

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0536

August 5, 2011

Vice President, Facilities
Attn: Diana K. Alvarado
Pacific Facilities Service Office
Facilities Planning and Requirements
395 Oyster Point Boulevard, Suite 225
South San Francisco, CA 94080-0300

Re: Appeal of Decision to Relocate Postal Customer Services to the Venice Postal Annex and to Sell the Historic Venice Post Office

Dear Ms. Alvarado:

I am writing on behalf of my constituents in Venice, California, to formally appeal the U.S. Postal Service's decision to relocate retail postal services from the historic Venice Post Office located at 1601 Main Street to the Venice Postal Annex at 313 Grand Boulevard.

The Venice community is united in their opposition to the proposed relocation and we urge you to reverse this decision.

The proposed relocation will have an adverse impact on the residential neighborhood that surrounds the Postal Annex. Because the proposed use of the Annex would consolidate existing carrier operations with existing retail operations without any additional parking being provided, the combined operations would impose spillover parking impacts on the residential neighborhood, exacerbating an already serious parking problem for local residents and their guests in this world-renowned beach community. More than 16 million people visit Venice beach each year, which already creates a tremendous shortage of parking. Adding retail postal services to the Annex would essentially transfer automobile and pedestrian traffic from the commercial area surrounding the Post Office to the residential community surrounding the Annex, adding thousands of vehicular trips a day in an area that can ill afford this traffic. The relocation to the Annex represents a dramatic intensification of use of that facility, which is occurring without any environmental review or mitigation.

Further, relocation jeopardizes the preservation of the architecturally distinguished Post Office, which is believed to be the only New Deal-era Works Projects Administration structure surviving in Venice, and jeopardizes public access to the "Story of Venice" mural, the main feature of the interior of the Post Office, where it was permanently installed in 1941.

The Post Office has a long history as a local landmark. Its current location, on the Windward Traffic Circle, anchors the center of the Venice community. The structure was designed by noted architect Louis

Simon. The "Story of Venice" mural was created by Edward Biberman, an icon of post war California Modernist artists. His work appears in the Smithsonian, the National Portrait Gallery, and Los Angeles County Museum of Art, among many other collections.

I share the community's deeply held concern that the eventual sale of the Post Office will preclude public access to the mural and very probably lead to its loss in the demolition of the structure.

The Venice Post Office has competently served the needs of Venice since 1940. I would ask that the Postal Service rescind its decision to abandon and sell the Post Office and instead craft a solution that fully utilizes this historic structure, allowing the public and citizens of Venice to use and enjoy this historically significant structure for many years to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janice Hahn". The signature is fluid and includes a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Janice Hahn
Member of Congress