MOTION

The Venice Grand Canal, located in the Venice Community Plan area, is a waterway in great need of restoration to improve water quality; protect and enhance wetlands, wildlife, and habitat; and prevent erosion of canal banks.

LNR-Lennar Washington Square, LLC (c/o the Lee Group), the owner of the property that abuts the Grand Canal at 300 Washington Boulevard, has received approval from the City of Los Angeles and the California Coastal Commission to redevelop their property as a mixed-use property including 123 new residential units and two commercial units. In connection with this project, Lennar has committed to the community financially to participate in the renewed efforts by the City to plan, design, implement and monitor a Grand Canal Restoration Plan. Specifically, Lennar has agreed to contribute and advance the sum of $150,000 toward the planning study for the project (as further detailed in the attached letter).

Lennar’s contribution of $150,000 is limited to the planning study and is conditioned upon various additional requirements set forth in the attached letter, including the following:

- Lennar’s payment will be made to the City prior to the selection of a consultant from the City’s prequalified consultant list, so long as the City establishes a segregated account for that purpose;
- Any balance remaining at the completion of the work under the Task Order for this planning study is to be refunded to Lennar within thirty (30) days after the delivery of the final Pre-Design Report;
- Lennar shall not be liable for any amount incurred by the City in excess of $150,000 under the Task Order and any such excess balance due shall be the sole responsibility of the City of Los Angeles;
- Acceptance of this contribution by the City shall not commit the City to further fund any portion of a Grand Canal Restoration Project.

Action is needed to accept the above described funds, to permit their deposit into the appropriate fund and account and to authorize the negotiation and/or execution of any document(s) in order to incorporate and memorialize the terms and conditions described above as well as any others which might be needed.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Bureau of Engineering be authorized to negotiate and execute any document(s), including the attached letter from LNR-Lennar Washington Square, LLC (c/o the Lee Group) dated February 6, 2007, to accept a contribution of $150,000 by Lennar to the City to fund a Venice Grand Canal Restoration Planning Study, incorporating the conditions stated in that letter as well as any others stated in the text of this Motion, and subject to the approval of the City Attorney as to form and legality.

I FURTHER MOVE that upon presentation of the above-described contribution of $150,000 by Lennar, said funds be deposited, subject to the approval of the Mayor, into a new account in the Engineering Special Services Fund 682-50 entitled “Grand Canal Restoration - Private.”

PRESENTED BY: BILL ROSENDAHL
Councilman, 11th District

SECONDED BY:  

February 9, 2007.