

# United States Senate

HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
SUITE 112  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0505  
(202) 224-3553  
<http://boxer.senate.gov/contact>

May 2, 2006

Morris Angell  
Regional Environmental Quality Advisor  
Portfolio Management Division, Third Floor East  
Capital Investment Branch (9PTC)  
General Services Administration  
450 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

VIA FACSIMILE: (415) 522-3215

Dear Mr. Angell:

I am writing to comment on the proposals to expand Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) facilities at 11000 Wilshire Blvd. in Los Angeles. I understand that this issue has generated a great deal of attention in the Los Angeles region and beyond. In part, I believe this is because the federal government is undertaking several large projects in the vicinity that threaten to alter the original intent of the land – to serve veterans – and may adversely affect the quality of life in surrounding communities. For this reason, I believe it prudent to halt this process until a federal land use master plan, as was mandated by Section 707 of the Veterans Program Enhancement Act of 1998, is completed.

Protecting the security of Americans and our way of life is a responsibility that I take seriously. Southern California has a dynamic economy, is densely populated, and filled with potential terrorist targets. For this reason alone, there is no question that the FBI's intent to improve its ability to execute their mission ought to be supported. I stand committed to do all that I can to help the FBI in that endeavor.

I am also committed to ensuring that our veterans are treated with the dignity and respect that they deserve and that they are provided with the level of services that they are due. The West Los Angeles VA Campus provides a unique opportunity to do just that. More veterans live within a 50-mile radius of this property than in 40 other states combined. With the ongoing military activities in Iraq and Afghanistan, the number of veterans in the area increases daily. It is quite possible that a federal land use master plan might suggest that the land under consideration for expansion at 11000 Wilshire Blvd. be used to serve the needs of veterans. Acting on this project now, without knowing whether or not this is the case, would be a disservice to the men and women who have served our nation valiantly in the armed services.

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There are also concerns that the FBI expansion will have a negative impact on neighboring communities. The congestion in the surrounding area is already serious. Drivers experience long commutes with much of their time at a standstill on the 405 Freeway or on local roads.

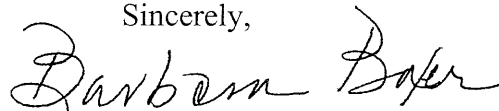
The City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) has strongly questioned whether or not the Draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS) accurately reflects the degree to which these proposed expansions will exacerbate the traffic problem. For instance, LADOT notes that the baseline for trip generation at 11000 Wilshire Blvd currently is grossly overstated, which misleads the public as to the actual impact to area traffic congestion of the proposed expansions. The DEIS also ignores the impacts to residential streets as commuters seek alternatives to increasingly clogged major arterial roads. LADOT also reports that the DEIS does not propose mitigations for 87 percent of the intersections that would experience significant adverse affects as a result of either expansion proposal.

In short, I am deeply concerned about the potential impact that land use decisions on this property will have on traffic in this deeply-congested area. I think it prudent for you to work with the Los Angeles Department of Transportation, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and with the California Department of Transportation to better assess the traffic impact of any expansion as well as potential remedies.

Given these serious traffic concerns and the potential impact to our ability to serve veterans, I urge you to halt this process until after the completion of a federal land use master plan for the properties in the Wilshire Corridor. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Vincent Jones in my Los Angeles office at (213) 894-4910.

In advance, I thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Boxer".

Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator

BB:vj

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May 2, 2006

Secretary Jim Nicholson  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)  
810 Vermont Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20420

*VIA FACSIMILE: (202) 273-4877*

Dear Secretary Nicholson:

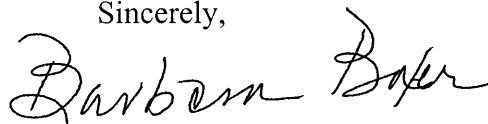
I am writing to urge you to take action to reacquire the land at 1250 Federal Avenue in Los Angeles. The 10 acre site was part of a parcel of land deeded to the federal government for the use of veterans in perpetuity. The VA later transferred the land to the US Army Reserve (USAR), which is now planning a real property exchange for this site.

I believe the property at 1250 Federal Avenue ought to serve the needs of veterans if it is not to be used by reservists.

With the ongoing military activities in Iraq and Afghanistan, the number of veterans in the area increases daily. I am committed to ensuring that our veterans are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve and that they are provided with the level of service that they are due. If the USAR proceeds with the current plan to dispose of the land, it would be a great opportunity for the VA to reacquire the site. I stand ready to support your efforts to retain this land as part of the historic block of land intended to serve veterans. Its loss to private developers would set a bad precedent for veterans.

Should you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact Vincent Jones in my Los Angeles Office at (213) 894-4910. Thank you for your serious consideration of this matter. I eagerly await your timely response.

Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator

BB:vj

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May 2, 2006

Lt. Gen. James R. Helmly  
Office of the Chief, Army Reserve (OCAR)  
Headquarters, Department of the Army  
2400 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-2400

United States Army Reserve Command (USARC)  
1401 Deshler Street, S.W.  
Fort McPherson, GA 30330-2000

VIA FACSIMILE: (703) 697-1891

Dear Lt. Gen. Helmly:

I am disturbed that you have taken action to proceed with an online real property exchange for the Army Reserve Center site at 1250 Federal Blvd. in Los Angeles. This action was initiated without notice to federal elected officials representing the area, nor to residents in the surrounding communities. My representative attended a meeting on January 24, 2006, where USAR officials promised to provide specific timelines and details of the process. I received neither prior to the announcement of the real property exchange on April 13, 2006.

You are likely aware that a proposed expansion of the Federal Building at 11000 Wilshire Blvd and potential outcomes of the VA Cares process at the West Los Angeles VA property have generated a great deal of attention in the Los Angeles region. These projects, in addition to your real property exchange, threaten to dramatically change the original purpose of the land – to serve veterans – and adversely affect quality of life in surrounding communities.

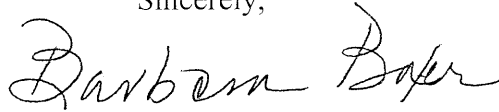
There is valid concern that this sale sets a bad precedent for real property exchanges. I am told that this is the first time that any federal agency has ever attempted a real property exchange online. That the public and the congressional delegation were not informed of the real property exchange provides ample evidence of a lack of planning that should lead to a cancellation of the announced transaction.

Lt. Gen. James R. Helmly  
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I believe you should halt this process until a federal land use master plan, as was mandated by Section 707 of the Veterans Program Enhancement Act of 1998, is completed. Doing so, would enable all of the federal agencies in the Wilshire Corridor to join with elected representatives of the area and community residents to determine the best uses of the land.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Vincent Jones in my Los Angeles office at (213) 894-5000. I thank you for your serious attention to this request and look forward to your early response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Boxer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator

BB:vj