COUNCIL MEETING OF
February 23, 2010

SUPPLEMENTAL #1 TO ITEM 13A

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the Torrance City Council
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the City Council:

SUBJECT: 2009 Draft General Plan and Environmental Impact Report

Correspondence was received after the Item 13A was prepared and is attached herewith for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffery W. Gibson
Community Development Director

By _____
Ted Semaan, Manager
Redevelopment & General Plan Divisions

Noted:

_____
Jeffery W. Gibson
Community Development Director

_____
LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

Attachment:
A. Correspondence

Joe, Kevin

From: Gallagher & Associates [mdgapg@gte.net]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2010 6:56 AM
To: CDDGeneralPlan
Cc: mdgapg@verizon.net; Scotto, Frank; Jackson, LeRoy
Subject: Nov. 10 and 17 General Plan meetings

Please include the environmental impact of the Redondo Beach Firing Range as an agenda item for the November 10 public workshop and Nov. 17 public hearing. Located on Beryl Street directly across from TUSD's Towers Elementary School, the firing range has increased its noise levels, types of weaponry, and pollution dangers since my family moved to the area 40 years ago. It is no longer an appropriated location for such a facility, as children are present at the school and adjacent YMCA day care center until approximately 6 pm during the week.

Ann Gallagher
19404 Linda Drive
Torrance

Joe, Kevin

From: Don Barnard [save_historic_old_torrance@msn.com]
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2010 8:07 PM
To: CDDGeneralPlan
Subject: Agenda Item 13A: Updating the General Plan
Attachments: How ODPA would like it to read.doc

Dear Mayor and Members of the Torrance City Council:

Attached to this email is a letter regarding Agenda Item 13A: Updating the General Plan. Don Barnard, regrets that he is ill, and will not be able to attend the February 23rd meeting. Bonnie Mae Barnard will attend, but must leave at 9:00 PM.

Best Wishes,
Don & Bonnie Mae Barnard
Olmsted Districts Preservation Association
Working to "Save Historic Old Torrance"
for the kids of Tomorrow

How ODPA/SHOT would like it to read:

3.1.1 Torrance History

In 1911, Jared Sidney Torrance, a Pasadena real estate promoter, purchased approximately 3,000 acres of the Rancho San Pedro from the Dominguez family. His plan was to create a **modern industrial garden city** with parks, fine schools, and tree-lined streets. To develop his vision of a planned garden industrial community, he hired **Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. of the firm of** the Olmsted Brothers of Brookline, Massachusetts, sons of Frederic Law Olmsted, the celebrated landscape architect whose work included Central Park in New York City and the original Stanford University campus. **Mr. Frederick Law Olmsted Jr., an internationally known landscape architect and city planner, architect for growth planning of Newport, Rhode Island, Detroit, Michigan, Utica, New York, Boulder, Colorado, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania and Rochester, New York, author of the McMillian Plan, Fine Arts Commissioner with supervising authority in aesthetic, architectural, and planning matters in the nation's capital, co-creator of Harvard University Landscape architects curriculum and President of National Conference on City Planning and the Problems of Congestion in Washington, D.C., created a design for the city of Torrance that divided the city into districts: Industry, Business, residential and districts, as well as undesignated districts, to allow for growth.**

Running down the center of the residential district (Dominguez Street to the north, Western Avenue to the east, Plaza Del Amo to the south and Crenshaw Boulevard to the west), and joining it to the Business district is Olmsted's landscaped common that runs down the **heart** of El Prado Avenue from Carson Street to Cravens Avenue. From Cravens Avenue, El Prado Avenue was, as still is, a paved street that continued to the Pacific Electric Railway Depot on Cabrillo Avenue. El Prado Avenue was aligned to frame a vista of Mt. Baldy and the San Gabriel Mountains 50 miles to the northeast.

Groundbreaking for the model garden industrial city commenced in 1912 with the renowned Irving Gill as the chief architect. Since 1912, several structures of aesthetic or historic interest were built. Gill's buildings are characterized by clean simple lines free of ornamentation. His most famous structures in Torrance are the Pacific Electric Railway Depot and the Southern Pacific Railroad bridge over Torrance Boulevard. Although many structures have been lost through the passage of time, these structures and a number of other significant buildings remain. They have provided an enriched sense of community to the citizens and a reserve of heritage. They classify Torrance as one of a small handful of American cities with auspicious origins in early city planning and architecture.

3.1.3 HISTORIC PRESERVATION OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

To encourage and support a growing public awareness and interest in Torrance's history and architectural heritage, the City is committed to shared endeavors with **local groups** that will promote **preservation** and public education. Preservation of structures identified as historically significant should be achieved whenever feasible, consistent with the interests of individual property owners. **Neighborhoods** and districts or structures within them may be recognized as historic and representative of specific architectural periods or events**, or cultural significance. (refer to OBJECTIVE CR.12 below)** The City will continue to encourage historic preservation efforts and make it an integral part of the community's planning process.

To encourage the preservation of historic resources, the City is creating **an historic** preservation ordinance that takes advantage of the Mills Act, **a voluntary (**property tax abatement program. The Mills Act program allows property **owners** of a qualified historic property, who maintains and/or restores **their(Incorrect: owner is singular/there is plural—change to owners, or change "their" to his/her)** property in a manner prescribed by a contact entered into with the City, to receive property tax relief.

While the following polices identify the City's general approaches to historic preservation, the General Plan Implementation Plan (Appendix A) outlines specific methods to achieve the objective and polices contained here. In addition, goals, objectives, and polices in the Land Use Element apply to historic preservation, such as ensuring consistency between the zoning code and the General Plan and requiring new construction to be consistent in scale, mass and character with defining structures in an established neighborhood or district. Time-honored setbacks and the location of curb cuts will be considered when reviewing new development in an established neighborhood. (**NO change to this paragraph)**

OBJECTIVE CR.12: Preservation of sites of local historical or cultural importance
Policy CR.12.1: Encourage the preservation of public and private buildings which are of local, historical, or cultural importance.
Policy CR.12.2:
Support the work of local organizations to identify and preserve local

structures and sites of historical interest and importance.

Balance historic preservation goals with the interests of private property owners.

Policy CR.12.4:
Work toward the establishment of a citywide **preservation** policy and programs **such as the Historic Preservation Ordinance, the Mills Act, the California Historic Building Code, Preservation Overlay Zones, and/or others** for recognition **and preservation** of historical assets within the City.

Appendix A

3-10. HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Preserve Torrance's historical heritage by:
❑ Establishing voluntary architectural design guidelines for Downtown Torrance.
❑ Establishing a program for cable television to record historical sites.
❑ Increasing access to information on the benefits of **all aspects of historic preservation** programs.
❑ Pursuing, where appropriate, recognition of locally identified historical sites by State and Federal governments.
❑ **Implementing** methods sites **such as an Historic Preservation Ordinance, the California Historic Building Code, Historic Preservation Overlay Zones** for the preservation of local historical sites.
❑ Creating an **historical** preservation ordinance that will create opportunities for participation in the Mills Act Property Tax Abatement Program, **and others.**
Responsible Agency: Community Development Department
Funding Source: General Fund

1. Time Frame**: 1-3** years

** A three to five year time frame seems too distant for a city that states, "The City will continue to encourage historic preservation efforts and make it an **integral part of the community's planning process (bolded mine)**" (**3.1.3 HISTORIC PRESERVATION OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES: first paragraph), and whose strategic plan calls for historic preservation.**