



Was the price tag fair . . .

considering that during this time frame, LA City's oilfield gas consultant- Exploration Technologies Inc. (ETI) had written a final report that stated no development should occur over the SOCALGAS (SEMPRA) oilfield gas storage operations that are known as Areas A and B of the Ballona -Playa Vista properties. This property cost the public \$139 million. What was the true value of this land that the City's consultant acknowledged as being too dangerous to develop - directly over gas storage operations and, the same land that the City appeared to have capitulated in that thinking-as new City mapping occurred of the Ballona region. The mapping included the gassy zones and added buffer zones similar to mapping for landfills that are also not used for residential and most commercial development.

ETI's final report "Still Workin On It" was withheld by the City, (as cited 3/8/10 Grassroots Coalition, Playa Vista Phase II Environmental Impact Report response to the LA City Council & Phase I lawsuit) when the City stated in response to a Public Record Act (PRA) request, that no such report existed. During this time frame, the City also requested the State Lands Commission (SLC) not give the report to the public after a PRA to SLC had occurred. The SLC later honored its Public Record Request and the ETI Report "Still Workin On It" finally became part of the public record.

(The SLC was engaged in the deal making for yet another Playa Vista parcel known as Area C- a parcel on which the Howard Hughes estate owed inheritance taxes. Under Gray Davis, a swap of the land as parkland to the public occurred for Area C in lieu of the taxes.)

Was it not a reckless use of taxpayer money—to artificially raise the price tag of Areas A and B in order to favor the developers' interests—a give away ? The Prop 50 money could have been used to also acquire Ballona upland support habitat - known as the West Bluffs, for sale by the Catellus Corp. For years, the public had aggressively pursued ownership of the West Bluffs. Unfortunately, that acquisition never came to pass. The bluff top land was destroyed to make way for housing. The bluff face still remains part of Ballona.

Certainly, one thing is sure...the public has worked long and hard to acquire the precious Ballona ecosystem and is still pursuing that goal.