

VETERANS AFFAIRS WEST LOS ANGELES CAMPUS  
PRELIMINARY DRAFT FINAL MASTER PLAN INDEPENDENT REVIEW

**COMMENT DOCUMENT**

**VETS ADVOCACY, INC.**

December 7, 2015





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## **01 INTRODUCTION**

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## Introduction

On June 8, 2011, Greg Valentini, an Army veteran who had served in Afghanistan and Iraq, led the caption on a complaint filed against Eric Shinseki, then Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (“VA”), and Donna M. Beiter, then Director of the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System. Mr. Valentini and his fellow named plaintiffs – Adrian Moraru, Jane Doe and Chris Romine – represented a class of homeless and disabled veterans who had suffered years of governmental neglect following their service to our country. Their lawsuit focused on VA’s misuse of nearly 388 acres located approximately five miles from the Pacific Ocean in West Los Angeles (the “West LA Campus”). They were joined in the suit by Vietnam Veterans of America and by Carolina Winston Barrie, a descendant of the distinguished family that had deeded this land to the federal government in 1888. The site was deeded to serve as a permanent soldier’s home for disabled war veterans. By 2011, however, VA was no longer accepting residents at the West LA Campus, and meaningful portions of the land were being illegally leased for commercial use or not being used at all. The Valentini litigation sought to right these wrongs.

Four years of hard-fought litigation followed, with no apparent line of sight to a resolution, but a turning point came with the appointment of Robert A. McDonald as the Secretary of the VA in July 2014. Secretary McDonald and lawyers and advocates for the Valentini plaintiffs together envisioned a path to partnership between VA and plaintiffs’ representatives. On January 28, 2015, Secretary McDonald and the plaintiffs’ representatives entered into a historic settlement of the Valentini litigation. As part of the settlement, VA and the plaintiffs’ representatives pledged to cooperate and work together in good faith to coordinate preparation of a new master plan for the West LA Campus. A key purpose of the plan would be to set out a design to return the West LA Campus to use by veterans, particularly homeless veterans, underserved populations such as female veterans, aging veterans and those who are disabled. As well, the plaintiffs’ representatives undertook to form a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation to work with VA, local, state and other federal authorities, and community stakeholders to help meet the objectives and goals of the settlement.

That nonprofit corporation, Vets Advocacy, Inc., today submits the following comments and recommendations on the preliminary draft master plan published by VA in the Federal Register on October 22, 2015 (the “Draft”). This Comment Document presents many perspectives regarding the Draft – from Vets Advocacy, from the plaintiffs’ representatives, from leaders in veterans’ communities, and directly from individual veterans themselves. It is submitted in the spirit of partnership with VA and with the shared goal of serving those we sent to war on behalf of our country.

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## GENERAL COMMENTS

The Draft is the product of an appreciable amount of effort and useful work that was accomplished within a relatively compressed timeline, and should be recognized as such. It has resulted in an initial foundation of work upon which the community can constructively comment and build to make a stronger master plan, and this Comment Document offers recommendations accordingly.

Acknowledging the effort and work represented by the Draft and the timeframe in which it was prepared, however, the Draft does fall short on a range of important issues that can compromise its effectiveness as a tool for revitalizing and re-positioning the West LA Campus as a site for innovation in support of veterans' wellbeing and their reintegration into civilian life. Specific issues are addressed in detail in the body of this Comment Document. In general, however, the Draft would benefit from better organization; it can have a clearer statement of goals; it can detail more specifically its program; it can realize a more responsive physical plan; and it can better outline a specific course of action, timeline, and strategies for achieving that. With respect to the timeline, it is essential that the Master Plan include recommendations for the actionable development of housing for homeless veterans in the immediate term.

### ***Structure of the Draft***

The way the Draft is currently organized impedes the reader's ability to track the thinking and planning process that leads to its recommendations. The Draft jumps from a limited examination of the West LA Campus' existing physical conditions, to needs analysis, to needs analysis again with some generalized program objectives. The Site Analysis then turns back to existing conditions and proceeds through various elements of the Draft's recommendations to a limited discussion of phasing.<sup>1</sup> All of this is preceded by an Executive Summary that includes information that is not found elsewhere in the Draft.

There should instead be a clear progression from a vision and goals for the West LA Campus, to site analysis, to needs analysis, to program recommendations, and to a plan for the implementation of the proposed program. The final master plan for the West LA Campus (the "Master Plan") will benefit from an improved structure, with content organized as follows:

- Statement of vision, goals and general project description
- Site analysis and assessment of site opportunities and constraints, including environmental conditions (for example, topography and open space), site access and circulation, and existing and surrounding land use
- Analysis of demand, including input from stakeholders
- Program recommendations, drawn from the demand analysis and interpretation of stakeholder views

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<sup>1</sup> Draft, pages 156-186.

- Proposed master plan that accommodates the recommended program and demonstrates site capacity for future development through a coherent land use plan
- Phasing and implementation plan that defines timelines, discrete projects, and potential strategies for accomplishing them

Program requirements and supporting data should be clearly tabulated and explicitly defined and quantified as to their physical ramifications for the Master Plan. Summaries of existing site conditions should be joined with other “Supporting Documentation” in appendices, and replaced in the body of the plan with more focused analysis that explains the significance or influence of the existing conditions data on formulation of the plan, expressed as a clear description of the site’s opportunities and constraints as they pertain to accommodation of the program.

### ***Vision and Goals***

The Draft lacks a clear and clinically informed vision that reflects the mission of VA – namely, veteran reintegration into civilian life. The purpose of the Master Plan is to set forth a design for the West LA Campus that effectively uses the site to further that vision. Accordingly, the plan should articulate goals that will provide guideposts to ensure the site is developed and maintained as an impactful therapeutic tool for achievement of that vision, including but not limited to the following:

1. Position the West Los Angeles VA campus as a place of identity, a symbol of pride, a model for innovation, and an example for change in how our nation cares for and honors military veterans.
2. Ensure that stewardship for the planning, development and operation of the site is transparent to, guided by, and accountable to veterans.
3. Revive the site to its original character and purpose as an immaculately maintained “home” where veterans and their families are welcome to live, heal, recover and reintegrate after military service.
4. Develop high quality housing tailored to priority veteran subpopulations with robust support for those who are struggling with housing instability and/or otherwise vulnerable.
5. Provide veterans and their families living both on and off the West LA Campus with easy access to an oasis of diverse resources in addition to housing and healthcare including state-of-the-art, evidence-based services, bountiful opportunities, nourishing amenities and healing environments.
6. Connect the campus operations with non-campus-based community resources including VA satellites, state, county and city systems, non-profit organizations and the full gamut of private sector entities.
7. Create a forum for the veteran community to network safely with the non-veteran community, and in the process establish a site that is conducive to successful transition from service, reintegration into society and bridging of the military-civilian divide.

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8. Honor the legacy and heritage of the site by restoring its historic structures and using them as building blocks that can be supplemented with compatible new construction to achieve scale.

### ***Programs***

The Draft contains generalized program objectives based on inadequate needs analysis. The Master Plan should instead articulate a programmatic agenda that would advance its vision and goals and that, to the extent practicable, is based on data-driven analysis using compelling and logical methodologies. For example, there should be an assessment of the needs and demands of the relevant subpopulations of veterans and their families in Los Angeles for housing, healthcare and other therapeutic services and resources, an accounting of existing resources available in the area, and an evaluation of the current and reasonably projected future gaps between the two. Such data-based analysis should be systematically leveraged today and over time to guide proactive and evolving use of the West LA Campus. With respect to housing, for example, use of a logical predictive model with expressly identified assumptions would enable the Master Plan to estimate, reasonably and compellingly, the amounts and types of housing needed for development in the short and longer term, and guide VA in its ongoing collection of data to populate future updated assessments of housing needs. Whether such models exist today, and whether data is available to populate them, is a question that should be addressed by the Master Plan. To the extent they do not, whether with respect to housing, healthcare or other services and resources, the Master Plan should provide for development of necessary methodologies and appropriate data collection.

### ***Predicates of a Comprehensive Plan***

In addition, the Draft suffers from other analytical deficits in the assessments and evaluations needed to support the development of a fully realized physical plan for the West LA Campus. As discussed further in this Comment Document, there is inadequate analysis relating to existing conditions, infrastructure and utilities, safety issues, historical preservation, and traffic and pedestrian flow. As a result, the physical plan presented by the Draft is limited and not grounded in the specific opportunities and constraints of the site.

### ***Course of Action; Timeline***

The Draft does not adequately describe a course of action for implementing the Master Plan, or the timeframe recommended for its implementation. Given the scope of the West LA Campus and its possibilities, as well as issues of uncertainty that are necessarily involved in such a project, a tiered or phased approach to implementation will likely be required, as is currently anticipated in a limited way by the Draft. However, the Master Plan should include reasonably detailed recommendations regarding this tiered approach – identifying timelines, discrete projects, and potential strategies for accomplishing them. For example, what number, location and type of housing units should be developed on the West LA Campus in the short term, and what timeframe is contemplated for completion of this project. As

well, a plan for phasing should provide for periodic updates of data-based assessments to ensure that ongoing redevelopment of the West LA Campus continues to be focused on the needs of the veterans the campus is intended to serve.

Of greatest urgency is the need for the Master Plan to provide for the development of an initial housing project for homeless veterans in the immediate term. The Draft projects the “immediate need (over the next 10 years)” as approximately 700–900 units of permanent supportive housing.<sup>2</sup> Veterans are living and dying without housing every day in Los Angeles. The Master Plan should and must provide for an actionable housing development project to commence and be completed sooner than within 10 years, for a number of permanent supportive housing units to be determined based on initial data and modeling. This initial project would not be an answer to all of the housing needs of veterans and their families in Los Angeles but would be a meaningful and affirmative first step toward revitalization of the West LA Campus.

## GUIDE TO COMMENTS

This Comment Document has been organized to comment on information in each of the sections, or chapters, as presented in the Draft. The Master Plan itself should be improved with regard to its organizational structure, as discussed above under “General Comments.” However, in order to ensure that the comments here correspond to the issues as they are presented in the Draft, the comments in “03 Commentary on the Draft Final Master Plan” follow the Draft’s sequential order.

The comments on each section of the Draft include an analysis of deficiencies in the Draft, followed by summaries of input from veterans on each subject, often including specific statements from veterans themselves. Recommended remedies to the identified deficiencies typically follow, organized around principles that should be brought to bear in the Master Plan. Each set of comments on a section of the Draft concludes with policies and recommended actions for the Master Plan (all of which have been collected and summarized in “02 Summary of Principles and Recommended Actions”).

No specific timeline is identified for the principles and actions. However, “principles” are organizing concepts that should form the core of revisions to the Draft, be clearly stated in the Master Plan as framework elements, and guide future detailed planning. “Recommended actions” may be more open-ended, as many of them require extended studies and bear on detailed planning efforts to come out of the Master Plan as it moves forward into implementation.

Finally, “04 Stakeholder Voices” presents a comprehensive appendix of comments and input from stakeholders (including many veterans) assembled by Vets Advocacy, Inc., as well as comments posted in response to the Draft published on the Federal Register, organized by topic of concern.

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<sup>2</sup> Draft, pp. 11, 135, 137 and 236.

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## **02 SUMMARY OF PRINCIPLES AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

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## Summary of Principles and Recommended Actions

In the commentary on the Draft Final Master Plan in the sections that follow in “03 Commentary on the Draft Final Master Plan,” principles and recommendations are listed for remedying the deficiencies noted in each section. The following list of recommended principles and action items is a compendium of those that are detailed and supported by the arguments in each respective commentary section, which should be consulted for further detail. The term “Principles” is used here to mean those basic considerations that will be required in preparing the Final Master Plan in order to make it whole and effective framework. The term “Actions” is used for efforts that should be part of the process of developing the Master Plan framework into a detailed plan for implementation.

### **B EXISTING CONDITIONS**

#### **B1 CAMPUS OVERVIEW**

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##### **ACTIONS**

- B1-1 Include existing building information in the D5 Site Analysis chapter where it aligns well with the information there.
- B1-2 Provide an organized chart that presents a more thorough description of each building; include building age, condition, program, facility type, area, location or neighborhood, status and any conclusion that may have been drawn from the analysis.
- B1-3 Further analysis of the West LA Campus’s open/public space, landscaping and pathway conditions should be included in the Site Analysis/ Existing Conditions.

#### **B2.1 VETERAN AND HOMELESS DEMOGRAPHICS**

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##### **PRINCIPLES**

- 1. Clearly define the concept and components of the housing needs assessment, determine the ability of data to represent the components, and identify gaps in the data.
- 2. Base initial estimates of permanent supportive housing demand for an initial housing project on the most recent available data, including the most recent PIT counts, current HMIS data, and updated VA administrative data. Set initial housing estimates on current needs rather than projected 2025 needs.
- 3. Clarify the methodology used to arrive at estimates as well as all assumptions made in applying the methodology to data.
- 4. Build into the Master Plan the potential for expanding the amount of appropriate housing on the West LA Campus in light of new and better information where there is now great uncertainty.

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## ACTIONS

- B2.1-1 Include housing need estimates for target populations other than chronically homeless individuals, especially aging veterans and female veterans.
- B2.1-2 Include housing need estimates for housing other than permanent housing for the three principle target populations, including emergency, bridge, transitional, assisted living, and nursing home housing.
- B2.1-3 Include a framework for periodic review of data and information that becomes available during the implementation of the plan and for midcourse corrections in targets for the number and types of housing provided on the campus.
- B2.1-4 Address issues of uncertainty through phasing of projects and potential expanded use of housing units by expanded target populations, either through adding categories of need criteria or adjusting cut-off points for need criteria.

## **B2.2 EXISTING SERVICES AND PROGRAMS**

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### PRINCIPLES

1. Develop a responsible initial model for determining demographics and health needs of existing and projected populations of veterans. The health needs model should be capable of periodic updates and assessing the gaps in demand for healthcare and must consider the changing demographics of the veteran population, associated medical and psychiatric diagnoses, and ongoing VA “access,” evaluations and metrics.

### ACTIONS

- B2.2-1 Provide for periodic generation and/or review of information and the model for service demands, perhaps every five years as is done on some military bases, in order to direct midcourse corrections (especially as the West LA Campus evolves from a healthcare campus into a welcoming and vibrant community).
- B2.2-2 Consult and incorporate available data sources such as a recent study by RAND and the CIR study that each identify local trends in service needs.
- B2.2-3 Investigate empirically the service needs of veteran subpopulations, particularly those that are vulnerable and will be targeted, and existing resources.
- B2.2-4 Develop and maintain a continuous survey and polling program relating to current conditions in the Los Angeles veteran community, as well as predictable changes.

B2.2-5 The Master Plan should pay particular attention to those veterans who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, disabled, otherwise disadvantaged and likely to either live on, or regularly rely upon, the West LA Campus.

## **C STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

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### **PRINCIPLES**

1. Define a process that continues stakeholder engagement.

### **ACTIONS**

- C-1 Allow more time for community engagement with a wide variety of veterans and other stakeholders.
- C-2 Engage subgroups and vulnerable populations while adapting the manner of engagement to the needs of each group.
- C-3 Identify and select leaders within the LA veteran community to act as a core group of representatives and liaisons.
- C-4 Engage the homeless community through community leaders, workshops, counseling services, etc.
- C-5 Publicize meetings with a significant amount of time in advance.
- C-6 Hold open meetings in easily accessible spaces in central locations to veterans. Hold meetings after common work hours and permit for traveling time.
- C-7 Define a method of accountability to include the voices and opinions of stakeholders, particularly veterans in the community, in the development and final master plan.

## **D MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT**

### **D1 VETERAN HOUSING**

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### **PRINCIPLES**

1. Provide for an immediate permanent supportive housing program for the initial phase of development in the near term based on initial estimates of current permanent supportive housing demand.

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## ACTIONS

- D1-1 Clearly set out a housing program informed by the programmatic vision for the West LA Campus and the effort to end veteran homelessness in Los Angeles.
- D1-2 Provide a fuller and more detailed account of existing shelter and housing currently on the West LA Campus and in the community and their effectiveness, together with an assessment of the potential for repurposing or enriching some of this housing to better meet 21st century veteran needs.
- D1-3 Provide a more detailed set of recommendations for the various types of housing that the housing program should include, the segment of the population for which such housing would be appropriate, and the evidence and research in favor of such housing types.
- D1-4 Better define and explain the prioritization of particular populations for housing on the West LA Campus and the particular housing needs of each population, including housing on the West LA Campus as opposed to in the community.
- D1-5 Provide recommendations as to the phasing and location of various types of housing and development of each such type. The recommendation should address how evolving measures of need and veteran choice among available housing alternatives might affect phasing.

## **D2 EXCELLENT HEALTHCARE**

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### ACTIONS

- D2-1 Provide for specific improvements to mental health treatment and facilities based on demand, demographics, and evidence-based practices. The Master Plan should consider alternative, holistic treatments of veterans and how those treatments can be incorporated into the physical features and health program of the West LA Campus.
- D2-2 The Master Plan should consider alternative, holistic treatment of veterans and how those treatments can be incorporated into the physical features and health programs on the West LA Campus.
- D2-3 Outline and explore new site-based opportunities for the healthcare program, especially as related to mental health, on the West LA Campus based on demand, demographics, and evidence-based practices. Such opportunities could include: modifications to the inpatient facility; the conversion of CalVets to a federal facility to meet high demands of the disabled and under-resourced elderly subpopulation who struggle with housing stability and do not qualify; leveraging unoccupied space on campus for non-VA providers to care for those veterans who are not eligible to receive VA services; better use of campus dynamics and outdoor spaces for improved access.

- D2-4 The Master Plan should take account of the accessibility and healthcare needs of select veteran subpopulations (including not only homeless veterans, but also women, the LGBT community, and any other group that suffers poor healthcare outcomes due to inequities).
- D2-5 Develop a healthcare epicenter for veterans at the West LA Campus that creates synergies with local and regional VA and non-VA healthcare networks through, for example, more robust interagency communication plans, resource sharing and transportation.

### **D3 COORDINATED CARE**

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#### **ACTIONS**

- D3-1 Present a detailed description of program development for a coordinated care program service that is tailored to the needs of veterans, with particular attention to homeless and otherwise vulnerable veteran subpopulations.
- D3-2 Conduct an extensive stakeholder engagement process and identify reoccurring suggestions and issues from the stakeholder engagement process that the coordinated care program can implement.
- D3-3 Develop program elements to deal with access barriers by making information widely available, minimizing stigma, improving the campus navigation experience, and mitigating administrative barriers.
- D3-4 Identify the location and phasing of the coordinated care program that ties into a system of welcome and resource centers, providing options for expansion in the future.

### **D4 CONNECTING AND BUILDING THE VETERAN COMMUNITY**

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#### **PRINCIPLES**

1. Employ a tiered approach to building a core of communities on the West LA Campus that house and service the most vulnerable veterans and develop additional features that attract more and more veterans over time.
2. Develop connections between the West LA Campus and the communities beyond, including the surrounding neighborhoods and other non-veteran specific groups.
3. Establish the campus as a local and regional epicenter of services that is integrated into other regional facilities, including those operated by the VA, other government instrumentalities, non-profits, faith-based organizations, and other private sector operators.

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## ACTIONS

- D4-1 To support a core community on the West LA Campus, renovate existing buildings to create a comfortable yet safe and secure neighborhood (“nest”) in which prioritized, homeless veterans have a place to call home and receive supportive services.
- D4-2 Establish a strategic position for, and build a center of gravity on, the campus (a “town square” or “main street”) that better connects veterans within the community.
- D4-3 Conduct an analysis of the West LA Campus to identify portals to the campus, points of ingress and egress, and centers for information and navigation assistance.
- D4-4 Develop a well-defined, functionally isolable, and designated area (or several) for networking and interactions between military and civilian populations (“reintegration zone” or “loft district”).
- D4-5 Develop infrastructure for transportation, communication, data sharing, and reliance on shared care models connecting communities in the West LA Campus to relevant outside service providers and optimize the efficiency of such infrastructure in providing such connections.
- D4-6 Explore the options of campus “permeability” and program organization that allow for the areas to be community centers that integrate resident veterans, non-resident veterans, and the surrounding communities on campus while still ensuring the safety of select groups and programs.

## D5.1 SITE ANALYSIS

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### PRINCIPLES

1. Utilize the raw data to construct a thorough analysis of the site. This goes beyond stating facts, but evaluates implications and reaches important conclusions that inform the design of the West LA campus.
2. Synthesize a set of opportunities and constraints that are based on the analysis. These will tie directly into the plan and provide a logical sequence of how decisions are reached.

### ACTIONS

- D5.1-1 Conduct a hard-soft analysis and map the areas that are more suitable for redevelopment and areas that should remain largely as they currently exist.
- D5.1-2 Prepare separate maps of assets, challenges and opportunities.
- D5.1-3 Conduct a slope analysis and prepare a diagram showing unbuildable areas.
- D5.1-4 Conduct a tree survey with conclusions on which areas should and should not be disturbed.

- D5.1-5 Prepare an open space diagram with a hierarchy of spaces and analyze their quality and condition.
- D5.1-6 Prepare a pedestrian and bicycle circulation analysis that relates to the surrounding neighborhoods and mobility plans.
- D5.1-7 Analyze and diagram the existing transit within the campus and to the campus as well as the implications of the planned Metro subway station.
- D5.1-8 Prepare a reference map of existing buildings with their names.
- D5.1-9 Prepare a comprehensive historic resources map that pulls in the more specific information that is presented in the Historic Preservation report.
- D5.1-10 Prepare a map of leases on the campus with pertinent information related to those leases.

## **D5.2 SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT**

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### **PRINCIPLES**

1. Utilize the two methodologies (need-based and capacity-based) to develop program scenarios for an initial phase and the long term development of the West LA Campus.
2. Use the valuable veteran input received both during the writing of the Draft and during the review period as a basis for proposing resources and amenities.

### **ACTIONS**

- D5.2-1 Conduct a demand analysis in the manner described in Section B2.1 of this Comment Document to complement the need-based methodology. Utilize the conclusions to identify initial phase implementation measures.
- D5.2-2 Determine the long term development potential of the West LA Campus using the types of analysis described in the capacity-based methodology. The conclusions from the site analysis should directly inform this methodology.
- D5.3-3 Incorporate veteran input into the development of the list of resources and amenities.

## **D5.3 DESIGN CONCEPTS**

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### **PRINCIPLES**

1. Plan the campus with areas and neighborhoods that take security and secure circulation into account. A three tier concept provides a framework for how that could be accomplished.

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2. Create a sustainability framework to inform the master plan, encompassing the three-legged sustainability stool – environmental, social and economic.
3. Integrate the West LA Campus into its context, break down its institutional qualities, and make the campus a part of the larger community.
4. Reconceptualize what Community Centers are, what purpose they serve and where they are best located, and how they can encourage social interaction. Consider a hierarchy that relates to programming and an overall campus structure, including some form of a “Town Square” that is identifiably the center of the campus. Details on how this could be done are discussed in the review of the Neighborhoods section.
5. To provide clarity and redundancy to the transportation network, a different system of roads should be considered.

#### **D5.4 MASTER PLAN FRAMEWORK**

##### **Framework Summary and Implementation Methods**

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###### **PRINCIPLES**

1. Reframe the Framework Summary as a composite of program elements and then discuss the resulting design implications.
2. Recast the Implementation Methods section as “Plan Components,” as that more accurately describes what follows. Describe how each of these components relates to the Framework Summary.

###### **ACTIONS**

- D5.4-1 Amend the list of key elements of the physical plan to be more inclusive and to incorporate the concept of a central organizing feature (i.e., a “Town Center”).
- D5.4-2 Provide a comprehensive development plan illustration that includes all buildings on the site, existing and proposed.
- D5.4-3 Provide a plan illustration that designates all proposed land use on the site.
- D5.4-4 Provide a plan illustration that identifies building uses, in particular those uses that are amenities and/or service sites.
- D5.4-5 Integrate the original deeded intent of the campus in the design framework.
- D5.4-6 Recognize the role of the campus revitalization in creating a healing environment.

## **Gateways and Access Points**

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### **PRINCIPLES**

1. Identify points of campus entry, balancing consideration of access and safety, and keeping in mind the goal of deinstitutionalizing the feel of the West LA Campus.
2. Realize the need to differentiate between types of access points, considering modality, adjacent and internal uses, and connections within the West LA Campus.

### **ACTIONS**

- D5.4-7 Identify program and land use opportunities that take advantage of being at or in close proximity to the public access points.
- D5.4-8 Differentiate between vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian access points and identify the types of access controls involved for each of these methods of mobility.
- D5.4-9 Define what a gateway feature is and clarify the approach for location selection.
- D5.4-10 Clearly relate the access point plan and security measures to the requirements put forth in the Safety section.

## **Vehicular Circulation**

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### **PRINCIPLES**

1. Organize the vehicular circulation to support the three-tier model discussed in the Design Concepts section.
2. View the circulation system as an opportunity to contribute to the deinstitutionalization of the West LA Campus.

### **ACTIONS**

- D5.4-11 Analyze the implications of terminating a major boulevard into a Local Road (Barrington Place) and identify mitigation measures if needed.
- D5.4-12 Relate the road types and sections to the traffic study (once released) and land uses. Locate drop-off areas that are necessary given the strategy of locating parking away from the center of neighborhoods.
- D5.4-13 Differentiate between existing roads or road segments that are to be improved and new roads that are proposed.
- D5.4-14 Identify opportunities for more direct connections and access to areas that currently have little or no access, to increase redundancy.

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## **Bicycle and Shuttle Circulation**

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### **PRINCIPLES**

1. Recognize the diverse needs of cyclists in the veteran community and create a bike network that is safe, useful and enjoyable to use.
2. Consider transit as an integrated system, not as an internal network that is isolated from the surrounding transit infrastructure.

### **ACTIONS**

- D5.4-15 Develop a bicycle network that extends throughout the site, connects with neighboring bikeways, and provides Class 1 paths through the vast open areas for scenic, recreational rides.
- D5.4-16 Coordinate the shuttle stops with the community centers and regional mass transportation networks. Consider an additional shuttle concept that connects to destinations outside of the site.

## **Pedestrian Circulation**

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### **PRINCIPLES**

1. Create a pedestrian plan that provides clarity in route selection and hierarchy. Consider destinations, transit, accessibility and security in forming the network.
2. Recognize the context in which the network lies, identifying connections outside of the West LA Campus that should be made and others that should be avoided.

### **ACTIONS**

- D5.4-17 Develop an inventory of existing pedestrian facilities and identify areas that need improvement and areas that need new infrastructure. Coordinate the pedestrian access plan with the requirements in the Safety section.
- D5.4-18 Evaluate the necessity of the connections made to the Brentwood Glen neighborhood and determine whether additional pedestrian routes are needed to connect to places like Barrington Park and Heroes Golf Course.
- D5.4-19 Consider improvements needed to the Wilshire underpass and pedestrian tunnel to make them safe and inviting, including improvements for those with mobility issues. Integrate pedestrian improvements proposed by Metro for the planned subway station.

## **Signage and Wayfinding**

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### **PRINCIPLES**

1. Use design interventions that make wayfinding logical, in order to reduce reliance on signage.
2. Develop the site plan with a focus on creating a sense of place.

### **ACTIONS**

- D5.4-20 Name the existing and new buildings on campus instead of relying on numbers that perpetuate a more institutional feel to the campus.
- D5.4-21 After designating the primary entrances on campus, identifying the location of a campus Welcome Center and or a community center, develop a landscape and pathway design strategy that gives these areas a distinguished sense of place.

## **Open Space**

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### **PRINCIPLES**

1. Develop the plan with clear ideas of how each space relates to the others and how physical connections are made between open spaces.
2. Identify key program aspects that relate to open space, and coordinate them with the adjacent land uses.
3. In rehabilitating existing open spaces and creating new ones, consider preservation of historic spaces and how to apply sustainability measures.

### **ACTIONS**

- D5.4-22 Develop a clear hierarchy of open spaces that is inclusive of programming ideas to differentiate how spaces are to be used.
- D5.4-23 Integrate the primary pedestrian connections with open spaces to formulate a true network.
- D5.4-24 Identify historic components of the open space plan along with preservation and enhancement concepts.
- D5.4-25 Coordinate the open space plan with the Safety plan.
- D5.4-26 Integrate ideas of sustainability as an overlay on the landscaping of the open space.
- D5.4-27 Identify and inventory significant landscape elements (including plant materials and other features) that should be retained and incorporated into the plan.

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## **Parking**

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### PRINCIPLES

1. Develop a parking plan that takes a comprehensive look at the various constraints and is clearly related to existing and projected demand.
2. Consider accessibility, land uses, and potential users in determining the appropriate type and location of parking facilities.

### ACTIONS

- D5.4-27 Coordinate the parking plan with parking study (to be completed in December).
- D5.4-28 Create a mobility overlay on the parking plan to show drop off areas and accessible parking zones.
- D5.4-29 Develop an alternative strategy that does not rely heavily on subterranean parking.
- D5.4-30 Assess the potential for on-street parking.
- D5.4-31 Develop a parking plan for the south campus.
- D5.4-32 Evaluate strategies for peak parking events.
- D5.4-33 Incorporate the planned parking structure shown in the Metro subway station plan.

## **Proposed and Existing Buildings**

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### PRINCIPLES

1. Be forthright in describing the methodology used for the comprehensive analysis of existing buildings. The variables and unknowns should all be acknowledged.
2. Coordinate the evaluation of existing buildings with their potential for renovation and anticipated future uses.
3. Create a clear strategy to determine whether renovation or new construction is the proper direction, given well-defined use, program, and adaptability of existing buildings.

### ACTIONS

- D5.4-34 Clearly state the planned housing program and show how the requirements for each type of housing can be placed either in existing or new buildings and the form those new buildings would optimally take.
- D5.4-35 Clarify the plan to explain the parameters used to determine the removal or re-use of historically contributing buildings and develop a clear strategy for adaptive re-use.

- D5.4-36 Identify locations for new buildings and create building footprints and massing schemes based on the programmatic needs of the campus.
- D5.4-37 Explore the enormous potential and opportunity of the Industrial District and its proximity to the future subway station; assess the buildings and land area in terms of potential for new uses based on the needs of the campus.
- D5.4-38 Acknowledge the assets of the five (5) historic buildings on the campus authorized for restoration and incorporate them into the development concept in a meaningful way.

### **Distribution of Housing, Scale and Character**

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#### **PRINCIPLES**

1. Develop comprehensive descriptions of the building typologies that best fit the various housing types.
2. Describe what constitutes a community and how that can be achieved given the opportunities and constraints on the site.

#### **ACTIONS**

- D5.4-39 Better define the components of what can be done with design to create a sense of community.
- D5.4-40 Analyze new building typologies that break down the institutional feel of the campus.
- D5.4-41 Provide visuals to strengthen concepts for how rehabilitated and new buildings will look and perform.

## **5.5 NEIGHBORHOODS**

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#### **PRINCIPLES**

1. The three tiers approach discussed in the Design Concepts section should be the basis for differentiating major areas of the West LA Campus.
2. Neighborhood diversity, in terms both of housing type and service needs, should be addressed in defining the structure of each neighborhood. The recommendations of the historic preservation section and the safety section should be used to define the scope of renovation within the neighborhoods and the edges around them.
3. The West LA Campus should have an easily accessible Welcome Center that serves as one-stop for veteran services.

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4. Create a plan that addresses the entirety of the site, including the open spaces, industrial area, leased parcels and south of Wilshire area.

#### ACTIONS

- 5.5-1 Revise the physical master plan to include a Town Center that offers opportunities for veterans to establish bonds within the veteran community that includes access to “retail” counseling and support as well as cafés, a fitness center, wellness, arts and entertainment, and small retail shops.
- 5.5-2 Revise the physical master plan to include a mixed-use “Reintegration Zone” where non-resident veterans as well as resident veterans can connect with the broader Los Angeles community through employment, education and training. Select a site with public visibility and direct public access from city streets and public transportation, including the future Purple Line subway station.
- 5.5-3 Prepare a clear program for a multi-service Welcome Center. Revise the physical master plan to locate such a center at or near an entrance to the site, accessible from public transportation, with convenient adjacent parking, and convenient to facilities on the campus that provide immediate services for veterans.
- 5.5-4 Prepare a clear program and set of development criteria that define what comprises a neighborhood, its qualities and characteristics.
- 5.5-5 Revise the physical master plan to identify neighborhoods of appropriate scale and diversity of use and building types, and locate these to connect appropriately with the Town Center and common services.
- 5.5-6 Define the housing and locational needs of female veterans, veterans with children, and LGBT veterans and others with particular needs, and revise the physical master plan to identify neighborhood locations that meet those needs.
- 5.5-7 Revise the program and the physical master plan concept for the south of Wilshire campus to define its relationship to the whole, taking into account the Safety recommendations to consolidate Mission Critical facilities in this zone.
- 5.5-8 Revise the physical master plan to account for uses within the Wadsworth Park area of the site, with specific re-use recommendations for the existing structures located there. Consider the use of this area for housing veterans with children.
- 5.5-9 Consider revising the physical master plan to accommodate workforce housing at the southernmost end of the site.
- 5.5-10 Revise the physical master plan to re-position it as the Reintegration Zone described above, with reuse of its industrial buildings as incubator space and other kinds of business development facilities, including veteran businesses and workforce training.

- 5.5-11 Revise the physical master plan to explore in greater detail the longer-range potential of sites for housing, veterans' hospitality, or services.

## **5.6 PHASING**

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### **PRINCIPLES**

1. The plan needs a list of goals and implementation actions for immediate, five and ten year phases, with additional consideration of ultimate build-out capacity. The five year plan should describe companion projects to the catalytic projects that are of primary and immediate focus. The ten year plan should include longer term implementation projects that are not of urgent need and provide services for a larger number and wider variety of the veteran community.
2. The plan should identify a specific project or projects for immediate implementation to meet the most urgent housing and service needs of homeless and otherwise vulnerable veteran subpopulations. These should be sited to minimize lengthy entitlement processes.
3. Take into account the need for long term flexibility, considering events or changes regarding veteran needs, administration as well as changes in and around the West LA Campus. Although the plan must encompass a time frame, it also needs to be able to be molded and transformed over time to best fit the needs of the community.
4. Incorporate consideration for how the campus will affect and be affected by the changes and developments of the neighboring area. In particular, the expected expansion of the Metro Purple line will have a significant impact on the circulation and urban development for the area.

### **ACTIONS**

- D5.6-1 Clearly identify the building blocks of each phase, including housing by type and occupancy; services, by housing/need type (including relocation and consolidation); utilities and infrastructure; circulation and parking; landscape and open space.
- D5.6-2 Identify and provide a detailed program and strategy for development of an initial housing project for homeless veterans in the immediate term, with a specific site and plan for implementation.

## **E1 CIVIL UTILITIES**

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### **PRINCIPLES**

1. Utilize the information from the completed Utilities Master Plan to inform phasing and infrastructure improvement priorities.
2. Evaluate the mapped constraints and produce conclusions that identify restrictions on development. Where appropriate, move the analysis and conclusions to the Site Analysis section.

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## ACTIONS

- E1-1 A full underground utility survey should be completed for the existing sewer system to correlate existing and future sewer demands.
- E1-2 New construction in the beginning phases should be placed near the south and west portions of the north campus to reduce replacement costs to the older main lines.
- E1-3 For the repurposing of existing buildings in early phases of the implementation of the Master Plan, the existing adjacent sewer system should be analyzed further (including video) to verify pipe condition.
- E1-4 Further study will need to be completed to determine the feasibility of these connections to the public system. Existing public system capacity and potential additional demand will need to be determined.
- E1-5 Study the feasibility of future connections (or increase in flow) to the public system. Determine existing public system capacity and impacts of potential additional runoff.
- E1-6 Survey the existing storm drain system in predetermined areas where drainage areas will potentially be changing, including impervious areas.
- E1-7 Prepare, as part of an overall sustainability strategy, standards for storm water treatment to occur immediately adjacent to proposed improvements prior to discharge into a storm drain system or open channel.
- E1-8 Complete a study on a next generation telecommunications network, to provide high speed voice, data and media across the campus. This should also include a plan for providing campus-wide wi-fi and an enhanced cellular network.
- E1-9 Analyze the existing capacity of the infrastructure and determine whether the long term plan can be satisfied with what is currently in place. Develop an inventory of the solar panels on site, determine their capacity to generate power over time and make recommendations for additional methods of alternative energy generation. Produce a plan for relocation of the solar panels as the land they occupy is converted to other uses.
- E1-10 Analyze the capacity and efficiency of the existing central plant and determine whether it is sufficient for the on-going existing needs and planned needs of the campus. Determine the condition of the existing steam line infrastructure and its potential to handle expansion and an increased load. Study whether a centralized plant is desirable for the campus as it grows or if there are alternative means to provide heating and cooling.
- E1-11 Determine the condition and potential for expansion of the gas lines and network. At the drill site, study the potential hazards and mitigation measures typically needed to develop that land once it is abandoned.

## **E2 SAFETY**

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### **PRINCIPLES**

1. Coordinate the physical plan with Physical Security Design Manual (PSDM) requirements as appropriate. Where this is inappropriate or not feasible, provide reasoning why it cannot be done. Where following the requirements is not desired, discuss how the requirements conflict with the plan concept.
2. Make recommendations that list the priority path forward, which should be the outcome reflected in the plan. Then rank alternatives with a discussion on how they impact the plan.

### **ACTIONS**

- E2-1 Coordinate building standoff requirements with the road and parking plan.
- E2-2 Create a perimeter barrier plan that is consistent with the PSDM and security report recommendations.
- E2-3 Adjust the Gateways and Access Points plan to reflect the Mission Critical (MC) requirements in the south campus.
- E2-4 Integrate the Metro subway station into the Site Entry/Exit Points section of the study.
- E2-5 Develop a pedestrian plan that includes entry points that consider the PSDM requirements.
- E2-6 Map critical locations for passive barriers.
- E2-7 Identify locations for below-building parking that do not conflict with MC facility requirements.
- E2-8 Create an alternative parking plan that is not dependent on below-building parking.

## **F1 HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

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### **PRINCIPLES**

1. Coordinate the Master Plan Development section explicitly with the Historic Preservation report and discuss how it influences the plan-making process.

### **ACTIONS**

- F1-1 Provide more detailed programming for the buildings that are to be restored, so they can be analyzed under the historic preservation criteria.
- F1-2 Integrate the Opportunities and Constraints diagram information into the Site Analysis.
- F1-3 Expand the Master Plan area to allow a discussion of preservation on the full 388 acres.
- F1-4 Provide greater detail on new building types and how they are differentiated from the historic structures.

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## **F2 ENVIRONMENTAL**

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### PRINCIPLE

1. As early as possible, initiate the various environmental review processes to both ensure any roadblocks are discovered early on and to expedite implementation.

### ACTIONS

- F2-1 Expand the discussion of environmental regulations to encompass all that relate to the redevelopment of the campus.
- F2-2 Identify the first phase so that a project-specific review can be initiated.
- F2-3 Complete a Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment. Attached hereto is a Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment of the West LA Campus prepared by Geosyntec Consultants.

## **F3 TRAFFIC**

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### PRINCIPLES

1. Coordinate the sections that impact traffic (circulation, access points, parking, program, phasing) so there is not conflicting or missing information.
2. Engage the traffic and parking study consultants throughout the plan-making process so that feedback can inform design decisions.

### ACTIONS

- F3-1 Coordinate phasing of the traffic and parking study with the phasing of the overall Master Plan.
- F3-2 Include implications of the Metro subway station into the study.

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## **03 COMMENTARY ON THE DRAFT FINAL MASTER PLAN**

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## A – Executive Summary

### ***Synopsis of Plan Contents & Critical Overview***

*Introduction; Background; Homelessness Among Veterans; What is a Master Plan?; Stakeholder Outreach; Vision and Objectives of the Master Plan; Master Plan Methodology; Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement; Housing Target Population; Design Concepts; Framework; Veteran Focus for Future Land Use Decision; Next Steps (pp. 4 – 18)*

An Executive Summary typically summarizes in condensed form the major issues, findings, and recommendations of the plan that follows. In this case, the Draft’s Executive Summary offers much information that is not described elsewhere in the Draft. In its introduction, for example, it gives a good brief overview of the genesis of the master planning effort for the West LA Campus, but then offers a series of six “considerations” in the plan:<sup>1</sup>

- a. the provision of appropriate levels of bridge, transitional, and permanent supportive housing on the campus in renovated existing buildings and/or newly constructed facilities, while taking into account the availability of housing units in the greater Los Angeles community;*
- b. respect for individual Veteran choices on whether to seek housing at the WLA Campus or in the local community;*
- c. complimentary (sic) services focusing directly on Veterans and their families to complement the housing choices that will be available, and help VA achieve the vision of the campus being a more welcoming, engaging, and healing environment;*
- d. ways to restore, protect, and maintain the sacred historic structures on campus, notably the Wadsworth Chapel, the Trolley Depot, the Original Barracks, Building 33, and the Governor’s mansion;*
- e. a columbarium expansion for the WLA cemetery; and*
- f. compliance with applicable laws, including those relating to the areas of fair housing, environmental, and historic preservation.*

While these might better have been stated as goals or program objectives, they are covered in greater detail in the chapters of the Draft, with two exceptions: there is no programmatic strategy presented later in the document to “restore, protect, and maintain ... historic structures;” and the columbarium expansion is never mentioned again outside of the Executive Summary.

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<sup>1</sup> Draft, p. 4

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Comments on other matters covered in the Executive Summary that pertain to veteran homelessness, stakeholder outreach, and housing targets are included with the detailed discussions of their respective sections of the Draft. Besides the columbarium expansion, another matter that is described in much greater detail in the Executive Summary than in the chapters of the Draft is the Framework “zones.”<sup>2</sup> Matters that are not discussed at all in the Draft, either in the Executive Summary or elsewhere, include environmental sustainability (see detailed comments in “03 D5.3 – Design Concepts”); the disposition of land use for sites currently used by other possessory interests; and the issue of ongoing veteran involvement in the stewardship of the West LA Campus.

### ***Analysis of Deficiencies***

#### **COLUMBARIUM**

The expansion of the National Cemetery with a new columbarium is described on p. 17 of the Executive Summary but is not mentioned elsewhere in the Draft. The brief narrative on the matter of a Columbarium Expansion Project implies that a project is far enough along in planning that it will be built within the next two to three years; however, the Draft does not explain where this important project will be located. Earlier drafts of the master plan indicated that a location under consideration is in the Industrial District in the southeast area of the north campus, across Sepulveda Boulevard from the National Cemetery. This is a project of great symbolic and practical need and should be treated as such. A columbarium of 10,000 niches should be sited with great reverence for the lives it honors, and placed where it may serve as a fitting memorial for lives lost in service. As such, it should be the centerpiece for a place of reflection. Its location will also have an impact on decisions about any uses surrounding it, and it should either be considered as a major feature of the Master Plan, or sited elsewhere in a more respectful setting.

#### **FRAMEWORK “ZONES”**

The “zones” appear to have been added as an afterthought as an organizing framework for the physical plan as they are described here in far greater detail than they are in the Draft’s “Framework” section where they are overlaid on a single graphic (D.25 WLA Campus Map, p. 201) but not defined. Of the four zones presented in the Executive Summary, the southernmost (Zone 1 – Healthcare Excellence) is fairly clear given that the area it covers is site of the hospital and the proposed site for a new bed care replacement hospital. The remaining zones are described by uses that appear to have diminishing levels of veteran services based on their distance from Zone 1. The idea is perhaps simplistic in its premise, but the fact that the “supportive neighborhoods” that are one of the three organizing design concepts of the Draft’s plan have little relation to the zone concept exacerbates the problem.<sup>3</sup> The master plan should have a more robust, veteran-centric concept for these neighborhoods that addresses more directly quality of life for veteran residents, as well as services and resources for non-resident veterans.

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<sup>2</sup> Draft, pp. 10-11

<sup>3</sup> Draft, p. 194

Besides the “zones,” the Draft’s physical master plan is built on a small number of large planning gestures that are neither well-defined in terms of their accommodation of program, responsive to conditions and context of the site, nor grounded in broader environmental principles. Of the three “Master Plan Design Concepts” described in the Draft,<sup>4</sup> “residential neighborhoods” are poorly differentiated from each other as to their program or the demographic categories they serve; they appear to be only groupings of buildings surrounded by roads. Similarly, the role of the “connected community centers” and their function is not specifically described and their distribution follows no logical or orderly rules. The “greenway” circulation system is a road, not a greenway, that defies both the topography and the historic framework of the site, and misses many opportunities for truly connecting the various areas of the West LA campus and its community context including, notably, links to existing and future public transit.

In addition, the Draft states eight framing ideas (p. 7, Executive Summary), which appear to be planning objectives (although they are described under “Methodology”):

- 1. Providing coordinated care integrating housing, healthcare, treatment and support services that puts the Veterans first*
- 2. Ensuring a safe environment for all Veterans*
- 3. Providing services that support and honor Veterans*
- 4. Soliciting veteran feedback and input during the master plan process*
- 5. Recognizing the need for specialty services for Veterans and their families*
- 6. Effectuating the optimal combination of reusing existing structures and facilities relative to building new ones*
- 7. Providing space for Veterans to learn, seek employment, legal services, and benefits, socialize, heal, pursue spiritual reflection and development, and engage in recreational and therapeutic activities*
- 8. Incorporation of environmentally sustainable and responsible concepts into the campus uses and operations.*

Of these points, items 2, 6, 7 and 8 would pertain to the physical plan (the others dealing primarily with program and services). The points themselves do not touch deeply on the subjects they introduce, and the Draft falls well short of realizing these ideas in its planning proposals:

- *Safety.* The Draft deals at some length with issues of a “safe environment,” but it is inconsistent in its recommendations for safety, mainly limiting its discussion to matters of building codes. “Safety” is a major concern for many veterans, and a controversial one. For many veterans,

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<sup>4</sup> Draft, p. 10

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especially the most vulnerable ones, exclusivity of use by veterans on a closed campus site is a high priority. For other veterans, encouraging access to the West LA Campus by veterans and non-veterans alike is a key part of their desire to re-connect and reintegrate with civilian communities. The 388-acre West LA Campus is big enough to accommodate both of these opposing points of view: a core campus exclusively for veterans, and an “edge” that is more porous to community connections, physically and programmatically.

- *Existing structures.* The Draft recommends re-use of existing structures on the West LA campus, but does not pay deference to the site’s heritage in a meaningful way. Understanding and respecting the history of the West LA Campus is a matter of high concern among veterans who have commented on the Draft. The Draft recommends but does not deal explicitly with the feasibility of using existing buildings for housing, it is inconsistent in its proposals for historically significant buildings (the Trolley Depot, the Old Barracks) or ignores them altogether (the Wadsworth Chapel, the Governor’s Mansion), and scant attention is paid to historic open space.
- *Space for learning, employment, etc.* There is no clear proposal for facilities or programs that address these critically important elements of reintegration. There are opportunities for thinking about a “reintegration zone” on the West LA Campus that engages veterans with the community for education, employment, and entrepreneurship, but this is not mentioned. Moreover, there are also many opportunities in the expansive open space and other existing historic resources for spiritual and arts-related activities that are unexplored in the Draft.
- *Environmental sustainability.* There is no discussion in the Draft of environmental management measures that are markers of current best practice in large-scale site planning. The West LA Campus offers rich opportunities to embrace such principles.

## POSSESSORY INTERESTS

The Draft does not address anywhere with any specificity those major areas of the West LA Campus that are currently occupied by non-veteran tenants. This is one of the most controversial issues in the veteran community as well as the community at large. Many comments have been posted on both the Vets Advocacy, Inc. and Federal websites, and the issue is raised at virtually every meeting of veterans and non-veterans in connection with the master plan preparation and review. The Draft is silent on the matter of how those areas can best be used for veteran activities in the future.

## VETERAN ENGAGEMENT IN SITE STEWARDSHIP

Perhaps the most frequently heard demand from veterans and veteran groups is for increased involvement of veterans in the stewardship of the West LA Campus.

### ***Stakeholder Voices***

Most challenging to the understanding of the Draft is the absence of clear goals. Many of the comments chose to share veterans' and stakeholder's ideas for the intentions of the West LA Campus. Overall, veteran input made it clear that the community needed resources and spaces beyond those designated as a hospital or medical treatment center. Many veterans called for a community that addressed more veterans in all stages of reintegration with a spectrum of needs and desires for community. Army veteran Brayden Yoder writes, "Those of us who served the nation in combat or peacetime are alumni of the greatest armed forces in the world, links in a long chain that stretch back to the founding of this country. We've experienced trauma together, collectively, under conditions most people can't fathom. Why, then, shouldn't our recovery back home not also be a collective experience? A 21st century VA campus should provide for that sense of community by offering a wide range of services and not just more-of-the-same."

Beyond suggesting ideas of what the campus should be, many veterans lent their voice to suggesting ideas for how the campus should function, develop and change. The idea for veteran participation in campus leadership stood out as a resounding and conclusive suggestion of veterans. Veterans differed in how this idea can or should be realized, but the running thread that connected each comment was an expressed need for the VA to have accountability to veterans regarding the campus and for veterans to be involved in decision making.

- *"I would like to see the VA campus become sustainable, in that it will not be totally reliant on government funds for operations. They could get funds through renting out retail and conference space, renting out parking services for special events in the neighborhood, and other services to the community. The VA needs to be able to make its own money and not be totally reliant on the US government for funding. This will also help the VA to become better integrated into the surrounding communities."* – Kristen Belden
- *"A Community needs to include ownership by its citizens. My suggestion is that the residents of the West LA site form a Community Resident Association that focus on their local needs, issues and community improvements. This Association can be made up of residents as well as on site services that are providing services to the community."* – Michael Wolfe, Navy
- *"As a veteran I fully support the creation of the "West LA Campus Veterans Commission" to provide oversight, approval and continuous monitoring of land use, contracts and programing on the West Los Angeles VA Campus. Prior to any approval of land use and leases, the Veterans Commission would need to provide approval. This is a provision that was originally included in the language of the original deed."* – Christopher Landavazo, Navy
- *"A board of Veterans appointed to governance could address the needs of Veterans who have issues or concerns at the new VA campus. This would enhance the management's ability to implement governance and the board's ability to exercise proper oversight. The board of managing Vets would*

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*serve as the voice for Veterans on the campus. Those who are interested in being part of this team of managing Vets could apply based on their skill sets and experience. Each Vet serving on the board would have a two year term. If they are doing a good job then they can keep serving and helping Vets.” – Lynette Jones, Army*

- *“There should be an independent party(ies) overseeing the daily operations of the campus. The governing bodies should consist of veterans organizations such as the Old Veterans Guard; individuals from veterans’ organizations who wish to donate their time. There should be no limit on the number of individuals or organizations, civilian or veteran, willing to contribute to their time and talent to assure the VA campus is operating for the benefit of disabled and homeless veterans.” – Joe Juarez, Air Force, Master Sergeant*
- *“The VA Master Plan will only succeed if it takes a holistic view of the issue. While building living spaces for homeless veterans is an important part of the overall plan, getting them to stay and thrive will fail without giving them a sense of community. Research has shown that taking homeless people off the streets is not as easy as just giving them a place to live. After a certain time of being on the streets, living there becomes just as natural as living in a home. To change that, you must give the homeless a reason other than just living quarters to stay there. A sense of community and camaraderie must be perpetuated though out the entire vision of the plan. As a vet myself, the one thing I miss the most is the people I served with. Knowing that they had my back and I had theirs. The joking, the laughing, the boredom, the work and the fighting created a bond between brothers and sisters that can never be broken. That is what has to be fostered in this plan. Without it, without that sense of community, you can build thousands of housing units for homeless vets and they will remain half empty. Use the space wisely. Let veterans that have made successful transitions to civilian life become part of the community. Entice them to use the facilities and mingle with those less fortunate to build that camaraderie that we all miss so dearly. Foster an atmosphere where vets from all eras can come together and support one another. Without that sense of community, the plan is doomed.” – Juan Rivas, Navy*

## **B1 – Existing Conditions**

### ***Synopsis of Plan Contents & Critical Overview***

*Campus Overview; Methodology; Facility Types; Building Ages; Building Conditions; Neighborhoods and Districts; Existing Building Inventory (pp. 26 – 101)*

This section of the Draft describes the facility type, building age, building condition, historic values, and the neighborhoods and districts existing on the West LA Campus today, but does not provide any analysis or conclusions. Using a diagrammatic map of the full West LA Campus, the chapter takes an inventory of each VA building located on the West LA Campus but neglects to collect the information for each building in one place and fails to analyze the quality and character of existing open space.

### ***Analysis of Deficiencies***

The Draft describes each of the existing buildings on the West LA Campus and categorizes them within separate diagrams as to their facility type, age, condition, and historic value. It fails to present all the information in one place or draw any conclusions, observe any opportunities, or propose any strategies from this information. Furthermore, the Draft does not take into account the existing conditions of open space, landscaping, roads and pathways, campus-wide infrastructure, or address existing possessory interests on the site, including UCLA and Brentwood School. Much of that important information is neglected in this introductory chapter, some is mentioned later on in the site analysis, but none is analyzed as to its significance to the plan.

### ***Principles and Action Items***

#### **ACTIONS**

- B1-1 Include existing building information in the D5 Site Analysis chapter where it aligns well with the information there.
- B1-2 Provide an organized chart that presents a more thorough description of each building; includes building age, condition, program, facility type, area, location or neighborhood, status and any conclusion that may have been drawn from the analysis.
- B1-3 Further analysis of the West LA Campus's open/public space, landscaping and pathway conditions should be included in the Site Analysis/ Existing Conditions.

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## **Stakeholder Voices**

### **POSSESSORY INTERESTS**

Public response to the Draft mostly concentrates on the leases and non-veteran focused activities currently permitted on the campus. Some community comments argued to return the campus to its original designation as a Soldier's Home. These comments ask for the leases and non-veteran uses to be abandoned for the sake of the veteran community which they feel should not include non-veteran use.

Feedback submitted through Vets Advocacy, Inc.'s website illustrates a clear consensus that the land use leases need to be reevaluated. Veteran Richard D. Lewis wrote, "Please work to leverage the resources of the Brentwood School and UCLA to help veterans and their families and increase their lease payments. It is high time our veterans were treated as the heroes they are, not second-class citizens to be discarded on a decrepit campus in the shadow of elite private school such as the Brentwood School." Like that of veteran Lewis, a significant number of other comments ask for the leases to be renegotiated and demand fair compensation both monetarily and through veteran services in exchange for the continued use of veteran land. Many comments even go as far as to suggest services that UCLA and the Brentwood School can provide along with market-rate rent, legal services, recreational facilities, scholarships, landscaping, and other services in order to maintain their leases.

- *"Barrington Park is on West LA VA property I fail to see why the surrounding community of Brentwood should even have a say of what happens to that land. Especially when that land could be utilized to provide housing for homeless veterans as opposed to a dog park." – Bill Kilrain*
- *"I would like to see UCLA pay fair market value for the land they are using." – Mayra Plascencia , Marine Corps*
- *"It is a travesty that the VA is letting UCLA use precious land that could benefit our most vulnerable heroes. Here is an extra thought on the Dog Park. After planning the homeless housing, you should still include a nice greenbelt area -- it would be very good for the soul, spirit & emotions for the Vets. In so doing, you could still carve out an area for a dedicated Dog Park -- and make it as close as possible to the housing. The presence of the dogs would be a special experience for the Vets & they could benefit immensely from interacting with the dogs visiting the VA Dog Park." – Shoshona Perelman*
- *"UCLA should be permitted to remain on the West LA VA campus land only if there is an agreement binding UCLA to provide benefits to military veterans such as healthcare, education, recreational opportunities, upkeep and beautification of VA campus (outside of UCLA estates), childcare, and employment/training/resource centers. In addition to services, UCLA should not receive millions of dollars or any significant payment from the VA; furthermore, UCLA should rent their use of the estate at a much higher rate." – Sarah Serrano, Marine Corps*
- *"Any leases to civilian businesses to occupy property on the VA campus must be finite and must represent fair market values. No sweetheart deals. Should veteran use for any such property become desired, those leases must not be renewed." – Tucker Smallwood*
- *"I suggest local nonprofits and community partners need to be responsible for managing the theaters/art programs on campus." – Kristine Hesse, Air Force*

## **B2.1 – Demographic Demand & Program Analysis**

### ***Synopsis of Plan Contents & Critical Overview***

*Veteran and Homeless Demographics; Veteran Homelessness; Assumptions; Methodology and Summary (pp. 104 – 112)*

This section of the Draft addresses the current and projected demographics of targeted veteran populations for the housing program on the West LA Campus. The section describes the historical context for the commissioning of the master plan, veteran and homeless demographic assumptions and data sources, calculations for estimates of the number of units of permanent supportive housing, and existing veteran homelessness programs. The section also provides estimates of demand for healthcare services and need. The section fails to give a fully reasoned and supported discussion of the scope and limits of the housing need estimates.

### ***Analysis of Deficiencies***

The Draft fails to emphasize the role of housing as a central purpose of the master plan. According to the deed of March 9, 1888, the United States acquired the property on the express condition that it would “provide for the location and erection of a branch home for disabled volunteer soldiers West of the Rocky Mountains.” Shortly after the Korean War, nearly 5,000 veterans called the campus home. The federal government fulfilled the historic purpose of the West LA Campus with fidelity until the 1970’s, when it was all but abandoned. By 2009, homelessness among veterans was a national embarrassment, with Los Angeles being stigmatized as the epicenter of veteran homelessness in the United States. On November 3, 2009, Secretary Shinseki announced a Five-Year Plan to end veteran homelessness, resolving that “President Obama and I are personally committed to ending homelessness among veterans within the next five years. Those who have served this nation as veterans should never find themselves on the streets, living without care and without hope.”<sup>1</sup> Every branch and level of government have signed on to this effort. In 2010, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness released *Opening Doors: A Federal Strategic Plan* and set out a coordinated, whole-of-government approach to end veteran homelessness by 2015, engaging all levels of government and a spectrum of federal agencies. Congress responded by expanding federal funding of key rental assistance programs, including the HUD-VASH program and the Supportive Services for Veterans Families program.

The Draft fails to emphasize and elaborate on this background and the huge potential of the West LA Campus to achieve these national policy goals. In particular, the Draft fails to:

- Identify the most effective housing uses of the West LA Campus for veterans.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www1.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=1807>

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- Identify an initial site and project plan that creates permanent supportive housing for homeless and otherwise vulnerable veterans in the shortest possible timeframe
- Describe the specific kinds of housing that veteran populations with different needs and in different circumstances will – according to the best available evidence – need to avoid homelessness and thrive, such as and including:
  - Emergency and bridge housing while arrangements for permanent housing can be made
  - Permanent supportive housing
  - Housing for low-income or high-need veterans with children
  - Assisted living and nursing home facilities for aging veterans
- Describe whether and how existing programs based on outdated housing models, such as the domiciliary and transitional housing beds, will be preserved, modified, or converted to other housing types.
- Clearly define the concept and scope of housing need on the West LA Campus, including the demographics to be served, potential demand for the types of housing, and the factors and inputs necessary to enable reasonable estimations of demand.

Further, the Draft fails to clearly define the concept and scope of housing need on the West LA Campus. The Draft provides an estimate of need for permanent supportive housing (PSH) on the West LA Campus, but is silent as to other types of housing, including the associated housing required to make PSH work on the West LA Campus (e. g. , bridge housing). Further, the model for reaching those estimates is undeveloped. The data presented does not adequately support the estimate of permanent supportive housing needed. This may well be because the data necessary to develop predictive demand models do not currently exist. That situation can be addressed in at least two ways.

First, the Master Plan can and should focus on an initial estimate of housing demand for permanent supportive housing on the West LA Campus in the short term. This initial estimate should be based on the best available data and supportable assumptions and will serve as the basis for an initial phase of a permanent supportive housing project. The Draft should also commit to invest in expansion in subsequent phases if the initial estimate is too low.

Second, to the extent data may not currently exist to populate a predictive model, the Draft should direct the VA to take steps to collect relevant data going forward. To know the relevant data to collect, the VA should consider developing and refining a compelling model of housing need, both for the West LA Campus and in the community, for homeless veterans. Such a model would attend to such things as:

- The number and characteristics of homeless or at risk veterans in the service area of the West LA Campus and expectations regarding future changes in those populations.

- The effectiveness and capacity of outreach efforts and in-reach efforts in VA health care facilities to the relevant veteran population.
- The eligibility of veterans for housing assistance, either on the West LA Campus or in the community, provided by, e.g., HUD-VASH and SSVF vouchers.
- The supply of potential housing assistance made available by government and other sources either in current or modified form, including any voucher programs, Proposition 41, as well as Grant and Per Diem or other programs.
- The exit rates of veterans from the suite of housing programs and the associated availability, via turnover, of vouchers.
- The availability of housing in the community and the willingness of landlords to accept housing vouchers.
- Veterans' choice. The key principle of both the veteran-Centric "New VA" and the Valentini settlement agreement is that veterans, and not VA, should decide where veterans live. Those choices will predictably be affected by a number of factors, including: the location and desirability of the housing and neighborhoods where housing is available in the community, the nature of veterans' support systems in or ties to those communities, the amenities and environment of the West LA Campus as it is transformed into a welcoming community.
- Fiscal and legal constraints on the type and number of housing units and the composition and characteristics of the residents.

As noted, the VA may not have good data in all these categories at present, but it can plan to have better data in the future. Until then, it can use the best available data and explain how such data support a recommended level of permanent supportive housing to be provided, at least at the initial phase, and clearly acknowledge when and where there are gaps in knowledge necessarily filled with initial, unsupported estimates.

### ***Principles and Action Items***

1. Clearly define the concept and components of the housing needs assessment, determine the ability of data to represent the components, and identify gaps in the data.
2. Base initial estimates of permanent supportive housing demand for an initial housing project on the most recent available data, including the most recent PIT counts, current HMIS data, and updated VA administrative data. Set initial housing estimates on current needs rather than projected 2025 needs.
3. Clarify the methodology used to arrive at estimates as well as all assumptions made in applying the methodology to data.

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4. Build into the Master Plan the potential for expanding the amount of appropriate housing on the West LA Campus in light of new and better information where there is now great uncertainty.

#### ACTIONS

- B2.1-1 Include housing need estimates for target populations other than chronically homeless individuals, especially aging veterans and female veterans.
- B2.1-2 Include housing need estimates for housing other than permanent housing for the three principle target populations, including emergency, bridge, transitional, assisted living, and nursing home housing.
- B2.1-3 Include a framework for periodic review of data and information that becomes available during the implementation of the plan and for midcourse corrections in targets for the number and types of housing provided on the campus.
- B2.1-4 Address issues of uncertainty through phasing of projects and potential expanded use of housing units by expanded target populations, either through adding categories of need criteria or adjusting cut-off points for need criteria.

#### **Stakeholder Voices**

This chapter raised many questions within the stakeholder engagement conducted by Vets Advocacy, Inc. Many veterans were surprised and suspicious of the chapter's assumptions and calculations. This resulted in several questions, concerns and suggestions for the Draft that are considered above. In summary, many veterans wanted to question the assumption that veteran population is decreasing, many wanted to know the total capacity of the property, and many asked for the Draft to consider demographic, economic and political change in their plan. The Veteran Leadership Team suggested that there be continuous reassessments of the demand over time.

- *"Reevaluate housing needs on a quarterly basis."* –Mayra Plascencia, Marine Corps
- *"A Community needs to include ownership by its citizens. My suggestion is that the residents of the West LA site form a Community Resident Association that focus on their local needs, issues and community improvements. This Association can be made up of residents as well as on site services that are providing services to the community."* – Michael Wolfe, Navy
- *"The master plan discusses the amount of housing to be created (via renovations or construction) is based on the availability of housing units in greater LA community. While currently the state offering/awarding prop 41 money to developers to build perm supportive housing in the communities throughout the state. My question is who is connecting the new housing availability with the VA, especially when this will determine the need for PSH on campus?"* – Kristine Hesse, Air Force

## **B2.2 – Existing Services & Programs**

### ***Synopsis of Plan Contents & Critical Overview***

#### ***GLA Homeless Programs (pp. 113 – 114)***

This chapter outlines some of the VA-funded housing-related services that are accessible within the Greater Los Angeles area, including street outreach, connections to housing, healthcare, jobs and other supports that promote housing stability, much of which is administered in the community. In detail, the chapter describes GLA programs that deliver rapid rehousing and homeless prevention services through SSVF, residential treatment programs, and the HUD-VASH permanent supportive housing program. This chapter in the Draft also makes an attempt to cover the demographic and demand analysis for housing.

### ***Analysis of Deficiencies***

The Draft fails to provide adequate data to substantiate how much and what type of services will be provided on the West LA Campus. The Draft fails to adequately model current veteran needs across health and human services sectors and across phases of campus development. Currently, the West LA Campus is home to a small number of mostly temporary residents (i.e. all of those not living in the VA's "Community Living Center" nursing home or the State of California's "CalVet" facility are living in temporary (transitional) housing programs); its revitalization will result in substantially more residents and visitors. The residents, especially among the targeted populations of the aging and disabled, will likely be high users of health care services on the West LA Campus. Yet the "model" in the Draft bases its assumptions on current usage of the West LA Campus, without any predictions or adjustments for expanded uses or any increase in visitors as a result of a revitalized community.

Furthermore, the Draft does not adequately account for the available supply of supplemental or complementary services for veterans in the Los Angeles and Southern California community beyond the West LA Campus. This information is required to estimate gaps in services (both in terms of type and capacity) and make estimates of veteran need and service requirements. The Draft should describe a framework for how on-campus service programs will be incorporated into the broader service systems of the Los Angeles region.

The Draft does not identify any specific services that the new residents and visitors to the West LA Campus will need. The services that will likely be needed include, for example, individualized support through a continuum of clinical and clinically adjacent services, services to promote productivity and purpose, environments to rest, heal, socialize and recreate, as well as standard community amenities.

This chapter of the Draft overlooks existing research and polling conducted by reputable entities that describe services needed by veterans in Los Angeles. For example, research conducted by USC's Center for Innovation and Research ("CIR") would help identify the availability of services today and where they

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fall short.<sup>1</sup> CIR calculates that 80% of veterans did not have any job when they left the military, did not expect difficulty in finding a job upon separation, and were surprised when their job search proved challenging.<sup>2</sup> CIR's research also shows that of the general veteran population in LA, 65% needed employment assistance, 61% needed educational assistance, 56% needed medical assistance, and 47% needed mental health assistance.<sup>3</sup> CIR's research also provides data on veterans in the Los Angeles area affected by psychological disorders like Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or Military Sexual Trauma.<sup>4</sup> The Draft should focus on the analysis in this research and base its program of services at the West LA Campus on what veterans want and expect, but where available resources fall short.

### ***Principles and Action Items***

#### **PRINCIPLES**

1. Develop a responsible initial model for determining demographics and health needs of existing and projected populations of veterans. The health needs model should be capable of periodic updates and assessing the gaps in demand for healthcare and must consider the changing demographics of the veteran population, associated medical and psychiatric diagnoses, and ongoing VA "access," evaluations and metrics.

#### **ACTIONS**

- B2.2-1 Provide for periodic generation and/or review of information and the model for service demands, perhaps every five years as is done on some military bases, in order to direct midcourse corrections (especially as the West LA Campus evolves from a healthcare campus into a welcoming and vibrant community).
- B2.2-2 Consult and incorporate available data sources such as a recent study by RAND and the CIR study that each identify local trends in service needs.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Castro, Carl Andrew, Sara Kintzle, and Anthony Hassan. *The State of the American Veteran: The Los Angeles County Veterans Study*. USC School of Social Work: Center for Innovation and Research on Veterans & Military Families, 2014.

<sup>2</sup> Id., p. 22.

<sup>3</sup> Id., p. 42.

<sup>4</sup> Id., p. 34, p. 39.

<sup>5</sup> Id.; RAND Corporation. *Assessment A (Demographics), A Product of the CMS Alliance to Modernize Healthcare Federally Funded Research and Development Center Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)*. 2015.

- B2.2-3 Investigate empirically the service needs of veteran subpopulations, particularly those that are vulnerable and will be targeted, and existing resources.
- B2.2-4 Develop and maintain a continuous survey and polling program relating to current conditions in the Los Angeles veteran community, as well as predictable changes.
- B2.2-5 The Master Plan should pay particular attention to those veterans who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, disabled, otherwise disadvantaged and likely to either live on, or regularly rely upon, the West LA Campus.

### ***Stakeholder Voices***

VA and its consultant's stakeholder engagement process was not short in critique of the existing services of the West LA Campus, as well as of recommendations for reform.

- *"A Community needs to include ownership by its citizens. My suggestion is that the residents of the West LA site form a Community Resident Association that focus on their local needs, issues and community improvements. This Association can be made up of residents as well as on site services that are providing services to the community."* – Michael Wolfe, submitted to VAtheRightWay
- *"The Master plan discusses the amount of housing to be created (via renovations or construction) is based on the availability of housing units in greater LA community. While currently the state offering/awarding prop 41 money to developers to build perm supportive housing in the communities through out the state. My question is who is connecting the new housing availability with the VA, esp when this will determine the need for PSH on campus?"* – Kristine Hesse
- *"Reevaluate housing needs on a quarterly basis."* – Mayra Plascencia

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VETERANS AFFAIRS WEST LOS ANGELES CAMPUS  
PRELIMINARY DRAFT FINAL MASTER PLAN INDEPENDENT REVIEW  
VETS ADVOCACY, INC. COMMENT DOCUMENT

## **C – Stakeholder Engagement**

### ***Synopsis of Plan Contents & Critical Overview***

*Methodology; Data Collection; Community Participation; Recommendations (pp. 119 – 125)*

This chapter of the Draft outlines the efforts made to engage stakeholders in the process to develop the Draft. The outreach efforts were made not only as a way to collect input from the community but also to update communities on the planning process, clarify public perceptions, and provide the public with a point of contact. The feedback of local residents, leaders and most importantly, veterans is essential to a master plan. The process of engagement described in the Draft is severely insufficient for the scope of the project. To further develop the plan, the VA and its consultants will need to better engage veterans, particularly the most vulnerable populations that the plan is targeting, and community leaders over a longer period of time in order to best represent the needs of the community in the master plan.

### ***Analysis of Deficiencies***

The Draft arose out of a short period of engagement and plan development. The Draft describes the stakeholder engagement and outreach conducted by HOK between June 23, 2015 and October 1, 2015. The plan continues to outline the multiple avenues for community participation including online sources, email addresses, a community information hotline, social media posts, a survey which collected over 1,200 responses as well as six pop-up workshops, six weekly design open houses, twelve updates at the Monthly Homeless veterans Town Hall Meetings and Neighborhood Community Meetings, and over 35 key stakeholder group briefings.

The period of time given for the outreach and plan development was insufficient to conduct thorough research and engage sufficient numbers of local veterans. The campus is meant to serve the diverse needs and desires of a large veteran community in Los Angeles. Hence, it is important to engage a greater number and diverse selection of veterans within the Los Angeles community.

Although the engagement period was insufficient there are still aspects of the engagement process that should be noted. The Draft references three surveys. The survey conducted regarding health services had 131 participants, another survey regarding programing for the campus master plan gained 75 responses, and one conducted by Vets Advocacy, Inc. managed 1,064 survey participants. It is not clear if these surveys had different participants; regardless the 1,270 potential different participants, both veteran and civilians, is a small number considering there are over 300,000 veteran stakeholders residing in Los Angeles County.

The homeless population of veterans is particularly neglected in the engagement, although they are identified as the target group for housing and services on the West LA Campus. Many issues and questions concerning homeless veterans were raised during community and stakeholder engagement

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meetings and are noted in the plan's appendix. However, first-hand engagement with homeless veterans appears to be limited or otherwise unclear. Of the noted 38 stakeholder meetings documented in the appendix, only one of the recorded meetings was with an organization that works specifically with the homeless. The meeting with Homeless Summit took place on August 17 and is recorded as being attended by seven veterans and seven community members. As the master plan is targeting this important demographic, the Draft should do more engagement among this key stakeholder group.

There were also a number of ideas and suggestions made during the engagement process that are not included in the Draft. One of the most mentioned concerns noted in the Appendix is that of safety, services, and comfort of women, children and other vulnerable veterans' groups on the West LA Campus. This concern is mentioned a significant number of times in comments, meeting notes and is also noted in the engagement summary in Section G1. However, the Draft fails to mention or address the needs expressed.

During stakeholder meetings and in comments, participants made several comments and suggestions, ranging from design input and programmatic suggestions to comments on the overall governance of the West LA Campus. Many of these ideas and suggestions are not mentioned or notably considered in the Draft, including ideas from current residents of the campus, area accessibility, non-veteran or non-PSH / non-transitional accommodations, and more.

### ***Principles and Action Items***

#### **PRINCIPLES**

1. Define a process that continues stakeholder engagement.

#### **ACTIONS**

- C-1 Allow more time for community engagement with a wide variety of veterans and other stakeholders.
- C-2 Engage subgroups and vulnerable populations while adapting the manner of engagement to the needs of each group.
- C-3 Identify and select leaders within the LA veteran community to act as a core group of representatives and liaisons.
- C-4 Engage the homeless community through community leaders, workshops, counseling services, etc.
- C-5 Publicize meetings with a significant amount of time in advance.

- C-6 Hold open meetings in easily accessible spaces in central locations to veterans. Hold meetings after common work hours and permit for traveling time.
- C-7 Define a method of accountability to include the voices and opinions of stakeholders, particularly veterans in the community, in the development and final master plan.

### ***Vets Advocacy, Inc.***

In efforts to heighten veteran engagement and produce effective feedback for the review and comment period, Vets Advocacy, Inc. held weekly veteran Continued Education Seminars every Monday evening from August to the end of the comment period to update and inform veterans in the Los Angeles area about the West LA Campus and the Draft. The meetings consisted of a select group of veterans, all leaders with many ties to the veteran community and representing various realms of veteran advocacy and issues. This group was given the title the Leadership Team. Vets Advocacy, Inc. informed these individuals about the development of the master plan and collected elaborate feedback on issues and deficiencies within the veteran community.

Beyond tapping the leaders within the community, Vets Advocacy, Inc. released a survey on September 10<sup>th</sup> and within 2 weeks had doubled the number of responses from to the survey administered by the VA and its consultants. Vets Advocacy, Inc. had representatives from VSOs as well as veterans (both pre and post 9/11) attend meetings to learn more about the land, enabling them to take this information to inform their organizations. Vets Advocacy, Inc. has reached out to housing specialists to get their expertise when it comes to housing veterans, specifically the elderly and vulnerable.

Similarly to the VA and its consultants, Vets Advocacy, Inc. has a Facebook, Twitter and campaign site. The organization received over 1,200 responses to a survey and plans to do a follow up survey on the Draft that was released in effort to receive more detailed/informed comments.

For the veterans who do not have access to online resources, Vets Advocacy, Inc. has walked the streets to with a comment card for veterans to give their input on their needs and wants for the West LA Campus.

### ***Stakeholder Voices***

Veteran feedback to the VA and its consultant's outreach and engagement has been largely negative. Veterans and many others within the community feel that their own voices were not heard or considered during the Draft's development. At Open House Meetings for the Draft, some people complained of the lack of information about the meetings on the West LA Campus. They also advocated for the VA and its consultants to engage specific groups such as female veterans and homeless veterans on Skid Row.

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Many of those selected as part of the Vets Advocacy, Inc.'s Leadership Team were not even aware of a plan to redevelop the campus before being contacted to be part of the Leadership Team. The team felt that the outreach was limited, focusing on the ideas of administrators, politicians and neighboring community members rather than focusing on hearing the needs and desires of local veterans.

Beyond leadership meetings, veterans commented on the engagement of the Draft through comments submitted to the Federal Registry and through VA the Right Way. Francisco Juarez echoed the Leadership Team's concern as to the inclusion of veteran ideas and concerns in the plan. He wrote to the Federal Registry, "Unfortunately, approval of this flawed plan, a one-sided design to please the adjacent communities of Brentwood and Westwood, will result in more exclusion of the Veteran communities of far-more different demographics and backgrounds than WLA."

Commenters also gave feedback on the length of the comment period; one person noted through VA the Right Way, "I am shocked that the VA would only allow 45 days for veterans to provide input to the master plan. This is a massive project that should be well thought out rather than rushed. We need more time!"

- *"As a veteran who is very vested in this project, I am shocked that the VA would only allow 45 days for veterans to provide input to the master plan. This is a massive project that should be well thought out rather than rushed. We need more time!" – submitted to VAtheRightWay*
- *"The outreach component of the Urban Planner, HOK, was flawed by its own admission after grass root veteran organizations and individual veterans from the areas outside of West Los Angeles brought it to the attention of the Special Assistant."*
- *"Senator Feinstein's Senate bill, S- 2013, is written to favor her two, powerful, constituents, turning them into "recreational" service providers when, in fact, they have been guilty of excluding veterans from enjoying the gift-land. It simply is not in their interest or DNA to provide prioritized services for veterans." – Francisco Juarez, Federal Register*
- *"The VA's DNA is also in question because it is guilty of creating the problem. It's resigned, retired, bureaucrats facilitated the poor land-use policy, now requiring "revitalization". This begs for the question, "How, without mindful concession of this fact, is it possible for the VA to effectively resolve the problem?" The lip-service "Good Faith" that the VA Secretary promised has already been breached by the Urban Planner's failed outreach component. "Set-asides" and carving out pockets of the footprint for special handling by the Secretary and his special interest "friends" do not represent a level playing field. Unfortunately, approval of this flawed plan, a one-sided design to please the adjacent communities of Brentwood and Westwood, will result in more exclusion of the veteran communities of far-more different demographics and backgrounds than WLA. Namely, the High Desert, South Central L.A., the Harbor Area and the San Gabriel Valley, not to mention veterans who are concerned of the National status of the "HOME" who are from out of state." – Francisco Juarez, submitted to the Federal Register*

## **D1 – Veteran Housing**

### ***Synopsis of Plan Contents & Critical Overview***

#### ***Housing & Facility Types; Methodology; Findings (pp. 134 – 139)***

This section of the Draft begins with a part called “Methodology” that gives a very high level summary of the housing needs of the homeless veteran population in the Greater Los Angeles area. The next part of the section called “Findings” describes some programming that exists on the campus and the current programs through which the VA currently provides short term treatment beds, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, and rapid re-housing. The section concludes with broad recommendations for additional permanent supportive housing on the campus and some commentary regarding what services should be included in the broad concept of “supportive.” The Draft inadequately synthesizes the housing vision and goals of the planning document with the demographic and demand analysis to formulate a planning tool for the types of housing and the appropriate levels.

### ***Analysis of Deficiencies***

***Lack of a Housing Program Informed by a Sustained Programmatic Vision.*** The Draft fails to formulate a housing program based on any sustained programmatic objective and a supportable needs assessment. The Draft fails to see the opportunity for a housing program to help build, sustain and anchor a true veteran-centric community of which both veterans residing in the community and beyond can be proud. The Draft should view the housing program as the bedrock of economic and social mobility by placing some of the most destitute and despondent veterans in a caring community that goes far beyond providing the means to survive – it provides the foundation for them to flourish. Further, the Draft fails to situate the context of the housing program within the VA’s national policy agenda. For example, the housing program can not only meet a vital human need, but also be an inspiration and model for how veterans across the nation deserve to be treated under the new stewardship model of the VA for veterans.

***Lack of Specificity as to Existing Supply of On-Campus and Off-Campus Housing.*** The Draft fails to identify the inventory of housing that is currently offered on the West LA Campus. The Draft currently summarizes some of the temporary housing programs currently on the West LA Campus, but fails to analyze the effectiveness of these programs based on available data (if that data is available) or conceptualize a model for how to analyze their effectiveness. The availability of existing on-campus housing programs should be examined against the availability of any competitive off-campus housing programs in the Los Angeles region. An accounting of off-campus housing programs will identify gaps in the types and inventory of housing currently available.

***Lack of Specificity as to the Types of Housing and Segmented Demand Estimates of Each in the Housing Program.*** The Draft fails to identify any coherent framework connecting the housing needs assessment with the appropriate types of housing proven to be effective at addressing the need. The

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mix of housing could, but need not, include some mix of emergency and bridge housing, transitional housing, domiciliary housing, permanent supportive housing, assisted living, nursing home, respite housing, and dignified end-of-life housing, and other housing types justified by both need, evidence of effectiveness and veteran preferences. Further, the Draft does not offer any particular estimates for each type of housing needed to meet demand.

***Lack of Rationale for Prioritization of the Housing Program.*** The Draft fails to make explicit the rationale for why the housing program is the standout priority of the Master Plan. Such rationale can be derived from the historical origins of the West LA Campus (the 1888 grant deed), legal sources (such as the settlement agreement in the Valentini litigation), and clinical and practical regional need (the need for some subpopulations to be near the health care services on the West LA Campus).

***Lack of Specificity as to the Timing and Phasing of the Housing Program.*** The Draft fails to clearly prescribe a timeline and phasing of development of the housing program on the West LA Campus. The Master Plan should set out short-term and long-term goals in developing the housing, with an initial phase that includes sufficient permanent supportive housing on the West LA Campus to meet reasonably foreseeable need in the immediate term. Most importantly, any phasing of development should be sufficiently flexible to quickly expand housing and associated community services that may be necessary if estimates of housing need for the West LA Campus turn out to underestimate actual need, as revealed by experience and continual revisions of projections based on experience. The overbuild risk should not be placed on homeless veterans.

### ***Principles and Action Items***

#### **PRINCIPLES**

1. Provide for an immediate permanent supportive housing program for the initial phase of development in the near term based on initial estimates of current permanent supportive housing demand.

#### **ACTIONS**

- D1-1 Clearly set out a housing program informed by the programmatic vision for the West LA Campus and the effort to end veteran homelessness in Los Angeles.
- D1-2 Provide a fuller and more detailed account of existing shelter and housing currently on the West LA Campus and in the community and their effectiveness, together with an assessment of the potential for repurposing or enriching some of this housing to better meet 21<sup>st</sup> century veteran needs.
- D1-3 Provide a more detailed set of recommendations for the various types of housing that the housing program should include, the segment of the population for which such housing would be appropriate, and the evidence and research in favor of such housing types.

- D1-4 Better define and explain the prioritization of particular populations for housing on the West LA Campus and the particular housing needs of each population, including housing on the West LA Campus as opposed to in the community.
- D1-5 Provide recommendations as to the phasing and location of various types of housing and development of each such type. The recommendation should address how evolving measures of need and veteran choice among available housing alternatives might affect phasing.

### ***Stakeholder Voices***

Veterans are very supportive of housing being built on the VA campus. However, veterans have expressed strong reactions to the Draft's ideas on housing. These reactions have centered on two main critiques: the need for more housing as well as various forms of housing.

Many veterans have expressed the need for the property to return to its original purpose as a Soldier's Home. A concerned commentator writes, "Veterans are freezing on streets of skid row. Please use this property to rehabilitate our veterans with a shower, warm bed, meal and a suit and tie. Everything else is irrelevant!" The Executive Summary reports the projected need for housing is between 700-900 units.

Veterans are aware of the needs of their community and immediately understand that the proposed housing is insufficient to the number of veterans in need of a roof over their heads or access to affordable permanent housing. "There are approximately 4,000 homeless veterans in Los Angeles," writes Air Force and Coast Guard veteran, Jorge Rodriguez, "Currently the master plan provides only 700-900 permanent supportive housing units. This should be increased to 2,500.

Beyond the need for more housing, veterans would like to see more kinds of housing included in the Draft that in conjunction with resources throughout Los Angeles County can support the various needs of the veteran community. Among the list of suggested housing types are: lockers and sanitation facilities for the homeless, a 24-hour shelters, micro housing, areas for temporary structures, independent elderly housing, separated housing for women and children, studio or dormitory style apartments, and independent affordable housing. Veteran Rodriguez continues in his recommendation for housing, "There should be more variation in the variety of housing-types provided for veterans in permanent and transitional housing. If there are empty beds non-veterans should be able to fill them. Tents should not be considered as an option."

#### Homelessness and Housing types:

- *"Green home model homes."* – Homeless Summit Meeting
- *Align housing types with population subgenres, RV Hookups* – Open House #5
- *"Can there be affordable housing for Staff? The Staff Home cannot keep staff because of the high cost of living on the west side"* – VSO Meeting
- *"We need an emergency Shelter that can be accessed 24 hrs a day, year round."* – Mayra Plascencia

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- *“Housing remains a critical shortfall for veterans. I think micro housing ideas should be considered, on a pilot basis to provide safety and privacy to veterans in need.” – Tucker Smallwood*
- *“The Master plan discusses the amount of housing to be created (via renovations or construction) is based on the availability of housing units in greater LA community. While currently the state offering/awarding prop 41 money to developers to build perm supportive housing in the communities throughout the state. My question is who is connecting the new housing availability with the VA, esp when this will determine the need for PSH on campus?” – Kristine Hesse*
- *“The VA campus should develop significant housing initiatives such as building low-cost housing to military veterans, updating current transitional housing, and building a community of market value homes and commerce.” – Sarah Serrano*

#### Vulnerable Populations

- *“We need more safe housing for women, veterans with children and veterans in the LGBTQ community.” – Mayra Plascencia*
- *“Currently there is no specific mention to use of the space where the VA executive housing is currently located nor specific plans that I saw for an exclusive area for women veterans head of household and their children for permanent supportive. That area could become beautiful neighborhood for that specific purpose and a daycare should be built with the housing in that neighborhood with sidewalks, basketball court, and other safe areas for children and adults to play.” – Jim Zenner*
- *“There needs to be different types of housing on the campus. Permanent housing to make a better sense of community, transitional housing and temporary housing for homeless veterans. Special housing for veterans with families, single parent veterans, female vets and LGBT veterans. Additional shower/bathing facilities as well as laundry for those who chose to remain on the streets.” – Jennifer Marshall*
- *“Housing for female veterans with children.” – Patient Advisory meeting*
- *“Help women veterans to have their own space and be respected, better privacy for housing” – Community Meeting #5*

## **D2 – Excellent Healthcare**

### ***Synopsis of Plan Contents & Critical Overview***

*Methodology; Healthcare for Veterans Housing on the WLA VA Campus; Review of the Space Utilization Plan and Pre-Design New Bed Care Tower Care Study; Desirable Programs on Campus; Location for Healthcare Programs on Campus (pp. 142 - 145)*

This chapter of the Draft describes plans to primarily locate healthcare programs on the south campus, describes the space utilization plan and pre-design features of a new bed care tower and references healthcare delivery information. The chapter makes particularly hazardous assumptions in its projections for the future medical and healthcare needs of the veteran population in the Los Angeles area. The assumed decline in demand for healthcare could have an extremely harmful impact on an already waning and overtaxed system of care. Furthermore, there are several gaps in the Draft that fail to utilize or even acknowledge important opportunities of the site and redevelopment plan. The Draft inexplicably excludes analysis of predictable growth in usage of the healthcare system by reason of campus development, the special needs of vulnerable populations including women, children, LGBTQ and the homeless, the integration of the West LA Campus into the larger regional health networks, and the high demand and complex need for mental health services and support.

