commercial use and development of the West LA Veterans Affairs property.

The legislation, *The West Los Angeles Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center Preservation Act of 2007*, which was introduced by Congressman Henry Waxman and Senator Dianne Feinstein, bans the Department of Veterans Affairs from selling any portion of the federal property for private use and entering into enhanced-use leases on the land.

"The Westside is at a boiling point. We are continuously besieged by overdevelopment and traffic gridlock, and cannot allow for piecemeal land use decisions," Rosendahl said. "The VA property is intended for veteran use, not private development. I applaud Congressman Waxman and Senator Feinstein for their leadership on this very important issue."

"Senator Feinstein and Congressman Waxman are true heroes for the Westside because of their strong efforts to finally get a Master Plan for this land," Weiss said. "I am grateful for their partnership in the fight to do what's right for veterans and the Westside."

Specifically, the legislation ensures that the Department of Veterans Affairs does not deem any land as excess, and does not take action to exchange, trade, auction, transfer,

or otherwise dispose of, or reduce the acreage of the VA property.

The legislation also requires the Veterans' Administration to fulfill a 1998 congressional mandate to complete a comprehensive master plan for use of the federal land, and includes special leasing provisions to provide services for homeless veterans and their families.

The West Los Angeles Veterans Property encompasses approximately 388 acres, on the north and south sides of Wilshire Boulevard, west of the 405 freeway. In 1888, the land was deeded to the federal government for exclusive use of veterans.