

October 6, 2025

**The Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council City**  
JOHN FERRARO COUNCIL CHAMBER  
ROOM 340, CITY HALL  
200 NORTH SPRING STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

**RE: Letter of Support for the Venice Dell Project (LADOT Lot 731) and Urgent Request for Action // [Council File: 15-1138-S42](#) & [Council File 15-1138-S9](#)**

***Dear Honorable Members of the Los Angeles City Council,***

As the Director of Government and Public Affairs for the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), I am writing to express enthusiastic support for the Venice Dell permanent supportive housing project. This is a landmark opportunity for the City to fulfill its promise to our most vulnerable residents and demonstrate its leadership in tackling the housing crisis. We urge you to seize this moment and move this vital project forward without delay.

The Venice Dell project (designed for LADOT lot 731 at the request of the City of Los Angeles) represents a win-win for Los Angeles. After nearly a decade of collaborative planning and public investment, this shovel-ready development will provide 120 beautiful, permanent homes in a high-resource coastal community. It is a model for the future, creating hundreds of union jobs through a Project Labor Agreement and, according to official plans, even *increasing* the public parking supply for the neighborhood and its visitors.

We recognize the interest in exploring the potential of other sites, such as LADOT Lot 701, for community amenities like a mobility hub or even more affordable housing. We fully support maximizing the use of public land. However, these future possibilities should build upon our current success, not derail it. Lot 701 can be the *next* great project for Venice, but it cannot come at the cost of the one that is already approved, funded, and legally binding.

Venice Dell has successfully navigated every step of the City's rigorous process. It was selected through an RFP in 2016, approved by the Planning Commission and this Council in 2021, and has a fully executed Disposition and Development Agreement (DDA). With a crucial **\$42.4 million** in state funding secured and approvals from the California Coastal Commission, this project is a testament to what is possible when the City, State, and community partners work together.

As the attached October 3, 2025 letter from the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) makes clear, moving forward is not just the right thing to do—it is the City’s legal and financial obligation. Proceeding with Venice Dell is the most viable, cost-effective, and responsible path forward. It honors the City's commitments, avoids millions in potential damages and legal fees, protects our Prohousing Designation, and secures \$42.4 million in state investment for our community.

The time for deliberation is past. The plans are approved, the funding is secured, and the need is undeniable. Let’s celebrate this achievement and get it built. AIA Los Angeles urges the City Council to reaffirm its support for this vital project and direct all departments to move full speed ahead with the legally binding approvals for Venice Dell at LADOT Lot 731.

Thank you for your leadership on this vital issue.

Truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Will Wright', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Will Wright, Hon. AIALA  
Director, Government & Public Affairs

**cc:**

- Mayor Karen Bass
- Hydee Feldstein Soto, City Attorney
- Councilmember Traci Park, Council District 11
- Councilmember Nithya Raman, Chair, Housing and Homelessness Committee
- Tiena Johnson Hall, General Manager, Los Angeles Housing Department
- Melinda Coy, Housing Accountability Unit Chief, HCD

\*ATTACHMENT: October 3, 2025 letter from California's Department of Housing and Community Development Housing Accountability Unit Chief, Melinda Coy.