### ***Analysis of Deficiencies***

The Draft's healthcare program rests on an irresponsible and faulty demographic assumption. The Draft assumes that medical service usage, both inpatient and outpatient, will decrease substantially (by 33%) in Los Angeles County over the next decade. This faulty assumption is belied by research showing that healthcare utilization will decrease nationally by only an average of 19% over the next decade,<sup>1</sup> that the population of younger veterans and their families who served in the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are increasing in Southern California in particular.<sup>2</sup> In addition, based on the demographics of these younger veterans and the types of service-related challenges they endure, they are also experiencing high rates of trauma and will have delayed onset of trauma symptoms.<sup>3</sup> Plus, there is the inherent unpredictability of redeployment and the number, size, and nature of future wars and combat operations.

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<sup>1</sup> RAND Corporation. *Assessment A (Demographics), A Product of the CMS Alliance to Modernize Healthcare Federally Funded Research and Development Center Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)* (2015), p. xii.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*, p. 48.

<sup>3</sup> RAND Corporation. *Invisible Wounds of War: Psychological and Cognitive Injuries, Their Consequences, and Services to Assist Recovery* (2008), p. 59, 434.

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Further, the Draft neglects many areas of medical and health services that should be provided or improved on the West LA Campus, through renovations of existing facilities or construction of new facilities. For example, there is no mention of opportunities to improve the existing conditions of the south portion of the West LA Campus facilities, particularly the inpatient mental health wards that provide hospitalized veterans with limited access to the outdoor environment. Further, the Draft fails to account for the increasing need for additional nursing home capacity based on the quickly growing elderly veteran population. Although the Draft mentions the need for additional care coordination and case management, the Draft does not provide recommendations to embed clinically-based services in the north campus or to provide direct, on-site treatment services to bridge, transitional, permanent supportive, and/or other residential-based programs on the north campus.

One of the most evident deficiencies in the types of services provided in the Draft's healthcare program is its omission of any real analysis of the types and demand for mental health services. This is an unacceptable oversight as the mental health needs of the veteran populations targeted to live on the West LA Campus are particularly prominent. The Draft makes almost no mention of access to mental health services today or prescribes a program for the future, particularly as they relate to managing chronic mental illness, psychological trauma, traumatic brain injury, and addictions (either inpatient or outpatient).<sup>4</sup> The sole mental health recommendation in this section of the Draft is to co-locate mental health services in south campus medical clinics (i.e., within the existing clinical infrastructure), which is already required by VA mandate. The Draft makes no recommendations for leveraging the north side of the West LA Campus to offer support or counseling services beyond existing clinical infrastructure.

As noted in the comments to section B2.2 of this Comment Document, the Draft needs to consider the potential impact to the medical portion of the campus, on the south side, of adding anywhere between 500-1,000 cross-campus residents and thousands of visitors. The Draft should acknowledge a potential change in campus dynamic and account for the subsequent changes in healthcare and community dynamic of the south campus. The Draft fails to recognize the opportunity of creating a center of gravity on both the north and south campuses that can shape an inviting culture in which reaching out to talk to other veterans and seeking help is de-stigmatized, encouraged and not seen as a weakness.

Finally, the healthcare program proposed in the Draft cannot exist independently from its surrounding networks of health care. The West LA Campus must be integrated into the larger networks of healthcare including VISN 22, and the VA Greater Los Angeles' ambulatory care centers, community-based outpatient clinics, and mobile health care teams, as well as the network of Vet Center satellites, the latter of which is not mentioned in the Draft. The Master Plan must also take into account any efficiencies and integration with not only existing VA infrastructure but also other governmental and non-governmental health services that provide care within the region, including the City of Los Angeles,

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<sup>4</sup> Draft p. 143, Figure D2.

Los Angeles County, the State of California, non-governmental organizations, non-profits, and for-profit providers.

### ***Policies and Action Items***

#### **ACTIONS**

- D2-1 Provide for specific improvements to mental health treatment and facilities based on demand, demographics, and evidence-based practices. The Master Plan should consider alternative, holistic treatments of veterans and how those treatments can be incorporated into the physical features and health program of the West LA Campus.
- D2-2 The Master Plan should consider alternative, holistic treatment of veterans and how those treatments can be incorporated into the physical features and health programs on the West LA Campus.
- D2-3 Outline and explore new site-based opportunities for the healthcare program, especially as related to mental health, on the West LA Campus based on demand, demographics, and evidence-based practices. Such opportunities could include: modifications to the inpatient facility; the conversion of CalVets to a federal facility to meet high demands of the disabled and under-resourced elderly subpopulation who struggle with housing stability and do not qualify; leveraging unoccupied space on campus for non-VA providers to care for those veterans who are not eligible to receive VA services; better use of campus dynamics and outdoor spaces for improved access.
- D2-4 The Master Plan should take account of the accessibility and healthcare needs of select veteran subpopulations (including not only homeless veterans, but also women, the LGBT community, and any other group that suffers poor healthcare outcomes due to inequities).
- D2-5 Develop a healthcare epicenter for veterans at the West LA Campus that creates synergies with local and regional VA and non-VA healthcare networks through, for example, more robust interagency communication plans, resource sharing and transportation.

### ***Stakeholder Voices***

Veterans have been voicing strong opinions concerning campus healthcare as well as reactions to the Draft's proposed health care programs and facilities. Throughout the vast majority of comments, there is a strong desire for reform of the current system.

Two ideas stand out as frequently mentioned recommendations that are absent or undeveloped in the Draft. The first suggestion is a resounding need for specialized healthcare primarily for women and LGBTQ veterans. In a meeting held by the VA and its consultants, a person mentioned, "Women feel

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that they are harassed. They are here for medical care, not to buy drugs or pick up a date,” (Patient Advisory meeting, 08/13/15). Several people acknowledged the need to relocate and upgrade the existing Women’s Health Clinic on campus. During a meeting hosted by the VA and its consultants, the Women Veteran Services expressed clearly defined the need: "Needs: Provide women with their own clinic, with all resources, separate from other clinics. Connect to main hospital. Each exam room should have a bathroom." (Women Veteran Services meeting, 08/27/15)

The second resounding request is for mental health services and reform. Many comments stressed the need for wellness facilities and holistic programming to augment the existing structure of healthcare. Many comments asked for more holistic alternatives to medical treatment including counseling for veterans and their families, parenting and birthing classes, individual and family support groups, meditation and yoga, gym facilities, activities, gardening, dietary classes, and quality of life amenities including spiritual retreats, arts, woodworking and more. Nathan Graeser, veteran and a Community Liaison for the Center for Innovation and Research for Military and Veteran Families at the USC School of Social Work, described the purpose of alternative and holistic treatment best in his comment, “A holistic and strength-based wellness model should be the focus of the new campus. To be clear, a holistic focus means providing treatment that is aimed at helping veterans and their families outside of just the medical (predominantly pharmaceutical) model. The focus would be on healing veterans and returning them to society via entrée to a host of community agencies and innovative programs.”

### Mental Health

- *“Mental health is part of Medicine. Location on north campus would further stigmatize mental health. Need access and adjacencies between mental health and medicine.” (Mental Health meeting, 10/06/15)*
- *“It is imperative that the West LA VA campus has a wellness center. This wellness center will focus on proactive health activities and assistance to prevent dangers which result from prescription medication dependency and abuse, and unhealthy lifestyle choices. The wellness center could offer programs in exercise, meditation, nutrition, therapy, alternative and holistic medicine/approaches. The wellness center should also be a 24-hour establishment, open to assist veterans with emergency crises by providing a safe place to stay and emergency therapy, as well as connect veterans with befitting VA campus resource centers.” – Sarah Serrano*
- *“The community should include treatment options to medication in regards to mental and physical health.” – Mikal Vega*
- *“As a post-911 veteran with PTSD I have found the creative and mind-body arts have helped me transition from military to civilian life. I highly recommend extending access to service members for classes in the creative, yoga, and martial arts which help to mitigate PTSD and generate a sense of empowerment and well-being that contributes to improved mental health and social functioning.” – Anonymous*

- *“Long-term planning for veteran health cannot depend on only treating the tertiary and acute needs as they present. Recent strides in the ACA and medical models have proved this to be very costly. A holistic and strength-based wellness model should be the focus of the new campus. To be clear, a holistic focus means providing treatment that is aimed at helping veterans and their families outside of just the medical (predominantly pharmaceutical) model. The focus would be on healing veterans and returning them to society via entrée to a host of community agencies and innovative programs. The campus should support activities that build on the strengths of veterans and their families, fostering long-term health and wellness (e.g. childcare, marriage counseling and family retreats), parenting (e.g. birthing classes, midwifery and parenting classes and family support groups), health (e.g. recreational activities, gym facilities, diets, homeopathics) and quality of life (e.g. spirituality, arts, gardening, woodworking). The campus should be focused on living and living well, not on sickness.” – Nathan Graeser*

#### Women’s Health

- *“Needs: Provide women with their own clinic, with all resources, separate from other clinics. Connect to main hospital. Each exam room should have a bathroom.” (Women Veteran Services meeting, 08/27/15)*
- *“Women feel that they are harassed. They are here for medical care, not to buy drugs or pick up a date.” (Patient Advisory meeting, 08/13/15)*
- *“The plan did not speak about where to relocate the Womens Healthcare Clinic. The clinic should be built by building 264 and 264 should be revamped to provide wellness and recreation while new building be the actual medical clinic with all treatment. There should be a parking lot that is only accessible at that entry off of San Vicente and the small compound should only have one pedestrian route in our out of main campus.” – Jim Zenner*

#### Children

- *“Long term children tenants, may need to address pediatrics.” (Mental Health meeting, 10/06/15)*

#### Facilities

- *“I would like an alternative to the Emergency room similar to Urgent Care.” - Mayra Plascencia*

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## **D3 – Coordinated Care**

### ***Synopsis of Plan Contents & Critical Overview***

*Health; Community (pp. 148 – 149)*

Following the chapters on the housing and healthcare programs, this chapter of the Draft describes a program of coordinated care and designates the north campus as its location. This chapter consists of a mere two pages and is organized around a set of four fragmentary lists. Although there are a number of suggested programmatic additions to the campus, the level of detail and description make it unclear if the programmatic ideas address the concerns and desires of the West LA Campus stakeholders.

There is an obvious absence of a program description and a programmatic vision regarding the beneficial effects of a full continuum of community resources and amenities, which has the potential to contribute to a deep sense of community living. Further, the chapter does not acknowledge the great need for significant connections between the coordinated care program and accessibility throughout the campus.

### ***Analysis of Deficiencies***

The Draft's coordinated care program is fundamentally inadequate. The Draft lists ideas for a coordinated care program on two pages without any vision or explanation. The Draft's coordinate care program appears to be empirically and logically baseless. Its ideas for program adjustments and developments do not appear to rest on any existing conditions and services, data, projections, stakeholder feedback, or any evidence-based research.

Furthermore, the Draft's description of a coordinated customer service program has little to no discussion of the need for program elements that will support and assist veterans in overcoming access barriers, including, among other features, availability of care coordinators, case managers, and veteran peer support specialists. The omission of these elements is significant given the barriers facing the targeted veteran population, such as the lack of knowledge regarding resource availability, stigma in the form of a military culture reluctant to reach out for help, complicated systems and confusing processes, and administrative barriers (including poor customer service and/or prohibitive exclusionary criteria and/or exhaustive screening requirements).

In terms of supporting a comprehensive program, the Draft should, after engaging the community, clearly articulate a programmatic vision that drives a coordinated care program inspired by holistic treatment and promoting veteran community, wellbeing and reintegration. The coordinated care program should include, by way of example only:

- Self-care instruction and learning
- Peer-support specialist services and volunteerism
- Family and caregiver support (including child-care)

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- Integrative healthcare and healing arts
- Physical, occupational and work therapy
- Recreational and competitive sport opportunities
- Benefits assistance and financial coaching
- A full range of legal and mediation services
- Education, vocational training and job placement
- On/off-site employment and entrepreneurial opportunities
- Spiritual fora, including spaces for worship and/or personal reflection

### ***Policies and Action Items***

#### **ACTIONS**

- D3-1 Present a detailed description of program development for a coordinated care program service that is tailored to the needs of veterans, with particular attention to homeless and otherwise vulnerable veteran subpopulations.
- D3-2 Conduct an extensive stakeholder engagement process and identify reoccurring suggestions and issues from the stakeholder engagement process that the coordinated care program can implement.
- D3-3 Develop program elements to deal with access barriers by making information widely available, minimizing stigma, improving the campus navigation experience, and mitigating administrative barriers.
- D3-4 Identify the location and phasing of the coordinated care program that ties into a system of welcome and resource centers, providing options for expansion in the future.

### ***Stakeholder Voices***

Veterans and stakeholders had many ideas as to how services and amenities on campus can be improved on the West LA Campus. There were a number of suggestions that stood out due to the overwhelming number of comments and support for these services. In particular, veterans and stakeholders requested special attention for many of the items listed in the list in the above “Analysis of Deficiencies” section.

#### **Peer-support specialist services and volunteerism**

- *“The best way for the community to engage is to volunteer” (Home Health meeting 9/16/15)*
- *“It is extremely important that Peer Support is a central and independent component of the plan forward, especially at the Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System. Peer Support needs to be a department of its own, supervised directly by the local recovery coordinator where the recovery model can be fully implemented.” – Cid Williams*

Family and caregiver support (including child-care)

- *“Childcare center with affordable childcare, also parent training opportunities” (Homeless Summit meeting, 08/19/15)*
- *“Provide child care for veterans to remove barriers to services.” – Mayra Plascencia, Marine Corps*

Integrative healthcare and healing arts

- *Have opportunities for Vets to provide arts (Homeless Summit meeting, 08/19/15)*
- *Survey results: 60% or more of survey responses showed that veterans were likely or extremely likely to utilize a movie theatre, performance venue, creative art space, hobbyist space, an auto garage and community garden spaces on campus.*
- *“I would love a safe place for vets to express their creativity through art. A safe place for painting, acting, writing, and whatever else will help vets express themselves. Through art is healing.” – James Martinez*

Physical therapy

- *Survey results show that at more than half the responses would like to see chiropractic medicine, massage, acupuncture, and yoga services provided on campus as well as have access to a gym and fitness center, swimming pool, walking/ run trails, basketball courts, baseball fields and a golf course.*
- *“A pool would facilitate aqua therapy” (B209 Resident’s Group, 7/1/15)*

Recreational and competitive sport opportunities

- *We appreciate a focus on recreation; we need areas for sports, walking tracks and spaces for wellness.*  
*- County Supervisor Kuehl’s staff*
- *“Provide sports facility.” (Homeless Summit meeting, 08/19/15)*
- *“It would be great if there was a state of the art recreation and fitness center that had all the amenities of a state of the art gym including a full weight room, basketball / volleyball courts, stationary bikes, and studio space for various fitness classes. Having athletic facilities that can accommodate sports leagues for veterans throughout the year could attract more veterans to the campus while at the same time adding therapeutic and camaraderie building value.” – Mike Dowling, Marine Corps*

Benefits assistance and financial coaching

- *Survey results showed that 78% of the people who answered think that a financial center on campus is important or very important.*
- *“It would be great to see financial planning meetings and seminars” - Sawyer*

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### Legal Services

- *Survey results: The results showed that 85% of responses believe that legal services are important or very important amenity for the campus.*
- *"Greater presence of legal services on campus needed" (Domiciliary meeting, 8/26/15)*
- *"Restorative Justice: The number of military veterans in the Los Angeles County Jail continues to grow each year. Many of those arrested have undiagnosed PTSD and/or substance abuse (drug & alcohol) issues. On the VA Campus, we should work in partnership with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and Los Angeles County District Attorney to a) Erect a custody/court facility on the VA Campus to specifically house and treat military veterans. B) Establish a Veterans Court to adjudicate lesser crimes (thefts, drug/alcohol and quality of life related offenses). C) Use this as an entry-point facility to live-in drug & alcohol treatment facility, Housing options for Vets completing treatment, Full wrap-around support services to take care our own" – Chris Landavazo, Navy*

### Education, vocational training and job placement

- *Evening education and training center - VA Homeless Programs Summit*
- *"There is no need for vocational services on campus. If Veterans are using the education benefits, they are not on campus." - Open House #4, 8/11/15*
- *"Hire educators with teaching experience who are veterans themselves and ensure they each know how to educate transitioning veterans. Make the degrees academically and vocational useful worldwide, not just locally. Partner with companies for placement after degree completion, as well as paid internships or apprenticeships. Think academically, not military." – Angela Miller*
- *"My name's Dan Caldwell I served in the United States Navy for three years. I'm now a professor of political science at Pepperdine University and I am the chairman and founder of the Pepperdine Committee on student veterans. In reviewing the plan it seems to me that there is a real need for centers that focus on transitional learning, particularly tutoring for student veterans returning to colleges and universities after five or ten years out of an educational setting." – Dan Caldwell, Navy*

### On/off-site employment and entrepreneurial opportunities

- *Survey results showed that employment therapy and support is the service most desired on the campus.*
- *"It would be great to see a career center with veteran career representatives/experts to provide assistance." – Charles*
- *LA Veterans Collaborative: "Wants to see a work source/employment center on-campus – open to all Veterans to advance their employment. Unused areas on the campus that need to be activated. Want to see implementation of more peer support specialists working with Veterans there. Takes Veterans time to demilitarize to be more social – need this support on-campus."*

- *“Having space on campus where veteran organizations can collaborate and work together could help them coordinate more events and services for veterans. There are offices at the Bob Hope Patriotic Hall in downtown LA as well but I think having office space for VSO’s would encourage more interaction with the campus itself. By allowing and encouraging organizations to have space on the campus it would allow a constant presence of veterans working in the veteran community (not just at the VA) who could attract others.” – Mike Dowling, Marine Corps*
- *“Meeting rooms so organizations can bring services to the veteran. Many for profit and nonprofit organizations have programs to offer the veteran community in order to advance their careers or lifestyle and need room to conduct the course. A few meeting rooms will give organizations a place to conduct a job fair to daily exercising space. The meeting rooms can also give the veteran a space if they wish to begin their own workshop or hold interest groups (like a book club or runners group).” – Heraclio Aguilar (Federal Register)*

Spiritual forum, worship and/or personal reflection

- *“Koi pond and Zen garden” (Homeless Summit meeting, 08/19/15)*
- *“There should be an on-site training facility for service dogs” (Community Kick-off, 6/23)*
- *“Wilderness Fly Fishers of Santa Monica would like to sponsor a chapter of Project Healing Waters to be included in the new master plan programs. PHW is a national program specifically designed for disabled vets to learn how to cast and fish and then to go on outings to fish in nearby streams and lakes.” – Peter Haight (Federal Register)*

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## **D4 – Connecting and Building the Veteran Community**

### ***Synopsis of Plan Contents & Critical Overview***

*Vision and Objectives of the Master Plan; WLA Campus and the Veterans Integrated Service Network 22 (pp. 152 – 153)*

This chapter of the Draft provides an outline of the West LA Campus, GLA and VISN 22 as well as various other Los Angeles resources that are available to meet veteran needs. It describes the VA's desire to realize its "ICARE" values and commitment to a "Blueprint for Excellence" in making the West LA Campus an inviting, "gold standard" environment for veterans.

Unfortunately, the Draft does not fully elaborate on the accessibility of resources on the West LA Campus and in the surrounding Los Angeles area. It has no discussion of whether the West LA Campus will be closed or open or mixed in different zones. As such it is difficult to understand what is being recommended in redefining the relationship between the West LA Campus, other VA sites, other governmental agencies, and other non-governmental entities within the community.

### ***Analysis of Deficiencies***

The Draft itself contains no discussion of the types of connections the West LA Campus will have with other communities. The Draft merely describes the VA's intent to transform the West LA Campus into a vibrant community and expresses a commitment to consult with a range of stakeholders to connect with the veteran community.

The Master Plan should discuss how the programs on the West LA Campus will connect with the programs in the broader community. After describing the housing, health care services, and coordinated care programs, the Master Plan should elaborate on a program of connecting the West LA Campus programs with the people (both veteran and nonveteran) and programs in the broader communities, with an objective being to help bridge the military-civilian divide. Lastly, the VA's relationship with the off-site communities of providers and resources is not described. The Master Plan should describe such relationships after doing the type of analysis of the availability of community-based providers and resources that is recommended by this Comment Document in Section B2.2.

### ***Principles and Action Items***

The revitalization of the West LA campus as a veteran community creates an opportunity to reestablish its legacy as a home of veteran identity and pride, and an example for change in how our nation currently connects with, prioritizes, cares for and honors its military service members. To realize this opportunity, the Master Plan should address the following key principles:

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## PRINCIPLES

1. Employ a tiered approach to building a core of communities on the West LA Campus that house and service the most vulnerable veterans and develop additional features that attract more and more veterans over time.
2. Develop connections between the West LA Campus and the communities beyond, including the surrounding neighborhoods and other non-veteran specific groups.
3. Establish the campus as a local and regional epicenter of services that is integrated into other regional facilities, including those operated by the VA, other government instrumentalities, non-profits, faith-based organizations, and other private sector operators.

## ACTIONS

- D4-1 To support a core community on the West LA Campus, renovate existing buildings to create a comfortable yet safe and secure neighborhood (“nest”) in which prioritized, homeless veterans have a place to call home and receive supportive services.
- D4-2 Establish a strategic position for, and build a center of gravity on, the campus (a “town square” or “main street”) that better connects veterans within the community.
- D4-3 Conduct an analysis of the West LA Campus to identify portals to the campus, points of ingress and egress, and centers for information and navigation assistance.
- D4-4 Develop a well-defined, functionally isolable, and designated area (or several) for networking and interactions between military and civilian populations (“reintegration zone” or “loft district”).
- D4-5 Develop infrastructure for transportation, communication, data sharing, and reliance on shared care models connecting communities in the West LA Campus to relevant outside service providers and optimize the efficiency of such infrastructure in providing such connections.
- D4-6 Explore the options of campus “permeability” and program organization that allow for the areas to be community centers that integrate resident veterans, non-resident veterans, and the surrounding communities on campus while still ensuring the safety of select groups and programs.

### ***Stakeholder Voices***

To the veterans who partook in outreach, community development is the singular most pressing concern for the campus Master Plan. Many veterans pressed the need for a gathering space for the existent veteran community in the Los Angeles area, other contributors asked that the Master Plan focus on ways to develop community and be a place for veterans to be proud of. Some veterans lent their opinions as to what makes a community and what they would like to see as part of the campus.

Although a few veterans pressed for the campus to be entirely closed to non-veterans, the majority of comments expressed the importance of having a partially open or “permeable” campus. Veterans feel that they need to change the presence of veterans in Los Angeles and feel that the campus may provide that opportunity to bridge the gap between veterans and civilians. There are a number of ideas as to how bridge this gap including creating a business district that is completely open to the public, provide classes or services that the outside community can enjoy as well as veterans, provide spaces for public museums, memorials or celebrations, and more. The vast majority of veterans would like the campus to be open to veteran families, providing them with services of their own including therapy, health and housing for children, as well as have a campus hotel and recreational spaces.

Throughout stakeholder engagement conducted through the VA and its consultants as well as Veteran Advocacy Inc. a clear frustration is that there is no central location for information. Many veterans feel that this campus needs to have one central location on campus that will act as a one-stop hub for information within the veteran community across the region. This central hub will be there veterans can go to find any and all resources that are offered and where all veteran agencies can go to advertise their services. Major Hamilton Underwood, U.S. Air Force, summed up the voice of many veteran comments, “The two most prominent structural problems are the disconnectedness of the campus from the surrounding community and the lack of central hub within the campus. In short there exists an external and internal dis-connectivity.”

#### Campus Outreach

- *“Outreach strategies – Relationships with WLA and Long Beach VA. Community partners” (Blue Butterfly meeting, 7/9/15)*
- *“LA needs a hotel or housing for veterans and their families who are visiting Los Angeles. The hotel can be used in a variety of ways in addition to housing vets. “ – Roc Grant*
- *“The campus should be open to everyone including civilians. It would be great if there were events that mixed the civilian and veteran communities on the land. However, I don't think the entire campus should be open to civilians. Veterans who live on the campus or get medical services should be surrounded only by other veterans.” – Mark Harper*

#### Campus Pride

- *“More space dedicated to Arts and History Preservation. More than veterans visit the VA hospital, friends, family members, caretakers, and supporters visit these facilities as well. I am proposing that veteran artist be commissioned to add painting, sculptures, statues and more that will represent the veteran community from the point of view of the veterans. An arts center will be needed for the artist to plan and prepare object for display, conduct art classes and more. Also to preserve these images and our Armed Forces history I propose a museum to be created in order to preserve those memories. This facility will honor all that have served in the great wars and will show supporters what their freedom cost.” – David Hahn (Federal Registrar)*

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- *"It would be great to have a memorial on campus honoring the history of veterans throughout Los Angeles County. Whether that's through a museum or some kind of memorial (eternal flame, bronze statues, etc.). A subtle way to honor the vet community on the campus is naming buildings on the campus after well-known veterans from Los Angeles or who have been awarded medals for valor, etc. as opposed to simply giving the buildings numbers." – Mike Dowling*
- *"A true campus would inculcate pride and a sense of ownership amongst vets, modeled on the great universities like UCLA, which foster a sense of reunion and continued investment in a long chain" – Brayden Yoder*
- *"A Community needs to include ownership by its citizens. My suggestion is that the residents of the West LA site form a Community Resident Association that focus on their local needs, issues and community improvements. This Association can be made up of residents as well as on site services that are providing services to the community." – Michael Wolfe*

#### Town Square

- *"There also needs to be a central square, like what is found on most campuses or traditionally planned towns, with mixed-use retail, a fully staffed gym and a movie theater. A military hotel like the Hale Koa in Hawaii or Marine Corps Memorial Club and Hotel in San Francisco would be ideal." Richard D. Lewis*
- *"Having a social focal point on campus where veterans can socialize and shop at veteran owned businesses could attract many veterans to come to the campus. Allowing some veteran owned businesses on campus would show support for veteran entrepreneurs. Businesses could be a commissary, coffee shop (Starbucks), restaurant, gift shops, etc. There could be a family park next to it as well to encourage veterans to bring their families on to campus." – Mike Dowling*

#### Connection

- *"The two most prominent structural problems are the disconnectedness of the campus from the surrounding community and the lack of central hub within the campus. In short there exists an external and internal dis-connectivity. " – Hamilton Underwood*
- *"Many of us active in the veteran community here in Los Angeles would prefer a more integrated approach to campus-building than what is currently laid out in new draft plan for the VA campus. Why shouldn't there be athletic facilities on the campus? Why couldn't we have theater spaces and television studios? A central hub for veterans in Los Angeles would allow for interaction between veterans across the spectrum - and this would aid in healing and overall wellness by reminding us all that we're not alone." – Brayden Yoder*
- *"I hope that whatever plan is put forward creates a place that emphasizes community, not campus. A place that supports reintegration, not separation. A place that prepares veterans for their future and does not simply honor their past. This land should be accessible to members of the greater Los Angeles community who are assisting our veterans on their journey toward reintegration and wellness. I'd love*

*to see the walls and fences come down and the space be connected to the larger Brentwood community.” – Regan Turner*

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## D5.1 – Site Analysis

### ***Synopsis of Plan Contents & Critical Overview***

*Context; Existing Site Conditions; Open Space; Existing Circulation; Existing Parking; Existing Building Inventory; Historic Districts; Legislative Overlay; Climate Analysis; Opportunities and Constraints (pp. 156 – 187)*

The Site Analysis section gives the reader a great deal of raw data in both written form and in a series of diagrams. Although clearly organized and well supported by the diagrams, this section misses its opportunity to provide a thorough analysis of the site. The raw data is often presented by itself, without conclusions drawn from it. Further, there are reports in the Implementation Documents, specifically Section E1 Civil, containing detailed analysis that should be included in this section.

The most informative part of this chapter is its identification of some of the site's assets, challenges, and opportunities. Among the assets the Draft notes are accessibility through walking, private vehicles and public transportation, urban proximity, pleasant climate, topography that creates views of the city, and a number of active recreation facilities already built on the West LA . The Draft focuses on the site's challenges to mobility and on-campus circulation. It notes the sloping topography, the large sizes of street "blocks" and parking areas, low building density, lack of a centered program, poorly planned open space, and the campus's potential to become a thoroughfare for local west-side traffic. Lastly, the Draft highlights some of the site's opportunities regarding the rehabilitation of existing buildings and integration of the West LA campus with the neighboring communities; however, this list fails to produce specific opportunities that are directly realized in the Draft.

### ***Analysis of Deficiencies***

OPPORTUNITIES AND CONSTRAINTS (p. 186)

***Inadequate follow-through and application of the issues.*** This Site Analysis section concludes with a list of Assets, Challenges and Opportunities, which are meant to be the synthesis of the Site Analysis topics. Each of these subjects needs a map to show where the location-specific opportunities and constraints are located, and also to inform how specific site planning decisions are derived from this analysis.

The Draft's identified "assets" are well chosen and reasonably well-grounded in the site analysis narrative and diagrams that precede it, but in the ensuing planning presentation (in Sections D5.2 through D5.6), only the historic setting, landscape character, recreation facilities and climate are traceable as elements of the proposed plan. Missing from the plan is any accommodation or recognition of the transit connections, "urban proximity to neighboring retail, educational opportunities, and work training," pedestrian and bicycle connections to the neighboring context of West Los Angeles, and only minimal acknowledgement of topography and view opportunities.

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The Draft's identified "challenges" are also well stated, but again there is insufficient evidence of their application in the subsequent planning narratives and illustrations as a product of applied analysis. Open space is indeed both an asset and a challenge on the site, and the topography offers many possibilities for active use, connective use, and environmental management. Connectivity of sub-areas of the site, as well as to the surrounding neighborhoods, is not well-explored, and the challenge of "block size" is not met in any satisfactory way in the road and path networks incorporated into the plan. Similarly, the walkability of the site significantly improved through densification of development, connection of development centers, and the integration of open space into the plan to support legibility and a sense of place. A major challenge that is not addressed is those portions of the site that are the subject of other possessory interests under the recently suspended leases, and how they help or hinder the planning of the campus.

The four "opportunities," which should be building blocks of the plan, are broad statements that are more like objectives and not germane to the site analysis in a comprehensive way. The first and the third "opportunities" are somewhat redundant in their stating of the importance of the existing historic site and facility, and the fourth is more a statement about buy-in from the veterans community that is true, but that would want to have some acknowledgment in the master plan as to an ongoing role for veterans in decision-making throughout the implementation process and beyond. The third, however, is an excellent opportunity that is inadequately supported in the plan: "Integrating the WLA Campus into its context, breaking down the institutional qualities, and making the campus a part of the larger community" (p. 187). These opportunities need to relate specifically to design concepts, programming and implementation, and in the current Draft they do not.

#### SITE CONDITIONS

***Inadequate analysis of the importance of neighborhood context.*** The Plan provides mapping and a thorough description of the neighboring communities, but does not take the next step and analyze the impact of these neighborhoods on the plan-making process. Given the many different uses that surround the site, there should be a set of conclusions and planning implications of these adjacent uses.

***Inadequate analysis of impacts of topography on a development plan.*** A general description of the slope of the site is given, but there is no overall slope analysis map. The report says it includes recommendations on construction on slopes, which generally should not exceed 2:1, but no indication is made to where the areas that exceed that slope are. There is reference made to recommendations by the geotechnical consultant, but those recommendations are absent from the document.

***Absence of a plan to conserve natural areas.*** A reference is made to a tree survey that was completed; however, there is no survey or map in the plan. There is also a mention of the impact of the tree survey on the design analysis, but the analysis is absent from the document.

***Insufficient and inaccurate analysis of open space.*** A written inventory of existing open spaces is provided, however that list is not fully reflected in the Existing Open Space map. The list also breaks the types of open space down (Active Recreation Spaces, Community-Level Open Spaces, Neighborhood Open Spaces, and Residential Gardens) but the map does not make that differentiation. There is no analysis of the quality and condition of the existing open spaces. The South Entry Lawn has been affected by the construction of the new Patriot House and is not acknowledged in the plan.

***Insufficient analysis and evidence of follow-through in vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian circulation.*** A list of issues is given that includes an analysis of areas of conflict and accessibility concerns, but the list is not comprehensive or mapped. There is a general discussion of the lack of bicycle-friendly facilities, but no indication of where they are and are not located. The City of Los Angeles Bicycle Plan is referenced, but those routes are not on the map and are not shown graphically until the Civil section (page 249). Roads in the industrial area, to the north of Wilshire Blvd. are not included in the Existing Road Network map. There is no pedestrian, ADA or bicycle circulation analysis. There is also no analysis of transit, neither internal and external or existing and planned. This is a substantial issue given the subway extension and the impact that will have on the site.

***Absence of analysis of parking demand and inventory of existing parking.*** The primary issue is the lack of existing demand analysis and existing inventory – There is only a map showing the location of existing surface lots. There are a few errors where areas are marked as parking and are not (solar field north of the hospital helicopter pad, solar field south of hospital) and areas that are parking, but not marked as so (adjacent to Jackie Robinson Stadium, various areas in the industrial area. There is also no analysis or mapping of on-street parking. Given the strict security requirements regarding the location of parking, there should be an analysis of parking that does not conform to those safety standards.

***Insufficient assessment of re-use potential of the existing building inventory.*** This is a comprehensive list of existing buildings, broken down by use and square footage. Taking the information presented in this section and the information in Existing Conditions section, a Hard-Soft map should be made. This will show which buildings should be retained, which could be potentially removed, and which are suitable for redevelopment. A basic map showing the existing buildings with their name/number would be helpful as these numbers are referenced often throughout the plan.

***Insufficient incorporation of subconsultant's analysis of historic districts in the site analysis.*** The plan lists the features that comprise of the Historic District (buildings, sites, structures and objects); however, the map does not make those distinctions. The Historic Preservation report in the Implementation Documents section has a more comprehensive documentation of these sites and that information should be included in this section. This report also has a map showing Contributing Landscape Features and Streetscape/Site Features, which should be included in this analysis section.

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***Insufficient analysis of legislative overlay.*** This is a substantial topic and requires a more in depth analysis of the effects of current lease agreements on the site as well as the benefits and drawbacks of the proposed legislation. This could include a list and map of leased portions of the site, compensation from those leases, additional compensation or benefits that would directly help veterans and potential development uses of that land. There should also be an analysis of the protections that ensure the leases are veteran-focused.

***Insufficient follow-through of climate analysis on development of planning concepts for the site.*** This section is very comprehensive and the analysis results in a set of recommendations that can be implemented in the Master Plan. Much of the analysis discusses ways to design the site in response to climate, and there should be a distinct discussion on strategies specifically related to retrofitting the existing site and buildings to take maximum advantage of the site-responsive strategies. There is discussion of precipitation, however there is no analysis of opportunities to harvest or retain that water.

### ***Principles and Action Items***

The Site Analysis section and resulting opportunities and constraints should provide the baseline information from which planning and design decisions are made. To fix this oversight, the Draft should incorporate the following principles:

#### **PRINCIPLES**

1. Utilize the raw data to construct a thorough analysis of the site. This goes beyond stating facts, but evaluates implications and reaches important conclusions that inform the design of the West LA campus.
2. Synthesize a set of opportunities and constraints that are based on the analysis. These will tie directly into the plan and provide a logical sequence of how decisions are reached.

#### **ACTIONS**

Adjust existing diagrams and/or add new ones to include the following:

- D5.1-1 Conduct a hard-soft analysis and map the areas that are more suitable for redevelopment and areas that should remain largely as they currently exist.
- D5.1-2 Prepare separate maps of assets, challenges and opportunities
- D5.1-3 Conduct a slope analysis and prepare a diagram showing unbuildable areas
- D5.1-4 Conduct a tree survey with conclusions on which areas should and should not be disturbed
- D5.1-5 Prepare an open space diagram with a hierarchy of spaces and analyze their quality and condition.
- D5.1-6 Prepare a pedestrian and bicycle circulation analysis that relates to the surrounding neighborhoods and mobility plans

D5.1-7 Analyze and diagram the existing transit within the campus and to the campus as well as the implications of the planned Metro subway station.

D5.1-8 Prepare a reference map of existing buildings with their names

D5.1-9 Prepare a comprehensive historic resources map that pulls in the more specific information that is presented in the Historic Preservation report

D5.1-10 Prepare a map of leases on the campus with pertinent information related to those leases

### ***Stakeholder Voices***

The feedback concerning the Site Analysis concentrated on the lack of information on leases and third party uses on the campus. The veterans expressed concern and curiosity about the current access to the leased property particularly the land designated for the Brentwood School, UCLA and the Bentwood community. It is important to note that the Feinstein bill is controversial and not roundly back by veterans as many are against it. As well, many veterans commented on the site's current appearance, wayfinding, accessibility, safety and amenities. Lastly, an issue expressed during stakeholder engagement was the issue of environmental sustainability on campus. Many veteran expressed concern for the amount of water used to maintain the large lawns on campus.

- *At the last town hall meetings I attended there was a comment brought by a wheel chair bound disabled vet. He spoke about the typical grade built into the sidewalks near parks, that they have an incline to allow rainwater run-off, and how exhausting it is to constantly have to counter that grade. – Alan Pietruszewski, Navy*
- *Accessibility to the bus stops must be improved – Bob Rosebrock meeting*
- *"Survey: 25% of women report harassment on VA campus. Culture of hanging out (socializing) is detrimental to creating a safe environment. Is there a zoning solution to empower Veterans? – Patient Advisory meeting*
- *I have been working at the VA los angles they have great substance abuse programs. There seems to be more drug pushers here than you can count. It must be so hard for the vets to stop using. We don't need ISIS to kill on our bases, we have drug pushes. In front of VA los angles hospital the bushes and tall plants needs to be cut. Shine some light on one area. I had to write something about this."*

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## **D5.2 – Scenario Development**

### ***Synopsis of Plan Contents & Critical Overview***

*Design Concepts; Master Plan Methodologies; Veteran Housing; Excellent Healthcare; Coordinated Care; Connections and partnerships; Early Design Concepts (pp. 188 – 193)*

The overall conception of this section of the Draft is unclear, as the title suggests that it should be about the development of the program or program options for the West LA Campus. Much of this section repeats what is written in greater detail elsewhere in the Draft. The Design Concepts are briefly introduced and the “Four Zones” concept is repeated without providing new information. There is a short summary of three early design concepts, but the descriptions lack detail and the options are not sufficiently differentiated. There are no graphics to show how these concepts play out on the site and there is no discussion of the benefits and drawbacks of the three concepts or how the preferred concept was determined. There are two components of this section that provide new information – the Master Plan Methodologies and the Resources and Amenities Concepts. Both discussions are mostly descriptive, lacking in analysis or connection to the rest of the Draft.

### ***Analysis of Deficiencies***

The two master plan methodologies (need-based and capacity-based) look at accommodating current facility needs and the capacity of the site for future development. The need-based methodology is based on a demand analysis and aims to identify the initial phase implementation measures. The Draft fails to go any further than the description of this methodology, and there is no demand analysis provided in this section. A logical connection would be to the conclusions drawn in Sections D1-D4. However those sections of the Draft do not give initial phase implementation recommendations, other than the construction of 700-900 units of permanent supportive housing. There is an analysis of demand in B2, but that section does not reference that information and the deficiencies in that analysis have been discussed in depth elsewhere in this document.

The capacity-based methodology provides a framework for the long term development of the West LA Campus. As was the case for the need-based methodology, there is nothing more than a description of how this is done. The Draft states the types of analysis needed to determine the facility capacity, but those analyses have not been completed. Logically, the capacity-based methodology would be informed by the site analysis, determine what can be accommodated in existing buildings, and define the capacity of the site beyond the immediate program needs. Given the uncertainty of what the future needs will be, there should be a discussion of potential future scenarios and how the Master Plan has the flexibility to accommodate those different types of growth. This would include a list of program elements, along with the facilities that would house them and appropriate locations.

The Resources and Amenities Concepts section lists program ideas for the West LA Campus. The list is pertinent, but there is no identified connection between it and the veteran input. This is a major

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oversight given the priority placed on outreach and the incorporation of the veteran voice in the plan making. The Appendix section has information from meetings and surveys that could be directly referenced here.

Other than a general description of locating these resources near community centers, there is no further detail on which resources belong in which neighborhood, the amount of space they will require, and which amenities will have multiple locations across the West LA Campus. Further, some of the amenities are location-specific (such as exercise rooms and art studios), but others are service-based (such as volunteerism and legal services). There needs to be an indication of how the service-based amenities are expressed in the physical plan. Finally, there are four specific centers that are listed that have a more detailed description other, but no specific location. This omission is particularly important given two of the centers are highly sensitive (Addiction Treatment Center and Integrated Wellness Center for Female Veterans) and require security/safety considerations.

### ***Policies and Action Items***

#### **PRINCIPLES**

1. Utilize the two methodologies (need-based and capacity-based) to develop program scenarios for an initial phase and the long term development of the West LA Campus.
2. Use the valuable veteran input received both during the writing of the Draft and during the review period as a basis for proposing resources and amenities.

#### **ACTIONS**

- D5.2-1 Conduct a demand analysis in the manner described in Section B2.1 of this Comment Document to complement the need-based methodology. Utilize the conclusions to identify initial phase implementation measures.
- D5.2-2 Determine the long term development potential of the West LA Campus using the types of analysis described in the capacity-based methodology. The conclusions from the site analysis should directly inform this methodology.
- D5.3-3 Incorporate veteran input into the development of the list of resources and amenities.

### ***Stakeholder Voices***

There are a number of West LA Campus program ideas that have been submitted through the stakeholder engagement process and comment period. For more information concerning the veterans' and other stakeholders' ideas on housing, healthcare, coordinated care and

community development, please see “Stakeholder Voices” for Sections D1-D4. However, below is a list of many of the services suggested by veterans to be included in the Final Master Plan.

- A variety of housing typologies and services
- Women-oriented health services
- Child health services
- Gender segregated spaces
- Children’s spaces
- Day-care
- Veteran lodging or hotels
- Multi-purpose recreational space
- Fitness Center
- Work / Co-lofting space
- Indoor pool
- Track
- Welcoming Center
- Transition Center
- Studio (Arts and Media) space
- Memorials
- Commercial space
- Campus Center
- Workshop / Meeting space
- Screening Rooms
- Shuttle and on-campus transportation
- Covered bus stops
- Pedestrian walkways
- Employment Center
- Resource Center
- Educational Resources
- Outdoor amphitheater
- Indoor auditorium
- Movie theatre
- Indoor Performance theatre
- TV/Film studio
- Pet facilities

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## **D5.3 – Master Plan Design Concepts**

### ***Synopsis of Plan Contents & Critical Overview***

*Supporting Neighborhoods; Connected Community Centers; The Greenway (pp. 196 – 199)*

This section of the Draft describes the guiding principles of the campus design. These concepts are intended to be the major gestures that create a sense of place and bring the campus from an institutional setting, to a more modern, cohesive community. The Draft identifies three overarching design concepts to drive the Master Plan; Supporting Neighborhoods, Connected Community Centers and The Greenway. Each concept is thinly described, with supporting graphics that do not go beyond the basic idea. The result is an overall design concept that does not clearly align with the VA's priority of a vibrant, welcoming and sustainable community (p.7).

### ***Analysis of Deficiencies***

The shortcomings of the Supportive Neighborhoods concept are discussed in greater detail in the Neighborhoods section. But in general, the definition of a neighborhood is weak, as they are not strongly differentiated from one another and there are too many neighborhoods given the land area. Another major shortfall is that the Draft fails to consider security and secure circulation within its strategy for neighborhood development. These two factors can have tremendous impact on the physical layout of the program. The E2 – Safety section of the Draft points out the safety concerns of some of the campus programming and suggests reorganizing services based on security and accessibility needs.

The Connected Community Centers deficiencies are also detailed in the Neighborhoods section in greater detail, with concerns over the location, programming and scale of these places. According to the map, some centers are located in open spaces, some are in buildings, and others are on roads. In the south campus, the three centers are in locations that have no apparent relationship to their surroundings. The center at the entrance from Wilshire into the north campus is identified on the map as being larger than the others, but there is no explanation of what that center is. Taking the Draft as a whole, there is no defined central square or heart of the campus. The individual community center concept puts the focus on building clusters rather than on creating a cohesive campus identity. In general, there is a lack of detail in programming or differentiation between communities centers.

The Greenway concept attempts to provide organization to the circulation network and connector among community centers. The idea of a “greenway” in the traditional sense relates to open space, but the Draft's concept for the Greenway does not appear to be anything more than a meandering road. As the primary road and campus connector, the Greenway is planned to accommodate all modes of transportation and ability levels. While this is stated in text, other than the overarching concept of multi-modality, there is no further detail on what this road looks like or what it contains. As a connector

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of Community Centers, some of the centers are located on the Greenway, but that is not done consistently. There are two opposing factors that lead to this happening:

1. Locating Community Centers along the Greenway means they are not at the physical center of the neighborhood.
2. Locating the Community Centers at the physical center of the neighborhood means they are away from the Greenway.

Because the Greenway skirts the edges of neighborhoods, it has a tenuous connection with the Community Centers.

***Absence of consideration of environmental sustainability principles.*** There is no discussion of environmental management measures that are markers of current best practice in large-scale site planning. The site offers rich opportunities to embrace such principles. For example, of the 53 criteria in the LEED® ND checklist for neighborhood development, the West LA Campus could conceivably satisfy 33 of them all or in part by addressing the following topics:

**Smart Location & Linkage**

Smart Location  
 Preferred Locations  
 Brownfield Remediation  
 Access to Quality Transit  
  
 Bicycle Facilities  
 Housing and Jobs Proximity  
 Long-Term Conservation Management  
 of Habitat, Wetlands & Water Bodies

**Neighborhood Pattern & Design**

Walkable Streets  
 Compact Development  
 Connected and Open Community  
 Walkable Streets  
  
 Compact Development  
 Mixed-Use Neighborhoods  
 Housing Types and Affordability  
  
 Reduced Parking Footprint  
 Connected and Open Community  
 Transit Facilities  
 Transportation Demand Management  
 Access to Civic & Public Space  
 Access to Recreation Facilities  
 Visitability and Universal Design  
 Community Outreach and Involvement  
 Local Food Production  
 Tree-Lined and Shaded Streetscapes

**Green Infrastructure & Buildings**

Optimize Building Energy Performance  
 Outdoor Water Use Reduction  
 Building Reuse  
 Historic Resource Preservation  
 & Adaptive Reuse  
 Rainwater Management  
 Heat Island Reduction  
 Renewable Energy Production  
  
 Infrastructure Energy Efficiency  
 Wastewater Management

None of these issues are addressed in the Draft, even where the opportunity presents itself. For example, the Arroyo is called out in numerous graphic exhibits, is mentioned as a site condition, and is described in some detail in Section E1.1: Civil Constraints Mapping as to its role in storm water drainage on the overall site. It has not been explored, however, as part of a potential system for treating storm water onsite. There is no mention in the Draft of the expansive solar collector arrays located throughout the campus that occupy a significant portion of the land area. Many of these existing arrays conflict with other land uses described in the Draft, and there are no recommendations as to how or if they might play a continuing role in an alternative renewable energy strategy for the site. There is no discussion of the role that reducing the vast areas of pavement that are found throughout the site might play in heat island reduction.

***Need for a Thoughtful, Innovative and Inclusive Approach to Land Use and Security.*** With the Draft's failure to consider security and secure circulation (given the differing needs among the veteran population) in the concept of Supporting Neighborhoods, the campus may benefit from organizing program elements and services into three tiers of accessibility and security. The tiers of accessible program elements are the services and facilities that are open to all, those that feature controlled accessibility to the public and veterans, and those that are accessible to resident veterans and VA staff only.

#### **Tier 1: The Nest**

This is the most protected area of the campus. The area will address the needs of the most vulnerable veterans while providing a safe and comfortable setting apart from the main resources of the campus. This area will include the majority of housing on the West LA Campus as well as important community needs such as a grocery store and community center.

- Transitional Housing
- PSH
- Homeless Shelter
- Grocery Store
- Veteran Community Center

#### **Tier 2: Veteran Resource Zone**

This area consists of the majority of the West LA Campus. This area would be distinguishable from the surrounding urban landscape as it would present a well landscaped and calming campus atmosphere. To enter this space, both veterans and the public would enter through a Welcome Gate; the gate could implement its own security measures including having hours where the space is closed to civilians. The services located within the Veteran Resource Area include:

- Town Center and Veteran Resource Center
- VA Administration buildings
- Other Administrative buildings
- Wadsworth Theatre
- Brentwood Theatre

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- Golf course (for now)
- Japanese Garden
- Arboretum
- Bird Sanctuary
- Pet Facilities / Dog Kennel
- Arts Recreational Space
- Auditorium
- Film Center
- Educational Resources
- Fitness Center
- Museum
- Parade Ground & Memorials
- Women's Center
- Homeless Clothing Center
- Multi service Center for Homeless Veterans
- Recreational space / Emergency Shelter
- Dining Hall
- Community Garden
- Daycare center and children's space
- Veteran's Hotel

### **Tier 3: Open Access Zone**

This area of the West LA Campus can be entirely open to the public and indistinguishable from the surrounding local urban landscape. This area will act as a “downtown” space for the campus where people can mix, meet and engage in daily activities amongst the general public. This space will also be an important part of integrating the off-campus local veteran community with the West LA Campus by providing space and services that encourage economic activity and entrepreneurship. It is important that this space be connected to the larger community and be located within close walking distance to points of transportation such as Wilshire Boulevard and the Purple Line Subway Station. As well, the area's development can coincide with transportation oriented development efforts. This space can include:

- Veteran's Entrepreneur Center (Loft District)
- Community Education Center
- Vocational Center
- Veteran Business District
- Veteran affordable housing

### ***Principles and Action Items***

#### **PRINCIPLES**

1. Plan the campus with areas and neighborhoods that take security and secure circulation into account. A three tier concept provides a framework for how that could be accomplished.
2. Create a sustainability framework to inform the master plan, encompassing the three-legged sustainability stool – environmental, social and economic.
3. Integrate the West LA Campus into its context, break down its institutional qualities, and make the campus a part of the larger community.

4. Reconceptualize what Community Centers are, what purpose they serve, where they are best located, and how they can encourage social interaction. Consider a hierarchy that relates to programming and an overall campus structure, including some form of a “Town Square” that is identifiably the center of the campus. Details on how this could be done are discussed in the review of the Neighborhoods section.
5. To provide clarity and redundancy to the transportation network, a different system of roads should be considered.

### ***Stakeholder Voices***

#### Green Infrastructure and Buildings

Although the main focus of the campus lies within veteran services, comments have also touched on the importance to build a campus that reflects the modern concerns and challenges of the time including environmental sustainability. Some comments have asked for the campus to water to be conserved through planting environmentally appropriate plants and reusing grey water. Other comments suggest that the campus be rebuilt to energy efficient with low environmental impact.

- *“Native planting for environmentally easy upkeep and some possible veteran job opportunities for their maintenance.” – Irene Mink*
- *“Green home model homes” – Homeless Summit Meeting (08/19)*
- *“Environmental impact study, Address nuclear dump” – Salvatore Grammatico, Community Kick-Off (06/23)*
- *“The Master Plan should be based on a net zero campus, focus on it being a healing center” – Open House #2 07/28)*
- *Address grey water usage” – Open House #4 (08/11)*

#### Transportation

Veterans largely support as much alternative forms of transportation on the campus as possible. A number of comments have asked for the on-campus shuttle system to be updated, expanded and maintain a clear schedule. Still, many veterans have commented that alternative forms of circulation need to be a priority of the Master Plan, not only to aid a community feeling but also to deter large amounts of traffic through the campus.

A representative of the Santa Monica Big Blue Bus wrote to the Federal Registry with their concerns with the current plan. The Big Blue Bus’s Planning Division described the current BBB service to the West LA Campus, asked for clarification as to the plan’s reference to “incorporating environmentally sustainable concepts and “connections and partnerships”, provided feedback for the Draft, and offered to work in conjunction with plan revisions that need to be considered prior to the final Master Plan.

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- *“There will be established free transportation to/from established locations within the community. Also all veterans will be able to request transportation to services/medical appointments, pre-arranged and emergency non-life threatening transportation will be offered” – Kristine Hesse, Air Force*
- *“However, if local bus service went into the campus this would be seamless way to weave locals into the campus and conversely vets into the community. The master plan’s proposed shuttle should travel off campus to the retail locations that master plan references.” – Hamilton Underwood, Air Force*
- *“The first zone should be located where the Purple Line extension will terminate at the West LA VA. Due to the foreseeable increase in pedestrian traffic the primary use of the surrounding area should be retail space. This area would offer veterans, VA employees and Metro riders an opportunity to grab refreshments, purchase clothing and/or small electronics with the added benefit of being tax free since the establishments are located on federal land. In turn, this will generate low-skill employment opportunities for veterans looking to acquire stable incomes.” – Anthony Allman*
- *“BBB [Big Blue Bus] hopes to work with the VA to ensure that adequate connectivity, transfer opportunities to the shuttle, and frequency are all part of what is planned for the VA. We hope to see the plan ensure that Veterans, who do not drive a car due to disability, poverty or choice, are provided adequate and convenient options. While Route 17 will pass through the VA weekdays and Saturdays, BBB hopes to create a Sunday terminus location inside the southern portion of the VA Campus.” - Tim McCormick, Transit Planning Administrator, Big Blue Bus*

#### Community Economics

The veteran community sees the benefits of such a large, high value property along one of the most famous and well-circulated roads in Los Angeles. The space is an attractive area for retail, services, assembly spaces, and other activities and can be used as a source of revenue for other veteran services on the West LA Campus or could be leveraged to provide employment for local veterans. Veteran Anthony Allman identifies the area of the campus where the Purple Line train extension will terminate, “Due to the foreseeable increase in pedestrian traffic the primary use of the surrounding area should be retail space. This area would offer veterans, VA employees and Metro riders an opportunity to grab refreshments, purchase clothing and/or small electronics with the added benefit of being tax free since the establishments are located on federal land. In turn, this will generate low-skill employment opportunities for veterans looking to acquire stable incomes.”

Veterans have suggested using some of the campus space for veteran-run businesses (both emerging and established), veteran services that are also open to the paying public, rentable resources and spaces, a hotel or restaurant, etc. The revenue collected from these alternative uses can help support the primary uses of the veteran campus.

Anna Burrer commented on the Federal Register that the VA could benefit from third-party tenants on the West LA Campus. Burrer suggests, that the campus “establish a VA run management unit and requiring third party users to employ veterans to maintain and run facilities for the tenants.” She

highlights that this could be a mutually beneficial relationship for both the VA and the third party tenants and contribute to economic and resource sustainability.

- *“The VA campus should have sources for sustainable revenue. One lucrative business would be a hotel that is open to the public at competitive market cost, and also available to active duty military and veterans at a significantly discounted rate. The location guarantees regular civilian visitors, and the discounts offer additional incentives for military/veterans.” – Sarah Serrano, Marine Corps*
- *“The West LA VA campus should have a state-of-the-art arts and entertainment facility. The arts have proven to be beneficial for veterans as a therapeutic resource as well as a booming career field. Additionally, having creative arts events and opportunities connects the veteran community to Los Angeles, the entertainment industry capital. It also can be a source for sustainable revenue.” – Sarah Serrano, Marine Corps*
- *“The first zone should be located where the Purple Line extension will terminate at the West LA VA. Due to the foreseeable increase in pedestrian traffic the primary use of the surrounding area should be retail space. This area would offer veterans, VA employees and Metro riders an opportunity to grab refreshments, purchase clothing and/or small electronics with the added benefit of being tax free since the establishments are located on federal land. In turn, this will generate low-skill employment opportunities for veterans looking to acquire stable incomes.” – Anthony Allman, Army*
- *“It seems to me that a good solution would be to establish a VA run management unit and requiring third party users to employ veterans to maintain and run facilities for the tenants. Training and employment opportunities for veterans should be developed. Community tenants should be required to engage with veteran programs and not just use the space. Such partnerships could be truly mutually beneficial, creating private-public partnerships that are revenue- and opportunity- generating for veterans.” – Anna Burrer (Federal Register)*

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VETERANS AFFAIRS WEST LOS ANGELES CAMPUS  
PRELIMINARY DRAFT FINAL MASTER PLAN INDEPENDENT REVIEW  
VETS ADVOCACY, INC. COMMENT DOCUMENT

## D5.4 – Master Plan Framework

### ***Synopsis of Plan Contents & Critical Overview***

*Framework Summary; Implementation Methods; Gateways & Access Points; Circulation; Open Spaces; Parking; Proposed and Existing Buildings; Distribution of Housing, Scale and Design Character (pp. 200 – 219)*

There is some confusion in the Draft between program components, design principles, and physical planning elements that give form to the Master Plan. While the “Scenarios” section should lay out in sufficient detail the program for the Master Plan, the “Framework” should show how that program is most effectively laid out on the site in all of its component elements. These principles and elements should be clear and non-contradictory and form the basis for a phased implementation plan that follows from them.

### ***Analysis of Deficiencies***

FRAMEWORK SUMMARY AND IMPLEMENTATION METHODS (p. 200)

***Inconsistent application of site organizing principles.*** A system of layered zones is shown in Figure D.25 (“WLA Campus Map”) on p. 201. There is no discussion of these zones in the framework chapter (although they are described in the Executive Summary). According to the Executive Summary narrative, the zones are organized by decreasing levels of need for health care and support, from Zone 1 at the southernmost end of the site, around the hospital, through Zone 4 at the northernmost end of the site, which is exclusively dedicated to recreation. The zones appear to be based on nothing more complex than physical distance from the hospital and have no basis in the topographic or built context of the site. As a result, the framework elements that follow have little or no relationship with the zone concept and, in the location of some of the defined “neighborhoods,” contradict it in part. Moreover, there appears to be an implied relationship between the definition of the zones in the Executive Summary and the discussion of Safety in Section E.2. What is the relationship between the zones and the security requirements of the uses provided for in the Draft?

***Incomplete list of planning elements.*** The Draft’s listing of “Implementation Methods” is actually a list of physical planning topics dealt with later in the section. They are not “methods,” but are issues that need to be fleshed out further. The list of features described in the “Framework Summary” is too brief and needs to be amended with more of the features of the Draft that are suggested later in this section. Importantly, to the Draft’s list of “key elements that will contribute to a unique sense of place and animate the campus,” (p. 200) there should be added “a central organizing place that will be the heart of the community, its Town Center.” (See also discussion in Section D5.5 Neighborhoods.)

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***Inconsistencies and oversights in the physical plan.*** In the Campus Map (Figure D.25) there are several features that exist on the site that are missing: Patriot House and Fisher House on the south end of the campus, any and all buildings in the Industrial District, and existing small buildings in the northwest are of the site being the most evident. In addition, it would be useful to have a true land use plan and amenities plan that presents the overall concept for use of the site and its constituent parts.

***Absence of recognition that the West LA Campus use shall be consistent with its originally deeded intent.*** There is no reference in the Draft to the fact that the culture at the West LA Campus needs to be reset and its history recognized broadly. The land was given to veterans as a home 127 years ago, and though it flourished as a community for many years, in recent decades it has been neglected and misused. It is essential that the legacy of the property be honored to help many veterans familiar with this unfortunate narrative heal from the mistreatment of their home going forward. Along these lines, it is important to emphasize and socialize the history of the West LA Campus by meaningfully memorializing it on the campus in some capacity as determined by its veteran owners.

The Framework Summary highlights the goal of “keeping people well through a healing environment,” however the Draft does not consider that the campus and its revitalization offer therapeutic opportunities well beyond those delivered through housing and health care. In a direct and obvious way, the implementation of the Master Plan, in transforming the campus from an institutional medical center into a community with an oasis of resources, will impact veterans from all eras, those struggling with illness, those in search of help with family and career, those looking to volunteer, those looking to rest or recreate at their leisure, and many more. On another level, a good number of veterans, particularly those from the Vietnam era, will heal deeply just to see the property, deeded to them and their predecessors many years ago, become overtly beautiful and non-neglected again. Including veteran input as to its form and uses going forward will provide a great deal of empowerment to a veteran community that has felt discarded and disenfranchised on the campus (as well as in the community).

### ***Principles and Action Items***

Given the implied nature of this section, the purpose is to summarize the rationale for planning and design decisions, and then introduce the methods for accomplishing this in the physical plan for the site. In order to achieve this, this section needs to clearly define what is meant by a Framework Summary and Implementation Methods, and then relate them back to the program.

#### **PRINCIPLES**

1. Reframe the Framework Summary as a composite of program elements and then discuss the resulting design implications.

2. Recast the Implementation Methods section as “Plan Components,” as that more accurately describes what follows. Describe how each of these components relates to the Framework Summary.

#### ACTIONS

- D5.4-1 Amend the list of key elements of the physical plan to be more inclusive and to incorporate the concept of a central organizing feature (i.e., a “Town Center”).
- D5.4-2 Provide a comprehensive development plan illustration that includes all buildings on the site, existing and proposed.
- D5.4-3 Provide a plan illustration that designates all proposed land use on the site.
- D5.4-4 Provide a plan illustration that identifies building uses, in particular those uses that are amenities and/or service sites.
- D5.4-5 Integrate the original deeded intent of the campus in the design framework.
- D5.4-6 Recognize the role of the campus revitalization in creating a healing environment.

#### GATEWAYS AND ACCESS POINTS (p. 202)

***Insufficient clarity in the purpose, location and function of designated gateways.*** The gateways to the campus provide the first opportunity to interact with the surrounding community and set the tone for the type of openness the campus is envisioned as having. With the stated goal of deinstitutionalizing the campus, these gateways are critical in providing the balance of safety and access. The Open Access gateway on the north side of Wilshire is a logical location for a very public interface; however the plan does not take advantage of this. One of the two Gateway Features in the Draft is located here, but it is internal to the site and it is not clearly defined as to what it is or what purpose it serves. The future Metro subway station is a major access point that is not addressed in the Draft.

***Inadequate definition of access points by modality.*** There is no differentiation between access points for cars, bikes and pedestrians, which is needed as there are pedestrian connections to adjacent neighborhoods in the pedestrian circulation diagram that are not shown as access points. Further, there is a major gate at the corner of Wilshire and San Vicente (LA GLA Park), which is a grand pedestrian gateway, yet is not acknowledged in the Draft. The same can be said for the gated access points off of Wilshire, into the Wadsworth Historic Park.

***Absence of correlation of access plan with security provisions recommended in the Safety section.***

Access points are also a key component of the security of the site and there should be a direct relationship between the recommendations provided in the Safety section (E2 Safety) and the access point plan. If the south campus is envisioned to contain all of the MC uses, the access plan should reflect that. The plan shows the access for the south campus as completely open and the north as predominantly controlled access, which contradicts the anticipated security requirements.

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### ***Principles and Action Items***

To have a comprehensive access plan, considerations that go beyond landscape and control points are needed. To accomplish this, the Draft should address these principles:

#### PRINCIPLES

1. Identify points of campus entry, balancing consideration of access and safety, and keeping in mind the goal of deinstitutionalizing the feel of the West LA Campus.
2. Realize the need to differentiate between types of access points, considering modality, adjacent and internal uses, and connections within the West LA Campus.

#### ACTIONS

- D5.4-7 Identify program and land use opportunities that take advantage of being at or in close proximity to the public access points.
- D5.4-8 Differentiate between vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian access points and identify the types of access controls involved for each of these methods of mobility.
- D5.4-9 Define what a gateway feature is and clarify the approach for location selection.
- D5.4-10 Clearly relate the access point plan and security measures to the requirements put forth in the Safety section.

#### VEHICULAR CIRCULATION (p. 204)

***Lack of clarity in the vehicular circulation plan.*** The vehicular circulation plan centers on the Greenway, which is described as a multi-modal boulevard that provides connections throughout the campus. The northern terminus at Barrington Place presents huge traffic problems, as it routes the largest road in the plan onto a Local Road, as designated by the City of Los Angeles.

The Draft identifies a hierarchy of roads, but there is no description of how these designations were made and how these road types relate to the land uses they serve. While the Draft describes pedestrian facilities that are integrated into the roads, there are no road sections to show their character and capacity.

#### Other issues:

- The system lacks redundancy and has circuitous east-west connections.
- The industrial area lacks any through-roads, with the only access being a cul-de-sac off of the Greenway and Constitution Avenue, which borders on the north.

- The plan for the south campus does not include any changes to the road network, maintaining the lengthy and indirect ring-road as the only way of traversing that area of site.

### ***Principles and Action Items***

The circulation system enables access throughout the site, however given the diversity of land uses and populations on the West LA Campus, a more thoughtful approach is needed. This necessitates differentiating the system where security is the priority and where increased access is desired.

#### **PRINCIPLES**

1. Organize the vehicular circulation to support the three-tier model discussed in the Design Concepts section.
2. View the circulation system as an opportunity to contribute to the deinstitutionalization of the West LA Campus.

#### **ACTIONS**

- D5.4-11 Analyze the implications of terminating a major boulevard into a Local Road (Barrington Place) and identify mitigation measures if needed.
- D5.4-12 Relate the road types and sections to the traffic study (once released) and land uses. Locate drop-off areas that are necessary given the strategy of locating parking away from the center of neighborhoods.
- D5.4-13 Differentiate between existing roads or road segments that are to be improved and new roads that are proposed.
- D5.4-14 Identify opportunities for more direct connections and access to areas that currently have little or no access, to increase redundancy.

#### **BICYCLE AND SHUTTLE CIRCULATION (p. 206)**

***Lack of clarity and rational planning for bicycles and shuttles.*** The Draft reports on the benefits of cycling and has included a bicycle network as a means of both transportation and fitness. The network consists of Class 2 and Class 3 paths, meaning there are no separate, Class 1 bike paths proposed on the campus. The Greenway is intended to have an on-street bike lane, however there is no road section to indicate how wide and protected the path is, or the relationship between the path and vehicular lanes. The Class 2 lane on the Greenway does not extend into the south campus area, creating a dangerous condition for those crossing from the north into the hospital area. There is also no consideration of connecting the bike network with the planned Metro subway station.

The bike network does not take into account the surrounding bike lanes shown in the Civil section, as there is no bike route that connects with the bikeway on Sepulveda Blvd. Without any bike lanes

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through the south campus, there is also a missed opportunity to connect with the Class 2 lane along Ohio Avenue.

The shuttle route extends to Barrington Place in the north, but does not stop there to provide an on and off point for riders that want to visit the neighborhood retail cluster located there. In general, the stops are not coordinated with the neighborhood Community Centers, and there is only one stop to serve the entire south campus. The shuttle stops are not well coordinated with either the nearby Metro bus routes or Big Blue Bus routes, with no stop on the south side of Wilshire Blvd and no connection to the bus stops along Sunset Blvd. The routes are completely internal to the site, with no consideration of potential destinations either locally or regionally to or from which veterans would benefit from having transportation.

### ***Principles and Action Items***

A comprehensive mobility plan should consider each modality, how they interact and the unique needs of the users. Applying this to the Draft, the principles are as follows:

#### **PRINCIPLES**

1. Recognize the diverse needs of cyclists in the veteran community and create a bike network that is safe, useful and enjoyable to use.
2. Consider transit as an integrated system, not as an internal network that is isolated from the surrounding transit infrastructure.

#### **ACTIONS**

- D5.4-15 Develop a bicycle network that extends throughout the site, connects with neighboring bikeways, and provides Class 1 paths through the vast open areas for scenic, recreational rides.
- D5.4-16 Coordinate the shuttle stops with the community centers and regional mass transportation networks. Consider an additional shuttle concept that connects to destinations outside of the site.

#### **PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION (p. 208)**

***Lack of clarity and rational planning for pedestrian circulation.*** The pedestrian network is extensive and many pedestrian-friendly upgrades to existing facilities are proposed. The map of the network does not show where these improvements will occur, where existing pedestrian infrastructure is located and what new infrastructure is proposed. Two locations are identified for pedestrian crossing improvements; however, the most significant crossing at Wilshire Blvd is not addressed. A second

crossing at an existing tunnel is proposed, however there are substantial improvements needed to make that a place pedestrians would consider using.

The Draft lists 5 controlled access gates; however, those are not noted on the map. There are a series of pedestrian connections to the Brentwood Glen neighborhood in the northeast, which have questionable use given their purpose is to connect with a single family neighborhood. Further, none of those access points are noted as controlled.

The walking distance map concentrates on distances from Destination Points; however, there is no explanation what these places are and what uses they contain. They do not coordinate with the Community Centers and no destinations are shown in the south campus.

### ***Principles and Action Items***

The pedestrian circulation network is a part of the overall mobility plan and should be treated as such. The following principles address this:

#### **PRINCIPLES**

1. Create a pedestrian plan that provides clarity in route selection and hierarchy. Consider destinations, transit, accessibility and security in forming the network.
2. Recognize the context in which the network lies, identifying connections outside of the West LA Campus that should be made and others that should be avoided.

#### **ACTIONS**

- D5.4-17 Develop an inventory of existing pedestrian facilities and identify areas that need improvement and areas that need new infrastructure. Coordinate the pedestrian access plan with the requirements in the Safety section.
- D5.4-18 Evaluate the necessity of the connections made to the Brentwood Glen neighborhood and determine whether additional pedestrian routes are needed to connect to places like Barrington Park and Heroes Golf Course.
- D5.4-19 Consider improvements needed to the Wilshire underpass and pedestrian tunnel to make them safe and inviting, including improvements for those with mobility issues. Integrate pedestrian improvements proposed by Metro for the planned subway station.

#### **SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING (p. 213)**

***Excessive reliance on signage to assist in site legibility and wayfinding.*** To contribute to the circulation of the campus, the Draft suggests key changes to signage and wayfinding. The Draft calls for a “well designed system of signage” that includes monument signage, kiosks at the pedestrian and vehicular

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entries to the campus as well as campus maps located at the primary entrances, parking areas, and pedestrian and vehicular decision points.

The proposed system does not account for the physical features of the campus beyond signs and maps that can help orient visitors, residents and staff throughout the campus. The Master Plan should indicate how the campus can develop a sense of place beyond the signs that will establish identity and legibility. The Welcome Center should be located near a major entrance to the campus and be easily identifiable through orientation to entry and campus layout, signage, landscape, and lighting. Other monuments and open spaces on campus can also act as orientation points with the help of landscape, lighting and signage. These spaces can act as orientating markers throughout the campus and give visitors, residents, and staff a sense of place, allowing the campus to be more easily “read” beyond signage and maps.

The Draft also does not take into account the shuttle system that is previously mentioned as a form of circulation within the campus. Campus maps should be located at each shuttle stop on campus as well as each Metro bus and subway stop adjacent to the campus. Furthermore, a GPS-based app should be considered not only as a map for the campus but as well would have live updates on shuttle and bus schedules.

### ***Principles and Action Items***

Wayfinding should be reconceived to not rely on signage the sole means to get the West LA Campus. convoluted campus design. The overarching principles to accomplish this are:

#### **PRINCIPLES**

1. Use design interventions that make wayfinding logical, in order to reduce reliance on signage.
2. Develop the site plan with a focus on creating a sense of place.

#### **ACTIONS**

D5.4-20 Name the existing and new buildings on campus instead of relying on numbers that perpetuate a more institutional feel to the campus.

D5.4-21 After designating the primary entrances on campus, identifying the location of a campus Welcome Center and or a community center, develop a landscape and pathway design strategy that gives these areas a distinguished sense of place.

#### **OPEN SPACE (p. 214)**

***Incomplete and inconsistent identification of the role of open space on the campus.*** The open space plan is built around the re-imagination of the historic green spaces, integration of existing recreation areas and creation of new neighborhood open spaces. There is a hierarchy concept that is implied in the

Draft but is not overtly defined. The programming and uses of the less formal open spaces have not been described, leaving questions as to what spaces such as the Wadsworth Historic Park, South Entry Lawn, and Arroyo-Drainage area will be used for. Other existing spaces are not called out in the Draft, such as the Women Veterans Rose Garden, the Barrington Park playing fields, and Vet's Garden. Given that the Brentwood School athletic facilities, Heroes Golf Course, and UCLA stadium are a part of the open space plan, the assumption is that these are uses that will stay. As these are a part of leases to outside entities, the plan should be explicit in the long term use of these recreation areas.

In addition to the parks and gardens, the circulation that connects the open spaces should be a part of the overall open space plan. These landscaped sidewalks and walking paths are what create an open space network but they have not been integrated into the plan. Other than the Greenway, there is no framework for how these spaces create a network.

The Historic Preservation report lists streetscape and landscape features that contribute to the historic district. These spaces should be identified in the Master Plan and recommendations should be given for how the character can be retained and what improvements can be made while maintaining historic status.

It is stated that the open spaces will minimize fences and gates but also maximize a sense of security. There is no explanation for how those two opposing goals are reconciled. The open space plan should identify aspects of the Safety report that impact the access, design and functions of the open spaces.

Sustainability and water usage are key factors in the design of the open space, but there are no policies in the open space plan on how this should be addressed. Given the vast areas of turf that exist on the site, the Master Plan should address ideas for a landscape that is less water-intensive and consistent with design objectives.

### ***Principles and Action Items***

The open space plan should be reconceived as a network, which means each space is not isolated, but a part of a system. Accessibility and program become important components, which the Draft only briefly touches on. The principles to accomplish this are:

#### **PRINCIPLES**

1. Develop the plan with clear ideas of how each space relates to the others and how physical connections are made between open spaces.
2. Identify key program aspects that relate to open space, and coordinate them with the adjacent land uses.
3. In rehabilitating existing open spaces and creating new ones, consider preservation of historic spaces and how to apply sustainability measures.

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## ACTIONS

- D5.4-22 Develop a clear hierarchy of open spaces that is inclusive of programming ideas to differentiate how spaces are to be used.
- D5.4-23 Integrate the primary pedestrian connections with open spaces to formulate a true network.
- D5.4-24 Identify historic components of the open space plan along with preservation and enhancement concepts.
- D5.4-25 Coordinate the open space plan with the Safety plan.
- D5.4-26 Integrate ideas of sustainability as an overlay on the landscaping of the open space.
- D5.4-27 Identify and inventory significant landscape elements (including plant materials and other features) that should be retained and incorporated into the plan.

## PARKING (p. 216)

***Absence of parking demand analysis and insufficiently realized parking concept.*** The parking plan proposes to reduce surface parking in the central campus, largely in favor of structures and shuttle-served parking areas. This will create a more pedestrian-friendly environment and enable much of the existing pavement to be replaced with development and green space. The primary deficiency is that there is minimal analysis of demand and no analysis of supply created in the plan to determine whether what is shown on the parking map is a sufficient amount of land. Structured parking is not differentiated from subterranean parking and one of the subterranean structures has no access.

The plan states that parking for visitors and staff will be served by shuttles, however the parking plan does not relate to the shuttle plan and the plan does not differentiate between parking for on-campus residents and visitor/staff parking.

Some areas have no dedicated parking, such as the recreation area and welcome center, which should be directly served by on-site parking. In some cases this could be addressed by on-street parking, however the plan does not account for that. There are significant distances between parking and some residential buildings, which is a concern given the mobility issues seen in the veteran population.

Given the substantial constraints discussed in the Safety section, there is no contingency for how to park the site if subterranean structures are not allowed. Further, underground parking is a costly option, which should be acknowledged as a constraint that could render the parking plan infeasible.

### ***Principles and Action Items***

The parking plan requires a full reconceptualization, involving the incorporation of additional information on existing supply, projected demand, cost and security restrictions.

#### **PRINCIPLES**

1. Develop a parking plan that takes a comprehensive look at the various constraints and is clearly related to existing and projected demand.
2. Consider accessibility, land uses, and potential users in determining the appropriate type and location of parking facilities.

#### **ACTIONS**

- D5.4-27 Coordinate the parking plan with parking study (to be completed in December).
- D5.4-28 Create a mobility overlay on the parking plan to show drop off areas and accessible parking zones.
- D5.4-29 Develop an alternative strategy that does not rely heavily on subterranean parking.
- D5.4-30 Assess the potential for on-street parking.
- D5.4-31 Develop a parking plan for the south campus.
- D5.4-32 Evaluate strategies for peak parking events.
- D5.4-33 Incorporate the planned parking structure shown in the Metro subway station plan.

#### **PROPOSED AND EXISTING BUILDINGS (p. 218)**

***Insufficient evaluation of existing buildings for their re-use potential.*** The Draft identifies the buildings on the north and south campus that can be demolished or relocated in order to accommodate new development and to reinforce the organization of the campus into neighborhoods. The Draft notes that a strategy was developed through a comprehensive analysis and evaluation of the existing facilities and campus services, but that analysis, parameters, opportunities or constraints are never defined within the Draft. There is an inadequate description of the old buildings and new buildings and their functions, their physical renovation requirements, and their proposed role in enhancing the campus for veterans. It is therefore unclear how existing buildings can be renovated, and what key functions the new construction can satisfy.

These unclear parameters make it difficult to follow many of the recommendations made by this chapter in the Draft. The Draft notably ignores the existing south of Wilshire buildings as well as the entire Industrial District, and offers no strategies for these existing buildings. The Draft calls for the demolition of a number of historically contributing buildings pending NEPA and National Historic Preservation Act compliance. Also, the Draft diagrammatically suggests new infill buildings with similar footprints to the historical structures. Without a full understanding of program and spatial

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requirements as well as analysis of opportunities and constraints in renovation and reuse, these important evaluations and suggestions are difficult to make.

***Absence of any mention of plans to restore historic buildings on the campus.*** Historic buildings and their preservation is not recognized in this chapter. In a later chapter the Draft mentions the relocation of a National Register building (Building 66, Trolley Depot) to a different place on the campus but does not give a strong reason for this decision. Included in the Draft is a letter regarding permission being granted by the Secretary to pursue outside fundraising for restoration of five (5) historic buildings on the campus (Buildings 23, 20, 33, 66 and 199). This effort is essential to revitalizing the West LA Campus as it not only represents a beacon of hope to all interested stakeholders but also heralds a change in how VA and the community will care about veterans going forward. On a more concrete level, restored historic buildings will help to create an inviting milieu and assist in bringing the campus back to its former, proud condition in which it provided great benefit and inspired dignity in the veteran community. Restoration of buildings also could provide training and employment opportunities for veterans on-site.

### ***Principles and Action Items***

This section requires additional detail on various fronts to justify the conclusions reflected in the plan. Without that information, there is question as to whether the decisions reflected in the Buildings Plan are based on analysis or some other metric.

#### **PRINCIPLES**

1. Be forthright in describing the methodology used for the comprehensive analysis of existing buildings. The variables and unknowns should all be acknowledged.
2. Coordinate the evaluation of existing buildings with their potential for renovation and anticipated future uses.
3. Create a clear strategy to determine whether renovation or new construction is the proper direction, given well-defined use, program, and adaptability of existing buildings.

#### **ACTIONS**

- D5.4-34 Clearly state the planned housing program and show how the requirements for each type of housing can be placed either in existing or new buildings and the form those new buildings would optimally take.
- D5.4-35 Clarify the plan to explain the parameters used to determine the removal or re-use of historically contributing buildings and develop a clear strategy for adaptive re-use.
- D5.4-36 Identify locations for new buildings and create building footprints and massing schemes based on the programmatic needs of the campus.

- D5.4-37 Explore the enormous potential and opportunity of the Industrial District and its proximity to the future subway station; assess the buildings and land area in terms of potential for new uses based on the needs of the campus.
- D5.4-38 Acknowledge the assets of the five (5) historic buildings on the campus authorized for restoration and incorporate them into the development concept in a meaningful way.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSING, SCALE AND CHARACTER (p. 220)

Housing type and mix is discussed earlier in the review of Section D1 Veteran Housing.

***Inadequate definition of design criteria for diverse housing types.*** The discussion of housing design is limited in both how existing buildings can be improved and how new construction will be designed. Deficiencies in the existing housing are highlighted, but there are no maps or images to reference specific issues. Concepts for how new construction will relate to the goal of *creating a community* are not specific other than suggestions for incorporation of outdoor and shared space (see also Town Center comments in Section D5.5 Neighborhoods).

The existing transitional and bridge housing buildings are identified as not creating a sense of community and having a perception of being institutional. There are few details on typologies of new buildings, but other than locating new buildings to create courtyards, it is unclear how this perception is remedied. When comparing the new building footprints to those of existing buildings, there are replications of what are already on the site.

The permanent supportive housing also aims to establish a “community feel;” however, there are not enough details to determine how this is intended to be done through design. The new buildings in the MacArthur neighborhood are aligned linearly along the Greenway, not allowing for a true center of the neighborhood. A new neighborhood on an unbuilt area is proposed, but there is no map to indicate the location. There are also no images to describe the scale and characteristics of adjacent buildings which are indicated to be the inspiration for this new neighborhood.

#### ***Principles and Action Items***

As is the case in the Existing and Proposed Buildings section, there is a need for a substantial amount of additional detail to fully cover this topic.

#### PRINCIPLES

1. Develop comprehensive descriptions of the building typologies that best fit the various housing types.
2. Describe what constitutes a community and how that can be achieved given the opportunities and constraints on the site.

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## ACTIONS

- D5.4-39 Better define the components of what can be done with design to create a sense of community.
- D5.4-40 Analyze new building typologies that break down the institutional feel of the campus.
- D5.4-41 Provide visuals to strengthen concepts for how rehabilitated and new buildings will look and perform.

### ***Stakeholder Voices***

In efforts to revitalize the West LA Campus and make the campus into a community center, veterans have expressed the need to reevaluate the physical presence of the campus. The existing layout and physical appearance of the campus is far from the welcoming and healing environment desired by the veterans. Veteran feedback has pointed to a number of ways to impact the campus environment.

A common point of discussion is campus accessibility, particularly for non-veterans. The challenge remains to balance an open and accessible campus for the public while prohibiting the campus from being exploited by the public for its open space and road connections and maintaining a secure environment for veterans.

Circulation to and within the West LA Campus is a strong concern among veterans and stakeholders. Many veterans have voiced their concern for the current methods of public transportation that can be taken to and from the campus and how the service can be more accommodating to veterans, particularly those that are disabled or handicapped. The veteran community was alarmed by the exclusion of plans or consideration for the intended subway stop on the campus.

Furthermore, circulation within the campus raised a number of questions and suggestions from the veteran stakeholders. A number of veterans voiced their desire to limit car access to the campus and to concentrate on pedestrian and bicycle pathways. To do so, veterans have asked that the campus be built with a higher density of buildings that would allow resources to be close by as well as more compelling walking environment. Veterans would like to see a more efficient and better produced shuttle service throughout the campus as well.

Many veterans have noted the difficulty of wayfinding throughout the West LA Campus. Signage and campus maps are high on the recommended items. Some veterans request to identify the buildings by a name instead of a number. Veteran Mike Dowling suggests the buildings, and even the campus as a whole, be named after influential or rewarded veterans as a “subtle way to honor the vet community on the campus” and “improve morale.”

Preserving the history of the campus also transform the environment of the campus into a place of pride for the veteran community. The many historically significant buildings were mentioned in stakeholder meetings and comments as opportunistic assets of the campus. Veterans proposed that these restored buildings can be used to lure the public onto the campus and help educate them about veteran history. Many expressed a desire for the Chapel to be restored and used as an icon for the campus. As thousands of members of the greater Los Angeles areas move pass the Chapel each day, the restored historic structure can spark the interest of the public and act as a symbol for the veteran community.

Another inviting item of the campus is the open space. Veterans are very pointed in the direction of what kind of outdoor spaces are needed and desired. There is a concern that too much open space runs the risk of attracting unwanted and visitors to the campus, as the campus is today. However, there is also an expressed desire and need for gardens and therapeutic outdoor space, recreational areas, sports fields and walking paths. Some veterans have expressed concern for the environmental impact of large lawns and heavily landscaped areas.

