**IN 1954 MARINA DEL REY WAS CREATED BY THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF THE**

**U.S. CONGRESS (Public Laws 389 and 780), LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND LOS ANGELES CITY**

**Millions of dollars were spent to dredge the channel, widen**

**our beach 450 feet for 5.5 miles, create a small craft harbor, provide**

**fishing, swimming, recreation and wildlife opportunities for the people of LA.**

***Note: U.S. Public Law 780 requires reasonable rates with equal access for all.***

May 13, 1954 U.S. Congress House Document (HD) 389, by the 83rd Congress created Playa del Rey inlet and harbor, Venice, CA, with federal participation in the provision of entrance jetties, entrance channel, and interior channel and central basin recommended in the project report by the Army Corps of Engineers. Page 7 of the document said, “*Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements, and rights-of-way the construction and maintenance of the proposed improvements*.”

Sept 3, 1954 US Congress, Public Law 780, signed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower approved a federally funded project to create the Marina del Rey harbor and recreation area from 900 acres of the Ballona Wetlands.

2005-2012 (HD) 389 Update by the Joint Power Authority (JPA) comprised of Los Angeles County Public Works and Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission worked on a Joint EIR-EIS of the Lower Ballona Watershed. This was in compliance with the U.S. Congress Documents 389 and 780 requests for an assessment of damage done to the Watershed over the intervening 60 years and remediation needed. In 2012, the JPA cancelled this Joint EIR-EIS in what appears to be an effort to avoid Congressional scrutiny. This issue and the required Closeout Report must be addressed. The public needs accountability for millions of taxpayer dollars.

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*Local contributions*

At its meeting on April 25, 1946, and June 7, 1949, the City Council of Los Angeles adopted a report declaring that the public interest and welfare of the City of Los Angeles and vicinity require the provision of additional small craft facilities by means of construction of a small craft harbor at Playa del Rey, assisting the Federal Government in such undertaking by assuming those obligations required under Federal law in connection with this project.

By resolution adopted September 28, 1948, and June 7, 1949, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles declared that the public interest and welfare of the County of Los Angeles and its citizens require that provision be made for additional small craft facilities by means of construction of a small craft harbor at Playa del Rey.

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(1) Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements, and rights-of-way the construction and maintenance of the proposed improvements.

27. The plan of development proposed by local interests includes the following features: Widened and improved beaches, adequate bathhouses and parking areas, picnic facilities, special recreation centers, salt-water bathing pools and children’s wading pools, fishing piers, youth organization camps, tourist parks with cabin and trailer accommodations, and a bird sanctuary to perpetuate the wildlife now inhabiting the area.

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49. *Effect on wildlife*. --- Construction of the proposed harbor would eliminate existing marshlands of some wildlife value. . . Local interests propose to construct a bird refuge about 800 feet wide and 2,500 feet long adjacent to the flood-control channel as part of the overall park development to provide for shore birds nesting in the area. Principal among these birds are killdeer, sandpiper, stilt, and tern. In addition there are many other species of bird life that are not dependent on the area. Bird Refuge 800’x2500’ = 2,000,000 square feet. *One acre is 43,560 square feet.*

*Promised square feet: 2,000,000 square feet or 45.9 acres.*

*Actual square feet: 450,000 square feet or 10.7 acres.*

*Under delivered by 77%: 1,550,000 square feet or 35.2 acres.*

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Provide for the continuation of this existing birdlife, local interests should construct the bird refuge simultaneously with the construction of the harbor.

Courtesy: Sierra Club Airport Marina Group

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