

## Political Forum



### Imagine Walking Along the Waterfront in Los Angeles

by **Janice Hahn, Councilmember, 15<sup>th</sup> District**

There is nothing like strolling along the waterfront, smelling the ocean air and enjoying the view. Whether it is San Diego, Baltimore, San Francisco or Seattle, we have all visited other cities with exquisite seaport villages, wharves or waterfront development—something that has been lacking in the City of Los Angeles.

That is about to change.

When the Mayor and I took office in 2001, we decided to return a large portion of the waterfront at the Port to the people of this City. All the way from the Vincent Thomas Bridge to the Harbor breakwater was designated for recreational use. And right now, we are in the process of creating a world-class waterfront promenade for all of Los Angeles to enjoy. I envision visitors from all of the city, and beyond, walking along our waterfront, visiting shops, dining at restaurants and enjoying the incredible entertainment provided by the Port of Los Angeles. Our promenade will draw visitors not only from around the world and increased tourism will help us to attract and retain new businesses and generate new jobs benefiting every Angeleno.


To make our waterfront development a reality, it will be up to the residents of L.A. to approve a ballot measure in March. This ballot measure will amend our City Charter by just one line—but what a difference a line can make. Voting yes on the “Tidelands Trust” charter amendment will give Los Angeles the ability to use port-

#### Council District 15 includes these communities:

- Watts
- Wilmington
- San Pedro
- Harbor City
- Harbor Gateway
- Athens on the Hill

related funds for uses including education, recreation, culture and tourism—an ability that every other port in California already has and what we need to build the waterfront we deserve.

Many people may wonder if is possible to combine entertainment and recreation with a working harbor. But, our harbor is our entertainment. With cruise ships, cargo ships, barges, tugs and our new fireboat—which is the most powerful in the world—visitors will be constantly amazed.

Waterfront development is crucial to the economic prosperity of coastal California cities. We plan to break ground on our promenade as early as February 2004, and I invite every Los Angeles resident to stroll along the waterfront when we open our grand promenade. Keep your eyes open for that March ballot measure. We will be looking to you for support. 



Could you soon be walking along a waterfront in Los Angeles? Councilmember Janice Hahn hopes so.

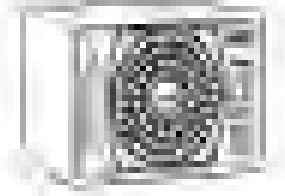
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