

## ATTACHMENT 2

Larry Haynes & Donna Lynn  
2051 Calvert Ave.  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626  
714/444-1964

May 31, 2005

William J. Morris, Director of Public Services  
City of Costa Mesa  
77 Fair Drive  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626-1200

Dear Mr. Morris:

We are requesting an addition to the city's public/private wall construction program, wherein the city contributes fifty percent of the costs to design and construct qualifying walls along arterial streets, be expanded to include the walls along Adams Avenue between Placentia and the Santa Ana River Bridge. We are further requesting that specific consideration be given to our proposed wall at 2051 Calvert Avenue which is adjacent to an arterial street (Adams). We believe that our request has merit for the following reasons:

1) Noise attenuation: The noise level from Adams traffic is significant in our back yard, front yard, and even within our home even with all of our windows shut. In fact, we have young children whose health is being adversely affected in that traffic noise is substantial enough to wake our daughters up at night. This unusually high noise level results from Adams being on a grade whose elevation accelerates well beyond the grade of our back yard. Consequently, our current wall, which is over six feet high, is not high enough to block the noise from the vehicles. Our wall is not even high enough to block the view of some tires!

2) Aesthetics: The section of Adams Avenue as described above can accurately be described as a "gateway to the city." This section of arterial walls is in particularly poor condition. City staff has given this reason as prompting the need for high standards in material and design. We agree, however this also has driven up the cost of construction to a level beyond reason for a private homeowner.

3) Safety: The current state of our existing wall poses a number of safety risks. We have little if any protection against any sort of traffic accident on Adams Avenue. In fact, there was just recently a major traffic accident on Adams very near our wall. We were fortunate to not have a vehicle in our back yard. Pedestrian traffic is also of considerable concern. Behind our current wall exists a city-maintained sidewalk. On a regular basis pedestrians walk by, are able to see our entire back yard and house, and frequently make uninvited comments. We are trying to not be alarmist here, but at times some of the

comments have been quite inappropriate, some directed at our young daughters. Lewd comments have even been made by city employees (or possibly private workers contracted by the city) directed at our family. The sidewalk behind our wall is also the main walkway for the transient population that lives along the Santa Ana River, and we have seen a noticeable increase in this pedestrian traffic. Our family has delivered professional services to Orange County's homeless population for over 17 years; we are well acquainted with the risk this transient population poses to our family, especially our children. We understand that we do not live in a risk-free society. We are requesting an action that would provide a reasonable and modest amount of protection and privacy.

4) Construction: We have plans that have been approved by Building and Planning. Our plans have been engineered and conform to all city criteria. We have secured bids and have selected a contractor. We are ready to go!

5) Cost: While we have identified a solution to our concerns, the cost has become a stumbling block. Our original estimates were around \$25,000, though expensive, was a price we could manage. However, after our plans were re-engineered by the city and with the insistence of certain materials for aesthetic purposes (Parenthetically, this is confusing to us since a wall along this same area was just completed without having to use these required materials. Arbitrary enforcement confuses us.), our costs more than doubled. Our problem is that while we believe that we have legitimate concerns, a reasonable response, we are forced, without alternative, to use materials and a design that is beyond what most private homeowners can afford.

In short, we believe that a new wall is needed for aesthetic, noise, and safety concerns. We feel that our geographical area exactly fits the city's intent for its public/private wall construction program. We believe further that our wall merits immediate attention for the aesthetic, noise, and safety issues cited above and also because we have approved plans conforming to city standards, a contractor, and an ability to share the cost. We are prepared to act immediately.

We sincerely appreciate your assistance with this matter.

Larry Haynes and Donna Lynn