#### Gateways and Access Points

- *"I read in the master plan that we have a problem with auto traffic cutting through the campus to avoid the heavily traffic intersection at San Vicente and Wilshire Blvds. I think we can solve both of these issues with gate guards who check for VA cards, worker badges or any kind of military or veteran identification." Alan Pietruszewski, Commander, US Navy (retired)*
- *"Those driving by may have no idea whether they are passing by a rundown mental institution, an abandoned small university or in fact a VA campus that is open to the public. If the campus is to have a vibrant sense of community ("community" is referenced multiple times in the master plan) it needs to be as welcoming to the public as well. None of the exits, particularly those off Wilshire are inviting. The proposed gateways at the Wilshire and San Vicente entrances are excellent ideas." – Hamilton Underwood, Air Force*

#### Circulation

- *"We shouldn't devote too much land and attention to the automobile." – Open House #3*
- *"LA County Metro is in the process of revamping its public transportation system, adding new Purple lines, and increasing the Wilshire Bus Rapid Transit Project, this would be a perfect time to align these efforts toward an efficient method or transportation into the campus." –Jawana McFadden, Army*

#### Signage and Wayfinding

- *"The West LA VA campus should have much better signage/maps detailing where facilities/services on the campus are located, and there should be more walking/bike paths throughout the campus." – Seth Frederick Smith, Navy*

#### Parking

- *Moving parking to the edges of the campus and focusing internal on pedestrian and shuttle circulation – Open House #2*

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- *"Many homeless have vehicles" – Blue Butterfly meeting*
- *Parking for guests; Space for families to visit: Fischer House or Hotel – B209 Residents Group meeting*
- *"Parking is insufficient if it is less than one space per resident, as LA is a car dependent city. Also, this would not allow any parking for veterans' visitors. Please don't skimp on the parking, put it underground and do one big dig in the beginning." – Lynn Osborne*

#### Open Space

- *"There needs to be sustainable landscaping. Natural grass should be reserved for areas where people will actually use it such as a central square or a concert venue." – Jorge Rodriguez*
- *"There could be a family park next to it as well to encourage veterans to bring their families on to campus." – Mike Dowling*
- *"There should be some form of landscaping as you want the campus to look aesthetic and welcoming. It should be sustainable." – Joe Juarez*
- *"I would hesitate on the compulsion to over build the campus and insure that there is plenty of open space (keep the golf course). An example would be to follow the infrastructures of active duty military installations and all the services and facilities that they provide; that should be used as a template, i.e., Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR)." – Dam Smee*
- *"For the children who will also be on campus, I suggest a vegetable garden so that good eating habits can be fostered by learning how to grow food and its use. A maze might be fun too. Some of the environments should offer seating for reading, relaxing and simply contemplating the beauty." – Irene Mink*

#### Character and Distribution of Housing

- *"300 acres should be used to build a housing facility for disabled veterans. A large enough multi-level apartment structure able to house 10,000 with a gym, 5 Olympic sized pools, 3 quarter-mile running tracks, an events center sized appropriately to cater to crowds of 10,000, a cafeteria to feed 10,000 daily, a bus terminal, and a Chapel." – Anonymous*
- *"Campus is a dark place to come, wants the Chapel to be the first item refurbished" – John Keaveny, Community Kick-Off*
- *Use the Wadsworth and Brentwood Theatres – Westwood Community meeting*
- *"More space dedicated to Arts and History Preservation. More than veterans visit the VA hospital, friends, family members, caretakers, and supporters visit these facilities as well. I am proposing that veteran artist be commissioned to add painting, sculptures, statues and more that will represent the veteran community from the point of view of the veterans. An arts center will be needed for the artist to plan and prepare object for display, conduct art classes and more. Also to preserve these images and our Armed Forces history I propose a museum to be created in order to preserve those memories.*

*“This facility will honor all that have served in the great wars and will show supporters what their freedom cost.” – Heraclio Marshall*

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## D5.5 – Neighborhoods

### ***Synopsis of Plan Contents & Critical Overview***

*Neighborhood Development; Patton, Arnold, MacArthur, Vandergrift, Dewey, Grant and Pershing Neighborhoods (pp. 221 – 235)*

The Draft's subtitle is "Planning a Community for Veterans," yet what the Draft proposes is a loose collection of "neighborhoods" without a center or a heart. The Draft fails to show how the a gravitational center can contribute to strengthening the community of veterans, enhancing their quality of life, and facilitating their reintegration fully into the civilian world. There is no "Town Center," there is no opportunity provided for innovation in reintegration, and even the neighborhoods are weakly defined in terms of what comprises them, what their character is, and how they relate to one another.

### ***Analysis of Deficiencies***

#### HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS

***Absence of a clear definition of "neighborhood."*** The Draft identifies seven "neighborhoods" intended to be "clusters of buildings to break down the size of the campus into more manageable zones," focused around a "community center" within a six-minute walk from any residential unit (see Section D5.3 "Master Plan Design Concepts" for further comments on the Community Centers). Instead of well-defined neighborhoods, however, the Draft shows collections of buildings divided by roads, their purpose defined only as a place for the "functions of daily living" (p. 196). The Draft fails to explain what defines these neighborhoods. All but two of them are described as containing permanent supportive housing; the Dewey neighborhood adjacent to Bringham Avenue is described as providing units for "Veterans able to live more independent lifestyles," and the Grant neighborhood, immediately north of Wilshire Boulevard, is intended to include "transitional, bridge, and domiciliary" as well as permanent supportive housing. Beyond these housing distinctions, which themselves are not clearly defined in terms of their building types, there is nothing more said about what comprises a neighborhood and its qualities and characteristics.

Moreover, in the plans shown in Figures D.35 through D.40, all of the neighborhoods essentially look alike. The Draft fails to distinguish transitional housing in look and program from permanent supportive housing, fails to prescribe the appropriate distribution of housing and support need types within a neighborhood, and fails to query whether to mingle different housing types, and thus veterans with different needs and life stories, within the same neighborhood. A more diverse neighborhood mix might help veterans to connect and could facilitate their reintegration journey. The Draft does not address these questions.

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***Insufficient discussion of veteran populations of high vulnerability.*** The Draft does not discuss the particular needs of veteran sub-populations who may need specific accommodations in their neighborhoods. For example, single female veterans, single parents and their children, and LGBT veterans, may each require a neighborhood setting that helps to make them feel safer.

***Insufficient consideration of other neighborhood locations.*** There are significant areas of the overall site that are not considered or barely considered as opportunity sites for neighborhood or other development locations. Primary among these are the idea of introducing new uses south of Wilshire (the “South Campus”), and any alternate use considerations for the large land area bordering Sepulveda and Wilshire Boulevards (the “Industrial District”).

The Draft’s concept for the south of Wilshire campus and its relationship to the whole limits its future use to medical care facilities. Besides overlooking several significant buildings already located there (Patriot House, Fisher House, and the building leased to the American Red Cross, for example), there is no discussion about what functions other than veterans’ medical care could co-exist with mutual benefit. For one, research functions currently located north of Wilshire might better be located nearer the hospital in new and more appropriate facilities, freeing up those parts of the north campus that they currently occupy. The Draft recommends (in Section E2. Safety, p. 285) the relocation of “MC [Mission Critical] facilities to the south campus” and development of “the north campus master plan considering LS [Life Safety] requirements, which do not require active barriers to be provided.” The Draft’s concept plan, however, does not reflect this. Such a move would consolidate uses with common safety and security requirements, bring veterans requiring such services in closer proximity to the providers, and free the north campus from the more restrictive constraints required by MC security criteria. In addition, the south campus’s southerly edge, along Ohio Avenue, is not discussed either as a buffer or as a binder for the Sawtelle/West Los Angeles neighborhood to its south. This area of the site might be an appropriate place to introduce workforce housing (veteran and non-veteran) for those employed at the hospital or elsewhere at the West LA Campus.

The Draft is silent on the future of the Industrial District north of Wilshire and west of Sepulveda Boulevards. This largely flat site is located at the same grade as Sepulveda, below the bluff that separates it from the main north campus area. The Draft notes that it currently contains “laundry facilities, engineering shops, an oil lease area and a supply warehouse” (p. 162). It is also the area of the site that contains the UCLA Jackie Robinson Stadium, as well as vast areas of paved lots sometimes used for parking or storage. The Draft identifies the Industrial District as a site for “potential expansion neighborhoods” (Figure D.22, p. 195), but its role in the overall future of the campus is otherwise not discussed. As one area of the campus that has direct and ready access from a public street, and whose existing facilities appear to be utilized inefficiently, the Industrial District needs to be examined in light of its future potential. Given its ready accessibility from Sepulveda Boulevard and its potential resource of industrial buildings easily convertible to incubator space and other kinds of business development

types of space, this region of the campus might be considered as a location for the Reintegration Zone uses described above.

Other areas of the campus that are similarly unexplored in the Draft are the Heroes Golf Course and the Brentwood School's recreation areas, again identified as sites for "potential expansion neighborhoods" (Figure D.22, p. 195), but otherwise not much considered as to their potential for housing, veterans' hospitality, or services.

## TOWN CENTER

***Absence of a concept that binds the whole of the campus as a coherent veterans' community.*** For a campus to become a place that fosters belonging to a larger community, facilitates positive social dynamics, and promotes various opportunities for veteran-driven enterprises will require that it have a center of gravity or "Town Square"- like space in the heart of the property. In the Draft there is no such central organizing feature.

The objective to serve the program needs of a diverse array of veterans in the region suggests an opportunity for the West LA Campus to support both its resident veteran population as well as those non-resident veterans who are seeking a place that can be a "home base" for their various organizations and enterprises.

For resident veterans, there needs to be what any healthy community has, which is a "downtown," or central place where people mix and meet and engage in daily activities. The West LA Campus should offer opportunities for veterans to establish bonds within the veteran community as well as to present opportunities for outreach and connection to the community-at-large. There should also be, then, a part of the site where the general public can be invited in and interested veterans can participate and reintegrate with that broader economy.

Each neighborhood is described as having its own "community center," focused on the needs of its own residents, but nothing in the Draft explains what ties the neighborhoods together into a community. The neighborhoods should not be self-contained and the Master Plan should encourage mixing; hence, the campus plan should radiate out from one central point. There are services (beyond the medical services centered south of Wilshire) whose scale of operation and reach across the veteran population warrant the creation of a "Town Center," a forum or agora that serves the entire site and that anchors its identity as a Veterans' Community.

Located centrally within the Veteran's Resource Zone, the Town Center will be the boast the mass of veteran services as well as important program to help develop the center into a community meeting point. To establish a sense of community, the center can accommodate a café, small retail spaces, a fitness center, and day care and children services. However, the Town Center needs more than anything

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to establish itself as a first stop for all VA and Veteran services and events in Los Angeles County. A Vet Resource Center or Library will act as a “one-stop shop” and can provide veterans with a welcoming place to seek services, advice and community. The resource and services center will include a complete list of the West LA Campus services, recreational and club space, an auditorium, technology and business center, a women’s center, a 24-hour counseling wing that provides services to not just veterans but their children and families, reintegration and educational classes, art classes, and rentable spaces for veteran organizations.

The Town Center should be connected to the neighborhoods by pedestrian paths and roads, and especially by a site-wide shuttle and should serve as the “center of gravity” for veterans on the site. A direct roadway will connect the “Town Center” to a residential community center, located within the Nest of the campus, as well as an information and welcome center within the Open Access Zone. The residents’ community center can stand as a more secluded and exclusive community center for veterans living on campus. This space may be entirely closed to the public and possess facilities and services specific to the residents of the community. The center may include counseling services, recreational and multi-purpose spaces, outdoor space, a community theatre, and a dining hall.

The Open Access Zone will also need a central point as an identifying marker and gathering space for the veterans as well as the larger civilian community. This second center might be near or adjacent to the first, but should have visibility and access from the surrounding city streets and public transportation. Proximity to the future Purple Line subway station would be highly desirable. Functions here could include training and career education opportunities, rentable incubator space for veteran-owned start-ups, operation space for veterans’ organizations and other veteran service-related non-profits, and might also include affordable housing options for eligible veterans.

## WELCOME AND ORIENTATION

***Incomplete program definition and inconsistent recommendations for a Welcome Center.*** Other functions that serve the entire site that are mentioned in the Draft, such as the Welcome Center proposed for Building 300 (or Building 13 – the Draft mentions both but does not differentiate their use or criteria for choosing one over the other), need to be better defined. If the Welcome Center represents a kind of one-stop clearinghouse for incoming veterans to learn about available services and housing options and understand opportunities for placement, then it should be located convenient to one of the entrances to the site, not be buried within a particular neighborhood deep inside the site. A Welcome Center should be located at or near an entrance to the site, be accessible from the public transportation system, have convenient adjacent parking, and also be convenient to facilities on the campus that provide immediate services for veterans.

In this case, the Welcome Center may be well placed within the community area of the Open Access Zone, adjacent to campus access points. The Open Access Zone will be an easy area to transition people

onto the campus as it will be located near points of access such as Wilshire Boulevard and the Purple Line Station. The Welcome Center can teach visitors and veterans about the campus and provide information concerning services as well as the campus features and history.

## BUILDING TYPOLOGIES

***Insufficient description of housing typologies and their impact on existing building re-use.*** The Draft identifies a flexible approach to accommodating housing units of various size but uses a relatively simplistic distribution of units throughout its description of the housing capacity of each of the neighborhoods. There is no focused discussion of the costs and benefits of renovation and adaptive re-use of existing buildings, nor is there an analysis of the uses for which they are best suited. The Draft's proposal to renovate existing buildings for an initial use (transitional housing) for later conversion to another use (supportive housing) needs further clarification, as it implies spending twice for renovation (p. 222). Without an analysis of the physical requirements of these housing types, there is no basis for evaluating this proposal's cost-effectiveness.

***Absence of argument for type, form and location of new infill buildings.*** The Draft's "plan is to construct clusters of buildings to break down the size of the campus" (p. 221), but these clusters are not shown. Instead, the seven "neighborhoods" are made up of existing buildings and new infill buildings that replicate the footprints of the existing buildings, thus reinforcing, not breaking down, the institutional structure of the campus. The Master Plan needs to ask: What is the proposed use of these infill buildings, how do those uses differ from those in the renovated historic buildings, and why do the new buildings mimic the form and organization of the existing buildings? Where are opportunities to demolish older buildings that are substandard and inappropriate for renovation, where new infill construction could help to enhance the livability and character of the neighborhood and better define common spaces and outdoor use? In places in the Draft this uninspired imitation of the existing buildings' footprints leads to some startling and unsupported recommendations. For example, the relocation of the historic Trolley Depot and demolition of the original Hoover Barracks appear to be based on nothing more than the geometries of the Draft's proposed new Pershing neighborhood, designed to be like some of the other historic building clusters. It is ironic that a building listed on the National Register of Historic Places, one of the oldest historic structures on the site, would be compromised to make way for new buildings designed to mimic other historic contributors on the site.

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### ***Principles and Action Items***

The physical master plan needs to be reconsidered in the context of a more complete, complex and robust program for a new or revitalized community for veterans. The critical principles in achieving this are as follows:

#### **PRINCIPLES**

1. The three tiers approach discussed in the Design Concepts section should be the basis for differentiating major areas of the West LA Campus.
2. Neighborhood diversity, in terms both of housing type and service needs, should be addressed in defining the structure of each neighborhood. The recommendations of the historic preservation section and the safety section should be used to define the scope of renovation within the neighborhoods and the edges around them.
3. The West LA Campus should have an easily accessible Welcome Center that serves as one-stop for veteran services.
4. Create a plan that addresses the entirety of the site, including the open spaces, industrial area, leased parcels and south of Wilshire area.

#### **ACTIONS**

- 5.5-1 Revise the physical master plan to include a Town Center that offers opportunities for veterans to establish bonds within the veteran community that includes access to “retail” counseling and support as well as cafés, a fitness center, wellness, arts and entertainment, and small retail shops.
- 5.5-2 Revise the physical master plan to include a mixed-use “Reintegration Zone” where non-resident veterans as well as resident veterans can connect with the broader Los Angeles community through employment, education and training. Select a site with public visibility and direct public access from city streets and public transportation, including the future Purple Line subway station.
- 5.5-3 Prepare a clear program for a multi-service Welcome Center. Revise the physical master plan to locate such a center at or near an entrance to the site, accessible from public transportation, with convenient adjacent parking, and convenient to facilities on the campus that provide immediate services for veterans.
- 5.5-4 Prepare a clear program and set of development criteria that define what comprises a neighborhood, its qualities and characteristics.
- 5.5-5 Revise the physical master plan to identify neighborhoods of appropriate scale and diversity of use and building types, and locate these to connect appropriately with the Town Center and common services.

- 5.5-6 Define the housing and locational needs of female veterans, veterans with children, and LGBT veterans and others with particular needs, and revise the physical master plan to identify neighborhood locations that meet those needs.
- 5.5-7 Revise the program and the physical master plan concept for the south of Wilshire campus to define its relationship to the whole, taking into account the Safety recommendations to consolidate Mission Critical facilities in this zone.
- 5.5-8 Revise the physical master plan to account for uses within the Wadsworth Park area of the site, with specific re-use recommendations for the existing structures located there. Consider the use of this area for housing veterans with children.
- 5.5-9 Consider revising the physical master plan to accommodate workforce housing at the southernmost end of the site.
- 5.5-10 Revise the physical master plan to re-position it as the Reintegration Zone described above, with reuse of its industrial buildings as incubator space and other kinds of business development facilities, including veteran businesses and workforce training.
- 5.5-11 Revise the physical master plan to explore in greater detail the longer-range potential of sites for housing, veterans' hospitality, or services.

### ***Stakeholder Voices***

The Leadership Team felt that the Neighborhood chapter of the Draft lacked information and detail as to what made a "neighborhood". This confusion was represented in a comment by Navy veteran, Jackie Perez. She wrote, "There are no definitions of what is [the Draft's] idea / definition of 'Neighborhood' or 'community'." Furthermore, the chapter overlooked potential "neighborhoods" on the South campus that many veterans feel can contribute to the site.

- *"Currently there is no specific mention to use of the space where the VA executive housing is currently neither located nor specific plans that I saw for an exclusive area for women veterans head of household and their children for permanent supportive. That area could become beautiful neighborhood for that specific purpose and a daycare should be built with the housing in that neighborhood with sidewalks, basketball court, and other safe areas for children and adults to play."* – Jim Zenner, Army

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## **D5.6 – Phasing**

### ***Synopsis of Plan Contents & Critical Overview***

#### ***Phasing (p. 236)***

A phasing process could be recommended to assist in facilitating reintegration. Given the urgent need to house homeless veterans and to develop a safe and secure community around them, the first phase should focus on an initial permanent supportive housing project based on an initial assessment of need for such housing. This phase could convert some existing buildings on the West LA Campus into a foundation for a community serving some of the most vulnerable veterans. The second phase could focus on campus development for non-resident veterans and housing for populations other than the initial targeted population. The final phase could involve development of a portion of the West LA Campus where veterans and civilians share space; for this purpose, it is recommended that the Draft's "Industrial Zone" be re-conceptualized and renamed the "Reintegration Zone." This would be an intentional effort, thoughtfully timed in the implementation process, to promote veteran reintegration and help bridge the military-civilian divide that troubles the Los Angeles community and communities around our nation.

### ***Analysis of Deficiencies***

The Draft lacks a general timeline. The Draft's ideas of phasing are unclear and ineffective without some sense of a timeline for campus development. Phasing of the Master Plan needs to present a clear and logical timeline of development for both the north and south campus that outlines the Master Plan's priorities while maintaining a holistic approach to the functions and programs of the campus. The initial program called for the immediate development (over 10 years) of 700–900 units, yet there is no clear designation as to where and when those units will be developed. The chapter notes that the north campus will "address the need of 700-900 units and the capacity of up to 2,500 units of new permanent supportive housing and approximately 700 short term treatment or transitional housing beds." The plan commits to 700-900 units, but it is unclear whether that is for the first phase or how the full site plan will map onto the campus. The Draft does not set forth the final number of units expected to be on the West LA Campus. The phasing document should designate the type and number of units and where they will be located in each phase. Given the urgent need to house homeless veterans, the Master Plan can and should develop an initial permanent supportive housing project based on an initial estimate of housing need among homeless veterans.

The Draft does not mention the length of each phase, and hence the term of the final site strategy is unknown. Although it is important to have an idea of the plan's term, it is also important to include potential site development beyond the phase of the Master Plan. The Master Plan should include opportunities areas for future growth as well as consider potential events and developments within the area.

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The Phasing chapter notes the development of a “neighborhood – with its required infrastructure, parking, and community amenities.” However, the phasing description does not explain the development of the amenities, services, landscaping, and infrastructure and does not acknowledge immediacy or an efficient construction plan that should be considered in the Master Plan’s phasing. The Greenway, a key design concept as well as a key piece of connecting infrastructure, has no phasing strategy explained in the Draft, and is only slightly represented in the phasing diagrams. A phasing plan that is explained entirely through neighborhood development does not take connective elements of the campus into consideration. It should also be noted that the Welcome Center (Building 13) is the center for all veteran services, but this building is not included in renovation until the mid-term phase. The Draft fails to explain where services will be located for the short-term phase.

Lastly, the campus as it is today does not foster a community, partly due to the scene of destitute buildings located on the campus. The phasing must consider what can be done with these buildings before they can be renovated. A “mothballing” strategy, aligned with a plan for historic preservation, will help build an integrated community atmosphere and help preserve the site’s history before the final term of the plan.

### ***Principles and Action Items***

The thoughtful phasing plan must go beyond simply identifying neighborhoods that are built over time, and consider the populations served and projects that will meet their needs, while also allowing for flexibility. There are several principles that need to be considered for the final phasing plan.

#### **PRINCIPLES**

1. The plan needs a list of goals and implementation actions for immediate, five and ten year phases, with additional consideration of ultimate build-out capacity. The five year plan should describe companion projects to the catalytic projects that are of primary and immediate focus. The ten year plan should include longer term implementation projects that are not of urgent need and provide services for a larger number and wider variety of the veteran community.
2. The plan should identify a specific project or projects for immediate implementation to meet the most urgent housing and service needs. These should be sited to minimize lengthy entitlement processes.
3. Take into account the need for long term flexibility, considering events or changes regarding veteran’s needs, administration as well as changes in and around the West LA Campus. Although the plan must encompass a time frame, it also needs to be able to be molded and transformed over time to best fit the needs of the community.
4. Incorporate consideration for how the campus will affect and be affected by the changes and developments of the neighboring area. In particular, the expected expansion of the Metro Purple line will have a significant impact on the circulation and urban development for the area.

## ACTIONS

- D5.6-1 Clearly identify the building blocks of each phase, including housing by type and occupancy; services, by housing/need type (including relocation and consolidation); utilities and infrastructure; circulation and parking; landscape and open space.
- D5.6-2 Identify and provide a detailed program and strategy for development of an initial housing project for homeless veterans in the immediate term, with a specific site and plan for implementation.

### ***Stakeholder Voices***

Through Vets Advocacy, Inc.'s stakeholder engagement process, the Veteran Leadership Team frequently asked to know the timeline of the Draft. According to Army veteran Sanford Cook, the Draft lacks a "general timeline for implementation, and, if it is a complex plan, as this one is, [the Master Plan needs] intermediate timeline-based goals to aid in measurement of success. Veteran Cook also expressed the need for immediacy to start enacting primary phases of the plan. He continued, "In this case the timeline should start now since the problems exist, full-blown, and cannot wait for the perfect solution to get started."

- *"There should be sufficient housing, both temporary and permanent, to accommodate every disabled, homeless veteran in need of those services. There should be more permanent and temporary housing the master plan calls for It may be a temporary housing unit where the veteran as well as the governing parties have time to make an assessment of the needs of every individual. Once the assessment is completed, the veteran should be placed in the most appropriate housing for his/her needs, i.e. close to medical services, shopping, etc." – Joe Juarez, Air Force*

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## E1 – Civil

### ***Synopsis of Plan Contents & Critical Overview***

#### ***Civil Constraints Mapping; Civil Utilities (North Campus Site Utility Infrastructure) (pp. 243 – 273)***

Supporting exhibits show without meaningful analysis or commentary, the civil constraints mapped from existing available record data for the West LA Campus. These records include: parcel data, zoning, land use, sensitive species, bus lines and bikeways, aircraft flight patterns, topography, rainfall, FEMA, earthquake faults, liquefaction zones and soil types. There is no reference in this section to the impacts of these conditions on the plan.

This chapter also gives limited analysis and some recommendations for the site utility infrastructure. Recommendations that, in the beginning phase, there should be new construction near the south and west portions of the north campus to reduce replacement costs of older utilities. This recommendation is not reflected in the proposed phasing plan (see Section D5.6 Phasing for further comments). While utilities may not necessarily be the most important driver to phasing decisions, the Draft does not explore or explain why it makes a contrary recommendation.

### ***Analysis of Deficiencies***

***Absence of a comprehensive utilities master plan.*** The Draft presents limited analysis of the existing utility infrastructure on the site. The information available for analysis in the Draft is reported to be incomplete (noting, for example, that the planners met with VA facility staff on July 28, 2015 and that there are "are some outstanding items that have not yet been provided,") and in any case, existing conditions are shown in a series of exhibits that identify the north campus area only. Moreover, there are inconsistencies in the reporting of available data. For example, the Draft states, "For information on gas, telecommunication, electrical, steam and oil please refer to the...MEP section for a summary on those specific site utilities." There is no separate MEP section, but only diagrammatic maps of the telecommunication lines, steam lines, electrical facilities and oil and gas lines, presented without comment. The expansive network of solar panels that have been install across the campus are left out of this section as well.

The infrastructure analysis is inadequate for the north campus and nonexistent with respect to the south campus. The Draft, in its conclusion with respect to the sanitary sewer system, concludes that the system is old and that the "need for sewer infrastructure replacement will need to be determined based on future studies." The same could be said with respect to all of the other elements of infrastructure as well. In other words, a proper study of all of the utilities needs to be done as a precondition for moving forward toward a repurposing of the West LA Campus.

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**Implications of Civil Constraints.** Several maps display constraints that could have impacts on the development of the campus, however no analysis or explanation of these constraints are discussed. For example, there are liquefaction zones, an earthquake fault and differing soil types that are identified, but other than pointing out that these conditions exist, nothing else is said. While it may be that these conditions have minimal impact on the site, a conclusion should be stated.

**Coordination of information with the Site Analysis section.** As was mentioned in the Site Analysis section, there is information in the Civil section that is critical to a proper Site Analysis, but is not included. Most importantly, these include the mass transit routes and bikeways. It is mentioned in the notes from the July 21<sup>st</sup> Open House meeting that the location of the Metro subway station has been sent to Washington DC for comment from the Secretary of the VA. This is a major topic that relates directly to the infrastructure of the site, however no further update on this subject is provided outside of these meeting minutes. As is the case with the utility maps, the mass transit and bikeway map, do not include the south campus, which is a major oversight as access into the hospital area and from Ohio Avenue is disregarded.

### **Principles and Action Items**

Prepare a complete Utilities Master Plan with detailed updates for all utility systems, to document fully the existing conditions on the campus, including the locations, conditions, and capacities of (1) central plant steam lines, (2) electrical facilities, (3) telecommunications, (4) gas and oil service, (5) sanitary sewer, (6) water service, and (7) storm drain systems.

#### **PRINCIPLES**

1. Utilize the information from the completed Utilities Master Plan to inform phasing and infrastructure improvement priorities.
2. Evaluate the mapped constraints and produce conclusions that identify restrictions on development. Where appropriate, move the analysis and conclusions to the Site Analysis section.

#### **ACTIONS**

In particular, priority shall be given to completing the recommendations of the Draft's Civil Utilities analysis, including but not limited to the following:

- E1-1 A full underground utility survey should be completed for the existing sewer system to correlate existing and future sewer demands.
- E1-2 New construction in the beginning phases should be placed near the south and west portions of the north campus to reduce replacement costs to the older main lines.

- E1-3 For the repurposing of existing buildings in early phases of the implementation of the Master Plan, the existing adjacent sewer system should be analyzed further (including video) to verify pipe condition.
- E1-4 Further study will need to be completed to determine the feasibility of these connections to the public system. Existing public system capacity and potential additional demand will need to be determined.
- E1-5 Study the feasibility of future connections (or increase in flow) to the public system. Determine existing public system capacity and impacts of potential additional runoff.
- E1-6 Survey the existing storm drain system in predetermined areas where drainage areas will potentially be changing, including impervious areas.
- E1-7 Prepare, as part of an overall sustainability strategy, standards for storm water treatment to occur immediately adjacent to proposed improvements prior to discharge into a storm drain system or open channel.
- E1-8 Complete a study on a next generation telecommunications network, to provide high speed voice, data and media across the campus. This should also include a plan for providing campus-wide wi-fi and an enhanced cellular network.
- E1-9 Analyze the existing capacity of the infrastructure and determine whether the long term plan can be satisfied with what is currently in place. Develop an inventory of the solar panels on site, determine their capacity to generate power over time and make recommendations for additional methods of alternative energy generation. Produce a plan for relocation of the solar panels as the land they occupy is converted to other uses.
- E1-10 Analyze the capacity and efficiency of the existing central plant and determine whether it is sufficient for the on-going existing needs and planned needs of the campus. Determine the condition of the existing steam line infrastructure and its potential to handle expansion and an increased load. Study whether a centralized plant is desirable for the campus as it grows or if there are alternative means to provide heating and cooling.
- E1-11 Determine the condition and potential for expansion of the gas lines and network. At the drill site, study the potential hazards and mitigation measures typically needed to develop that land once it is abandoned.



## **E2 – Safety**

### ***Synopsis of Plan Contents & Critical Overview***

*VA West LA Master Planning Physical Security Narrative, Building Classification, Methodology, Building Standoff, Perimeter Fences, Site Entry / Exit Points (Vehicle & Pedestrian Screening), Anti-Ram Rated Vehicle Barriers, Parking (pp. 282 – 287)*

The physical security report focuses on five key points/features of the Draft that would need to comply with the VA Physical Security Design Manual (PSDM) standards: building standoff, perimeter fences, site entry/exit points, anti-ram rated vehicle barriers and parking. Each feature has recommendations for different options on how to proceed. There are two common options that continue to arise throughout the security chapter: A) Reconfigure the plan to align with the PSDM standards; B) Submit a request for review and approval by VA to waive regulations.

The two facility classifications, Mission Critical (MC) and Life-Safety (LS), carry specific design requirements, and to minimize the implementation of the more constraining MC requirements, uses have been clustered according to classification. Despite the clustering of LS facilities in the north campus, the mixture of facilities results in a blanket MC requirement, nullifying the security benefit of clustering. The strategy to avoid the site-wide MC requirement is a waiver, which is logical, but the plan does not display the flexibility to handle a scenario where the waiver is not granted. The narrative mentions an option of relocating all MC program buildings to the south campus, but the Draft does not show a plan for that area, so it is not known how that will be accomplished.

### ***Analysis of Deficiencies***

#### **BUILDING STANDOFF**

These requirements are discussed in terms of parking and travel distances from the curb line to the building exterior. The required minimum proximities for both MC and LS facilities call into question whether the planned parking areas will meet those standards. This is most relevant in the subterranean parking structures that are located beneath proposed buildings, but also in some surface parking areas shown on the parking map (Figure D.32). There is no text in the Parking plan that acknowledges these potential constraints.

#### **PERIMETER FENCES**

Both LS and MC facilities necessitate a contiguous perimeter barrier. The recommendation in the Draft is to install a perimeter barrier in compliance with PSDM requirements; however the Draft does not have a fencing plan or discussion on perimeter security. A variance waiver is suggested if the barrier will prevent the establishment of an open campus, however there is no methodology for making that determination or alternative means of perimeter security that would take the place of the perimeter barrier.

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#### SITE ENTRY/EXIT POINTS

The PSDM requirement for MC facilities is for substantial security measures at entry points, for both vehicles and pedestrians. There are no requirements for LS facilities. The Gateways and Access Points plan is inconsistent with these requirements, as there is open access to the MC facilities in the south campus. There is no firm recommendation in the report for how to handle access points in the north campus, but the option to submit a waiver should be the priority, given the number of access points for vehicles and pedestrians. The Pedestrian Circulation plan makes no mention of security requirements, which is a major oversight given the pedestrian-only access shown in the south campus. There also is no acknowledgement of the Metro subway station, which is a major pedestrian access point, located in an MC area.

#### ANTI-RAM RATED VEHICLE BARRIERS

The report recommends passive barriers to be located at critical locations in the north campus. The plan does not designate where these locations are or criteria for determining what constitutes a critical location. There is no firm recommendation for addressing active barrier requirements in the north campus, just a list of options.

#### PARKING

The most critical aspect of the findings is that the PSDM prohibits below-building parking for new construction. The parking plan shows four separate instances of garages below new buildings, making up a large percentage of the overall planned parking capacity. The security report recommends reconfiguring parking to comply with PSDM requirements, but that is not addressed in the Parking section of the plan. The recommended contingencies to allow below-building parking are onerous, including restricting who can use that parking and the screening of vehicles. Further, much of the below-building parking is located in the Grant Neighborhood, which has been identified as the location in the north campus for MC facilities.

#### ***Principles and Action Items***

The security report should inform decisions in the Draft to a greater extent than is currently done. There are significant issues that impact the basic design of the West LA Campus, but these are not addressed. Principles include:

##### PRINCIPLES

1. Coordinate the physical plan with Physical Security Design Manual (PSDM) requirements as appropriate. Where this is inappropriate or not feasible, provide reasoning why it cannot be done. Where following the requirements is not desired, discuss how the requirements conflict with the plan concept.

2. Make recommendations that list the priority path forward, which should be the outcome reflected in the plan. Then rank alternatives with a discussion on how they impact the plan.

#### ACTIONS

- E2-1 Coordinate building standoff requirements with the road and parking plan.
- E2-2 Create a perimeter barrier plan that is consistent with the PSDM and security report recommendations.
- E2-3 Adjust the Gateways and Access Points plan to reflect the Mission Critical (MC) requirements in the south campus.
- E2-4 Integrate the Metro subway station into the Site Entry/Exit Points section of the study.
- E2-5 Develop a pedestrian plan that includes entry points that consider the PSDM requirements.
- E2-6 Map critical locations for passive barriers.
- E2-7 Identify locations for below-building parking that do not conflict with MC facilities.
- E2-8 Create an alternative parking plan that is not dependent on below-building parking.



## **F1 – Historic Preservation**

### ***Synopsis of Plan Contents & Critical Overview***

*Introduction and Project Summary, West Los Angeles VA Historic District, VA Mission and Vision for Great Los Angeles Urban Master Plan, Historic Preservation and the Greater Los Angeles Urban Master Plan, Regulatory Basis for Incorporating Historic Preservation into Master Plan, Secretary's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, Professional Qualification Standards for Historic Preservation Professionals, VA Directive 7545, Cultural Resource Management, Glossary of Preservation-Related Terminology, West Los Angeles VA Historic District at a Glance, West Los Angeles VA Historic District: Visual Overview of Development History, Inventory and Property List, West Los Angeles VA Historic District, Methodology for Incorporating Historic Preservation into Master Plan Process, Outreach and Education, Project Context: Historic Preservation and the Master Plan, Notes on Overall Conceptual Plan, Plan Elements and Strategies for Compliance with Secretary's Standards, Conclusion and Recommendations for Further Study, Recommendations. (pp. F1.01 – F1.39)*

The report by Chattel, Inc. provides an extensive history of the West LA Campus, including maps, images, and an inventory of the properties that contribute to the historic districts. Overall, the report offers a good summary of requirements and standards for historic preservation, both in general and for the West LA Campus. The report identifies the portions of the plan that relate to historic preservation and states that the purpose of the report is to help the planning team meet the VA mission while retaining the historic integrity of the district. Because of the lack of detail in the Draft, the report is only able to give an initial reaction, which is that the Master Plan is on a positive course. To back this up, the report states the plan will need ongoing preservation input. Most of the recommendations in the report have to do with specific preservation techniques for buildings, and are therefore informative rather than actionable.

The Draft only deals with a portion of the overall West LA Campus, however the Historic Preservation report encompasses all 388 acres, plus the cemetery. Because the Draft does not deal with the district south of Wilshire or the industrial area, both of which contain contributing properties, there is an open question as to how historic preservation will be applied in those areas. The list of contributing Site Plan, Landscape and Streetscape features is detailed, however without a map to link the analysis to the campus, it is difficult to get a firm grasp on what is and is not historic. The map on page F1.33 is helpful but does not go into enough detail. The Historic Preservation Plan that is under preparation (different contract, completion date not identified) will hopefully resolve this issue.

The report discusses design approaches for avoiding significant impacts on historic properties. One component is differentiating new construction from the historic buildings within a historic district. The plan uses footprints of existing, historic buildings as the basis for new buildings, which calls into question whether these new buildings will be sufficiently differentiated.

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The biggest question regarding historic preservation is the validity of relocating the historic Streetcar Depot. There is not adequate description of why this needs to be done or where it will be located to, and the wording in the Historic Preservation report is cautious because of this. While the report notes that the immediate setting has been altered, it also lists "Removal/relocation of the property from its historic location and setting" as an adverse effect. This issue should be more directly addressed.

In general, the report is thorough in identifying recommendations and areas of future study, which are needed because of the conceptual nature of the plan. The report could be more concise, as there are areas where text and statements are repeated at no additional benefit.

### ***Principles and Action Items***

The Historic Preservation Report is almost a stand-alone document, as it is more informative of how the process should unfold as the plan becomes more detailed, than a substantive discussion of how the current plan complies with the Secretary's Standards.

#### **PRINCIPLE**

1. Coordinate the Master Plan Development section explicitly with the Historic Preservation report and discuss how it influences the plan-making process.

#### **ACTIONS**

- F1-1 Provide more detailed programming for the buildings that are to be restored, so they can be analyzed under the historic preservation criteria.
- F1-2 Integrate the Opportunities and Constraints diagram information into the Site Analysis.
- F1-3 Expand the Master Plan area to allow a discussion of preservation on the full 388 acres.
- F1-4 Provide greater detail on new building types and how they are differentiated from the historic structures.

## **F2 – Environmental Impact**

### ***Synopsis of Plan Contents & Critical Overview***

#### ***National Environmental Policy Act and VA Implementing Regulations Requirements (p. F2.02)***

This section has very little information and only reports on the NEPA process and how it relates to VA policy. There is no mention of state or local regulations that apply to the campus. The NEPA process was initiated with the development of the Master Plan, however there is no description of what that process is reviewing, what it will entail or any timeline for obtaining feedback.

There is a list of VA Implementing Regulations but it does not go beyond reporting the policy. There is no analysis or discussion of how the plan fits within these policies.

There are a couple important omissions that relate directly to environmental impact. A Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment is a necessary undertaking, made even more important by the industrial and oil extraction uses on the campus. The plan does not highlight this as a necessary, short term item to complete. The plan also does not have an actionable first phase, so any environmental review will be “high level” and not related to a specific activity. In order to initiate the CEQA process, there must be an activity, however without a proposal for a defined, actionable first phase, there is nothing to review.

### ***Principles and Action Items***

There should be a list of major actions that have been included in the NEPA process that was initiated concurrently with the creation of the Draft. As additional actions are taken, those too should be included in the process.

#### **PRINCIPLE**

1. As early as possible, initiate the various environmental review processes to both ensure any roadblocks are discovered early on and to expedite implementation.

#### **ACTION**

- F2-1 Expand the discussion of environmental regulations to encompass all that relate to the redevelopment of the campus.
- F2-2 Identify the first phase so that a project-specific review can be initiated.
- F2-3 Complete a Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment. Attached hereto is a Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment of the West LA Campus prepared by Geosyntec Consultants.

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VETERANS AFFAIRS WEST LOS ANGELES CAMPUS  
PRELIMINARY DRAFT FINAL MASTER PLAN INDEPENDENT REVIEW  
VETS ADVOCACY, INC. COMMENT DOCUMENT

## **F3 – Traffic**

### ***Synopsis of Plan Contents & Critical Overview***

#### ***Introduction, Methodology (pp. F3.02 – F3.07)***

This is a part of the traffic and parking study which will be completed in December 2015. It reads as a draft, with references to figures and appendix items that do not exist. As the study is ongoing, methodology is nearly the entirety of the content. While the methodology description it is thorough, there is no mention of the impact of the Metro subway station on either traffic projections or parking demand. These could be significant since the VA station is the terminus as currently planned.

The introduction describes the contents of what is to be included in the final study. The phasing that is described does not relate to the phasing elsewhere in the Draft, specifically regarding a previously unidentified immediate phase in 2015. Further, the timeframes for the four development phases are only seen in this study, not in the Phasing section.

Given the lack of programming in the Draft, and areas left out (specifically the area south of Wilshire and the industrial zone), a meaningful traffic and parking analysis for the future condition will be incomplete. Because the Draft is deficient in providing details on street capacity, the traffic analysis will be based on partial information. The Parking section in the plan only gives broad gestures to where parking will be located, without assigning numbers of spaces to specific lots and structures. The lack of detail on locations of services and amenities makes demand projections problematic. Because of this, the results of the parking analysis will be preliminary and subject to great change.

### ***Principles and Action Items***

The plan needs to provide enough information so that the traffic and parking study can produce meaningful data and conclusions.

#### **PRINCIPLES**

1. Coordinate the sections that impact traffic (circulation, access points, parking, program, phasing) so there is not conflicting or missing information.
2. Engage the traffic and parking study consultants throughout the plan-making process so that feedback can inform design decisions.

#### **ACTIONS**

This study will only be as good as the information provided by the plan. Because of the omissions and lack of detail in the plan related to transportation, land use and mobility, the final traffic and parking

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study should be seen as a work in progress. These are the action items based on what has been submitted thus far:

- F3-1 Coordinate phasing of the traffic and parking study with the phasing of the overall Master Plan.
- F3-2 Include implications of the Metro subway station into the study.

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## **04 STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS**

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## Stakeholder Engagement

Following the public release of the Draft on October 22, 2015, stakeholders were given the opportunity to make comments via the Federal Register's website or through a website portal managed by Vets Advocacy, Inc. All comments received by 7:30pm PST on December 4, 2015, are considered and collected in this document.

### ***Vets Advocacy Inc.***

Vets Advocacy Inc. orchestrated two ways to collect comments. The first form of comment that was considered in the development of this review, but not individually submitted to the Federal Register, was through meetings with the veterans Leadership Team. The second form of comment was collected through written and recorded submissions to the #VATheRightWay website and then submitted to the National Registry.

### VETERAN CONTINUED EDUCATION SEMINARS

Vets Advocacy, Inc. started [#VATheRightWay](#) to ask veterans for their ideas in developing a model VA campus designed for the 21st Century. The #VATheRightWay campaign served as a platform for veterans' voices to be heard. General consensus from the key stakeholders (veterans) was that they were unaware of the Draft. To remedy this, Vets Advocacy, Inc. held weekly educational meetings (7:30-9:00PM to accommodate for work schedules) to update and inform veterans in the Los Angeles area about the West LA Campus and the Draft.

#### Monday, September 15th- VSO Leadership meeting re: Master Plan

Description: A group of 10 veterans met at We Are The Mighty to learn about the West LA Campus and the Draft master plan. Many of the veterans were unaware of the campus' history and that there was a draft master plan being worked on.

#### Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>: Housing (Vince Kane)

Description: Special Assistant to Secretary Robert McDonald and housing specialist Vince Kane presented the history and evolution of housing programs to serve homeless veterans and potentials for the West LA Campus.

#### Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup>: UCLA (Gary Blasi)

Description: Gary Blasi, Professor Emeritus at UCLA School of Law and Public Counsel lawyer discussed one of the most contested parcels of land on the West LA Campus: the UCLA baseball stadium. Blasi discussed the history of UCLA's relationship with the VA and educated the group on current legislation, which would allow VA to contract with UCLA to use veteran land.

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Monday October 5<sup>th</sup>: 1888 Deed (Carolina Barrie)

Description: In 1888, Senator John P. Jones and Arcadia B. de Baker donated 300 acres of land establishing the Pacific Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. Carolina Barrie, a descendant of that donating family, educated veterans on the history of the deed, shared photos of the campus in its heyday and answered questions re: services and opportunities offered on the campus.

Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>: Public Private Partnership (Kathy Ku, Munger, Tolles, Olson)

Description: Kathy Ku, Partner at Munger, Tolles, Olson LLC, educated veterans on public-private partnerships (P3), provided examples and explained how a P3 could potentially work on the West LA Campus.

Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>: Meeting at Team Rubicon

Description: Visited Team Rubicon headquarters to educate the staff on the Draft master plan and ways they can contribute.

## COMPENDIUM OF COMMENTS

In addition to the meetings, Vets Advocacy, Inc. collected comments through written and recorded submissions to the #VATheRightWay website and then submitted to the Federal Register. The pages that follow are a catalog of all comments posted on the #VATheRightWay and Federal Register websites as of 7:30 pm PST on December 4, 2015. Besides the posted comments, the collection also includes additional letters and documents posted as attachments to one or both of those sites; these are collected at the back of the listings.

## **COMMENTS POSTED ON #VATHERIGHTWAY**

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Topic	Sub-Topic	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Implementation	Plan & Outreach	3. How about recruiting some of the pre-eminent developers in Southern California such as Caruso Affiliated (developers of The Grove, Pacific Palisades Village Project) or Lowe Enterprises (developer of Teranea) to review, comment and possibly manage on a cost or pro bono basis the development of the new campus. These groups have the experience in developing attractive, successful projects.	Dan	Caldwell	Navy, Peperdine University
Implementation	Plan & Outreach	As a veteran who is very vested in this project, I am shocked that the VA would only allow 45 days for veterans to provide input to the master plan. This is a massive project that should be well thought out rather than rushed. We need more time!			
Implementation	Plan & Outreach	satisfied with all.			
Implementation	Plan & Outreach	It would be beneficial for VA representatives to attend TAP classes at the nearby bases, and offer to register servicemen and servicewomen who are separating from the military. These representatives could answer questions regarding procedures to apply for benefits and medical care. This could help mitigate the confusion some veterans have about how the VA system works.	Natalie	Ferbezar	Navy
Implementation	Plan & Outreach	I would like to see case managers from various VA programs such as HUD/VASH and SSVF make on site visits to the transitional housing programs for veterans. Some veterans cannot easily make the trip to the West VA campus. Coming to the veterans would make the process much easier.	Natalie	Ferbezar	Navy
Implementation	Plan & Outreach	Problem: A goal is stated in Section C: Stakeholder Engagement to "Ensure as many stakeholders as possible receive information related to the Master Plan" but there is no mention of data as to how many veterans reside in Los Angeles whose opinion is valued. While social media outreach data is provided there is no data provided on how many in person attendees participated in their community outreach meetings. These numbers would provide an empirical look at the success or lack of success of Stakeholder Engagement.	Jackie	Perez	Navy
		Solution: The VA.gov website provides estimated numbers of veterans living in the state of CA and in specific cities: <a href="http://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/SpecialReports/State_Summaries_California.pdf">http://www.va.gov/vetdata/docs/SpecialReports/State_Summaries_California.pdf</a> Use this data to show the percentage of Stakeholders reached. The social media reach seems extremely low. Have influential members of the veteran community or non-veteran community leaders link to awareness sites. After a 5 minute search through Mayor Eric Garcetti's Mayor's Office of Veteran Affairs website I was unable to find any information or links to the West LA VA issue. If any action items were implemented from the Key Stakeholder Group Briefings they should be listed. With the survey outreach, what is the percentage of feedback received compared the veteran community in Los Angeles? None of these numbers are given.			
Implementation	Plan & Outreach	On page two of the handout last updated November 5, 2015 it states the master plan is the "blueprint for revitalizing physical elements of the campus." After attending several of the community meetings and visiting the actual VA grounds I feel like the master plan is lacking in exactly that .... It doesn't at all feature revitalizing the physical elements that are already in place and doesn't use the natural beauty and topography of such a wonderful piece of property to its best advantage. Instead the plan seems to dissect the area into four sections without paying homage to the legacy and the historical significance of the existing buildings and space. The result loses any natural flow and in turn feels very forced and institutional exactly what I heard at the last meeting in Santa Monica the VA was trying to avoid and the goal was to restore and reinvigorate the land and the original intent of the donation to create a new model a new vision for future VA locations that would honor both the past, present and the future and in turn provide for the veterans of the past, present and future.			
Implementation	Plan & Outreach	My name is Neal Zumbro and I served as an infantry squad leader in the United States Marines throughout OIF & OEF. Transitioning out of the military was very difficult and still is at times. One does not simply forget how to be a warrior and simply become a civilian. The job of fighting insurgents in complex battlefields was very dangerous and exciting. It can be difficult today to find enjoyment in our mundane regular lives when the stakes aren't very high. For me the practice of jiu jitsu has given me a vehicle to access my warrior side, get adrenaline rushes, scares, fears etc. all within the comforts of a training environment. The release I get from a typical 30-60 min sparing session is enough to bring me back to a relaxed and cooperative mood. The Master Plan should elaborate on the center for therapeutic services. The need for a center that would include a space for the safe and effective training of martial arts such as jiu jitsu, judo, etc would be highly desirable. Many veterans like myself have even earned black belts in these arts from some of the most well respected teachers in their respective disciplines. Vets like us should be included to help other vets in a dedicated space that should be included in the plan. Martial arts provide a solid foundation for individuals who desire physical and mental challenges like those once faced in combat situations.			

Topic	Sub-Topic	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Implementation	Plan & Outreach	I feel the Draft Master Plan does not seem to comprehend the tremendous need to create a holistic and visionary approach to the property. It falls very short of details on how this VA property can become a vibrant and exceptional place to serve veterans of all ages and backgrounds. Examples of areas that need to be addressed include a place for veterans and their immediate families to get support through alternative therapies, job training, childcare, recreation, arts facilities and work. It does not explain how to create community through the use of the living spaces or the communal spaces for interaction.. There seems to be no true understanding of the unique needs of veterans outside of the broad approach to housing. Even the housing details are limited and do not seem to address the varieties of housing that might be needed in the future.			
Implementation	Plan & Outreach	After sitting through several meetings and group discussions regarding the VA in the past year. I feel like the current master plan is too sterile and doesn't have the integrity and direction that the original donation of the land intended. The historical documents and photo history show a quite an amazing history of a self sufficient property that was run with pride and honor by the vets in conjunction with the community. I think this property can be that again - but to do so you must break the mold of the status quo and think outside the box. The current master plan is quite like a box and breaks the ground up into just large sections and doesn't seem to have been given much thought to the existing land and resources available. This is the opportunity to do something amazing and honor the legacy of the original donation and in turn honor the vets of the past, present and future. Please do not disappoint the veterans and the community.	Sarah	Fendley	
Implementation	Plan & Outreach	See attached	Sanford	Cook	Army
Implementation	Stewardship	There is a need for a better way to file a complain, that includes direct contact and follow up as well as Veteran comity that can evaluate if it was properly resolved in the event of the person that filed the complain is not satisfied.	Mayra	Plascencia	Marine Corps, New Directions
Implementation	Stewardship	There is no talk in the master plan of accountability of VA and non-profits receiving VA money who serve veterans by veterans.	Jim	Zenner	Army, Volunteers of America
		There needs to be a board appointed that consists entirely of veterans from various backgrounds who are willing and able to perform their role on the advisory board because of their work experience in both the military and civilian workplace. The board should be in control of quality assurance department on va campus working with MIRECC directly as well as oversee quality controls over non-profit receiving VA money to not only ensure they meet numbers but that veterans are satisfied with service.			
Implementation	Stewardship	Creating a Community A Community needs to include ownership by its citizens. My suggestion is that the residents of the West LA site form a Community Resident Association that focus on their local needs, issues and community improvements. This Association can be made up of residents as well as on site services that are providing services to the community.	Michael	Wolfe	Navy, Vets Bridge to Employment
Implementation	Stewardship	I believe that a Board needs to be created to oversee the project. This board needs to consist of Veterans, service providers, local government office veteran representatives, community partners and family members of veterans.	Kristine	Hesse	Air Force, National Veterans Foundation
Implementation	Stewardship	The positions need to be a combination of elected and appointed and set terms. As a veteran I fully support the creation of the "West LA Campus Veterans Commission" to provide oversight, approval and continuous monitoring of land use, contracts and programing on the West Los Angeles VA Campus. Prior to any approval of land use and leases, the Veterans Commission would need to provide approval. This is a provision that was originally included in the language of the original deed.	Christopher	Landavazo	Navy, Cops for Causes, LAPD
Implementation	Stewardship	Governance. There should be a Board of Managers established that have some type of oversight or advisory capacity with connection to the Secretary of the VA to provide direct feedback. The number of the managers should be no larger than 9. There should no less than 80% veterans on the board and at least one: formerly homeless veteran, woman veteran, and LGBT veteran. No less than 50% of the board will have deployed to a combat zone and been awarded the appropriate campaign medal.			
		There should also be a requirement that the director(s) at the WLA VA attend a majority of the board meetings. The Board should also have involvement and input in the quality assurance function of the VA along with MIRECC.			
		The board should have access to ample space on the WLA VA campus and have complete access to the campus in its entirety. Carolina Winston Barrie should be an original board member.			
Implementation	Stewardship	A board of Veterans appointed to governance could address the needs of Veterans who have issues or concerns at the new VA campus. This would enhance the management's ability to implement governance and the board's ability to exercise proper oversight. The board of managing Vets would serve as the voice for Veterans on the campus. Those who are interested in being part of this team of managing Vets could apply based on their skill sets and experience. Each Vet serving on the board would have a two year term. If they are doing a good job then they can keep serving and helping Vets.	Lynette	Jones	Army

Topic	Sub-Topic	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Implementation	Stewardship	<p>The Draft Master Plan does not address a governing body of any kind to keep VA accountable post execution of the Final Master Plan.</p> <p>The Deed of 1888 refers to a Board of Managers who were "authorized, empowered and directed to locate, establish, construct and permanently maintain a branch of said National Home for Disabled Volunteers Soldiers."</p> <p>Secretary of the VA currently employs the use of 25 Advisory Committees to provide guidance and support in VA's mission to serve our nation's veterans.</p> <p>I encourage Secretary McDonald to create a new Advisory Committee for the purpose of enduring the deed's commitment to "permanently maintain" the West LA VA campus. Appointments to the committee should be at the discretion of Carolina Winston Barrie, descendant of Arcadia B. de Baker, and members should serve no more than two years in duration.</p>	Anthony	Allman	Army, We Are the Mighty
Implementation	Stewardship	<p>The "West LA VA Advisory Committee" is a proper mix between historical and contemporary oversight in VA's administration of the West LA VA campus.</p> <p>A governing body is of the utmost importance. I would recommend a 7 or 9 person board (with 2 seats open to non-veterans) to oversee the campus and its operation and perhaps the allocation of funds. Ideally, members would come from a wide variety of backgrounds and bring different skill sets to the table. One additional board member to fill in due to sickness or extended leaves of absences is important. These members would be elected rather than appointed and would have a strong background in helping veterans and a level of influence within the veteran community.</p>	Jennifer	Marshall	Navy, Veterans in Film and Television
Implementation	Stewardship	I am writing in support of VAtheRightWay initiative. I am a military veteran and Air Force employee of over 26 years. We veterans need better oversight of the Greater LA VA. There needs to be some kind of governing board	Richard D.	Lewis	
Implementation	Stewardship	A reimagined Greater LA VA campus must involve an instrument of veteran oversight similar to that of a police commission or a home owners association. A body of seven to nine persons should be comprised mostly of veterans. Perhaps one or two spots could be open to non-veterans, but veterans would not be barred from holding those seats open to non-veterans. This would allow members of the Barrie family, who are decedents of Arcadia Bandini de Baker who deeded the land and key to the lawsuit, to serve. Also, leaving one or two seats open would allow for vet advocates to serve who are not veterans. In the original deed of 1887 there was a provision for a "Board of Managers," so there is a historical linkage for this type of oversight. Not sure how members of a proposed board would take their seats; appointed vs. elected, and if elected how the mechanics would work. However, any governing body must be independent from the VA to avoid a conflict of interest. The VA has proven strikingly incompetent at running the campus particularly in regards to the EUL giveaways which border on criminally negligent. There must be veteran oversight.	HAMILTON B.	UNDERWOOD	Air Force, LA Air Force PAO
Implementation	Stewardship	I want an independent governing organization run by veterans to oversee that West LA campus.	Roc	Grant	Air Force
Implementation	Stewardship	<p>There used to be a governing body that oversaw the West LA VA property. There should be a new veteran run governing organization for the property that ensures it will always serve the veteran community first and not get taken advantage of again.</p> <p>Mark Harper (USAF)</p>	Mark	Harper	Air Force
Implementation	Stewardship	I appreciate the changes that are being spoken of. I believe change is possible and I believe that implementing this plan will make a difference on how services are acquired. I am not a veteran, I am not an individual that will be seeking services at the VA. However I am a clinical case manager that works with homeless veterans and I have had the "pleasure" of interacting with staff at the VA. I am hopeful of this plan, but is there a plan to refresh the staff at the VA? Will there be turn over? Will there be an attempt at re-training the people who provide services? The plan can be put into action but how successful will it be if (some of) the individuals that work there are not prepared, are unwilling or are unqualified to provide services? Employees need to feel supported, well equipped and encouraged in order to complete their jobs in an efficient manner. I ask you all to consider, how will the environment in the VA change if the individuals who work there are not changing as well? If we wish to provide a healing environment, then let us provide the veterans with our best healers. Let us make a change from the inside out.	Michelle	ASW	
Implementation	Stewardship	I'd like to see an advisory board to determine the specific benefits to veterans for every use of the land and made up of a majority of veterans.	Michael	Hjelmstad	Marine Corps
Implementation	Stewardship	The governing board that will be established to provide a quality check for policies on the campus as well as an avenue for veterans to share their positive or negative comments about their care received. Also this until board will consists of members from the original group of veteran leaders and the other members will be voted into their positions by this group, VA management and local government agencies.	Kristine	Hesse	Air Force, National Veterans Foundation
Implementation	Stewardship	Veterans need to maintain a voice within this organization. They don't need a representative they need an actual vet who understands what is happening within the vet community. For too long have our voices and needs gone unheard it's time for a change.	Brock	Thompson	

Topic	Sub-Topic	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Implementation	Stewardship	If the VA has no oversight according the interest of veterans then how are we to receive and expert or experienced opinions. We need veterans to represent us directly to secretary McDonald	Doug	Steen	
Implementation	Stewardship	We should be considering a 15th Advisory Board that would just take care of the West LA campus and it's redevelopment. It should be made up of mostly of Veterans with the possibility of few civilian members who have interests in helping the veteran community.			
Implementation	Stewardship	Veterans need to ensure accountability and oversight are integrated into the governance of the WLAVA Campus. The creation of the 15th Advisory Board for the Secretary of the VA to provide direct oversight and accountability for the redevelopment of the WLAVA campus.	Christopher	Landavazo	Navy, Cops for Causes, LAPD
Implementation	Stewardship	Create the 15th advisory board consisting of majority veterans, of at least 10 individuals, who will create accountability, oversight, and understand and work with the best interests of our veterans and the West Los Angeles property.	Margarita	Reyes	
Implementation	Stewardship	A board of advisors.  Those four words could do more to improve the functioning and conditions of the West LA VA Campus than any plan ever could.  A board of advisors.  I wrote it again because I just like the sound of it. But really, having boards with established oversight over public institutions is a time-tested way to improve the function of government. The University of California is overseen by a board of regents. Publicly traded companies have boards of directors. Communities have established school boards and police advisory boards. Simply put, when a community wants a voice at the table over how any organization works--from a school system to police to companies--they establish independent boards with oversight authority.  A board of advisors.  The VA Campus has shown that it needs this oversight. The litany of issues that were settled in the current lawsuit all stem from not having this crucial oversight. Contracts with private companies that don't benefit the veterans of LA? Those wouldn't happen (or would be severely curtailed) with a board providing independent oversight. Long term leases that don't contribute to veteran health or welfare? Those wouldn't happen with a board providing independent oversight. A lack of housing to serve the different needs of homeless or housing-insecure veterans at the West LA VA Campus? Again, that wouldn't happen with a board providing independent oversight.  A board of advisors.  Really, the board isn't about fixing the current issues. In many ways, the proposed plan will solve some of the current issues, like a lack of housing for veterans and ending inappropriate extended use leases). But in ten years? Or twenty years? Or beyond? Can any plan on paper fix those issues? They can't. Unless the VA establishes a process to ensure that the land upon	Michael	Cummings	Army
Implementation	Stewardship	Veterans should take control of overseeing the land. If the VA is in charge of it veterans will probably feel nothing will get done for their interests. Having an independent governing body to oversee the campus would be very helpful.	Vannick	Douglas (USMC Marine Corps Veteran)	
Implementation	Stewardship	There was originally a Board of Governors overseeing veteran business on the campus. Somewhere along the way that mechanism was completely lost. With zero actual vet oversight we find ourselves shackled with all these non-vet leases. I strongly suggest that a veteran populated governing board of some kind be out in place, and at least one vet seat be added to whatever body currently makes decisions regarding the campus.  Having full visibility into the business of the campus will prevent shady dealings from going down going forward.	Alan	Pietruszewski	Navy
Implementation	Stewardship	Department of Veterans Affairs has been in the business of making profit from the land that was legally given to the veteran long ago. The Department of Veterans Affairs of course is run and operated by the money power machine in Washington D.C. in conjunction with big money corporations whose only desire is to simply make money.  While countless veterans continue to sleep under bridges and scraping for food in the Brentwood and Beverly Hills, CA trash cans, and continue to have there benefits claims either denied or their applications (21-526) forms thrown in trash cans or shredded because they don't want veterans to live a happy life because their I's weren't dotted or their T's weren't crossed on the forms veterans continue to catch the wrath of the very few greedy tyrants whose purpose in life is to live a certain lifestyle at the expense of another. Shame. Solution is to remove the money power machine, but first we must find out who they are and expose them for who they are make it known to the propaganda machine that they own. That will be hard to accomplish. So, we need brave people, real journalist who will put these clowns on notice. And hire only veterans to replace these clowns currently stealing and pilfering and running the system into the ground while veterans continue to suffer. We need to replace the upper echelon of the VA and hire those that really care.			

Topic	Sub-Topic	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Implementation	Stewardship	Governance: There should be an independent party(ies) overseeing the daily operations of the campus. The governing bodies should consist of veterans organizations such as the Old Veterans Guard; individuals from veterans organizations who wish to donate their time. There should be no limit on the number of individuals or organizations, civilian or veteran, willing to contribute to their time and talent to assure the VA campus is operating for the benefit of disabled and homeless veterans.	Joe	Juarez (Air Force MSgt)	Air Force
Implementation	Stewardship	1. Governance: there should be a body composed mostly of veterans, like a police commission, homeowners association or neighborhood council that has influence on how the campus is run. A governing body of veterans was mandated in the original deed.	Jorge	Rodriguez	Air Force
Implementation	Stewardship	A governing body of veterans was mandated in the original deed. That should be honored with selection based a mix of services and vocations/education.	David L.	Corrick, USAFR Colonel	
Implementation	Stewardship	there should be a body composed mostly of veterans, like a police commission, homeowners association or neighborhood council that has influence on how the campus is run. A governing body of veterans was mandated in the original deed.	Matthew	Smith, TSgt	Air Force
Land Use	Circulation & Security	There will be 24/7 access to the campus, emergency medical housing will be available. SSVF/VASH services will be extended to 8 pm Monday-thurs and Sat 8-noon to support those veterans that are working or going to school so they do not have to take off or miss class	Kristine	Hesse	Air Force, National Veterans Foundation
Land Use	Circulation & Security	There will be established free transportation to/from established locations within the community. Also all vetrans will be able to request transportation to services/medical appointments, pre arranged and emergency non life treating transportation will be offered	Kristine	Hesse	Air Force, National Veterans Foundation
Land Use	Circulation & Security	Note #3: At one of the town hall meetings I attended there was a comment brought by a wheel chair bound disabled vet. He spoke about the typical grade built into the sidewalks near parks, that they have an incline to allow rainwater run off, and how exhausting it is to constantly have to counter that grade. I suggest we look into a product called Topmix Permeable concrete. It does not need any grade at all to allow drainage because it is so porous that water simple seems through it immediately.	Alan	Pietruszewski CDR USN (Ret.)	Navy
Land Use	Circulation & Security	Note #4: At the same town hall meeting, some civilian got up and said the following; "I'm not a vet but my wife does work at the VA, I have a dog walking business and i walk my dogs on the VA grounds. The other day I noticed entrance xxx was closed, I was wondering if you can say when it will be re-opened?" Also, I read in the master plan that we have a problem with auto traffic cutting through the campus to avoid the heavily traffic intersection at San Vicente and Wilshire Blvds. I think we can solve both of these issues with gate guards who check for VA cards, worker badges or any kind of military or veteran identification. You need one to get medical care so I'm guessing the majority of vets on campus have one and those who don't let's find a way to get them one. The campus is for vets, let's do more than just hope that is the reality.	Alan	Pietruszewski CDR USN (Ret.)	Navy

Topic	Sub-Topic	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Land Use	Circulation & Security	<p>There are several significant problems with the current grid layout of the West Los Angeles VA campus that the master plan does little to address. <b>The two most prominent structural problems are the disconnectedness of the campus from the surrounding community and the lack of central hub within the campus. In short there exists an external and internal dis-connectivity.</b></p> <p>The master plan up builds the campus with significant increase in structures but does little to stitch the campus back into the community. The corollary is that many veterans need to be, like the campus, integrated back into the society. The campus is bisected Wilshire Blvd. Those driving by may have no idea whether they are passing by a rundown mental institution, an abandoned small university or in fact a VA campus that is open to the public. If the campus is to have a vibrant sense of community ("community" is referenced multiple times in the master plan) it needs to be as welcoming to the public as well. None of the exits, particularly those off Wilshire are inviting. The proposed gateways at the Wilshire and San Vicente entrances are excellent ideas. However, if local bus service went into the campus this would be seamless way to weave locals into the campus and conversely vets into the community. The master plan's proposed shuttle should travel off campus to the retail locations that master plan references. Regarding the internal disconnectedness, the campus is experienced as a disorganized jumble of buildings with no center or focal point. There's no physical and thus no social center. A walking tour will find a smattering of vets here and there. Often, they are smoking alone under the eaves of building or clustered behind a high fence in a small rec area connected to a building. The master plan proposes nine community centers composed of vague retail and dining opportunities. Are nine separate dining facilities financially practical? A planning standard is that a pedestrian shed is five minute walking distance or about a quarter mile. Using this as a standard, nine community centers are too many particularly for the planned density of the campus. For comparison, UCLA at 419 acres and 42,000 students (compared to the campus' 388 acres and only several thousand on site) has only four significant community centers; two in north campus, the student store at mid campus, and one community center located in south campus. The VA campus needs a central hub or plaza, in effect a village, where veterans of varying conditions can socialize with each other and guests with dining and retail opportunities available. Ideally, retail opportunities would be owned and run by veterans. One or two smaller satellite community centers with perhaps just coffee house-type establishments would be appropriate particularly further north in campus. An ideal location for The VA campus should have an extensive safety force/program to protect the communities within the campus as well as provide veterans with employment in the field.</p>	Hamilton	Underwood	Air Force, LA Air Force PAO
Land Use	Circulation & Security		Sarah	Serrano	Marine, Veterans in Film and Television
Land Use	Circulation & Security	I would like to see the VA campus to be open for the community as long as certain areas, such as housing and health services remain closed to non-veterans.	Mayra	Plascencia	Marine Corps, New Directions
Land Use	Circulation & Security	<p>At the last town hall meeting, a civilian got up and said the following; "I'm not a vet but my wife does work at the VA, I have a dog walking business and I walk my dogs on the VA grounds. The other day I noticed entrance xxx was closed, I was wondering if you can say when it will be re-opened?"</p> <p>Also, I read in the master plan that we have a problem with auto traffic cutting through the campus to avoid the heavily traffic intersection at San Vicente and Wilshire Blvds. I think we can solve both of these issues with gate guards who check for VA cards, worker badges or any kind of military or veteran identification. You need one to get medical care so I'm guessing the majority of vets on campus have one and those who don't let's find a way to get them one. The campus is for vets, let's do more than just hope that is the reality.</p>	Alan	Pietruszewski USN (Ret.)	Navy
Land Use	Circulation & Security	At the last town hall meetings I attended there was a comment brought by a wheel chair bound disabled vet. He spoke about the typical grade built into the sidewalks near parks, that they have an incline to allow rainwater run off, and how exhausting it is to constantly have to counter that grade. I suggest we look into a product called Topmix Permeable concrete. It does not need any grade at all to allow drainage because it is so porous that water simple seeps through it immediately.	Alan	Pietruszewski USN (Ret.)	Navy
Land Use	Circulation & Security	I have been working at the VA los angles they have great substance abuse programs. There seems to be more drug pushers here than you can count. It must be so hard for the vets to stop using. We don't need ISIS to kill on our bases, we have drug pushes. In front of VA los angles hospital the bushes and tall plants needs to be cut. Shine some light on one area. I had to write something about this.			
Land Use	Circulation & Security	The campus should be open and part of the West LA and Brentwood community. Cutting off the campus from the community cuts off veterans from the community and conversely the community from veterans. We should be proud of our veterans, not ashamed of them.	Richard D.	Lewis	
Land Use	Circulation & Security	I think the campus should be a mixture of both civilians and veterans allowed on campus however civilians should only be able to go to common areas, not where veterans are getting treated.	Roc	Grant	Air Force
Land Use	Circulation & Security	The campus should be open to everyone including civilians. It would be great if there were events that mixed the civilian and veteran communities on the land.	Mark	Harper	Air Force
		However, I don't think the entire campus should be open to civilians. Veterans who live on the campus or get medical services should be surrounded only by other veterans.			

Topic	Sub-Topic	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Land Use	Circulation & Security	Master Plan Open Campus Input  The Greater Los Angeles VA should be an open campus like all other VA campuses and all of the 7,234 post-secondary institutions (according to Dept of Education 2011 data) in the United States none of which, according to several different internet searches, are closed. The VA should not be building walls between veterans and the general public. It should be facilitating interactions between these two often segregated populations. Interactions between the public and veterans may help de-stigmatize the view of some of the public has of veterans and conversely could help veterans reintegrate themselves back into the public sphere. Additionally, a public that shops in the proposed retail space will financially benefit the campus and veterans who may own the businesses. Lastly, a diverse public-veteran population in the campus public space is needed to create a true community. The more interactions the public and veterans have can only benefit both populations. While the Greater LA Campus should be open, like any college campus, the dormitories should be secure with only residents and their guests allowed to enter. An open campus with secure living quarters is the current arrangement and should remain so. Perhaps the main entries could have manned information booths, like state or federal parks, that would also double as a frontline of security.	Hamilton	Underwood	Air Force, LA Air Force PAO
Land Use	Circulation & Security	I believe it should be open as civilians are not the enemy. There are many civilians who favor and appreciate veterans and may be able to contribute their time or talent to the campus in some way or other. I do not believe closing doors is beneficial.	Joe	Juarez (Air Force MSgt)	Air Force
Land Use	Circulation & Security	The West LA VA campus should have much better signage/maps detailing where facilities/services on the campus are located, and there should be more walking/bike paths throughout the campus.	Seth Frederick	Smith	Navy, Return the Service / Participant Media Air Force
Land Use	Circulation & Security	Open vs. Closed Campus? The GLAVA campus is open and should remain so. Housing units should have secure entrances and currently do as do most college campuses. Veterans and the public need to have more engagements not less. The campus should be welcoming to all.	Jorge	Rodriguez	
Land Use	Circulation & Security	Transit and Proximity: Currently, the routes of transportation converge are located at an extremely congested area of West LA. With adjoining traffic considerations (i.e. visitors to UCLA, the Federal Building, and the existing West LAVA hospital), other routes of entering and exiting the West LA Campus property should be considered. I propose we include three additional entrances/exits to the plan. The locations should be in the northern part of the campus, and to the east and west borders of the property. This will minimize traffic congestion onto the main roads, increase maneuverability of residents of the facility, and provide better safety considerations for residents of the facility (especially in the case of an emergency). Additional traffic outlets are essential to developing a feasible walkway, bike path, or easement for pedestrians. Within this designated community, there should be accessibility for the actual residents to maneuver about the campus without required vehicle mobility.  Additionally, as LA County Metro is in the process of revamping its public transportation system, adding new Purple lines, and increasing the Wilshire Bus Rapid Transit Project, this would be a perfect time to align these efforts toward an efficient method of transportation into the campus.	Jawana	McFadden	Veteran Advocate, Army
Land Use	Circulation & Security	Problem: Section D.5 regarding Primary Roadways makes no mention of the future Metro stop planned for the area.  Solution: integrate information about the current metro extension plan and how it will affect traffic patterns and throughway.	Jackie	Perez	Navy
Land Use	Circulation & Security	Problem: D.5 Vehicular Circulation: There is no mention of detailed options to improve the current roadway scheme to allow for easier transit across the VA campus.	Jackie	Perez	Navy
Land Use	Circulation & Security	Solution: outline several urban planning options for vehicular transportation. D.5 Controlled access point  Comment: I do not believe that there should be controlled access points to enter onto the site. Buildings can have security and check in procedures and there can be 24/7 security onsite with emergency call stations (like many colleges have) but controlling access creates an us versus them mentality and while the site is first and foremost for veterans the outdoor spaces should welcome visitors which will enhance a community feel because there is a diverse pool of users.	Jackie	Perez	Navy

Topic	Sub-Topic	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Land Use	Circulation & Security	As a native of west LA and growing up near the VA campus I have noticed something that is missing and just not mentioned at all in the master plan. There is a extensive underground tunnel system that is already in place but has been neglected and in disrepair. These tunnels are a valuable asset to the property and could and should be restored. What an amazing resource to already have tunnels connecting the existing buildings. The possibilities for using them for transportation to and from the various sites on the grounds are endless and could encourage walking and biking in an effortless way and help eliminate the need for more cars on the grounds and in turn create a healthier environment for the healing veterans using the resources on the property.			
Land Use	Circulation & Security	The GLAVA campus is open and should remain so. Housing units should have secure entrances and currently do as do most college campuses. Veterans and the public need to have more engagements not less. The campus should have a visitors center with vignettes of local military heroes, past and present.	David L.	Corrick, USAFR Colonel	
Land Use	Circulation & Security	The GLAVA campus is open and should remain so. Housing units should have secure entrances and currently do as do most college campuses. Veterans and the public need to have more engagements not less. The campus should be welcoming to all.	Matthew	Smith, TSgt	Air Force
Land Use	Open Space	There should be some form of landscaping as you want the campus to look aesthetic and welcoming. It should be sustainable.	Joe	Juarez (Air Force MSgt)	Air Force
Land Use	Possessory Interests	I suggest local nonprofits and community partners need to be responsible for managing the theaters/art programs on campus.	Kristine	Hesse	Air Force, National Veterans Foundation
Land Use	Possessory Interests	UCLA; if the baseball field does stay, the veterans and families have a set number of free seats available at all games, the monies will increase so the rental of the land is valued at what it is worth, they will continue to provide interns but at no cost to the VA and they will offer, staff and support at no cost a legal clinic for all veterans and families without income barriers.	Kristine	Hesse	Air Force, National Veterans Foundation
Land Use	Possessory Interests	Note #2: I did not see anywhere in the Master Plan that discussed (beyond a "we need to look at") all the tenant civilian activities on the campus and how we either get rid of them, or funnel the money from them directly into programs that benefit vets. Brentwood school should be gone, UCLA should be gone, this is land designated for vets, are they vets? Discounted or free tickets to UCLA baseball games are NOT the same thing as being able to use the land or facilities ourselves. I will say this, IF those agencies NEED our land so bad, then find a way to barter something that DIRECTLY benefits vets.  I was stationed at LA Air Force Base ten years ago when the last round of Congressional Base Realignment and Closure Commissions was due to complete a final round of base closures. We knew we were vulnerable. So the leadership crafted a plan to give half of our real estate to the city of Hawthorne in exchange for them paying to construct a series on modern, earthquake proof program management buildings on the remaining half of the base where previously only support buildings (commissary, exchange, gym etc.) had been. That not only insulated us from inclusion on the closure list (why would you close the most modern facility in the US base inventory?) but also made us more efficient and effective. If we still have UCLA and Brentwood on our campus in 5 years, I would hope that it is because we crafted a land swap for services deal that had an equivalent impact on our campus that the LAAFB deal had on theirs. I'm thinking things like renovation of safety non-compliant structures, restoration of our chapel and trolley stop, building of the proposed greenway, shuttle and walkways etc.	Alan	Pietruszewski CDR USN (Ret.)	Navy
Land Use	Possessory Interests	The VA SETTLEMENT PLAN and Senator Feinstein's S 2013 legislation reduce the, once, 696 acre "HOME" to 387 acres, it does not address the terms and conditions of the original Deed and it allows non-Veteran entities to remain on the land. Hence, Veterans, coast to coast, call for rejection of the bill and the VA settlement plan.	Francisco	Juarez	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	Interestingly, the master plan does not address any of the private uses that brought about the law suit that precipitated the HOK master plan. There's no suggestion regarding resolution in reference to the Brentwood School, Post Office, dog park, golf course or UCLA baseball facilities.	Hamilton	Underwood	Air Force, LA Air Force PAO
Land Use	Possessory Interests	UCLA, the Brentwood School, and all other non-veterans groups need to leave the VA campus. It's not right that they're taking advantage of land intended for veterans to use. I don't agree with they view that we can use their presence on the campus to leverage services or benefits from them, either. They should offer benefits and services to veterans because it's the right thing to do, not because they're using the land for next to nothing.			
Land Use	Possessory Interests	UCLA should be permitted to remain on the West LA VA campus land only if there is an agreement binding UCLA to provide benefits to military veterans such as healthcare, education, recreational opportunities, upkeep and beautification of VA campus (outside of UCLA estates), childcare, and employment/training/resource centers. In addition to services, UCLA should not receive millions of dollars or any significant payment from the VA; furthermore, UCLA should rent their use of the estate at a much higher rate.	Sarah	Serrano	Marine, Veterans in Film and Television
Land Use	Possessory Interests	I would like to know why Brentwood High School still controls access to westLA Veteran land? It is secured with lock n key. As If..is was Owned by city of Brentwood? Who got paid off for this one-sided land use.	Domiciliary Vet	PtsdVeteran	

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Land Use	Possessory Interests	Will the VA reclaim the land used by the brentwood school? It is my understanding that the pool that the school built and uses is on VA property. Will the VA also reclaim the land use by the Westwood recreation center? It would be prudent to do so and build Veteran housing on that property as well.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	One of those issues where there is a clear moral and property rights issue involved.  1. The land was legally deeded to VA for the use of providing a home to Veterans.  2. The local community has been using these lands for other purposes than intended.  3. Veterans have been fighting and dying.	Richard	Arthur	Navy
Land Use	Possessory Interests	4. Property rights have meaning. Comments on the Final Master Plan for V, WLA, CA The Master Plan does not meet the intent or spirit of the deed for which it was given to the government. The sole purpose of the deeded land was for combat injured veterans to have a place to recover from their combat wounds. This Master Plan addresses the needs and desires of non-veteran entities that are entrenched on that deeded land and will legally fight to stay without regard for the needs of veterans which they are excluding from that land. The language in the deed is not ambiguous nor does it call for discussion. It does not call for planning for non-veteran businesses to stay at the expense of injured war veterans. The land is deeded for the exact purpose of developing housing and medical services for injured combat veterans to have a place to heal. On March 3, 1888, John P. Jones and Arcadia B de Baker deeded 600 acres of land located in West Los Angeles and what is now a portion the City of Brentwood. That land was deed to the government for the sole purpose to establish and permanently maintain a National Home for disabled and homeless veterans. The deed was consummated two days later and the term, "permanently maintain" is invoked five separate times in the language of the deed. Please note the words, "sole purpose" in the language of the deed. Does it leave any room for discussion as to who should be on that land? There is no purpose for use of that deeded land in the language of the document but to house disabled and homeless veterans. It does not address and is silent on non-veteran businesses to occupying that land because that was not foreseen or considered by the owners of the land at the time they deeded it to the government. A federal judge ruled on this case and ruled the nine non-veteran businesses currently on the deeded land were illegal and should vacate the property immediately. That should have settled this issue but the Secretary of V.A., who is tasked with the fiduciary responsibility of carrying out the intent of the deeded land, immediately submitted a rebuttal to the ruling. Now S-2013 addresses this issue but favors the non-veteran businesses on the deeded land and does a gross disservice to all homeless veterans currently living in squalor on the streets of Los Angeles and other cities in the greater Los Angeles County. This legislation is designed to alter the intent of the deed so that non veteran businesses can legally stay on the land. That is cronyism at its worse, legislating at the expense of homeless veterans but for the purpose of maintaining a legislator's donor base. My suggestion is that, if the government cannot meet the particulars of the language in the	Carlos	Zamorano	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	This is veteran land and needs to be used by veterans. It's been too many years that veterans have let this go by but not any more. If your not a veteran and that's not your land. You need to STOP. Brentwood you should be ashamed of yourself. Without veterans there would be no Brentwood or America.	Ozzy	Ramirez	Army

Topic	Sub-Topic	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Land Use	Possessory Interests	<p>The recent comments at Regulations.gov made on 16th November by "Anonymous Anonymous" and "Jo Holzman" strike me as cynical attempts to somehow link their own interests to the health and well-being of the greater Los Angeles veterans community.</p> <p>Anonymous Anonymous declares that, "Maintaining the parking lot, which is vital to many small businesses and restaurants in our neighborhood, while re-vitalizing the Veterans Affairs campus, does not compromise the worthy cause of supporting our vets." Perhaps Mr Anonymous would like to let us know, if not his name, what makes him (or her) qualified to tell the VA what "supporting our vets" actually looks like?</p> <p>Holzman's comment dares to take a similar tone, first proclaiming how "wonderful" the plan is, for it will "meet the needs of most vets." Yet, in the very next sentence - if not the very same breath - the writer informs us of her true intention for commenting: "I strongly object to the closing of the dog park at Barrington Park."</p> <p>Holzman continues on with a "Let-them-eat-cake" attitude, musing that the VA should keep the open land so vets can "bring their tent encampments to the open fields....Has to be better for them than the nasty places like the Ohio Ave underpass which is right outside your door." This writer probably agrees with Barbara Bush that Hurricane Katrina wasn't that bad for the residents of New Orleans, either, since "many of the people in the arena here, you know, were underprivileged anyway." Who cares if you lose your ancestral home when the Astrodome is air conditioned, right?</p> <p>Of losing the dog park, Holzman proclaims, "Just don't understand and am extremely resentful about how this is being done." I'm sure that none of the vets who fought in Iraq, Afghanistan, Vietnam, or Korea understand that kind of resentment. How dare these vets ask for what was promised to them? The vets should just shut up and tailgate in the parking lot before going to sleep in the dog park after hours – and after FiFi the poodle (or is it a shar-pei?) get done relieving themselves on the grass.</p>	Brayden	Yoder	Army Captain
Land Use	Possessory Interests	<p>Comments like Holzman's and Anonymous' are transparently cynical whines no doubt prompted by the Brentwood News, which had the gall to ask Brentwood residents for "supportive Anything not related to Veteran morale, welfare, and recreation should be excluded from the Plan (e.g. non-veteran dog parks, non-veteran parking lots, non-veteran baseball facilities, non-veteran businesses). Create a communal environment that fosters rehabilitative, educational, and recreational well-being among our California vets. The abuse by special interests needs to end. These powerful and rich people/businesses have enjoyed this land for too long at our veterans' expense. They need to go.</p>	Joel	Morgan	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	On campus health care provided by UCLA for Veterans who are not health care eligible.	Mayra	Plascencia	Marine Corps, New Directions
Land Use	Possessory Interests	I would like to see UCLA pay fair market value for the land they are using.	Mayra	Plascencia	Marine Corps, New Directions
Land Use	Possessory Interests	I would like to see UCLA to provide and fund a legal clinic for Veterans	Mayra	Plascencia	Marine Corps, New Directions
Land Use	Possessory Interests	I would like to see UCLA provide mental health services for veterans who are not health care eligible.	Mayra	Plascencia	Marine Corps, New Directions
Land Use	Possessory Interests	UCLA has gardening and horticulture experts available. They could lend their talents to creating garden environments around the campus to serve the residents. Native planting for environmentally easy upkeep and some possible veteran job opportunities for their maintenance. For the children who will also be on campus, I suggest a vegetable garden so that good eating habits can be fostered by learning how to grow food and its use. A maze might be fun too. Some of the environments should offer seating for reading, relaxing and simply contemplating the beauty.	Irene	Mink	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	This is VA land and it's use should be focused solely on supporting Veterans. Just as the VA as a whole must adapt to meet and support the needs of the increased veterans population, the civilian population should adapt to meet the needs of veterans who have sacrificed on their behalf. Duty, Honor, Country...	Rudy		
Land Use	Possessory Interests	I think there are numerous great ideas for what to do with his land. First and Foremost we must remain true what to the original intent. This land is for VETERANS. Not local businesses to have parking lots, not for expansion of Brentwood housing for the very rich. NO this land is for Veterans, veterans who need care. Care can be medical, mental, emotional, creative, physical and the list goes on. VETERANS FIRST and ONLY!	Lisa	Costanza	Army

Topic	Sub-Topic	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Land Use	Possessory Interests	<p>I did not see anywhere in the Master Plan that discussed (beyond a "we need to look at") all the tenant civilian activities on the campus and how we either get rid of them, or funnel the money from them directly into programs that benefit vets. Brentwood school should be gone, UCLA should be gone, this is land designated for vets, are they vets? Discounted or free tickets to UCLA baseball games are NOT the same thing as being able to use the land or facilities ourselves. I will say this, IF those agencies NEED our land so bad, then find a way to barter something that DIRECTLY benefits vets.</p> <p>I was stationed at LA Air Force Base ten years ago when the last round of Congressional Base Realignment and Closure Commissions was due to complete a final round of base closures. We knew we were vulnerable. So the leadership crafted a plan to give half of our real estate to the city of Hawthorne in exchange for them paying to construct a series of modern, earthquake proof program management buildings on the remaining half of the base where previously only support buildings (commissary, exchange, gym etc.) had been. That not only insulated us from inclusion on the closure list (why would you close the most modern facility in the US base inventory?) but also made us more efficient and effective. If we still have UCLA and Brentwood on our campus in 5 years, I would hope that it is because we crafted a land swap for services deal that had an equivalent impact on our campus that the LAAFB deal had on theirs. I'm thinking things like renovation of safety non-compliant structures, restoration of our chapel and trolley stop, building of the proposed greenway, shuttle and walkways etc.</p> <p>I've been told that we cannot flat out SELL land due to the way the land was deeded to us, if that is the case then perhaps engage the same thought process with a 99 year lease. "Hey UCLA we will give you a 99 year lease in exchange for 1) increasing the monthly rent to (whatever is fair market value) say \$25,000/monthly AND 2) a flat fee of \$500,000 to make up for the underpayments the last X years." We need cash NOW for some of the renovation projects that are being planned, this is a way to get it. If UCLA does not like that then let's EVICT ALL of the non-vet tenants and start negotiations from there, and with an open advertising of the lands availability for rent. Same for Brentwood School and all other non-vet tenants.</p>	Alan	Pietruszewski USN (Ret.)	Navy
Land Use	Possessory Interests	Please work to leverage the resources of the Brentwood School and UCLA to help veterans and their families and increase their lease payments. It is high time our Veterans were treated as the heroes they are, not second-class citizens to be discarded on a decrepit campus in the shadow of elite private school such as the Brentwood School.	Richard D.	Lewis	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	UCLA should definitely pay fair market value. They should also be responsible for campus maintenance and landscaping ensuring the campus looks as beautiful as theirs. Free college classes for veterans would also be great.	Roc	Grant	Air Force
Land Use	Possessory Interests	Brentwood - Veterans should have control over the athletic facilities for the high school. They should also pay fair market value if they aren't already.	Roc	Grant	Air Force
Land Use	Possessory Interests	<p>If they want to keep their dog park / parking lots for businesses, those businesses should pay some fee or organize an entrepreneur workshop for veterans or a small percentage of their workforce should be veterans.</p> <p>This land should be used exclusively for the veterans and their families. To keep this tract a dog park and a parking lot for the entitled surrounding community is a travesty.</p>	Bill	Kilrain	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	Barrington park is on West LA VA property I fail to see why the surrounding community of Brentwood should even have a say of what happens to that land. Especially when that land could be utilized to provide housing for homeless veterans as opposed to a dog park.	Eric	Pinkston	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	The West LA land that has been used by Brentwood and UCLA for the last few decades has been used under leases that were deemed illegal. And still many of the Brentwood businesses and residents act as if this land is theirs. This land belongs to Veterans. Homeless veterans and Disabled veterans can benefit from redeveloping the property. It can help every veteran at every level. We can build housing for veterans (homeless, disabled, and transitioning. We can build a community with businesses and services run by veterans for veterans.		Wilson	

