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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0530

HENRY A. WAXMAN
30TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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ENERGY AND COMMERCE

February 29, 2008

Dr. James B. Peake
Secretary of Veterans Affairs
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20420-0002

Dear Secretary Peake:

I want to thank you for taking an interest in the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center (West LA VA). It is my pleasure to represent the largest VA medical center in the nation and to advocate for local veterans who use the facility. As you know, this precious resource has faced many programmatic challenges and land use issues over the last several years.

I am writing this letter to request more information about the Enhanced Resources Sharing of Space Agreement (Sharing Agreement) between the West LA VA and Twentieth Century Fox Television (Fox), which was executed in August 2006.

The scope of the project includes the use of 73,160 square feet of space in the industrial yard of the property for use as parking, storage and maintenance of production sets. The length of the agreement is 10 years with a 10-year renewal option.

In late 2006 and early 2007, after grading had begun at the site, community members expressed concern about the environmental protections and process being followed by the West LA VA and Fox. In response to the concerns, the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works issued a Notice of Violation and Work Stoppage for the project on January 31, 2007.

Since that time, I understood the project had been terminated and the terms of the Sharing Agreement were not moving forward. Nearly a year later, I received your letter dated January 3, 2008 in response to my request for more information about various leases at the West LA VA. The letter included a Fact Sheet, which indicates the VA is conducting an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

I have a number of questions about the EA process and the status of this project. First, I would like to know how much of the EA has been completed by the VA. I would also like to learn whether construction of the project is moving forward at this time.

February 29, 2008

Page 2

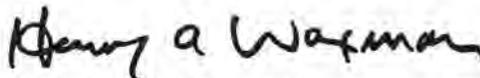
Please also advise me whether the VA has determined whether it will conduct a full Environmental Impact Statement for the project or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). As you make this determination, I want to bring to your attention to the fact that the industrial yard where the project is located also houses the Breitburn Energy oil well lease. In addition, part of the improvements Fox agreed to were the removal of an existing oil tank. As you know, the industrial yard is considered to be one of the dirtiest areas on the West LA VA and there have been questions raised in the past about contamination in this area of the property.

Finally, I am interested to know how and whether the VA has responded to the County of Los Angeles' Notice of Violation and Work Stoppage.

I appreciate your taking the time to respond to my concerns about the environmental process and community protections for the Fox Sharing Agreement and look forward to your response.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,



HENRY A. WAXMAN
Member of Congress

HAW:lp