COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE: B-2

November 12, 2008

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

FINDING AND ORDERS OF THE
BUILDING REHABILITATION APPEALS BOARD
IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF WHITTIER
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 4)
(3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

This action will adopt the finding and orders of the Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board which provide for the arrest and abatement of neighborhood deterioration and the elimination of unsightly, unsafe, and unhealthful conditions, which constitute a public nuisance.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Adopt the finding and orders of the Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board that provide for abatement of public nuisances at the following location:

7820 Chatfield Avenue, Whittier, California 90606

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of the action is to provide for abatement of public nuisances through rehabilitation procedures. The Building Code provides for a Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board to hear appeals on matters concerning public nuisances.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The Countywide Strategic Plan directs the provision of Service Excellence (Goal 1) and Community Services (Goal 6) as it provides services to the public that have a wide-reaching positive effect on the entire community. The action will provide for the arrest and abatement of neighborhood deterioration and the elimination of unsightly, unsafe, and unhealthful conditions, which constitute a public nuisance.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no increase in net County cost or negative fiscal impact. Costs of the abatement work are billed to the property owner. Failure to pay the bill will cause a special assessment to be placed on the tax bill and a Notice of Abatement Lien will be recorded against the property with the office of the County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Title 26 of the Los Angeles County Code, the Building Code, provides for abatement of public nuisances through rehabilitation procedures contained in Chapter 99.

Government Code Section 25845 requires that the property owner be provided an opportunity to appear before the Board and be heard prior to abatement of the nuisance(s) by the County. However, your Board adopted modified procedures that delegated the required hearing to the Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board with the requirement that the Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board make a written recommendation to your Board.

The Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board has conducted the required hearing for the properties listed below. The Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board considered all competent evidence and testimony offered by all persons pertaining to the matters of substandard properties. The Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board made a finding of facts in the matter and declared the following properties to be a public nuisance.

Your Board may either adopt this finding and orders of the Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board without further notice of hearing or may set the matter for a de novo hearing before your Board.

ADDRESS: 7820 Chatfield Avenue, Whittier, California 90606

Finding and Orders: The Appeals Board made a finding that the property is substandard, declared the property a public nuisance, and issued the following orders: (a) that by November 14, 2008, the property be cleared of all trash, junk, debris, discarded household furniture and appliances, and miscellaneous personal property and maintained cleared thereafter and (b) that by November 14, 2008, the abandoned, wrecked, dismantled, or inoperable vehicle(s) be removed and the property be maintained cleared thereafter.

List of Defects

1. Maintenance of premises so out of harmony and/or conformity with the maintenance standards of adjacent properties as to cause substantial diminution of the enjoyment, use, or property values of such adjacent properties.

2. Attractive nuisances in the form of abandoned or broken equipment, neglected machinery, refrigerators, and freezers.

3. Miscellaneous articles of personal property scattered about the premises.

4. Trash, junk, and debris scattered about the premises.

5. Abandoned, wrecked, dismantled, or inoperable vehicle(s) or parts thereof stored for unreasonable periods on the premises.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Not applicable.

CONCLUSION

The Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board confirmed the County Building Official's findings that the listed property is substandard because it is injurious to health, offensive to the senses, and obstructs the free use of neighboring properties so as to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life and property.

Please return one adopted copy of this letter to Department of Public Works, Building and Safety Division.

Respectfully submitted,

DEAN D. EFSTATHIOU
Acting Director of Public Works

DDE:RP:pc

c: Chief Executive Office (Lari Sheehan)
County Counsel