



1538 Post Avenue • Torrance, CA 90501 • (310) 320-6054

5 September, 2003

Dear OTNA Member:

There is an exciting campaign going on in our Downtown Torrance neighborhood that is gaining momentum — that is, to establish a Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (HPOZ). Additionally, an organization called Save Historic Old Torrance is leading the way to have districts within the Downtown Torrance area officially recognized by the National Register of Historic Places.

In order to gain a better understanding of what a HPOZ could do for the historical districts of downtown Torrance, we have invited Ruthann Lehrer, Neighborhood & Historic Preservation Officer for the City of Long Beach, to be our guest speaker. Lehrer's presentation, *What is a Historic District & How Does it Work?*, will detail how to balance the needs of property owners with the protection of the community's historic assets. She will also discuss the benefits and constraints for property owners in historic districts. In addition, a slide show citing examples, will be a part of her presentation — ample time will be allotted for questions and answers. Janet Payne, Third Vice President of the Torrance Historical Society, will give a brief presentation on the History of Torrance.

Ruthann Lehrer was appointed to her current position with the City of Long Beach, in February of 1989. She is responsible for management of the City's historic preservation program, and for planning and managing the City's 16 historic districts. Lehrer is also the Chair of the Santa Monica Landmarks Commission.

We hope you'll join us on Wednesday, September 17th, for what is sure to be a very informative and educational meeting. Many people feel there is somewhat of an urgency to establish a HPOZ in Downtown Torrance, because the National Trust for Historic Preservation added the tear-down of historic neighborhoods to its list of *America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places* last year. Though Torrance is a young City, it is rich in history. And . . . it is this history that we endeavor to save and share with the future. After all, history is about who we are and where we came from — even for a City.

Sincerely,

Debbie Hays
OTNA President

P.S. If you'd like to learn more about our City's history, join the Torrance Historical Society on Sunday, September 28th, for a free Walking Tour of Historic Downtown Torrance. See enclosed flyer for details.