

# COALITION FOR VETERANS' LAND

*Saving Veterans' Land for Direct Services to Veterans, Protecting the Quality of Life in Los Angeles*

## Press Release

For immediate release  
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### Coalition Retains Attorney to Return Westwood Federal Building Site to Veterans, Not GSA

**Westwood** - A coalition whose mission is supported by over 30 Westside groups representing 300,000 Angelenos has retained Richard I. Fine, Esq., to challenge the one million square foot GSA (General Services Administration) FBI Regional Headquarters proposed for the Westwood Federal Building site. Mr. Fine is a former Federal prosecutor. The Final Environmental Impact Statement is due shortly. A lawsuit must be filed in Federal court within 30 days of that release. The lawsuit will assert:

1. A breach of charitable trust, with Veterans as third party beneficiaries of the 1888 Deed.
2. A breach of the deed's covenant and of the 1887 Act of Congress creating the Soldiers Home.
3. Inadequate environmental analysis (no objective evaluation of alternative sites).
4. Failure to obey a 1998 Act of Congress that called for a Federal Masterplan for the VA lands (the Federal Building site is still shown as "Soldiers Home" on the LA County Assessor's map - it is VA land).

**More Veterans live within a 50 mile radius of the WLA-VA than in 42 other states combined.** With shocking reports of the plight of returning Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans and the staggering number of homeless Veterans on the streets of Los Angeles, it is clear that the 1888 deed's purpose to provide a home for Veterans must be honored. ***This 25 acre site belongs to America's Veterans, not the General Services Administration.***

Every elected official from the Los Angeles City Council to the hall of Congress has gone on record objecting to the choice of Westwood for this facility. ***But the GSA is now threatening that if it cannot use the Federal Building site, it will "pack" the existing Federal Building with high traffic generating tenants.***

The Coalition hopes to be protected from GSA threats by Senator Barbara Boxer, who oversees the GSA's operations. Senator Boxer has made it clear that there should be no construction on any of this federal land until the needs of Veterans are first assessed (May 2, 2006 letter attached). Included in a federal masterplan should be the VA (387 acres) and the Army Reserve/National Guard facility on Federal and Wilshire (15 acres), and the Federal Building site (25 acres).

Congressman Henry Waxman stated in a January 31, 2007 letter (attached) to the Director of the FBI, "representatives from the GSA and FBI indicate that no further study of alternative sites has been conducted...if this is true, it appears that the GSA and the FBI do not intend to meet the letter and spirit of the National Environmental Policy Act to perform a serious and objective consideration of alternatives."

The Coalition also objects to this site because of the proposal to build a bomb-proof "hardened target" building adjacent to Westwood Park, homes, the Wilshire Corridor and UCLA. ***The security impacts of such a facility are unacceptable for such a densely populated area.*** It may be safe for FBI employees, but not its neighbors and the children playing in Westwood Park next door.

The Coalition for Veterans' Land is a 501(c)(3) all-volunteer California nonprofit corporation. More documents may be found on its website: [www.CoalitionforVeteransLand.Org](http://www.CoalitionforVeteransLand.Org).

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