Topic	Sub-Topic	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Land Use	Possessory Interests	<p>It is a travesty that the VA is letting UCLA use precious land that could benefit our most vulnerable heroes. Here is an extra thought on the Dog Park. After planning the homeless housing, you should still include a nice greenbelt area -- it would be very good for the soul, spirit &amp; emotions for the Vets. In so doing, you could still carve out an area for a dedicated Dog Park -- and make it as close as possible to the housing. The presence of the dogs would be a special experience for the Vets &amp; they could benefit immensely from interacting with the dogs visiting the VA Dog Park.</p> <p>After all, there are countless Therapy Dogs who visit the VA Hospitals every day -- and this would just only enhance that. This is NOT some frivolous add on -- it would be a real win-win for the Vets, and make things a little more home-like, a little more normal as many find healing through the love of dogs. You could even put up signage encouraging dog owners to interact with the Vets, in and out of the park area.</p> <p>Perhaps, as part of the homeless program, interested Vets could be trained to do dog training or grooming -- and they could practice within the Dog Park area. This could be overseen by the Recreation Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Social Work departments as each would utilize elements of the training.</p> <p>If you'd like to hear more on my ideas, I'd be glad to elaborate further. It feels good to give back to the VA with my brainstorming -- I may not be able to punch a time clock, but I can think up great ideas.</p> <p>Ms Shoshona Perelman Vietnam *Era* Veteran 7 1 4 . 4 2 5 . 3 3 6 5 mobilityscootergal@gmail.com</p>	Shoshona	Perelman	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	As a WWII Veteran living in the California Home, I believe the Brentwood School and UCLA stadium should be allowed to stay if they are willing to pay market rate for the property. The rest can go. We need the land to be used for veterans.	Millie	Taylor	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	Having this land available for Vets would really help not only the Veteran community but the city of LA in many ways. How many homeless and unemployed Vets could get help if this was done the right way?!?! The land was meant for the Vets....why haven't we been doing this all along?			
Land Use	Possessory Interests	Any leases to civilian businesses to occupy property on the VA campus must be finite and must represent fair market values. No sweetheart deals. Should veteran use for any such property become desired, those leases must not be renewed.	tucker	smallwood	Army
Land Use	Possessory Interests	<p>Housing remains a critical shortfall for veterans. I think micro housing ideas should be considered, on a pilot basis to provide safety and privacy to veterans in need.</p> <p>EUL (extended-use leases): the VA needs to re-negotiate the leases to fair market value. Veterans should have access to the facilities at the Brentwood School and UCLA should open a family veterans center on campus.</p>	Jorge	Rodriguez	Air Force
Land Use	Possessory Interests	Question -- pre-existing recreational facilities on the land. The master plan mentions them but not how they are going to become ours to fully use.	Jackie	Perez	Navy
Land Use	Possessory Interests	I attended a community meeting regarding the VA restoration project and the issue of the animal research done by UCLA on the VA campus was not addressed because we ran out of time. For years UCLA has been using buildings on the property for animal testing and in the past throwing the reactive waste in the surrounding arroyo. Building 114, 115, and 116 are examples of this.			
Land Use	Possessory Interests	EUL (extended-use leases): the VA needs to re-negotiate the leases to fair market value. There should be cross-cooperation between the Brentwood School and UCLA to include simultaneous veterans' exhibits.	David L.	Corrick, USAFR Colonel	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	EUL (extended-use leases): the VA needs to re-negotiate the leases to fair market value. Veterans should have access to the facilities at the Brentwood School and UCLA should open a family veterans center on campus	Matthew	Smith, TSgt	Air Force
Land Use	Possessory Interests	<p>We all know the VA campus is bigger than it needs to be but that was the deal when it was designated-so maintain it. Please remove the tenants that have entrenched themselves on the campus, particularly the exclusive private school that occupies 20 acres unless said school can offer something to children of disabled veterans ( provided the child's grades award admission)</p> <p>We need a planned community, with a monorail or street car system that can provide different venues/ destination.</p>	Samuel	Ameen	Air Force

Topic	Sub-Topic	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Land Use	Sustainability	<p>The Master Plan does not address an economic infrastructure to support veterans living on the grounds or those veteran returning to Los Angeles without civilian job skills. Such infrastructure could not only provide veterans with near term employment to support transition into the broader Los Angeles community but also serve as a means to acquire new job skills. I propose two economic development zones to satisfy these concerns.</p> <p>The first zone should be located where the Purple Line extension will terminate at the West LA VA. Due to the foreseeable increase in pedestrian traffic the primary use of the surrounding area should be retail space. This area would offer veterans, VA employees and Metro riders an opportunity to grab refreshments, purchase clothing and/or small electronics with the added benefit of being tax free since the establishments are located on federal land. In turn, this will generate low-skill employment opportunities for veterans looking to acquire stable incomes.</p> <p>The second economic development zone should focus on more aggressive entrepreneurial activities and workforce training. I envision the placement of this center to be north of Wilshire. Perhaps taking the place of building 508, 505 or 298 (maybe all of the above). This area could offer veteran-owned businesses office space for the first 6 months with an option to extend for less than market rates. Additionally, the complex could host job training classes/certification in areas deemed critical by the Los Angeles Workforce Investment Board or local corporations seeking skilled labor.</p> <p>Housing is no doubt a priority for the West LA VA campus however overlooking opportunities for veterans to maintain gainful employment, build businesses or new skills will have a negative impact on the ultimate goal: successful transition to civilian life.</p>	Anthony	Allman	Army, We Are the Mighty
Land Use	Sustainability	<p>Problem:</p> <p>There is no mention of the opportunity to lead the way with energy efficiency with the proposed new buildings or even street lighting.</p> <p>Solution: Outline a plan to achieve LEED certification with all new construction onsite. (Environmental Engineer)</p>	Jackie	Perez	Navy
Land Use	Sustainability	<p>Landscaping: there needs to be sustainable landscaping that includes native/regional plants. Natural grass should be reserved for areas where people will actually use it such as a central square or a concert venue. A tastefully placed shrine for the fallen of Los Angeles should be installed, as in the tradition of European towns.</p>	David L.	Corrick, USAFR Colonel	
Land Use	Sustainability	<p>There needs to be sustainable landscaping. Natural grass should be reserved for areas where people will actually use it such as a central square or a concert venue.</p>	Matthew	Smith, TSgt	Air Force
Program	Ammenities & Services	<p>Military veteran lodging (hotel)</p> <p>Veterans visiting Los Angeles should have accessible and affordable lodging for them and their families. This could be an opportunity for the West LA VA campus to have a beautiful and modern hotel similar to San Francisco's Marine Club &amp; Hotel (<a href="http://www.marineclub.com">http://www.marineclub.com</a>) or New York City's Soldier's, Sailors', Marines', Coast Guard, and Airmen's Club (<a href="http://ssmaclub.org">http://ssmaclub.org</a>). In addition to lodging, this hotel could have conference and presentation rooms that can house speakers or events. There could also be suites for dignitaries visiting the area. One thing the SF Marine's Club has is a restaurant on the top floor overlooking the city of SF. It would be great if the top floor had some kind of social atmosphere that provided a view of LA as well. This hotel would be an ideal location for veterans, military, and government dignitaries to visit.</p>	Mike	Dowling	Marine Corps, Veterans in Film and Television, We Are the Mighty
Program	Ammenities & Services	<p>Multi-purpose recreational / fitness center</p> <p>It would be great if there was a state of the art recreation and fitness center that had all the amenities of a state of the art gym including a full weight room, basketball / volleyball courts, stationary bikes, and studio space for various fitness classes. Having athletic facilities that can accommodate sports leagues for veterans throughout the year could attract more veterans to the campus while at the same time adding therapeutic and camaraderie building value.</p>	Mike	Dowling	Marine Corps, Veterans in Film and Television, We Are the Mighty
Program	Ammenities & Services	<p>Transition / Welcoming Center-</p> <p>There should be a welcome center on the campus for veterans transitioning to the greater Los Angeles area. This building should have veteran service organizations located in it so vets can easily be introduced to organizations in the area. This building could host a monthly orientation for veterans who have recently moved to the area to introduce them to services both in the veteran and civilian communities.</p>	Mike	Dowling	Marine Corps, Veterans in Film and Television, We Are the Mighty
Program	Ammenities & Services	<p>Work / Collofting space -</p> <p>Having space on campus where veteran organizations can collaborate and work together could help them coordinate more events and services for veterans. There are offices at the Bob Hope Patriotic Hall in downtown LA as well but I think having office space for VSO's would encourage more interaction with the campus itself. By allowing and encouraging organizations to have space on the campus it would allow a constant presence of veterans working in the veteran community (not just at the VA) who could attract others.</p>	Mike	Dowling	Marine Corps, Veterans in Film and Television, We Are the Mighty

Topic Program	Sub-Topic	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
	Ammenities & Services	Veterans downtown center / Commercial space - Having a social focal point on campus where veterans can socialize and shop at veteran owned businesses could attract many veterans to come to the campus. Allowing some veteran owned businesses on campus would show support for veteran entrepreneurs. Businesses could be a commissary, coffee shop (Starbucks), restaurant, gift shops, etc. There could be a family park next to it as well to encourage veterans to bring their families on to campus.	Mike	Dowling	Marine Corps, Veterans in Film and Television, We Are the Mighty
Program	Ammenities & Services	A veteran myself and having spoken to veterans living on campus, there is a desire for a gym that is well staffed and for a running track as well. I discovered that there is an indoor pool on campus that is need of repair.	Hamilton	Underwood	Air Force, LA Air Force PAO
Program	Ammenities & Services	I want holistic wellness focus. Long-term planning for veteran health cannot depend on only treating the tertiary and acute needs as they present. Recent strides in the ACA and medical models have proved this to be very costly. A holistic and strength-based wellness model should be the focus of the new campus. To be clear, a holistic focus means providing treatment that is aimed at helping veterans and their families outside of just the medical (predominantly pharmaceutical) model. The focus would be on healing veterans and returning them to society via entrée to a host of community agencies and innovative programs. The campus should support activities that build on the strengths of veterans and their families, fostering long-term health and wellness (e.g. childcare, marriage counseling and family retreats), parenting (e.g. birthing classes, midwifery and parenting classes and family support groups), health (e.g. recreational activities, gym facilities, diets, homeopathics) and quality of life (e.g. spirituality, arts, gardening, woodworking). The campus should be focused on living and living well, not on sickness.	Nathan	Graeser	USC School of Social Work CIR, Army
Program	Ammenities & Services	I want transition and relocation support. Current estimates state the number of veterans expected into Los Angeles around 12,000 a year, or about 1,000 veterans a month moving into the greater Los Angeles area. New veterans face tight rental and housing markets, diminished civilian networks and a daunting cultural shift from military to civilian culture after service. Recent studies show us that more than half of them do not know where to find help if they needed. Veterans need to know that they have a place to go when they get out. Although the VA cannot be the city's only solution, it can play an important part in linking newly transitioned veterans into happy well-adjusted lives after service	Nathan	Graeser	USC School of Social Work CIR, Army
Program	Ammenities & Services	The new VA campus should have dedicated meeting space available to local major VSO's like Team Rubicon, IAVA etc. The inclusion of major VSO's into the VA campus will serve to legitimize the relationship between the VA and these supporting organizations. These spaces could be used to assist and train Veterans on the campus, and provide a central outlet for connecting to the major VSO's in the area. This space could be defined as the Veteran transition assistance area. The space could also be used to facilitate collaboration between the VA and these organizations as well.	Aaron	Mallary	Army
Program	Ammenities & Services	Restorative Justice: The number of military veterans in the Los Angeles County Jail continues to grow each year. Many of those arrested have undiagnosed PTSD and/or substance abuse (drug & alcohol) issues. On the VA Campus, we should work in partnership with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and Los Angeles County District Attorney to: a. Erect a custody/court facility on the VA Campus to specifically house and treat military veterans. b. Establish a Veterans Court to adjudicate lessor crimes (thefts, drug/alcohol and quality of life related offenses) c. Use this as an entry-point facility to: i. A VA live-in drug & alcohol treatment facility ii. Housing options for Vets completing treatment iii. Full wrap-around support services to take care our own	Christopher	Landavazo	Navy, Cops for Causes, LAPD
Program	Ammenities & Services	Provide child care for veterans to remove barriers to services.	Mayra	Plascencia	Marine Corps, New Directions
Program	Ammenities & Services	I believe there should be more services offered in the evenings and on the weekend for the Veterans who are working during regular VA hours.	Mayra	Plascencia	Marine Corps, New Directions
Program	Ammenities & Services	Transitional services for homeless veterans such as showers, laundry units, and lockers.	Mayra	Plascencia	Marine Corps, New Directions
Program	Ammenities & Services	We need a post office on campus for homeless veterans to have a place to receive mail.	Mayra	Plascencia	Marine Corps, New Directions
Program	Ammenities & Services	I would like to see a hotel on the VA campus similar to the Marine Club in San Francisco	Mayra	Plascencia	Marine Corps, New Directions
Program	Ammenities & Services	I would like to see veteran owned restaurants and small businesses in a community area on campus.	Mayra	Plascencia	Marine Corps, New Directions

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Program	Ammenities & Services	<p>Some vets have started, or are tying to start new veteran non-profits, clubs and businesses. These groups could benefit from access to the existing or renovated (and mostly currently vacant) buildings on the campus. Simply having access to spaces for meetings would be a tangible benefit. I started a group for mentoring vets now pursuing acting and every month I find myself searching for a meeting space, geographically convenient with parking that I can beg, borrow or steal access to. There are so many unused buildings on the campus, I believe the number was 176,000,000 (that's MILLION) square feet of unused space.</p> <p>Dedicating some spaces on the new campus for veteran groups to gather and hold meetings will be a huge benefit to many veterans living in LA Metro.</p>	Alan	Pietruszewski	Navy
Program	Ammenities & Services	<p>in some undeveloped space, put in a veteran's high rise, like a large dormitory at a college. high density, but clean, friendly, and open.</p>			
Program	Ammenities & Services	<p>I am writing in support of VAtTheRightWay initiative. I am a military veteran and Air Force employee of over 26 years. We veterans need better oversight of the Greater LA VA. There needs to be some kind of governing board.</p> <p>There are over 4,000 homeless vets in the LA area. 700-900 permanent supportive housing beds is not enough. I recommend at least 2,500 and I think that if there are beds not being used by veterans that non-vets should be able to fill those beds.</p> <p>Bridge and transition housing needs to be increased as well, and the variety of housing needs to be increased to support single parents, the disabled and female veterans.</p> <p>Also, sustainable landscaping needs to be provided throughout the campus.</p> <p>There also needs to be a central square, like what is found on most campuses or traditionally planned towns, with mixed-use retail, a fully staffed gym and a movie theater. A military hotel like the Hale Koa in Hawaii or Marine Corps Memorial Club and Hotel in San Francisco would be ideal.</p> <p>Please do what you can to serve those who served the nation.</p>	Richard D.	Lewis	
Program	Ammenities & Services	<p>Short-term Transitional Support Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASPIRE treatment center</li> </ul> <p>Short-Term Housing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Veterans Lodge</li> <li>• VVSD Model</li> </ul> <p>Long-Term Housing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Condo units that operate under VASH program/income based</li> <li>• Retirement Home</li> </ul> <p>Medical Needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VA Hospital</li> <li>• Acute Care Center that accepts Veterans Choice to cut down on wait times for medical services</li> </ul> <p>Support Services:</p> <p>"Business Center" with office/conference spaces for veterans and families to use including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Career Assistance (Partner with EDD?)</li> <li>• Childcare Center</li> <li>• Education Office (VetSuccess Rep on campus?) with tutoring program\</li> <li>• VSO's are already in VA hospitals to help with benefits assistance but offering orgs standalone office space is a great idea.</li> <li>• Liaison with the Veterans Justice movement in LA/Treatment court</li> </ul> <p>"Warrior Wellness and Recreation Center" including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrative health</li> <li>• Yoga/Reformer Pilates Studio</li> <li>• Pool</li> <li>• Fitness Center</li> <li>• The stadium with vets team (the reality is that it is likely staying).</li> </ul>	Tess	Banko	
Program	Ammenities & Services	<p>Also, since it is not zoned, use other jurisdictions' examples to determine fair rent. I found two In addition to Brentwood's athletic facilities there should be a diverse amount of recreational opportunities on the campus such as a brand new fitness center for vets to workout, pool tables or pool hall, bowling center (family friendly for veterans).</p> <p>Instead of the golf course, change it to more veteran family oriented recreational opportunities like miniature golf or family day care.</p>	Roc	Grant	Air Force
Program	Ammenities & Services	<p>A state of the art transition center is badly needed where vet organizations and community organizations can offer veterans moving in to LA resources to set them up for success.</p>	Roc	Grant	Air Force

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Program	Ammenities & Services	LA needs a hotel or housing for veterans and their families who are visiting Los Angeles. The hotel can be used in a variety of ways in addition to housing vets.	Roc	Grant	Air Force
		Roc Grant plgrant28@yahoo.com			
Program	Ammenities & Services	I think there should be a transition center for Veterans to receive help getting resources they need to succeed in the long term.	Mark	Hyatt	
Program	Ammenities & Services	The recreational facilities on this property need to be updated. I have visited recently and find it sad that more is not being done to protect the legacy and the future of the men and women who have served our country. The whole place is rundown. It makes America look bad.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Ammenities & Services	Use this area for an expo/convention for Veteran owned business	Justin		
Program	Ammenities & Services	There must be a farming opportunity for veterans to use as a therapeutic avenue as well as grow space to contribute to food for the campus. This can also be used to support a farmers market to connect with the community and an opportunity for veterans to practice business skills while in transition.	Kristine	Hesse	Air Force, National Veterans Foundation
Program	Ammenities & Services	Construct a hotel to support veterans in transition and space available to family and friends to visit their veterans in LA area.	Kristine	Hesse	Air Force, National Veterans Foundation
Program	Ammenities & Services	It is extremely important that Peer Support is a central and independent component of the plan forward, especially at the Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System. Peer Support needs to be a department of its own, supervised directly by the local recovery coordinator where the recovery model can be fully implemented.	cid	williams	
Program	Ammenities & Services	Personally the transition from AD to civ is a bit frightening. I am currently AD in Los Angeles and just a few weeks ago I had to reenlist or get out. I do not have family that will help aid me in the short weeks it takes to fully transition. Once you get out the 1st/15th paycheck stop and you must learn to cope and live on your own. Having a sanctuary built for all vets to be able to lean on during that transition would be ideal. Once leaving AD a job isn't always lined up nor a high paying job. I worked at Starbucks the last year of my enlistment to try and save money but in the end all I did was burn myself out working 70hrs a week. The end goal for #VATheRightWay will do far more good in LA for all vets. In the military we learned to lean on one another and to become family. The family shouldn't stop just because you take off the uniform.	Jonathan	Leal	
Program	Ammenities & Services	Personally the transition from AD to civ is a bit frightening. I am currently AD in Los Angeles and just a few weeks ago I had to reenlist or get out. I do not have family that will help aid me in the short weeks it takes to fully transition. Once you get out the 1st/15th paycheck stop and you must learn to cope and live on your own. Having a sanctuary built for all vets to be able to lean on during that transition would be ideal. Once leaving AD a job isn't always lined up nor a high paying job. I worked at Starbucks the last year of my enlistment to try and save money but in the end all I did was burn myself out working 70hrs a week. The end goal for #VATheRightWay will do far more good in LA for all vets. In the military we learned to lean on one another and to become family. The family shouldn't stop just because you take off the uniform.	Jonathan	Leal	
Program	Ammenities & Services	Any leases to civilian businesses to occupy property on the VA campus must be finite and must represent fair market values. No sweetheart deals. Should veteran use for any such property become desired, those leases must not be renewed.	tucker	smallwood	Army
		Housing remains a critical shortfall for veterans. I think micro housing ideas should be considered, on a pilot basis to provide safety and privacy to veterans in need.			
Program	Ammenities & Services	There needs to be a lot more socialization among veterans on campus. It would be great if there were some kind of social center or places where veterans can hang out with each other. This could be a bar or entertainment venue where veterans can watch sports games or watch movies.	Vannick	Douglas (USMC Marine Corps veteran)	
Program	Ammenities & Services	I am a very big in to fitness. It would be great if there was a fitness center for veterans on the campus with everything a state of the art fitness centers would have. Health and staying active is very therapeutic to many veterans.	Vannick	Douglas (USMC Marine Corps veteran)	
Program	Ammenities & Services	It would be great if there were a lot of recreational opportunities on the campus like a recreational center that has pool tables, TV's to watch games, a bowling alley, basketball court, swimming pool, and things like that.	Vannick	Douglas (USMC Marine Corps veteran)	
Program	Ammenities & Services	I think a hotel where veterans can have formal ceremonies like the annual Marine Corps birthday ball would be very important. The hotel can also house visiting dignitaries, celebrities, veterans, and be a great place to hold events. This hotel could be a the crown jewel of the campus if done right as there could be events, conferences, and workshops held there every weekend.	Vannick	Douglas (USMC Marine Corps Veteran)	
		Basically a mini resort on the campus.			
		Vannick Douglas (USMC veteran) vannickdouglas@aol.com			
Program	Ammenities & Services	Is it possible to have a firing range (indoor) on the campus? A lot of veterans find therapy in firing weapons and I think having an indoor firing facility would be great.	Vannick	Douglas (USMC Marine Corps Veteran)	

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Program	Ammenities & Services	My experiences with the VA have been great so far, but what I think can be approved is the process of compensation appeals or notice of disagreements. The wait time is very long for an answer.	Isis	Sarni	
Program	Ammenities & Services	I think it would be great if the VA would find a more solid way of helping veterans with VASH. Help in terms of partnering with the community and helping to remove the negative stigma involved with obtaining housing using the VASH program. Also I think that lowering the length of time of being homeless. I feel a year is too long, maybe 6 months? Just a thought.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Ammenities & Services	As my experience as a homeless veteran, I find that when calling the 827-1000 number, that the callback feature should be executed earlier then 20 minutes verses being on hold for awhile. If we're expected to wait on the phone longer then 5 minutes, that's when the callback feature option should start. As far as the direct deposit on ebenefits, direct deposit should not be mandatory for veterans who do not have a bank account.	Robert	Barker	
Program	Ammenities & Services	It would be nice if there were more psychologists at the VA for one on one counseling at programs like the Trauma Track at the Domiciliary. I also feel it would be better if a larger percentage of employees were veterans. Perhaps some particular recruiting plan could be instituted in the EAS classes or better outreach. To me it seems a bit odd that there are so many vets without jobs, yet there are thousands of jobs at the VA filled by non veterans.	Corey	Anonymous	
Program	Ammenities & Services	We need to be athletic which contributes to healthy life style. we need swimming pools basketball courts baseball equipment. we need arts and crafts. we need daily theorapy one on ones	Ethan	Coulson	
Program	Ammenities & Services	I believe the Va needs to organize a way to more fairly expedite the process of veterans seeking shelter, medical, dental, or mental health care. I feel the claims process should not be so excruciating. There should be more help in the aspect of making veterans feel like it is a privilege that we have these benefits. Every veteran earned these by serving and going into combat, so when they stay somewhere and are receiving treatment they shouldn't feel like they owe anyone anything. Exercising and healthier food options would also be a great change instead of bringing a lot of cheap foods that end up being thrown away. An example for healthier food would be more broccoli, spinach and live food with live enzymes that will help make people feel better. For the veterans that have lost their self discipline in hygiene etc, their should be things put in place to help get them back taking care of them self's if they are still of the age and capabilities. In my opinion any mental health issue can be fixed, but it takes people who really want to help to do this. There should be no reason why when some veterans come and ask for help they are being denied after they offered to put their lives on the line for the destiny of this great country. I feel it is a disgusting failure from the system that is sworn to protect its people and would really like to see some actual change and I am willing to participate. My email is Mrmjw8929@gmail.com If there are any questions or concerns or anything I can do to help please let me know.	Marco	Watson	
Program	Ammenities & Services	Well for me as a Navy veteran of 14 years and 7 months. only just resent views of this. I'm really scared that someone WHO has never been in the military is running this. Just as for some Who is running for President they themselves should have Served this country in a United States Military Branch. Is this a Big Joke or is this for real because it hurts to have people that have know Idea what means to Serve this great nation I call home. Now that is said I'm a 3D animator and Artist in both Film and Video Games Industry. There should be some type of program for Veteran's WHO don't know how to write or make their own resume for Job searching. For us Veterans the civilian community Looks us vet a liability meaning they rather hired someone who has no training in a particular skills over Veterans WHO do so that's why Me myself is homeless without a Job Because of this Issue. Thank you for giving me the chance to speak my mind Please Don't Let Us Veterans Fall please have our 6 and mean it.  Sincerely yours Petty Officer First Class Surface Warfare Navy Veteran Brendan Cain Thibodeau.	Brendan	Thibodeau	
Program	Ammenities & Services	I would love to see an area of commerce with emphasis on veteran owned and disabled veteran owned businesses, coffee shops, bakery, cafe etc. where the campus residents could have access to geographically convenient goods and services.			
Program	Ammenities & Services	There should be sufficient services to accommodate the needs of the veterans living on the campus. It may be a snack bar, grocery story, barber shop. There could also be walking trails, gym, or some form of exercise accommodations. As the campus grows, an assessment for different needs can be made.	Joe	Juarez (Air Force MSgt)	Air Force
Program	Ammenities & Services	The West LA VA Campus should include a small retail area (cafe, diner, shops, etc.) that can serve as the center of the campus' residential area. These businesses should be veteran owned and/or operated.	Seth Frederick	Smith	Navy, Return the Service / Participant Media
Program	Ammenities & Services	Customer service efficacy and staff are severely deficient. I think this is common throughout the VA, and is evident at West LA. The VA needs established and enforced standards for administrative staff's interaction with patients. Long term - the VA should consider revising HR practices that lead to poor-quality staff.	Anonymous	Anonymous	

Topic	Sub-Topic	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Program	Ammenities & Services	<p>It is my understanding that the residents of Brentwood have been quite vocal about their past and future use of a portion of the VA green space for a dog park area. I believe there is a way to continue this and be mutually beneficial to the community and to the Veterans. I think in the master plan they should include a Vet run, staffed and maintained dog park and training facility. The community could have access to the park and services offered by the park and it's Vets. A real sense of community could be accomplished by offering those services by Vets. There is a multitude of other options that can be expanded in the future to include training for therapy dogs and other services beneficial to Vets. The park and services could become a real sense of pride for the community and my idea is to name the program DogTags and offer memberships of some sort to the vet run dog park and services and when a dog is a member they receive a Dogtag similar to a military Dogtag as their pass to the park and the services. The tags could even offer different levels of services based on the rank of the tag. Vets could learn life skills by running and maintaining the park in addition to running the business side and moving into therapy training and other training for service and working dogs. The community of professionals that train service dogs could be a vital part of this plan. This would be a win win for the community and the vets. Animals are a balm to the soul for the wounded warriors and this would be a wonderful first step to help bridge the gap between the campus and the community to bring them together.</p>	Sarah	Fendley	
Program	Ammenities & Services	<p>Facility Usage: Non-medical/clinical housing</p> <p>The current plan proposal only indicates the usage of space for those who are sick or in need of supportive housing. I suggest the inclusion of additional living facilities for veterans AND a space for veteran families who are in need of housing, but may not require medical services. This could be housing for low-income veterans or those who are homeless but lack the clinical conditions for placement in the current available facilities.</p> <p>The current proposal has an abundance of massive basketball courts, golf course, tennis area proposals, etc. However, if the majority of the residing population is in need of care and unable to utilize these areas, they are simply a smoke shield around the existing matter. Additionally, this can lead to the stigma that veterans do not desire housing on the campus, when the main issue is IF the housing and facilities were designed with the veteran resident population in mind. I think if we expand the definition and inclusion of our veteran community, those facilities will see a greater usage and function.</p> <p>Commissary Expansion As the largest facility on the West Side, there should be a large commissary on the campus. This would provide greater attraction, visibility, and usage for all veterans. This commissary should be on the opposite side of the campus away from the medical hospital. There should be a separate accessible entrance to this area of the campus.</p> <p>Skill Bridge The campus should have skill-bridge training facilities. For high-impact or desired employment fields, there should be an extension course/college held at this campus.</p>	Jawana	McFadden	Veteran Advocate, Army
Program	Ammenities & Services	<p>I would like to see a water installation that the vets could paddle board on and the ones with out legs could kayak. The water installation would be a combo between a freshwater river and lake. Stocked with fish and a sandy beach.</p> <p>A multiplex movie theatre with both mainstream and art movies, finally a hobby shop that vets could work on wood, metal or auto.</p> <p>Regards, SA. Afghanistan Vet..</p>	Samuel	Ameen	Air Force
Program	Ammenities & Services	<p>Hello - I attended the last community meeting in Santa Monica regarding the VA project. At the meeting there was a spirited plea from a veteran regarding the possibility of building a Columbarium on the existing VA property. After reading the master plan and visiting the grounds I don't believe that the addition of a Columbarium is in the best interest of the current and future plans for the VA. The original intent of the donation was for a home for veterans and if the restoration and renewal of the property will truly encompass the needs of vets for the present and to plan for the future - there is just not enough land to accommodate a Columbarium. To give the deceased vets a place of rest that would be appropriate, honorable and respectful needs another larger location that can be expanded for the growing future needs.</p>			

Topic	Sub-Topic	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Program	Arts & Culture	<p>It takes more than a roof over a veteran's head to provide a home, a sense of community and belonging. I would like to see arts and entertainment addressed in this Master Plan. I believe that convenient access to theater and other performance arts (film, music etc.) help create a real community. I believe these activities and forms of entertainment help foster a sense of belonging and encourage increased veteran engagement, both with other vets and with civilians. This includes both the resident vets on the campus and the rest of us who have served and now call LA home, but are not in need of transitory or permanent housing. In other words, do I count? Should I be able to benefit from the non-medical facilities, recreation areas, gardens etc. on the campus? If the answer to that is no, then stop reading now but if the answer is yes then I implore you to read and consider what I'm suggesting be amended into the Master Plan before it goes forward. I made these comments weeks ago at a town hall meeting and again via the Veteran Advocacy survey but it I guess it was too late because I literally found one paragraph that peripherally addresses these issues. In Section D4 Page 152 it states:</p> <p>"The Master Plan recognizes and takes into account VA's unequivocal priority to prospectively operate the Campus as a vibrant, welcoming, and sustainable community where all Veterans – including homeless, severely disabled, female Veterans, and elderly Veterans will feel comfortable accessing, living, interacting, recreating, and socializing with one another, their families, VA personnel, and visitors. VA's intent is to transform the Campus into a vibrant community where all Veterans can receive healthcare, benefits, employment, and other supportive services, which they deserve and to which they are entitled."</p> <p>So this sentence states, "all vets", if that includes all vets who have served and not just the LA homeless vets, then there ought to be room in the master plan for topics other than housing.</p> <p>I am a member of several veteran groups focused on the entertainment industry as a career here in LA. The largest of those groups Veterans in Film &amp; Television (VFT), has over 2,000 members, most of whom reside in LA Metro. That is a significant group of vets with a polarizing interest in common. Many of these vets are successfully engaged in an entertainment industry career, but the far majority are aspiring, studying, and in the early stages of building a career in the arts &amp; entertainment. Membership in these groups have given a sense of camaraderie back to us that we've not had since separating from the service. Some have credited membership in</p>	Alan	Pietruszewski CDR USN (Ret.)	
Program	Arts & Culture	<p>Some vets have started, or are trying to start new veteran non-profits, clubs and businesses. These groups could benefit from access to the existing or renovated (and mostly currently vacant) buildings on the campus. Simply having access to spaces for meetings would be a tangible benefit. I started a group for mentoring vets now pursuing acting and every month I find myself searching for a meeting space, geographically convenient with parking that I can beg, borrow or steal access to. There are so many unused buildings on the campus, I believe the number was 176,000,000 (that's MILLION) square feet of unused space.</p>	Alan	Pietruszewski CDR USN (Ret.)	
Program	Arts & Culture	We need to have more rooms for workshops or meetings. Also have screening rooms for veterans that work in entertainment to showcase Movie and Projects. Rooms for charity events and so forth. A lot of veterans work in LA in the Film/TV industry so we need the locations and building or room to help us grow and showcase or talent.			
Program	Arts & Culture	Issue: The Master Plan barely makes mention of incorporating any spaces for the arts on the site.	Jackie	Perez	Navy
		<p>Solution: Proposed ideas include -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An outdoor amphitheater where performances or musical numbers could be staged and used as a seating / meditation area when not in use for artistic purposes.</li> <li>2. An indoor auditorium where events and large meetings can be held. This large room could also have a screening system for film/tv oriented events. A space of significant size could be great for fundraising events, screenings, career fairs, concerts, etc.</li> <li>3. A movie theater that can be used to screen first run movies or screenings of veteran films. And if not a full sized theater than a small screening room with 15-20 seats.</li> <li>4. Indoor performance theater where live action performances or stand up can occur. This space can be used to hold acting or performance classes as well.</li> </ol>			
Program	Arts & Culture	Important for part of the West LA Vet Campus to provide studio space for vets to learn about and engage in film and television production. Let's take care of homeless and disabled vets there, but let's also provide a space that all vets in Los Angeles can use to create content and influence current and future film and tv story telling. . .vets know best about the veteran experience and helping them tell veteran stories will help break down the misconceptions out there.	Tim	Norman	Army

Topic	Sub-Topic	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Program	Arts & Culture	<p>Entertainment, media &amp; arts</p> <p>With Hollywood being so close, and with many veterans working in the entertainment community, the campus should have ongoing ways for veterans to engage in the entertainment and arts culture.</p> <p>Film / TV - Having shared studio space similar to the YouTube Space LA for veterans to collaborate on and create media and productions.</p> <p>Entertainment - Having a movie theater complex could be a great way for both the veteran and civilian community to come to the campus to watch enjoy films. It could be a place for movie premieres to take place.</p> <p>Art studios - Have a place for art galleries, painting, and various other arts classes and workshops.</p> <p>Holistic / Wellness center - A place for alternative healing and wellness classes including yoga, pilates, meditation, etc.</p>	Mike	Dowling	Marine Corps, Veterans in Film and Television, We Are the Mighty
Program	Arts & Culture	<p>Memorial(s) / LA veteran museum -</p> <p>It would be great to have a memorial on campus honoring the history of veterans throughout Los Angeles county. Whether that's through a museum or some kind of memorial (eternal flame, bronze statues, etc.). A subtle way to honor the vet community on the campus is naming buildings on the campus after well known veterans from Los Angeles or who have been awarded medals for valor, etc. as opposed to simply giving the buildings numbers.</p>	Mike	Dowling	Marine Corps, Veterans in Film and Television, We Are the Mighty
Program	Arts & Culture	<p>1. I believe that it is vital to have dedicated space on the West LA VA campus for: a) legal services, b) career counseling, c) arts and entertainment, and d) classrooms for tutoring veterans returning to colleges and universities. Classrooms are particularly important because I have found from my work with student veterans that most need tutoring to provide an effective transition from the military to educational institutions because they have been away from academia for five, ten, fifteen or more years.</p>	Dan	Caldwell	Navy, Peperdine University
Program	Arts & Culture	<p>I'd like to see a 21st century VA campus that provides a spectrum of veteran services, which would transform the West LA VA into a gathering place for the veteran community. Rather than a place to go only when you're "sick" or "broke", the West LA VA campus can become a place for true community by hosting artistic, athletic, and business ventures – in addition to its historic mission of providing care for disabled and homeless veterans.</p> <p>Many of us active in the veteran community here in Los Angeles would prefer a more integrated approach to campus-building than what is currently laid out in new draft plan for the VA campus. Why shouldn't there be athletic facilities on the campus? Why couldn't we have theater spaces and television studios? A central hub for veterans in Los Angeles would allow for interaction between veterans across the spectrum - and this would aid in healing and overall wellness by reminding us all that we're not alone.</p> <p>A true campus would inculcate pride and a sense of ownership amongst vets, modeled on the great universities like UCLA, which foster a sense of reunion and continued investment in a long chain. Those of us who served the nation in combat or peacetime are alumni of the greatest armed forces in the world, links in a long chain that stretch back to the founding of this country. We've experienced trauma together, collectively, under conditions most people can't fathom. Why, then, shouldn't our recovery back home not also be a collective experience? A 21st century VA campus should provide for that sense of community by offering a wide range of services and not just more-of-the-same.</p>	Brayden	Yoder	Army Captain
Program	Arts & Culture	<p>That being said, I hope that whatever plan is put forward creates a place that emphasizes community, not campus. A place that supports reintegration, not separation. A place that prepares veterans for their future and does not simply honor their past. This land should be accessible to members of the greater Los Angeles community who are assisting our veterans on their journey toward reintegration and wellness. I'd love to see the walls and fences come down and the space be connected to the larger Brentwood community.</p>	Regan	Turner	
Program	Arts & Culture	<p>The West LA VA campus should have a state-of-the-art arts and entertainment facility. The arts have proven to be beneficial for veterans as a therapeutic resource as well as a booming career field. Additionally, having creative arts events and opportunities connects the veteran community to Los Angeles, the entertainment industry capital. It also can be a source for sustainable revenue.</p>	Sarah	Serrano	Marine, Veterans in Film and Television

Topic	Sub-Topic	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Program	Arts & Culture	<p>I am one of the General Managers of Veterans in Film and Television, a non-profit headquartered in Los Angeles. We have 2,000 veterans in our organization and have in many ways, created a large family. We have been lucky enough that our suicide rate has remained at zero. Although 22 veterans a day take their own lives, VFT has remained untouched.</p> <p>While thinking about the reasons behind this, I came to a realization. VFT provides the sense of not only camaraderie, but community, to many veterans in Los Angeles. This is absolutely essential in the creation of the West LA VA campus. Without a community with arts, music, entertainment, recreation, landscaping, and a space for veteran non-profits to thrive, the campus would simply be 380 acres of housing. In order for the campus to truly become a home to the thousands of veterans living in Los Angeles county, these elements are not just "wants," they are needs. Let's do this the right way from the beginning and be proactive rather than reactive in our approach.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>	Jennifer	Marshall	Navy, Veterans in Film and Television
Program	Arts & Culture	<p>Any proposal should include a provision for having meeting space available for veterans who are in the pursuit of the arts.</p> <p>This would include the use of any buildings, offices, open spaces, theaters or meeting rooms.</p> <p>Accessibility to free or reasonably priced space is essential to veterans groups who struggle to find safe and affordable meeting locations..</p> <p>Please do not proceed until this essential need among veterans groups is addressed.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>	John	Mendoza	
Program	Arts & Culture	<p>I believe the city of Los Angeles has been blessed with finances that many cities and citizens cannot imagine. I would consider that blessing comes with responsibility to help those in need. How much more honorable a charter than to use a small fraction of that wealth to provide a state of the art rehabilitation facility for he veterans that provide the freedom to enjoy the type of self made prosperity that at least in part defines the city. Not many cities can provide this type of facility for its vets. Be the leader in paying back the vets that so sincerely deserve it.</p>	AJH		
Program	Arts & Culture	<p>I'd like to see a 21st century VA campus that provides a spectrum of veteran services, which would transform the West LA VA into a gathering place for the veteran community. Rather than a place to go only when you're "sick" or "broke", the West LA VA campus can become a place for true community by hosting artistic, athletic, and business ventures – in addition to its historic mission of providing care for disabled and homeless veterans.</p> <p>Many of us active in the veteran community here in Los Angeles would prefer a more integrated approach to campus-building than what is currently laid out in new draft plan for the VA campus. Why shouldn't there be athletic facilities on the campus? A central hub for veterans in Los Angeles would allow for interaction between veterans across the spectrum - and this would aid in healing and overall wellness by reminding us all that we're not alone.</p> <p>A true campus would inculcate pride and a sense of ownership amongst vets, modeled on the great universities like UCLA, which foster a sense of reunion and continued investment in a long chain. Those of us who served the nation in combat or peacetime are alumni of the greatest armed forces in the world, links in a long chain that stretch back to the founding of this country. We've experienced trauma together, collectively, under conditions most people can't fathom. Why, then, shouldn't our recovery back home not also be a collective experience? A 21st century VA campus should provide for that sense of community by offering a wide range of services and not just more-of-the-same.</p>	Wayne	Rush	
Program	Arts & Culture	<p>I believe the extra land that is currently not being put to use in the way it was intended, should obviously be used to provide shelter for the enormous homeless veteran community we have in LA; however, along with that, it would be nice to see some of the theater/seating space used for entertainment purposes. Perhaps those areas could also be open for use for veteran groups such as VFT, Got Your 6, We Are the Mighty, etc. For monthly meetings/events, etc. Many veterans are active in the entertainment industry and it would be great to put on free shows for homeless veterans, as well as the veteran community in general. In closing, regardless of other considerations, the land should be put to use in whatever manner is most beneficial for the homeless veteran community as well as our veterans with disabilities.</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Arts & Culture	<p>I would love a safe place for vets to express their creativity through art. A safe place for painting, acting, writing, and whatever else will help vets express themselves. Through art is healing.</p>	James	Martinez	

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Program	Arts & Culture	<p>I believe that convenient access to theater and other performance arts (film, music etc.) help create a real community. I believe these activities and forms of entertainment help foster a sense of belonging and encourage increased veteran engagement, both with other vets and with civilians. This includes both the resident vets on the campus and the rest of us who have served and now call LA home, but are not in need of transitory or permanent housing. In other words, do I count? Should I, as a veteran who is not homeless, be able to benefit from the non-medical facilities, recreation areas, gardens etc. on the campus?</p> <p>"The Master Plan recognizes and takes into account VA's unequivocal priority to prospectively operate the Campus as a vibrant, welcoming, and sustainable community where all Veterans – including homeless, severely disabled, female Veterans, and elderly Veterans will feel comfortable accessing, living, interacting, recreating, and socializing with one another, their families, VA personnel, and visitors. VA's intent is to transform the Campus into a vibrant community where all Veterans can receive healthcare, benefits, employment, and other supportive services, which they deserve and to which they are entitled."</p> <p>So this sentence states, "all vets", if that includes all vets who have served and not just the LA homeless vets, then there ought to be room in the master plan for topics other than housing.</p> <p>I am a member of several veteran groups focused on the entertainment industry as a career here in LA. The largest of those groups Veterans in Film &amp; Television (VFT), has over 2,000 members, most of whom reside in LA Metro. That is a significant group of vets with a polarizing interest in common. Many of these vets are successfully engaged in an entertainment industry career, but the far majority are aspiring, studying, and in the early stages of building a career in the arts &amp; entertainment. Membership in these groups have given vets a sense of camaraderie that we've not had since separating from the service. Some have credited membership in veteran groups as helping to keep them sane and alive. So while not everyone is going to become a career entertainment professional, most are getting benefits from veteran to veteran engagement, a true sense of belonging from sharing common interests with other vets.</p>	Alan	Pietruszewski USN (Ret.)	Navy
Program	Arts & Culture	<p>The campus has THREE theater buildings, 264, 500 and 1,500 seat facilities. These spaces could be, should be utilized by the hundreds to possibly thousands of vets in the city who are interested in staging theater plays, both production and performance. We could be staging plays written, produced, acted etc. by all or mostly veteran theater companies. We can make stipulations to usage of these spaces that a certain percentage of seats must be reserved for free to the resident population of the campus.</p> <p>In fact every idea I have could be adopted to include a "giving back" to the campus component. If we had a modern TV studio production space for example (I've heard there is an old medical TV studio space in one of the vacant buildings), we could arrange training and "follow" programs to educate resident or non-resident jobless vets to teach bankable skills in the entertainment industry.</p> <p>The theaters could be modified to double as screening spaces for films and TV shows. We could develop partnerships with film and TV companies for free or discounted screenings for both resident and non-resident veterans. We already do a lot of this out in town for non-resident vets but for the non-ambulatory and temporary/permanent resident vets on campus, using these spaces would make such screenings more easily consumable.</p> <p>We have a thriving veteran community of film-makers, producers, writers, and actors here in LA Metro. Between us, we have created hundreds of short films, TV pilots, public service announcements, plays and feature films, all of which could be screened by vets for vets.</p> <p>I could take these ideas further, suggest a state of the art computer lab where volunteers could teach other vets about computer/internet usage, web design, animation and other areas that would both enrich their lives and create bankable skill sets.</p>	Alan	Pietruszewski USN (Ret.)	
Program	Arts & Culture	<p>The VA campus should be a site where honorable and proud veterans can come. I would hesitate on the compulsion to over build the campus and insure that there is plenty of open space (keep the golf course). An example would be to follow the infrastructures of active duty military installations and all the services and facilities that they provide; that should be used as a template, i.e., Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR). All outsiders like the Brentwood kids playing soccer at the far north east sector of campus should be eliminated (except for maybe the UCLA baseball team if there is a benefit to the veterans). The site should instill (visually and institutionally –embedded in VA culture) all veterans pride in serving their county.</p>	Dan	Smee	
Program	Arts & Culture	<p>I'd love to see part of the space used for auditions. All you'd need is a small room with a gray wall, easy! The other wall could have a green screen. I'd also love to see a larger room that we could build into a small studio for filming. Another great idea would be to take a small room (or closet) and soundproof it for voice recording. All in all, there are so many veterans working in film and television who could really use the space to work on projects without the expensive location fees.</p>	Jennifer		

Topic	Sub-Topic	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Program	Community	I signed the original VATHERIGHTWAY survey to benefit the homeless situation on campus, but more with the intent for rehab purposes and actually getting people better instead of providing short term solutions to long term problems, and utilizing ineffective programs. In the moment, I never really thought about how much a proper "community" aspect alone could help veterans with their problems, but it's true. Isolation seems to be an obvious no-no for recovery, but that's the way the current West LA has things designed: the homeless have other homeless veterans and medical staff to engage with since the rest of the veteran community isn't really inclined to venture there unless it's an emergency, that's such a limited spectrum of the greater community, so in effect, having a campus that is only desirable to homeless veterans is effectively isolating them and creating barriers from the rest of society (at least the part of society that can be beneficial to them), and hindering their recovery. Building these creative spaces (or having different management of current spaces) can help with both the homeless and the non-homeless, by engaging people to actually go to the West LA, and in turn building a better community. Another veteran said it best, "community and a sense of belonging result from a life rich in arts, recreation, and other activities that involve veteran engagement with both other veterans and civilians," I believe one of the reasons there aren't more homeless is because some people were lucky enough to have a community to be involved in, and a passion to strive for: having those two are probably the most effective "medicine" any human would need.			
Program	Community	<p>The VA Master Plan will only succeed if it takes a holistic view of the issue. While building living spaces for homeless veterans is an important part of the overall plan, getting them to stay and thrive will fail without giving them a sense of community. Research has shown that taking homeless people off the streets is not as easy as just giving them a place to live. After a certain time of being on the streets, living there becomes just as natural as living in a home.</p> <p>To change that, you must give the homeless a reason other than just living quarters to stay there. A sense of community and camaraderie must be perpetuated though out the entire vision of the plan. As a vet myself, the one thing I miss the most is the people I served with. Knowing that they had my back and I had theirs. The joking, the laughing, the boredom, the work and the fighting created a bond between brothers and sisters that can never be broken.</p> <p>That is what has to be fostered in this plan. Without it, without that sense of community, you can build thousands of housing units for homeless vets and they will remain half empty.</p> <p>Use the space wisely. Let veterans that have made successful transitions to civilian life become part of the community. Entice them to use the facilities and mingle with those less fortunate to build that camaraderie that we all miss so dearly. Foster and atmosphere where vets from all eras can come together and support one another. Without that sense of community, the plan is doomed.</p>	Juan	Rivas	Navy
Program	Community	<p>Rename the campus and help change the campus identity.</p> <p>Whether it is called Veterans Community of LA, or named after a well known veteran from Los Angeles such as "The Jackie Robinson Campus", I feel changing the name from the West LA VA to something that veterans may feel more pride in would be a better in changing how veterans perceive the campus overall, including those who work at the VA.</p> <p>Also, instead of numbering the buildings, maybe name the more prominent ones on campus after prestigious military figures. These are subtleties that can hopefully improve morale on some level.</p>	Mike	Dowling	Marine Corps, Veterans in Film and Television, We Are the Mighty
Program	Community	5. Community: There should be a central village square with mixed retail. It should have everything a typical community would have including a movie theater, A hotel like the Hale Koa or the Marine Corps Hotel in SF would be wonderful. There should be a first class gym, including a pool, with trained staff. There needs to be a playground for children of veterans who may be visiting or living on campus.	Jorge	Rodriguez	Air Force
Program	Community	<p>Veteran Homeless: currently the master plan provides only 700-900 permanent supportive housing units. This should be increased to 2,500 to accommodate homeless veterans in Los Angeles. The design should reflect and/or respond to California traditions of architecture. Tents should not be considered as an option.</p> <p>Community: There should be a central village square/hotel complex with mixed retail. A military hotel run with non-appropriated funds would allow service members the opportunity to stay in Los Angeles at a reasonable price. This would also provide an opportunity for veterans to reconnect with those who currently serve in the public square. There must be adequate security to ensure it remains an attractive location.</p>	David L.	Corrick, USAFR Colonel	

Topic Program	Sub-Topic Community	Comments	First Name Matthew	Last Name Smith, TSgt	Notes Air Force
		Veteran Homeless: currently the master plan provides only 700-900 permanent supportive housing units. This should be increased to 2,500. There are approximately 4,000 homeless veterans in Los Angeles. There should be more variation in the variety of housing-types provided for veterans in permanent and transitional housing. If there are empty beds non-veterans should be able to fill them. Tents should not be considered as an option.			
		Community: There should be a central village square with mixed retail. It should have everything a typical community would have including a movie theater, A hotel like the Hale Koa or the Marine Corps Hotel in SF would be wonderful. There should be a first class gym, including a pool, with trained staff. There needs to be a playground for children of veterans who may be visiting or living on campus.			
Program	Community	I would like to see a nicely designed "Main Street" or board walk, not some strip mall food court standard issue mall aesthetic, think of the Grove at the Farmer's Market.	Samuel	Ameen	Air Force
Program	Education	Hire educators with teaching experience who are veterans themselves and ensure they each know how to educate transitioning veterans. Make the degrees academically and vocational useful worldwide, not just locally. Partner with companies for placement after degree completion, as well as paid internships or apprenticeships. Think academically, not military.	Angela	Miller	
Program	Education	The VA campus could benefit by partnering with veteran service nonprofit organizations to build/provide offices at little to no cost to the organizations, which then assist military veterans with significant resources and assistance (ie Warrior Scholar Project assists veterans in reintegrating into academia and succeed in brick-and-mortar universities; Veterans in Film and Television assists veterans in the entertainment industry find, train for and retain employment; other veteran service organizations assist veterans in starting their own businesses)	Sarah	Serrano	Marine, Veterans in Film and Television
Program	Education	Education resource center, that can offer information and not classes.	Mayra	Plascencia	Marine Corps, New Directions
Program	Education	I work for American Forces Network, and I would love to see more workshops for veterans interested in media/entertainment as well as facilities with production equipment that support their careers. Maybe UCLA extension can offer classes on campus.	Roc	Grant	Air Force
Program	Education	I would also like to see more entertainment on the campus such as a movie theater for veterans to watch films and screen their own films. My name's Dan Caldwell I served in the United States Navy for three years. I'm now a professor of political science at Pepperdine University and I am the chairman and founder of the Pepperdine Committee on student veterans. In reviewing the plan it seems to me that there is a real need for centers that focus on transitional learning, particularly tutoring for student veterans returning to colleges and universities after five or ten years out of an educational setting. In addition, I think there's a need for career centers to help veterans at the VA west campus and then Finally I think there's a need for a dedicated center for legal services for veterans and I know a number of my colleagues at Pepperdine as well as other universities would be willing to provide legal advice and help to returning student veterans as well as others	Dan	Caldwell	Navy, Peperdine University
Program Program	Education Employment	It would be great to see financial planning meetings and seminars In the master plan there was no mention of ways to employ veterans after they are treated.  There should be a focus on creating opportunities for veterans once in recovery to work with veterans on the campus in a variety of ways. Once employed, veterans should have a "education track" if they identify a position in the VA that they would like to become employed in and while they are working, they should be supported while pursuing the education needed to transition into that level of work. Once complete, there should be a clear way that they achieve work at the level desired and their should be a veteran advisory board overseeing the hiring practice to ensure veterans are not being discriminated against by hiring managers.	Sawyer Jim	Zenner	Army, Volunteers of America
Program	Employment	2)To encourage Veterans to live at the West LA site we need to provide employment opportunities in the area.  Local Employment – on site services a. Not EDD or Work Source Centers b. Outreach to local businesses within a reasonable commute from site. i. Develop a board of local business leaders and local business chambers ii. Win-win ---- jobs for residents and access to an untapped talent pool 1. Please note that we are conducting a study with the Anderson MBA program at UCLA to determine the job readiness, strengths and gaps in capabilities of the general Veteran population in the Greater Los Angeles area. a. Results will be published Spring 2016. iii. Partner with UCLA Career placement center expertise to offer onsite career counselling. If you have any questions or need additional information feel free to contact me.	Michael	Wolfe	Navy, Vets Bridge to Employment

Topic	Sub-Topic	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Program	Employment	The West LA VA campus should have a variety of resource centers available to veterans. One of the most important is a transitional resource center to provide assistance with active duty military and veterans to gain career advancement training and opportunities, educational resources, employment assistance, housing assistance, veterans benefits training and guidance, and financial services.	Sarah	Serrano	Marine, Veterans in Film and Television
Program	Employment	It would be great to see a career center with veteran career representatives/experts to provide assistance.	Charles		
Program	Health	As a Post-911 veteran with PTSD I have found the creative and mind-body arts have helped me transition from military to civilian life. I highly recommend extending access to servicemembers for classes in the creative, yoga, and martial arts which help to mitigate PTSD and generate a sense of empowerment and well-being that contributes to improved mental health and social functioning.			
Program	Health	I am going to list some amenities that I feel have to be implicated in a full recovery for a veteran. Number one exercise, I feel healthy exercise and activities is one of the number one psychological influences on a persons energy and mental state that is a fact. That being said I feel for all programs their should be like a community gym with maybe a track around it outside with some pull up bars and other things. Program focus I feel the transitional, drug, mental health, ptsd(oef/oif-separate from other mental health), and homeless programs should be separated, so the needs of each group of veterans can be met. A very important thing that I have found is the fact that there should be food that promotes mental health recovery, not food that is scientifically proven to reduce a persons mental health or health period. I am currently staying at a program by the VOA in hollywood (HVC) and Admiral Michael Mullen came by to speak to us and told us that money and things like that weren't really an issue. If that is the case then why is it taking this action and this incident to push the VA for change? I feel more then anything they need to spend some of that money bumping up pay and getting more qualified people to work in the VA. I feel next to building a more community type place to planting trees and maybe a running trail and more outside events to get some light in the veterans lives. Veterans do not need more tvs, playstations and xboxes, they need treatment and right now the VA looks like a prison camp with people stuck there going back and forth to the doctor to get there medication and pills to suppress there problems not treat there issues. With that being said I think a big change in these programs should be a better established training system for employees and one that is monitored quarterly. One of the last and most important things is security, when dealing with homeless people and drug addicts and other mental problems you have incidents that constantly go on and maybe two veterans get involved and one is defending him self and they are thrown out or bullied. I have been in places where staff is notified and nothing is done. These are unacceptable outcomes from our VA, police, and government amenities. We can make the best VA facility, but what I am worried about is if when these new facilities are built if it will be to make people more tolerant to staying there for an extremely long time to make money for the VA or to treat veterans. I am a very smart young man and I will be paying attention to what happens to this and I hope with #VATHERIGHTWAY change really comes because this is a great opportunity to clean up a bad reputation and I am 100% behind this idea. Godspeed	Marco	Watson	
Program	Health	It is imperative that the West LA VA campus has a wellness center. This wellness center will focus on proactive health activities and assistance to prevent dangers which result from prescription medication dependency and abuse, and unhealthy lifestyle choices. The wellness center could offer programs in exercise, meditation, nutrition, therapy, alternative and holistic medicine/approaches. The wellness center should also be a 24-hour establishment, open to assist veterans with emergency crises by providing a safe place to stay and emergency therapy, as well as connect veterans with befitting VA campus resource centers.	Sarah	Serrano	Marine, Veterans in Film and Television
Program	Health	I would like an alternative to the Emergency room similar to Urgent Care.	Mayra	Plascencia	Marine Corps, New Directions
Program	Housing	Currently there is no specific mention to use of the space where the VA executive housing is currently located nor specific plans that I saw for an exclusive area for women veterans head of household and their children for permanent supportive.	Jim	Zenner	Army, Volunteers of America
Program	Housing	That area could become beautiful neighborhood for that specific purpose and a daycare should be built with the housing in that neighborhood with sidewalks, basketball court, and other safe areas for children and adults to play. In the master plan it did not mention any transitional housing for specific populations or era of veterans that I saw.  There should be a 40 unit transitional housing program specific to OIF/OEF/OND population on the WLA campus. There are currently a lot of veterans from that specific era staying in a 48 bed GPD program I run that is a mix between the bridge approach and traditional GPD. Many have stated that they would like to be on the west side to be closer to UCLA and SMCC for school or for the multiple weekly appointments at the VA and enjoy being with their specific era of veterans.	Jim	Zenner	Army, Volunteers of America

Topic	Sub-Topic	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Program	Housing	The Master plan discusses the amount of housing to be created (via renovations or construction) is based on the availability of housing units in greater LA community. While currently the state offering/awarding prop 41 money to developers to build perm supportive housing in the communities through out the state. My question is who is connecting the new housing availability with the VA, esp when this will determine the need for PSH on campus?	Kristine	Hesse	Air Force, National Veterans Foundation
Program	Housing	300 acres should be used to build a housing facility for disabled veterans. A large enough multi-level apartment structure able to house 10,000 with a gym, 5 Olympic sized pools, 3 quarter-mile running tracks, an events center sized appropriately to cater to crowds of 10,000, a cafeteria to feed 10,000 daily, a bus terminal, and a Chapel.			
Program	Housing	Veterans are freezing on streets of skid row. Please use this property to rehabilitate our veterans with a shower, warm bed, meal and a suit and tie. Everything else irrelevant!			
Program	Housing	2. Some veterans with PTS are simply not comfortable living in traditional residential apartments or houses. Several VA centers in other states, such as Arizona, have built areas where veterans can pitch tents and live outside of brick and mortar buildings. The planners for the West LA VA campus should look into these areas. Included in these areas would be central toilets and showers so that the vet-residences could maintain their hygiene.	Dan	Caldwell	Navy, Peperdine University
Program	Housing	There are estimated 8,000 homeless veterans in Los Angeles. The campus can't house all of them and some would probably prefer to live off campus. Regardless, the amount of permanent support housing needs to be increased from 700 and bridge housing and transitionally needs to be drastically increased from the approximate 700 that are planned.	Hamilton	Underwood	Air Force, LA Air Force PAO
Program	Housing	The VA campus should develop significant housing initiatives such as building low-cost housing to military veterans, updating current transitional housing, and building a community of market value homes and commerce.	Sarah	Serrano	Marine, Veterans in Film and Television
Program	Housing	We need an emergency Shelter that can be accesed 24 hrs a day, year round.	Mayra	Plascencia	Marine Corps, New Directions
Program	Housing	Reevaluate housing needs on a quarterly basis.	Mayra	Plascencia	Marine Corps, New Directions
Program	Housing	We need more safe housing for women, veterans with children and veterans in the LGTBQ	Mayra	Plascencia	Marine Corps,
Program	Housing	I don't want a one size fits all housing solution want different housing for veteran homeless. I would like to see different housing options taking in to account veteran families, female veterans, single parent veterans, and wounded veterans who need special accommodations. A good example might be Habitat for Humanity.	Roc	Grant	Air Force
Program	Housing	Roc (Air Force veteran) Please have different housing options for homeless veterans, transitioning veterans, veterans with families, female veterans, and at risk veterans.	Mark	Harper	Air Force
Program	Housing	There should be a way to house veterans but not making the majority of the campus just housing. There should be community services not just for the veterans who will live on the campus but for all veterans in Los Angeles. With respect to the types of new housing needed for homeless veterans on the West LA VA Campus, I believe we need a complete gamut of housing types and variety. The current plan calls for 1, 2 and 3 bedroom units, but not all homeless vets will be comfortable in these traditional housing units, at least not right away.  I'd like to see a few more options to include a dorm like setting with individual one room bedroom with a bed, nightstand and sitting area. Common areas for bathing and cooking would be shared similar to what you see in a YWCA compound.  I think it would also be a great initial first step to get vets off the streets to have an option for a tent city so where in a less traveled location on the campus. Just a nice private area where vets who prefer living in an outdoor tent situation, with bathroom and shower facilities nearby, as well as access to a meal kitchen where they could get 3 square meals a day.  This would provide for every type of housing to accommodate the reintegration to society process in a slower, more deliberate fashion for those who might need it.	Alan	Pietruszewski USN (Ret.)	Navy
Program	Housing	The new housing facilities and support services will be available to all veterans, even those not eligible for health care.	Kristine	Hesse	Air Force, National Veterans Foundation
Program	Housing	There needs to be different types of housing on the campus. Permanent housing to make a better sense of community, transitional housing and temporary housing for homeless veterans. Special housing for veterans with families, single parent veterans, female vets and LGBT veterans. Additional shower/bathing facilities as well as laundry for those who chose to remain on the streets.	Jennifer	Marshall	Navy, Veterans in Film and Television
Program	Housing	Housing; More transitional, emergency and long term (when applicable) housing. Free clinical building.			

Topic Program	Sub-Topic Housing	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Program	Housing	Housing that will be provided needs to be in a proactive manner. For example, many vets have voiced that they were turned away from housing because they weren't on drugs or had addiction problems. However they were homeless and had a need for said help but were turned away. This is appalling as they have sacrificed so much and haven't gotten the help they needed.			
Program	Housing	Housing should be preemptive six months is too long to wait to help someone, housing should be catered to people who haven't made all the bad choices, if I haven't been homeless for six months I should still get helping	Doug	Steen	
Program	Housing	I'm commenting as a female, Vietnam ERA Vet who is also 100% permanently disabled. I rely upon a mobility scooter to get around AND I am partnered with a wonderful Service Dog, I'm also a recipient of HUD-VASH housing assistance. So, here are my comments:  The land is prime real estate in the heart of the densest population of HOMELESS Veterans. The land would be PERFECT for homeless housing for Veterans, transitional for those who need it, and permanent for those who will need such housing, especially situated by the hospital for those with serious chronic issues.  This is an ideal way to help address the serious homeless Vet issue & can relieve a lot of the strain on the HUD-VASH program (a program that saved my life).  When I lost my rental room over 5 years ago & I couldn't find an affordable AND accessible replacement on my tiny fixed income, I ended up homeless -- and there was NO place for me to go. There were NO shelters that the VA knew of that were set up to be handicap accessible, allow me to use my scooter OR be accompanied by my Service Dog. The VA Social Workers were at a loss, the county was at a loss, and cold calling every shelter in SoCal netted me nothing. That is when the VA Social Workers told me about HUD-VASH. Even though I qualified & was approved, I still had to wait several months while spending every penny on cheap motels, sleeping in garages or a few nights in the elements). I finally got my voucher & found an appropriate apartment. Having my own little affordable apartment has been a godsend & a lifesaver -- I no longer had to . I'm now looking to move my voucher into a more handicap accessible apartment because I'm having a lot more trouble -- but other than that, I'm grateful every day for being on the program and I want to see other homeless Vets be helped, regardless of the problems that led them to be homeless.  Establishing homeless housing and setting it up with social workers and counselors (drug & alcohol abuse is a common problem, although not so for me) will go a long way towards helping our heroes get back on their feet.	Shoshona	Perelman	
Program	Housing	Veteran Homelessness: There should be sufficient housing, both temporary and permanent, to accommodate every disabled, homeless veteran in need of those services. There should be more permanent and temporary housing the master plan calls for It may be a temporary housing unit where the veteran as well as the governing parties have time to make an assessment of the needs of every individual. Once the assessment is completed, the veteran should be placed in the most appropriate housing for his/her needs, i.e. close to medical services, shopping, etc.	Joe	Juarez (Air Force MSgt)	Air Force
Program	Housing	2. Veteran Homeless: currently the master plan provides only 700-900 permanent supportive housing units. This should be increased to 2,500. There are approximately 4,000 homeless veterans in Los Angeles. There should be more variation in the variety of housing-types provided for veterans in permanent and transitional housing. If there are empty beds non-veterans should be able to fill them. Tents should not be considered as an option.	Jorge	Rodriguez	Air Force
Program	Housing	Comment: There is no mention of any possibilities for permanent market-cost housing for non-sick veterans.	Jackie	Perez	Navy
Program	Housing	There are no definition of what is their idea / definition of "Neighborhood" or "community" Would be nice if the units had handicapped access for vets who use wheelchairs -- that the kitchens are accessible at waist level; that the bathrooms are outfitted with safety bars.  Hopefully there's a library with computers/printers/fax machines.	Mei Ling	Moore	
Program	Legal Services	Finally I think there's a need for a dedicated center for legal services for veterans and I know a number of my colleagues at Pepperdine as well as other universities would be willing to provide legal advice and help to returning student veterans as well as others	Dan	Caldwell	Navy, Pepperdine University
Program	Minority Groups	The plan did not speak about where to relocate the Womens Healthcare Clinic. The clinic should be built by building 264 and 264 should be revamped to provide wellness and recreation while new building be the actual medical clinic with all treatment. There should be a parking lot that is only accessible at that entry off of San Vicente and the small compound should only have one pedestrian route in our out of main campus.	Jim	Zenner	Army, Volunteers of America

Topic Program	Sub-Topic Minority Groups	Comments	First Name Nathan	Last Name Graeser	Notes USC School of Social Work CIR, Army
Program	Minority Groups	I want a focus on vulnerable populations. Veterans are not all white, middle class men. As our wars come to an end, most of the services and resources provided for veterans have failed to account for the change in demographics of those returning over the past 14 years. While minority veterans have always faced difficulties returning home from service, the military now actively deploys females and LGBT veterans. Recent studies have suggested that these populations are less likely to identify themselves as veterans and certainly more likely to have experienced sexual assault, complicating their identification with receiving help as a veteran- as it was a Veteran who violated their trust. This campus needs a safe place that allows these veterans to receive the care and treatment they deserve after service.			
Program	Minority Groups	Housing should include special units for woman, single vets and their kids, vet families, and LGBT.			
Program	Minority Groups	There needs to be services for women and families. There is nothing for when you fall on hard times. This has been going on 4 years with my family to go no where. The only services that are available is about 112 miles away impossible to get there with no car. The focus is no single males so what happened to the females. Bottom line we took a back seat and that needs to stop. The service for medical for females are lacking as will. I am lucky that I have a great female doctor at UCLA. How about constuling them at the Iris Canter Women's Health Center. They deal with Women's Health issue only. This is stickly for women.	shannon	yoshikawa	
		Both Santa Monica College and UCLA have agreed to help any women that need help going through this process. They need to contact the gender studies department.			
Program	Minority Groups	Women's Needs There should be a separate, specific housing area of the campus for women suffering from MST, PTSD, and other traumatizing or medical related concerns. There are a large number of women who have these issues and IF housing can be located, it is typically in remote areas away from facilities. Considering that the West LA VA hospital is the largest veteran medical facility in LA, it would make sense to provide a safe and convenient housing area for these women. This housing area could provide safety (in a non-isolated, remote location). The women would feel included in the areas of concern for veterans, rather than an isolated problem needing quarantine. The housing could provide proximity of services. Alleviating the amount of time needed for travel, decreases the same stressors these women are trying to combat by going to the VA. They large crowds and need for multiple types of transportation could also increase service usage by this population. The housing is needed. There are a handful of women veteran facilities in southern California. Why not have housing in the area where the women are traveling.	Jawana	McFadden	Veteran Advocate, Army
Program	Open Space	4. Landscaping: there needs to be sustainable landscaping. Natural grass should be reserved for areas where people will actually use it such as a central square or a concert venue.	Jorge	Rodriguez	Air Force
Program	Recreational	I would like to see yoga and other athletic programs for Veterans and their families to promote well being.	Philip	USMC Vet	
Program	Services	There is no mention of a transitional center for active duty and veterans.  Red Cross building should be used and USO should be approached to have USO Transition 360 Alliance run the building and provide employment, benefits, and recreational opportunities for veterans and active duty including reserve components and their families. Should contain a variety of recreational and exercise options. Building next door should be a low/no cost motel for active duty and reserve to use when visiting home or drilling a long ways away.	Jim	Zenner	Army, Volunteers of America
Program	Services	How will the support/service agencies be selected to have space and offer services on the campus? Who will oversee their effectiveness? An outside agency needs to inspect their programs on a regular basis and hold them accountable for their services. The smaller non profits need an opportunity to work with veterans and their families as well.	Kristine	Hesse	Air Force, National Veterans Foundation
Program	Services	Issue: there is not a discreet mention of gathering spaces for business purposes in the Master Plan Solution: Create individual and group spaces onsite that veterans can use for meetings and work-space. Proposed ideas include: 1. 1 building that houses several small conference rooms with projection capability as well as 1-2 larger size conference rooms for meetings. 2. Once space on site that could be used for larger gatherings around 100-150 people. This could be an indoor auditorium or stage area. 3. A communal / co-working space for writers and entrepreneurs can work. The Hatchery Press is an example of a space in LA like this and there multiple others. An open concept or more individualized workspaces could be included. 4. A building for working spaces where veteran owned and operated business could rent affordable space to run small businesses from like a co-op space.	Jackie	Perez	Navy
Program	Sustainability	The VA campus should have sources for sustainable revenue. One lucrative business would be a hotel that is open to the public at competitive market cost, and also available to active duty military and veterans at a significantly discounted rate. The location guarantees regular civilian visitors, and the discounts offer additional incentives for military/veterans.	Sarah	Serrano	Marine, Veterans in Film and Television

Topic	Sub-Topic	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Program	Sustainability	The VA campus should have sources for sustainable revenue. One lucrative business would be a childcare program that is open to the public at competitive market cost, and also available to active duty military and veterans at a significantly discounted rate. The location guarantees regular civilian visitors, and the discounts offer additional incentives for military/veterans.	Sarah	Serrano	Marine, Veterans in Film and Television
Program	Sustainability	<p>We need to erecting a hotel on the VA Campus with a real "Presidential Suit." Presidential administrations since Rutherford B. Hayes have been coming to California. Whether the visit was to raise money, support or to vacation – California is a hot spot. The President of the United States should have a Presidential Suit that is specifically designed for his/her security. This "California West Wing" would provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. A closer connection to our West LA Campus with the White House</li> <li>b. The ability for the President to visit with Veterans during their stay in California</li> <li>c. A HUGE federal cost savings concerning the security measure for housing the President at hotels in Beverly Hills – sweeps, securing the building, blocking off streets etc.</li> <li>d. Greater ease in moving the President via Marine One</li> </ul> <p>This hotel will create jobs for veterans, allow vets who have served our nation the ability to visit our great state and be able to afford to stay and see our sights (generates revenue and tax base).</p>	Christopher	Landavazo	Navy, Cops for Causes, LAPD
Program	Sustainability	I would like to see the VA campus become sustainable, in that it will not be totally reliant on government funds for operations. They could get funds through renting out retail and conference space, renting out parking services for special events in the neighborhood, and other services to the community. The VA needs to be able to make its own money and not be totally reliant on the US government for funding. This will also help the VA to become better integrated into the surrounding communities.	Kristen	Belden	



## **COMMENTS POSTED TO THE FEDERAL REGISTER**

DECEMBER 7, 2015

Topic	Sub-Topic	Timestamp	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Implementation	Plan & Outreach	10/23/2015	Yes please build it and bless our Veterans!	Jennifer	Hernandez	
Implementation	Plan & Outreach	11/3/2015	<p>The outreach component of the Urban Planner, HOK, was flawed by its own admission after grass root Veteran organizations and individual Veterans from the areas outside of West Los Angeles brought it to the attention of the Special Assistant.</p> <p>Senator Feinstein's senate bill, S- 2013, is written to favor her two, powerful, constituents, turning them into "recreational" service providers when, in fact, they have been guilty of excluding Veterans from enjoying the gift-land. It simply is not in their interest or DNA to provide prioritized services for Veterans.</p> <p>The VA's DNA is also in question because it is guilty of creating the problem. It's resigned, retired, bureaucrats facilitated the poor land-use policy, now requiring "revitalization". This begs for the question, "How, without mindful concession of this fact, is it possible for the VA to effectively resolve the problem?" The lip-service "Good Faith" that the VA Secretary promised has already been breached by the Urban Planner's failed outreach component. "Set-asides" and carving out pockets of the footprint for special handling by the Secretary and his special interest "friends" do not represent a level playing field.</p> <p>Unfortunately, approval of this flawed plan, a one-sided design to please the adjacent communities of Brentwood and Westwood, will result in more exclusion of the Veteran communities of far-more different demographics and backgrounds than WLA. Namely, the High Desert, South Central L.A., the Harbor Area and the San Gabriel Valley, not to mention Veterans who are concerned of the National status of the "HOME" who are from out of state.</p>	Francisco	Juarez	
Implementation	Plan & Outreach	23-Nov-15	I completely agree with the commenter saying, "How can Congress, ACLU, Veterans Groups, and Veterans be assured that promises of commitment to Veterans is not going to go unfulfilled at West L.A.?" The rest of the comment makes me very nervous about a disaster coming out of the Master Plan. It all sound very utopian on paper, but the whole plan is supposed to be realized by the same VA bureaucrats we keep hearing about in the news. Everyone should demand more attention to this issue, not just the utopian plan.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Implementation	Plan & Outreach	25-Nov-15	<p>Today residents of VENTURA County were asked to attend, comment, and participate on the WLA Master Plan. Lots was made of the fact that the plan was intended to address the specific issues of the WLA campus. As Ventura County residents, rely on WLA it is important to us what is done there and how it can meet our needs. Surprisingly the one issue that SHOULD have been brought to us with possible solutions as part of this Master Plan was some plan or ideas on how to deal with the travel, access, and parking at WLA which is atrocious.</p> <p>Hearing that the travel study was waiting on a time when the college would be in session was certainly NOT an appropriate response for those of us in Ventura. The local traffic at WLA is the LEAST important part of access when we have had to deal with 1 1/2 - 2hr commutes EACH way to have a 15 minute appointment ... and worse spend 10 minutes driving around looking for somewhere to park. When a regional party to the planning issue is invited to be part of a planning process, it would behoove those presenting to bring 'something' to the table that speaks too and hopefully informs us of plans and possibilities of solutions that are important to us. Being able to claim that 'oh we went to Ventura and gave them a chance for input' is just NOT what we want to hear, or, that a travel study is in the works.</p>	Joseph	Richardson	<b>Organization Name:</b> Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County Submitter's Representative:Sec/Board Member
Implementation	Plan & Outreach	25-Nov-15	Where are the Survey Monkey results reflecting Mental Health staff morale? This is the staff that are needed to support the Master Plan. But so many of the best and brightest will gone by the time the Master Plan breaks ground. VA must review the results of the Survey Monkey and address the problems before they undermine the Master Plan.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Implementation	Plan & Outreach	25-Nov-15	There are at least two reports which have been kept secret, apparently because they would be very damaging to the present leadership of Mental Health, and those who support it with their silence: (1) the "Cook-Landreth" report prepared by two outside experts who investigated allegations in the Spring of 2015, and (2) the "Survey Monkey data collected by two other outside experts in preparation for a Mental Health retreat. Prior promises that this material would be addressed have disappeared in an apparent white-wash. There are a large number of grievances and complaints against current Mental Health leadership, at least some of which are likely to be consistent with the concerns described here.	Anonymous	Anonymous	

Topic	Sub-Topic	Timestamp	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Implementation	Plan & Outreach	1-Dec-15	<p>(1) These buildings need to be inspected by professional building inspectors (preferably Gary other veterans) for clean up, repairs, painting, and pest control including termites.</p> <p>(2) Bids should be submitted by local businesses requiring the winning bidders to use a DVBE (Disabled Veterans Business Enterprise) for 5 to 10% of the work and awarded amount from the bid (a \$100,000 bid would give \$10,000 to a DVBE to perform 10% of the work). Unemployed veterans could also perform some of the basic work that does not require a license, such as painting or landscaping.</p> <p>(3) A final inspection should be performed by the VA to make sure all has been accomplished on schedule prior to assigning living units to the veterans. Guarantees should be fulfilled by the awarded companies.</p>	Gary	Lee	
Implementation	Plan & Outreach	1-Dec-15	<p>I am a West Los Angeles resident and have been appalled at the increasing number of dangerous mentally ill veterans in my neighborhood. A friend of mine who works at the VA says that the problem is caused by insufficient mental health beds. In order to make room for new patients those who work there are pressured to release veterans with mental health problems before they are ready and adequately treated. That puts them and those in the surrounding area at serious risk and is irresponsible. This plan is a joke and ignores all the real problems. A survey in this plan lists mental health needs as the first priority. Yet despite this recognition and the insufficient beds already this plan cavalierly wants to cut them and staff even more despite there being too few of both now.</p> <p>This plan must be rejected and those who developed it should be replaced by people really wanting to make the care of veterans their highest priority. This plan must be turned down as worse than useless since it will make the problem worse and should be replaced by a completely new one that deals with the real medical problems now as well as in the future. Those who came up with this clearly have no idea what problems veterans face. Those who served multiple deployments i the Gulf War and other such conflicts will have increased long term psychiatric needs. I see nothing in this plan with any realistic plan of addressing these problems. In fact this factor likely to increase serious psychiatric problems and need for repeated hospitalizations shows no recognition of the importance of this factor. Instead they want to make cuts to services that already have too few to care for veterans with such problems. Please pay some attention to this feedback and do not just file this in the round file.</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Implementation	Plan & Outreach	1-Dec-15	As perhaps a naive community member and supporter of our brave Veterans, I can only believe that Secretary Robert McDonald will identify and fire the incompetent people who are standing in the way of the Master Plan having adequate and quality mental health care. He has made it a point that incompetence and wrong-doing at the expense of Veterans cannot be tolerated and that such individuals should not be able to hide behind civil service regulations. I applaud Secretary McDonald for standing for what is right for our Veterans and I look forward to his intervention so that the Master Plan's homeless Veterans can get all the services called for in the Preliminary. It is a shame that Secretary McDonald has to waste his time fixing what should work in the first place.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Implementation	Plan & Outreach	1-Dec-15	One major concern: what time period does the plan cover? I haven't read the entire thing, just the executive summary, but without knowing this, I feel limited in assessing the plan.		VA clinician	
Implementation	Plan & Outreach	3-Dec-15	Comments have repeatedly been expressed at the master planning town halls but there seems no obvious response to them regarding the land use in los angeles. Secretary McDonald should disband West Los Angeles VA land use and start from scratch. Anyone accused and found guilty of any improprieties needs to be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. A severe monetary audit should be conducted and lessons shared to prevent any future fraud, waste and abuse of tax payer money. There is no trust in the veteran community and still too many familiar faces dictating the shots. The Democratic Congress CA delegation has been on the sidelines for years and only now saving face from the mess they could have and should have helped with in the past. Diane Feinstein should no longer run for reelection. Boxer and she need to leave office.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Implementation	Services	19-Nov-15	<p>This master plan is pitched as a solution to the years of the neglect. It is not that simple to assume this plan will help fix the homeless issue. If VA can not even retain qualified medical staff then what makes them think they can implement this master plan? There are too many followers at the VA and very few leaders. LA needs strong leadership whc can handle politicians wthout caving into their whims.</p> <p>Our patients at our psychotherapy office in Brentwood rely heavily on the Veteran's lot when they come for treatment. Many of them are suffering from symptoms of depression and anxiety which means that for some of them, walking long distances to the office (assuming there was another place for them to park other than the Veteran's lot), or the stress of searching for metered parking, etc., can be very unsettling. Also, our sessions are between 1 and 2 hours long and the meters on the street for street parking only go for one hour. So it creates tension for them to have to time it right.</p> <p>There are also many other reasons as well but as you can see, the Veteran's lot provides a calming effect which they need. Keeping the lot for them is crucial.</p> <p>Thank you, John Tsilimparis, MFT</p>	John	NIAL	

Topic	Sub-Topic	Timestamp	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Implementation	Services	1-Dec-15	I believe it's only fair that all vets get the same home loans benefits. I suggest the Guard and Reserves be treated with the same respect as active duty folks as we too took the oath and did what we were told. I suggest this should be so regardless of length of service. Why should someone with 6 years get a C.O.E. and not a soldier with 3 or 4. As long as one has an honorable discharge.	Rick	Schuetz	
Implementation	Services	1-Dec-15	As a local resident with family who are veterans I want to express my serious disappointment with this plan. The veteran I care most about recently needed to be admitted to the hospital for psychiatric problems. He needed to wait many days in the emergency room for a bed to become available. That is inhumane and an insult to those who served our country. When I asked staff why they said that there were insufficient beds and the administration was unresponsive to requests to confront the problem. When he was discharged to outpatient care he has had long waits between appointments. Again I was told that they had not enough clinicians and rather than increase clinical staff the current administration even has decreased therapists and psychiatrists. This plan is a joke and an insult to veterans. Though it may address some needs it does nothing to increase the number of those treating actual patients. I have heard many of the best clinicians are leaving. I see that the plan is to decrease inpatient staff by another third despite their being a shortage already based on a misguided projection that such needs will decrease. Does the current administration want to increase the waits for a bed even further? They do not seem to care. I have no reason to trust that the same administration that worsened the problem will make it better under this plan. I would recommend rejecting this plan that focuses on peripheral needs of veterans. Instead we need a plan that addresses the medical and psychiatric needs of patients and not one that shows no promise of improving the worst problems but shows every reason to think they will be allowed to get worse. A VA Hospital should put its focus on helping the medical needs of veterans and this plan shows no sign of doing this. The medical needs of patients should be the emphasis of a hospital and not all this other irrelevant fluff. Just the fact that they would come up with this shows that those who developed this need to be replaced by those who put veterans first.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Implementation	Services	2-Dec-15	In reading the posted Comments, seems that the ACLU is getting fooled if it thinks VA is going to come through and hold up its end of the settlement. Appears to be the same old story at VA. UCLA running its agenda at VA's expense. VA administrators acting against the interests of Veterans and keeping it on the QT. Looks like VA needs the ACLU to wake up and threaten to unwind the settlement if VA doesn't demonstrate transparency, eliminate the "bad eggs" and stick to the mission of helping Veterans. Otherwise, ACLU is going to have a bad realization when it is too late... Maybe Congress needs to oversee this one...can we get the VA characters referred to in the posted comments in front of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs so that we can get to the "truth"? Taxpayers want to know where their money is going.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Implementation	Services	3-Dec-15	#2. Lack of professional staff (doctors, nurses, social workers, peer support specialists/counselors) In my track, we had 32 patients to 1 doctor. there was never enough one on one time for therapy sessions. VA needs to allocate more money and more positions. for small groups and better results. veterans feel like "just another number". nobody would take the program seriously because they knew staff was overwhelmed with other issues.	josue	guerrero	
Implementation	Stewardship	10/23/2015	I'm not going to read the plan because everything our elected officials do is too little too late. Especially Julia Brownley.		Rodriguez	
Implementation	Stewardship	10/26/2015	I am a Navy Retired Seabee & wondering why we always are targeted by the Senate & David Congress when it comes to no raises or better benefits and cutting the budgets of the Army, Navy, Air Force ,Marines & Coast Guard. That is why they can not get equipment or supplies needed to do their jobs. This Administration has no respect for the Armed forces that is defending this country.		Juarez	Organization Name: Operation Firing For Effect ; Submitter's Representative: Gene Simes

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Implementation	Stewardship	20-Nov-15	<p>Secretary McDonald repeatedly makes the point that VA needs to be the responsible steward of taxpayer dollars. Before huge sums of taxpayer dollars get spent on the Master Plan, Secretary McDonald has got to do due diligence with respect to the administrators charged with making the Master Plan a success. No one benefits from building a house of cards on the West Los Angeles campus.</p> <p>The Master Plan's success will require considerable support from mental health services at the West Los Angeles VA medical center. But there is a big problem there that is getting only worse: mental health care access has been deteriorating under incompetent leadership and VA is losing mental health professionals faster than it can replace them.</p> <p>A July 2015 VA site visit found a "very serious threat to the mental health care of Veterans" at the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, citing excessive wait times to see a psychiatrist clinics (such as PTSD) closed to new patients unavailability of psychiatric consultation in the Domiciliary (which has had patient suicides and overdoses in the past) overwhelmed psychiatric staff in the clinics inability of outside clinics to see walk-ins (some of whom may have been suicidal) inappropriate diversion of patients from outside clinics to the WLA emergency room (without arranging safe transportation).</p> <p>VA last year imported from UCLA a new Associate Chief of Mental Health, despite shocking online reviews by patients and their families. This new "leader" is charged with providing for our mentally ill Veterans and who would be responsible for providing mental health services for the Master Plan.</p> <p>Here are examples readily available on the Internet to the VA administrators who hired him:</p> <p>"Oct 14th, 2012 A family member recently stayed as an inpatient in UCLA and had the worst care under Dr. Guze and the unit staff. Dr. Guze is uncaring and unworthy of his license as a physician. It is unfortunate medical students have him setting example as</p>	Anonymous	Aguilar	
Implementation	Stewardship	23-Nov-15	<p>Amazing how non-existent the intervention from the VISN has been in helping the MH staff and veterans at the WLA VA. Despite multiple calls for help and intervention from the MH staff regarding the lack of psychological safety (constant retaliation on staff that speak up openly about concerns), lack of integrity (leadership hired into one position and placed into another without a legitimate hiring process), lack of stability (most of the leadership actually doing the work, as opposed to those taking all the credit, left in acting positions for years on end...often with NO extra pay for their efforts), and lack of sufficient staff to meet the needs of the veterans. They not only sit by and watch it all happen, but they actually request to be left out of it so that local leadership can run their own show when staff reach out for support. Not exactly sure what the purpose of VISN leadership is if they are going to continue to refuse to intervene when local leadership is suffocating and mistreating the staff and ignoring what's best for veteran's in favor of what keeps them out of the paper so they can await their next upward career move.</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Implementation	Stewardship	23-Nov-15	<p>I am one of many professionals working in mental health at VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System. Sad to say, I feel that my own safety requires that I comment anonymously because there is so much press about retaliation by VA administrators who then go unpunished. At work, we were directed review the Master Plan on the VA website, which then lead to regulations.gov and posted comments.</p> <p>in reading the comments there is information my own workplace I did not know from any "official" communication. We never heard about findings of site visitors. We were asked this past summer to fill out a survey on Survey Monkey about teamwork and leadership in mental health in preparation for a mental health retreat because morale has been low and there is a lot on the grapevine about people leaving. We never got back the results of the survey. We've only seen proposed organizational charts for mental health.</p> <p>There seems to be no real leadership in mental health and it seems that some very good people are leaving. This of course has me (and others) concerned, because how are patients going to be seen? We already have had restrictions on who can be referred to what clinic because of lack of capacity. The remaining staff cannot keep dividing up the workload as more people leave. It is not readily apparent how adding Veterans residents on the VA station will be handled by the already taxed clinics.</p> <p>I can say that colleagues are generally very dedicated to helping Veterans and providing therapy for severely disabling problems. The therapists and doctors on the front lines are engaged, sometimes with little support, especially from those above, who seem at times to have agendas that are totally different. For example, the organizational chart looks like the vision of someone in the 1980s using the old medical model of separating Veterans by diagnosis into specialty clinics; while there entire concept of recovery seems lost on our leader, even though this is not only a VA mandate, but this is true in the private and public sectors generally. The Master Plan is clearly a recovery model and for our own VA mental health care to be clashing with the Master Plan makes no sense.</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	

