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February 20, 2008

Vice-Mayor Bonnie Lowenthal
1st District, City Council
333 W. Ocean Blvd., 14th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Vice-Mayor Lowenthal:

An application has been submitted to the Planning Department to establish the La Verde Recycling Center at 1676 Hayes Ave.

Mr. Andy Churchian, owner and operator of another recycling facility in Wilmington, made a presentation at our last General Meeting seeking the neighborhood's support. A motion was made to oppose this project and that motion carried.

Bonnie, as you are very aware because of your efforts to protect neighborhoods, La Verde's business license for a recycling business at 1340 Pine Ave. was revoked in 2007. As per your E-Newsletter, Vol. 1, Issue 3, May 8, 2007, referencing the demolition of the Cash for Cans Recycling Facility at 101 E. Pacific Coast Hwy. at Pine Ave., you wrote that this facility "long has been a magnet for crime in Central Long Beach...since the facility has been closed, the Long Beach Police Department has reported a 14% reduction in crime in the neighborhood".

The WPAC and Redevelopment have taken great strides toward improving our streets, eliminating blight, and bettering the quality of life for the businesses in the area. Please, let's not take a giant step back by allowing this facility to sully that effort.

Sincerely,

Tony Rivera
Chair

Westside Project Area Committee

cc: Planning Commission Chairwoman Leslie Gentile, Planning Commissioners Phillip Saumur, Charles Durnin, Charles Greenberg, and Melani Smith, and Planner Steve Valdez