



BILL ROSENDAHL

City of Los Angeles
Councilman, Eleventh District

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June 13, 2006

Honorable James Nicholson, Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20420-0002

Dear Secretary Nicholson:

I have been contacted by a number of my constituents who reside in the neighborhoods adjacent to the West Los Angeles Veterans Administration Center, who are concerned about recent news reports about possible contamination of land leased to the City, by the VA, for recreational purposes. I share their concern and am committed to resolving, beyond any doubt, that all hazardous contamination at the West LA VA is identified, contained and cleaned up. It is imperative to be sure that no health risk exists, for either the veterans or employees on site, for local residents who recreate on the site, or for residents who reside adjacent to the site.

News reports about the site mention the possibility of radiological waste, asbestos, lead, chemical wastes and the potential of other unknown waste products. This is a serious issue that needs to be dealt with in a comprehensive manner. In addition to investigating the entire area around the unlined waste disposal sites, possible groundwater contamination must also be investigated.

I hope you see the urgency of this matter and agree that the VA must cooperate fully with the appropriate hazardous materials authorities at the City, County and State. In addition, I am recommending that an independent panel of experts be assembled to advise the community about the potential health risks, both on and off-site.

Thank you in advance for your assistance and your support for our neighborhoods.

Regards,

BILL ROSENDAHL
Councilman, 11th District

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