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Implementation	Stewardship	23-Nov-15	If decorated hero and POW USN Veteran Senator John McCain says a VA administrator is bad for Phoenix, then the same is true everywhere, including L.A. This McDougall is who is going to run the Master Plan to boot? Maybe the Master Plan should be done in Phoenix instead, where someone is watching out for Veterans.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Implementation	Stewardship	23-Nov-15	It would be a shame to see such an optimistic Master Plan be hamstrung before even coming out of the gate. It would be even more of a shame if stigma and fear about mental illness and chemical dependency were strengthened in our community because of VA mismanagement  I live in Brentwood and am very concerned about such a backlash against those who struggle to live their lives to the fullest while carrying the burden of mental illness. The above is a statement by another member of the neighborhood and resonates for me because I have family members in this struggle. The Veterans Administration has a moral obligation to make sure that "VA mismanagement" is cleaned up and that our young men and women who went to Iraq and Afghanistan to protect our country get the help they need.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Implementation	Stewardship	23-Nov-15	Sadly the MH staff have discovered that it is a much better use of time and energy to search for employment elsewhere. Spending time and energy completing these calls for feedback and speaking out against the tyranny that is allowed to thrive at WLA is clearly an act of futility. How many times have many of us completed surveys just like this in the hopes of seeing some direct change in culture and support? How many All Employee Surveys marking GLA as a horrible place to work? How many survey monkeys having to be offered for anonymous comment because people are too afraid to speak out? How many of the comments here about the environment are anonymous? How many EEO complaints resulting in no change in leadership personnel or leadership oversight? How many letters from staff requesting intervention gone completely unanswered? How many quality staff have to leave or suffer before real action takes place? The most notable answer so far has been to wipe out almost all of the executive leadership at GLA...is that your idea of help? To leave this complicated system without any permanent leadership? To rotate body after body through this system of "care"...people with no real stake in the satisfaction of the staff or culture surrounding the "care" provided to veterans...people who are on their way out the door by the time they get a chance to memorize the names of the multiple sites within GLA? Meanwhile the ACOS of MH continues his reign of terror on the psychiatry and psychology staff uninhibited, unmonitored, unaffected by the complaints around him because the VISN allows it, the here-today-gone-tomorrow "leadership" is not invested enough to feel the need to regulate it, and the staff are too afraid to ask again. Really tragic considering the level of dedication and quality of much of the MH staff throughout GLA.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Implementation	Stewardship	24-Nov-15	"VA AND THE SECRETARY MUST DRAIN THIS SWAMP AND SAFEGUARD MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, SO THAT THERE IS A VIABLE FOUNDATION OF MENTAL HEALTH CARE UPON WHICH TO BUILD ZONES 1 AND 2 OF THE MASTER PLAN." I can only wonder about the extent of the VA problems in providing mental health care on the Los Angeles campus, but it sounds from this post last week like some combo of incompetency, toxic management, cover-up and bureaucrats taking care of No. 1, which is themselves, not Veterans. How can the other stakeholders trust VA to carry out the Master Plan if the VA can't even appropriately manage their own mental health care system? Someone will have to keep an eye on the VA at all times.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Implementation	Stewardship	24-Nov-15	How many All Employee Surveys marking GLA as a horrible place to work? Meanwhile the ACOS of MH continues his reign of terror on the psychiatry and psychology staff uninhibited, unmonitored, unaffected by the complaints around him because the VISN allows it...Really tragic considering the level of dedication and quality of much of the MH staff throughout GLA.  This quoted comment looks like it is written by a VA psychiatrist or psychiatrist at the VA where the Master Plan is supposed to be realized. If things are only half as bad as described by this VA employee, then why should we be duped into believing that the VA is going to do whatever it says it is going to do in the Master Plan. Looks like it is going to be just another government project run by civil service administrators with no accountability if the VA at the same site is any indication...	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Implementation	Stewardship	24-Nov-15	It is incomprehensible that there has been no interventions in Mental Health Service at VA Greater Los Angeles by VA Network Chief Medical Officer McDougall, who is charged with protecting our most vulnerable Veterans. At the recommendation of the recent VA site visitors, a Mental Health "retreat" was held, in preparation for which Mental Health staff were asked to complete a web-based "Survey Monkey" inquiring about Mental Health leadership and teamwork. During the retreat, the outside facilitators informally mentioned that the results of the Survey Monkey were concerning. However, the results have not been made available to anyone working in Mental Health. The Survey Monkey undoubtedly shows the horrible professional staff morale in Mental Health that has many if not most looking at their options to leave or retire. Ms. McDougall has buried the Survey Monkey and for some inexplicable reason would rather the staff vote with their feet by leaving that address their concerns	Anonymous	Anonymous	

Topic	Sub-Topic	Timestamp	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Implementation	Stewardship	24-Nov-15	Not exactly sure what the purpose of VISN leadership is if they are going to continue to refuse to intervene when local leadership is suffocating and mistreating the staff and ignoring what's best for veteran's in favor of what keeps them out of the paper so they can await their next upward career move.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Implementation	Stewardship	24-Nov-15	Another disheartening quote from a comment by someone who obviously works for the VA! There must be something terrible going on if it is spilling out into the Master Plan comments, but that's probably a good thing because the Master Plan is going to be run by the same people running the hospital system. Obviously, there are festering and persisting problems and an unresponsive bureaucracy. Oh, yeah, it's the VA... The "turmoil" in VA Greater Los Angeles Mental Health cited by the recent VA site visitors has started a series of departures by Mental Health clinicians who want to flee the toxic environment. Already gone because of their interactions with Dr. Guze are four psychiatrists. In addition, our Acting Chief of Psychology has reached the end of his rope and has announced his retirement, while our Associate Chief of Mental Health for Sepulveda Ambulatory Care Clinic is leaving this month. The Associate Chief of Mental Health for the Los Angeles Ambulatory Care Clinic resigned in disgust several months ago. About a third of the Psychiatry Service is currently in the process of negotiation or interviewing for jobs elsewhere, or are in the job search process or considering retirement.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Implementation	Stewardship	24-Nov-15	Beyond just the workload considerations, the loss of VA psychiatrists and psychologists in key clinical and administrative positions; the loss of institutional memory; and the loss of Veteran-centric clinical experience will be devastating for the availability and quality of mental health care for our Veterans. Given the national shortage of psychiatrists generally, and the high cost of living in Los Angeles combined with the VA salary structure, it will continue to be extraordinarily difficult to recruit quality psychiatrists and other mental health professionals generally.			
Implementation	Stewardship	24-Nov-15	While it is not always the case, sometimes history predicts the future.  As a Veterans Service Organization clinician attempting to arrange inpatient care for my Veteran clients I often interact with the West Los Angeles Veterans Administration Medical Center. I have a concern that during the past decade, with the wars in Iraq (aka OIF-Operation Iraqi Freedom) and Afghanistan (aka OEF-Operation Enduring Freedom) taking their toll on United States Service Members leaving many, many Veterans with mental health concerns, I have learned that at the same time, the West Los Angeles Veterans Administration Medical Center administration has practically decreased the number of available inpatient psychiatric beds from almost 100 to less than half. This has led to serious problems with open inpatient beds for acutely ill Veterans and I have had trouble getting my clients the care they needed at the West Los Angeles Veterans Administration Medical Center because of it. Veterans have been stuck in the community or refused to come in from home because of this problem, and I don't blame them.  Since this problem is ongoing I wanted to contact the mental health head administrator to see what could be done about this serious problem, and I looked on the VA's website and found that there no mention of "mental health" or "psychiatry" in the phone directory. I finally called around to the operator and eventually (after 30 minutes) found out the person in charge of mental health at the West Los Angeles Veterans Administration Medical Center is the Associate Chief for Mental Health, Barry Guze, MD. I looked up this doctor on the web to see who he was and the "reviews" are scary and worse than what you'd ever expect of a "leader" so I never bothered calling.  Given the history of short-changing Veterans like this, allowing the West Los Angeles Veterans Administration Medical Center administration to continue to outline a Master Plan for Veterans Care and Housing at West Los Angeles with the current leadership is a mistake. Doing the same thing with an expectation of a different result is the true definition of insanity.  Veterans deserve better.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Implementation	Stewardship	25-Nov-15	Come on, VA! This is who you hire to oversee mental health? "Dr. Guze has a reputation among his colleagues for being unusually cruel to the patients he treats in hospital. He has extremely poor interpersonal skills and talks down to patients when they are at their weakest and in need of help and understanding. He seems to take pleasure in protracting the suffering of his patients." VA should be ashamed. Veterans deserve better.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Implementation	Stewardship	25-Nov-15	Dereliction of duty and not caring for Veterans: L.A. VA does not have enough geriatric psychiatrists, but ACOS Barry Guze has forced out, refused to hire, not pursued, or not retained 5 psychiatrists this year: 1 forced out, 1 refused to hire, 1 cut back the amount of time hired, 1 interested candidate not even called, now 1 more leaving VA. Who in VA cares?	Anonymous	Anonymous	

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Implementation	Stewardship	27-Nov-15	I am a Brentwood homeowner and supporter of Veterans and VA, but I am sad and disappointed by what I am reading about what is going on in psychology. And I am mad at VA for actually stifling the people who treat our Veterans. This sounds too much like what was reported in Phoenix last year. Doesn't even a scandal that results in a General being forced out change how VA oversees those who supervise doctors and psychologists. Really sounds like people feel powerless, ignored, and intimidated. I don't know how they get up in the morning every day and go to work. And the work they do is very hard and how can they help our Veterans if they are so upset and distracted? When will the system ever learn from its mistakes??	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Implementation	Stewardship	1-Dec-15	There are many vacant buildings on site that could be used to house our veterans. A plan needs to be established by the VA to make the units livable for the veterans. This plan should have a VA team to oversee the project, scheduled dates for completions, and budgeted amounts for corrections.	Gary	Lee	
Implementation	Stewardship		I have been living here at the Domiciliary for the last 8 months and there is a few points josue I would like for you to consider:  #1. there is a lack of over sight on employees who are entitled, rude, lazy and disrespectful towards veteran patients, they are constantly treated like 2nd class citizens when we do file complaints nothing gets done, the same employees are still employed and are able to use the "rule book against the patients who complained" example late high bed checks certain employees came in clanking their keys making metal to metal contact, and flashing bright flash lights in to the rooms scareing the patients already dealing with sleeping issues, and when we complained. we were later victims of very strict random room inspections. that were suspicious in nature. those employees are still here.		guerrero	
Implementation		2-Dec-15	With the current crumbling and toxic environment in mental health, it's hard to see how the Master Plan can be effective. The press release notes, "The intention for the new Master Plan is to determine and implement the most effective way to revitalize the campus for Veterans, particularly homeless Veterans, and underserved populations such as female Veterans, aging Veterans, and those who are severely physically or mentally disabled." With an already broken system, will the Master Plan address the problematic mental health leadership that is currently in place to provide a chance at success?	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	07 Possessory Interests	11/13/2015	Including UCLA in the Master Plan of the West Los Angeles Medical Center 40 years ago would have saved a substantial number of Vietnam Veterans from their demise...or maybe not. On August 29, 2013 Judge S. James Otero issued a Court Order stating a total of nine unlawful sharing agreements exploiting Veterans property located on the 388 acres legally know as the National Veterans Home were terminated :These agreements are unauthorized by law, and therefore void. The decision by Judge S. James Otero applied to the unauthorized lease agreement for the 10 acre parcel by UCLA including Jackie Robinson stadium and the surrounding area. The unlawful sharing agreement with UCLA should have been resolved with the Court Order, however UCLA and the Brentwood Private School sought to intervene in the would have been resolved in the settlement agreement Jackie Robinson Stadium-UCLA: "The Veterans Administration's, a defendant along with the lease holders, legal argument stated Congress had never challenged the leases and that veterans were technically benefiting from the rent payments, \$60,000 a year during the last decade from UCLA." The most recent lease agreement allowed UCLA to pay to the Veterans Administration the sum of \$5,000.00 per month for the use of a 10 acre parcel or a lease payment of \$500.00 per acre monthly. UCLA Baseball: As reported on September 27, 2013, After winning UCLA baseballs first-ever national championship, head coach John Savage was rewarded with a contract extension that pays him up to \$1.025 million annually, plus a \$100,000 signing bonus. His previous contract maxed out at \$501,000. The particulars from Savages new contract run through 2025. The position of the UC regents as noted by Janet Napolitano, president of the UC regents, believes the baseball stadium on the property on the National Veterans Home actually belongs to UCLA. The UC regents officially approved the contract on Sept. 18, 2013. The terms make Savage among the highest-paid college baseball coaches in the country. Despite UCLA's claim of allowing Veterans to attend games at the stadium free of charge, that policy does not extend Veterans during games sponsored by the NCAA. While there may be a suggestion that Baseball is not a revenue producing sport at UCLA, that argument does not justify the annual salary of head coach John Savage and his staff as approved by the UC Regents and UCLA. I believe a full and complete audit of the actual revenue collected by the baseball programs at UCLA pursuant ticket sales, media broadcasts, and professional training camps for the use of the Baseball stadium	Howard	Brill	
Land Use	Campus	1-Dec-15	Its kind of small and not very ambitious. The surrounding areas are all much taller, denser and more livable. Honestly this looks like a suburban campus that would be more suitable for Reston Virginia than Los Angeles. The streets need to be narrower to slow car speeds which would make it more pedestrian friendly. The buildings need to be closer together, think Lucca or Siena in Italy, or Arles in France. Those are truly pedestrian oriented, people centric cities. There is a reason those medieval cities work well, its because its easy to get around on foot. This has the opportunity to be a great place for those who need it to live a better life, don't make it a challenging one because you are using a suburban design model that favors those who are fully physically capable and auto owning. It needs a lot more housing and retail opportunities (which become employment opportunities for those living there). You need to look at this as creating a new little city center that will keep the folks from needing to leave.	Daniel	Shenise	

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Land Use	Circulation	23-Nov-15	<p>As a Homeowner in the area of the West LA VA facility, I hope you will consider the traffic challenge we already have in our community. Any type of exiting or entry to the facility in and around the Sunset Barrington area would be a disaster. We are already choked by traffic to the extent that some of us are unable to travel our own streets during certain times of the morning and the afternoon. In addition, the parking area the VA has allowed small businesses and customers to use is vital to us homeowners.</p> <p>Please don't look at this plan in a "Bubble". This facility is part of a much broader area of West LA, and therefore must take into consideration it's impact on it's neighbors.</p> <p>PLEASE COOPERATE WITH THE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION AND OTHER NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS TO COME UP WITH A PLAN THAT WILL INCORPORATE THE NEEDS OF THE ENTIRE AREA, NOT JUST THE NEEDS OF THE VA PROPERTY!</p> <p>Mark Caplow A concerned neighbor</p>	Mark	Caplow	
Land Use	Circulation	23-Nov-15	<p>I strongly SUPPORT the proposal to develop green space in Zone 4, where there presently is a parking lot and dog park.</p> <p>Currently, the Los Angeles urban area uses over 60 percent of its land for automobile infrastructure. Apart from this being incredibly wasteful and outdated land use, it is hard to understand how it benefits veterans in any serious way. Both the veteran community and the surrounding Brentwood community would derive far more value from increased green space, which is presently more scarce in Los Angeles than in most urban areas nationwide.</p> <p>As a Brentwood resident, I welcome the master plan for Zone 4 of the West Los Angeles VA, and am thrilled that we are finally reaching a point where human beings take priority over cars and dogs.</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Circulation	23-Nov-15	<p>Traffic and parking in Los Angeles, specifically on the Westside are serious issues and continue to become increasingly worse. Brentwood and the area of West LA between as far south as Palms up to San Vicente and from SM 20th-east are almost unmanageable during peak traffic hours. Brentwood Village VA lot is one of the last spots you can find manageable parking at a reasonable rate. The business in the surrounding areas depend on this parking. Small tenants like Doctors, Therapists, Hair Salons, dry cleaners and other small, local shops depend on accessibility to stay competitive in their local markets. Raising prices and making it difficult for patrons and residents to park and access services will not only impact the parking and traffic waiting for lines in the lot and adjacent school traffic, it will impact local businesses, property owners and residents.</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Circulation & Safety	24-Nov-15	See Attached	Zev	Yaroslavsky	UCLA Luskin School of Public
Land Use	Circulation & Safety	2-Dec-15	<p>I encourage the plan to incorporate a bike route between Brentwood and Westwood north of Wilshire. Currently the only east-west route in the 1 mile between Wilshire and Sunset goes through the VA. Because neither Wilshire nor Sunset is especially safe for bikes, the path through VA is the ONLY safe east-west bike route north of Ohio. It is therefore essential for bike safety to keep this option open for bikes. Currently it is possible for bikes (not cars) to enter the VA at the Eisenhower Avenue gate, and take Dewey, Grant, and Constitution to reach the bike path along the western side of the 40th to Brentwood Glen. This pathway should remain an option for bikes, or another, similar option put in.</p>	Frederick	Zimmerman	
Land Use	Circulation & Safety	2-Dec-15	Please find attached a letter from Metro CEO Phillip Washington.	Phillip	Washington	

Topic	Sub-Topic	Timestamp	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Land Use	Circulation & Safety	3-Dec-15	<p>These comments pertain to transportation issues around the West LA campus. More specifically, they are focused on permeability issues for those who are walking, cycling or use wheelchairs for their trips. The comments are made without access to the traffic study by Crain and Associates, which has not yet been released.</p> <p>Circulation around the site is defined by the intersection of Wilshire and Interstate 405. This area is on the top of the national list of congested and high volume intersections. The recent widening of the I-405 and of Wilshire Blvd have created a very hostile and dangerous environment for those who use a wheelchair, who walk, or who ride a bike. The underpass under the I-405 is not in compliance with ADA regulations as the path of a wheelchair user is repeatedly obstructed by pillars, and other street furniture. Sight-lines are very poor.</p> <p>Residents of the VA Campus, many of whom will not have access to a car, must have an easy way to visit Westwood cinemas or to attend a class offered by UCLA Extension, shop at the farmers market or to visit a doctor. There will be only very limited car parking on the site and private car ownership for resident veterans is not encouraged. Non-motorized permeability and circulation from the VA campus to Westwood is essential for a success of the site. Without easy permeability for all modes between the VA campus and Westwood, the VA campus itself could become a ghetto.</p> <p>The most direct path from the VA Campus to Westwood is on Constitution Ave. This road leads through the National Cemetery. Prior to 9/11 a gate at the end of Constitution Ave provided easy access to Westwood. Since 9/11, this gate has been closed "for Security Reasons." The argument for the closure of the gate was made in a security briefing entitled Recommendations of the National Institute of Building Science: Task Group in September 2002. It made the point that VA facilities, especially the hospital, are a special protected asset in case of a national emergency, but it did not show why a non-active cemetery (e.g. closed to new interments) should require enhanced protection. (See <a href="https://www.wbdg.org/ccb/NIBS/physicalsecurityassessment.pdf">https://www.wbdg.org/ccb/NIBS/physicalsecurityassessment.pdf</a> )</p>	Michael	Cahn	
Land Use	Circulation & Safety	3-Dec-15	VETERANS NEED TO FIGHT FOR THEIR LAND! There needs to be a separate clinic for female veterans. They and female employees get harassed walking through the main lobby. The culture of "hanging out" needs to be broken at wla med center. This master plan in adequately address female veteran and housing needs.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Circulation & Safety	3-Dec-15	<p>#3.Safety,,BIG issue.... there is currently NO secured entrance or exit off/on VA grounds. patients are smuggling drugs, and steroids not noticeable in the urine check into the Domiciliary, or leaving to get high or drunk in the parking lots and there is a don't ask don't tell policy, some are prostituting themselves for \$\$\$\$. some of the women patients too. sex is happening on campus. after dark. there is not enough staff to keep track or do random drug/bed checks. patients are very aggressive towards each other/ and staff does nothing or is oblivious unless there is anonymous "whistle blower". when they do get kicked out they can come back on grounds and hang around the common areas, sneak into the cafeteria, and harass the people who they had problems with or who snitched on them. alliances of hate groups, and gangs is not easily noticed at screening, or check in. those who come only to sell drugs to recovering addicts, come and not follow the plan enough time to get some hooked on other drugs. prescription drugs and or street drugs. again lack of oversight</p>	josue	guerrero	
Land Use	Circulation & Safety	4-Dec-15	<p>In general, we applaud this plan. The focus is on veterans--as it should be--and on providing essential services--long overdue. We look forward to seeing the enhanced campus, and especially to seeing improvement in the situation of homeless veterans.</p> <p>In spite of this, we do see two serious omissions in the plan, and the planning process so far. We recognize that the VA has promised to take "community" issues into consideration at a later date. But we are concerned that the rush to approve the Preliminary Draft will leave some essential questions unasked and unanswered until it is too late to adjust the plan to accommodate them.</p> <p>What are these questions? Number 1 is traffic, a huge and growing problem for the Brentwood area around and adjacent to the West Los Angeles VA. ANY ADDED TRAFFIC COMING TO/FROM SUNSET BLVD AS A RESULT OF VA EXPANSION WILL BE DISASTROUS FOR THE OVERALL PROBLEM OF CONGESTION IN THIS AREA. Our recommendation would be to close the Sunset access to the property except for emergency or special needs. Is it possible to create a new access point on the east side of the VA property? One way or another, this issue must be assessed carefully.</p> <p>Our second issue concerns the parking lot at the north end of the VA property. We recognize that its use has been illegal for many years. Nevertheless, it has become a hub for residents, merchants, and visitors to the Brentwood Village and Post Office area near the intersection of Sunset and Barrington. We recommend that the VA work with local representatives to find a way to rededicate that lot for veteran supervision (and a source of jobs!), retaining many if not all of the services now available to those with business in the area.</p>	Richard & Carole Stein		

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Land Use	Circulation and Security	27-Nov-15	Security. More security is needed for veteran women who decide to make the West LA VA MC it choice medical facility. Men and women at the West LA VA MC are often harassed and receive unwanted advancements from other veterans when they are at the facility. The security officers at the proposed facility need to be trained and alert on handling inappropriate conduct matters between veterans to keep at conducive environment. A "Non-tolerant sexual harassment and code of conduct policy "must be posted openly at the VA and every veteran receiving services must sign this document to receive services. Some female veterans suffer from "Military Sexual Trauma" and the decision to receive care in a volatile medical environment may bring harm to the veteran. An entry way should be provided for women veterans and pregnant that is ADA accommodating.	Mykeshia	Robinson	
Land Use	Open Space	25-Nov-15	I think as a veteran and an employee that we need a recreational place that suggests healing to the veterans. currently veterans are kick to the curb when we have our leisure activities. we are pushed and forced to have our bingos outside and even when it is cold and raining. also we need a new copier machine in room 1613 so that veteran claims can be sent out in a timely fashion. currently we have a Xerox copier machine that is more than 10 years old and it keeps breaking down.	Barrett	Wade	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/3/2015	<p>This statement is from Veteran advocates across the nation who have challenged "land-grab" for over twenty years, it is information beyond the 2015 veneer of "ending Veteran homelessness" that this settlement plan and accompanying Senate bill, S 2013, would make you believe in. A damaging, mean-spirited and politically charged non-Veteran influence existed prior to the so-called master plan.</p> <p>The opportunity for all responsible leaders is at hand to stand with the rank-in-file Veteran and rebuke the master plan. If you allow this to pass without challenging the special interests, or, without admitting that land-grabbers are not capable of being service providers, it will violate "Sacred Trust", as expressed by Presidents Lincoln and Obama, at its core. It will demonstrate failed stewardship of the terms and conditions of the "Promise", the Act and the Deed on the government's part, not the VA's.</p> <p>Further, it will allow the wealthy and politically powerful special interests, concerned only with real estate values, to conspire to dictate land-use policy at this facility. Witness, for example, the role of UCLA Board of Regents Member, Bloom, who is the husband of Senator Feinstein, in the UCLA Baseball land-grab, and, Judge Pregurson of the 9th District Court of Appeals who facilitated the Salvation Army residential housing (for non-Veterans) on the gift-land footprint, or, the role of UCLA/ACLU principal, attorney, Blasi, who set up the case then advised abandoning it.</p> <p>These acts, before and after the 2013 federal court ruling, caused Secretary McDonald to negotiate a so-called master plan that, as delivered, takes away, misinterprets and dilutes the preservation of the terms, conditions, spirit and intent of law in the 1800's because it seeks to "transform", not "preserve", the gift-land.</p> <p>This Preliminary Draft Final Master Plan (a contradiction in terms) threatens, in greater magnitude, to misrepresent and misinterpret the terms and conditions of the gift-land because the presence of non-Veteran "interlopers" on the gift-land have distorted all "best practice" approaches to preserve and protect the specific and "permanent" conditions expressed in the Act of 1887 and the only Deed on record, executed in 1888.</p>	Francisco	Roviello	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/3/2015	I hope the VA recognizes the benefits of the relationship it has had with UCLA over the years. The joint programs evidence how vets receive medical care from UCLA physicians and staff.		Raimondi	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/4/2015	<p>We also need to clearly have bicycle access through the VA between Brentwood and UCLA. This is critical as today cyclists have to choose between Sunset and Wilshire since the VA bisects the community north and south for such a long distance. We need to recognize the VA as a neighbor, not an island.</p> <p>Where is the accountability for the backdoor deals on the VA Los Angeles Master Plan? Michael Why is there no mention of the Veterans Trust Initiative for independent review and approval of the land use in Los Angeles? More needs to be done to preserve the Los Angeles land for Veterans and veteran programs, not cronyism and political private interests to capitalize on our nation's heroes. It's appalling how Veterans continue to be abused by VA and VHA. There needs to be mention of installed Art and Recreation therapy programs for Veterans rehabilitation within this master plan. Also, while a partnership with UCLA may exist right now, strong and thorough investigation into the UCLA partnerships with VA need to occur. Many people will be made rich off of this Master Agreement as it's written. The land has and will always be for Veterans; allow our nation's heroes to finally rest. Do this right! The VA needs to be dismantled and absorbed by the Department of Defense, Department of Navy Medicine. The abuse, fraud, and waste has to stop.</p>		Quiroga	

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Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/6/2015	<p>Representing Brentwood as a business owner, Building owner, VA neighbor since 1987, member of the Brentwood BID, active and concerned citizen...</p> <p>-I am so glad and grateful that the VA is rehabilitating itself. My dearest brother, a 6 year Navy Veteran is disabled. I am his advocate. we are at the Va no less than 8 times a year together and he is there much more.</p> <p>-Don't throw the baby out with the bath water. As neighbors we did not know we needed to help the VA. We did not know we could help the VA. We were never asked.</p> <p>-We have grown in the last 70 years around the use of some of the lands as parking facilities and dog park/recreation and soccer fields.</p> <p>-The master plan is very unfriendly stating our shared use will be converted to green space and an ingress/egress connector road with walls and barriers.</p> <p>-This is totally unacceptable to the greater Los Angeles neighborhoods that current share the use of these facilities with the VA</p> <p>-This eliminates Westwood, Brentwood, BelAir, Sherman Oaks, Encino, Pacific Palisades, West Los Angeles, Santa Monica and the surrounding hotel guests and travelers/visitors - which is also a part of Los Angeles just like the VA and the Veterans are from using our commercial district which supplies needed services.</p> <p>-Our 102 businesses, over 600 jobs, and commercial activities, which we want to share with the Vets, will die if we are not allowed to use the parking lot on Barrington Place north of the Post Office. Please with open hearts and minds consider our plans to become Vet - Centric partners with the VA continuing the use of this valued shared parking lot.</p>	Marcie Polier	Avila	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/13/2015	As a resident of Brentwood for my entire 47 years I respectfully ask that the wonderful Barrington Dog Park be controlled by veterans but that the community be allowed access to it. There could even be a small weekly or monthly fee charged that would go directly to the vets. I think it would be a great resource for vets and community members alike.	Chris	Sax	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/16/2015	As a Brentwood homeowner for 25 years, I am supportive of the veterans and the West Los Angeles Veterans Affairs campus, but I urge a continuation of the sharing of the lands (scheduled for "green space and access roads") with the VA. I am vet-centric yet strongly oppose the master plan for Zone 4, which closes an important parking lot serving the needs of many small businesses and restaurants, as well as closing a community dog park. Without the parking lot, these small businesses risk being closed. Maintaining the parking lot and the dog park while re-vitalizing the Veterans Affairs campus, does not compromise the worthy cause of supporting our vets.	Janet	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/16/2015	<p>I AM COLD WAR I WARTIME CAPTAIN OF ARMY, DR. ROBERT KAMANSKY COMMENTING ON THE YESTERDAY BRENTWOOD HOMEOWNERS AND BUSINESS OWNERS COMMENTS ABOUT A BRENTWOOD , CALIF. NEXT TO OUR WEST LA VA MASTER PLAN EXPANSION VILLAGE PARKING LOT THAT SUPPORTS MANY BRENTWOOD VILLAGE CUSTOMERS DAILY THAT WILL BY NECESSITY NEED TO BE DEMOLISHED TO MAKE AN ACCESS ROAD FOR OUR AND MY VETERAN'S NEEDS AS SO LEGALLY SIGNED INTO LAW IN 1888. I must first ask as a former business owner whether the business leases mentioned the possible need for the parking lot to be used in the future expansion of the West LA VA Health Campus expansion? If the leases did not mention this fact then the owners of the Brentwood village are liable for the possible relocation costs of the many Brentwood Village owners. No veteran I know is anti-business; as we fought for the right in Cold War I unlike the USSR and Red China and Cuba and Vietnam to have free enterprise businesses and a Capitalist and Free Nation under God .I did just that in Cold War I . The owners of the land your businesses rest on are liable in a free economy. I for one veteran hope and pray to God that compromise brings you all businesses at the Brentwood Mall I have shopped in happiness and wealth. I hope that you all would contact legal advice in these matters. SPEAKING OF PARKING LOTS. I took my Army physical at the Oakland Army Induction Center on Clay Street ; and a 4 story garage just across the street was used to terrorize me and threaten my life and others that day. I could NOT solve my parking lot PROBLEM that day that included Jane Fonda and others like Bill Ayers and Abby Hoffman that did not want me to defeat world communism in Cold War I. We all did just that we 30 million Cold War I veterans so you at the Brentwood Mall could be free. God's speed in your issues. Captain Robert Kamansky- Upland , Calif.</p>	Dr.	Campbell	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/16/2015	<p>I think the master plan for WLA VA campus is wonderful. It will meet the needs of most vets.</p> <p>I strongly object to the closing of the dog park at Barrington Park. I understand that the users of the athletic fields there will have full usage of them until they are needed for something else.</p> <p>Why can't the dog park remain under the same agreement. These are the only open places in the neighborhood. Brentwood may look leafy and lovely, but there is precious little public space for people and dogs.</p> <p>Vets of the Korean and Vietnam conflicts bring their dogs and sit and talk which is a respite for them. Why take this place away from them, the neighborhood people, and people from all over the region? Just don't understand and am extremely resentful about how this is being done.</p> <p>Additionally, there is so much open land now that I don't understand why homeless vets could not be induced to bring their tent encampments to the open fields. You could supply the toilets and showers. Has to be better for them than the nasty places like the Ohio Ave underpass which is right outside your door.</p>		Fenstermacher (Holzman)	

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Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/16/2015	Maintaining the parking lot, which is vital to many small businesses and restaurants in our neighborhood, while re-vitalizing the Veterans Affairs campus, does not compromise the worthy cause of supporting our vets.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/16/2015	Please SPARE and SHARE the Barrington Dog Park for both public and veteran usage, or, at the very least, give us access until the Master Plan is fully enacted.	Shelby	Kufeldt	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	16-Nov-15	I AM COLD WAR I WARTIME CAPTAIN OF ARMY, DR. ROBERT KAMANSKY COMMENTING ON THE YESTERDAY BRENTWOOD HOMEOWNERS AND BUSINESS OWNERS COMMENTS ABOUT A BRENTWOOD , CALIF. NEXT TO OUR WEST LA VA MASTER PLAN EXPANSION VILLAGE PARKING LOT THAT SUPPORTS MANY BRENTWOOD VILLAGE CUSTOMERS DAILY THAT WILL BY NECESSITY NEED TO BE DEMOLISHED TO MAKE AN ACCESS ROAD FOR OUR AND MY VETERAN'S NEEDS AS SO LEGALLY SIGNED INTO LAW IN 1888. I must first ask as a former business owner whether the business leases mentioned the possible need for the parking lot to be used in the future expansion of the West LA VA Health Campus expansion? If the leases did not mention this fact then the owners of the Brentwood village are liable for the possible relocation costs of the many Brentwood Village owners. No veteran I know is anti-business; as we fought for the right in Cold War I unlike the USSR and Red China and Cuba and Vietnam to have free enterprise businesses and a Capitalist and Free Nation under God .I did just that in Cold War I . The owners of the land your businesses rest on are liable in a free economy. I for one veteran hope and pray to God that compromise brings you all businesses at the Brentwood Mall I have shopped in happiness and wealth. I hope that you all would contact legal advice in these matters. SPEAKING OF PARKING LOTS. I took my Army physical at the Oakland Army Induction Center on Clay Street ; and a 4 story garage just across the street was used to terrorize me and threaten my life and others that day. I could NOT solve my parking lot PROBLEM that day that included Jane Fonda and others like Bill Ayers and Abby Hoffman that did not want me to defeat world communism in Cold War I. We all did just that we 30 million Cold War I veterans so you at the Brentwood Mall could be free. God's speed in your issues. Captain Robert Kamansky- Upland , Calif.	Dr.	Kamansky	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	16-Nov-15	I have been a resident of Brentwood for 25 years. During that time I have seen Brentwood School make a sweetheart deal with the VA. They took the old access road and made it a road into their campus. They filled the ravine at the bottom of the road and added many sports facilities. They added a parking lot south of the 'VA Parking Lot on Barrington Avenue. You say in your Master Plan that you need an access road into the VA. Why not just restore the original access road and leave the parking lot intact. If you are going to house vets on the campus they will need some of the local services that the Brentwood Village supplies. The stores in the Village will not have any parking and will all go out of business. This is not good for Vets.	Susan	Casamassima	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/17/2015	Allow me to begin by saying the intention of what you are doing is wonderful. I read the "preliminary draft final master plan" in detail and think this will be a very impressive facility.  Where I (and many other Brentwood residents) struggle is while reading the minute notes where future residents debate of the size of their closets, the location of the on-campus starbucks and scheduled movie nights behind guarded entrances I can't help but feel like no one is thinking of the community who is currently using the park ground and will loose out on what is a beloved part of their daily lives.  West Los Angeles is unfortunately very public park-less by big city standards and we will certainly feel the impact of losing that space in our day-to-day lives. It seems a shame to not recognize this and make your plans inclusive of the existing community it by using some of the space to maintain some public park area and dog park for the residents.  It would be a great shame to have this wonderful new campus be at odds with the community surrounding it when the solution seems quite obvious. I sincerely hope we can find a happy meeting point and all benefit from the future plans here.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/17/2015	Are we really going to miss an unique opportunity to serve our nation's veterans because of a dog park and parking lot? I cannot believe the number of naive residents who are trying to rationalize that point of view by saying veterans could use it.  Maybe vets could use the dog park and parking lot (really?) but this isn't about Brentwood residents, UCLA, or what veterans could do with existing facilities, it's about what we could do for veterans with this land and some thoughtful discussion about the real needs of this generation of veterans, given what we know now about the kinds of mental and physical suffering they face during and after combat.	Blake	finkel	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/17/2015	Dogs need an area to frequent daily and a dog park is a safe place to go and run free off leash. Dogs are not allowed on the beach and cannot roam free without being on a leash, which is no way for a dog to live.  Many of the dog parks are already crowded and dogs are not welcome in hiking areas or in many public parks. If so, they must certainly be kept on leash.  Please do not eliminate this dog park.	Marie	Frank	

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Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/17/2015	<p>FCLA and the Westside Breakers built MacArthur field and have maintained it for the past 15 years, benefiting veterans as well as thousands of children in the community. We would like to continue maintaining the land for use by veterans and children in the community until such time the VA develops it, which will take several years. It does not benefit anyone to just kick out our non-profit programs and let the land dry up when it can be maintained by us to continue serving veterans and children in the community.</p> <p>Our community of families and kids is eager to support the VA's programming and assist with veterans' recreational opportunities, so we need a VA coordinator to help us integrate and have offered to provide one.</p> <p>We support continuing to use Barrington Park for the use of veterans and the community. Again, until such time that the VA develops the land for other purposes, allow the community to maintain it and serve our veterans and children with programming.</p> <p>To the extent the VA would like to build additional recreational facilities on campus, please give us the opportunity to participate in such efforts. We have been excellent tenants and are a strong community of families, eager to provide further support for the VA's efforts.</p>	Bruce	Murrow	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/17/2015	<p>I strongly support the VA's efforts to redevelop its West LA campus to better serve the needs of veterans. This is long overdue. Fifteen years ago, nonprofit youth soccer clubs built the campus' MacArthur field and have maintained it since, providing recreational opportunities for veterans and thousands of children in the community. Until the VA redevelops MacArthur field, it benefits all that this relationship continue, as the soccer clubs have been excellent tenants and are eager to assist with future veterans' activities. No one is served by kicking them out years before the land is needed, and having it go to weeds. Please allow MacArthur field to continue to be a valuable resource for our veterans and children.</p>	Harrison	Egan	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/17/2015	<p>I would like to urge the Department of Veterans Affairs to allow the non profit soccer clubs of FCLA and Westside Breakers to maintain MacArthur Field for use by veterans and children in the community until such time as the VA develops it. To me this seems to be a much better idea than just allowing the field to lay fallow and remain unused.</p> <p>I know that both soccer clubs are eager to support the VA's programming and assist with veterans' recreational opportunities and have been excellent tenants these last 15 years. To me a solution, again until MacArthur Field is developed, where children can not only use the facilities but also volunteer to help veterans and thus learn from them is a much better solution than shutting down a field which has brought so much boundless joy.</p>	Nicholas	Kahane	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/17/2015	<p>My daughter is a member of the Westside Breakers Soccer Club that has practiced at the VA for many years. I applaud the plan to develop this land to further serve veterans needs but I also encourage you to take into account what this space means to these children. It is an unused portion of the VA that is now available for use by veterans and is maintained by the club. It would be a shame for this space to go unused and undeveloped while other phases of development are going on. Please consider letting this non- profit soccer club to continue to use this space and partner with the VA on some outreach athletic programs for veterans. The girls would love an opportunity to volunteer and help out in any way they can. This club is the only all female club in Southern California and it would be a shame to lose the valuable field space that they share with the VA.</p> <p>Thank You</p>	Michael	Chow	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/17/2015	<p>My daughter plays for the Westside Breakers soccer club, which practices and hosts their home games at MacArthur field at the West LA VA facility. Our daughter's involvement with the Breakers has been an impactful part of her personal growth and maturity. To say nothing of her exceptional growth as a soccer player, team member and leader.</p> <p>Please consider the following when assessing the Breakers' continued access to this facility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Westside Breakers have renovated and landscaped MacArthur field and maintained it for the past 15 years, benefiting veterans as well as thousands of children in the community.</li> <li>- The Breakers would like to continue maintaining the land for recreational use until such time the VA develops it, which will take several years.</li> <li>- It wouldn't benefit anyone to kick out the Breakers' non-profit soccer program and leave the field fallow and abandoned, when the Breakers can maintain it and continue using it to serve the veterans and deserving young athletes.</li> <li>- The Breakers' community of families and kids is eager to support the VA's programs and assist with veterans' recreational opportunities.</li> <li>- The Breakers is committed with the VA to integrate our efforts with the VA projects.</li> <li>- If the VA would like to build additional recreational facilities on campus, please give the Breakers the opportunity to participate. We have been excellent tenants and are a strong community of families, eager to provide further support for the VA's efforts.</li> </ul> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>	Brian	Liber	

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Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/17/2015	<p>We have 3 children ages 11, 11, and 8 who play soccer at MacArthur field 3-4 days per Adam week. Our family is extremely grateful to the Veterans Administration for the use of this field. For this reason, the VA has been an integral part of my children's lives.</p> <p>PLEASE, going-forward, allow my family to continue to share in the enjoyment of this coveted field space by allowing FCLA and the Westside Breakers use of the field until the VA develops the land for other purposes.</p> <p>Thank you!</p>		Cohen	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/17/2015	<p>My daughter is a member of the Westside Breakers Soccer Club that has practiced at the VA for many years. I applaud the plan to develop this land to further serve veterans needs but I also encourage you to take into account what this space means to these children. It is an unused portion of the VA that is now available for use by veterans and is maintained by the club. It would be a shame for this space to go unused and undeveloped while other phases of development are going on. Please consider letting this non- profit soccer club to continue to use this space and partner with the VA on some outreach athletic programs for veterans. The girls would love an opportunity to volunteer and help out in any way they can. This club is the only all female club in Southern California and it would be a shame to lose the valuable field space that they share with the VA.</p> <p>My daughter is a member of the Westside Breakers Soccer Club that has practiced at the VA for many years. I applaud the plan to develop this land to further serve veterans needs but I also encourage you to take into account what this space means to these children. It is an unused portion of the VA that is now available for use by veterans and is maintained by the club. It would be a shame for this space to go unused and undeveloped while other phases of development are going on. Please consider letting this non- profit soccer club to continue to use this space and partner with the VA on some outreach athletic programs for veterans. The girls would love an opportunity to volunteer and help out in any way they can. This club is the only all female club in Southern California and it would be a shame to lose the valuable field space that they share with the VA.</p>	Michael	Raimondi	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/18/2015	As a neighbor, my visits to the VA grounds involve attending UCLA athletics events at Jackie Robinson stadium and involvement with my kid's soccer club that leases and maintains MacArthur Field. I truly hope that the VA engages with community partners such as these to negotiate strategies for mutually beneficial partnerships that benefit veterans in valued and meaningful ways.	Anna	Chiota	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/18/2015	<p>Comments regarding soccer fields and the VA:</p> <p>-FCLA and the Westside Breakers built MacArthur field and have maintained it for the past 15 years, benefiting veterans as well as thousands of children in the community.</p> <p>-We would like to continue maintaining the land for use by veterans and children in the community until such time the VA develops it, which will take several years.</p> <p>-It does not benefit anyone to just kick out our non-profit programs and let the land dry up when it can be maintained by us to continue serving veterans and children in the community.</p> <p>-Our community of families and kids is eager to support the VA's programming and assist with veterans' recreational opportunities, so we need a VA coordinator to help us integrate and have offered to provide one.</p> <p>-We support continuing to use Barrington Park for the use of veterans and the community. Again, until such time that the VA develops the land for other purposes, allow the community to maintain it and serve our veterans and children with programming.</p> <p>-To the extent the VA would like to build additional recreational facilities on campus, please give us the opportunity to participate in such efforts. We have been excellent tenants and are a strong community of families, eager to provide further support for the VA's efforts.</p>	Allison	bowman	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/18/2015	<p>Dear Department of Veteran's Affairs,</p> <p>My daughter plays on one of the Westside Breakers soccer teams that practices at the VA property. I am writing to tell you how much we, as a family, have appreciated having access to the field space rented by the Westside Breakers from the VA. This field space has allowed three of my children to play soccer in a location close to home, and in doing so to develop skills and teamwork that will benefit them for a lifetime. There is so little open green space in West LA --that this land is an absolute treasure that our community of families has benefited from greatly. Our family and the members of our soccer club, are beyond grateful for the service of our Veterans and want to be fully supportive in helping them, and honoring their service in any way. I just wanted to let you know how much the use of the VA field space has meant to our family, to say thank you, and to ask you to consider letting the Westside Breakers continue to rent the field space until the land is needed for the master plan to benefit the Veterans for another purpose. Thank you for your consideration.</p>	Lisa	McCormick	Big Blue Bus
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/18/2015	Don't miss this opportunity to make government work smartly! Let the veterans and local children benefit from the fields (at the expense of the children's families and soccer clubs!) for the good of the community. Exercise and team play is essential for healthy child development, and in a city, it is difficult to find space to enable these critical functions. At the same time, it is a win-win situation because the veterans can benefit from being around happy, healthy, developing children, watching their games, perhaps even becoming connected with the teams, not to mention using the fields for their own healthy recreation. Don't kick the children off the VA fields!	Anonymous	Stranges	

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Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/18/2015	<p>Hi, I am a huge supporter of veterans and think we should do everything we can to support them in their lives. The West LA VA area has an opportunity to be a model campus to that end and nothing should take greater priority than that.</p> <p>That said, the use of the fields on the property for our children's soccer clubs has its own value to our families and to the larger community. I believe these two concepts -- the VA master plan and fields for soccer -- do not have to comprise an either/or proposition, especially in the next few years as plans are finalized and ground is broken and hope that we can find a way for them to mutually coexist.</p> <p>Further, I believe that the club is an untapped resource in community outreach and volunteerism. Westside Breakers is not only about teaching soccer, it is about shaping good children into good adults. I for one am very happy to help foster a relationship in which our girls understand the overall picture, how fortunate they are to be using this land and how they can give back.</p> <p>A few more notes:</p> <p>-- The Westside Breakers have renovated and landscaped MacArthur field and maintained it for the past 15 years, benefiting veterans as well as thousands of children in the community and would like continue maintaining the land for all until such time the VA develops it.</p> <p>-- It wouldn't benefit anyone to kick out our non-profit soccer program and leave the field to be dried up and abandoned, when we can maintain it and continue using it to serve the veterans and deserving young athletes.</p> <p>-- Our community of families and kids is eager to support the VA's programs and assist with veterans' recreational opportunities. We would like to work with the VA to integrate our efforts with the VA projects.</p> <p>-- If the VA would like to build additional recreational facilities on campus, please give us the opportunity to participate. We have been excellent tenants and are a strong community of families, eager to provide further support for the VA's efforts.</p>	Neal	Bollinger	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/18/2015	<p>I am so happy to see the development of this property moving forward. Hopefully it will help to fill a growing need for affordable housing and care for our veterans. There are so many parties, groups, and people vying for space on the crowded westside. As a parent of two soccer playing children, I'd like to see a way for the soccer clubs to continue to have a mutually beneficial relationship with the VA. The Westside Breakers have renovated and landscaped MacArthur field and maintained it for the past 15 years benefiting veterans as well as thousands of children in the community. It wouldn't benefit anyone to kick out our non-profit soccer program and leave the field to be dried up and abandoned, when we can maintain it and continue using it to serve the veterans and deserving young athletes. Our community is eager to support the VA's programs and assist with veterans' recreational opportunities. We would like to work with the VA to integrate our efforts with the VA projects. The veterans are part of our community. I'd like to see them welcomed and taken care of. Please let us do our part to provide some benefit for them. Thank you.</p>	Colleen	Rad	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/18/2015	<p>I am very supportive of the master plan. I agree that all third party land use agreements should be more than revenue generating for the VA and that veterans and their families should see direct benefits. It seems to me that a good solution would be to establish a VA run management unit and requiring third party users to employ veterans to maintain and run facilities for the tenants. Training and employment opportunities for veterans should be developed. Community tenants should be required to engage with veteran programs and not just use the space. Such partnerships could be truly mutually beneficial, creating private-public partnerships that are revenue- and opportunity-generating for veterans.</p>		Burrer	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/18/2015	<p>I grew up and was raised around the VA Hospital and it has always had a special place in my heart. My great uncle fought for this country and I used to drive him to the hospital for appointments when he was alive. 30 years later, I have a daughter that plays competitive soccer for the Westside Breakers and we truly appreciate the ability to have a fun, loving and competitive environment for my daughter to play soccer. Its very important to our family to be part of something good each day and give back to the community. As such, it is important that the Breakers have renovated and maintained the field not only for the youth that play here but for the Veterans to use as well. I would like to make a plea for the VA to consider allowing the Breakers to continue to play here until the VA hospital renovates the land for its own use. I believe together we can all make good things happen and touch many peoples lives.</p>	Anonymous	Haight	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/18/2015	<p>My brother is a veteran, and all my life I have supported our veterans in various ways. I am pleased that the Department of Veteran Affairs is going to finally direct the use of the property in West L.A. for the benefit of veterans. This is long overdue.</p> <p>However, I do not believe special deals should be cut with UCLA, Brentwood School and how many other "rich" entities because they have built "permanent" structures on the property without dealing with the other property uses such as the dog park and parking lots on Barrington Ave. These existing uses deserve equal consideration and negotiation for a reasonable settlement.</p> <p>Why not grandfather these spaces until the VA needs them for a specified purpose or structure? That may be decades away and will give the users a chance to find and develop alternative sites. I'm sure the VA will not be immediately using/building on all 387 acres within the next five or ten years. Reason should prevail.</p>	Kathleen	Bogeberg	

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Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/18/2015	<p>My name is Tracy Adewunmi and my daughter, Aina Adewunmi, has been a dedicated member of the Westside Breakers Soccer Club for several years now. Over the course of our time with the club,</p> <p>The Westside Breakers have renovated and landscaped MacArthur field and maintained it for the past 15 years, benefiting veterans as well as thousands of children in the community.</p> <p>We would like to continue maintaining the land for recreational use until such time the VA develops it, which will take several years.</p> <p>It wouldn't benefit anyone to kick out our non-profit soccer program and leave the field to be dried up and abandoned, when we can maintain it and continue using it to serve the veterans and deserving young athletes.</p> <p>Our community of families and kids is eager to support the VA's programs and assist with veterans' recreational opportunities. We would like to work with the VA to integrate our efforts with the VA projects.</p> <p>If the VA would like to build additional recreational facilities on campus, please give us the opportunity to participate. We have been excellent tenants and are a strong community of families, eager to provide further support for the VA's efforts.</p> <p>Aina loves being in an environment where she knows that people have served our country are also located at. When we drive through the VA, she holds the people she sees in high reverence and says thank you as we drive through.</p>	Tracy	Rosenfield	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/18/2015	<p>Please let us stay.</p> <p>The intentions behind the VA Master Plan are laudable and addressing the lack of facilities available for our veterans is long overdue. For years, my daughters have practiced soccer at the MacArthur Field, and driving through the campus always makes me sad because I rarely see the veterans whom the facilities are meant to serve. The plans look beautiful but I would like to see some inclusion of the groups like Westside Breakers, who, as a non-profit youth soccer organization have renovated and maintained the MacArthur field for years. Fields, like the one maintained by Westside Breakers, offer recreational opportunities not only for the youth who use them in the late afternoons but also for the veterans, and I believe there are multiple opportunities for interaction and collaboration that would benefit both our veterans and our kids.</p> <p>Our Westside Breakers community of families and kids is eager to support the VA's programs and assist with veterans' recreational opportunities. We would be thrilled to work with the VA to integrate our efforts with the VA projects. We would love the opportunity to assist in building and implementing additional recreational facilities and programs on campus.</p> <p>My fear is that while plans are being made and taking years to come to fruition that the VA will dismiss excellent tenants and allow fields to dry up and go unused, creating even more of a waste of opportunities than currently exists on the campus. That would truly be a shame because there are positive opportunities here for engagement and interaction.</p>	Anonymous	Ketelsen	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/18/2015	<p>The Westside Breakers have renovated and landscaped MacArthur field and maintained it for the past 15 years, benefiting veterans as well as thousands of children in the community.</p> <p>We would like to continue maintaining the land for recreational use until such time the VA develops it, which will take several years.</p> <p>It wouldn't benefit anyone to kick out our non-profit soccer program and leave the field to be dried up and abandoned, when we can maintain it and continue using it to serve the veterans and deserving young athletes.</p> <p>Our community of families and kids is eager to support the VA's programs and assist with veterans' recreational opportunities. We would like to work with the VA to integrate our efforts with the VA projects.</p> <p>If the VA would like to build additional recreational facilities on campus, please give us the opportunity to participate. We have been excellent tenants and are a strong community of families, eager to provide further support for the VA's efforts.</p> <p>We look forward to many years of community together with the VA!</p> <p>Warmly Board Member of People Assisting the Homeless, / Soccer Mom / and Activist :)</p>	Alison	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/18/2015	<p>We practice on the soccer field every Tuesday and Thursday. Soccer is very important to our daughter and it keeps her out of trouble. The Breakers have made contributions for renovations and we would like to continue to support the VA.</p>	allen	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	18-Nov-15	<p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>I am so happy to see the development of this property moving forward. Hopefully it will help to fill a growing need for affordable housing and care for our veterans. There are so many parties, groups, and people vying for space on the crowded westside. As a parent of two soccer playing children, I'd like to see a way for the soccer clubs to continue to have a mutually beneficial relationship with the VA. The Westside Breakers have renovated and landscaped MacArthur field and maintained it for the past 15 years benefiting veterans as well as thousands of children in the community. It wouldn't benefit anyone to kick out our non-profit soccer program and leave the field to be dried up and abandoned, when we can maintain it and continue using it to serve the veterans and deserving young athletes. Our community is eager to support the VA's programs and assist with veterans' recreational opportunities. We would like to work with the VA to integrate our efforts with the VA projects. The veterans are part of our community. I'd like to see them welcomed and taken care of. Please let us do our part to provide some benefit for them. Thank you.</p>	Colleen	Morrissey	

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Land Use	Possessory Interests	19-Nov-15	I the owner of the Bellacures nail salon on Barrington court to let the VA know how needed that parking lot is to our business and the 30 people whose livelihoods depend on clients being able to access our business. We welcome VA residents to the community and look forward to being able to provide them with services but cannot stress more how important it is that a parking lot is available for our clients to access Brentwood village.	Gerard	Blinder	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	23-Nov-15	<p>As a veteran and father to one of the community business owners being affected by the John proposed use of land owned by the VA I am thankful for the opportunity to express my opinion.</p> <p>My son has worked extremely hard since his high school and college years to build two eyewear locations. He has a long positive standing in the small business community and has developed a growing clientele who seek his products and respect his professional advise.</p> <p>Closing the parking lot will devastate his dreams as well as his thriving store. Would it not make ore sense to encourage local business owners to work coopertively with our veterans in hiring those able to earn a living. Or offer these heroes of our county Monatory discounts on products found in the surrounding local.</p> <p>If makes little sense to close thriving business's for a green belt or park without calculating the numbers of veterans who might use these public facilities.</p> <p>I will follow the process and pray that my comments will be given creditable review. John M Gonzales 5504 Monlaco Rd Long Beach Ca 90808</p>		Gonzales	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	23-Nov-15	Bravo to Secretary Robert McDonald for authorizing the Master Plan after settling the land use lawsuit. Also, bravo to Secretary McDonald for removing upper level management. The Secretary should probably look at whether everyone who has been in management positions before he got on the scene should remain in those positions. This particular VA is huge and known for its Byzantine fiefdoms, where administrators build power bases that they protect regardless of patient care issues. VA upper level management has been complicit traditionally. Unfortunately, UCLA has often been right there collaboratively building these fiefdoms. VA has a lot of resources, which is not lost on those building fiefdoms. There are so many "dual" appointments and lack of oversight that these resources commonly flow East across the San Diego Freeway into Westwood without much scrutiny. It is good to see the Secretary focusing on making sure our Veterans get what was intended to be for them, be it land, resources, or the public tax dollar. I am a Bruin, but I also can't ignore what has become so routine over the years that no spends much time thinking about whether it is the right thing to do, especially for Veterans.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	23-Nov-15	I am in full support of developing the West Los Angeles VA center to enhance the treatment and support of our veterans. The master plan is an ambitious program to do so and while I question the cost to implement it sounds like a reasonable plan. I do however want to offer support for continuing the relationship with UCLA and the various youth organizations that have maintained and developed recreational facilities on the site over the last several years. These organizations have spent a considerable amount of time, money and resources to create facilities that are utilized by world class college athletes and young aspiring soccer players of all ages and genders. To arbitrary and suddenly eject these activities does not make sense and would seem to be very short sighted. It will be many years before the master plan can be fully implemented and in the meantime it would seem to be logical to continue the relationship with the youth organizations that are sharing the site with the veterans on site and contributing greatly to the condition of the facilities. To force the youth groups to leave and leave the facility unused until such time as the master plan is completed would leave valuable space to deteriorate while ignoring the shortage of available fields for local youth, to say nothing of the commitment these groups have to maintaining the facility and keeping it in exceptional useable condition. Further I would suggest that the VA consider an ongoing relationship with UCLA and the youth organizations. Having a dynamic and youthful presence of the campus also could very well contribute to the treatment and wellbeing of the veterans on site.	Franklin	Weigold	

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Land Use	Possessory Interests	23-Nov-15	I am in full support of developing the West Los Angeles VA center to enhance the treatment and support of our veterans. The master plan is an ambitious program to do so and while I question the cost to implement it sounds like a reasonable plan. I do however want to offer support for continuing the relationship with UCLA and the various youth organizations that have maintained and developed recreational facilities on the site over the last several years. These organizations have spent a considerable amount of time, money and resources to create facilities that are utilized by world class college athletes and young aspiring soccer players of all ages and genders. To arbitrary and suddenly eject these activities does not make sense and would seem to be very short sighted. It will be many years before the master plan can be fully implemented and in the meantime it would seem to be logical to continue the relationship with the youth organizations that are sharing the site with the veterans on site and contributing greatly to the condition of the facilities. To force the youth groups to leave and leave the facility unused until such time as the master plan is completed would leave valuable space to deteriorate while ignoring the shortage of available fields for local youth, to say nothing of the commitment these groups have to maintaining the facility and keeping it in exceptional useable condition. Further I would suggest that the VA consider an ongoing relationship with UCLA and the youth organizations. Having a dynamic and youthful presence of the campus also could very well contribute to the treatment and wellbeing of the veterans on site.	Franklin	Weigold	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	23-Nov-15	I am very pleased that there is momentum to take properly care of American veterans. This is their property, and there are great needs.  However, I am hoping that the parking lot on Barrington can remain for the public. It is vital for people to have the ability to park and to be able to patronize shops/ restaurants there. A busy community with places to eat casually, do little errands and go to the post office must be useful to all, including vets. The post office has taken the majority of parking for its employees so the parking lot is key for post office use too. The property set aside for the VA is large, and this is at the northern most part. It would mean much to the community to preserve the parking lot.  Best wishes in your endeavors to make this important land serve its main purpose.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	23-Nov-15	It appears to be hypocrisy when UCLA states on its Government and Community Relations website: "UCLA is committed to strengthening and enhancing its 70 year relationship with the VA by providing services and programs for veterans in mental and physical health..." In the past year, a highly regarded UCLA expert in PTSD with 3 decades of experience working with Veterans wanted to move from UCLA to VA to lead VA Mental Health Services, but was denied.  Dr. Bruce Kagan is a wonderful doctor, psychiatrist, and human being, loved by all who know him. Who could be better for our Veterans than this psychiatrist with experience and deep commitment to Veterans? Because of who he is, and the role he plays there, Dr. Kagan is very important to the UCLA Department of Psychiatry and its Chairman, Dr. Peter Whybrow.  Competing against Dr. Kagan for the position of VA Associate Chief for Mental Health was another UCLA faculty member, Dr. Barry Guze. Unlike Dr. Kagan, Dr. Guze had not worked with Veterans for the past three decades; had no apparent interest in Veterans; had very limited administrative experience; and had been accused of sexual harassment by female UCLA residents. Even more troubling, Dr. Guze has had dozens of incredibly poor healthcare website reviews by his patients and their families. Typical comments are: "Dr. Guze could not be a more cold, uncaring psychiatrist. He is not easy to talk to or the least bit compassionate"; "He is one of the most wretched human beings I've ever met and his doctoring was not any better"; "Dr. Guze is uncaring and unworthy of his license as a physician"; "A very unpleasant man who should not be dealing with people on any level"; "Dr. Guze has a reputation among his colleagues for being unusually cruel to the patients he treats in hospital." (Additional reviews attached to this Comment)  Could anyone imagine putting mentally ill Veterans in the charge of someone like Dr. Guze?  So what happened when these two very different UCLA psychiatrists applied to become Associate Chief of Staff for Mental Health at VA West Los Angeles?	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	23-Nov-15	Please don't take away the VA parking lot at Brentwood Village. My psychotherapy practice depends on that parking. My clients would be very upset and unable to continue without convenient parking. The parking situation is otherwise very dire without that lot. I would probably have to find an office elsewhere if not for the VA parking lot.	Cheryl	Woodruff	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	23-Nov-15	The VA is an important part of the community. We think the community can do much more. I envision MacArthur Field becoming a state-of-the-art track and field open to everyone. It could have a great field and a new track with exercise stations. Other cities have been able to do this to encourage health and fitness. Please give the community a chance to show what it can do.	Teresa	Burton	

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Land Use	Possessory Interests	23-Nov-15	<p>The Westside Breakers have renovated and landscaped MacArthur field and maintained it for the past 15 years, benefiting veterans as well as thousands of children in the community.</p> <p>It wouldn't benefit anyone to kick out our non-profit soccer program and leave the field to be dried up and abandoned, when we can maintain it and continue using it to serve the veterans and deserving young athletes.</p> <p>Our community of families and kids is eager to support the VA's programs and assist with veterans' recreational opportunities.</p> <p>We would like to work with the VA to integrate our efforts with the VA projects.</p> <p>If the VA would like to build additional recreational facilities on campus, please give us the opportunity to participate.</p> <p>We have been excellent tenants and are a strong community of families, eager to provide further support for the VA's efforts.</p>	Seta	Kardashian	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	23-Nov-15	<p>This parking place is important to me. I frequently visit Barrington Place and appreciate Sumenjeet the convenient, hassle free parking experience. It's always nice to know that there's somewhere to park after you've sat in traffic for hours. Please do not take this away.</p> <p>There are not enough parking spots in this condensed area. I need to have this accessible.</p>	Sumenjeet	Virdee	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	23-Nov-15	<p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>Please consider the public's welfare when deciding whether to rent or lease VA facilities for non-veteran use. The soccer fields at the Westwood VA complex are vacant most of the time with little veteran use. Field space is nearly impossible to find in West Los Angeles, and the VA fields are crucial for the continuation of children's soccer programs. Please allow the continued use of these fields for youth athletics if there is little impact on veterans.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration,</p> <p>Ben Nichols</p> <p>Father of a child soccer player and son of a veteran</p>	Ben	Nichols	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	23-Nov-15	<p>We support the VA's master plan but wish to spare and share the Barrington Dog Park for Veterans and the community to access at least until the Master Plan is approved.</p>	Samantha	Lewis	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	25-Nov-15	<p>I have just recently opened my business here in the Brentwood Village after operating in Santa Monica for more than 20 years. A year and a half ago, the owners of our building sold the property and we were all displaced. I spent the better part of 2014 looking for a location that would allow us to service our existing loyal customers, as well as allow us to reach a new market. We ended up choosing the Brentwood Village because of it's neighborhood vibe, I could tell the customers and store owners had a genuine bond. It is very apparent, with just one visit, that the Village is the definition of "Shop Small, Shop Local"</p> <p>We choose the Brentwood Village over Santa Monica, Venice, and Westwood Village because of that bond between the businesses and the community, but equally as important was the fact that it was one of the only places that has ample parking, an obvious commodity in West Los Angeles. The loss of the VA parking lot would undoubtedly spell the end to the Brentwood Village. The loss of this lot would leave the Village with only minimal metered street parking and about 40 metered spots on Brentwood Ct. It is simply not enough parking to sustain the amount of retail shops, restaurants, coffee shops, gyms, and offices that make up the Brentwood Village and serve this community.</p> <p>The independent small business owners of the Brentwood Village would love the opportunity to work together with the VA, and our expected 900 new veteran neighbors. I am certain that we can find a way to have continued shared use of the land and grow together as a community who supports our nation's veterans as well as the local community.</p> <p>We already offer a deep discount to active service members, and would also like to work with the VA to make the same offer to members of the VA.</p> <p>Thank you very much for your consideration to the merchants and patrons of the Brentwood Village</p>	David	Gonzales	

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Land Use	Possessory Interests	27-Nov-15	<p>The preliminary draft final master plan for the West Los Angeles (WLA) Veterans Affairs (VA) campus is long overdue. It addresses seriously the significant needs of veterans in the Los Angeles area - particularly among veterans who are homeless, suffering from mental illness, or in poor physical health. These veterans deserve and have earned the right to have appropriate facilities and services that the master plan aims to provide.</p> <p>The WLA VA campus occupies a prime location in on the Westside that also offers significant opportunities for veterans to engage and interact with the surrounding community. One specific opportunity is related to the use of fields at the WLA VA campus by local soccer teams. I am a parent of a child on one of these teams and am grateful that the VA has allowed my son's soccer club to use the MacArthur Fields for many years. Allowing local soccer clubs to continue using the fields will provide opportunities for the local community to engage with veterans at the WLA VA campus and vice versa. Furthermore, the benefits to the community come with little or no cost to the VA or to veterans because of the need to provide green space for veterans at the WLA campus to exercise, engage in sports, and pursue recreation opportunities. In fact, the soccer fields could be turned into an important shared resource that is enjoyed both by veterans and by soccer teams from the local community. A win-win solution on this particular issue will benefit veterans, the local community, and young athletes.</p> <p>Thank you for accepting comments on the draft final master plan and for the VA's serious consideration of input provided by members of the local community.</p>	Narayan	Sastry	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	1-Dec-15	<p>I urge the VA to do everything in its power to continue to allow the Westside youth to use Barrington Park and MacArthur Field for sports programs. These facilities are VITAL to helping maintain balanced lives for our children in an area which has a dearth of open space and sports fields. In particular, AYSO Region 69 and the soccer clubs that utilize the fields would be decimated if they lost usage of the fields. I understand that there are legal actions against the VA that complicate matters, but PLEASE don't kick the kids off!</p> <p>Thank you, Dean Grinsfelder</p>	Dean	Grinsfelder	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	1-Dec-15	<p>We are an FCLA soccer family that has enjoyed the access to the fields that our nonprofit soccer organization has built, maintained, and pays funds for through its lease to the VA. We hope that this mutually beneficial relationship will be allowed to continue as so many families and small children would be affected by the loss of these otherwise unused fields. We are happy to know that the VA is getting maintained grounds and additional income that may go toward the building updates and any additional beautification plans on the property. Thank you for the access to the VA and the means to allow our children to thrive in the sport of soccer at such a stellar soccer club as FCLA.</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	1-Dec-15	<p>My son has been playing soccer at MacArthur field for the past three years. His club, FCLA, along with the Westsider Breakers built MacArthur field and have maintained it for 15 years. Until the VA decides to develop the land for other purposes please allow our clubs to continue using the field. It is very difficult to find fields to serve the children in our community and we have been good tenants throughout our time here. It would be ashamed to let this field go unused and unattended when there is a community need.</p>	Lan	Lykidis	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	1-Dec-15	<p>FCLA and Westside Breakers have been good tenants and strong stewards of MacArthur Field. It would behoove us to keep them involved--and the families who are part of their organizations--as plans develop for ultimate use of the facilities. That benefits both veterans and the families in the greater West Side community. Who wants to see that field go fallow? No one.</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	1-Dec-15	<p>Thank you.</p> <p>The land is to benefit veterans only. UCLA or the public have nothing to do with the use of this land. The open space should be used for therapeutic activities benefiting veterans not for UCLA students. This land is for veterans not for the general public. All the necessary veteran services were combined in building 206. There is no need to move those activities south. Politicians such as Congress woman Feinstein, who have been working with GLA leaders and others, with all due respect should have no say on the utilization of this land. The nonprofit community is not part of this plan either as this opens an indirect way by which some of the VA leaders control the process.</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	

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Land Use	Possessory Interests	1-Dec-15	<p>I am commentating/writing in support of the WLA VA Master Plan. It is great to see the VA seek to focus on returning and using the land for "Veteran-centric" purposes/treatment in body, mind and spirit.</p> <p>I would like to see the VA continue and enhance its relationship with UCLA, which is much more than the Jackie Robinson stadium. If UCLA is amenable to paying fair market value for renting the stadium, as well as making it more available for veteran recreational activities and social events, then I'm all for the UCLA/VA relationship to continue. However, I have read some of the comments regarding Dr. Barry Guze which leaves me quite concerned and I strongly feel that this matter needs to be addressed as well, so that veterans' mental health issues can be dealt with in a positive, healing manner.</p> <p>I would also like to see the Bandini Foundation continue to operate/run the Heroes Golf Course here on the VA campus. I just started playing the game of golf while here at the VA and it has been an integral part of my recovery/treatment. In addition, I have spent much time in the Japanese Gardens in times of prayer &amp; meditation. I have also read the Bandini Foundation's supporting letters (in the Master Plan presentation) and like what they propose in continuing to operate the Golf Course/Japanese Gardens.</p> <p>When it comes to the soccer fields (Westside Breakers, et al.), the parking lots (Brentwood Village, et al.), the dog park (Brentwood) and the Brentwood School, I strongly feel that the VA needs to reconsider the access these entities have to Veteran land. I have read some of the comments in support of continuing the status quo and some of these comments sound more self-serving rather than Veteran-centric. In each case, land that has been deeded to/for veterans is being used for non-veteran purposes and should be discontinued because these arrangements are primarily benefitting non-veteran entities (especially in the case of the Brentwood School which has been effectively ceded 20 acres of Veteran which appears to primarily benefit the Brentwood School and its student body).</p> <p>Thank you for allowing all of us to comment/express our comments, thoughts and feelings regarding this issue.</p>	James	Covington	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	1-Dec-15	<p>I am writing as a parent to an FCLA soccer player. My son is 11 and has been playing for FCLA for a little over 2 years. Soccer is his passion and FCLA has been an amazing club. It is very worrisome to be faced with the prospect of losing the training field at the VA. FCLA has been a valuable partner at the VA and I would like to see this continue in the future.</p> <p>FCLA and the Westside Breakers built MacArthur field and have maintained it for the past 15 years, benefiting veterans as well as thousands of children in the community. We would like to continue maintaining the land for use by veterans and children in the community until such time the VA develops it, which will take several years. It does not benefit anyone to just kick out our non-profit programs and let the land dry up when it can be maintained by us to continue serving veterans and children in the community.</p> <p>Our community of families and kids is eager to support the VA's programming and assist with veterans' recreational opportunities, so we need a VA coordinator to help us integrate and have offered to provide one.</p> <p>We support continuing to use Barrington Park for the use of veterans and the community. Again, until such time that the VA develops the land for other purposes, allow the community to maintain it and serve our veterans and children with programming.</p> <p>To the extent the VA would like to build additional recreational facilities on campus, please give us the opportunity to participate in such efforts. We have been excellent tenants and are a strong community of families, eager to provide further support for the VA's efforts.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this matter.</p> <p>Best, Alejandro Henriquez</p>		Henriquez	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	1-Dec-15	<p>This field is used by 100's of kids nightly, keeping them off the street and off the couch! They are actively participating in healthy, sporting athletic activities. Isn't that the message that were continually preaching as adults?? Not only that it's teaching them teamwork and responsibility. Now here we are pulling the field out from below their feet. For what reason?</p> <p>This field needs to stay open.</p>	Bryan	King	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	1-Dec-15	<p>I am writing as the parent of a boy that plays soccer on MacArthur field at the VA. As you know the soccer club built and maintains MacArthur field to the benefit of both the kids and the veterans. Until such time as the VA chooses to develop MacArthur field for the benefit of the veterans there is absolutely no reason to prevent the kids from playing soccer there and preventing the club from maintaining the field, which benefits the kids as well as the veterans. Kicking a bunch of kids off of a soccer pitch as a symbolic gesture seems to me to be highly un-American, as well as pointless and unfair and does no good for the veterans. I urge you to do what is clearly the right thing.</p>	Jeff	Goldstein	

Topic	Sub-Topic	Timestamp	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Land Use	Possessory Interests	1-Dec-15	<p>My son is part of FCLA, and I have seen first hand the positive influence that FCLA/Westside Breakers have had on MacArthur Field/the VA and that the VA/MacArthur Field has had on youth soccer. Consequently, it seems like it would not benefit any of these parties (or anyone else for that matter) to kick out non-profit soccer programs when it can be maintained by FCLA/Westside Breakers and to continue to serve veterans and children in the community.</p> <p>In addition, I know the FCLA community of families and children is excited and eager to support the VA's programming and assist with veterans' recreational opportunities. We believe such support would be more effective if a VA coordinator was put in place, and the FCLA community is happy to provide one.</p> <p>Lastly, if the VA decided to build additional recreational facilities on campus, I requests that FCLA be given the opportunity to participate in such efforts. FCLA and Westside Breakers have been great tenants and are a strong community of families. Furthermore, this community is eager to provide further support for the VA's broader efforts.</p>	Doyl	Burkett	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	1-Dec-15	<p>I'm a parent of a child who uses the VA and Barrington fields to play AYSO soccer. While I completely understand that the VA would like to use the Barrington fields for veterans, I'm confused as to why veterans use and community use are opposing needs. Can't everyone enjoy one of the few large open fields left on the west side of Los Angeles? What better use of those fields could anyone think of then children being active, running, playing, laughing? Would veterans want to kick the community out of the park?</p> <p>Obviously, this is a complicated issue, but maybe it doesn't have to be. Maybe, it is pretty simple. Maybe instead of one or the other, it's both, the veterans and the children.</p> <p>Please keep this park open so the whole community can continue to enjoy the space. Thank you.</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	1-Dec-15	<p>The Westside Breakers should be allowed to continue using McArthur Field. The VA would not otherwise maintain the field and the space would be unusable for anyone. By having the Breakers, the space is available for vets, giving them a very nice field space.</p> <p>The Westside Breakers have renovated and landscaped MacArthur field and maintained it for the past 15 years, benefiting veterans as well as thousands of children in the community.</p> <p>We would like to continue maintaining the land for recreational use until such time the VA develops it, which will take several years.</p> <p>It wouldn't benefit anyone to kick out our non-profit soccer program and leave the field to be dried up and abandoned, when we can maintain it and continue using it to serve the veterans and deserving young athletes.</p> <p>Our community of families and kids is eager to support the VA's programs and assist with veterans' recreational opportunities. We would like to work with the VA to integrate our efforts with the VA projects.</p> <p>If the VA would like to build additional recreational facilities on campus, please give us the opportunity to participate. We have been excellent tenants and are a strong community of families, eager to provide further support for the VA's efforts.</p>	Katherine	Kraus	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	1-Dec-15	<p>I am writing in support of the continued use by AYSO 69 of Barrington Park. AYSO has Kate used that park for years and have always been considerate neighbors. Plus, the plans don't have anything happening to this land for years, why must we lose access to the park now? Why does it need to sit vacant if it can be used by children in the community? Let AYSO be a partner to the veterans and we will be happy to work on programs, events or anything else that shows our commitment and appreciation of using the space. The AYSO community of parents are very committed to the program and would be good partners for you, plus I think we'd all be happy to have our kids participate in programs that benefitted people who fought for our country. I hope you'll reconsider the plans to take the park away from the kids of AYSO.</p>		Cohen	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	1-Dec-15	<p>Thank you for your organization's continued commitment to the protection of the American people and to the soldiers who put themselves at risk on our behalf. I support your plans to make the VA campus more accessible to veterans and look forward to watching that happen over the next several years.</p> <p>I have been fortunate enough to be coming to MacArthur field on the VA Campus for 3 years now, as my son plays with the FCLA soccer club there year round. We love this quiet oasis in the middle of the bustling city and like to see it maintained and frequented with life and laughter.</p> <p>As you probably know, MacArthur field was built and has been maintained for the past 15 years by two Westside soccer clubs and we would love to be able to continue to use the field and parking lot for our kids, the community and veterans until the VA needs it back for development.</p> <p>We support continuing to use Barrington Park for the use of veterans and the community. Again, until such time that the VA develops the land for other purposes, allow the community to maintain it and serve our veterans and children with programming.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>	Tricia	Sam	

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Land Use	Possessory Interests	1-Dec-15	please allow the fcla to continue to use the va fields. when we drive in, our kids see and philip talk to the veterans. it is good for the veterans and the kids, we also saw veterans use the field and observe the kids play soccer, psychologically, it i great for the veterans to see the kids---that is what many of them were fighting and sacrificed for---kids it is very good for the psychological treatment of the veterans.		landau	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	1-Dec-15	Dear Department of Veterans Affairs, I am incredibly appreciative of the sacrifice that our veterans have given for our country I would vote at every chance to increase funding and support of veterans in every way as they deserve it.  I also appreciate the space that the VA land covers in West Los Angeles. My son plays on a soccer team at the VA. He loves soccer so much. It is his passion and it is the one thing that he loves above any other activity. I am so hopeful that you will consider letting our soccer team use the field. It is a beautiful space that it is well-maintained and available for veterans to use at well. I often see veterans walking or running on the perimeter. Please, let us continue to maintain this beautiful field so that thousands of children can run and play there.  With gratitude, Katie Altschule (Mom of Max, age 10)	Katherine	Altschule	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	1-Dec-15	Please help us keep Barrington park open for our children use. We support our veterans & we respect their needs. There are very few open spaces left in our area.	farid	nickfardjam	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	1-Dec-15	The VA Medical Center should serve the Veterans first, not UCLA first.  I continue to notice that many are commenting on a "strong connection" mentioned between UCLA and the VA but other than the Jackie Robinson Stadium which is built on VA grounds that should instead be set up to serve Veterans, what is the actual connection? UCLA does not provide preferential care or admissions to Veterans, only recently through a private grant began to provide "high profile" (read publicity oriented) care to physically-wounded Veterans through Operation MEND. Without this private endeavor, there is nothing UCLA was doing independently to help Veterans. UCLA is simply using the VA to funnel \$70 million dollars in Federal Graduate Medical Education (GME) money to its coffers in exchange from providing nominal residency education support to the VA. Rather than assume that this is the best connection for the VA, perhaps other avenues should be explored, including USC. Unlike UCLA Medical Center (now the Ronald Reagan Medical Center) which is a State-funded institution that is set up as a private hospital (actively refusing Medi-Cal and some Medi-Care patients), USC Medical Center is a privately-funded hospital that has provided almost a hundred years of care to indigent, and needy communities throughout Los Angeles. USC's population of care much more closely aligns with the VA and the two should be much more closely linked than only a few sporadic training programs. And USC has its own baseball stadium off VA grounds.  Again, the VA Medical Center should serve the Veterans first, not UCLA first.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	1-Dec-15	AYSO Region 69 helped build the Barrington Park fields and, with LA Rec and Parks, have maintained them for the past 30 years, benefiting veterans as well as thousands of children in the community. Please consider to continue maintaining the land for use by veterans and children in the community until such time the VA develops it, which will take several years. My family and I do not believe that it benefits anyone to just kick out our non-profit programs and let the land dry up when it can be maintained by us to continue serving veterans and children in the community. We are a supportive and generous community and our family is eager to support the VA's programming and assist with veterans' recreational opportunities. We would like to dedicate the park as Veteran's Park of Brentwood, officially commemorating a space for the community and veterans to interact. Please help save this precious property so our children and veterans can have a place to play sports and enjoy the outdoors in this big city. Thank you, Katrina Carlson	Kat	Carlson	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	1-Dec-15	It is sad the concern of many is to have children play soccer on the VA campus while the Master Plan calls for hundreds of mental ill and drug addicted Veterans to be on the same campus without getting adequate treatment for their problems because the VA is incapable of running its own show. Are these commenters reading the rest of the posted comments? I don't get it.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	1-Dec-15	As a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran and Los Angeles resident, I am in support of the VA's West Los Angeles Campus expansion project. This expansion project is appropriate to eradicate Veteran homelessness in Los Angeles and provide critical services to indigent Veterans. Based on the comments that I have read, I would urge the VA to work with local businesses and other stakeholders that reside around the VA campus to find creative ways to solve potential issues (e.g. future parking issues) so all stakeholders will fully support the expansion project and make future Veteran residents feel welcome to the area.	Joseph	McManus	U.S. Marine
Land Use	Possessory Interests	1-Dec-15	The park should be open to the kids! Thanks	Raul	FERRERO	

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Land Use	Possessory Interests	1-Dec-15	FCLA and the Westside Breakers built MacArthur field and have maintained it for the past 15 years, benefiting veterans as well as thousands of children in the community. We would like to continue maintaining the land for use by veterans and children in the community until such time the VA develops it, which will take several years. It does not benefit anyone to just kick out our non-profit programs and let the land dry up when it can be maintained by us to continue serving veterans and children in the community. Our community of families and kids is eager to support the VA's programming and assist with veterans' recreational opportunities, so we need a VA coordinator to help us integrate and have offered to provide one. We support continuing to use Barrington Park for the use of veterans and the community. Again, until such time that the VA develops the land for other purposes, allow the community to maintain it and serve our veterans and children with programming. To the extent the VA would like to build additional recreational facilities on campus, please give us the opportunity to participate in such efforts. We have been excellent tenants and are a strong community of families eager to provide further support for the VA's efforts.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	1-Dec-15	See attached file(s)	Marilyn	Krell	Organization Name: South Brentwood Residents Association
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	AYSO Region 69 built the Barrington Park fields and, with LA Rec and Parks, have maintained them for the past 30 years, benefiting veterans as well as thousands of children in the community. We would like to continue maintaining the land for use by veterans and children in the community until such time the VA develops it, which will take several years. It does not benefit anyone to just kick out our non-profit programs and let the land dry up when it can be maintained by us to continue serving veterans and children in the community. We are a supportive and generous community and our families are eager to support the VA's programming and assist with veterans' recreational opportunities. We would like to dedicate the park as Veteran's Park of Brentwood, officially commemorating a space for the community and veterans to interact.	colleen	bub	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	I agree that it is time for the VA to address the needs of our veterans and show some pride of ownership by redeveloping the VA. Having said this, I do not believe that closing Barrington Park and MacArthur Field without any immediate plan to build on this green space is good for anyone. The veterans will not benefit and the surrounding community with no alternative green space will be harmed on many levels. The community and the VA should partner to ensure that current programming at MacArthur Field and Barrington Park continue until such time the VA really needs this land solely for veterans. At the same time, the community should be more engaged in the VA's efforts and be given opportunities to change the perception the veterans have that the community doesn't care about them. The community would fund and run the entire Welcome Center if a point person was designated to spearhead this effort. They would volunteer to run recreational programming at the VA. They would donate items throughout the year and they would like donate money to help the VA achieve its goals. The community has been essentially clueless about what the VA has been doing the past 50 years and has no idea where to start. At least Barrington Park and MacArthur field serve both veterans and the community with recreation - and we all know that entertainment and sports bring people together and heal. It's time to engage, educate and support one another to better the veterans and the surrounding community, and ultimately, when the VA has the funding and infrastructure to really create a home solely for veterans, the community will embrace this. Thank you.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	AYSO has been a partner, undertaking the development and maintenance of the facility for over thirty years. To deprive children of the opportunity play outside in a major urban area would be a grave mistake; particularly as the current regime has limited to no downside to veterans and AYSO remains committed to including veterans and others.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	AYSO Region 69 built the Barrington Park fields and, with LA Rec and Parks, have maintained them for the past 30 years, benefiting veterans as well as thousands of children in the community. We would like to continue maintaining the land for use by veterans and children in the community until such time the VA develops it, which will take several years. It does not benefit anyone to just kick out our non-profit programs and let the land dry up when it can be maintained by us to continue serving veterans and children in the community. We are a supportive and generous community and our families are eager to support the VA's programming and assist with veterans' recreational opportunities. We would like to dedicate the park as Veteran's Park of Brentwood, officially commemorating a space for the community and veterans to interact.	David	Brixton	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	Save the kids; there is noting more important! Let's all work together to solve the kids' and veterans' needs!!!	Jordan	Katz	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	What a great experience we have had as a family going to Bretwood park for our kids soccer practice/games. It saddens us to know that this park may no longer be of use to the children of this community. It doesn't make sense to kick out non-profit programs (which take care of the land). Veterans and children should be able to use the park.	Anonymous	Anonymous	

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Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	Please leave the VA field open for our kids. Our children are the backbone of our community and the reason why so many Americans have served their country in the military eventually becoming Veterans, and the many that sadly did not survive to become Veterans. There could not be a better use of this small space than brining the children together for fun, sports, competitive challenge, and the huge educational benefits of organized sports. They are the future of this community.	David	Marshall	
			From the Community that supports the VA.			
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	Our children thank you. PLEASE - weigh the common sense information in front of your eyes with the inefficient Anonymous and debilitating political agendas at hand. Barrington Park can operate for several more YEARS before an official agenda is determined. PLEASE allow this field to be a community resource until then. When it is shut to everyone, there is no service, no gain and NO REASON. We understand there are decisions to be made -- but the fact is, they will not be made immanently. The community will cooperate and participate when the time comes - but now is not that time. Please let us continue our use of Barrington Park. Thank you.		Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	My guess is that Veterans would not support a policy that hurts kids. There has to be a way where everyone can benefit from Barrington Park.	Alex	Bentley	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	The VA should not leave land unused.	Trevor	Bezdek	
			AYSO built the Barrington Park fields and have maintained them for the past 30 years, benefiting veterans and children.			
			Until the VA is ready to use the Barrington Parks land, and other VA land, they should continue to allow them to be used by non-profits to benefit the community.			
			Veterans and the community should work together so the VA land is a positive force for veterans and the community.			
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	Maybe if the parents of the soccer kids invite Veterans to their homes for a BBQ to watch Sunday football, the soccer kids can play on the Veterans' open land?	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	I believe it is important for AYSO Region 69 to be able to continue to use the Barrington Bren field for soccer practice and soccer games. They have been using it responsibly for 30 years. There are very few fields in Region 69 area.	Bren	Boston	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	AYSO Region 69 built the Barrington Park fields and, with LA Rec and Parks, have maintained them for the past 30 years, benefiting veterans as well as thousands of children in the community. We would like to continue maintaining the land for use by veterans and children in the community until such time the VA develops it, which will take several years. It does not benefit anyone to just kick out our non-profit programs and let the land dry up when it can be maintained by us to continue serving veterans and children in the community. We are a supportive and generous community and our families are eager to support the VA's programming and assist with veterans' recreational opportunities. We would like to dedicate the park as Veteran's Park of Brentwood, officially commemorating a space for the community and veterans to interact.	Jennifer	Taghibagi	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	Hi! Our family is an AYSO family (our son and daughter play) and we LOVE the Barrington Field and consider it a wonderful part of our AYSO community, and our broader community as well! We feel very strongly that we need to be able to continue to share the park with the Veterans Association, and if there's anything we can do to help or make that possible, we are ready to do it! Thank you so much, Pam Thomas Stein AYSO region 69	Pamela	Thomas	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	My kid and I have enjoyed using these fields immensely as part of our participation with Jay the AYSO soccer league. In a city of buildings and pavement, it is so important that our children have a place to go play. The use of these fields have been a great gift to the community. And I thank the VA with all my heart for allowing it thus far. And I join others in asking that arrangements be made to allow AYSO to continue to use the fields. Honestly, there are few things more beautiful than seeing children play soccer on an open field. We need things like this in our city.		Anonymous	
			Thanks, J.			
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	The fields at the VA (MacArthur park) have provided youth from all over Los Angeles to participate in various soccer clubs. The fields are large and provide space for many teams. The club soccer teams have maintained the fields well. I think space that can be used by the larger community benefits the veterans too, as they see active youth and the benefits of exercise and well being.		Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	We are so grateful to all veterans who have served our country. As parents of children who play in the AYSO Region 69 soccer league - we are grateful for the use of the field at the VA. We would love to partner with the VA in order to continue using the field for soccer as well as provide recreational activities for veterans. What better way to show our children what it means to serve their country than by establishing a partnership with the VA to protect the park and the field.	Margaret	Carey	
			Thank you for considering the on-going use of the VA field for youth soccer activities.			

