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Marina Del Rey Residents Protest 'Hell's Highway'

(CBS) *MARINA DEL REY* An aide to Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe said no decision would be made to extend the Marina (90) Freeway to Admiralty Way without public input.

Faced with the massive Playa del Rey development to the south, condominium complexes to the east of Lincoln Boulevard, housing within the Marina Loft district and redevelopment of county-leased tracts in the marina, residents took to the streets in opposition of dumping more traffic onto Admiralty Way, the only thru-way within Marina del Rey.

The Marina Freeway currently empties onto Lincoln Boulevard, but planners want to extend it onto the already busy Admiralty Way.

"The quality of lifestyle impact from this kind of thing is untenable," said Don Klein, 66, president of "Save the Marina Coalition," which helped organize the march. "We do not want a 'Century City by the Sea.' This is a recreational area, period."

David Barish, 38, brandished a sign that read: "Whose dumb idea was this? No freeway."

Barish and fiancée Ina Kurcz, 37, said the freeway, dubbed "Hell's Highway," would ruin the marina's character.

Most of Marina del Rey was developed in the 1960's. Billed as the largest man-made marina in the world, residents see that the freeway is one of the ways the county is trying to make money and increase housing prices.

"The marina was built in the '60s as a public recreation facility and the county now is viewing it as a place to build high-rent housing at the expense of recreational facilities," said resident Steve Freedman.

Many of the docks were being redeveloped to accommodate larger ships and boaters complained of the loss of 25-foot slips for smaller boats, for larger ones that pull in higher lease rates.

"They are building everywhere, they're leaving no open space," said one resident. "Apartments don't do anything for recreation. We want to see softball, anything having to do with water, a water slide."

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