

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

February 12, 2007

The Honorable R. James Nicholson
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20420-0002

Dear Secretary Nicholson:

We are writing to express our deep concern about activities at the West Los Angeles Veteran Affairs campus that we believe violate the spirit, if not the letter, of current law. These activities highlight the need for a long term land use master plan for this site, as previously mandated by Congress.

As you know, the Fiscal Year 2006 Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act contained the language below, which continues to have force both under the current Continuing Resolution and the year-long Joint Resolution pending in Congress:

Provided further, That none of the funds in this or any other Act may be used to reduce the mission, services or infrastructure, including land, of the 18 facilities on the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) list requiring further study as specified by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs without prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

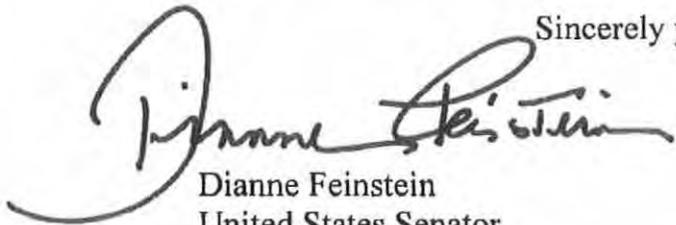
It has come to our attention that the Department has allowed construction of a facility for Fox Entertainment Group on a parcel of the West Los Angeles VA campus (photograph attached) and has allowed an Enterprise Car Rental facility to open on another parcel. In our view, those actions are in violation of the enacted language.

Additionally, the Department has not developed the comprehensive land use master plan required under P.L. 105-368. That Act mandated that the Department produce a 25-50 year land use master plan for the West Los Angeles VA. Currently, there is no plan or clear process for making land use decisions. As a result, land use decisions have been made locally in a haphazard and piecemeal fashion. This is not an adequate way to administer nearly 400 acres of federally owned land. The VA must be a better steward of this valuable asset.

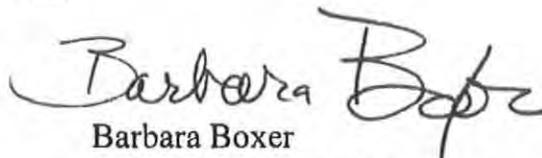
There are more veterans living within 50 miles of the West LA VA than there are in 42 other states combined and we need a plan that effectively focuses on their needs. We request that you take prompt action to halt projects that are not consistent with the core mission of the VA and fulfill the Congressional mandate to draft a master plan for the VA land.

Thank you for your attention to this issue. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us directly.

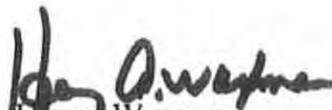
Sincerely yours,



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Barbara Boxer
United States Senator



Henry Waxman
Member of Congress