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Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	<p>I would just like to say that there are hundreds of children that benefit from use of the facilities at Barrington Park East. Until the land is actually being used for something else - I feel it would be a shame not to allow the many groups and non-groups access and use.</p> <p>As you know there are not many places for children to play. Parents are usually having to drive kids long distances to find a field of grass to enjoy - denying access would shrink this resource even more, crowding the already heavily used and requested grassy areas even more.</p>	john	defonso	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	<p>Please consider this fact. Thank you.</p> <p>It is sad that after virtually neglecting the Vets and the VA facilities for years and years, a sudden about face has been taken by the powers at be that will shut out AYSO sports, UCLA baseball and Brentwood School from using the facilities.</p> <p>If you walk through the VA campus, it doesn't take long to notice that the only facilities that are in good shape are those used by organizations OTHER THAN THE VA!!!!!!!</p> <p>Why not integrate the VA campus with the neighborhoods that surround it? It is a shame and a tragedy the way our country treats our Vets. But tossing out kids sports, college baseball, etc. isn't the way to say thank you to our Vets nor is it the way to take care of the VA campus.</p>	Lawrence	Butler	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	<p>Our children and grandchildren have enjoyed use of the park for years. It is a gathering place that encourages health and community for children and their families and our Veterans, alike. It would be a shame and devastating loss simply to shutter it. Please keep the park open and accessible for our children and families. Thank you.</p>	David	Horvitz	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	<p>Hello - I am an AYSO parent of a 10 year old and am writing to ask you to consider leaving the Barrington Park open for AYSO and Veteran's use until it is developed. To let the land sit vacant while plans are drawn and approved seems like such a waste to our community. Mutual support of Veteran's and AYSO is key to healthy loving community. Thank you for your consideration.</p>	Beverly	Kubik	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	<p>Taking away a much needed sports field for our children is not the answer. There are limited places in the Brentwood area for them to play sports and the Ayso has kept the park in such good condition and contributed greatly over the years. Don't make this mistake. What about the acres of land on the actual VA property that something nice could be done with? It seems unnecessary to kick the kids out of the park but to have so much unmaintained land where the actual facility stands. A park could easily be built there from the looks of it. This seems like a rather selfish move after being generous with with sharing with the children for so long.</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	<p>AYSO Region 69 has breathed life into the Barrington field and made it their responsibility to care and clean it for over 30 years. Surely there is a reasonable solution to fit everyone's needs. As the park isn't assigned for redevelopment, could it not stand as a symbol of two communities supporting one another? Please let our kids enjoy the local park on the weekends; we've treated it with respect in honor of the VA and will continue to do so.</p>	Jennifer	Hamm	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	<p>I want to thank the VA for its generosity throughout the years. I hope it continues to allow people, specifically children, to use Barrington Park and other park facilities in the VA complex. My children have benefited directly. They have played many soccer games at Barrington and the VA complex. By being a part of a VA community, they are more aware of veterans and the many issues facing the VA community. There is a wonderful relationship that has been fostered by the VA in the westside of Los Angeles. I believe it should continue for the benefit of veterans and non-veterans.</p> <p>How do veterans benefit if non-veterans are using a small portion of the VA's facilities?</p> <p>By allowing non-veterans to use the VA, it provides a real health benefit to all Los Angeles residents. Creating a healthy, social environment is incredibly important to veterans. The VA is a sanctuary, but it shouldn't be a mausoleum. It should be a positive reflection of American life. Because there are children utilizing the resource for health, it has a very creative, fun, optimistic environment. The VA should be social, and collaborative because there are direct health benefits, to everyone, in such an environment. Segregating veterans isn't a healthy path.</p> <p>I am very grateful to the VA. In the westside of Los Angeles, there are not enough parks for our children. Children need places to play. Without the VA, thousands of children won't have places to play soccer games, walk their dog, or just run around in a car-less environment. I believe that parks and the physical activity they allow are in the national interest. In westside Los Angeles, there are no alternatives. Children have very few places to play, to have fun, to explore. Physical inactivity can lead to obesity and Type 2 diabetes, according to the CDC, while exercise can help control weight, and reduce the risk for developing heart disease and some cancers, while providing mental health benefits, too. A study linked physical inactivity to more than 5 million deaths worldwide per year, more than those caused by smoking. We are in the midst of an obesity epidemic.</p> <p>We need to encourage physical activity. Low-cost programs, like AYSO soccer, help teach children the joys of sports, comradeship, of physical and mental health. Parks</p>	Gary	Poole	

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Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	These fields should be able to be used by the community, inclusive of the VA and the schools in the neighborhood. Most importantly, the AYSO should be included and not precluded from using these fields.	Brian	Good	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	Please allow Barrington to be maintained by AYSO to be used by countless community children and veterans. There is no need to close the soccer fields while the development plans continue. They foster community and team spirit so our communities thrive and our youth grow up to be productive and hard working citizens with respect for Veterans and others.  Thank you,	Michelle	Ashley	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	Michelle Ashley The Brentwood community and the VA campus are linked by geography and history. There are many ways to "open" the Brentwood community to the Veterans, and there are many benefits to the community and the Veterans by doing so. However, there is no logical way to link an exclusive, restrictive, privileged, prohibitive, upper crust school for the children of the wealthy to the mission of the VA, which is clearly and only to help our Veterans.  Imagine if the Hero's golf course was converted into a private, exclusive country club. This is basically what happened when the school was granted use of these 21 acres through shady means in 2001. There is no reasonable justification for the VA to give this land to the school. The value of this land to the VA and the US Taxpayer is in the hundreds of millions of dollars, and again, to basically give this land to a ritzy private school makes no sense to any of the stakeholders, including the Brentwood community at large. The courts seem to agree with this assessment, but you can bet that the power brokers who send their children to this bastion of exclusivity will spend whatever it takes to fight what is right for the Veterans in exchange for their self interest (their child's football game, tennis tournament, or swim meet).  Better use of this land could be used to connect the Brentwood community to the VA and vice versa, as opposed to reserving this land (behind gates mind you) for a privileged, select few.	Brent	Stratton	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	As a parent of two children that participate in AYSO youth soccer, I'm troubled by the potential to lose all access to the Barrington Park as contemplated in the Draft Final Master Plan for the West LA VA Center. It probably goes without saying, but youth athletics are about much more than the actual sport, and offering our children a safe, clean environment in which to participate in these types of non-profit, volunteer run activities provides an amazing opportunity- one that I had many years ago and still look back on.  The AYSO is committed, as it has been for 30 years, at fostering, maintaining and sharing the park with all constituents, not least of which the VA residents and visitors.  Additionally, - AYSO Region 69 built the Barrington Park fields and, with LA Rec and Parks, have maintained them for the past 30 years, benefiting veterans as well as thousands of children in the community. - We would like to continue maintaining the land for use by veterans and children in the community until such time the VA develops it, which will take several years. - It does not benefit anyone to just kick out our non-profit programs and let the land dry up when it can be maintained by us to continue serving veterans and children in the community. -We are a supportive and generous community and our families are eager to support the VA's programming and assist with veterans' recreational opportunities. - We would like to dedicate the park as Veteran's Park of Brentwood, officially commemorating a space for the community and veterans to interact.  Thank you for your consideration.	Dean	Christopher	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	Please keep Barrington Park open for use by AYSO Region 69 until such time the VA develops it, which will take several years. It will continue to benefit veterans as well as thousands of children in the community. It also keeps their parents fit and active too! It does not benefit anyone to just kick out our non-profit programs and let the land dry up when it can be maintained by us to continue serving veterans, children and their parents, in the community.	Michaela	Carmichael	

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Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	<p>As a taxpayer and Veterans advocate, I agree that Secretary McDonald opening up the goings on at West LA VA pertaining UCLA and Mental Health to Congressional hearings would dispel the notion of VA hiding its own corruption (and maybe even fix the problem!).</p> <p>Look at what is happening right now in Chicago with the police shooting video being covered up for months. The cover-up is always much worse than the actual problem being covered up. Nixon found that out in Watergate as well. If there are federal taxpayer dollars entrusted to the stewardship of the VA and being absconded with by the State of California (i.e., UCLA) and not going to Veterans, then this is a serious issue.</p> <p>Obviously, per comments made by internal VA people, the VA mechanisms are insufficient to investigate, no less guarantee change. Sounds like an ongoing problem for years or decades. \$70 million per year of taxpayer dollars is a LOT OF TAXPAYER DOLLARS!! That is a lot more than the Jackie Robinson stadium heist by UCLA.</p> <p>When the VA Inspector General, VA Secretaries, etc. have come and gone without a full accounting, it is time to go take it out of the Executive Branch and let the Legislative Branch (i.e., Senate and House of Representative) oversight committees examine the issue.</p>		Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	Barrington Park has become an integral part of the Westside for all families, of every kind	Hilary	Rosen	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	<p>AYSO Region 69 built the Barrington Park fields and, with LA Rec and Parks, have maintained them for the past 30 years, benefiting veterans as well as thousands of children in the community.</p> <p>We would like to continue maintaining the land for use by veterans and children in the community until such time the VA develops it, which will take several years. It does not benefit anyone to just kick out our non-profit programs and let the land dry up when it can be maintained by us to continue serving veterans and children in the community.</p> <p>We are a supportive and generous community and our families are eager to support the VA's programming and assist with veterans' recreational opportunities. We would like to dedicate the park as Veteran's Park of Brentwood, officially commemorating a space for the community and veterans to interact.</p>	rob	edwards	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	<p>Everyone respects Veterans and their right and need to care. But it is impractical and unreasonable to shutter the parks, parking lots and schools on VA land until such time as those areas are funded for development.</p>	Rodney	Liber	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	<p>I support the master plan. Obviously, however, implementation will take time and there are valuable west los Angeles recreation areas to be impacted.</p> <p>At least for the next couple of years, the VA (McArthur Field) and Barrington recreation spaces to be impacted must continue to be used by local youth. Green spaces are too few to provide sufficient recreational opportunities and the master plan should include the inevitable programs to create bridges between vets and the local families through recreation. Until that day, existing uses should not cease.</p>	doug	mark	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	We would be very grateful for continued use of the field for our FCLA soccer teams, and	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	<p>Good morning. We are utterly confused and saddened to hear of the seemingly irrational threat to Barrington Park field where we have raised 2 children and hope to raise 2 more.</p> <p>Having been raised in the area myself, I know that Barrington Park has been used lovingly and supportively for 30 years.</p> <p>As a US citizen and community member, my family knows, understands, accepts and supports the VA in reviving the campus to meet the needs of a veteran community that has historically been poorly served - nothing to do with the various schools and sports communities that have supported it financially and spiritually all these years.</p> <p>We have asked to provide support or assistance in various ways in order to avoid the irrational and unnecessary closing of the park - or other unused / ignored land - and kicking out the kids of our communities.</p> <p>The various decisions on the land doesn't seem to be anything more than politics.</p> <p>We need the field, we take care of that field, we share it with the veterans, and unless it's developed immediately for veteran housing, then the field should be left open for the kids.</p> <p>What reason could there possibly be to stop learning, educating, supporting the children of our future - whose very healthy and intelligent existence can only make the world a better place? Take away their support - and their - and THE - future is left without hope.</p> <p>Isn't that what we're trying to repair?</p> <p>Thank you for your time and open hearts and minds.</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	

Topic	Sub-Topic	Timestamp	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	Please don't close the Barrington Park to our community's young soccer players. My son and daughter have both played many times at the field, and I don't know where their leagues will find additional fields if Barrington Park is closed to them. If I thought closing Barrington Park would benefit the Veterans of our town I wouldn't argue against it, but I think the plot of land at issue is unlikely to be put to any more productive use for the Veterans for decades, if ever.	Lynn	Scaduto	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	I reside in Santa Monica and am a huge supporter of Veterans and the rights of Veterans. I want to remind the VA and the decision makers of the extreme shortage of soccer fields available for our children to play soccer in West Los Angeles. Soccer is one of the best team sports and teaches character, teamwork and fitness, and is a game that can be played by all, large or small. We understand that there is some consideration as part of the master planning process to restrict the use of some of the VA facilities (including Barrington Park) for soccer use. I sincerely hope this does not happen as it will impose a great burden on the community at large, in particular our boys and girls who want to play soccer. I think it is great for kids and families to be playing at and integrating with the VA community. The joyful sound of the kids, the pony-tails bobbing, and the parents cheering on, all brings added life and vitality to the VA community and we certainly hope this will continue. Thanks for listening.	Alan	Epstein	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	One of the most effective ways to help those in need of service, especially those that have provided service, is to integrate individuals into the community instead of creating an isolating compound. It is the very sense of detachment that creates a lack of understanding on all sides and further leads to a sense of isolation and lack of empathy  By welcoming the broader community into a collective place filled with the spirit of hope and renewal (families exercising and cheering alongside those who have served) makes both business and cultural sense. What better way to teach our children the significance of supporting those that support us than a gathering space dedicated to Veterans and shared collectively.	Jen	Mojo	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	We, as a family, are very sad about the horrible news about the potential of developing Barrington Park. I have 4 kids and they all enjoyed the park through sports (AYSO, T-Ball, Flag Football). As you may know there are absolutely no room in the West Side for kids to do sports and Barrington has been the only choice that our children in the community can spend sometime exercising and staying away from video games.... and problems. I know the importance that the VA has with their Veterans, no question about it and they deserve that and way more but not at the expense of these kids and their friends. Having 4 kids I am very familiar with Barrington Park and with the VA fields and I assure you that not only there is more space to build at the VA by Sepulveda with more room for a better place, access and parking; but I cannot believe that the City of Los Angeles is willing to "attract" more traffic to the area by developing another large structure. I really hope that you think about these issues, being the most important our kids and the future generations. Please re-consider this decision and again, there's enough room to build/develop the land close to Sepulveda/Wilshire.  Thank you very much for your attention.	Jorge	Navarro	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	Dear Department of Veteran Affairs,  We at AYSO Region 69 have helped build the Barrington Park fields and, with LA Rec and Parks, have maintained them for the past 30 years, benefiting veterans as well as thousands of children in the community.  We would like to continue maintaining the land for use by veterans and children in the community until such time the VA develops it, which will take several years.  It does not benefit anyone to just kick out our non-profit programs and let the land dry up when it can be maintained by us to continue serving veterans and children in the community.  We are a supportive and generous community and our families are eager to support the VAs programming and assist with veterans recreational opportunities.  We would like to dedicate the park as Veterans Park of Brentwood, officially commemorating a space for the community and veterans to interact.  Thank your your time and consideration.	Cary	Sullivan	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	Until the Zone 4 areas have actual plans for them (5 years off it sounds like), they should leave Barrington Park open for use by the whole community!!!	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	I support leaving barrington park open for joint AYSO and va use. Having played in the park as a kid and now seeing my own kids play in the park, I truly believe this park is an integral part of the community. The sense of community created by parks where people gather on weekdays for practices or weekends for games is irreplaceable. In this day of trying to get more kids to unplug and play outdoors, closing a park doesn't make sense.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	I would strongly be in favor of keeping the Barrington Fields open and available for children while plans are finalized for the Barrington field site. Local organizations such as AYSO maintain the fields in a high-quality fashion and could continue to do so and allow hundreds/thousands of children the opportunity to be physically active while final plans are finalized.	Ivan	Hindshaw	

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Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	<p>We are deeply dismayed by what is going on with regard to the park. Our kids participate in AYSO and this field has been used and maintained by AYSO for decades. We support our Veterans by donating to several veteran organizations. We don't see why they have to exclude others from the use of this park.</p> <p>On a regular basis we see Veterans standing on San Vicente and Wilshire with signs about parks that fall under the Veterans Administration. It seems like they have forgotten about the community they are a part of. There is so much open land that is available on San Vicente and Wilshire that is grassy and has trees. It is a vast and amazing area that is gated and not open to the public. And now there is a proposal to close an area that has been used by children and families in the community for decades. Why can't this park area be used by the whole community???? In fact, wouldn't that actually help blend these Veterans into the community as opposed to segregating them?</p> <p>It makes no sense to us why this proposal should exclude rather than include in a way that would benefit all parties.</p> <p>Already our recreation center for Brentwood is horrible compared to other rec centers around LA. There is no large open grass area where children can run around to play except for this field. There are many children in the area living in housing that do not have access to outdoor play space. Our WHOLE community needs this space.</p> <p>We hope and are sure that there is a way to work something out that can benefit everyone. Thank you.</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	<p>As important as veterans are in our community and for our country - my family not only has veterans but provides consistent support to them - it is critical for the short- and long-term health and wellness of our community that the park remain open for kids and youth sports. The vacuum it will leave will have a profoundly negative effect on the community and it is impossible to see the immediate or mid-term gain for anyone by shutting down access to the park that has been well-maintained, respected and beloved by so many families.</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	<p>Dear VA,</p> <p>My children have been playing AYSO soccer on your fields for 10 years. Soccer has given them great life lessons like working hard and working with others to accomplish a goal. The VA land has been a community gathering point for a few weekends a year. It would be a great loss to our community if we were no longer available to share this space. Nothing makes my grandfather, who is a Veteran happier than coming out and seeing his grandkids play soccer. There are a lot of families whose parents or grandparents have fought for our country who would want their kids to enjoy the parks in their community. I hope this doesn't have to be an all or nothing proposition and we can go back to the shared agreement that we have had for 30 years. Please do this for our children.</p>	Albert	Baril	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	<p>AYSO Region 69 built the Barrington Park fields and, with LA Rec and Parks, have maintained them for the past 30 years, benefiting veterans as well as thousands of children in the community.</p> <p>We would like to continue maintaining the land for use by veterans and children in the community until such time the VA develops it, which will take several years.</p> <p>It does not benefit anyone to just kick out our non-profit programs and let the land dry up when it can be maintained by us to continue serving veterans and children in the community.</p> <p>We are a supportive and generous community and our families are eager to support the VA's programming and assist with veterans' recreational opportunities.</p> <p>We would like to dedicate the park as Veteran's Park of Brentwood, officially commemorating a space for the community and veterans to interact.</p>	James	Stewart	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	<p>Please keep this park open to the AYSO!</p> <p>Please don't close Barrington Park to AYSO! The kids in the region 69 area would not be well served by that decision and it doesn't have any upside for the veterans either.</p>	Chris	Shifflett	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	<p>We would love to be able to share the park with veterans. I think that the relationship between the ayso kids and the veterans could be beneficial to both age groups - creating a lot of happiness and opportunities for education. Thank you!</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	<p>To quote BAD NEWS BEARS BREAKING TRAINING in the 70s, "Let them Play"!</p>	David	Carlin	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	<p>It is my belief that if one were to ask any Veteran of the United States of America if they John F think that the children of the local Los Angeles community (A.Y.S.O. specifically) should continue to use the Barrington Park fields, I bet you would get 100% agreement that they should.</p> <p>Please continue to allow our children and the public to jointly use with the Veterans Barrington Park for generations to come.</p> <p>One day those children and the public may be called upon to serve our great Nation!</p>		Anderson	

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Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	<p>AYSO Region 69 built the Barrington Park fields and, with LA Rec and Parks, have maintained them for the past 30 years, benefiting veterans as well as thousands of children in the community.</p> <p>We would like to continue maintaining the land for use by veterans and children in the community until such time the VA develops it, which will take several years.</p> <p>It does not benefit anyone to just kick out our non-profit programs and let the land dry up when it can be maintained by us to continue serving veterans and children in the community.</p> <p>We are a supportive and generous community and our families are eager to support the VA's programming and assist with veterans' recreational opportunities.</p> <p>We would like to dedicate the park as Veteran's Park of Brentwood, officially commemorating a space for the community and veterans to interact.</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	<p>Please allow the kids to continue to use The Veteran's field at Barrington Park. The kids need that field to run, play team sports and just be kids. We will continue to maintain the field as is, and share it, too. please allow our kids to enjoy the space as they have been. We appreciate it!</p>		Cohen	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	<p>Barrington Park can be developed into an athletics center for veterans, that the entire community can share, maintain, and be proud of. In the meantime, it makes sense to keep the field open for vets, and for others who would like to use the soccer field and park, such as AYSO. It does not make sense to shut down a working, well-maintained field.</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	2-Dec-15	<p>I do not understand all these comments about soccer for kids. I am glad kids have a place to play soccer but I would hope the focus would be on better care for vets. As a local member of the community I am most worried about dangerous VA patients who get released too soon because of a bed shortage and insufficient treatment staff. People who work at this VA have shared this concern with me and I see evidence right in my neighborhood.</p> <p>I am very concerned about the VA not have enough resources to keep mentally ill patients in the hospital for as long as they need and to admit them without making them wait days in the ER.</p> <p>Inadequately treated vets pose a danger to kids and everyone else. I see nothing in this plan to address any of these real problems. To me that is where the focus should be. It should not be on soccer or alternative treatments when there are insufficient resources for proven treatments.</p> <p>It is very disturbing to me that not only does the master plan not address the problems that most affect vets and the surrounding community.</p> <p>I also am upset that a large number of the comments here are on things like soccer and the Jackie Robinson stadium</p> <p>I hope comments here and in a revised master plan would reflect concerns about treatment for seriously ill vets including those with mental problems. In my view that is what a VA Hospital should be most about.</p> <p>I do not think I am the only one in the community concerned about the serious problems vets face. Homelessness is of course an important part of the problem and must be confronted but if patients were adequately treated fewer would be homeless.</p> <p>I hope a new master plan and comments here would better reflect the problem of getting seriously ill vets the treatment they need. It really disturbs me that the master plan and many of the comments do not reflect an interest in even addressing the vets with the most serious problems. Since I am sure I am not alone and neighbors I talk with agree with me that more attention will be paid to the seriously inadequate care the VA currently is providing without any concern about doing anything about these serious issue. A place to play soccer is not where the VA should focus its attention or what should be a priority for them or us..</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	3-Dec-15	<p>Well put. The Master Plan is about seriously mentally ill and substance abusing and homeless Veterans, not AYSO soccer.</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	3-Dec-15	<p>You need to allow children the right to play and interact. To lock the children out of the field would be the same damage as halting the veterans from feeling part of the community. If the goal of the VA is to work with Veterans and create open space for them; that open space should be open to among none other than the children...the people they put their lives on the line to protect.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to allow the kids to become aware and appreciative for those that have put their lives on the line. I can think of no better result than to allow the Veterans and non-veterans the opportunity to become one.</p>	Freedman	Eric	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	3-Dec-15	<p>I'm glad to hear the VA is planning to further help our veterans. With that said, why are we shutting down the use of the fields for AYSO Soccer? It makes no sense to me and what's the downside? Please reconsider before shutting out the kids. Thank you</p>	T.C.	Macker	

Topic	Sub-Topic	Timestamp	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Land Use	Possessory Interests	3-Dec-15	<p>Please strongly consider the value of sharing the fields for soccer and other activities for children that are so restricted in Westside LA due to severe lack of playing field due to density and real estate costs. They are VERY important to the community, as is the VA but a balance of shared use vs. building structures on fields in lieu of areas that already are paved and/or have very old buildings on them is not a good use of the property. There are many areas in the current VA facility that can accommodate needed housing for veterans AND preserve essential community field spaces in the area.</p> <p>Specifically regarding the AYSO soccer organization, which provides LOW cost soccer alternatives for children in the area vs. the expensive and often exclusive "club" soccer your programs :</p> <p>AYSO Region 69 built the Barrington Park fields and, with LA Rec and Parks, have maintained them for the past 30 years, benefiting veterans as well as thousands of children in the community.</p> <p>We would like to continue maintaining the land for use by veterans and children in the community until such time the VA develops it, which will take several years. It does not benefit anyone to just kick out our non-profit programs and let the land remain fallow when it can be maintained by us to continue serving veterans and children in the community.</p> <p>We are a supportive and generous community and our families are eager to support the VA's programming and assist with veterans' recreational opportunities. We would like to dedicate the park as Veteran's Park of Brentwood, officially commemorating a space for the community and veterans to interact.</p>	Ralph	Barton	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	3-Dec-15	<p>Thank you for your consideration in this matter.</p> <p>Please strongly consider the value of sharing the fields for soccer and other activities for children that are so restricted in Westside LA due to severe lack of playing field due to density and real estate costs. Specifically regarding the AYSO soccer organization, which provides LOW cost soccer alternatives for children in the area vs. the expensive and often exclusive "club" soccer your programs :</p> <p>AYSO Region 69 built the Barrington Park fields and, with LA Rec and Parks, have maintained them for the past 30 years, benefiting veterans as well as thousands of children in the community.</p> <p>We would like to continue maintaining the land for use by veterans and children in the community until such time the VA develops it, which will take several years. It does not benefit anyone to just kick out our non-profit programs and let the land remain fallow when it can be maintained by us to continue serving veterans and children in the community.</p> <p>We are a supportive and generous community and our families are eager to support the VA's programming and assist with veterans' recreational opportunities. We would like to dedicate the park as Veteran's Park of Brentwood, officially commemorating a space for the community and veterans to interact.</p>	Amy	Iorio	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	3-Dec-15	<p>Thank you for your consideration in this matter.</p> <p>Obviously we need a VA that takes care of our Veterans and that is our priority - to do right by taking care of the people who have made this country safe.</p> <p>But that goal is not mutually exclusive with also allowing a park for our children (some of whom will hopefully in turn serve our country as adults) to play in.</p> <p>Given the importance that this park has on this part of Los Angeles, the VA would do well to figure out how to both serve our Veterans and maintain the availability of this park for our children. After all, our Veterans fought to preserve our way of life for our children in the future. Therefore having a park that serves both purposes should be the priority here.</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	

Topic	Sub-Topic	Timestamp	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Land Use	Possessory Interests	3-Dec-15	<p>I applaud the focus and emphasis on dedicating the VA project exclusive to activities that benefit Veterans and their families. That being said, every organization is better through it's connections with its community. This is evident with top american organizations public and private.</p> <p>As a local resident, it is obvious to me that the relationship between the WLA VA and its community is not cultivated (on either side). UCLA/Brentwood/Westside Breakers and others that use the resources of WLA VA property and the VA as a group have not capitalized upon the great opportunity so merge resources for the benefit of the Veterans.</p> <p>At first blush, the policy that the WLA VA property being only for the benefit of Veterans and their families (wherein money in itself is not considered a benefit) could lead someone to the conclusion that the intent is to be insular. It shouldn't be the case. Insularity creates close-mindedness on both sides. I think the demand for the physical resources by various community entities can be met where the VA, the Veterans and their families AND the community are better off because the connections go beyond money.</p> <p>Volunteerism, Job Fair, communication, relationships, and human support are all definable benefits that the VA, the veterans and their families can enjoy.</p> <p>Communities are stronger when there is more human contact and interaction. Organizations are stronger with great community involvement and partnership. The WLA VA should be willing to proactively define that it recognizes the need for community partnership and put the onus on the current stakeholders to define and then ultimately organize and lead the charge to establish a community foundation to provide defined beneficial support to the WLA veterans and their families. With that bridge-building organization in place the possibilities are endless.</p>	Kevin	McKenzie	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	3-Dec-15	<p>The alternative would be akin to putting up a huge wall around the property and barring entry to non VA constituencies - creating insiders and outsiders. There would be more AYSO and the VA has been a great win/win partnership that should continue for the benefit of BOTH parties.</p> <p>AYSO Region 69 built the Barrington Park fields and, with LA Rec and Parks, have maintained them for the past 30 years, benefiting veterans as well as thousands of children in the community.</p> <p>We would like to continue maintaining the land for use by veterans and children in the community until such time the VA develops it, which will take several years.</p> <p>It does not benefit anyone to just kick out our non-profit programs and let the land remain fallow when it can be maintained by us to continue serving veterans and children in the community.</p>	Denise	Iorio	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	3-Dec-15	<p>Hi</p> <p>Both my children have been participating in AYSO for the last 6 years since they were 5 years old, it introduced them to the game of soccer. Please allow AYSO 69 to continue the use of Barrington Park for games and soccer practice. We support the position of AYSO 69 regarding Barrington Park</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. AYSO Region 69 built the Barrington Park fields and, with LA Rec and Parks, have maintained them for the past 30 years, benefiting veterans as well as thousands of children in the community.</li> <li>2. Please let AYSO 69 continue maintaining the land for use by veterans and children in the community until such time the VA develops it, which will take several years.</li> <li>3. It does not benefit anyone to just kick out our non-profit programs and let the land dry up when it can be maintained by us to continue serving veterans and children in the community.</li> <li>4. AYSO 69 is a supportive and generous community and our families are eager to support the VA's programming and assist with veterans' recreational opportunities.</li> <li>5. AYSO 69 community would like to dedicate the park as Veteran's Park of Brentwood, officially commemorating a space for the community and veterans to interact.</li> </ol> <p>Thanks,</p> <p>Parent of a U10 boy and a U12 girl</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	3-Dec-15	<p>AYSO Region 69 built the Barrington Park fields and, with LA Rec and Parks, have maintained them for the past 30 years, benefiting veterans as well as thousands of children in the community.</p> <p>We would like to continue maintaining the land for use by veterans and children in the community until such time the VA develops it, which will take several years.</p> <p>It does not benefit anyone to just kick out our non-profit programs and let the land dry up when it can be maintained by us to continue serving veterans and children in the community.</p> <p>We are a supportive and generous community and our families are eager to support the VA's programming and assist with veterans' recreational opportunities.</p> <p>We would like to dedicate the park as Veteran's Park of Brentwood, officially commemorating a space for the community and veterans to interact.</p>	Jeffrey	Zwelling	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	3-Dec-15	<p>Please leave Barrington Park open for AYSO. I fully support the AYSO position on this and feel VERY STRONGLY about it. Park space is limited in West LA and all land should be used judiciously and fairly for the entire community.</p>	Teresa	Williams	

Topic	Sub-Topic	Timestamp	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Land Use	Possessory Interests	3-Dec-15	As a property manager of three properties one of which is owned a recently deceased Vet, of Brentwood Village, I don't support converting the dog park and VA Parking Lot at Brentwood Village into Zone 4. I would support the VA using the Brentwood Village parking lot to employ Veterans. In return, I would also support and contribute a community effort to help with Veteran's programs such as integrating Veterans into the neighborhood. The Veterans and their families are welcome in Brentwood Village to shop, eat, enjoy services and socialize with everyone. Together we can look for ways to employ Veterans and offer discounts at some stores. We are looking forward to creating ideas to assist Veterans with programs/donation/job offers/mentorship/internship/hire Veterans first, etc.	Tim	Byrne	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	3-Dec-15	I live in Brentwood where the VA Hospital is located. I served 21 years in the U.S. Navy. Many decades ago the generous and concerned people donated the property to veterans use. There are 40,000 homeless in LA, most are vetrans. Every square foot of this area must be kept for the vetrans use in health care and housing. It should NOT be used for PUBLIC PARKING, fotball fields, comercial laundry, UCLA sports, Brentwood School etc.. Local business people claim that they will put vetrans to work establish rehabilitation programs, however in the past that has not happened and no accountability of how much time and money was used by the businesses or any report of on money received for use of the VA property in the past has been generated or published. Claims by local businesses that 160 shops and 600 jobs will be lost is overblown numbers. Keep this area for vetrans as the original owners wanted.	Anthony	Talbot	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	3-Dec-15	I am writing to voice support for allowing the Westside Breakers Soccer Club (the "Breakers") to continue to maintain and use MacArthur field as it has done for the past 15 years. Throughout that time, the Breakers have maintained, renovated and landscaped MacArthur field. This has benefited veterans as well as thousands of children in the community. In short, evicting a tenant who has provided these benefits to all parties cannot possibly be in anyone's interest. If and when a final plan is prepared, i that plan does not include space for the Breakers, then it would make sense to leave. Until then, however, allowing MacArthur field to be abandoned before absolutely necessary would only serve to punish both the veterans who get to enjoy open green areas at no cost to maintain, as well as the hundreds of children from the Breakers each year. This is a project around which the community at large should be banding together to support a very worthy, and long overdue, plan. However, evicting excellent tenants while there is no other need for the space hardly seems like the way to accomplish this goal.	Carl	Benedetti	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	3-Dec-15	While i am totally supportive of additional housing for our veterans, it is utterly wrong to take away Barrington Park from AYSO if there are no immediate plans to build on that land. Please do not shutter the park before it is necessary to do so. It has been used by the community in a very positive way for many years and there is no good reason that should not continue if the VA is not yet building on that land. Do not hurt the local community needlessly--keep Barrington Park open until you are actually going to use the land!	Timothy	Reuben	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	3-Dec-15	The Barrington Park is currently not used for anything besides a dog park. If it wasn't for the kids playing sports on that field, more people would just let their dogs run. I have never seen a veteran at that park. it is not easy to get to from the VA center. AYSO Region 69 built the Barrington Park fields and, with LA Rec and Parks, have maintained them for the past 30 years, benefiting veterans as well as thousands of children in the community. We would like to continue maintaining the land for use by veterans and children in the community until such time the VA develops it, which will take several years. It does not benefit anyone to just kick out our non-profit programs and let the land dry up when it can be maintained by us to continue serving veterans and children in the community. We are a supportive and generous community and our families are eager to support the VA's programming and assist with veterans' recreational opportunities. We would like to dedicate the park as Veteran's Park of Brentwood, officially commemorating a space for the community and veterans to interact.	melanie	Speiser	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	3-Dec-15	I worked at the West LA VA for four years and do believe that more can and should be done for the Veterans in terms of housing and other programs. But I also love that the grounds can have dual function for the community and our kids. Please keep them open to all as the space would otherwise sit empty much of the time. Perhaps this could be an opportunity for the VA to spread their message about their programs to the families who use these parks and have joint programs together. Additionally, the funds the VA obtains from leasing these nonused areas must be helpful.	Callene	Momtazee	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	3-Dec-15	Please consider keeping MacArthur Field open for the Soccer Clubs. This space is used mostly in the evenings by the kids and Veterans can utilize the space during the day. As we all know, field space on the west side of Los Angeles is at a premium and what can be more positive than kids having an active place to meet, gather, and play sports? Playing sports and learning teamwork is part of the fabric of creating great American citizens. This space can be shared and ultimately viewed as a win win situation.  We could not have more respect for the Vets. My father (my daughter's grandfather) is a Vet and he tells stories of his experiences to his granddaughter. My husband's father and uncle were both Vets. When we drive on the VA campus on our way to MacArthur Field my daughter asks questions about the Vets and is concerned of their wellbeing. I'm sure many of our athletes have great grandparents, grandparents, uncles or cousins who have served in the military and we all want them to have a place to live and heal. Allow our community of athletes the opportunity to help, learn and volunteer and help serve our Vets. Taking the field away seems like a negative and not a win win situation.	Anonymous	Anonymous	

Topic	Sub-Topic	Timestamp	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Land Use	Possessory Interests	3-Dec-15	<p>As an old veteran, having visited the small group of long time protesters at the West LA John VA, and following the actions of the so called citizen groups,....this is a rediculours effort.</p> <p>The whole purpose of the West LA VA homes is to take care of veterans, disabled, homeless, and out patient. There are nine co-habitants on those grounds that do not contribute to veterans, and should be evicted immediately. A temporary tent city should be erected to house those homeless veterans from LA Central to Brentwood/West LA.</p> <p>The crap that your politically correct politicians and VA managers have been working toward is insulting and franky unsettling that American high rollers would treat their veterans who are on real hard times so poorly.</p>		Jackson	Command Sergeant Major, US
Land Use	Possessory Interests	3-Dec-15	<p>My understanding is that any enhancements to the VA property for the better use of our Anonymous veterans is years away from being started. AYSO's involvement can help to support this future development which could include sports fields to be used by veterans as well organizations for children such as AYSO soccer. In the meantime, cutting off use of the facility to hundreds of children absolutely makes no sense. AYSO willing to provide funding to support the property in the meantime. With so little open space for kids to play in Los Angeles it seems so logical and would be in everyone's best interest. Unfortunately politics blurs our vision of what is most important.</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	3-Dec-15	<p>Please keep the Barrington field open to children playing soccer with AYSO until it must be closed for construction reasons. It would be such a shame to close that beloved field any earlier than absolutely necessary - and is non-sensical for it to be closed before construction is necessary. The children and families in our area love it and have so few large green spaces to play soccer. Thank you.</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	3-Dec-15	<p>Please continue to allow the Westside Breakers Soccer Club to continue to use MacArthur Field. Over 1400 children use these fields each week for physical activity and recreation. Many of these children are children and grandchildren of veterans. I am the daughter of a WWII vet. My daughter is the grandchild of a WWII vet on both sides. She has practiced there for over 9 years and the impact of this soccer has been huge for her. She, and many others, plan to continue to play soccer in college. Having this field has contributed the growth and development of thousands of children.</p> <p>Further, the Breakers use in non-exclusive and the Club yields any time anyone at the VA needs the space. It is in a small corner of the property and not an optimal space for development at this time. It makes logical sense to allow the Breakers to continue to use the field at least until such time as that piece of the property is developed.</p>	Sari	Ross	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	3-Dec-15	<p>Our position has consistently been as follows:</p> <p>AYSO Region 69 built the Barrington Park fields and, with LA Rec and Parks, have maintained them for the past 30 years, benefiting veterans as well as thousands of children in the community.</p> <p>We would like to continue maintaining the land for use by veterans and children in the community until such time the VA develops it, which will take several years.</p> <p>It does not benefit anyone to just kick out our non-profit programs and let the land dry up when it can be maintained by us to continue serving veterans and children in the community.</p> <p>We are a supportive and generous community and our families are eager to support the VA's programming and assist with veterans' recreational opportunities.</p> <p>We would like to dedicate the park as Veteran's Park of Brentwood, officially commemorating a space for the community and veterans to interact.</p> <p>We are friends and family of veterans, we are tax payers, we are patriotic citizens, we are all part of this Brentwood community. We need a place for veterans and we also need restaurants, fields, parking lots, dog parks, and some green space to breathe...We should try to make Brentwood a community for everyone. Let's find a solution that works!</p>	Laura	Lantz	

Topic	Sub-Topic	Timestamp	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Land Use	Possessory Interests	3-Dec-15	<p>The community wants to keep open the federal land which has been used as a dog park. REALLY? "Pets Before Vets" I guess is the neighborhood motto. Here is the solution - drive west on Wilshire Boulevard and turn left on Bundy Drive. Continue until you reach the Santa Monica Airport dog park. It is a scant few miles down the road. Your dog walking problem is now easily solved. Now we can focus on solving the Veterans' problems instead of your dumb animal's need to relive itself on federal land.</p> <p>And all these soccer moms or parents commenting here are now begging and pleading to involve vets on the soccer field and let them continue playing soccer? They clearly have not seen how mentally ravaged the veterans are. A parent will freak out if they see a mentally ill vet suffer a bender. The mix of kids and war torn vets is a recipe for disaster on both sides. These are not war heroes the VA is trying to rehabilitate. Get your head out of the fairy tale and get down to skid row and see how sadly ill our veterans are and in need of a home much more than your privileged offspring needs to kick a rubber ball on federal property. Go research the Clover park in Santa Monica and pay that city permit fee to host your games. There is a soccer field in many parks in santa monica. Your soccer problem is now solved. Better yet, given the vast estates in Brentwood I am sure there is a land owner with so much property that they can let the kids use their own back yard as a soccer field.</p> <p>The VA needs to OPEN the locked soccer field and let vets use it as a running track or place of physical active away. It is time the veterans become the NIMBY advocate for their own rightfully deeded land! The Vets should kick the soccer and dog squatters and all others out.</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	3-Dec-15	<p>Dear VA Committee,</p> <p>The students at Brentwood have always had a strong relationship with Veterans. In middle school we are exposed to our first Veterans Day assembly, freshman year we serve food and talk to Veterans at the VA in Human Development class, Sophomore year some of us worked on the VA japanese, Junior year we paint portraits of Veterans for an Art class, and Senior year we read about Veterans and write biographies on Veterans in English class. From the start of our Brentwood careers, we learned found how important Veterans are to us and our country. For this reason, Adam Benezra and I, students at Brentwood, decided to start a club two years ago for Veterans.</p> <p>As the Co-founders and presidents of the Veteran Support Club, we have taken initiative to represent the student body at Brentwood School. Leading a club with the goal of forming meaningful connections between Veterans and students, we strongly believe in expanding the accessibility of Brentwood school facilities to veterans as part of a vision for the shared use of the land. We, the students, are committed to implementing veteran-centric programs to support our neighbors on the West Los Angeles VA campus.</p> <p>Along with Brentwood School administration's stated policies, the students hope to host athletic events for veterans on Saturdays, with a lifeguard at the pool and lifting coach at the weight room. We would also like to facilitate regular sport games during the week. Along with these weekly, student-run events, we hope to have large special events with about hundred students and faculty host veterans, organized art and writing workshops, sports, and other programs the veterans want. We are working to form a middle school and high school buddy program with veterans where students will accompany veterans to Brentwood athletic games and performing art events. Through relationships and sharing, we are trying to build stronger connections between two neighboring communities. We wholeheartedly believe that further enhancing student-Veteran interaction will provide an unparalleled experience our neighbors and for our students, therapeutic in many ways for both. Veterans are of great benefit to us students. We treasure hearing their stories, and their kindness and wisdom humbles</p>	Daniel	Halper	<p>Organization Name: Brentwood Veteran Support Club Submitter's Representative: Daniel Halper and Adam Benezra</p>
Land Use	Possessory Interests	3-Dec-15	<p>This land needs to be used for veterans only. Brentwood School needs to go. The oil fields need to go. The dog park needs to go. UCLA baseball really needs to go as soon as possible. It is VETERANS stadium, not Jackie Robinons or UCLA's. It is the federal government stadium for Veterans. The buses need to go. Employees can not even park in their own employee lot due to the school buses. The parked rental cars need to go. The soccer clubs need to go. They pad lock the Mcarthur field and a veteran can not even walk on the field so all the soccer clubs and soccer moms crying crocodile tears needs to go. The list is so long that I am sure there must be others. Every non veteran entity needs to go. Any exception made for non vet and Bobby Shriver and his cronies is a travesty of justice.</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	

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Land Use	Possessory Interests	4-Dec-15	<p>In the 70's and 80's, our children attended Brentwood School. In those days, the VA patients interacted with the school which was seamless and not staged. I remember football games when Veterans set up a bbq and had a thriving business and the best dog in town. There was total integration of the school population and veterans. I specifically remember their smiles and laughs as we all talked together around the condiments.</p> <p>In years later, the VA pulled away and the students were not invited to interact with Veterans for whatever reasons the VA held. Gradually activity did pick up a little, but I often wonder if the casual nature of those early days of just being people, not students, parents, veterans as labels, were special and could come back in the future.</p> <p>Flash forward and an athletic field is available to share with Veterans. Why not build a program to integrate those who are able to be a part of the activities? Certainly there is an opportunity to once again share facilities and commonality. They have just come from war.....why not let others who are nearest in proximity welcome Veterans and work together like in the 70's and 80's. The facility provides a host of activities in which that can become a reality.</p>	nancy	freedman	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	4-Dec-15	I first want to say that I completely support the Veterans and am thrilled that this land is Cara going to be used for the Veterans. They deserve it. What is disturbing to me is the proposal for Barrington Park to be locked up and not developed for years down the road (phase 4). Anyone living on the west side of LA knows that there is very little open space for our children and community to use. Why would we lock this park up and let it sit vacant??? AYSO Region 69 has proposed to take care of the park and help with recreational activities for the Veterans until the land is developed for the Veterans. Please make the choice that would benefit all.....the Veterans and the Community.....leave the park open until the plan is ready to develop it.		Brander	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	4-Dec-15	I want to voice my support for the Veterans of our community, and have very much enjoyed and appreciated the wonderful VA field facilities that both of my daughters have played soccer at over the past several years. I certainly acknowledge and appreciate that the Veterans as a whole have not been given the support they deserve, and to that point, I would support AYSO to assist and support Veterans recreational opportunities, as well as AYSO maintaining the field space we use, until which time the VA is ready to develop the property where the soccer fields are.	Glenn	Brander	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	4-Dec-15	<p>Please do not take the VA field away from our community. It has been a landmark for our AYSO programs for 30 years. I hope we can use it until such time that the VA actually develops a viable alternative for it. Until then, plead continue to allow to use it.</p> <p>Many thanks. Shahin Dardashty AYSO participant, parent, volunteer coach &amp; Brentwood Resident</p>	Shahin	Dardashty	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	4-Dec-15	<p>In general I support the proposed Master Plan...</p> <p>1. I am opposed to the establishment of a Los Angeles County Jail exclusively for veteran inmates on the West LA Campus as was proposed by one group</p> <p>2. I support keeping Jackie Robinson baseball stadium with a NON exclusive lease to UCLA so long as the baseball field is available to American Legion baseball leagues and Veterans leagues-UCLA should provide medical services not available on the West LA Campus to veterans who have a medical condition that can be treated at the UCLA hospital as partial consideration for their lease payments</p> <p>3. Brentwood school lease...I am opposed to cancelling their lease BUT any new lease must be NON exclusive so veterans and their families can use the recreational facilities and that school should pay FAIR MARKET RENT and the money used exclusively at the West LA VA Campus(not the general fund )</p> <p>4. I support non profits such as New Directions for Veterans and The Haven providing social services to veterans on the West LA VA Campus</p> <p>Veteran US Army 1968-1971</p>	Mathew	Millen	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	4-Dec-15	Please do not take away the parks and parking that are so much a part of the Brentwood community. My children grew up playing on the Barrington fields, and I grew up a lot by coaching them there. There has got to be a way to service the veterans properly without taking away from the community around them. Please and thank you!!	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	4-Dec-15	I support the program described in the Master Plan and I would like a way to support more veterans in their housing needs and health/mental care. I have visited with veterans in their buildings with my children and with that the West LA VA was more integrated into the community. Somehow it always feels like it separated from the community and that we are not welcome to help by the big fence and gates. Maybe another more local entrance would be better. The community spaces and facilities look well integrated and very useful for the veterans. I hope you have enough money to build all this. I feel that allowing some integration with the surrounding community is good for all causes. - community can support the VA with fundraising, Community can use( rent) open spaces, and VA get as they deserve expanded services.	Whitney	Phillips	

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Land Use	Possessory Interests	4-Dec-15	<p>As a long time member of the Brentwood School community (I'm both an alum of the school in the 90's as well as a ten-year + employee) I want to say how much the relationship between the VA and Brentwood School has meant to me. I, along with our students and faculty, have learned so much more about veteran affairs because you have shared your land with us.</p> <p>I have witnessed so many powerful learning opportunities through our relationship with the VA; the assemblies we have when the veterans visit and share their stories, veterans attending performances and sporting events, and also service opportunities like when we visited and helped to beautify the Japanese garden.</p> <p>The students here are future leaders; and I know that having the opportunity to serve the veterans and share part of their land will be very beneficial for the VA down the line. Our students have developed so much compassion for veterans because their cause is part of our daily lives. And I know that we can only grow in terms of making what is already a good relationship with the VA even better. Brentwood School is a very philanthropic community, and I know that faculty, alumni, and students all want to help by volunteering or teaching life skill classes to Veterans.</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	4-Dec-15	<p>While I am in total support of our veterans, I wonder how things will change after all this takes place. It appears to me that most Homeless veterans have mental disorders due to their service. The VA has not really succeeded in providing them with care and/or they choose to be homeless. I do not think that the small field that is being used by the soccer clubs is in any way preventing or hurting veterans. The field is used after business hours for practice and on weekends. The clubs pay for use of field and maintaining it. Driving through the campus to drop off and pick-up my children for practices and games, the campus is a ghost town. I believe there is a way that both parties can benefit from using this small field. I don't really understand how this became such an issue. We have co-existed with the campus for many years, why is it now such an issue?!?</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	4-Dec-15	Please do not turn this area into a green space for the VA. This parking area and Dog F Jonathan		Glenn	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	4-Dec-15	<p>In 2002, the Los Angeles VA hosted the Golden Age Games, a highly successful event that attracted US veteran athletes from across the entire country. Many athletic contests were held on the athletics complex built on the VA land shared by and developed by Brentwood School as approved by the school's sharing agreement with the VA. Following the Golden Age Games, the school continued to convey to the VA the school's desire to make the facilities available for use by veterans.</p> <p>Donald P. Winter Assistant Head of School &amp; Director, Finance and Operations (retired)</p>	Donald	Winter	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	4-Dec-15	While I believe that the VA property should, first and foremost be used for our veterans	Joanne	Solov	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	4-Dec-15	<p>Brentwood Village is a valued by the local residents community. It has provided many outlets to support the neighborhood. Many small businesses thrive here. What would happen if there was no place to park? The neighborhood would die. Every business patron has to park somewhere. Every business employer and employee needs to park somewhere for their shift. These pockets of small family owned businesses are so rare now in Los Angeles! It's shopping malls and huge corporations. We want to be able to go to the places we love: the Belwood Bakery that bakes the best halah, the exercise places that keep us healthy as well as the restaurants we grew up with. This Village has been here long before I was a kid, and I am 47.</p> <p>Without parking Brentwood Village will die. I am so sorry it has come to this. Can't some deal be worked out?</p>	Lucy	Kasvin	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	4-Dec-15	<p>As veteran I am very interested in the future of all VA facilities, but I live in LA and will be impacted by what happens here. Over the years this West LA facility has undergone changes that deviate from the original grant, in that VA land and facilities have been allocated for non-veterans uses, and money generated by these actions are not fully accountable and therefore suspected on not being paid for veterans benefits. This new master plan must return VA lands and facilities to the VA control and accountability. I understand that in today's real estate market this facility is prime property, but it is not for sale and is dedicated to the full use of veterans only needs and uses. Please make sure this new master plan incorporates these rules and regulations. Our veterans deserve the best and most efficient VA facility in the country, we have an opportunity to achieve that if we can return to the original grant requirements and add all of the new modern state of the art medical, housing and operation care facility possible on this dedicated land.</p> <p>Please do this for our deserving vets....and do it now.</p>	William F.	Tapp	

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Land Use	Possessory Interests	4-Dec-15	<p>For many years , Brentwood School's 9th grade human development classes go over to the Haven/VA on a Monday evening to serve dinner to the veterans. Our students bring home- made desserts and after they serve dinner, they will go out into the dining room and offer the treats they brought with them. This is a chance for interaction on both sides.</p> <p>When we finish serving in two of the areas of the VA, we all meet at Bldg. 207 where our students sit down and chat with the vets. It is always wonderful to see the story telling unfold. Our students are captivated by stories and words of wisdom from the veterans, and in turn, the veterans seem to enjoy hearing about our students and their interests. When we leave and go to the cars to return to Brentwood School, most of the students ask if they can go again.</p>	Donnie	Todd	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	4-Dec-15	<p>This is a wonderful experience for all of us!</p> <p>Finally, this proposal is a thinly veiled land grab by several private foundations, developers, and UCLA, all of whom stand to gain with this Master Plan, at the expense of the US Government, The Department of Veterans Affairs, and the brave veterans who have served their country.</p>	Michael	Mahler	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	4-Dec-15	<p>This plan must be rejected completely.</p> <p>Our children play soccer at Barrington park. We understand this is under consideration to be shut down. This is heartbreaking as AYSO soccer has been a part of my life since I was a child and now watching my three girls play is both a source of great joy and also incredible opportunity to see them grow, both athletically and in self-confidence. I understand the space is owned by the VA and needs to be used to support VA activities as well. I could not be more supportive of this as my father is a veteran and takes advantage of many services offered by the VA. It's terrific organization and I'd love to find a way to help further its mission. I believe coexistence is a great way to get more support for the VA while still allowing the children to learn many lessons from soccer. There should be a way that everybody wins. Let's find a way to help each other.</p>	Willam	Glass	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	4-Dec-15	<p>Why does your main page say this, "At the end of the public comment period, VA will review the comments received, post summary responses into theFederal Registervia a second notice, ready the Preliminary Draft Final Master Plan for environmental and historic preservation due diligence, and prepare a Final Master Plan for the WLA campus", WHEN IN FACT, Secretary McDonald has already written to Congressman Jeff Miller, Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, asking that the Committee endorse the settlement plan in first draft.</p> <p>I'll tell you why.</p> <p>Its because big money is more influential than the moral obligation of this country to its Veterans to uphold, to the letter, the "Promise of Sacred Trust".</p> <p>This "end run" by the Secretary demonstrates the manipulation that has gone on for decades by private interests to cover up the manipulation of land use policy to harbor the biggest government land-scandal since the Teapot Dome Scandal.</p> <p>SHAME on the VA, SHAME on Senator Feinstein. SHAME on Congressman Lieu.</p> <p>SHAME on all of you that support this gross violation of Sacred Trust and this blood covenant.</p> <p>SHAME ON YOU ALL because the input for comment on the Senate bill S2013, onto the Federal Register, is PEARL HARBOR DAY! The VA has no conscience! Land-grabbers have no conscience.</p> <p>The solution is to retract all legislative proposals supporting this flawed plan, go back to the drawing board and FRAME any future plan within the TERMS, CONDITIONS, SPIRIT and INTENT of the one and only MASTER PLAN, the Act of 1887 and the Deec of 1888.</p> <p>Join the right side, DO THE RIGHT THING BEFORE PEARL HARBOR DAY IS INSULTED!</p>	Francisco	Juarez	<p>Organization Name: OPERATION FIRING FOR EFFECT, Inc. Submitter's Representative: Gene Simes, Founder</p>
Land Use	Possessory Interests	4-Dec-15	<p>AYSO Region 69 built the Barrington Park fields and, with LA Rec and Parks, have maintained them for the past 30 years, benefiting veterans as well as thousands of children in the community.</p> <p>We would like to continue maintaining the land for use by veterans and children in the community until such time the VA develops it, which will take several years.</p> <p>It does not benefit anyone to just kick out our non-profit programs and let the land dry up when it can be maintained by us to continue serving veterans and children in the community.</p> <p>We are a supportive and generous community and our families are eager to support the VA's programming and assist with veterans' recreational opportunities.</p> <p>We would like to dedicate the park as Veteran's Park of Brentwood, officially commemorating a space for the community and veterans to interact.</p>	Marc	Gordonson	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	4-Dec-15	<p>I have reviewed the master plan and urge you to maintain the green space that is currently being used as a soccer field on the VA facility. In a city full of cars, congestion and asphalt, this expanse of green space will offer therapeutic benefits to our vets as a place for recreation as well as a safe space for our youth to develop physically and socially and gain the confidence needed to be our future leaders. Allowing youth sports in the space could help further support of vets and vet programs by making families in the community more aware of the programs being offered at the facility.</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	

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Land Use	Possessory Interests	4-Dec-15	<p>Brentwood School - Let's all be realistic, there is no way the Brentwood school athletic fields are going to be removed from the VA grounds, the families associated with this school have too many political ties to congress and the white house. So, let's figure out a plan to work with the Brentwood school. I understand that a beta program is in place where GLA Veterans, under clinical guidance and supervision have an opportunity to use the field when students are not using it. OK...great. However, it's sad that the turnout (on the Veteran side) has been bleak so VA needs to do better at taking advantage of this opportunity.</p> <p>Second suggestion, does the school have any students enrolled whose parents actually live on the VA campus? Would be nice and a great ideal if the school would offer scholarships to the children of homeless Veteran's receiving treatment at WLA. That would be a truly great benefit! The offer should also be extend to those Veterans who have graduated from New Directions, The Dom or even the Haven. These are very tough programs and the Veterans have showed their commitment in bettering their lives so why not let the Brentwood school show their commitment and offer scholarships to the children?</p> <p>Dog park / baseball rec area - the city was given notice of the closer via certified mail several weeks/months prior to the scheduled closing date of Oct 1. The city took no action to notify the residents and a sign posted on the gate a day or so before the gates closed was poor planning on the VA's part. There is absolutely NO direct BENEFIT to Veterans from the dog or Athletic Park. Another thing to think about, the only time the residents who use the dog park started to vocally/physical care about Veterans was when there was a threat of the dog park closing down. If they genuinely cared about Veterans, they should've been helping out months / years ago. Now granted, there are a few dog park users who have been helpful but let's face it, those are few and far between. Give local residents another 60 days' notice and convert it to what the female veterans have requested (through discussions)...they've earned it! Suggestion, there are OIF/OEF female Veterans who would like to use that area to plant a citrus garden or house an English garden. A place to call their own but as of right now, can't because it's a dog park. The location is ideal b/c it offers a separate entrance, away from the busy/chaotic WLA campus.</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	4-Dec-15	<p>As a member of the mental health staff at the Greater Los Angeles (GLA) VA, I hope that outsiders don't see these comments about the leader of mental health and just chalk it up to "everything is always dysfunctional at the VA". In fact, up until a year ago I was able to discuss our organization with a great deal of pride. In many ways it was a prestigious place for mental health professionals (including psychiatrists and psychologists) to work. Many of the trainees and staff come from UCLA or have affiliations there, and so we were often able to attract "the best and the brightest". So you'll understand how dispiriting it is when one year you're working with a fellow staff of incredibly talented and brilliant professionals, providing top of the line mental health care to veterans, and then the next year you're suddenly a crew member on a rapidly sinking ship.</p> <p>Essentially from the time of Dr. Barry Guze's initial hiring, he has had nothing but a disastrous effect on our organization. Others have documented the irregularities in his hiring so I won't belabor the point. My own sense is that our former chief of staff Dr. Dean Norman has always wanted to further strengthen our relationship with UCLA's Department of Psychiatry. This is in and of itself a reasonable goal, but unfortunately our leadership is not as savvy as the leadership of UCLA, namely their chair of psychiatry Peter Whybrow. Dr. Whybrow is not a man to be trifled with, and he is as clever as they come, but most importantly he is utterly uninterested in the mission of the VA. When Whybrow was presented with an opportunity to essentially hand-pick a leader for the entire mental health operation for Greater Los Angeles, he chose someone with absolutely no administrative experience, someone who has been found culpable of sexually harassing his female psychiatric residents, someone who was barely able to function as a practicing psychiatrist because of a basic lack of warmth, empathy, or concern for others. Others have suggested that it was in order to get a "problem child" out of his own hair, I suspect it may have more to do with the arrogance one often sees among top academics: essentially Whybrow thought that running the largest mental health operation in the entire VA was so easy, and UCLA psychiatrists are so much smarter than everyone else, that even the worst UCLA psychiatrist should have no trouble with the job.</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	4-Dec-15	Please keep the Barrington fields open for AYSO.	Anonymous	Anonymous	

Topic	Sub-Topic	Timestamp	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Land Use	Possessory Interests	4-Dec-15	<p>World War II Navy Veteran Willard (Bill) Badham - affectionately known as "Baddy" - was not only the long-time Head Master at Curtis School, but also one of the founders of Brentwood School and served as its first Director.</p> <p>It was Baddy, a true patriot, who insisted that the Brentwood School colors be red, white, and blue and that the Eagle be the mascot. It was vitally important to him that the relationship between the school and the neighboring VA be at the forefront of the school's values and be always beneficial to the people living, working, and learning in both organizations.</p> <p>Right from the start, Baddy encouraged robust community service to veterans by the students of Brentwood School, primarily for the value those programs would bring to the vets, but also for what the students would learn from them about courage, dedication, loyalty, and gratitude.</p> <p>Since opening in 1972, the school has embraced Baddy's commitment to our veterans by building programs that provide ways for our students to be of service to them. In addition to the school-initiated programs, over the years, the students themselves created ways to reach out and work with our local veterans.</p> <p>We are proud of the fact that, right from Brentwood School's inception, our commitment has been to help, serve, and get to know our esteemed veteran neighbors. If Baddy were still with us, I'm confident he would join us in supporting the intention of the VA master plan to create a model campus and a 21st century veteran community.</p>	Mary	Sidell	
Land Use		3-Dec-15	I think the Los Angeles marathon should not be running through the VA LA hospital grounds. Any wide scale crowds from the public should not be allowed on the veteran land for the safety and security of our PTSD suffering veterans already trying to heal.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Land Use	Circulation and Security	11/3/2015	<p>I would like to commend you for upholding the spirit of the land deed as "veteran focused" and for specifically noting in your Master Plan that "Under this "Veteran focused" definition, monetary proceeds paid to VA alone will not constitute an acceptable agreement to be permitted on the WLA campus." Congratulations for taking on the special interest groups (i.e. Brentwood School and UCLA baseball) who have been leasing the land with no benefits to veterans!</p> <p>The Master Plan looks amazing and I can't wait for Veterans to start enjoying it. I have some small comments:</p> <p>Parking is insufficient if it is less than one space per resident, as LA is a car dependent city. Also, this would not allow any parking for veterans' visitors. Please don't skimp on the parking, put it underground and do one big dig in the beginning.</p> <p>Second to the political interference that prevents a "best practice" solution, TRAFFIC, today, prohibits the larger Veteran community from being connected to the "HOME". Traffic solutions, bringing Veterans outside of WLA to the "HOME" was not addressed, at all.</p>	Lynn	Osborne	
Land Use	Circulation and Security	11/3/2015	Second to the political interference that prevents a "best practice" solution, TRAFFIC, today, prohibits the larger Veteran community from being connected to the "HOME". Traffic solutions, bringing Veterans outside of WLA to the "HOME" was not addressed, at all.	Francisco	Zanuck	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	10/23/2015	Brentwood School should be allowed to maintain its sports facilities in the Northern Portion of the Site.	Hraztan	Wing	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	10/23/2015	It is about time that the piece of land that was set aside for Veterans is finally, finally going to provide housing and services for the Veteran community. We realize that that piece of property has great financial value but the land was donated (we think) for Veterans. Let us use it to make life a bit easier for the massive homeless Veteran community in Los Angeles.	Joan and Bill	Schmidt	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	10/26/2015	As long as we are improving the development of Veteran Affairs facilities, the plan should benefit them. No land should be sold or negotiated for another use.	Anonymous	Botello	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/3/2015	<p>Instead, Secretary McDonald's announcement of the "biggest reorganization of the VA" and, his expression that this will become a national "model" will sadly result in distancing itself from President Lincoln's Promise of Sacred Trust because its "Crown Jewel", regardless of what its Deed specifies, will be dismantled.</p> <p>The solution is to turn this plan down, FRAME the draft plan with the terms, conditions, spirit and intent of the Deed, consult with the Veteran community and adapt the existing ideas to that foundation.</p>	Francisco	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/3/2015	As a proud UCLA Alum, I support this legislation to maintain and enhance the 70 year relationship UCLA and the VA have forged over the years to provide services and medical care to our Veterans, as well as recreational and employment opportunities through the maintenance and use of Jackie Robinson Stadium.	David	Morrissey	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/3/2015	As a UCLA alumni I would like to support UCLA continuing to maintain and use Jackie Robinson Stadium. UCLA has a 70 year relationship providing medical care and other services to veterans while providing recreational and employment opportunities for veterans.	Randall	Chung	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/3/2015	As a UCLA undergraduate, I used to work at the VA's theater as an usher for UCLA Extension film classes for veterans, alumni and other adults. I enjoyed meeting various veterans and hearing their stories. I think they enjoyed speaking with me. They told me of experiences that were outside of my relatively narrow world, enlightening me as to their experiences at war and in the military. Please restore the old theater and continue to mix veterans and students. Please also continue to permit the VA's grounds to be used for community recreation activities such as the Jackie Robinson Field for UCLA Baseball and other fields for AYSO soccer.	Marianne	Anonymous	

Topic	Sub-Topic	Timestamp	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/3/2015	As both a Naval veteran and a UCLA graduate I fully support any and all land use planning and/or social planning which brings both the Veterans Administration Medical Campus and the University of California at Los Angeles into a mutually beneficial relationship.	Gary	Stilwell	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/3/2015	As neighbors in Westwood, UCLA and Veterans Affairs have been closely linked for over 70 years. A partnership between the two needs to be upgraded and continue. UCLA needs to be included as a vital partner in the Preliminary Draft Final Master Plan.  A perfect example of the existing partnership: UCLA's Jackie Robinson Field provides much needed recreation and entertainment for veterans who choose to attend baseball practices or games at the facility.	Barry	Flanagan	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/3/2015	I am an alumnus of University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) as well as a long time employee and faculty member at UCLA, but have retired 15 years ago.  I am writing to ask you to include UCLA in the Preliminary Draft of the Final Master Plan for the WLA VA Campus in Westwood. Most of the news has noted that the VA has rented out space to parties who are not engaged in support of the veterans, and included UCLA in that group. Please note that UCLA has been involved in support of the Veterans at that campus for as long as I have been at UCLA, since 1964. Most of the activities had to do with medical research and treatment of veterans which occur on that campus. The Jackie Robinson baseball stadium, while was built for UCLA baseball teams, is also used regularly to veterans and the VA staff for recreation and other special events.  In short, UCLA has and continue to be actively serving the veterans, through its research, shared facilities and educational programs, which extends beyond the WLA VA campus to UCLA's main campus. UCLA has and can continue to be a productive partner with VA in making better use of the WLA VA campus and more importantly to serve and support the veterans.	Jane	Elson	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/3/2015	I support UCLA continuing to maintain and use Jackie Robinson Stadium, while providing recreational and employment opportunities for veterans, among other service enhancements that are being proposed.	Cathleen	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/3/2015	There are so many potential synergies between UCLA and VA that can enhance the quality of life for veterans that all possibilities should be explored with total focus on the vets and not politics or egos etc.  UCLA has renowned professional schools in medicine, healthcare, law and business and big time athletics, arts and music all of which can be utilized to help veterans.  Note: My father, both uncles (all deceased) and my father in law are World war II vets and my wife's father died in Korean War. I know a number of Viet Nam vets. All to state, we owe our vets the finest services we can provide and a strategic alliance with UCLA can help provide Vets those services.	steve	shadgoo	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/3/2015	This relationship is vital to the community and UCLA. As an Alumni I strongly support it.	Craig	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/3/2015	UCLA and the West LA VA Hospital have a multi-generation relationship that should continue by including UCLA in the VA's Master Plan. The relationship goes beyond the medical world. UCLA has been a great resource to the professionals working at the VA and to the patients themselves in helping rebuild their lives. At the same time, VA facilities, like the Jackie Robinson stadium serve as joint use facilities that benefit both UCLA and the VA. The veterans served by the VA Hospital deserve to have UCLA continue as their partner for the coming decades.	Harvey	Wolfowitz	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/3/2015	UCLA has a long-standing co-beneficial relationship with the nearby VA center in West Los Angeles. UCLA donors have funded major upgrades to the baseball field and JR Stadium, thereby upgrading the adjacent grounds as well. That stadium is not only used by UCLA, but also by the VA's own American Legion baseball program for local high schools. Both baseball programs are routinely attended for free by many veterans, and veterans are saluted at UCLA home games.  Moreover, bringing 10s of thousands of UCLA alumni and supporters onto the VA campus engenders a large amount of support for the veterans and their needs. This includes funds generated from parking at the stadium (all proceeds go to the VA), not to mention UCLA's large lease payment to the VA.  The games played at JR Stadium have become an established part of helping veterans adjust to a normal life by participating in our national pastime. I cannot think of a stronger mutually beneficial program -- to UCLA and to the veterans.	Jeff	Myers	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/3/2015	UCLA has incredible resources when it comes to world class faculty and interventions developed here to help veterans with physical and behavioral health needs. It also has built a world class baseball facility, which it is ready and excited to step up programming for veterans who live or visit the West LA VA campus. I support the continued presence of UCLA at the baseball stadium and continued enhancement of the UCLA/VA relationship at the West LA VA which is mutually beneficial. Veterans will gain a lot from recreational programming and compensated work therapy at the stadium, and incredible partnerships in mental health, family resilience, medical care, entrepreneurship training, and more in other locations throughout the campus.	Elizabeth	Adewunmi	

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Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/4/2015	As a veteran (USMC/R) and a UCLA alumnus (Ed.D. '83), I want to register support for continued sharing connections between/with the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center and the campus, as they pertain to the Jackie Robinson Stadium recreational venue and for shared outreach services to varied area populations.	William	Juarez	Organization Name: Operation Firing For Effect ; Submitter's Representative: Gene Simes
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/4/2015	Friends, Alan Milner I am a UCLA Alum, a veteran and a Volunteer at the VA Mather facility in Northern California. Early next year we will be opening a Veteran Village which will eventually have 100 units to house and provide care for homeless Veterans. During my work on the campus I am constantly surprised when family and friends of Vets, on their initial visits, have no idea of the activities and services offered. Our weekly Farm Market and numerous Classes and Seminars attract a broad range of individuals from throughout the community. Games at Robinson Field not only provide entertainment for Veterans at the facility, participants and guests are exposed to the many values the Veterans Administration afford the community. It is a partnership that creates a winning combination in many ways. I am proud to offer my support.	Alan	Zeitlian	
			Alan Milner 7659			
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/4/2015	i am a veteran this is about the master plan mainly about the trespass of the BRENTWOOD SCHOOL supposedly the school has or had a lease none has ever surfaced supposedly some va worker in a phone call in the 70' gave them permission for the school to be there not only is the school trespassing but it is not only a school and a religious church but we think people live there all of the building and all the accouterments should be removed (as you would with any trespasser)  the school has guards and gates and is only for the wealthy  the whole operation should be evicted and taken over by the va  is the reluctance to do this is because of the schools political connections or the money that the school has expended on all the buildings and fencing etc.  all the land that the school has taken is all veteran land	dennis	Gorger	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/4/2015	c'mon throw them out Please continue relationship with University of California, Los Angeles -- leasing of Jackie Robinson Stadium. Beneficial partnership for the community, the VA, and the university. -- Thank you.	Elaine		
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/4/2015	The Brentwood Glen Association recently included a link to the subject plan in their newsletter. This is the first opportunity I have had to view the plan. My property is at 11367 Homedale St. - within the outreach area the document defines, yet I have never received anything directly. I am keenly aware of this issue as a current Senior Project Manager, graduate engineer, certified Project Management Professional (PMP) and former Construction Director for the UCLA Santa Monica Hospital Replacement and Regan Hospital Projects working directly for the University of California Regents.  Although I am temporarily working in Alaska, I continue to own my home and intend to return to Los Angeles next year.  My family has been a resident/owner of this property since 1953 and we are familiar with the VA WLA Campus. First let me be clear that I wholeheartedly support the larger goal of improvements for our veterans. One of the issues that started this lawsuit and subsequent response was land use within the VA property. To that end the Master Plan has not addressed how land currently being used by non-Veteran interests, including the Brentwood School and UCLA, among others will be handled.  Most of the maps in the Master Plan have carefully disguised these areas by graying them out including for example, the track and baseball field adjacent to the Brentwood school. Only on page 247 can one find a map that even depicts these features. I could not find any discussion that specifically addresses these features or their disposition. The executive summary is completely silent on this subject as is the report. They do not seem to appear in any campus asset inventory either.  I strongly believe areas currently in use by non-veteran interests must be addressed in the Master Plan. Recommendations must include; 1. Long term policy and plan for allowing non-veteran interests to occupy/use veteran property 2. Specifically state how and when areas in private use will be integrated into the plan to make them available to veterans	Tony	Hylan	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/5/2015	I am both the wife of a vet and the daughter of a vet. I applaud the plan for the WLA campus. However, the VA is the lungs of Brentwood and WLA. The only open space. The primary use should be for vets, but public access should be allowed as well.	Jo	Boatright-Simon	

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Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/5/2015	<p>I would urge the VA to please keep the soccer fields and the dog park for vets and their friends and family in the community. in fact as your master plan keeps much of the riparian areas with trails for walks n hikes, it would be great to allow the community access to this great national lands to enjoy and interact with the vets. community involvement is so important in helping the vets who will need all the support for their recovery and reintegration into society at large. don't shut society out. bring us in and include us. so often we in society pay our taxes and expect govt to solve all of our ills. but it will take the people to solve this.</p> <p>i would also like to work with the VA and involve some great Vet centric charities and work somehow with the vast wealth we have in the Los Angeles area, and maybe we could help raise Millions to help fund the master plan. because we all know that with congress infighting this may not get fully funded. and our Vets and our City needs this to happen as quickly as you can turn the ship and right it, to get our vets off our streets and into housing and back into society. we owe this to these brave souls who sacrificed so much for our country.</p> <p>also as a side note. since you seem to have to wait till this master plan is done and can't house people in the historic building until retrofitted. why can't we open up space somewhere on the land to let homeless vets park their RV's if that where they are living so they can use hook ups. and let those on the streets set up there tents and camp and set up portable facilities with showers and restrooms. get them in now, so they are close to the services and the people they need to help them until the housing is built. i know i would rather have a safe camping space to live than living under bridges. and the natural beauty of the property can be therapeutic as well. living in the streets is so dehumanizing our Vets deserve so much more.</p>	Craig	klosterman	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/9/2015	Include UCLA in the plan.	Dianne	Juarez	Organization Name: Operation Firing For Effect ; Submitter's Representative: Gene Simes
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/10/2015	As the largest and oldest business organization in Los Angeles County, the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce urges the VA to include UCLA in your master plan for the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center. UCLA has been a strong and generous partner in our community since its founding in 1919. When UCLA moved its campus to Westwood in 1929, an even closer relationship with the VA began. On behalf of our 1650 members and their 650,000 employees in Los Angeles County, we encourage the VA to include UCLA in your plan by developing a collaborative partnership that benefits the VA, UCLA, the veterans of Southern California and the citizens of our region. Thank you.	Gary	Younglove	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/10/2015	Gary Toeppen, President & CEO, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce I would like to request that the V.A. continue to allow public access for dog walkers to the Barrington Dog Park. This is very important to me and to many of the people that I know.	Wayne Scott	Milner	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/12/2015	<p>I was an employed physician and medical leader at WLA VA for almost 30 years. I have had personal experience about UCLA's 70 year relationship providing medical care and other services to veterans, and I support UCLA and the WLA relationship to continue to maintain and use Jackie Robinson Stadium, while providing recreational and employment opportunities for veterans, among other service enhancements that are being proposed.</p> <p>The relationship between UCLA and WLA has provided the clinical care and research that has benefited our veterans to an extraordinary degree. I cannot stress how important the relationship is in recruitment of the highest quality healthcare providers. Additionally, having UCLA maintain and use the Jackie Robinson Stadium provides a visual link to the partnership that has extended over 70 years.</p>	Phyllis	Holzman	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/12/2015	<p>Regarding the Preliminary Draft Final Master Plan: West LA VA Medical Center FR Doc Elin No: 2015-26945:</p> <p>I would not want to do anything that would take away from Veterans' benefits ... they have served their country and deserve to be treated well. I'm just hoping that the Final Plan will include a way to incorporate continued community access to the parking lots on Barrington Avenue. The small businesses (there are no big lot or chain stores in that area) rely on there being adequate parking for their customers. Street parking and the small metered lots just do not provide enough spaces. In fact, I believe some businesses were given permits to operate based on their customers having access to that lot. They might lose their permits -- and again we're talking about Mom and Pop businesses, not Target or Safeway. I'm sure there must be a way to strike a balance between the legitimate needs of the Vets and the needs of the community.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>		Fox	

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Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/13/2015	I am Wartime Captain of Army and Army Surgeon and Dentist , Dr. Robert Kamansky. I have attended 5 WLAVAHC Master Plan meetings. I would like to make sure that the Master Plan if the UCLA Baseball team stays include a Master Plan to use the baseball field for medical related purposes in case of a National disaster like a large LA earthquake; or in case the nuclear torpedo just proposed by Russia lands in our Ports of Long Beach or LA Harbors as just said on the internet. My God I am an ACTIVE member of the Calif. Medical Reserve Cops ; and I want to know that the many acre UCLA baseball facilities can be used immediately with a Medical Master Plan to be converted just as in WWII to a health care support grounds and facilities . I want to win Cold War II as we soldiers did Cold War I ; a Cold War II that is now this day going hot and heavy now in the South China Sea and the Middle East and now Russia. Captain, Dr. Kamansky	Robert	Robert	Robert
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/13/2015	<p>Thank you for providing this opportunity to comment. As the daughter, stepdaughter and granddaughter of veterans, I am thrilled that our vets are getting the respect that they deserve but I am appealing to you now to also consider the community that has long depended on your various leases. I also wish to state that we may be able to benefit you in return.</p> <p>I am one of several who are spearheading the campaign to Save Barrington Park and I would rather we had said SHARE Barrington Park with the Veterans and the community! No doubt, by now, you are aware that HUNDREDS of residents, kids, dogs and even veterans, who use this park, will soon be displaced with no alternatives.</p> <p>As you well know the Barrington dog park, and adjacent soccer field, are in jeopardy of being closed to public access for good. We have spent the past several weeks getting users of the park to email or call to ask that we find an amicable solution that will benefit all of us! I am in the process of generating a handwritten petition that already has over 500 signatures from the people that use the dog park....including your very own veterans! It would be sad to see this happy gathering place go unused for years to come.</p> <p>It is my hope that we can help each other....we can hire Vets to work in the park, we can teach them a valuable trade in a therapeutic atmosphere. Also, we are all willing to pay public usage fees.</p> <p>This is a very small sliver of your 400 acres yet it serves a huge purpose! Why don't we rename it: VETERANS PARK!?! I like that. I'd also like to work with you toward a mutual resolve and I'd really like to know if we have the slightest chance of not being locked out come December 7th?</p> <p>If nothing else we would like to be able to access the park during what will likely be a lengthy time before you actually enact the Master Plan.</p>	Leslie	Schwartz	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/13/2015	<p>Thank you for your time and I look forward to your response.</p> <p>We live in a community. We are neighbors.</p> <p>The VA is rightfully assuming the full purpose of how the land was intended to be used but to throw out a dog park and parking lot that sit on the edges of the VA property. Common sense dictates that the only real impact is this:</p> <p>!. If the VA takes it away the Dog Park and lot it will leave a very bad feeling in the Brentwood community and perhaps create hostility towards our neighbors.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>2. Leave it as it is, charge for it or some such negotiation and have welcoming neighbors.</p> <p>PS I don't use the parking lot or the dog park so the impact on my life is zip but there are many people who find peace and community and fun in the dog park.</p>	Anonymous	Simril	

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Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/16/2015	<p>Brentwood News, November 13 - December 10, 2015 issue makes reference to Zone 4 in the VA Master Plan. "The northwest part of Zone 4 is devoid of the parking lots and a dog park previously leased by the City. Instead, it's dedicated to recreational areas and "connections and partnerships," including Brentwood School's athletic complex and U.S Post Office."</p> <p>First of all, Brentwood School has two (2) campuses: the east campus, slightly east of the intersection of Sunset Boulevard/Barrington Avenue; the west campus, with the west border being North Bundy Drive, north of Sunset Boulevard.</p> <p>How Brentwood School was able to get the use of space on the VA campus in the first place is questionable, at best. Why would the VA now simply want to transplant this questionable arrangement to Zone 4? The parking lots and the dog park were fine, and being put to good use by the residents of Brentwood, as well as those from surrounding communities. By the way, I am not a business owner on Barrington Place. However, I am a long-time resident of Brentwood.</p> <p>Before the United States government enters into yet another ill-advised 'connection and partnership' for the benefit of Brentwood School's use of space for an athletic complex, perhaps the United States government may want to consider the following: the tuition charged by Brentwood School is approximately \$35,000 per student, per year. And the residents of Brentwood are supposed to be sympathetic for the plight of Brentwood School as it relates to their frantic search for a location for their athletic complex? Perhaps the parents of these students support the efforts of Brentwood School in this regard, but these individuals comprise a very small percentage of those in Brentwood and the surrounding communities.</p> <p>Money talks, and in this case one might say that it is screaming.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment.</p>	Anonymous	Meyers	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/16/2015	I have been a resident of Brentwood for 25 years. During that time I have seen Brentwood School make a sweetheart deal with the VA. They took the old access road and made it a road into their campus. They filled the ravine at the bottom of the road and added many sports facilities. They added a parking lot south of the 'VA Parking Lot on Barrington Avenue. You say in your Master Plan that you need an access road into the VA. Why not just restore the original access road and leave the parking lot intact. If you are going to house vets on the campus they will need some of the local services that the Brentwood Village supplies. The stores in the Village will not have any parking and will all go out of business. This is not good for Vets.	Susan	Serota	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/16/2015	Just informed that the master plan will eliminate the VA owned and operated parking lots that are located North and South of the U.S. Post office on Barrington Avenue. As a business owner in the Brentwood Village, we rely on those parking lots for our employees and customers on a daily basis. Without them, businesses in the Village would be severely harmed by lack of adequate parking. Street parking is not enough to satisfy the needs of our businesses and customers. I realize the VA needs to review their entire specific plan, but community input that affects local business owners and consumers is necessary. There must be a balance stricken in order to accomplish the VA goals of assisting worthy veterans and the needs of the local community. Please take more time to consider the downside in eliminating the two VA parking lots in Brentwood Village.	Anonymous	Stephens	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/16/2015	<p>Please continue to allow community use for the Barrington Dog Park, and it's adjacent athletic fields.</p> <p>Hundreds of residents throughout Los Angeles depend on the park each day for their pets. Many of these residents are veterans and relatives of veterans.</p> <p>Many park users would happily contribute funds and/or pay park use fees in order to support veterans and their families.</p>	Keith	Anonymous	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/16/2015	<p>Thank you.</p> <p>Please retain the parking lot in Brentwood Village and the dog park, ballfields, and parking lot on the east side of Barrington in their current configuration.</p> <p>Please also work out a mutually beneficial arrangement with Brentwood School.</p>	Josh	Soller	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/16/2015	<p>Thank you.</p> <p>The parking lot adjacent to the Brentwood Post Office is of vital importance to the Brentwood Village area. Please consider The negative impact that losing that lot will have on local businesses and residents. I live in an apartment complex that is very close and we have no visitor parking on site. Many of our visitors use that lot as well as the patrons of local shops and restaurants. I am very much in favor of the move to use that land for Veterans but it is a very large parcel and I hope you will consider exempting this parking lot.</p> <p>Sincerely, Mary Fenstermacher 11747 W. Sunset Blvd. 90049</p>	Mary	Casamassima	

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Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/17/2015	<p>Dear Department of Veterans Affairs:</p> <p>My family and I moved from New York three years ago. We are most grateful that our son has been able to enjoy the use of your facilities, close to our home, which has further helped him to integrate into our new Los Angeles home.</p> <p>We understand that FCLA and the Westside Breakers built MacArthur field and have maintained it for the past 15 years for the use of our communities.</p> <p>We kindly request that you allow for our communities to continue to benefit from the use of your fields, which is good for our children and for our extraordinary men and women of the armed forces - who have made it possible for all of us to freely play and enjoy our freedom to congregate.</p> <p>It will not benefit the VA or our children to allow for your land to go unused, when it can be maintained by us to continue serving veterans and children.</p> <p>Our community of families and kids is eager to support the VA's programming and assist with veterans' recreational opportunities, so we need a VA coordinator to help us integrate and have offered to provide one.</p> <p>We support continuing to use Barrington Park for the use of veterans and the community. Until such time that the VA develops the land for other purposes, please allow for the community to maintain your land, and serve our veterans and children with programming.</p> <p>To the extent the VA would like to build additional recreational facilities on campus, please give us the opportunity to participate in such efforts. We have been excellent tenants and are a strong community of families, eager to provide further support for the VA's efforts.</p>	Michael	Rhee	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/17/2015	<p>On behalf of my family and FCLA, thank you for your kind consideration and for the Dear Sirs:</p> <p>Please reconsider closing the dog park. Why can't you include it in your Master Plan and use as part of your plan to help veterans. Has that even been considered? Dogs can be great therapy for veterans, they are currently being used in Senior Centers across the country. Dog therapy is being used in prisons. It is human nature to crave that unconditional love that dogs provide - why not be creative and include what is already there.</p> <p>There is so little open space in Los Angeles, please don't take anymore away. Take advantage of the dog park the way it is.</p> <p>I am all for taking care of our veterans ( my husband is a veteran). I believe, like everyone believes, we owe these people. But don't take something away as precious as a dog park - use it. Put benches around the perimeter and have it be a park that dogs and people share. Why not?</p>	Nancy	Goldberg	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/17/2015	<p>I love dogs. Particularly my little boo, Pepper.</p> <p>And if you've ever owned a dog, you know what an important part of life they become. A smarter man than myself once said: "A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself." They're our best friends, our family.</p> <p>And just like family, we want the best for our dogs. But that's not always easy to provide -- especially in a city like Los Angeles. Don't get me wrong: there's a lot to love about LA. Unfortunately when it comes to dog-friendly parks -- where a dog can run, really RUN, and be free and happy and not stuck inside, or locked in a cage, or tied to a leash -- the city is in short supply.</p> <p>Luckily, there are a FEW bright spots for our puppy pals... like Barrington Park.</p> <p>But now even this is being challenged.</p> <p>It goes without saying: I absolutely support the overall 'master plan' of building housing for vets. In no way should this housing plan be diminished. The service these vets have provided our country is invaluable and they deserve the support and infrastructure our community can provide.</p> <p>However, based on the initial master plan, it seems the area that currently hosts the dog park and children's playing fields is simply meant to be an unoccupied "green space" within that housing plan. Is that correct?</p> <p>Simply put: I request that this "green space" include the dog park and playing fields.</p> <p>Because everyone deserves a home - vets and dogs alike. And in this way, everyone wins.</p> <p>But listen, I understand there may be variables/challenges here that I don't fully understand or am not even aware of. And it may just be that the dog parks and playing</p>	Ryan	Aguilar	

