



# League of United Latin American Citizens

Dave Rodriquez, California State Deputy Director

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*Over 80 years of advocacy on behalf of the Latino community*

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Sunday, May 24, 2009

Re: City of Oxnard, 2030 Plan - Modification Request

- Ormond Beach

CITY OF OXNARD

MR. CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMSON

e-mail: CHRIS.WILLIAMSON@CI.OXNARD.CA.US

SENIOR PLANNER

214 SOUTH "C" STREET OXNARD, CA 93030

DEAR MR WILLIAMSON;

**LULAC MISSION STATEMENT:** The Mission of the League of United Latin American Citizens is to advance the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, housing, health and civil rights of the Hispanic population of the United States.

Based on our Mission Statement and responsibilities, we respectfully request the City of Oxnard's 2030 Plan be modified to treat the area as a historic treasure. Our research shows a Chumash Indian Village thrived on Ormond Beach and is thought to have existed for more than a thousand years. This historic issue is another reason the Ormond Beach Wetlands should be restored and protected as a state or national preserve/park land.

Allowing any further building on the coastal side of Hueneme Road in the Ormond Beach area would be a travesty to our citizens. The only possible construction that should be permitted after the clean up and restoration, would be for a visitor's center with a museum expressing the history and explain the habitat of Ormond Beach Wetlands and possibly a nature board walk so visitors can view sensitive areas without leaving a footprint.

This area represents an important period in our history and it must be preserved for the use and benefit of our citizens. If properly developed; Ormond Beach will become nationally known wetlands that could be an important destination when visitors come to Southern California.

- Oxnard enjoys a 60 – 70% + ratio of Hispanics, many of which are in the lower income levels. It has been stated that; *"California has the highest concentration of minorities living near hazardous waste facilities in the U.S"*.
- The Oxnard area has a very high ratio of Latinos and the most hazardous waste sites per-capita. In addition LULAC believes that this is an issue of environmental justice.
- The Ormond Beach Wetlands area is an essential element in protecting our legacy and future. LULAC has joined a coalition of likeminded environmental and social justice organizations and our coalition has drafted the below "HALACO/Ormond Beach Wetlands Wish List:

### Environmental Coalition HALACO/Ormond Beach Wetlands Wish List:

1. All of the current wetlands property changed from private to public ownership, by eminent domain if necessary
2. Revision of Oxnard 2030 Plan Zoning from industrial to resource protection/ESHA. "*Environmental Sensitive Habitat Areas.*"
3. Expedite demolition of Halaco plant.
4. Expedite removal of slag heap and waste settlement ponds.
5. Removal of non-native species.
6. Restoration to natural state.
  - Convert Ormond Beach Wetlands area into a Protected Habitat State or National Park
7. Ownership or management by a conservancy.
8. Protection of habitat and wildlife.
9. Remove one block of Perkins road and parking lot so riparian up land can be continued from Hueneme Road through the Halaco site.
10. US EPA Region 9 place into action the 1994 Executive Order 12898 "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations."  
<http://www.epa.gov/oswer/ej/html-doc/execordr.htm>
11. Establish a: "Jean Harris, Cynthia Leake, Roma Armbrust Memorial Ormond Wetlands Visitors Center"

LULAC and other organizations are currently pursuing plans to expedite "quick start" the EPA Super Fund Cleanup of the Halaco Smelter, slag pile and old waste ponds. It would be a sad tragedy to have the area restored only to have commercial buildings constructed on this valuable public resource.

Please take our issues into account and modify the Oxnard City 2030 Plan. Anything we can do to assistance you, do not hesitate to call us.

Cordially,

Dave Rodriguez,  
California LULAC Deputy Director

cc:  
LULAC State Director - Argentina Davila-Luevano  
Senator Barbara Boxer  
Senator Diane Feinstein  
Congresswoman Lois Capps  
California Lt. Governor John Garamendi  
California Attorney General Jerry Brown  
State Lands Commissioner John Chiang  
State Senator Fran Pavley  
California Speaker of the House Karin Bass  
Assemblywoman Julia Brownley 41<sup>st</sup> AD  
Assemblyman Pedro Nava

Mexican American Bar Association "MABA"  
Coastal Conservancy –  
Environmental Defense Center  
Sierra Club  
Coastal Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy  
"CAUSE"  
Coastal Advocates – Susan Jordan  
Pacific Environment – Rory Cox  
Beacon Foundation – Jean Rountree  
Saviers Road Design Team – Larry & Shirley Godwin  
Earth Alert – Janet Bridgers  
Oxnard College Marine Center – Dee Anderson  
Rebecca Carlson - Marine Biology teacher-  
Saint Bonaventure High School  
CINMS - Channel Islands National Park & Channel  
Islands National Marine Sanctuary - Chris Mobley -  
Superintendent