Topic	Sub-Topic	Timestamp	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/17/2015	Our family is a member of FCLA and our kids and the community have really benefitted from the use of the MacArther field. It would be beneficial for our clubs to continue the maintenance of these fields and for them to be used by our community and the veterans as the process of planning continues. Whenever I drive my kids to their practice and games we see the veterans walking on the campus, I feel it must give the veterans great pleasure to see a younger generation enjoying the space provided. It can be only positive to integrate the use of our community, families and kids with the veterans and create a way to co exist and benefit the veterans with recreational opportunities. We support the continuing to use Barrington Park for the use of veterans and the community. We would like to have the possibility of integrating the community of families and the veterans and work with VA efforts to a common goal and support the VA's efforts. The space is well maintained and respected by all the families using it. It would be no benefit to anyone if we were removed from the space and the area dries up and becomes useless. Our kids are the future and these non profit sporting programs are key to their development as good citizens that support our community. We would be eager to expose our kids to the needs and support of our veterans and this is a great opportunity.	Stephen	Reinmund	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/17/2015	Please preserve an open space for our dogs! Socialized and well exercised dogs are better for everyone in the community. Dogs that learn to be around people and other dogs are less fearful and less aggressive. Please maintain a place for our dogs to play and socialize and exercise. The Barrington Park is one of the last places we are allowed to take our dogs to build these skills. Please make it part of the VAs master plan. Respectfully, Kathy Serota	Kathryn	Swartz	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/17/2015	The Westside Breakers provide a wonderful experience for girls who want to play soccer. They are the only all female club in the area, which makes them not only super competitive, but really special.  The location of the VA makes it accessible to girls all over the city, which is amazing. So this is a place where you have a true and happy, healthy cultural diversity happening.  For the girls, understanding that this field and the surrounding buildings belong to the people who serve our country in the most important, honorable way, is educational and inspiring to them.  Our community of families and kids is eager to support the VA's programs and assist with veterans' recreational opportunities. We would like to work with the VA to integrate our efforts with the VA projects. If the VA would like to build additional recreational facilities on campus, please give us the opportunity to participate. We have been excellent tenants and are a strong community of families, eager to provide further support for the VA's efforts.	Jennifer	Aguilar	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/18/2015	My name is Abraham Cohen. I am a decorated WW II veteran who fought with the 191st Tank Battalion in North Africa, Italy and France.  My granddaughter loves to play soccer and is a member of the Westside Breakers soccer club. The enjoyment that I receive in watching her play soccer on her team is immeasurable. I am very familiar with the VA Westwood campus and have been going there for many, many years. I understand the need for more VA housing and better facilities, but there is so much land and there are so many vacant buildings; it would be a waste and a disservice to our community and to the young athletes who play on the soccer fields at the VA to kick them off now.  I have been told that there is very little land and vacant space for young people in Los Angeles to play soccer, and I know that there is so much land available to the VA, that the Westside Breakers and the boys soccer club should be allowed to continue to use the fields for their practices and their games, as long as they are willing to continue to maintain the property, at least until after other areas of the VA property are rehabilitated and developed.  Please don't kick my granddaughter and the other young girls who play on the Westside Breakers club off the VA fields.	Abraham	Ronan	

Topic	Sub-Topic	Timestamp	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/18/2015	<p>On behalf of more than 3,000 homeowners in the adjacent community of Brentwood, I write to respectfully request the Barrington Place parking lot be maintained as a facility accessible to the general public.</p> <p>The parking lot is used by employees and customers of the Brentwood Village, a vital community resource for decades. Without the use of the lot, it is likely businesses would suffer and possibly shutter, while residents would be without a viable parking option.</p> <p>It should be noted the lot represents only about 2/10 of one percent of the entire property, and is located in the far north "green zone" corner.</p> <p>We also urge Master Planners to examine the viability of an entry/exit point at this location, considering the traffic "choke points" already plaguing this area.</p> <p>Our homeowners association applauds efforts to make the West LA campus a vibrant and useful place for veterans and we hope the administration and the community can find a way to work together on collective and productive solutions.</p> <p>Respectfully, Rodney Liber Treasurer Brentwood Homeowners Association</p>	Rodney	Krause	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	11/18/2015	<p>The Brentwood Community Council ("BCC") is the broadest based Brentwood community organization, representing approximately 50,000 stakeholders of the 90049 community. BCC includes homeowners associations, multi-family residential dwellers, business organizations, schools, religious groups, volunteer service groups, public safety and environmental organizations. One of our initial comments on the Draft Master Plan (MP) relates to Zone 4 and the existing public parking lot that has operated on the site for 70 or more years. The parking lot is adjacent to the Brentwood Village (BV) shopping area and it appears the draft Master Plan calls for it to be eliminated. The BCC believes this would be a grave mistake.</p> <p>The MP identifies among its goals the reintegration of veterans into the community and making the campus a part of the larger community. It also identifies BV as providing convenient access for VA campus residents to 12 restaurants and coffee shops as well numerous retail shops. We believe the continued operation of the parking lot will further the foregoing goals of the MP. We further believe that its elimination would threaten the ongoing viability of BV and thus remove it as a resource for VA Campus residents.</p> <p>Additionally we believe there are numerous new ways the parking lot can be operated in conjunction with BV that can further the veteran centric goals for the campus that are identified in the MP. These could include employment opportunities, both in connection with the parking lot itself, but also with businesses operating in BV. Some of these could provide part time work for the 700-900 long term residents that are projected for Zone 3 in the MP. Free parking could also be made available to VA Campus visitors and with market based parking rates, substantial additional revenues could be generated to further other VA Campus activities for veterans. This is not an exhaustive list of ways the parking lot can remain and further the goals of the MP to make the VA campus more veteran centric.</p> <p>We urge the VA to meet with representatives of the BV Chamber of Commerce and the BV Business Improvement District to develop a specific plan that will serve the mutual interests of veterans and the broader community for years to come.</p>	T. Larry	Ruby	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	19-Nov-15	<p>As a former Veteran during the Vietnam War (USAF, 1972-1974) and an occasional visitor to the land in question with my dog, i want to go on record as OPPOSING the Master Plan 4 now being considered. From interacting with the local residents, I have come to understand the significance of the current shared land regarding its inestimable value to the local communities.</p> <p>It is not uncommon that in a congested urban environment new development considerations must fairly analyze the relative pros and cons and the local impact. In this case, I believe the weight of history and the community dependence on this land trumps alternative use plans.</p>	paul	Aguilar	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	19-Nov-15	<p>I am a Brentwood resident. I oppose the master plan for Zone 4 which suggests that green spaces and access roads be created on the east side of Brentwood Village, and that the dog park and parking lot there be closed. I fully support our veterans and want to see them properly cared for. But eliminating the parking lot and dog park in favor of green space and access roads does not accomplish that goal or solve the problem of sheltering homeless vets. Rather, it puts in jeopardy the financial well-being of many small businesses and damages the community they serve. I ask that the VA maintain the present use of its properties on the east side of Brentwood Village. Maintaining those properties does not compromise the objectives of the VA, or impair its ability to better serve our veterans.</p>	Stephen	Aguilar	

Topic	Sub-Topic	Timestamp	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Land Use	Possessory Interests	19-Nov-15	<p>I am a resident of Brentwood and a board member of the Mandeville Canyon Association. I am an avid supporter of my local businesses and shop in the Brentwood village a number of times a week, at retail stores and restaurants alike. My wife also attends cardio bar classes 3 times a week in the village. We both use the parking lot a number of times a week and it would be a serious detriment to our ability to frequent these businesses if the parking lot in question were to be no longer available.</p> <p>The Brentwood village is a quaint location the likes of which are far and few between in Los Angeles, and I fear that the loss of parking facilities will spiral into the loss of this gem of a community. Please keep the necessary parking lot available to the Brentwood residents.</p>	Gareth	Aguilar	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	19-Nov-15	<p>I will try to be brief: It appears that the PDFMP for the West L.A. VA Medical Center proposes replacing the existing parking lot that is shared with the Barrington Village community with an access road, landscaping and park facilities. Barrington Village is dependent upon this VA parking. Loss of this parking lot would essentially cause the village to close.</p> <p>I urge you to review this, meet with Barrington Village merchants and those whom they serve, and then modify the proposed plan so that both the needs of the VA Med Center and those of the adjacent community can be met.</p> <p>As a retired city planner and a resident of this community for more than half a century, I know that a workable compromise can be found. Please do not eliminate this much-needed facility.</p>	Leonard	Strate	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	19-Nov-15	<p>Please keep the Barrington Dog Park open. It is a central gathering place for dog owners in our community. It is a vital place where dogs can be off leash in a safe, legal environment. Without this resource, our community would witness many more dog owners allowing their dogs off leash in public parks where children are running around; the combination of off leash dogs, rambunctious kids and dog waste together is suboptimal at best and dangerous at worst. The current set up of a fenced in dog park is the safest practice and is the model utilized in most other developed urban areas. The lack of a dog park in Brentwood would make our city stand out as the only Southern California neighborhood that does not provide a recreational spot for dogs and dog owners.</p>	Kira	Hylen	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	19-Nov-15	<p>The VA lot is absolutely necessary for the survival of the Brentwood Village shops and restaurants. I park in the VA lot everyday to go to work. This lot gives our clients a place to leave their cars and come shopping in our stores. There is a nice neighborly feeling here which is in part due to the ease of them having access to park in the two parking lots near the village. Thank you.</p>	M.	Aguilar	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	20-Nov-15	<p>I recently took a lease on 179 S. Barrington Place and I chose the location because my Meme previous location had no parking which caused great frustration to my patients. I really want to provide my patients who visit each day need a convenient, hassle free parking experience. Please do not take this away. Traffic in that area is bad enough and if you add a horrible parking experience it will be even worse.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Meme Rhee, Psy.D.</p>		Bowman	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	20-Nov-15	<p>This future we face does not come from nowhere.</p> <p>It comes from the Federal Government and the West Los Angeles Veteran's Administration not meeting the needs of our veterans.</p> <p>It is not irrational.</p> <p>But the anger and frustration of the veterans, plaintiffs in the Law Suit against the VA, and those in charge of the new plans and new legislation in Washington are poised to be sacrificing Brentwood Village which numbers 110 businesses, 500 employees many of whom are veterans, and services veterans and residents use. The WLA VA and Brentwood Village has been sharing this parking lot for 70 years.</p> <p>In addition to Veterans, North Brentwood Village inclusive of the Dog Park serves residents in Brentwood, Santa Monica, Westwood, Bel Air, West Los Angeles, Pacific Palisades, Mar Vista, Culver City, Encino, Sherman Oaks, travelers and guests in surrounding hotels and more. People including Veterans come from all over to use our services, run their dogs, eat in our restaurants and use our many services. We are also an important part of Los Angeles. And many residents are also veterans.</p> <p>We hope not to be the scapegoat for this tragic set of circumstances We hope not to see our neighborhood destroyed.</p> <p>If we believe there are sufficient resources to provide for all, we must find the political will to spread them equitably.</p> <p>Can we coexist?</p> <p>We have sufficient human capacity to think and reflect together, to care about one another, to be courageous, and to create an equitable future that involves not the sacrifice of an entire swath of the Los Angeles community, but a solution for the inclusion of everyone including serving Veterans.</p>	Marcie Polie	Swartz	

Topic	Sub-Topic	Timestamp	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Land Use	Possessory Interests	20-Nov-15	<p>UCLA needs to give back to Veterans after taking advantage of VA not only with respect to the Jackie Robinson Stadium lease but also even much more so in UCLA's relationship with the VA medical center, which is worth \$70 million annually to UCLA in VA funding. As is the case with other academic medical centers, UCLA has been using VA salary support for UCLA faculty that spend substantial or even a majority of their VA paid time on the UCLA campus, providing free salary support for at the expense of patient care for Veterans. Some of these UCLA faculty are also getting paid by UCLA for patient care they provide non-Veterans during the time that they are supposed to be seeing Veteran patients at VA.</p> <p>This scam has been going on for decades. It is time for VA to clamp down on UCLA's abuse of federal taxpayer dollars and its failure to provide paid-for healthcare services for Veterans. UCLA would have to do quite a lot just to get back to providing what it has already been paid to do. In order to truly step up to the plate, UCLA would have to do way more than that, such as providing free health services to the wives and children of Veterans, free tuition to Veterans who get accepted as undergraduates, and preferential hiring of Veterans. Then UCLA could rightfully boast about its "70 year relationship" with VA, as Chancellor Block was doing on Veterans Day, in a public relations statement. UCLA has been draining VA of money in contractual arrangements and then failing to fulfill its part of the contract. In most circumstances, this is known as "fraud."</p>	Anonymous	Halper	
Land Use	Possessory Interests	3-Dec-15	See attached file(s)	Larry	Watts	Brentwood Community Council
Land Use + Program	Possessory Interests	3-Dec-15	November 2015 Statement (Full Statement Attached) COMMUNITY ISSUE: How Transparency in Lease Agreements and Quasi-Agreements with the Federal Government May Influence Present and Future Agreements at the West LA Healthcare Campus The US Department of Veteran Affairs has released a draft master plan, "Planning a Community for Veterans," for the West LA Healthcare Campus of the Greater LA Healthcare System. The cumulative impact of these challenges now shows up in planning reports of both the current lessor (Department of Veterans Affairs) and major leasees (UCLA, City of Los Angeles and Brentwood School). Reports released thus far to the public in the master planning process are notably deficient in (a) documenting current formal and informal lease arrangements and (b) establishing the past performance of the leasees in this regard. Both document review and performance review would play a major role in assessing the future, if any, of lease arrangements with non-VA entities.	Ron	Bitzer	
Program	Ammenities	4-Dec-15	My name is Kenneth Klemm, a Navy veteran. I am currently in transitional housing in building 209 on the VA property. I like the idea of increasing both transitional housing as well as adding permanent housing. Something I think would be of benefit is to revamp the campus canteen stores so that they offer more grocery items.	Kenneth	Klemm	
Program	Ammenities and Services	1-Dec-15	This plane needs to incorporate the three armories on Federal ave into the campus to include parking, disaster response support for tents, Evac hospital and helicopter support, major field logistic for time of emergency. The VA may not be providing direct emergency support, but the National Guard and Reserves will. Additionally the VA site should have housing for Veteran students attending area universities the GI bill doesn't cover the cost of living expenses.	David	Kelly	LTC
Program	Art & Culture	11/4/2015	<p>Ltc. David M. Kelly (ret) U.S. Army</p> <p>Access for filming conducted by veteran owned businesses or productions. Los Angeles is a very rich area for filming and production and there is a lot of opportunity for The VA to gain capital from any production company but I am suggesting that veteran owned businesses and productions have priority and a discount for filming in the area. A few offices can be used for wardrobe, hair/make-up, writing groups and post productions activities can be conducted and more. This year American Legion Post 43 was named the number 1 location site in Los Angeles and I am sure that the VA campus can imitate some of their success.</p>	Heraclio	Englander	
Program	Art & Culture	11/4/2015	More space dedicated to Arts and History Preservation. More than veterans visit the VA hospital, friends, family members, caretakers, and supporters visit these facilities as well. I am proposing that veteran artist be commissioned to add painting, sculptures, statues and more that will represent the veteran community from the point of view of the veterans. An arts center will be needed for the artist to plan and prepare object for display, conduct art classes and more. Also to preserve these images and our Armed Forces history I propose a museum to be created in order to preserve those memories. This facility will honor all that have served in the great wars and will show supporters what their freedom cost.		Marshall	
Program	Art & Culture	11/17/2015	American Art Trust: Art is the Answer (See attached)	David	Hahn	
Program	Art & Culture	24-Nov-15	See Attached	Merle	Fishman	MA, OTR/L

Topic	Sub-Topic	Timestamp	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Program	Circulation	20-Nov-15	<p>Big Blue Bus (BBB) applauds the effort to provide permanent supportive housing and services for Veterans on the VA Campus. The Planning Division of Big Blue Bus has reviewed the VA Greater Los Angeles Draft Final Urban Master Plan September 2015 Update and would like to offer the following feedback. The feedback is provided in conjunction with our commitment to ensure that adequate connectivity, transfer opportunities to the shuttle, and frequency are all part of what is planned for the VA to best serve our shared constituency.</p> <p>BBB is the primary provider of bus service on the Westside of Los Angeles west of Westwood Blvd in the area that the VA is located. BBB services the VA with three routes and a fourth route runs alongside the VA on Barrington Ave.</p> <p>Route 2 connects UCLA to downtown Santa Monica via Wilshire, and services the VA on Wilshire Blvd.</p> <p>Route 4 connects Westside Pavilion to downtown Santa Monica via San Vicente Blvd and Sawtelle Blvd, and serves the VA on Bonsall Ave and Dowlen Dr.</p> <p>Route 3M (soon to be Route 18) connects UCLA to downtown Santa Monica via Montana Ave, and services the VA on Wilshire Blvd.</p> <p>June 2016, Route 4 will be replaced by Route 17, which will connect the VA to three Expo rail stations and numerous other bus routes. The stations served by Route 17 will be Sepulveda, Palms and Culver City. Route 17 will service the VA on Bonsall Ave and Dowlen Dr.</p> <p>In addition to the stops in or directly adjacent to the VA on the routes mentioned above, BBB also provides service on the length of Barrington Ave between Sunset Blvd and Olympic Blvd, which is another potential resource for residents of the VA.</p> <p>BBB currently boards approximately 175 people each weekday at the bus stops on Wilshire Blvd and Bonsall Ave on the routes mentioned above and approximately the same number of people exit a bus each day at those same stops.</p> <p>In reviewing the Master Plan, we found references to "Incorporating environmentally sustainable concepts" and "connections and partnerships", but we did not find a significant amount of discussion regarding BBB services or consideration of how people</p>	Tim	Voigt	
Program	Existing Services	10/26/2015	Our VA hospital system is a shameful representation of government services to our most vulnerable, those who put their lives on the line. I support any effort to upgrade and redesign the West LA facility to make it a model for the rest of the country in quality and timely delivery of medical care.	Valerie	Snyder	
Program	Existing Services	26-Oct-15	Our VA hospital system is a shameful representation of government services to our most vulnerable, those who put their lives on the line. I support any effort to upgrade and redesign the West LA facility to make it a model for the rest of the country in quality and timely delivery of medical care.	Valerie	Rodriguez	
Program	Existing Services	23-Nov-15	<p>"I actually went and Google'd "Barry Guze" and was shocked to see that what I saw in ε Anonymous posted comment is not only true, but even worse! " and "I also Google'd "Skye McDougall" of CNN/Jon Stewart fame, only to find out that she is the Chief Medical Officer of VA Desert Pacific Network, which oversees West L.A., and that Senator John McCain has a letter online opposing her being appointed head of Phoenix VA." A Brentwood resident who seems to understand psychological issues just posted this, and I am very concerned. If we can't trust the VA administrators who are supposed to administrate the Master Plan, then what are we going to see in Brentwood in the next 5 years? Admittedly from a self-centered point of view as someone whose home is my biggest asset, I am really thinking hard about whether I want to be right next to ground zero of a government mess, see my property values plummet. Form a less self-centered view, I don't want to see Veterans get the worst of it because they have been promised many things (again) and can't even get their psychological wounds properly tended to. I saw this happen after Viet Nam and it was a real shame. I don't want to see it happen all over again.</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	

Topic	Sub-Topic	Timestamp	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Program	Existing Services	23-Nov-15	<p>A recent VA site visit report found a "very serious threat to the mental health care of Veterans" at the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System and recommended follow-up investigations of allegations that have not been conducted since; and no intervention has been made to effect change, even if it hurts our most vulnerable mentally ill Veterans.</p> <p>Findings included: excessive wait times to see a psychiatrist; clinics (such as PTSD) closed to new patients; unavailability of psychiatric consultation in our Domiciliary (which has had patient suicides and overdoses in the past); overwhelmed psychiatric staff in the clinics; inability of outside clinics to see walk-ins (some of whom may have been suicidal); inappropriate diversion of patients from outside clinics to WLA emergency room (without arrangement of safe transportation); and no tele-mental health services to our more rural Veterans in the northern CBOCs areas.</p> <p>Over the past year, mismanagement and toxic leadership has worsened an already serious access issue and has started an exodus of psychiatrists that threatens to leave our mentally ill Veterans without quality health care.</p> <p>This untenable situation was set up under the stewardship of CMO McDougall as one of the final acts of our departed Director (Donna Beiter) and our departed Chief of Staff (Dr. Dean Norman). Ms. Beiter and Dr. Norman, over the protests of local Mental Health leaders and reportedly against the advice of Human Resources, hired an entirely inappropriate individual, Dr. Barry Guze, for the position of Associate Chief of Staff for Mental Health in a process that appears to have been "rigged."</p> <p>Previously, approximately 10 years ago, Dr. Guze, who is step-son of our former Chief of Medicine who was a long-time colleague of departed Chief of Staff Norman, had been rejected for the job: at the time, he had been the target of sexual harassment allegations by female psychiatry residency trainees at UCLA; had virtually no administrative experience; and had demonstrated no apparent interest in the care of Veterans. Nothing changed in the subsequent 10 years.</p> <p>Somehow, Dr. Guze got hired last year amid obvious irregularities: the position was not posted for the four mental health disciplines (Psychiatry, Psychology, Social Work and Nursing) as is directed in VHA Directive 2009-011; and Dr. Norman's mentor, Dr. Tom Yoshikawa, who chaired the search committee invited input from MH staff about the</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	23-Nov-15	<p>As a Brentwood resident who lost family in the Holocaust, it hit me hard to read a statement that "Master Plan could deteriorate into simply a relocation and concentration of Veterans on the West LA campus." A lot of comments are giving me the impression that medical services, especially for psychological problems, are already a problem at the VA without having more Veterans to take care of. Cleaning up the streets but not helping the homeless would be a moral transgression.</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	23-Nov-15	<p>My experience with Mr. Guze was the worst experience I ever had with a doctor. He was condescending, rude, angry, vicious, non caring, superior, with a god complex, demeaning, arrogant, and truly had no heart or real care for the patient sitting across from him. I truly believe he has childhood issues and was probably bullied when young and now is using his power and position to get back at all those that bullied him</p> <p>In fact like another person commented on regulations.gov this statement I cut and pasted above is actually online in plain view if you look. If this is who the VA has in store for our Veterans in the Master Plan then the VA has some real re-thinking to do. What is needed is healing not torture</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	23-Nov-15	<p>Standing up for Veterans mental health care has met with bad results under VA Associate Chief of Mental Health Dr. Barry Guze, who will be responsible for ensuring mental health care to Veterans under the proposed Master Plan, which should raise great apprehension among all stakeholders. Earlier this year, the psychiatrist overseeing mental health services to the rural areas felt compelled to resign. Dr. Guze's supervisor, Chief of Staff Dr. Norman, who was subsequently forced out of VA Greater Los Angeles, did nothing. Dr. Norman's supervisor, acting Director Michael Murphy, requested a VA site visit into allegations about Dr. Guze. The findings went to VA Network 22 Chief Medical Officer Skye McDougall, which included serious concerns about Veterans mental health and Dr. Guze. Nothing was done. Dr. Guze remains. The Master Plan includes mental health services for Veterans. But how will these be provided and who should be in charge?</p> <p>From: Choi, Young Mee Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2015 2:45 PM To: Norman, Dean Cc: Young, Steven W. Subject: Young Mee Choi, MD Notice RE separation from VA employment</p> <p>Dear Dean Norman,</p> <p>I write to inform you that I am separating from VA employment effective July 2, 2015, because I have been subjected to discrimination. My working environment has become so intolerable that separation is the only fitting response. I have filed and am pursuing an EEO complaint. I explain my reasons briefly below...</p> <p>After changing to part-time status, I asked my supervisor, Barry Guze, repeatedly to meet with me to discuss challenges that I and the Telepsychiatry service were facing. Dr. Guze refused to meet with me to discuss Telepsychiatry. Several times, he advised me he would only speak with Dr. Mervis and Dr. Schafer to discuss my concerns.</p> <p>Neither is my supervisor. Both have previously told me they were not my supervisors and would not sign off on my clinic cancellation or annual leave requests. Moreover, neither of these men works with me on the SACC Telepsychiatry service.</p> <p>I reminded Dr. Guze that he was my supervisor, and I informed him of past conflicts,</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	

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Program	Existing Services	23-Nov-15	Unbelievably, head of VA mental healthcare has web comments including "Dr. Guze could not be a more cold, uncaring psychiatrist. He is not easy to talk to or the least bit compassionate"; "He is one of the most wretched human beings I've ever met and his doctoring was not any better"; "Dr. Guze is uncaring and unworthy of his license as a physician"; "A very unpleasant man who should not be dealing with people on any level"; "Dr. Guze has a reputation among his colleagues for being unusually cruel to the patients he treats in hospital." I think the Master Plan should make sure our Veterans get better than this.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	23-Nov-15	At VA West Los Angeles, site of the proposed Master Plan, the Associate Chief of Mental Health Dr. Barry Guze, has demonstrated lack of concern about and resistance to efforts to address Veterans' mental health care access problems, as seen in this revealing email:  From:Mamo, Sewnet Sent:Friday, June 05, 2015 3:24 PM To:Kleinman, Leonard E Subject:Dr. Choi's patients  Dr. Kleinman, I went to the mental health leadership office area looking for Dr. Cienfuegos. I learned he is not in his office. I gave, Kelly the MH assistant, statistics of Dr. Choi's patients that shows 69 psychiatric patients in June and 50 patients in July, needing psychiatric services, in order to show the overall picture and the urgency. She insisted that I show this to Dr. Guze, and took me to his office. There he indicated that they do not have providers to see these patients. He also stated they should be sent to the community. I indicated we were not able to get services even for Dr. Ismail's patients in the community. We need to address this matter, we do not want something to happen to these patients. He stated, 'that kind of threat is not appropriate'. I am concerned about this process and the fact that no one has the urgency to address these patients' needs. When we express concerns for psychiatric patients in need of medication and providers, how could it be considered threatening? I do not know where to go from here. Thank you, Sewnet	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	24-Nov-15	The Master Plan needs VA mental health treatment services, which are run by Dr. Barry Guze, whose treatment of his own patients reviews sound like: "He is one of the most wretched human beings I've ever met and his doctoring was not any better."  This is who UCLA Psychiatry Department Chairman Dr. Peter Whybrow and now dislodged VA Chief of Staff Dr. Dean Norman have saddled on the VA and mentally ill Veterans in L.A. And over better applicants for the job. Veterans deserve better.  Worse still, Dr. Guze is deficient in administrative experience and has been given the job of running a huge operation, something he has never done before in his entire career. The operation is in deep trouble. The morale is at an all time low. It is not even clear whether it will be functional at all in a year from now.  Dr. Guze's managerial style has been described as causing "turmoil." An increasing list of psychiatrists have given Dr. Guze notice. It is straightforward: no psychiatrists, big problem for the Master Plan.  Those under Dr. Guze have used every conceivable official means of getting someone in VA to listen and do something before things get out of hand completely. Including the Network above the Facility. Nothing.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	25-Nov-15	Psychological safety has become nearly nonexistent within Mental Health at GLA over the last year (since Dr. Guze arrived), leaving those who know about serious problems preventing Veteran care uneasily silent and looking for the door. Questions are no longer raised. Many excellent staff are leaving, and more will be leaving. Upper leadership knows of the problem and appears helpless to intervene in any meaningful way.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	25-Nov-15	The Chief of Staff who hired Dr. Guze may have had an ulterior motive to get a relative an otherwise unavailable position at UCLA. Additionally, the Chief of Staff has admitted publicly in front of multiple witnesses that he had to hire a psychiatrist to be the Associate Chief of Staff for Mental Health (ACOS for MH) when questioned about the failure to open applications to possible candidates from other core Mental Health (Nursing, Psychology, and Social Work). The decision to disregard the clear instructions of VHA Directive 2009-11 on hiring candidates for leadership positions in Mental Health was done with full knowledge of the former Director and current Chief of Human Resources. Directive 2009-11 has since been replaced by Directive 1165 on November 4, 2015. Directive 2009-11 was in effect when the position for the ACOS for MH was posted and when Dr. Guze was selected for the position. It is known that the deadline for applications for the position for ACOS for MH had closed before Dr. Guze submitted his application and that an exception was made for him to allow his application to be submitted after the closing date for applications.	Anonymous	Anonymous	

Topic	Sub-Topic	Timestamp	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Program	Existing Services	25-Nov-15	Dereliction of duty and not caring for Veterans: L.A. VA does not have enough geriatric psychiatrists, but ACOS Barry Guze has forced out, refused to hire, not pursued, or not retained 5 psychiatrists this year: 1 forced out, 1 refused to hire, 1 cut back the amount of time hired, 1 interested candidate not even called, now 1 more leaving VA. Who in VA cares?	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	25-Nov-15	Dr. Guze was hired into the leadership of Mental Health based on a lie to top VACO leadership -- when VACO leadership specifically asked if GLA was following national policy requiring all Mental Health leadership positions be open to all of the major disciplines which would be managed, the answer given was a firm "yes." GLA leadership misinformed VACO leadership by stating that Dr. Guze's leadership position would only pertain to Psychiatry despite also being given the title of ACOS for MH. In truth, that was a lie, and upper VACO leadership knows it, has been informed about this violation on multiple occasions by multiple informants and VACO MH leadership appears helpless to do anything about this flagrant violation for no apparent legitimate purpose.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	25-Nov-15	Is there some reason why it is perceived that, regardless of the cost to Veteran care, a close connection with the UCLA Department of Psychiatry must be created in this way, allowing that UCLA department to basically take over the GLA Mental Health operations? Is there some kind of trade for the ball park rights involved? Or some other type of "deal?" Has someone(s) gained anything by promise or understanding, which if fully disclosed, would be problematic? What ELSE may explain the unexplainable?	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	25-Nov-15	Master Plan mental health services will have a serious problem if Dr. Guze remains head of VA Mental Health. Dr. Guze's actions have caused great turmoil, substantial waste of resources, and frustration and low morale among the Mental Health staff. He has ignored severe staffing shortages that prevent veterans from getting mental health care. He is actively promoting a climate of fear and over a dozen seasoned psychiatrists are seeking work elsewhere. In today's employment climate, the VA will have a hard time attracting replacements of their quality, especially with the atmosphere that Dr. Guze has created. He is on a path to destroying this Department of Psychiatry very quickly.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	25-Nov-15	Los Angeles Ambulatory Care Center Substance Use Disorder program was closed for months and new substance use disorder patients are referred to the West Los Angeles SUD program. Also, there are excessive waits to see the three psychiatrists providing general psychiatric care and the clinic is often unable to see walk-in patients. Several suicidal patients were told to go to the Emergency Department at West Los Angeles. Dr. Guze has failed to fill vacant psychiatry and psychology positions or to hire temporary locum tenens psychiatrists and has not responded to concerns about the lack of MH staffing. Telepsychiatry to northern VA community based outpatient clinics has been unstaffed or under-staffed, and Dr. Guze essentially pushed out the psychiatrist doing that work. Geriatric Psychiatry has had excessive waits for Geriatric Psychiatry Consultation at West Los Angeles. Dr. Guze forced out a superb geriatric psychiatrist and has not hired anyone. More than two dozen veterans at the Domiciliary awaited psychiatric consultation for over 90 days, which was ignored by Dr. Guze, who precipitously reassigned one of two full-time psychiatrists, leaving the Domiciliary severely understaffed. The Homeless programs have had excessive waits to see a psychiatrist. Next available appointments have been more than a month away. Several times, when no Homeless program psychiatrist was available, psychologists had to send the patient to the Emergency Department to be seen by the emergency psychiatrist. Dr. Guze has failed to respond either to urgent requests from leaders of outpatient programs, or to reports regarding the emergencies created by understaffing in outpatient programs. No Psychiatrist is available to conduct compensation and pension evaluations for elderly and infirm veterans who cannot travel and this has	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	25-Nov-15	Nepotism, or its appearance, is corrosive to the credibility: VA hires an unqualified candidate, Dr. Barry Guze, to Chief of Mental Health; Barry Guze is step-son of Dr. Phyllis Guze, former Chief of Medicine and friend of Chief of Staff Dr. Dean Norman. Dr. Norman's daughter, Jill, meets with Dr. Guze after his arrival; she is looking to transfer into a psychiatry residency program in California. It has been reported through UCLA residency education channels that Dr. Guze asked Dr. James Spar, Director of UCLA Psychiatry's residency program who is paid half-time by VA for administrative purposes, to accept Dr. Norman's daughter into the UCLA program because it would make the Chief of Staff happy; and that the Chief of Staff's daughter's acceptance is a done deal, and that at least some UCLA psychiatry residents heard about this and were very upset because the program accepts very highly qualified doctors from the best medical schools to work at UCLA and VA. All of these reports are highly troubling. The first part, re: Dr. Guze's hire, is fact. The second part may be true, but the individuals accepted into UCLA psychiatry residency for July 2016 won't be announced for a while and the second part is not established fact. Nevertheless, it is concerning when this is what is commonly known among VA staff. When unqualified candidates get jobs in organizations in which their relatives have pull, it create serious questions about propriety, even beyond the issue of whether the candidates can do the jobs themselves. Has anyone in VA or UCLA leadership considered our Veterans? Apparently not.	Anonymous	Anonymous	

Topic	Sub-Topic	Timestamp	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Program	Existing Services	25-Nov-15	Several members of my family have proudly served this nation in combat in 3 wars. I am completely flabbergasted by what I have read about Dr. Barry Guze and psychological services for Veterans in Los Angeles. If only 1% is true, why is he being inflicted upon our men and women who have sacrificed so much for us? A patient description of this doctor as "unusually cruel" and "protracting the suffering of his patients" is chilling. But it would be even crueler if this is at all true and the Department of Veterans Affairs employs this doctor, when Veterans should be given the best treatment possible, which means the best doctors should be employed. Aren't there background checks or reference checks? All the families of Veterans are expecting treatment that is respectful, understanding, supportive, and nothing less. I have always had the impression that VA psychologists are very dedicated and work where they work because they are committed to Veterans. If the psychologists have been complaining about Mr. Guze, and are leaving because of him, then I would certainly expect the VA to take this seriously, so I am at a loss as to why the psychologists are saying that their concerns are being ignored by VA supervisors. I have been reading the comments about the Master Plan because I am a local resident and I am concerned about homelessness in general and Veterans in particular. I know that that the wounds of war leave scars that are long-lasting and that many Veterans have not gotten help and have self-medicated with alcohol and drugs and their lives have been tragic since coming home. Many have wound up living on the streets. The Master Plan is a wonderful move in the right direction to help our men and women who continue to suffer. I completely agree that trauma services, psychological services, alcohol and drug services are very important, in addition to housing, vocational, legal, and family services for Veterans who will live on the West Los Angeles campus. These services should be the best that can be provided. If there are problems with the services or the supervisors of those services, then the Department of Veterans Affairs has the obligation to address them. I have been very impressed with Secretary Robert McDonald, who is a Veteran who seems really to care and wants to create something new and helpful for homeless Veterans in Los Angeles. Can't Secretary McDonald look into the problems with Mr. Guze? Our Veterans need the best psychological care the VA can give them.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	25-Nov-15	The damage to Veteran care and staff morale in VA Mental Health has been communicated to VA leadership repeatedly. Why would such an obvious problem have been permitted to arise? And once it is clearly a problem, why can powerful leaders find no way to address any aspect of the problems? Why the stonewalling and secrecy? Are there other agendas? Are there reasons why the VA, or GLA, or persons in authority anywhere in the Federal or State systems would allow these problems to persist?	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	25-Nov-15	The terrible morale of VA mental health professionals under VA ACOS Barry Guze is evident in the Survey Monkey conducted by VA, but buried by VISN CMO Skye McDougall. The survey results demonstrate the pervasiveness of the problem and why so many talented and experienced professionals are on their way out. Dr. Guze appears not to care one bit. He's done nothing to retain the staff that have left and are leaving, and he has pushed some the staff out through his treatment of them.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	25-Nov-15	What do you say when an unqualified candidate from UCLA is hired for the position of VA Associate Chief of Mental Health over far more qualified candidates resulting from collusion between VA Chief of Staff and UCLA Psychiatry Department Chairman? Unbelievable, but this happened last year at VA Greater Los Angeles, when Dr. Barry Guze was hired by the now forced out VA Chief of Staff in conjunction with Dr. Peter Whybrow, UCLA Psychiatry Chair to run perhaps the largest VA mental health service in the entire nation after never running anything larger than a few inpatient units at UCLA, and even that was taken away from him. Totally predictable that he would mismanage the mental health care service as he has this year, paying almost no attention to ongoing serious mental health care access problems while spending his Thursday afternoons seeing non-Veteran patients at UCLA, as if he has nothing better to do at VA. Veterans do not come first for Dr. Guze. For Director Donna Beiter and Chief of Staff Dean Norman to hire him shows that mentally ill Veterans were not their top priority either. But they have been forced out by VA leadership this past year, leaving Dr. Guze behind. VA leadership has still not cleaned up the rest of the mess, despite ongoing complaints to VA Greater Los Angeles and Veterans Integrated Services Network 22, which oversees Los Angeles. Instead, the mess has been whitewashed, reports buried, staff surveys buried, complaints ignored, etc. Also being ignored is the fact that mental health providers have left, are leaving, and are lining up at the exits to escape the turmoil. Keeping this serious problem in mental health care a secret is not fair to all stakeholders contributing to developing the Master Plan, because it is assumed there is a vital and functional mental health service that will support homeless Veterans housed on the West Los Angeles campus. As usual, the cover-up is worse than the "crime."	Anonymous	Anonymous	

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Program	Existing Services	27-Nov-15	Dr. Guzes personal interactions with professional colleagues and staff in Mental Health has been dismissive, disrespectful, and dishonest. Dr. Guzes treatment of Mental Health colleagues and staff is similar to his past mistreatment of patients at UCLA, which is chronicled by ex-patients and their family members in dozens of patient reviews readily available on the Internet. These shocking reviews were shared with Acting Director Steven W. Young, who turned them over to the Network, where CMO McDougall is charged with stewardship over patient care. How an individual such as Dr Guze, with so many reviews reflecting a disrespectful if not downright sadistic attitude towards the most vulnerable patients, could be hired to oversee mental health care for our worthy Veterans is incomprehensible.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	27-Nov-15	Dr. Guzes brazen dishonesty has been shocking and created a great deal of distrust. Even the site visitors saw through some of his misrepresentations. For example, Dr. Guze reportedly referred to a very serious access problem and inadequate psychiatric care at the East LA Clinic to be a tempest in a teacup, obviously attempting to minimize real threats to Veterans.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	27-Nov-15	Unfortunate that this guy is a doctor and could give medicine. Going to the worst medical in the country and failing out of nuclear radiology medicine, he basically has no right to give medicine to others. He quickly dismisses more competent doctors that actually went to decent medical schools. Basically, his only achievement in life has been teaching young inexperienced doctors who aren't knowledgeable enough to see malpractice at its worst.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	27-Nov-15	A review by Dr. Guze's patient's wife: this Dr released my bipolar husband from hospital with no meds for his depression .He didnt believe anything my husband or I told him and threw out 3 other hospital and psychiatrists diagnosis .Hes an arrogant condescending human being . My husband ended up being admitted to another hospital 2 days later for a 14 day stay !!!	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	27-Nov-15	I am a 57 year old sane man that had the unfortunate experience of having to meet Barry Guze (does not deserve to be called Doctor). I have never written a review in my life to show you the importance I feel that is necessary to warn any future patients possibly considering his care. In fact, that is the only reason I am writing this review and my experience with him is to hopefully help someone that needs a real "Doctor" for any psychiatric needs. Please stay away from this man, he is not sane!!! In fact, he has so many issues of mental instability, I believe he should be the patient!!!! This man is dangerous to be treating anyone and I believe could cause some serious damage to a patient. His license should be pulled immediately! I regard myself as a pretty down to earth kind of guy with no severe mental disorders other than some slight depression and can handle myself pretty well. I have respect for doctors and their knowledge so long as they treat and talk to me like a human being. My experience with Mr. Guze was the worst experience I ever had with a doctor. He was condescending, rude, angry, vicious, non caring, superior, with a god complex, demeaning, arrogant, and truly had no heart or real care for the patient sitting across from him. I truly believe he has childhood issues and was probably bullied when young and now is using his power and position to get back at all those that bullied him. I hope that my experience helps anyone that is even considering an appointment with this man!	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	27-Nov-15	A family member recently stayed as an inpatient in UCLA and had the worst care under Dr. Guze and the unit staff. Dr. Guze is uncaring and unworthy of his license as a physician. It is unfortunate medical students have him setting example as their attending, and even more unfortunate for any patient to fall victim. If anything ill should happen to my kin due to this vile moron of a doctor, I will certainly make sure Dr. Guze is liable in any possible way. I hope Dr. Guze one day experiences the kind of "care" he's been giving his patients. It's not surprising why this doctor has received so many terrible reviews on the Internet.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	27-Nov-15	The Master Plan is doomed because it is run by the VA which hasn't changed its corrupt unaccountable bureaucracy as obvious from a lot of the Comments. Go private not civil service. Shut d9wn the VA. Then maybe a Master Plan will have a chance.	Anonymous	Anonymous	

Topic	Sub-Topic	Timestamp	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Program	Existing Services	27-Nov-15	<p>A review by Dr. Guze's patient:</p> <p>If I could give negative stars to this man, I would. In brief:- He "treated" my non-psychiatric conditions he knew nothing about (and without obtaining my medical history), despite the fact that I was already receiving excellent care from a non-UCLA facility I have been a patient of for years.- Displayed a general callousness towards my emotional and psychiatric health.- Is excruciatingly condescending and did not give me a chance to speak, not even to discuss -any- of my previous medical history.- Spent less than five minutes a day with me.I had been admitted to UCLA due to life-threatening psychiatric issues and was assigned to Mr. Guze. All I can say is that this "doctor" made me feel infinitely worse--by worse, I mean my disregard for life was exponentially increased after realizing what a horrifying excuse for a provider he is. He decided that in addition to my psychiatric issues he would treat several of my physical issues (which are severe and he does -not- specialize in), because he didn't agree with the medication regimen that the specialists have been going to for years have worked with me on, nor did he bother to speak with them before drastically changing my medication with serious and detrimental effects. In other words, he was "treating" something he has not studied and not obtained the patient history for.Additionally, he refused to let me see my current psychiatrist (who is also at UCLA) and disregarded my concerns about him being unfamiliar with my medical history. Sadly, the least grave of issues is the fact that he has no bedside manner to speak of.I truly cannot understand how this man has kept this position for so long, particularly, in a place that is generally considered to provide excellent treatment. I was excruciatingly traumatized by this experience, and I will never return to this hospital voluntarily for psychiatric issues, nor would I ever recommend a friend or family member to go there lest they have the misfortune of being assigned to him.</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	27-Nov-15	<p>Regretfully I won't get to participate in the Master Plan, as I will be leaving with heavy heart my gratifying work with Veterans who grapple with PTSD &amp; other challenges. Thankfully, regulations.gov lets me state for the record the reason is Dr. Barry Guze, Associate Chief of Mental Health for the past miserable year. Guze does not seem to care about Veterans or his own staff. I never had a boss like this or seen morale so low. Colleagues talk about a "reign of terror." I see a cold and unempathic man who is building a UCLA empire at West L.A. For Guze, the VA mission is secondary or nonexistent. Forget about helping Veterans. He is non-transparent, wants no input from people who have experience, doesn't ask and if volunteered, he ignores their input. Anyone who differs with him is ignored or worse: treated so poorly that they resign. Dr. Guze really serves one boss, UCLA and his Chair Dr. Peter Whybrow. Whatever "Peter wants" is the way it is. If "Peter wants" a position to remain vacant for 9 months to save it for a UCLA faculty member who needs salary, then so be it. Veterans can wait. If Whybrow doesn't want specific faculty members to leave UCLA, then it doesn't matter that they actually want to work for the VA or that Veterans desperately need their services. Guze won't hire them. Guze's first order of business when he arrived was to crush the Psychology Service alienating everyone. Even those bystanders not being crushed were taken aback. He is unfazed by anything that anyone says because he has Whybrow and Dr. Stephen Marder, the UCLA Vice Chair who is also at West LA to support him. Until this fall Guze also could rely on support from Chief of Staff Dean Norman who dishonestly (i.e., lied to VA Central Office and ignored Psychology Service objections and Human Resources warnings) installed Guze in a deal with Whybrow. Colleagues have complained to our Directors and there was a site visit but of course Guze, Norman and Marder dismissed the allegations and misled the site visitors, who only recommended a mental health retreat that resulted in nothing changing. Even the Survey Monkey my colleagues and I filled out for the retreat has vanished. My colleagues and I have all read Guze's patient reviews on the web. They are atrocious. Sadly, Guze treats my colleagues the same way he treated his UCLA patients. Without compassion. And even causing harm. So much for the Hippocratic Oath. I know colleagues have been whistleblowers and that VA Central Office and VA Inspector General and others have been informed. Nothing has happened. Only more colleagues leaving to work elsewhere or retiring. Long waiting times for patients,</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	27-Nov-15	<p>Dr. Barry Guze is in a probationary period to evaluate his performance before he is made permanent. Will Secretary McDonald be able to fire him or is he yet another upper level manager who Secretary McDonald can't fire?. If this guy can't be fired with his first year's performance then no one can. Secretary McDonald, it's your move.</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	

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Program	Existing Services	27-Nov-15	<p>Previous to starting at VA Greater Los Angeles, Dr. Guze had no VA Leadership experience. There are serious concerns regarding Veteran care and this is due to staff resignations, vacancies and lack of immediate action. This combined with Dr. Guze's short tenure and lack of VA Leadership experience has created gaps in Veteran treatment. In addition, Dr. Guze does not have allies with successful leadership experience to assist him with critical decisions. It appears that Dr. Guze has separated himself from strong and useful alliances and is depending on a small group for consultation and guidance. Staff, former Mental Health Leadership, and some current Mental Health Leadership team members stated that they are not sure of their current responsibilities and roles but most have continued their responsibilities to ensure that vital tasks are being completed. The staff are concerned that there will be a serious threat of department collapse if they discontinued their previous responsibilities despite the appearance that they have been reassigned away from these tasks. The reorganization has induced low morale for many especially among the Psychology Department staff. It was reported by staff that there is an understaffing of Psychiatrists resulting in "excess wait" times to see a Psychiatrist in areas which include Homeless Patient Aligned Care Team (HPACT), Los Angeles Ambulatory Care Center (LAACC), Geriatric Psychiatry, and Domiciliary RRTP.</p> <p>It was reported that the MH staff (especially PCMH staff) are overwhelmed and that Veterans have been sent to West Los Angeles ED for services primarily that only MH prescribers can perform. Some staff interviewed could not explain how Veterans diverted from LAACC ED made it to GLA ED. In addition, the claim that there are excessive waits to see the three psychiatrists providing general psychiatric care and the clinic is often unable to see walk-in patients was supported by these providers. The allegation that TelePsychiatry to northern CBOCs is now almost entirely uncovered appears to have merit according to those interviewed. It appears that the DRRTPT is severely understaffed for psychiatry services and there is no dedicated Psychiatrist assigned to serving the Veterans in that program. It was reported that there are many Veterans waiting for psychiatric consultations and they have been waiting for extended periods of time.</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	27-Nov-15	<p>I don't want another mismanaged VA program in my neighborhood. Sounds like the LA campus is already having enough problems. Another 1000 psychologically disturbed and drug abusing Vets being mismanaged will only mean local problems and Vets not getting what they need. Obviously no one who is capable is running the show in L.A. Now they get this big project they've never done before? Hopeless. They have no credibility. Their own psychologists say so. Everyone should pull their heads out of the clouds. These Utopian plans almost never work anyway, especially when they are inventing the wheel. And the VA is not reliable enough to dedicate who knows how many millions of dollars to muck around on campus. Another Denver VA debacle. When will the taxpayers wake up?</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	27-Nov-15	<p>Review by Dr. Guze's patient's mother:</p> <p>My son bristles and becomes agitated every time his name comes up. Absolutely despises the care he received from him in the psych hospital. Guze told him he was the sickest person he had ever seen. Says cruel and mean things and has absolute zero bedside manner. A very unpleasant man who should not be dealing with people on any level.</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	27-Nov-15	<p>Dr. Guze was in charge of my treatment during a stay at UCLA's psych ward. I was in a major depression, very anxious, and physically depleted to the point of collapse. He was arrogant, irresponsible re my confidentiality (I had an alias he angrily, loudly and publicly ignored,) he was derisive of treatment by my own doctors, suggested I get a full team picked by him, even wanted me to change my gyn, my psychiatrist--of whom he knew nothing. When I demurred, he said, "Well, we'll see you right back in here then!" and laughed, invoking titters from the obsequious staff making rounds with him. An obnoxious doctor, with a superiority shocking in someone treating people in delicate and suggestible mental states. One hesitates to ask a question of such a doctor, he is always on the verge of walking off with his underlings--And his answers invariably have a tone indicating that there's little point in you thinking about issues of which only he has a full grasp. Bedside manner= Lordly.</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	27-Nov-15	<p>As a community stakeholder following this closely, it's hard not to see that whoever this Barry Guze VA administrator is, he is at the center of a ton of staff distress, because it is pouring out in these Master Plan comments with the pressure of a fire hose. It makes me very nervous. What role this particular administrator have in the Master Plan is definitely relevant from my perspective because I think this is going to be a very challenging project and will require real leadership and excellent medical and psychological specialists in addition to all the other other components that are envisioned to help homeless Veterans. You wouldn't send demoralized troops led by incompetent senior officers into battle. By analogy, it would be inadvisable to send demoralized therapists to work in the Master Plan led by incompetent VA administrators. In order to clean up the mess of Veterans' homelessness, the VA has to clean up its own backyard. We the stakeholders expect top notch therapy and medical treatment will be available for Veterans on the West Los Angeles campus.</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	

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Program	Existing Services	1-Dec-15	Mental Health at the West Los Angeles VA is in a crisis right now due to the lack of leadership from Associate Chief of Mental Health, Dr. Barry Guze, and adding up to 1000 (or perhaps even up to 5000) Veterans with mental and physical care needs to campus without a commensurate increase in staffing will create an unworkable situation as there is no way the VA can meet the psychological needs of these additional Veterans as currently constructed. Currently patients are being diverted from East Los Angeles and Downtown Los Angeles clinics to West LA and the West LA clinic cannot handle the current overflow. Despite this impending care crisis, nothing has been done to increase staffing and in fact, staff have been leaving or looking to leave given the terrible morale created. Before anything is done with the Master Plan, new leadership is needed.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	1-Dec-15	I want to comment as a mental health practitioner at the Greater Los Angeles VA but want to remain anonymous out of fear of retaliation. There are serious problems with this proposal that may not be obvious to those unfamiliar with the realities. Among other things there is a misguided assumption that inpatient mental health use will decrease despite no good reason to think outpatient services can compensate for this even if kept constant and veteran numbers decrease as projected. Even now there almost always are insufficient inpatient mental health beds now and patients wait days in the ER for an inpatient bed. That is neither appropriate nor humane. Under the current mental health administration both outpatient and inpatient clinical positions are being decreased just exacerbating the shortage. Many of these positions are being given to UCLA for research or work at UCLA and taking them away from meeting the needs of veterans for which they are intended. This is happening even now and will get worse under this plan. This proposal focuses on things peripheral to clinical care for veterans and ignores the mental health needs of veterans despite a survey included in this proposal that veterans rated mental health care as their highest priority. It is hypocritical to suggest the intent is to increase clinical care for veterans. Because the realities are not even mentioned or address the needs of veterans it runs the risk of misleading those unfamiliar with the realities. In my view and that of many of my colleagues afraid to honestly express their views this proposal should be rejected. Unless there are major administrative changes in which those currently in power are replaced by those committed to patient care, this plan will just exacerbate the problems that have been increasing this past year. Those currently in power at the Greater LA VA and at the VISN demonstrate not true interest in the clinical care of veterans. Instead they are interested in fluff and window dressing this proposal represents and is exemplified by it. If there are any doubts about my comments and how many others share my views they could readily be corroborated by interviewing line staff in a situation of anonymity where they would be certain they could not be identified and subject to retaliation since many no longer trust the VA after seeing recent actions that detract from patient care as well as this proposal misguided at best..	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	1-Dec-15	Instead of focusing on retaining psychology and psychiatry staff to serve the Veteran population, Chief of Psychiatry Dr. Guze has instead been focusing on serving UCLA to hire research staff from UCLA that no longer have research funding. The priority is clear and has been from the outset. If this is a hint of how Dr. Guze's will implement the Master Plan" for our Veterans, they are in trouble.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	1-Dec-15	As a provider with the Greater Los Angeles VA Medical Center, I can attest that my colleagues in the community based outpatient clinics have not directly known about but have suspect what this commented previously wrote:  "...A recent VA site visit report found a "very serious threat to the mental health care of Veterans" at the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System and recommended follow-up investigations of allegations that have not been conducted since; and no intervention has been made to effect change, even if it hurts our most vulnerable mentally ill Veterans.  Findings included: excessive wait times to see a psychiatrist; clinics (such as PTSD) closed to new patients; unavailability of psychiatric consultation in our Domiciliary (which has had patient suicides and overdoses in the past); overwhelmed psychiatric staff in the clinics; inability of outside clinics to see walk-ins (some of whom may have been suicidal); inappropriate diversion of patients from outside clinics to WLA emergency room (without arrangement of safe transportation); and no tele-mental health services to our more rural Veterans in the northern CBOCs areas.  Over the past year, mismanagement and toxic leadership has worsened an already serious access issue and has started an exodus of psychiatrists that threatens to leave our mentally ill Veterans without quality health care.  This untenable situation was set up under the stewardship of CMO McDougall as one of the final acts of our departed Director (Donna Beiter) and our departed Chief of Staff (Dr. Dean Norman). Ms. Beiter and Dr. Norman, over the protests of local Mental Health leaders and reportedly against the advice of Human Resources, hired an entirely inappropriate individual, Dr. Barry Guze, for the position of Associate Chief of Staff for Mental Health in a process that appears to have been "rigged."  Previously, approximately 10 years ago, Dr. Guze, who is step-son of our former Chief of Medicine who was a long-time colleague of departed Chief of Staff Norman, had been rejected for the job: at the time, he had been the target of sexual harassment	Anonymous	Anonymous	

Topic	Sub-Topic	Timestamp	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Program	Existing Services	1-Dec-15	Plans to improve caring for our Homeless Veterans is great. However, increasing housing capacity on the grounds without increasing the hospital capacity and accompanying budget does not make sense. With more people living on the grounds, this will undoubtedly increase visits through the Emergency Dept and the hospital but the hospital bed number is not getting increased. There also needs to be a budget that is consistent with the expanding demands and bed number. Also, in order to employ quality staff and keep quality staff, there has to be better incentive for the staff. So Cal is a very high cost area to live and when staff can go down the street to UCLA or Kaiser hand make more money, the VA cannot keep good people. For nurses, when there is one national salary cap set by congress that is the same for a nurse working in the Midwest where the cost of living is so much cheaper, it makes no sense. You can create the best plan but without changing some of the infrastructure, the VA will not be able to attract and maintain quality staff to provide quality care to these Veterans that deserve the BEST care!	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	1-Dec-15	<p>In considering housing for Veterans with families...where are the children supposed to go while the parents are at job training or at interviews? I did not see plans for a day career center so are these Vets supposed to use the neighboring child care centers in Brentwood? Will they be given vouchers? Will there be child care available on the grounds?</p> <p>I am pleased at the efforts that the new chief of mental health to improve the academic caliber at the VA. In my view academic accomplishments should be part of the expectation for those at the VA.</p> <p>I also like some of the programs that are proposed under the master plan. But I am concerned that much of this is being done at the expense of good clinical care over the past year and seems likely to continue under this plan. Good clinicians have left with virtually nothing done to retain them. UCLA has a history of ripping off the VA. Some of the clinical VA positions have been given to UCLA for research or work there to the detriment of care for veterans.</p> <p>Though I am very pleased at much of what Dr. Guze is doing he allegiances are with UCLA and he was chosen by them and former VA administrators removed for good reason. Dr. Guze has no previous ties to the VA or administrative experience and may have been chosen to give VA resources to UCLA. I am concerned that the surveys in this document shows the highest interest in mental health care in the survey yet projects decreases in mental health resources that already are too thin for good patient care.</p> <p>I fear that under this plan rather than fix the current shortage the problems will be allowed to just get worse. The experience of my colleagues over the past year when we have seen positions designed for treatment converted to other purposes and just given away to UCLA gives us every reason to think with the current administrative structure the shortages of clinicians will just get worse.</p> <p>We recommend that mental health resources be increased and not decreased as this plan projects. The plan should be modified to reflect this. Already scarce clinical resources are getting scarcer over the past year. In my opinion this plan does nothing to address the existing scarcities and the clinical needs of veterans will get worse rather than better under this plan as the past year shows. In my opinion addressing the clinical needs of veterans should be the primary focus of a VA Hospital and not just an afterthought to be decreased as this plan proposes.</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	1-Dec-15	I and many of my colleagues are very disturbed that mental health care is deteriorating at this medical center and this plan does nothing to address these problems. There have been cutbacks in clinical staff and positions designed for clinical care have been given to UCLA for work there or for research. I see nothing but further cuts in this plan and nothing to improve the care of veterans. Unless there is a change in mental health administration what reason is there to think that those who have shown no interest in improving mental health care this past year will do anything different in the future. They have in fact made it worse this past year and the master plan is proposing further cuts. Despite decreasing veterans absent a new conflict that might not be realistic there is no recognition at all of the mental health problems caused by multiple deployments by the same people. This will cause a larger percentage of vets with long term psychiatric problems. Rather than focus on treating vets the current administration has given VA clinical positions to UCLA. The new mental health chief was hand picked by UCLA and is a UCLA person with no prior interest in vets or knowledge of the VA system. He and his henchmen have been driving some of the best clinicians out of the VA system by making it so unpleasant that they leave. This master plan does nothing to address the real problems. Instead it focuses on things like alternative treatments and advice about benefits to the exclusion of addressing the real impediments to good patient care.	Anonymous	Anonymous	

Topic	Sub-Topic	Timestamp	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Program	Existing Services	1-Dec-15	Master Plan should eliminate UCLA from the VA property and participation in the overall plan in order to stop the parasitism that has characterized UCLA's relationship with VA. 10 years ago, VA Inspector General found UCLA taking half the financial support for its psychiatry residency training program from VA but using far more than half the resources to generate income for UCLA. UCLA Chair Peter Whybrow was infuriated at that time at then VA Chief of Mental Health Robert Rubin for not continuing to maintain the lopsided status quo despite the VA IG investigation. For the past 20 years, UCLA residency director James Spar has been paid a half-time VA salary plus benefits with a half-time VA tour of duty, but has averaged only a couple of hours per week on VA grounds, instead spending his time at UCLA. For 20 years, he has seen no Veteran patient, and has written not one note in the VA electronic medical record. Similar to the UCLA relationship in which Dr. Stephen Marder is VA VISN MIRECC Director while also UCLA Vice-Chair of Psychiatry and Director of the Schizophrenia Program and provides treatment to non-Veteran private pay UCLA patients but not to Veterans. And current VA Associate Chief of Staff for Mental Health Dr. Barry Guze has continuously seen private pay UCLA non-Veteran patients during his entire VA tenure while not seeing Veteran patients for at least his first 6 months in violation of the VA requirement that he provide at least quarter-time Veteran patient care. This is all characteristic of the UCLA collaboration with VA. As pointed out by other commenters, this does not benefit VA. After Dr. Rubin stepped down, UCLA installed in its own puppet leader to ensure that its agenda be carried out. The UCLA choice, Dr. Guze, has carried out UCLA directives, such as refusing to hire UCLA psychiatrists who want to work at VA but who UCLA wants to retain, while saving VA positions for UCLA faculty who have run out of their research grant support so they can do research at UCLA while getting paid by VA supposedly to treat Veterans at VA, and staff that UCLA wants to ship out because it does not want to have to pay them salary anymore. UCLA residency education is saying that VA Chief of Staff Dean Norman, who hired Dr. Guze in collaboration with UCLA, will have his daughter, who is a foreign medical school graduate, be accepted into the prestigious UCLA residency next July 2016. Given that VA Chief of Staff is responsible for the VA half of the funding of the UCLA residency, this would be nepotism and appear to be part of the sweetheart deal that installed Dr. Guze against a VA hiring directive and against warnings from VA Human Resources.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	1-Dec-15	2015 VA All Employee Survey Results Reveal Seriously Detrimental Effects of One Year of Dr. Guze's Leadership as Associate Chief of Staff at West Los Angeles:  Mental Health professionals reported a 62% increase in intention to leave their job; a 63% increase in plans to leave their job; and a 64% increase in exhaustion.  The Psychiatry work group reported a 79% increase of depersonalization of their job; a 36% increase in burn-out; a 30% decrease in organizational engagement; a 23% decrease in psychological safety; a 27% decrease in advocacy by their supervisors. Psychiatry had the largest decrease in overall job satisfaction score of any clinical service.  These are large decreases in year-over-year psychiatrist job satisfaction and burn out; and huge year-over year increases in psychiatrist job depersonalization and mental health professional exhaustion and intentions/plans to leave their current employment.  This reflects exactly the current miserable morale in psychiatry and mental health under Dr. Guze; why there is an exodus of excellent staff out of VA in West Los Angeles; and why the Master Plan will NOT have the needed mental health services for homeless veterans that are called for and needed for the Plan to succeed.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	1-Dec-15	I support this master plan. It will give Barry Guze MD who is chief of psychiatry an opportunity to continue to improve standards at the VA and closer ties to UCLA.. Higher standards and ties with academia can only improve patient care over time.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	1-Dec-15	VA VISN 22 has buried the VA WLA mental health service Monkey Survey to hide the horrific mental health staff morale, but the VISN couldn't hide the results of the VA-wide All Employee Survey. A 79% increase in the depersonalization of the job and a 62% increase in intention to leave in the course of one year of Dr. Guze's leadership is mind-boggling. Dr. Peter Hauser, VISN 22 Mental Health Lead claims not to have the Survey Monkey results and has redirected inquiries to the acting Chief of Staff, who states that he does not have possession of the results. So who does? Who has been hiding the results from both employees and VA Central Office and the Secretary of VA? Undoubtedly, the Survey Monkey statistics and comments would concur that Dr. Barry Guze is leading VA WLA Mental Health into ruin, thereby depriving needy Veterans of mental health treatment. Is the VA hierarchy going to allow such a cover-up, allow the mental health access problems to continue, allow the risk of seriously bad outcomes to accumulate over time until it is too late? For what purpose? This is an outrage. Not only should Dr. Guze be sent on his way as an improper hire that fulfilled its likelihood of back-firing; but those who participated in the improper hire and those who have been covering up the improper hire and its destructive consequences also should be sent on their way as having undermined the VA mission and been derelict in their duty to serve Veterans. Secretary McDonald, where are you??	Anonymous	Anonymous	

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Program	Existing Services	1-Dec-15	Talk about a cover up: reading the report of the site visitors to VA Greater Los Angeles Mental Health conducted in July 2015, it is obvious that Chief of Staff Dean Norman and UCLA Vice-Chair/VA MIRECC Director Stephen Marder are selling the site visitors the fiction that the service's "turmoil" reflects only differences between Dr. Guze and former and current Mental Health leaders and does not include problems between Dr. Guze and the professional mental health staff. Completely untrue! The 2015 All-Employee Survey clearly contradicts those efforts to cover up the terrible morale in Mental Health. Now, let's take a look at the Survey Monkey done in August 2015 as part of the mental health retreat recommended by the site visitors in their report. Why would Dr. Norman and Dr. Marder mislead the site visitors? Dr. Marder and Dr. Norman were both integral in the hiring of Dr. Guze. The VISN was also integral, as VISN Mental Health Lead Dr. Peter Hauser was also on the search committee. The hire violated VA Directive 2011-011, as psychologists, social workers, and mental health nurses were improperly prevented from applying from the job. And Dr. Guze got the job over better qualified psychiatrists who were allowed to apply. Hiding the improper hire appears to be the motivation for VA GLA administrators and VISN 22 administrators covering up the disastrous effects of their hire of Dr. Guze.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	1-Dec-15	The Master Plan and Mental Health care go hand in hand. The media has reported huge numbers of disabled Veterans of recent conflicts that have PTSD and other mental health problems, reflecting multiple deployments and increased survival of battlefield injuries. For example, if over a million have served in combat theaters in the 21st century and 15-20% alone have PTSD, then the number of Veterans with mental health problems is even larger than that. VA has proudly reported that the Compensation and Pension claims waiting list has been trimmed from 400,000 to 80,000. The vast majority of claims are granted. Veterans with 100% service-connected disability for mental health conditions will be life-long VA mental health patients. Homelessness is a common complication of mental health disability of Veterans. The Master Plan correctly seeks to address homelessness and its causes in its effort to stabilize and rehabilitate Veterans so that they may achieve recovery. Mental Health treatment will be a key component in this effort. The existence of a Hospital Mental Health Service with excellent, seasoned, psychologists and psychiatrists with specific experience treating Veterans is therefore an integral component of any successful Master Plan. The fact that the Hospital Mental Health Service is nose-diving into dysfunction because of incompetent leadership that places the needs of UCLA ahead of those of Veterans is DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO THE SUCCESS OF THE MASTER PLAN. The very psychologists and psychiatrists who have been serving Veterans are leaving VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System because of large increases over the past year in All-Employee Survey ratings of overall job dissatisfaction, poor morale, lack of support, loss of job control, depersonalization of their job, burnout, lack of fairness, favoritism, lack of information sharing, lack of advocacy by leadership, poor relationship with leadership, lack of psychological safety, lack of organizational commitment, and disengaged senior management. Over the past year, there has been over a 60% increase in mental health professionals intending to leave VA employment at VA Greater Los Angeles. Several have already left. Several have already informed leadership that they are leaving. This is a dangerous state of affairs and it directly reflects the administrative incompetence, lack of interest in Veterans, and secretive and bullying management	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	1-Dec-15	Master Plan is D.O.A. Why? It relies upon the VA to make it happen. Everything on this website indicates that the VA can't even take care of what it already has on its plate. And the VA doesn't seem to have the capacity to reform itself. Same old story: corruption, incompetence, cover-up, etc. The VA in West Los Angeles is not functional enough to take care of Veterans with psychological problems and no one is doing anything about that. The Master Plan will just make a bigger mess out of a smaller mess. Nothing short of heroics by our new VA Secretary is going to change this and he has already been banging his head up against the ingrained VA bureaucracy for over a year with limited results. How many administrators has he fired? Case closed. Forget the Master Plan and first reform the VA.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	2-Dec-15	Too bad Dr. Guze has neither a successful academic career nor good patient care skills. UCLA got rid of him because of his weaknesses not his strengths. When you have to assign a junior faculty member with the task of responding to patient complaints against a doctor, you naturally have to get rid of that doctor. Also, the academic psychiatrists at VA cannot stand working for Dr. Guze either. So it is not just an academic vs. non-academic issue. The entire staff as a whole has become much more dissatisfied with their job since Dr. Guze's arrival a year ago. The VA All Employee Survey documents that. To be a leader you have to have the wisdom and characteristics to attract followers. Dr. Guze has neither.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	2-Dec-15	The current psychiatric staff at the GLAVAHs is significantly under staffed (for a variety of reasons) and we are expecting to lose more psychiatrists by the end of this year. These groups of veterans require considerable psychiatric evaluation and support and this should be taken into consideration.	Thomas	Garrick	
Program	Existing Services	2-Dec-15	Within a year, if left in his position, Dr. Guze will oversee the destruction of functioning mental health treatment at VA. That is the only thing that will result "over time." There are already 6 vacant psychiatry positions on usajobs.gov and there are 3 more psychiatrists that have informed Dr. Guze they are leaving, and several who are actively job interviewing with the intention of leaving in the next several months. The "abandon ship" order has been received.	Anonymous	Anonymous	

Topic	Sub-Topic	Timestamp	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Program	Existing Services	3-Dec-15	<p>It is very alarming and pathetic how desperate the VA employees at the West LA med center are to be desperately crying out for help from DC. The concerns from the commenters regarding the mental health care and psychiatry department at the VA are alarming. So alarming that people are begging for interventions on this register. What is striking is that these concerns posted are spread far and wide - from Veteran patients, from their families and clearly internal VA staff. This can not just be "one bad apple" or a "complainer who refuses to change" or a "hostile veteran" which is West LA VA's typical way of blaming and maligning anyone who brings a problem to the awareness of supervisors or leadership. The concerns posted sound rather valid and there seems to be a crying out for help instead of slamming dunking this master plan as a cure all for the years of fraud, waste and abuse and veteran and employee mistreatment at West LA.</p> <p>Would it be harm to admit there was yet another VA West LA malfeasance? At this point, it's more shocking that West LA VA or DC VACO is still retaliating against people instead of coming clean on the improprieties that happen at West LA. Just getting rid of Director Beiter and Dr Norman are not far reaching enough. I hope the new Director is paid well because he or she has a gargantuan task to clean up the TOXIC culture at West LA from the Director's office on down to the grade four and five people in the trenches trying to do the best they can in a mismanged environment. They clearly need a VA West LA only survey done once the new Director gets onboard. Survey the employees and REPORT the results back.</p> <p>VA West LA can be a jewel in the crown of the entire VA but instead it has a culture of inept leadership and horrible decisions to place unqualified people in management roles overseeing people when they have never managed people in their life. It is why the VA can not serve its veterans - it is because the VA can not even serve their front line employees in the trenches.</p> <p>IT IS TIME TO TREAT THE CANCERS OF THE MISMANAGEMENT AT THE WEST LA VA!!!!</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	3-Dec-15	<p>#4. Heroin addicts and those who are "faking PTSD." those on heroin and those who are faking need to be kept away from those that were hooked on weaker drugs. heroin addicts and posers are deadly to the rehabilitation program and affect all others with constant negativity and belligerent disrespect towards staff who can do nothing but to listen to these people ruin the rest of the patients trying to get better and stay sober. there are so many fakers on campus, those who just like to milk the system" you need better an more through background investigation. easily found by using combat veterans on staff, more peer support specialists other veterans who have been part of the recovery system.</p>	josue	guerrero	
Program	Existing Services	4-Dec-15	<p>I am pleased to see that so many are concerned about the serious problems at this VA and not just minor things. But please do not blame them all on Dr. Guze as some are doing. He was very helpful to me in my career. He also is very good with many patients though some do not like when he does not do what they want. So I want to comment in his defense. There are many VA problems that antedate his coming to the VA and he cannot fix them all right away.. Also since he is currently in an administrative role the comments from patients and their families must be from patients before he came to the VA or from patients he treats elsewhere. I hear he is trying to improve academic standards at the VA. That in time can help attract high quality staff who can only help vets. It bothers me though that this plan focuses neither on patient care improvements nor on academic endeavors.that can benefit vets and the VA. That is where I think the focus for change should be rather than on what the plan seems to be.</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Existing Services	4-Dec-15	<p>It looks like some want the VA to do everything but give care to veterans. Yet the land was given for the sole purpose of caring for veterans. And from what I hear the problem is the chair of psychiatry at UCLA. Dr. Whybrow wants to divert VA resources designed to care for VA patients to do work only to benefit UCLA and save them money. And he has people at the VA like Dr. Marder helping him do that. They need to go. In my view others are trying to do what they can but the whole system is corrupt and needs someone to clean it up. The VISN has leadership exposed by 60 minutes as not knowing about the long waits vets have for care and the person in charge of the VISN either lied about that to the media or cared so little they did not know. Instead of increasing needed resources she wants to cut them. Yet she stays in her job. The only good things I see in this plan are services to help vets get benefits and to address homelessness. Those are important. But I see nothing to address the psychiatric and other medical problems vets have. The VA should be focused on fixing that and restoring cut resources that are impacting medical services. I am all for having high standards and university connections and teaching programs. But UCLA and the VISN will rob this VA blind if there is nobody fighting to increase resources to care for patients. I see nothing in this master plan to address the need to have enough clinicians and beds to care for vets as central to any master plan. As others have commented I see only cuts in the plan. The focus in this plan must be changed and someone needs to be protecting VA resources from being taken for other purposes by UCLA. This plan does not do that.</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Health	10/23/2015	<p>We believe the cost/benefit of having separate VA hospitals and facilities unnecessary and a poor return for the country.</p> <p>Vets should have choices like Medicare to go where they want and get the care they need from existing private and public medical facilities.</p> <p>Costs will be lower and care much better!</p>	Suzanne and Ral	Anonymous	

Topic	Sub-Topic	Timestamp	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Program	Health	10/26/2015	<p>All VA clinics and hospitals should disband with veterans absorbed into ObamaCare. The West Los Angeles VA Medical Center should be demolished and the land used for building apartments for veterans, homeless/mentally ill indigents, and a free 24 hour medical/dental clinic.</p> <p>Reasons:</p> <p>1. I have been to the West LA VA Medical Center campus approximately 4-5 times.</p> <p>A. For a bronchial and lung ailment probably caused by military injuries (subcutaneous emphysema, partial pneumothorax from holes blown through my lung and bronchiols). A middle eastern doctor belittled me and only gave me Robitussin. I have been disabled by the ailment ever since without any help or benefits for over 40 years (Vietnam War).</p> <p>B. I had an infected tooth extracted and thereafter developed painful neuropathy in my feet that I suspect was from catching a disease (maybe HIV) while in the hospital. The neuropathy has caused physical disability. I then sought a diagnosis and treatment for the painful feet-neuropathy at the center's podiatry clinic. My doctor was a native Chinese that had a hard time communicating and did not have the ability to diagnose the cause of my neuropathy. The podiatry clinic director was smoking cigarettes outside when I arrived and when I left.</p> <p>C. I waited to see a doctor for the neuropathy from 8am to 5pm at the West LA VA Med. Ctr. and was told to wait in the emergency room at 5pm. I went home disgusted.</p> <p>D. I was sent to the West LA VA Med. Center to have skin cancer lesions removed and was told to return to see an anesthesiologist and then return again for surgery. I just wanted the lesions debrided and/or burned off, not to go under risky and unnecessary anesthesia by interns. I still have the lesions but signed up for ObamaCare for appointments in November.</p> <p>E. Most of the bathrooms have no floor drains for chlorox disinfecting and are very gross and sickening. The hospital breeds disease and should be demolished.</p> <p>****I was also not helped by the foreign trainee doctors at the Sepulveda VA. I gave up on the VA and was glad to sign up for ObamaCare</p>	Randy	Franciosa	
Program	Health	10/26/2015	I believe , it is much better , more sufficient , less costly for government to let veterans to use private and public facilities like other Medicare beneficiaries . It will reduce over head, will give them more choices , more convenience for transportation, ..... use that saving to provide housing for them and to develop Jobs.	Ebrahim	Swartz	Brentwood BID
Program	Health	23-Nov-15	<p>As a Brentwood resident and mental health professional, I am troubled that VA does not make mental health care a top priority. Seems VA is asleep at the wheel or worse in West L.A. based upon comments I am reading.</p> <p>The typical misunderstanding, fear, and stigma associated with mental illness and addictions should be addressed head on by the Master Planners and VA. Education about Veterans and the challenges they face is key. Also important is the reassurance that VA is going to provide the mental health and chemical dependency services needed by the Veterans housed on the West L.A. campus.</p> <p>Over the past year, the news has been filled with stories of inadequate VA mental health services, poor access for Veterans, scandals involving whistleblowers and whistleblower retaliation, official cover-ups of poor access to mental health services. There was even a story about testimony before Congress reporting to the committee that the VA West L.A. wait time for services is 4 days instead of the actual 40 days wait, a 10-fold difference, which was covered by CNN and by Jon Stewart with his usually wit (see on You Tube: VA, Skye McDougall, Aviatrix). How can Congress, ACLU, Veterans Groups, and Veterans be assured that promises of commitment to Veterans is not going to go unfulfilled at West L.A.?</p> <p>Already, in the comments posted about this Master Plan it seems that the makings of another disaster is already in the works. West L.A. mental health services supposedly are even more of a problem now then they were at the time of the CNN news story about long wait times. Also, VA has installed a highly questionable individual to oversee mental health services at West L.A. I actually went and Google'd "Barry Guze" and was shocked to see that what I saw in a posted comment is not only true, but even worse! It is hard to imagine what VA was thinking with this appointment. It is quite troubling in fact.</p> <p>I also Google'd "Skye McDougall" of CNN/Jon Stewart fame, only to find out that she is the Chief Medical Officer of VA Desert Pacific Network, which oversees West L.A., and that Senator John McCain has a letter online opposing her being appointed head of Like the Old Soldiers Home before the 1970s, this Master Plan completely neglects the Michael needs of the Healthcare System located on the campus. An entirely new hospital and clinics is required to provide modern care for the hundred thousand veterans who use it every year.</p> <p>This plan must be rejected completely.</p>	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Health	4-Dec-15			Mahler	

Topic	Sub-Topic	Timestamp	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Program	Housing	11/9/2015	<p>I am spearheading a nonprofit effort -- ThriveLA -- to develop ultra-affordable homes for Perry veterans in self-sufficient communities that are models of sustainability. The number one reason for homelessness is the lack of affordable housing. ThriveLA addresses this problem head on by designing homes that are inexpensive; no vouchers required. The number two reason for homelessness is lack of employment. ThriveLA addresses this problem head on too, providing each community member with a job within the community. The number three reason for homelessness is poverty. ThriveLA addresses this problem head on as well, by dramatically lowering the cost of living for community members, enabling them to build savings and to live on much less than is the norm in Los Angeles.</p> <p>Our target population is the subset of the homeless population that is able to work. By giving that population a job and housing that's affordable, they are given a hand up, not a handout. And the limited resources that are available for vouchers and the like can be targeted to the chronically homeless who need the help, not to the majority of the homeless who just need an opportunity to get back on their feet.</p> <p>On page G1.10 of the Draft, there is this comment: "LA Mayor Garcetti Briefing: We like the idea of creating a model of homeless Veterans housing community on the campus, not necessarily forcing to place as many people as possible on the campus." This comment is consistent with the suggestion that we at ThriveLA have been making, which is to have an experimental zone for creating innovative new models of housing communities for homeless Veterans. We need less than one acre for a pilot community that could be hosted on the VA campus. It could even be in a parking lot, though of course we would prefer a grassy area.</p> <p>We have been to many of the meetings relating to the Master Plan, and hope our ideas will be given serious consideration even though they are unconventional. To have a meaningful chance of success, any effort to help the homeless veterans is going to need to include innovative aspects, as the problem is simply too immense to be tackled entirely by conventional approaches.</p>		Schwarz	
Program	Housing	11/9/2015	You must support those who supported this country. Anything less is a GREAT SHAME	Terry	Anonymous	
Program	Housing	11/16/2015	Build as much housing as you possibly can, at least 1000 single units.	Aaron	Christians	
Program	Housing	11/16/2015	<p>Currently, I am a law student at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, and I worked this past semester with Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, providing legal assistance to veterans.</p> <p>The VA's plan to provide 700-900 housing units, emphasizing and prioritizing those that have experience prolonged periods of homelessness or disabling conditions such as PTSD, schizophrenia, or addiction is very admirable and if it can be properly implemented, it would be an amazing service for those who fought to protect our country as well as the Greater Los Angeles area. I just wonder if the VA will be able to amass the people to help provide supportive services to these veterans in need of housing. When you consider the prioritized group, along with the fact that there is no prerequisite for abstinence, psychiatric stability, or completion of treatment programs, I believe it is clear that a considerable faculty will be required for the community to run as planned. This faculty would have to include health care providers, assisted living personnel, administrative workers, maintenance for the facilities, etc. In addition to the workers the VA would employ, the master plan states that the VA will rely on collaboration with community and governmental partners to provide assistance to these veterans. From my experience volunteering at the Compton Stand Down and Patriotic Hall, it seems that these organizations are not always adequately staffed (in quantity) to provide services to all the veterans in need. This would presumably mean that the VA would have to accumulate immense funding through investors, governmental grants, etc. to pay for this faculty. In my comment on the master plan, I inquire whether the VA has amassed the needed funds to successfully run and sustain the planned West Los Angeles campus revitalization.</p>	Eric	Ferrandino	
Program	Housing	4-Dec-15	The med center campus should only be used by the VA to benefit veterans, especially our homeless veterans. The issue of homeless veterans in LA is the most serious in the country, however, the homeless veterans in surrounding counties should not be forgotten and more VASH vouchers aren't the answer. What's needed is low income permanent housing and until that is in place, there will be a continued need for transitional programs. Ventura County as something like 18 transitional beds, but over 100 homeless veterans. Vets have VASH vouchers in hand, but very few available rental units. I realize the development of housing starts with the cities willingness to build low income housing, but if we had better, streamlined access to transitional and/or permanent housing on the VA grounds in LA, that would help. The VA could also fund local developments. Another major help would be reliable transportation of our homeless veterans to the VA in LA.	Mike	McManus	

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Program	Housing	4-Dec-15	<p>I am an architect, urban designer, and neighbor of the VA property. I'm very impressed with the speed and inclusiveness of the Master plan process. As an architect and urban designer, I agree with the goals as stated in the executive summary of providing veterans housing and services. The master plan is a first step. The following comments are intended to more fully meet the goals of the VA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The WLA VA property is sufficient to house many more veterans than the current proposal provides.</li> <li>2. The executive summary discusses the creation of centers for housing and services, yet the centers do not appear dense or compact enough to serve a population with a variety of disabilities. The centers should have 4 or 5 times as many units, as should the entire property. This would more effectively provide accessibility to services and a greater sense of community.</li> <li>3. I strongly recommend housing for veterans ready to engage the broader community be provided around the edges of the property.</li> <li>4. The property should include streets for vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians to provide connectivity throughout the campus.</li> </ol>	Stephanie	Reich	
Program	Housing	4-Dec-15	<p>This master plan is a good first step. The property should be planned for 15,000 to 25,000 units to provide much needed veterans housing.</p> <p>40 years ago, the VA in West Los Angeles was a large Old Soldiers Home with an ancient hospital. This Master Plan is a giant step backwards to those days. While homelessness among veterans is an urgent problem now, there is no evidence that permanent housing in Brentwood is the solution to that problem. (1) It is very expensive The VA just spent \$20 million renovating one building to house up to 50 long term residents. In other words, homeless veterans are being housed in apartments at a cost of \$400,000 each! That \$20 million would house hundreds of veterans a year in good housing throughout Los Angeles. (2) Veterans may be homeless but they are not without communities they identify as home. For very few is Brentwood that home. (3) There are no jobs available to homeless, unemployed veterans in Brentwood or West Los Angeles.</p> <p>There already are 1000 veterans in residence on the campus. Adding several thousand more will overwhelm the infrastructure on the campus, which already has inadequate, antiquated water mains, steam conduits, and electrical supply. This number of additional residents will also overwhelm transportation and add traffic to an area where traffic is already unbearable.</p>	Michael	Mahler	
Program	Mental Health	19-Nov-15	<p>This plan must be rejected completely.</p> <p>THE MASTER PLAN REQUIRES THAT THERE BE FUNCTIONING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES. HOWEVER, THESE SERVICES HAVE BEEN DETERIORATING OVER THE PAST YEAR AND PSYCHIATRISTS ARE LEAVING FASTER THAN THEY CAN BE REPLACED. LEADERSHIP IN MENTAL HEALTH IS CLEARLY INCOMPETENT. STAFF SHORTAGES HAVE PERSISTED FOR MANY MONTHS. THE DOMICILIARY, WHICH IS A PREVIEW OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES INTEGRATED WITH VETERANS HOUSING, HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE PSYCHIATRIC CONSULTATION TO RESIDENTS IN A TIMELY FASHION. PSYCHIATRIC CONSULTATIONS HAVE GONE FOR OVER THREE MONTHS WITHOUT BEING DONE. THERE IS ONE CLERK LEFT IN THE MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC ON THE WEST LOS ANGELES CAMPUS AND HE IS BEING TREATED FOR THROAT CANCER. OLDER VETERANS CAN'T BE SEEN IN TIMELY FASHION BY THE GERIATRIC PSYCHIATRY SERVICE AND THE ASSOCIATE CHIEF OF MENTAL HEALTH HAS NOT ONLY DRIVEN OUT PSYCHIATRISTS, BUT REFUSED TO HIRE PSYCHIATRISTS THAT HAVE WANTED TO WORK AT VA WEST LOS ANGELES. NUMEROUS COMPLAINTS HAVE BEEN MADE UP THE CHAIN OF COMMAND AT THE FACILITY. A NETWORK SITE VISIT CITED INSTANCES OF SERIOUS THREATS TO THE HEALTH OF MENTALLY ILL VETERANS. SUICIDAL VETERANS HAVE BEEN TURNED AWAY FROM CLINICS BECAUSE THEY CANNOT HANDLE WALK-INS. THE NETWORK CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER AND MENTAL HEALTH LEAD ARE IN RECEIPT OF THE SITE VISIT REPORT THAT CITES TURMOIL IN THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE AND RECOMMENDS ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATIONS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN DONE. A MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDER SURVEY WAS DONE AND THE RESULTS HAVE BEEN BURIED, LIKELY BECAUSE THEY REFLECT THE LOW MORALE OF THE PROFESSIONAL STAFF, A NUMBER OF WHOM HAVE LEFT, OTHERS HAVE FILED EEO COMPLAINTS, MANY HAVE PLANS TO LEAVE IN THE COMING MONTHS. BY THE TIME THE MASTER PLAN IS EVEN IN ITS EARLY STAGES OF IMPLEMENTATION, THERE MAY NOT BE A FUNCTIONAL MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE TO SUPPORT THE MASTER PLAN'S SUCCESS. BUREAUCRATS IN THE FACILITY AND THE NETWORK WOULD PREFER TO KEEP THINGS QUIET THAN TO FIX THEM, EVEN IF IT IS AT THE EXPENSE OF THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR MENTALLY ILL VETERANS.</p>	Anonymous	Aguilar	

Topic	Sub-Topic	Timestamp	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Program	Park & Open Space	11/13/2015	<p>I am a stake holder for an initiative by the city of Torrance CA which has direct applicability for Zone 4 of your master plan. We are building three universally accessible Bocce Ball Courts for the South Bay community. I'd like to say up front that although Bocce is the 3rd most popular ball sport in the world, (trailing only Soccer and Golf); it is more, as I'll explain below.</p> <p>If you are unfamiliar with Bocce, it is played on an enclosed rectangular field nominally 90 feet long by 13 feet wide. You can gain a great understanding of bocce, by simply going to Google and searching BOCCE. One thing you will quickly notice is that there are walls which keep the balls from going off the court. These walls, however also keep folks with any walking disability from getting on the courts.</p> <p>The importance to the VA Master Plan for Los Angeles, is that the courts being built by the City of Torrance, will allow veterans with mobility issues to get on to the courts and play. An intriguing side note however is that Torrance will have a readymade blueprint for you to use in Zone 4! While Torrance is building 3 courts, there are sites all over the US with as little as 1 to as many as 10, as in Las Vegas.</p> <p>I mentioned that Bocce is more than a very popular sport. Please see the attached letter from Doctor Annette Genova M.D. Staff Physician, Torrance Memorial Medical Center, Consultant in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, touting Bocce's merits. Should you be interested in this Win-Win effort, I would be delighted to assist you in any manner.</p> <p>Bob Chiota US Army Lt Col (Ret)</p>	Robert	Guze	
Program	Park & Open Space	11/16/2015	<p>I'm not sure if someone already made this suggestion or not, and I would like to see the Julie Golf Course at West LA open to ALL VETERANS and their family members free of charge.</p> <p>I don't believe it is right for any Veteran to have to pay a fee to use this wonderful asset of the property, especially when it provides such tremendous exercise and therapy for possible stress or other related difficulties.</p>		Gruskoff	
Program	Park & Open Space	11/16/2015	<p>Thanks so much.</p> <p>Wilderness Fly Fishers of Santa Monica would like to sponsor a chapter of Project Healing Waters to be included in the new master plan programs. PHW is a national program specifically designed for disabled vets to learn how to cast and fish and then to go on outings to fish in nearby streams and lakes.</p> <p>Wilderness Fly Fishers is a 501C3 charity involved in monthly dinner meetings for flyfishermen held at the Olympic Collection at Sawtelle and Olympic Blvds., very near the VA properties. We are already in touch with the regional director of PHW.</p> <p>To execute the program effectively, it would be best to erect a simple casting platform at the small pond on the VA property.</p> <p>We would need cooperation from the staff at the VA responsible for recreation and education. Members of Wilderness Fly Fishers would require access to the facility.</p> <p>Let me know who to contact to arrange a meeting to review if this program is feasible.</p> <p>Peter V Haight, President, Wilderness Fly Fishers; 310-476-9931; phaight@aol.com; wildernessflyfishers.org.</p>	Peter	Watts	
Program	Possessory Interests	11/3/2015	UCLA has the resources and skilled personnel to create and provide services that will address the needs of our veterans by maximizing the benefits that can be derived through the use of the West LA VA campus. We should invite and welcome their input on such a program.	Henri	Weiss	
Program	Services	10/23/2015	STILL ... billions spent after 2 earthquakes, NOT 1 BED or EMERGENCY SERVICE for James VentureCo./Santa Barbara Co. or the San Fernando Valley		Juarez	Organization Name: Operation Firing For Effect ; Submitter's Representative: Gene Simes
Program	Services	10/23/2015	The W. LA campus should only be used for Vets activities and resources	James	tsilimparis	
Program	Services	10/26/2015	ALL CUMULATIVE INFORMATION HEALTHWISE SHOULD BE COLLECTED ACCURATELY AND STREAMLINED FOR EFFICIENCY FOR THE FAST AND EASY ACCESS TO ALL VETERANS IN ALL VARIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES OUT THERE PERIOD!! ENOUGH OF ALL THIS CLAPTRAP BULLSHIT AND LIES PERIOD!!	CHRISTOPHER	Anonymous	
Program	Services	10/26/2015	I believe the master plan is fine and good but it has to happen now because the city of Los Angeles has the biggest number of homeless veterans and unemployed veterans. This county has not been given help by this lousy governor of this state the help veterans need especially the low income poor veterans. There is a building here in West LA campus that the governor ordered built for veterans but it is only for veterans who have the cash to rent a beautiful room and entire space like a first class apartment outside of campus like Santa Monica, Brentwood, Beverly Hills, and all the rich areas around the VA Campus. The Governor of this State also has not enticed big and medium companies to come back to California to do business so that employment for homeless vets can increase. THERE ARE NO JOBS HERE for every one to two job openings there are 50 to 200 persons applying for it. That is why there are a lot of homeless veterans here in this state.	Jesus	Ward	
Program	Services	10/26/2015	I support supporting our Vets in every way possible.	greg	Holzman	

Topic	Sub-Topic	Timestamp	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Program	Services	10/26/2015	The West Los Angeles Medical Center should be expanded to do more for Veterans. However, I also believe the Veterans Administration needs to do more with local facilities and Doctors to provide services for Veterans. Although there is a local clinic in Oxnard, I have about a 2 hour round trip drive to either the West Los Angeles Medical Center or the Sepulveda VA Medical Center (depending on traffic) to receive care/treatment from a specialty clinic/doctor.	John	Kamansky	
Program	Services	10/26/2015	I would like to see an expansion of the use of local facilities for care and treatment without having to make this drive. There are times when you can't get all your appointments on the same day so you end up having to make this drive 2 or 3 times a week to the various clinics. West LA VA hospital is a Good hospital. I had a total left hip replacement back in 2006. The operation was Great but, the nurses where VERY BAD!!! Worst 4 days of my Life that I have spent in a hospital. The only thing I do NOT like about going to West LA VA Hospital is that it is to far. From Ventura you have to leave about 3 hours before you appointment just to make sure you get there on time. With this new program they have about your appointment being over 30 days is just as BAD. They were thinking of making something good and it has NOT turned out that way!!!		Wells	
Program	Services	10/27/2015	If the Department needs a VA Health Care facility here in Thousand Oaks , Ventura County, or surrounds, my Office has two properties where the Landlord would welcome a longterm Lease commitment from the V.A.  Both are Medical centers now, one is a new wing being added on , and the other is a total Medical build to suit . Sizes vary from 4,000-16,500 square feet .  Please contact me if you would like to see the brochure on either site . Thank you .	Elliot	Stocker	
Program	Services	11/3/2015	Anything that can be done to help the Veteran's should be seriously considered, and I believe this is a good project worthy of executing. The Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that California has the highest number of unemployed veterans in the country with approximately 64,000 unemployed veterans ( <a href="http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/vet.pdf">http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/vet.pdf</a> ). Our veterans that defend our country need a better place to live, and it would be much better that the taxpayers dollars goes towards supporting those that help keep our country free.	Alexander	Chung	
Program	Services	11/3/2015	I like all the proposed recreation activities, especially since it states on page 438 that the basketball court will be separated from the main recreational area and closer to the housing. This allows the veterans the freedom to venture away from the norms of the recreational center. It is obvious that a lot of thinking went into the 800+ pages, and I believe this should be completed as the Final Master Plan states.  Second, will you have some intake centers for the homeless that are sure to be sent your way? I can imagine one-way bus tickets from all over L.A. and the Valleys being given to all sorts of homeless people, in the hopes that the VA will figure out whether they are veterans and not turn them away even if they aren't. It seems that you will need several intake centers at several entry points so you can direct the homeless as to where they should go on the campus, and if they are not actual veterans, have a plan to send them to other homeless agencies.  I love the idea of neighborhoods of veterans suffering the same issues living in proximity so they can support each other.	Lynn	Burkett	
Program	Services	11/3/2015	The Master Plan is fantastic and I wish you the best of luck in implementing it. It will be a model for the WORLD of how to honor and serve those people who have honored and served us with their lives. Thank You and don't get discouraged when you encounter a nay-sayer! Anything that can be done to help the Veteran's should be seriously considered, and I believe this is a good project worthy of executing. The Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that California has the highest number of unemployed veterans in the country with approximately 64,000 unemployed veterans ( <a href="http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/vet.pdf">http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/vet.pdf</a> ). Our veterans that defend our country need a better place to live, and it would be much better that the taxpayers dollars goes towards supporting those that help keep our country free.	Alexander	Strate	
Program	Services	11/4/2015	I like all the proposed recreation activities, especially since it states on page 438 that the basketball court will be separated from the main recreational area and closer to the housing. This allows the veterans the freedom to venture away from the norms of the recreational center. It is obvious that a lot of thinking went into the 800+ pages, and I believe this should be completed as the Final Master Plan states.			
Program	Services	11/4/2015	A shopping center with businesses that support veteran owned products to be placed on their shelves. For a business after you create a product is only half the battle, the next phase is to be able to get it on the shelves of other businesses such as CVS and Wal-Mart. I am not suggesting bringing the entire major facilities to our campus but maybe allow them to have a shoppette so veteran owned businesses can access the board members to these major companies easier.	Heraclio	Pilcher	
Program	Services	11/4/2015	An outdoor space for multipurpose events. Theses events can range from job fair to a concert to support veteran causes. That is all.	Heraclio	Jetton	

Topic	Sub-Topic	Timestamp	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Program	Services	11/4/2015	Meeting rooms so organizations can bring services to the veteran. Many for profit and nonprofit organizations have programs to offer the veteran community in order to advance their careers or lifestyle and need room to conduct the course. A few meeting rooms will give organizations a place to conduct a job faire to daily exercising space. The meeting rooms can also give the veteran a space if they wish to begin their own workshop or hold interest groups (like a book club or runners group).	Heraclio	Drobman	
Program	Services	11/4/2015	More offices for mental wellness professionals or a facility where group therapy sessions can be conducted. There are a lot of options when it comes to mental care, therapist, social workers, psychologists and more. These options can get very confusing for a veteran that is looking for an outlet for their PTSD not to mention finding the right professional to handle the individual case. The VA offers all of these methods currently but they are spread out in multiple locations, at least in Los Angeles that is the case. I am proposing an office that will hose a representative from each clinic possible, they can asses the client and be able to refer them to the best professional at the VA's disposal. Also quite a few facilities conduct group sessions, I am proposing a few offices dedicated for these type of sessions.	Heraclio	PERMAUL	
Program	Services	11/4/2015	Offices for Veteran Owned Businesses and a support structure for start-up success. From The TOI Soldier Project to Green Vets LA there are quite a few veteran owned businesses in Los Angeles, giving them an office on VA campus will boost their success rate and inspire others to start their own business. I am not suggesting having a place for all the equipment needed to conduct the job but an office for HR , Operations Personnel and a few support vehicles only. Also I am proposing an office so that SBA and Score LA can come and teach our veterans how they can also create a successful business. Business support businesses such as ADP and Aflac could have access to a very limited number of offices allocated for non-veteran owned businesses. These business will have to fit into a criteria that will be designed by the veteran owned businesses that have offices on the grounds.	Heraclio	Robinson	
Program	Services	11/4/2015	Permanent offices for nonprofit companies that serve the veteran community. There are a lot of veterans organizations spread out in the Los Angeles area, most of them have their own field of expertize. Organizations from Veterans in Film and television to The TOI Soldier Project have veteran outreach programs but they are located in very different parts of Los Angeles. Giving nonprofits such as the ones mentioned earlier will bring all the services to our veterans in one convenient spot. This will provide the veteran with options to find the right organizations that could help the veteran better their situation.	Heraclio	Reiher	
Program	Services	11/10/2015	Please see comments in attached document.	Joe	Halper	
Program	Services	11/13/2015	Regarding zone 3 plan - I think you should provide more housing for veterans (especially homeless), such as 5,000-7,000 vs. 900.	Larry	Kamansky	
Program	Services	11/18/2015	Regarding zone 4 plan - are the gardens, trails, golf course, swimming pool, track, tennis courts, baseball field, and basketball courts set up as VETERANS only? Or are they open to the entire community? If open to community, do you really think veterans will get any use from them?			
Program	Services	24-Nov-15	See Attached	Curtis	Mack	
Program	Services	27-Nov-15	Addiction, trauma, and mental health treatment facilities are listed in the Master Plan. B Unlike his unfortunate shipmates, my father survived the 1944 Battle of Leyte Gulf, Philippines. He had excellent psychological therapy, which current combat Vets deserve as well. I am appalled by comments that West L.A. is not providing this. It is obvious that PTSD causes a lot of homelessness, joblessness, depression, and family grief. It is obvious that the Master Plan has to reach out to these Veterans and help them get back on track and have a productive life, as my own father was able to do. Psychological therapy for PTSD must be done by experienced qualified psychologists who are DEDICATED to the VA mission of healing the wounds of war. If those very psychologists are leaving the VA because they find it impossible to do their job, then the impediments to their doing their job must be eliminated. If there are VA "leaders" who are impeding their ability to do their job, then these so-called "leaders" must be eliminated. No "leader" is going to heal the minds of Veterans. Psychologists heal the mind of Veterans. Anyone hurting these psychologists is essentially hurting Veterans. It sounds likethe psychologists have been reporting their difficulties to a lot of people in the VA hierarchy, but the problems are ongoing. If those in the hierarchy are aware and have done nothing, then they too are hurting Veterans. In my mind, to be aware and do nothing while Veterans are being hurt is a betrayal of the VA mission and the Veterans the VA exists to serve. I applaud the Master Plan because its very essence is to heal Veterans, right their ships, and get them on a successful life course. The West L.A. campus can serve as a dry-dock for the repair of damaged Veterans to make them "sea-worthy" again. If those charged with repairing the ships in a dry-dock were unable to function because their supervisor was making it impossible, the appropriate response would not be to ignore it and let the ships remain in disrepair or be poorly repaired that they sink back out on the seas. Same here. West L.A. campus needs professional therapists who are capable and allowed to repair our Veterans. Any supervisor getting in the way should be removed. I am particularly upset reading that a bunch of the most experienced and qualified psychologists have left and that many more are going to leave because of circumstances they find intolerable. I know it takes a certain type of dedicated individual to work at the VA and that they are few and far between. The VA can't be squandering its resources like this. Already, I am concerned that it sounds like West L.A. is getting a bad reputation as a place for psychologists to work,	Anonymous	Anonymous	

Topic	Sub-Topic	Timestamp	Comments	First Name	Last Name	Notes
Program	Services	1-Dec-15	The VA should keep in mind California Veteran Rights Statutes, PC 1001.80 and 1170.9. With PC 1001.80 effective January 2015, the VA will likely be receiving an influx of Veterans from various service periods referred from the California Superior Court system who will seek service-connected treatment and disability claims from VA. The VA may also need to keep in mind transportation issues for Veterans who have to make court appearances through Veterans Court. Perhaps the VA would consider construction or reservation of a space for an on-site California Superior Court Room and chambers for a California Superior Court Judge to hold Veterans Court sessions for the future Veteran-residents of the Los Angeles Campus. This way Veterans will not have to find transportation downtown or wherever their court appearances are to be. By doing this, the West LA VA campus could be a "one-stop shop" for Veterans' legal issues, in addition to their housing and medical/psychological treatment.	Joseph	McManus	U.S. Marine
Program	Services	2-Dec-15	Metro Transportation should remove the advertising structures from the east and west bound Wilshire Blvd at Bonsall bus ramps at the VA Medical Center. The ad structures are V-shaped angled in order for drivers on Wilshire Blvd to see advertisements for movies, or other junk. From a bus rider perspective, the problem with these angled massive structures is that they impede visual line of sight from the bus benches and you can not see the buses coming down the road to the stop. This is problematic for both able bodied people and most certainly for wheelchair users who must sit closet to the edge of the ramp to see and flag down a bus. I often see Veterans with canes or walkers who can not sit on the existing bus benches because the V shaped advertising structures block the view of the road and you can not see if the bus is arriving. Often the drivers speed by the ramp and don't pick up the Veterans because in turn the Vets can not see the bus. I often get asked by Veterans who finally need to rest and sit on the bench to let them know when the bus is near. I encourage ANY Metro staff or Veterans representative to sit on these benches themselves to see how bad this is. Veterans deserve better and this ramp needs to be redesigned and the ad posters at best removed. If Metro wants a poster then they should stop making these structures tailored for drivers and instead offer some sort of Veteran or US History poster for Veterans to read while endlessly waiting for the bus to arrive.	Anonymous	Anonymous	
Program	Services	3-Dec-15	Please see attached comment from three psychiatrists who work with Veterans at high risk for homelessness at the West Los Angeles VA.	Elizabeth	Bromley	
Program	Services	4-Dec-15	See Attached	Dr. Florence	Clark, PhD	USC Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy
Program	Services	4-Dec-15	See attached file(s) FROM BRUCE RANKIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WESTSIDE FOOD BANK The attached file is a slightly revised version of a letter that I sent to the Master Planners at the beginning of the summer, early in the initial public comment process. In that letter I have outlined a vision of an on-campus wellness center, housing spaces for recreational activities, health and fitness-related classes, and food pantry featuring nutritious food. The Preliminary Master Plan document discusses creating a wide range of recreational opportunities, but it does not go nearly far enough in encompassing the multiple aspects of wellness, nor does it embrace the concept of a dedicated wellness center as described in my attached letter.	Bruce	Rankin	
Program	Monority Groups	27-Nov-15	Please place emphasis on The "Women's Veteran Healthcare Expansion". Women's Veterans Healthcare in the proposed infrastructure plan needs also should to be inclusive, preventative and comprehensive to create improved services for Women, Pregnant Women and their Children. Safety for Women Veterans and their Children. There is an urgent need for a safe space for young children and families for young veterans to attend appointments in the women's clinic. Unless child care vouchers can be provided, the veteran may not be able to afford child care options that are necessary attend their appointments. Thus, an appointment with the VA may be burdensome and at times impossible! Pregnancy and Women Vets. The Emergency Room at West LA Medical Center does not provide obstetric care for pregnant veterans. As a pregnant veteran, we are told that we must receive a per-authorized referral to be seen at another campus. However, this authorization is difficult to receive and jeopardizes the quality of care received to pregnant veterans! The OBGYN clinicians are only available for extremely limited times and days of the week. Experienced Medical Physicians and Staff. As the VA Medical Centers infrastructures are increased and improved, more qualified Medical Physicians and staff are needed. Currently, women's clinical appointments are being met by a number of new resident students from colleges and universities. It would be such a shame to have such a beautiful campus financed by tax-payer's dollars with low participation numbers due to the existing quality of care received by its patients.	Mykeshia	Robinson	



Sanford Cook, US Army

Saturday, November 7, 2015

## VETERANS UNITED FOR TRUTH, INC

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1201 North Broadway, Los Angeles, CA 90012

11/7/2015

Bill et al.

Thanks for hosting that discussion on Wednesday night. I am pleased that I got to hear what is underway in the area. Those of us up here on the Central Coast in deep boondock heaven don't get to play in the big sandbox very often.

I am sending this long missive rather than individual comments because I don't know how, in the short time that I have, to reduce it to the kind of comments that I believe you envision. You know the problem, I am sure; "If I had more time I could provide less." Maybe I ought to learn to tweet to get rid of adjectives, adverbs, and probably the English language altogether.

My comments are based on a single pass through the Draft Master Plan, on what I heard the other night about the Veterans Draft Plan, and on very little current outside research. I do have the advantage of having spent six and a half years suing the VA with the GLA Center at the heart of the suit (*Veterans for Common Sense and Veterans United For Truth, Inc. v. Nicholson/Shinseki et al.*).

All are struggling with this tight schedule, but you have had about 40 more days than I have so I'll ask you to be patient, and to try to find the time in the few moments that you have left, to hear another voice in the m  lée.

With that I forward the attached 14 observations which I hope are not too redundant, and not too disconnected from what you are doing. They are far from complete, and with more time I could probably be more thorough (in addition to being less windy).

Use them or pitch them, as you will.

Regards,

Sanford Cook, LTC USA (Ret)

Vice Chair, Veterans United For Truth, Inc.

Saturday, November 7, 2015

1488 Smith St.  
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## 1, Planning Scope

Everything that I have read about Secretary McDonald's view of the situation at the GLA campus convinces me that when he means to fix things, he means to fix everything necessary to meet his and the President's stated commitment that "no veteran should live on the streets, or forego necessary medical and psychological services" (VA press release 1/28/15).

Obviously the condition of the current plant and the need for new construction are a big part of what needs to be fixed, but it is hardly the most important part to the individual veteran. It's that business of not living on the streets, and getting "necessary medical and psychological services." The VA press release immediately focuses on the let's-build-something aspect of any new planning.

The Executive Summary uses the word "service" profusely, but shortly after that the only consideration seems to be new buildings, virtually making the improvement of services dependent on the provision of new facilities. Isn't that backwards?

As we all know, "perfection is the enemy of the good". Putting that in bureaucratic terms it would translate to, "Hinge the performance of something we don't want to do on the hardest, longest, and most expensive aspect, and exclude anything we don't want to talk about—eventually the whole thing will go away and we can get back to our comfortable life."

Thus we find ourselves responding to a VA Plan, of the scope and on the terms that the VA has dictated to their planner. If, as was repeatedly stated Wednesday night, we want to drive this coach, then we better get our hands on at least one of the reins, Right now, we are little more than tolerated backseat passengers.

I believe that any Veterans Alternate Plan should force the focus back onto the entire program, with the facility planning taking its rightful important place in the plan, but not to the exclusion of the "necessary medical and psychological services" to include the homelessness problem.

If we truly want to tell the world what is important to veterans, then it should be services-first, and all else after. The physical plant and construction requirements should derive from the service needs. The current planning seems to start with the physical plant and plug the services in to whatever plant we can come up with. The plant, particularly new construction, loses its grounding in recognizable need, and supportable requirements.

I do not mean to imply that this facility planning is unimportant. Although I do not agree with a great deal of what was briefed the other night as part of the new Veteran Draft Plan for the facility, I just think that if we miss this opportunity to get the focus right, we will be talking about this wonderful plan ten years from now, with little to show for it. Whatever it becomes in the impossible time frame of the next two months, it will lend itself to more long-duration conversation and confabulation, and we'll look back and nothing much will have changed.

## 2. Access

Throughout this fight the problem has not just been the deteriorated state of the buildings at the center, but the deteriorated state of access to the programs at the center. The final plan must consider access across the region as a key goal.

Both the Draft Master Plan and the Veterans Draft Plan fail to consider the broad area of the GLA Region. They are presented as a largely parochial LA/LA County problem with passing mention of the Greater Area, and the unique problems of those veterans served by this center but far from it in the region. Where are the considerations of the needs, both medical and domiciliary for those living in Kern, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties?

Giving ready access to the homeless veteran with PTSD asleep on the sidewalk in front of the center is relatively easy, but to the homeless veteran living in a culvert out near Shandon in San Luis Obispo County it is another, more difficult matter. Yet, this center is supposed to serve both.

Where is the consideration for those who must travel many miles—perhaps several hundred—to avail themselves of the services. What service gets them there, how are they accommodated while they are there, what service gets them home? It seems as if planning for shuttle service and simple motel-like accommodations ought to be part of any plan.

This LA focus, unfortunately, manifested itself in the “Stakeholder Engagement” phase. Many of us in the hinterlands who are actively involved in veterans issues on a daily basis, and who reside in the GLA area, never heard about the meetings and stakeholders sessions. The development of the Veterans’ Draft Plan seems to have the same shortcoming. Not saying that our involvement would have made anything better, but at least we would have been involved earlier than 6 days before the deadline.

### 3. The Draft Plan

The VA’s “Draft Final Master Plan” reads just as would be expected if the VA were forced to “write something”—Oh wait! They were forced to do it weren’t they?

It fails as a Master Plan when it comes to remedying the many ills at the GLA campus. On page four it compresses the goal into **“the goal includes making permanent supportive housing and other services available on campus”**. The key word is **“includes”** with a second key in **“other services”**. This apparently is some subordinate goal of a larger goal set that is not articulated in the plan. Every good and complete plan needs a good and complete goal. This one doesn’t have it.

### 4. Reintegration

The overall goal of the VA, beyond healing physically and mentally wounded veterans, must be to re-integrate isolated veterans into society. These are our sons and daughters—our brothers and sisters—our neighbors. We sent them, and now we must bring them all the way home.

This goal should be reflected in any plan for improving the center. Re-integration is not just getting them off the streets and into the center. It is helping them—travelling with them on the long path from the streets or other isolation, through the center and its many programs, and back into the community.

The goal cannot just be to provide them housing in isolation from the world, but to bring them, at their pace, as far as we can back into the family of the broader community.

### 5. Veterans’ Draft Plan

The Veterans Draft Plan as presented on Wednesday evening, like the VA’s Draft Master Plan, likewise fails as a master plan since it too concentrates on the physical—the campus and a bunch of new construction for entertainment and for income production, with the added fault of an apparent underlying assumption that we must build a “Veterans Village”. The goal of this plan seems to establish this Veterans Village as a new community in LA, much like “Little Bangladesh” or

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Koreatown” where veterans can live in glorious isolation, feeding off each other’s memories and uniqueness.

We must not pursue a goal of isolating veterans further from the community. The proposal that we include permanent below-market cost housing for veterans’ families presumes that we wish to raise the children of veterans in a world surrounded by the sick and maimed, apart from other families and children of different backgrounds and interests.

Veterans are isolated enough in today’s community. We should not be proposing to isolate them even further, and their children further beyond that.

With a solely veterans community, the moment the budget falters or interest wanes we will be in grave danger of ending up with a Veterans’ Ghetto, which isn’t too far from what is there today; it would just be more fully populated.

Further, the Veterans Plan seems to be the place where we can make some key points. I would propose that we take a lean-and-mean approach. Despite the desires of those who love the historical preservation idea, the cost of one sandstone corbel could build another studio apartment. The reproduction of an 1890s window frame could provide at least part of the cost of a new service facility.

We should at least consider that while we desire to have a pleasant park-like campus, beyond preservation of a key building or two from the old era, modern construction would be the most efficient. A good architect can make it fit in without burning millions on unnecessary preservation and certainly not on replication in new construction.

Further we should take a fairly hard line on the current leases. It seems to me that the occasional use of the Brentwood school facilities—allowing veterans to use them when teenagers don’t want to—is not a good arrangement, financially or psychologically. The campus is already impacted by that school’s facilities; it would not be further impacted by offering to sell it to the school which could garner funds to kick-start the new campus. Lacking that, then we should probably propose that the VA buy the improvements on the land and turn them over for full-time veteran use.

The UCLA arrangement could be different (discussed elsewhere). There’s hardly any other major consideration in that arena, but we ought to take the stand that we need to move out smartly, and we don’t agree to forego money or facilities that should be useful to the veterans’ cause, nor do we want to waste money that can go to services and housing on nice but unnecessary preservation.

The “Draft Goals” contain elements that are essential to everyone’s broader goal for the facility, but also include items that are beyond scope. For example, the governance question cannot be solved in this arena, but must be taken separately to the federal level to resolve, legislatively and administratively.

## **6. What is a Master Plan?**

There are warehouses full of Grand Master Plans that are never implemented because the key triggering elements are not there (I have written a few of those myself). Any good master plan, whether it is for a new effort or for remediation must have certain key elements or it is no plan. Those elements are at least:

1. A broad statement of goals for the parent organization with a clear and distinct statement of which portion of those goals this plan addresses. Define in this statement what success will be! In this case, because this is truly a Corrective Plan for a failed system, what are the complete systemic goals—policies, procedures, new programs, new construction, etc. State these in broad

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terms here and with the detail to be provided in those sub-plans necessary to achieve the overall goal.

2. A general timeline for implementation, and, if it is a complex plan, as this one is, intermediate timeline-based goals to aid in measurement of success. In this case the timeline should start now since the problems exist, full-blown, and cannot wait for the perfect solution to get started.
3. A definition of the strategy for implementation that is inherent in the plan and its goals.
4. A top-level estimate of resources required—budget, organization, approach—government, private sector, both?
5. A responsibility statement. Who is responsible for what as the plan progresses along its timeline?
6. Neither the VA, under current authorizations, nor the NGOs participating, control or can provide the new budget and organization to implement the plan. What is the communication plan to get to those who can make this happen? Are legislative or regulatory changes required for this plan to work? How will the plan be sold to the authorizing entities, the Administration/VA and the US Congress? (Without this element, the plan is headed for the warehouse to reside with the others).
7. Articulate, to the first level, the list of sub plans necessary to the overall goal stated in item 1 above.

## 7. Housing First.

Throughout the Draft Plan the “Housing First” approach is touted. There doesn’t seem to be much of an understanding on the part of the VA as to what that means.

“Housing First” is not an instruction to facility planners, a work item for contractors, or a prohibition in planning to consider the broader need only after housing is provided.

It doesn’t mean **BUILD** housing first. It means **PROVIDE** housing now in any way that you can.

Housing First is a proven approach that calls for immediate action. It should be part of a Grand Master Plan. The National Alliance to End Homelessness ([www.endhomelessness.org](http://www.endhomelessness.org)) describes Housing First as, “... an approach that centers on providing homeless people with housing quickly and then providing services as needed.” (There is quite a good article in Wikipedia, including objections, that anyone unfamiliar with the program should read. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Housing\\_First](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Housing_First))

Any plan should force the VA operation to work ardently to use what we have right now, including neglected but hardly derelict facilities, to immediately get people off the street. The VA should be encouraged to get experts in this procedure from the programs that are working well right now to assist very early on,

The results of a vigorous “Housing First” plan centered on the West LA Facility would further the development of the longer range requirements for building rehabilitation and construction. If this program is to have legs with the people who provide the authorizations, the money, and the impetus to get things done, then it must be requirements based. WE don’t want to later accommodate the needs that the facility we build can hold, rather we want to build the facility that meets the defined needs, don’t we?

## 8. Demographics

In defining needs, the Master Plan seems to assume no more wars. While I would welcome such a future, who really believes that the demographic forecast in this plan is in any way real.

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Beyond that, after years of denying service the plan states as a conclusion under “D1. Veteran Housing”, “The transitional housing programs are not currently at capacity, which may indicate that there are already sufficient facilities to serve the current need of most at risk veterans”

That is a self-licking ice cream cone. I invite the authors of that particularly outrageous and self-serving gem to come out into the real world where the most at risk veteran reside.

When you are failing you are not allowed to use your results as a forecast for the future.

My rather rude uncle used to say, “You can’t smell your own (flatulence) and call them perfume.”

## **9. The Danger of Inappropriate Comparisons**

Section D2 of the Master Plan makes some broad predictions for the future (see the Demographics comments elsewhere) and proposes to model future “Excellent Healthcare” on current civilian models, citing “industry-wide shifts from inpatient to outpatient care”, and calling this a “transformative trend in the healthcare industry.”

Not only as a veteran but as a citizen, I do not have great trust in the profit-driven healthcare industry, precisely because it is an industry. I find little confidence among my fellow citizens, and particularly among veterans, that the health care industry makes its decisions on what is best for its patients, rather it seems to make its decisions based on what is best for its investors and its highly-paid executives.

In any event, veterans health care has a far different basis than the medical requirements of the general public. While specific treatments and modalities of care are certainly transferable, one to the other, the veterans’ healthcare service and the “healthcare industry” are not one and the same.

Here again, we veterans have an opportunity to change the tenor of this effort. The VA itself proposes to modify services we are disappointed with into a model that the whole nation is disappointed with. How is that progress, and how does it get into this plan? It smacks of a bureaucratic editorial insertion to limit future services and budget demands.

No one is against efficiency, nor is anyone against cost savings where possible. These cannot, however, be a part of the Master Plan. The Plan should propose the best possible services, and then the implementation of those services at an administrative level should be charged with seeking cost-efficiencies in their everyday work. Shouldn’t they be doing this anyway? The important point is what is to be the primary object of the activities—efficiency or service?

## **10. Coordinated Care**

Further evidence of the misdirected focus in the Draft Master Plan is the hundreds of pages given over to buildings and the two half-pages in D3 on “Coordinated Acre Programs and Services”. What wording is provided there could, with minor change, be supportive for almost anything as the specifics are totally lacking other than such obviously ‘important’ care items as gender-specific sports venues. Really?

## **11. Building the Veteran Community**

“Pertinent stakeholders” in determining the nature of the veteran community are listed as almost anyone but veterans. Considering the difficulties with the surrounding community in the past, this seems like inviting the lion to the goat’s party.

Those listed have been, in the past, lukewarm supporters of the campus. The individual veterans who are included seem limited to the plaintiffs in the Valentini v. McDonald litigation.

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Since most newer veterans do not belong to the traditional VSOs (check with them if you wish), are not known by their legislators, are considered a nuisance by the West Side communities, and are often bussed by the surrounding counties to Los Angeles county, where and when do they get their oar in the water?

## **12. Master Plan Framework**

The Master Plan “Framework” asserts, without reservation, that this is a plan for buildings, parks and clever signs—period.

Once again, where is the framework of needs that the plan fulfills?

This section sounds like an ad for one of those TV shows about the perfect utopian community that will cure all ills just because it is do darn nice.

A planning framework is supposed to state in simple terms (but more specific, perhaps than an executive summary):

Where are we?

What is good about what we have and what we do?

What in what we do needs fixing?

What in what we have needs improvement?

How, in broad terms, are we going to go about it?

A framework should precede a plan, not summarize it, and certainly not in the promotional pap that is included in the D.5 “Framework Summary”.

The executive Summary should first present the Framework and then show how the plan addresses each point. The Framework is the Back –of-the-Envelope approach that precedes the Grand Plan.

## **13. Phasing**

Back to the timeline problem.

We are missing first of all a Planning Timeline. We know when the comments have to be in to this Draft, and when the Draft is supposed to become final –both pretty much ridiculously impossible dates for good work to happen.

But this is a “Master” Plan that, once again, is the capstone for the implementation plans. When is that list of real plans going to be developed—e.g. Final Master Plan, Full needs Assessment, Legislative Plan, Fiscal/Budget Plan, Facility Rehabilitation Plan, New Construction Plan, etc. Who is responsible and when will they be delivered and in what form? What will the review process be for those subordinate plans and their timelines? The “Master” should at least include these goals.

Will there be an Immediate Action Plan that deals with those improvements that can be made in services, and interim improvements in facilities to get this entire action going as soon as possible (hopefully with emphasis on Housing First and improved area-wide access)?

Then, when will the Final Development Plan be addressed, the one that reconciles all of the disconnects and differences among the subordinate plans? Who will write this and how and when will it be reviewed?

What is the “Framework” for the total effort? Where is the proposed timeline for all of the phases?

Is there a big time target in the sky somewhere, i.e. a goal for when the parts and then everything should be done?

**14. Pending Legislation**

S. 1203 and H.R. 3484 do not seem to be specific enough to clarify the current lease nonsense, nor to fully protect this property for veterans in the future. Much of what is currently in place is because it provides “ancillary benefit to the general public”, although the stated purpose of these leases includes much “value for veterans” language. Considering the present Congress, these bills will undoubtedly die in committee anyway.

### **Vision for Veterans Village on West VA Campus**

- The development and management of the VA Campus should be viewed as an integral part of the City of LA not an isolated Federal island. The needs of and opportunities for veterans do not cease at the property line of the Campus. Cultural and recreational amenities such as the City library and Barrington Park in the community contiguous to the Campus should be considered a resource for the VA Campus community and employed as such as well as its rich cultural and entertainment environment of the City at large.
- The transitional residential facilities designed to serve veterans requiring ongoing medical support should be located in close proximity to the VA Hospital Building 500 to allow for ambulatory veterans to walk to the facility. Therapeutic facilities such as a heated pool and rehab facility should be located adjacent to the Hospital to accommodate the needs of those veterans requiring these services.
- The residential community should be served on Campus with the same recreational amenities available to communities at the neighborhood and community level. This would include a Community Center, with the traditional amenities such as a pool. Their proximity to the residential development should meet the NRPA standards for recreation facilities for these classifications and should be modified as necessary to reflect physical abilities and interests of the residence.
- Residential facilities designated for permanent supportive housing for family occupancy should be designed to be child friendly. It should be provided with traditional playground apparatus areas appropriate for the ages and community nursery childcare facilities in proximity to the development to accommodate working mothers.
- A club facility comparable to military Officer or NCO Club should be open to resident veterans as well as veterans in the community and their families as a social center. Facility should also be open for community use for special occasions, when not in conflict with its primary purpose, to offset its operating costs as necessary.
- The Campus should provide opportunities for service businesses such as barber & beauty shops, dry cleaning and laundry services, convenience store on Campus as opportunities for veteran small businesses to support the needs of the Campus resident population.
- The Campus residential programs such as New Directions, Salvation Army and West LA CA State Veterans Home should be managed along with the VA facilities as an integrated Village sharing recreational and civic services on Campus to avoid duplication and expense. Circulation system and internal transportation should be considered. The policy should be implemented by assigning a qualified professional to act as a coordinator and monitor of the operations on Campus, much like a City Manager, with appropriate training and experience. This assignment should be outside of the management of the VA Health and Hospital System responsibilities.
- The permanent housing for the aging and disabled veterans requiring supportive living assistance, skilled nursing or lock down for dementia is currently provided by the State Home on Campus. Projections should be made as to the future requirements and planned for accordingly.
- I am assuming the current Master Plan effort will designate the projected land uses on the VA Campus, and a proposed schedule or priority for its implementation. I propose that the activities that had their ESL agreements voided that have potential to provide valuable services to the veterans on Campus be permitted to remain on Campus under appropriate lease agreements

providing they do not conflict with the proposed development of the Transitional or Permanent housing or any of its ancillary facilities to be constructed at this time. The leases should provide for immediate termination at the sole discretion of the VA in the event the leased area is required for a VA development or the lease holder does not comply with the requirements that has been agreed on that deem the activity veteran's centric.

- The Brentwood School and the Jackie Robinson Stadium as well as other facilities located on Campus are potentially veteran's centric assets and should be retained on campus. The Brentwood School asides from its sports facilities that could be maintained and shared by policy arrangements, the presence of the student body and faculty could become a rich source for the entertainment and support of the veterans on campus. The student body has an active musical and dramatic performance schedule of a high quality as well as a multi faceted sports program that the veterans on campus could be invited to attend as special honored guests. Special performances could be staged at the hospital for non-ambulatory patients.
- Jackie Robinson Stadium operated by UCLA provides high-level spectator opportunities for their varsity Baseball Games. American Legion Baseball, a VSO Program utilizes this facility for their tournament play. Policy arrangement can be made to allow for resident veterans uses on schedule, if desired.
- The Veterans Memorial Park is purposed for, and provides an opportunity for veterans to engage in a creative art experiences under the guidance of local artists. There is evidence that the facility has been mischaracterized as a give away for non-veterans purposes as a community park.
- Mac Arthur Field us by soccer league play provides an opportunity for spectators as well as active involvement for those veterans able and interested.
- The theatres should be offered for rental income from this source as well as other leases should be placed in an account to support the recreational and social activities of the veterans residing on Campus.

American Arts Trust  
Art is the Answer

White Paper:  
The need for incorporating art into the VA Master Plan at every level  
October 14 2015  
David W. Hahn  
President, American Arts Trust

There is a common, but understandable, misconception that art is a reflection of vanity of wealth. Even going back to the ancient civilizations of Egypt and Greece or Rome the art left to us would seem to be that of golden trinkets or stories, poems or plays about gods and royalty. But one must go back in time much further to find the importance of art to humanity and the importance of art the Los Angeles VA.

What are the essentials that made man...man? That set him apart for all other life on earth. Some say it was the opposable thumb, or the use and making of tools, or emotions, but these can be found in other species. So can complex languages, rituals around birth marriage and death, even war.

The one unchallenged thing that first distinguished the separation of man from ape was the making of fire. Fire as a source of light and warmth were not nearly as important as what would become an art form -- he cooked food. Which gave the brain more sugar which allowed it to grow three times its original size in a very short time. And this bigger brain thought. And the body changed to better bring those thoughts to life it is here where man became man. Along with more efficient hunting and the ability to sweat, the brain developed art. Different then bird song or sea horse dances this "human" art was as that Latin scholar Louie B Mayer quoted "Ars Gratia Artis." To be clear: before spoken language, shelters, tribes, agriculture and contemplating a god -- man sang and dance and drew.

The oldest indisputable evidence of art was 30,000 years ago. The oldest indisputable form of agriculture was 10,000 years ago. Art was more important to the essence of man then finding a way to have a sustainable source of food ... for 20,000 years. Other animal make and use tools but only man decorates them.

The greatest thing man has ascribed to any god and has ascribed to all, is the ability to create. To create is to say I AM. Art is pure ego. And because it is about the ego we came to misunderstand art as something for the rich. This could not be more wrong. It has been shown as a direct route to the ego in the treatment of mental disorders. And it is essential for a healthy mind. It should not be an after thought or something that can be added to a recreation area or perhaps be housed in an empty room -- if there is one. All of the great founding psychiatrist's theories were derived from explorations into art.

At every level of this master plan art needs to be integrated into the plans in terms of:

Art as therapy.

Art as a form of expression.

Art as a hobby.

Art as an occupation.

Art as a way of sharing.

Art as meditation.

Art as joy.

And that means Art created and Art experienced. To say there is space in a rec area or that none of the theaters will be torn down, not only does not address the need for art, but it does not admit or understand its power as an essential element to being human. And Humanity more than any other word is what this VA facility should be all about.

Throughout the military health system there are art therapy programs that have been shown as successful. As an example: the National Intrepid Center for Excellence at Walter Reed U.S. Veteran's Hospital. Where veterans are give blank masks and asked to paint them resulting in major breakthroughs that traditional therapy and drugs were unable to make. But few if any, programs like this are replicated in other facilities. Dispensing pill is national but healthier programs proven to work are not. This makes no sense.

So do the research. Find the best of the best of theses programs and integrate them into this medical center. Not the cheapest, the best of the best in terms of results and build into the master plan in term of what they need and what will make them better then they are now. From special rooms, to supplies, to showcase venues to a trained staff that can then train new staff. This may be art it may be music poetry or drama but the best of the best all need to be used here. And don't just give it lip service, once you have refined the programs and taught them they can be leased to other VA facilities across the country.

At the permanent and transition residential level of the master plan, there needs to be either one central or several art centers, which include but not limited to:

Music practice rooms with the availability of instruments a sheet music library and access to instruction.

A facility with kilns/ furnaces for pottery, glass blowing jewelry making.

Computer Labs for design, photo work, video editing, music editing, and publishing.

Painting and drawing, sculpting rooms.

Shops for metal and woodwork.

A loom sewing machines and room for fabric arts including fashion, all with accessible supplies and teachers

There need to be performance spaces and rehearsal rooms for all forms of performance. The specific needs of each art must be addressed such as the correct floors for dance.

Studio and machines to teach the art of Tatoo.

Part of the central kitchen needs to be set up for cooking classes where graduates can eventually work in the kitchens at their degree of merit.

This facility or facilities would be the same as a college sports complex that could accommodate basketball, volleyball, swimming, football, softball, diving and hockey where several sports can share the same areas.

There then needs to be gallery spaces and appropriate spaces to showcase all forms of the work created.

There needs to be shops to sell what is created to those on the base and to the public.

There needs to be a festival structure in place to create excitement around these arts in the same way there is a baseball season.

Professional Art from veteran artists needs to be incorporated into the buildings into public spaces. Sculpture, Murals, Band shells, intimate spaces for music and poetry. There was mention of many different gardens (an art which to have a space) but there was no sculpture garden. Tap into the richness of veteran artists to perform or donate work.

Art can heal, art can give an empty life purpose, art can be a career or a life long passion, art brings people together, and art makes money. Much of what I have listed above can be gained through donations, from individuals and from art corporations and from corporation who are more eager to have their name on a performance facility then a rec center. How can something that can do all of that not be essential to your master plan? Adding any of this after the fact will cost at least one third more then if it is planned for.

It seems since this firm has yet to see the value of art even though as architects they are artists, and so the first step would be to hire an arts coordinator who will have knowledge of the arts and those who to wrangle in terms of all six areas. Art Therapy, Art Facilities, Art Careers, Art Showcasing, Professional veteran arts whose work can be integrated, and Art funding.

Building all of this into the master plan is cheaper, more efficient and more natural then trying to add a bit here after and a bit there after. The question is not how can you ---but how can you not.

David W. Hahn

American Arts Trust a 501(c) 3 not for profit foundation  
Proud home of  
The American Veterans Art Wall  
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Curtis Mack  
*Colonel, US Air Force (Ret.)*

November 17, 2015

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20420

RE: Veterans Park Conservancy Comments on VA West LA Campus Draft Final Master Plan

I am writing on behalf of the Veterans Park Conservancy (VPC) to provide our organization's comments on the Draft Final Master for the West Los Angeles Campus which was released on October 15. Overall, based on the draft, we are encouraged to see a strong focus in the plan on community-building, in addition to much-needed veterans' housing. Furthermore, we believe that the direction of the plan is consistent with our organization's priorities in our decades-long service to veterans on the West LA property.

Throughout the master planning process, VPC has stressed the critical need for the final plan to include elements that make the difference between a mere cluster of housing units, and a vibrant community in which all veterans can participate. We suggest the creation of a "city center" to be included as part of the final master plan. This communal hub would serve as the campus' central location for social engagement, recreation, and as the epicenter for therapeutic activities and entertainment.

Social interaction and group activity have proven to be beneficial in promoting both mental and physical healing for veterans. For that reason, we recommend completion of our Hollywood Canteen Healing Center, and its inclusion in the master plan, either on the current site or at the proposed city center. Our organization has undertaken to construct the Healing Center precisely because it will enable veterans to participate collectively in meditation, poetry readings, lectures and discussions reflecting on issues of a dedicated life in service, and other types of social gatherings.

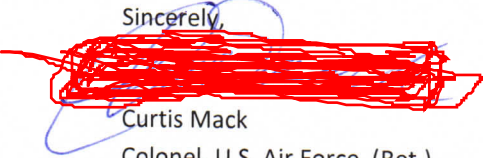
VPC is a non-profit organization that has been solely committed to serving local veterans for nearly 30 years. Supported exclusively by private funding, VPC has worked in partnership with the VA to protect, preserve and enhance more than 400 acres of the West LA VA Campus and adjoining cemetery with more than \$8 million in total contributions. Additionally, VPC funds projects that support the VA's holistic healing efforts by enhancing the campus and giving veterans a calming and therapeutic environment. Specifically, our projects have included the 1947 Women Veterans Rose Garden, the Gateway Landmark Plaza, the restoration of the Spanish-American War Memorial and the aforementioned Hollywood Canteen Healing Center, which is still under construction but nearly

90 percent complete. Our role as a caring, non-profit partner was recognized in an Enhanced Sharing Agreement in 2007 and affirmed by the CARES master plan in 2011.

We are very encouraged to see that the final master plan emphasizes the importance of community at the campus, and includes the kinds of interactive elements we've contributed in the past. We remain committed to providing these facilities, including a central social gathering place that incorporates the Hollywood Canteen Healing Center. In addition, we applaud the inclusion of reference to the special significance of the West Los Angeles VA Historic District, including 66 contributing buildings and two which are separately listed on the National Register of Historic Places. VPC anticipates the continued development of a program, first endorsed by the VA and the National Park Service in 2010, to protect and interpret these nationally-significant cultural resources.

For three decades, VPC's only priority has been service to veterans who seek peace and tranquility as they come home from serving our country. Because the Draft Final Master Plan would appear to endorse this priority, we look forward with enthusiasm to continued participation in the development of facilities and programs which serve these needs of deserving veterans.

Sincerely,



Curtis Mack  
Colonel, U.S. Air Force, (Ret.)  
Executive Director

### **Suggestion for VA GLA Master Plan**

Zone 4 is presented as a place for sports and physical fitness, which is great.

Missing, however, is creativity.

A place to create visual art, music and writing is extremely important  
for the healing and growth of mind, body and spirit.

My Psychiatric Occupational Therapy clinic in Building 208 is a large  
arts & crafts studio. It is extremely beneficial for Veterans' mental  
health, self-confidence and initiative in tackling the challenges in their lives.

I receive many inquiries from Veterans looking for a place where they can  
learn practice and/or record music. They range from beginners to skilled  
musicians. But there isn't any such facility here at this time. I also know  
there are writers looking for guidance and inspiration from instructors  
and/or other writers.

To create a place where Veterans can express their creative powers would  
be fitting for this stunning and unique campus that would be an inspiration  
for the many people to whom we have pledged our care.

Sincerely,  
Merle Fishman, MA, OTR/L

**UCLA** Luskin School of Public Affairs

## Department of Public Policy

*Advancing Knowledge in the Public Interest*

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November 13, 2015

Director, Regulations Manager (02REG)  
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Washington, D.C. 20420

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this comment letter regarding the proposed Master Plan for the West Los Angeles Veterans Administration campus in Los Angeles, California. I am the immediate past member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors representing the area which includes the West Los Angeles VA campus. I represented this area for 20 years as a county elected official and 19 ½ years previously as a member of the Los Angeles City Council.

The purpose of this letter is to comment on one specific issue relating to the Master Plan: The location of a subway stop on the V.A. property. For many years, I and Los Angeles Metro engaged in extensive and detailed discussions with the VA on the location of the final stop of the Purple Line subway extension. In this regard Metro accommodated virtually all of the requests of V.A. officials. In addition, Metro committed to building, at its own expense, a parking garage to replace whatever parking would be lost as a result of construction of the subway portal as well as those permanently lost as a result of the station. As a result of these negotiations, while the V.A. continued to express some concerns, it did not oppose the location of a subway stop on its property as evidenced by its comment letter on the EIS/EIR for this project. Metro would not have proceeded with this specific plan for a subway stop but for the understandings it had with the VA.

Thus, it was with great surprise that approximately two months ago, Metro received a letter from a representative of the VA objecting to the location of a subway stop at the WLA campus. Moreover, as I read the current proposed Master Plan, no provision has been made for the placement of a subway stop on the VA property. A number of elected representatives of this area have expressed great concern over this surprising development as have many community leaders, businesses, and residents. It appears that the lack of inclusion of this stop in the Master Plan would be used by the VA as a rationale not to Metro to build it.

I am writing to request in the strongest possible terms that provisions be made in the Master Plan for a Purple Line subway stop. Access to the West Los Angeles VA campus is critical to its operation. Thousands of employees and clients frequent the campus each and every work day. A subway stop on the southern half of the property in close proximity to the VA hospital would only be an asset to the VA, its employees and clients. It would connect them via the expanding regional public transit system to the

-2-

entire Los Angeles area, including the central part of the city, the San Gabriel Valley, the San Fernando Valley and the southeast part of metropolitan Los Angeles.

As of 2010, there were 530,000 veterans living in the greater Los Angeles area. In that year there were 82,000 veterans treated through 1.3 million annual outpatient visits, a majority of which were at the West L.A. campus. In a comment made concerning a previous iteration of a master plan for the West Los Angeles campus, the Veterans Administration stated as follows: "Access is one of our six focused domains of value, and providing improved public transportation would enhance access to veterans and employees alike." The VA further stated that "with the projected growth of the L.A. population, access to WLA is only going to become more of a challenge." The VA's decision not to allow a subway stop on its property flies in the face of its own analysis of its transit needs now and in the years ahead.

It is unthinkable that any property owner, especially a public agency with thousands employees and clients arriving and departing every day, would not welcome and embrace the multi-billion dollar investment being made by local taxpayers as well as the United States Department of Transportation in this mass transit project.

For the VA to isolate itself by refusing to participate in this important regional transit improvement will be the mistake of the century for which the VA and Metro will be ridiculed for generations to come. I urge you to correct this omission before it is too late. Please add the Purple Line subway stop to the Master Plan in a manner consistent with the approved and certified EIS/EIR for this project.

Sincerely,



ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Los Angeles County Supervisor (Ret.)

149 South Barrington Ave. #194  
Los Angeles, California 90049

December 1, 2015

Director, Regulation Policy and Management (02REG)  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue NW, Room 1068  
Washington, DC 20420

**Preliminary Draft Final Master Plan: West Los Angeles VA Medical Center; FR  
Doc No: 2015-26945**

<http://www.regulations.gov/#!submitComment;D=VA-2015-VACO-0001-0251>

The South Brentwood Residents Association, (SBRA) represents approximately 13,000 home-owners and renters who reside in the area south of San Vicente Blvd., north of Wilshire Blvd., east of Centinela Ave. and west of Federal Ave. Additionally, SBRA represents the interests of those in multi-family dwellings throughout the entire Brentwood community. South Brentwood residents are proud of the fact that their community is immediately adjacent to one of the nation's largest VA facilities.

SBRA strongly supports the Department of Veterans Affairs' recent initiative to assure that its West Los Angeles facility is used solely for the benefit and welfare of veterans. Several of our board members actively participated as stakeholders in the recent Master Plan planning process which, on October 22, 2015, resulted in the publication of the Preliminary Draft Final Master Plan.

SBRA's specific concerns regarding the Master Plan Document are outlined below:

**The traffic analysis is incomplete**

The Document, on page F3.02, explains that the traffic analysis is incomplete. Given the next steps delineated on page 18, we do not anticipate that the traffic analysis will be completed in a timely fashion such that stakeholders can review and comment appropriately. In its current state, we conclude that implementing the Plan will have an unknown and therefore unacceptable impact on the traffic of West Los Angeles. The potentially increased traffic will cause increased pollution, pedestrian and vehicular safety concerns, loss of efficiency, and generally contribute to a reduced quality of life for all those in the area including the veterans, family and friends, and care givers who may travel to and from the West LA campus. *The Plan and the Document may therefore fail the criteria of National Environmental Protection Act.*

## A. Comment: Traffic (Section F3.)

### **Comment A: The traffic analysis of section F.3 Traffic is incomplete and contains a number of errors, omissions, and concerns as follows:**

- 1) The traffic measurements were made on a single day, Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. Measurements must be made on multiple days. Tuesday is generally believed to be one of the less traveled days in the Los Angeles area. Furthermore, comprehensive traffic information is likely available from the City of Los Angeles.
- 2) The analysis does not clearly indicate if the analysis applies during construction projects only or after a new installation is completed or both. The analysis must include the movement of all those involved, construction equipment and personnel, veterans, family, friends, and VA employees.
- 3) **During the weekday evening rush—for more than “an hour”—the major thoroughfares surrounding the WLA campus are already gridlocked.** This includes Ohio, Wilshire, San Vicente, Barrington, and Sunset. The section makes the undefended comment that, “These trip generations reflect a 10 to 20 percent reduction to account for anticipated above-average transit usage due to the excellent and improving transit service along the Wilshire Boulevard corridor and elsewhere in this area, as well as likely below average vehicle ownership by Veterans inhabiting the Project.”
- 4) The analysis includes a small growth factor for traffic growth, but the analysis shows no understanding of planned city or county initiatives involving traffic volume or flow in the surrounding areas.
- 5) **The Plan includes campus access –for the first time in recent memory—via Barrington near the postal facility. Additional traffic at this location will further degrade an already intolerable traffic situation.** What specifically is the expected nature and volume of this traffic? What type of guard or barrier or holding area is planned for this new entrance? What is the planned schedule for attended or unattended operation of the gate? Has there been consideration of alternative locations?

- 6) The Master Plan gives no consideration of ways to reduce the level of traffic entering or departing the WLA campus. Crane & Associates is likely aware of the traffic mitigation schemes put in place by UCLA.

B. Comment: Master Plan

The Master Plan gives no consideration of ways to reduce the level of traffic entering or departing the WLA campus. For example, programs should be established to encourage the use of public transportation. **The plan makes no mention of the future subway service to the campus.** Also, transit companies should be encouraged to deliver or pick up passengers at stops within the planned neighborhoods or at the hospital facility, not simply on Wilshire Boulevard or on other major thoroughfares.

**Comment B: The SBRA respectfully requests that the Master Plan include summary WLA campus ingress/egress vehicular traffic volumes as of 2015 and that lower traffic volume targets be established for 2020 and 2025.**

C. Comment: Next Steps

The process described under "Next Steps" on page 18 is unacceptable.

**Comment C: Since the preliminary Document is unacceptable for the reasons given above, another public review cycle must be added prior to the environmental and historic preservation due diligence.**

Thank you for your consideration.

*Marilyn Krell*

Marilyn Krell, President  
South Brentwood Residents Association

**Metro**

December 1, 2015

Director, Regulations Management (02REG)  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue NW, Room 1068  
Washington, DC 20420

**Subject: Preliminary Draft Final Master Plan for the West Los Angeles Department of Veterans Affairs Campus**

Dear Director,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Preliminary Draft Final Master Plan for the West Los Angeles Department of Veterans Affairs campus. I am writing to you not only as the CEO of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), but also as a 24 year disabled veteran of the United States Army from where I retired at the rank of Command Sergeant Major, E-9. That is why I am requesting on behalf of Metro, and also as a disabled veteran, that the planned and approved Purple Line Station be fully acknowledged and included in your Final Master Plan along with accommodations for station construction.

I know full well the importance of the VA nationally as well as the West Los Angeles (WLA) campus. As the largest medical center in the VA system, the West LA campus is critical to the more than half-million veterans living in the Greater Los Angeles (GLA) area. Your role will only grow over time as you expand and upgrade your outpatient and inpatient medical services as well as your residential services.

Access to and from your campus is vital to the overall success of your mission. I couldn't say it better than you did yourself, "Maintaining access to WLA, and the services it provides, is critical to GLA's mission of providing excellent care to Veterans. However, with the projected growth in the Los Angeles population, access to WLA is only going to become more of a challenge." Metro is here as your partner to facilitate access to your facilities, and the subway is the biggest game changer on the horizon. As the County's transit planner and provider, we look forward to increasing veterans' mobility and accessibility to quality healthcare services and housing throughout the county, particularly at the West Los Angeles campus.

Construction and operation of the recently-completed Wilshire Bus Lane Project has helped reduce peak period transit travel times to the West LA campus via several Wilshire Boulevard bus routes, all of which provide access to the campus at the primary Bonsall Avenue gateway. This gateway currently serves 1,619 daily transit riders (veterans and employees) who rely on Metro and Santa Monica Big Blue Bus to access the campus and its services and facilities from throughout the region. But, the Wilshire Bus Lane is not sufficient to address the current and growing travel demand along the busy Wilshire corridor.

In order to accommodate the expected future growth in development and travel to and from the VA campus and throughout the Westside, Metro has spent the last eight years environmentally clearing and securing funding for the 9-mile extension of the Metro Purple Line subway to the campus' main gateway at Wilshire and Bonsall Avenue. The entire project extends from the existing Wilshire/Western Purple Line station to the new Westwood/VA Hospital station. It was approved by the Federal Transit Administration and Metro's Board of Directors in 2012, and has a commitment of local funding from Measure R, the half-cent sales tax approved by more than two-thirds of County

voters in 2008. Section 1 of the project, from Wilshire/Western to Wilshire/La Cienega, has already received a Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) for federal matching funds and is under construction. Section 2 of the project from Wilshire/La Cienega to Century City is in pre-construction and Metro is working closely with the FTA to secure an FFGA in the near future. Metro is also pursuing a variety of strategies to accelerate construction of the third section of the project, which will include the Westwood/VA Hospital station, near the intersection of Wilshire Blvd and Bonsall Avenue, as noted in Section E1, Page 248 of the Preliminary Draft Final Master Plan. This station will greatly enhance access to the campus and the multiple veteran's services and facilities that will be housed there in the future, as dictated by the Master Plan.

The Purple Line Extension project and Westwood/VA Hospital Station will not only enhance mobility to and from the West LA VA campus, but also greatly expand connectivity between the campus and other facilities that comprise the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (VAGLAHS), as noted in the Master Plan. Once the subway project is complete, peak period transit travel times between the West LA campus and the Los Angeles Ambulatory Care Center in downtown Los Angeles will be reduced by 48 minutes, from 1 hour 17 minutes to 29 minutes. Peak period transit travel times between the East LA Community Based Outpatient Clinic and the West LA campus will be reduced by 34 minutes, from 1 hour 37 minutes to 1 hour 3 minutes. Peak period transit travel times between the Long Beach VA Medical Center and the West LA campus will decrease by over 45 minutes, from 2 hours 36 minutes to 1 hour 46 minutes. Peak period transit travel times between the Lancaster Community Based Outpatient Clinic and the West LA campus will decrease by nearly an hour, from 3 hours 33 minutes to 2 hours 38 minutes.

Over the past 7 years, Metro has worked closely with the VA to ensure that the Westwood/VA Hospital Station will be built consistent with the purpose and values of the VA, locating the station in a manner that best enhances veterans access to the housing and medical facilities on the campus while allowing convenient transfers for non-VA campus riders to reach their final destinations without disrupting campus activities and circulation within the campus. As the campus grows under the proposed Master Plan, the Purple Line subway stop at Wilshire and Bonsall will ensure that veterans always have fast, convenient, and reliable transit service to your campus from across the Los Angeles region.

Metro commends the VA for its visionary and progressive process to reinvent its West Los Angeles campus to best serve veterans, and is proud that this future Purple Line stop will make it easier for our nation's heroes and my partners in arms to travel to and from the VA, where they will receive the care and supportive services they need and deserve. Metro is and has always been committed to working with the VA to construct the Westwood/VA Hospital Purple Line Station with minimal disruption to the campus. We look forward to continuing to work with the VA and being a part of the reimagined campus this Master Plan will create.

Sincerely,



Phillip A. Washington, CEO  
(Command Sergeant Major, U.S. Army (Retired))

Cc:

Hon. Mark Ridley-Thomas, Los Angeles County Supervisor and Metro Chair  
Hon. Sheila Kuehl, Los Angeles County Supervisor and Metro Director  
Hon. Eric Garcetti, Mayor, City Los Angeles and Metro 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair  
Hon. Mike Bonin, Los Angeles City Council Member and Metro Director

Ron Bitzer



## November 2015 Statement

### **COMMUNITY ISSUE: How Transparency in Lease Agreements and Quasi-Agreements with the Federal Government May Influence Present and Future Agreements at the West LA Healthcare Campus**

The US Department of Veteran Affairs has released a draft master plan, "Planning a Community for Veterans," for the West LA Healthcare Campus of the Greater LA Healthcare System.

The West LA Healthcare campus comprises 6 parcels totaling 388 acres given in 1888 to the federal government with a restriction to provide "housing for disabled veterans." The nearby main campus of UCLA is smaller in size than these combined 6 parcels (Attachment A identifying 6 parcels).

Future land use activities, according to the 2015 draft master plan, "...will not include any third party land use agreements that do not directly benefit Veterans and their families, and monetary proceeds to the VA alone will not suffice," page 17, "Planning a Community for Veterans," October 2015.

Major challenges to the VA leading up to this policy statement have included:

- **LITIGATION** ---Vietnam Veterans of America filed a lawsuit in June 2011 on behalf of homeless and mentally disabled veterans to compel the federal government to comply with the terms of the 1888 gift. In a New York Times report on this lawsuit, the reporter noted that it ".. is a significant escalation in a battle that has simmered here for years, as homeless advocates contended that the Department of Veterans Affairs was bowing to residents of the property's prosperous Brentwood neighborhood and commercial interests by refusing to rehabilitate abandoned buildings and use them to help veterans," New York Times, June 8, 2011.

- NEW FEDERAL LAW ---Prior to this litigation, a US Senator lobbied for a law --- enacted in 2007 --- to prohibit the VA from disposing of any of the 388 acres of the West LA Healthcare Campus (Section 224 of Public Law 110-161).
- FEDERAL INVESTIGATION ---The City of Los Angeles has used 12 acres of this campus "for recreational use since the 1980s without a signed agreement or payments to the VA ... VA does not perform systematic reviews and has not established mechanisms to do so, thus hindering its ability to effectively monitor its agreements and use of its properties," "Land Use Agreements," US Government Accounting Office, 14-501, August 2014. This report outlined other arrangements for use of the West LA Healthcare campus that have been deficient (pages 18-19).

The cumulative impact of these challenges now shows up in planning reports of both the current lessor (Department of Veterans Affairs) and major leasees (UCLA, City of Los Angeles and Brentwood School).

Reports released thus far to the public in the master planning process are notably deficient in (a) documenting current formal and informal lease arrangements and (b) establishing the past performance of the leasees in this regard. **Both document review and performance review would play a major role in assessing the future, if any, of lease arrangements with non-VA entities.** The following written evidence points in this direction thus far:

1. UNIVERSITY LETTER TO THE HON. DIANE FEINSTEIN ---UCLA --- a campus smaller than the West LA Healthcare campus -- uses a baseball field on VA property for a sport that does not generate proceeds or charitable gifts comparable to its football program. In an October 2015 letter to a US California senator, the chancellor said, **"UCLA will also pay fair market rent for the stadium,"** letter to The Hon. Dianne Feinstein, October 5, 2015. This statement begs the question about what UCLA has been paying for use of this stadium as well as who appraises the value of future lease payments.
2. POSSIBLE REMOVAL OF LEASEES ---The possibility of removal of non-veteran-related tenants has been reportedly stated at a community meeting concerning the draft master plan. Attributed to Special Assistant Vince Kane, he said the VA will provide a "framework" for removing non-veteran tenants in January 2016. Clearly leases can be bought and sold, and the controversies surrounding some or all of the non-veteran-related leases logically call for a review of the option of terminating leases. This cost of the master plan implementation (1600 housing units and a 200 inpatient bed hospital) would not be significantly diminished by

the value of lease payments (assuming there would be payment) to the federal government.

3. LEASE DOCUMENTS, IF RECORDED, ARE NOT SECRET ---- "A title report for the property will need to be provided to identify all existing easements, deeds and other recorded information for the site," "Planning a Community for Veterans," October 2015, p. 266. Title companies such as First American Title may provide this information *pro bono*. The community should explore this option as well as a Freedom of Information Act request to the VA
4. ROLE OF VETERAN-FOCUSED ACTIVITIES AS PROPOSED BY LEASEES ---  
Major leasees such as UCLA have already proposed a component of a future lease agreement that would serve some of the needs of veterans. A veterans focus appears to be non-negotiable VA requirement for future lease arrangements. How to secure such a focus in a formal lease may benefit from a review of past leases at the West LA Healthcare campus (and other VA facilities).
5. LACK OF A PROCESS --- If data reliability and monitoring of leases at VA property (GAO's words) existed, then this historical review may not have been required now. This is, however, not the case.

**Letters to the Editor****March 20, 2014**

CLOSURE

Then we could have a fair chance of solving these problems.

RICHARD F. CORLIN, MD  
Santa Monica

The writer is past president of the American Medical Assn.

::

Veterans with service-connected disabilities could benefit from referral by an "overworked" VA to community resources, as exemplified by a disabled Vietnam veteran for whom I am a court-appointed conservator.

The VA medical center in West L.A. recently provided him weeks-long inpatient treatment and then placed him in different community-based nursing homes until the right match was found. This was lifesaving care.

Meanwhile, inpatient beds at community hospitals are opening up, as insurance plans are pushing for less inpatient utilization, more coordination of care for the chronically ill and penalties for frequent readmission of patients for the same diagnosis.

Any realignment of care from the VA to the community would take into account the government's special expertise in caring for certain service-connected disabilities such as spinal cord injuries and substance abuse and mental health problems.

RON BITZER  
North Hollywood

::

## **Meeting the Needs of Vulnerable Veterans: Recommendations for the Veteran Housing on the West Los Angeles campus**

Recent VA data show that, among homeless Veterans new to care, 44% had a serious mental illness (SMI), such as a psychotic disorder or PTSD; 42% had a substance use disorder (SUD); and 23% had co-occurring SMI and SUD. Over two-thirds reported at least one serious medical illness, including 37% with chronic pain and 15% with Hepatitis C. These Veterans also report limited social support: only 7% reported being married or partnered. Moreover, 44% met criteria for "chronic homelessness," i.e., homeless for at least one year before evaluation and/or with four or more episodes of homelessness in the past three years.

On-campus housing programs should be reserved for and targeted to this population of Veterans with a high level of clinical and social service needs. These Veterans require assertive engagement, multidisciplinary mental health and substance use services, and easy access to physical health providers. Most of all, they need supportive housing contexts that are safe, reliable, recovery-oriented, free of alcohol and substances, and in close proximity to services.

New housing programs on the West LA VA campus should serve our most vulnerable Veterans. Three "levels" of housing support are scarce in the community and are desperately needed:

- Board & Care facilities for individuals with SMI who need support in activities of daily living and therapeutic structure and support
- Supported Sober Housing facilities for Veterans with co-occurring substance use disorders who desire sobriety, are independent on many activities, and can still benefit from case management support
- Skilled Nursing facilities for individuals with severe physical disabilities and/or cognitive impairment

Board & Care and Supported Sober Housing facilities would be best located on South campus, close to mental health and substance use programs.

Given the high degree of vulnerability among chronically homeless Veterans, on-campus alcohol and substance use should be prohibited.

VA clinical and social service programs (e.g., Mental Health Intensive Case Management [MHICM]; the Dual Diagnosis Treatment Program [DDTP]; St. Joseph's) are effective at supporting these Veterans. These programs' capacity will need to expand to meet new demand.

Other innovations will be needed to solve Veteran homelessness. Pursuing recovery and gaining stable housing are complex processes that can take years to achieve. However, we have worked with countless Veterans to overcome chronic homelessness through the help of supportive residences, assertive clinical interventions, and the community of Veteran peers. On campus VA housing options will be a tremendous benefit for our most vulnerable Veterans.

Caryn Bernstein, M.D. (West Los Angeles MHICM)

Elisabeth Bromley, M.D., Ph.D. (West Los Angeles MHICM; Desert Pacific MIRECC)

Sonya Gabrielian, M.D., M.P.H. (West Los Angeles Enhanced Housing First & Domiciliary; Desert Pacific MIRECC)



# BRENTWOOD Community Council

**149 S. Barrington Ave., Box 194, Los Angeles, CA 90049**

**[www.brentwoodcommunitycouncil.org](http://www.brentwoodcommunitycouncil.org)**

December 2, 2015

West Los Angeles VA Master Plan  
Los Angeles, Ca 90073

Additional Comments on the WLA VA Preliminary Draft Master  
Plan ("WLA VA MP")

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Brentwood Community Council ("BCC") is the broadest based Brentwood community organization, representing approximately 50,000 stakeholders of the 90049 community. BCC includes homeowners associations, multi-family residential dwellers, business organizations, schools, religious groups, volunteer service groups, public safety and environmental organizations. These comments are in addition to the comments we submitted on about November 17, 2015 concerning the existing public parking lot adjacent to the Brentwood Village (BV) shopping area.

1. Why is the WLA VA MP lacking declaration that there is no excess property at the WLA VA, and a clear, complete prohibition of selling, exchanging, trading, auctioning, or otherwise transferring ownership of any of the WLA VA land without Congressional action. This should be included.

2. The WLA VA MP should include criteria for determining whether an "enhanced use lease of real property" as defined in HR 3484 complies with the requirements of that bill, including the requirement that the lease will principally benefit veterans and their families.

3. On page D 179, it states: "Following conclusion of the formal master planning process, VA will conduct a robust NEPA analysis process and Section 106 consultation to ensure that environmental

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information is available to public officials and citizens before final decisions regarding the Master Plan are made and actions taken by VA.” The WLA VA MP should not be adopted until there has been full compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act.

4. Every proposed project must be subject to an analysis of whether it is making optimal use of the VA property for Veterans, and whether that use, and the related services to Veterans, are consistent with having the lowest adverse impact on the neighboring communities.

5. The VA has stated that the WLA VA MP will not result in a material increase in either programming or staffing on the WLA VA campus. A statement to this effect should but is not included in the WLA VA MP. Why not?

6. The WLA VA MP should include a requirement that any new program or material changes in existing programs may not be adopted without an open and transparent public process giving opportunities for Veterans, the community, and elected officials to give input regarding the business plan of the program sponsor or operator.

7. Any VA homeless Veterans program should be designed on a local VA region-wide basis with involvement by other localities where homeless Veterans are found and their families may be located, rather than looking to WLA VA to accommodate the needs of the entire region. We understand this is consistent with the VA’s intentions. Why is this not set forth in the WLA VA MP.

8. WLA VA MP is limited to “physical elements” and therefore does not adequately describe or plan for specific usage, programs, services, or even the number of beds. A description of the physical elements alone does not enable veterans or the community stakeholders to comment on the adequacy of programs and services, or the possible adverse impacts, including environmental impacts, on the campus and surrounding communities.

9. Why does the WLA VA MP not include a specific homelessness strategy and action plan for ending Veteran homelessness in Greater LA?

10. The VA must comply with all NEPA-mandated procedures and policies. The NEPA process requires the VA to analyze the cumulative environmental impacts of current and future projects (those being constructed and those contemplated, by the VA and others nearby) in order to ensure that significant adverse impacts are mitigated. Why does the WLA VA MP not include a commitment to complete an environmental impact statement (EIS)?

11. One of the most glaring omissions in the WLA VA MP is the absence of a complete traffic study. Because the traffic study will not be complete until after the expiration of the time allowed for comments on the WLA VA MP, final approval of the WLA VA MP should be delayed until a traffic study is completed and following an open and transparent public process giving opportunities for Veterans, the community, and elected officials to give input regarding the traffic plan.

12. In addition, since the WLA VA MP describes only physical elements, and not usage, programs, services, numbers of anticipated veterans, numbers of anticipated staff and caregivers, numbers of other visitors, how does the VA intend to conduct a truly adequate traffic and parking analysis?

13. The traffic study locations on page F3.03 of the WLA VA MP are inadequate and a study based on only those locations will be deficient. It is widely recognized that many residents of the San Fernando Valley travel back and forth every day to access work and services in West LA, including at the VA. Any assumption that they will all use the 405/Wilshire interchange, rather than the 405/Sunset interchange, is flawed, particularly if there is a new proposed Greenway with an ingress/egress point north of the Post Office on Barrington Place.

14. Further, the traffic study, and the WLA VA MP, will be defective and deficient if there is not a comparison of the environmental impacts between (1) a Greenway exiting onto Barrington Place and (2) a Greenway that terminates short of Barrington Place with north campus exits only using Constitution and Wilshire. NEPA requires a study of reasonable alternatives. Further, if the access point must be on Barrington Place, there is no explanation for selecting an access point immediately north of the post office instead of immediately south of the post office, or immediately north of the VA lot used by the Brentwood Village.

15. The traffic study will be defective and deficient if it does not incorporate the cumulative traffic impacts described in two environmental impact reports (EIR) this year for the expansion of two private schools located less than a half mile from the north campus of the WLA VA. The impacts of these projects will be more than merely normal growth in the area and must be analyzed. Will the VA traffic do so?

16. The traffic study will be deficient and defective if it assumes a transit usage that is inconsistent with the experience of Metro. Metro's optimistic projections have not occurred due to transit costs, and limited routes, and a preference for faster total travel time by car.

17. The traffic analysis will be deficient and defective if it describes impacts at intersections that are already at LOS E or F without the project, and does not then study the time delay over distance at road segments including those intersections.

18. The traffic analysis will be deficient and defective if it does not analyze the adverse impact of the loss of road capacity to vehicles due to new dedicated bus lanes during peak traffic hours on Wilshire Blvd.

19. The traffic analysis will be defective and deficient if it assumes a benefit from ATSAC on Sunset Blvd that has not improved a PM peak hour trip from Sunset/Kenter to Sunset/Church that averages 45 minutes to go about one mile.

20. The WLA VA MP needs to describe whether the green space buffer zones described in a 2011 master plan for the WLA VA campus will remain. Will they remain?

21. The WLA VA MP lacks an adequate description of the housing and services in Zone 3. What kind of lease, lease with whom, to develop what, lease for how long, with how many beds, for whom, with what services, services by whom, when? The June 2011 Master Plan contained a section titled "Detailed Program Description." The WLA VA MP should have an even more detailed program description, particularly with respect to new or revised programs. The WLA VA MP should adopt and describe a procedure for the selection of service providers, including operators of housing, that calls for a RFP, a business plan, and competitive bidding and commit to an open and transparent public process giving

opportunities for Veterans, the community, and elected officials to give input regarding the business plan.

22. The stated goals of the VA regarding the timing of eliminating veteran homelessness must be included in the WLA VA MP, What is a realistic time for completing new permanent supportive housing on the WLA VA campus?

23. The Proposed Greenway, intended to connect the neighborhoods on the campus, **MUST NOT ADVERSELY IMPACT THE MOST TRAFFIC CONGESTED INTERSECTION ON THE WESTSIDE OF LA.** Traffic studies for recent projects within a mile all show the Sunset/Barrington intersection as being LOS F and worse, if there were another level worse than F. The ingress/egress at the proposed access point on Barrington Place must be limited to emergency vehicles. Although the Master Plan on page 203 describes this access point as “Controlled Access”, if that includes ANY regular, daily vehicle traffic, it would be an unconscionable adverse impact on the neighborhood. The map of vehicle circulation on page 205 does not show this access point as controlled. The map on page 207 shows a shuttle going all the way to Barrington Place, but does not state whether it will turn around or continue onto the City street. Even planning this access point before the Traffic Study for the Master Plan was available demonstrates both the inadequacy of the Master Plan and the disregard for the Plan’s adverse impacts on the surrounding community.

24. The maps in the Master Plan are inaccurate. The maps on pages 195, 197, 199, 201, and elsewhere, incorrectly identify the road that is north of the Post Office and adjacent to the NW corner of the WLA VA campus as Barrington Ave. It is NOT Barrington Ave. - it is Barrington Place - a much narrower road than S. Barrington Ave. The Master Plan is defective, not merely because the wrong street name is indicated, but much more important, because the wrong width of the street was assumed by the Master Plan team.

25. The WLA VA MP states: “Site ingress and egress adequately serving the future site traffic Demands would be provided.” This is inadequate to permit stakeholders to comment upon potential impacts.

26. The WLA VA MP states an intention to create a veteran centric community, but the design in many important aspects depicts a community that is unconnected with surrounding communities, thus making

the goal of assisting veterans to achieve greater reintegration with the larger civilian community.

27. Why are the various “connected” community centers and neighborhoods so spread-out that daily activities of sleeping, eating, socializing and recreating will make developing a sense of “home” and “community” more difficult, particularly for the less mobile veterans.

Sincerely,

T Larry Watts, BCC Chair

CC: BCC Members

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# Veterans Support at Brentwood School



Yesterday, Today and a “Veterans  
Centric” vision for the Future...



# Developing Student-Veteran Relationships:

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- Veteran Portrait and History Project
- VA Japanese Gardens
- Veteran Assemblies
- Veteran's Support Club
- Walk for Warriors
- Fundraisers
- Veteran speakers
- Serving food at the Haven
- Performances at the VA
- Volunteering at VA events



# Visions for Veteran Support Club

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- Best Buddies club with over 60 members
- VSC has added 8 new members in our second year (15 in total)
- Dedicated and inspired students of all grade levels



# Veteran's Athletics Day



# Together: Expanding Veteran Athletics Days

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**Strengthening communications** - making a system in which information of opportunities and events more readily available and distributed to the Vet communities. Expand our network in Brentwood and VA

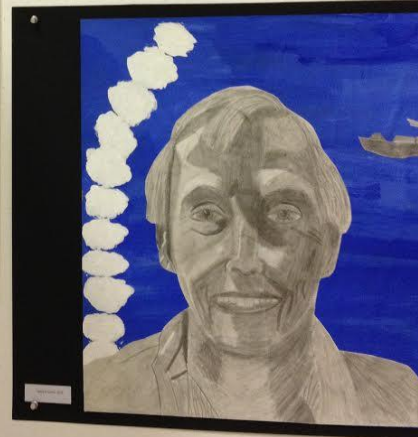
**Creating an expanded, set schedule** - More consistency. Strengthen programs and bring swim and weight instructors to help assist veterans.

**Securing for the future** - with the proposed expansion and growing needs of the VA, Brentwood taking care of maintenance and associated administrative costs, it ensures the facilities will be remain top-notch.

# Expanding veterans' voices

- Veteran's Portrait and History Project

December 3, 2015



# Expanding veterans' voices

- VSC plans to broadcast an interview featuring of a different veteran each month with a Brentwood Student as an outreach program.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gwLTr7lZniM>



# Picture the Future

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- A buddy program-middle school and highschool students act as personal hosts to veterans at sports games theater productions, ect.
- Foster recreation, enrichment, and sharing culture which expands access for all.



# Heart of the matter: RELATIONSHIPS

- No matter what, we will always be neighbors. A chance to work together, gives us the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation our neighbors.
- Together we can heal and grow, creating a community of mutual respect and admiration, which I think we all can agree the world desperately needs more of.



RELATIONSHIP = HEALING



Input for the October 15, 2015, Preliminary Master Plan

To Whom it May Concern:

At Westside Food Bank, we are very pleased to see the vigorous commitment embodied in the new Master Plan, and, as more veterans begin to be housed on the West LA campus, we would like to continue, along with other local nonprofits, to participate with LA County's veterans in building a new sense of community at the West LA VA.

Founded in 1981, Westside Food Bank is the food bank warehouse that supplies food to more than 65 nonprofit organizations with food programs throughout Western Los Angeles County. Today, WSFB provides food to the following veterans programs at the VA campus: New Directions, Salvation Army Haven, Salvation Army Transitional Village, the Bandini Foundation Heroes Golf Course, and Serenity Park. We also provide food to the PATH Veterans' housing in West LA, the women's veteran transitional living program operated by New Directions in Mar Vista, and four agencies that have Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing contracts. Additionally, low-income veterans are prominent among those receiving food at the more than 20 food pantries that we supply in Western Los Angeles County. We currently operate the Heroes Garden in collaboration with the Bandini Foundation at the Heroes Golf Course on the West LA VA campus. This vegetable garden provides paid work and vocational training for veterans and supplies fresh produce exclusively for vets. We were recently awarded one of County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's inaugural "Food for the Soul" grants in order to ramp up operations at the Heroes Garden.

In cooperation with veterans, there are many services that could be offered by local nonprofits in new facilities, as more veterans settle in at the West LA campus. Specifically, Westside Food Bank envisions the creation of an on-campus multi-purpose wellness center to promote the highest level of health and well-being among veterans housed or served by the West LA VA. This center could incorporate a food pantry to provide free groceries to low income and formerly homeless veterans as well as a host of other services including recreational facilities, nutrition and fitness education, cooking and food preparation lessons, dietary planning around health conditions and chronic illness, and more.

Westside Food Bank has longstanding relationships with dozens of religious congregations, schools, businesses and service clubs located in the immediate vicinity of the West LA VA campus. These institutions provide us with significant financial support, food donations, and volunteer assistance, and we could enlist many of them to contribute to the success of the new VA Master Plan.

Working in close cooperation with our more than 65 member agencies and with the Westside Coalition on Hunger, Housing and Health, we are especially well positioned to bring together a variety of stakeholders to ensure that the veterans who are part of the West LA VA community can participate in and develop a full range of services and activities for promoting the good health, diet, recreation, and life skills necessary to be part of a thriving community. **We stand ready to create and supply a food pantry on the VA campus,** to serve veterans living on campus or from the wider community, **ideally as part of a new multi-purpose wellness center** at the VA featuring positive opportunities for over-all health and good nutrition. Our own increased commitment to healthy living is reflected in our powerful new Nutrition Policy, adopted by our board last fall.

Westside Food Bank invites further conversation with the Master Planners to discuss how we, along with a strong network of local social service agencies and veterans can help design and contribute to a new campus-wide food pantry, plus the full range of what a robust wellness center can accomplish for the veterans community here in West LA.

Sincerely,

A rectangular area containing a dense, scribbled red line, indicating a redacted signature.

Bruce Rankin  
Executive Director  
Westside Food Bank

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# USC Mrs. T.H. Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy

December 2, 2015

Director, Regulations Management (02REG)  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue NW, Room 1068  
Washington, DC 20420

To Whom It May Concern:

I was pleased to see occupational therapy listed with other "Therapeutic Resources and Amenities" (p. 192) in the master plan. The main focus of all occupational therapy intervention is to help people achieve and maintain health and well-being through engaging in the daily activities that they need and want to do. Individuals can benefit from occupational therapy services that support recovery from acute illness or injury, management chronic health conditions, or enhancement of overall health and well-being. I would like to draw attention to the three specific topics mentioned in the master plan where Veterans will benefit from the inclusion of occupational therapy services.

In addition to occupational therapy's role in traditional rehabilitation settings for conditions such as stroke and traumatic brain injury, recent evidence supports inclusion of occupational therapy interventions in primary care settings. Occupational therapists can support self-management of chronic health conditions like diabetes and hypertension, incorporation of healthy lifestyle change to prevent disease onset, prevention of falls at home and in the community, management of musculoskeletal conditions and chronic pain, provision of family and caregiver training and support, and more.

Occupational therapists also have an integral role in mental health care. Interventions for individuals with serious mental illness can address education, work, skills training, health and wellness, and cognitive remediation and adaptation. In permanent supportive housing, such as is planned for the West Los Angeles VA campus, occupational therapists can focus on household management, financial management, and community reintegration.

Finally, wellness programs are an established and growing area of occupational therapy practice. One evidence-based wellness intervention, Lifestyle Redesign®, was developed and studied at here at the University of Southern California. Lifestyle Redesign was originally developed and tested with well older adults and was found to be effective in increasing health and preventing decline. Since the original studies, Lifestyle Redesign has been adapted to address a variety of health challenges such as weight management and smoking cessation. In fact, our Division has experience adapting a Lifestyle Redesign program for

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prevention of pressure ulcers in adults with spinal cord injury for Veterans through a quality improvement project with the Long Beach VA.

These three areas certainly do not cover all of the ways that occupational therapy professionals already serve Veterans, however they may not be as widely recognized as more traditional practice areas such as physical rehabilitation.

The profession of occupational therapy emerged from the need to support service members and Veterans return to their activities of daily living during the First World War. Our profession has continued to care for those who serve our nation through military service throughout its history. We are interested in exploring how the Chan Division faculty might participate in future planning and how, jointly with its students, may continue and extend our role in caring for military Veterans through the numerous exciting programs that are being planned at the West Los Angeles VA campus.

Closing,

Florence Clark PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Associate Dean, Chair and Mrs. T.H. Chan Professor of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy  
USC Mrs. T.H. Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy



