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AGREEMENT REACHED TO PRESERVE MARE ISLAND'S HISTORY

VALLEJO, CA (April 10, 2006) – A dispute over the future of nearly 500 historic buildings at the former Mare Island Naval Shipyard and proposed new development on the Island has been tentatively resolved by Lennar Mare Island, LLC, the National Trust for Historic Preservation (National Trust), the City of Vallejo, and Vallejo Architectural Heritage Foundation (VAHF), led by Judy Irvin and Elizabeth Pidgeon. The agreement requires City Council approval to be effective. The Council will consider approval at its meeting on Tuesday, April 11.

The agreement provides increased protections against the demolition of Mare Island historic buildings and structures, establishes a \$2 million loan fund for the rehabilitation of historic resources on the Island, and provides funds to train the City's Architectural Heritage and Landmarks Commission in implementing the Mare Island Historic and Design Guidelines. Certain buildings that had been scheduled for demolition will now be saved, and others will require further study prior to consideration of demolition. Demolition criteria are to be further developed to maximize reuse of historic buildings while allowing sensitive new infill projects.

Vallejo architect and VAHF President Judy Irvin stated, "The agreement strikes a responsible and workable balance between maintaining Mare Island's historic integrity and the practicalities of economic reuse." Vallejo architect and VAHF Vice-President Elizabeth Pidgeon elaborated, "We want the reuse of Mare Island to be successful. This agreement increases protections retaining Mare Island's unique sense of place, which we believe will be the key to its economic success by building on its legacy."

The agreement is the result of several months of negotiations between the parties following the City's approval of amendments to the Mare Island Specific Plan in December 2005. The Plan provides guidelines for retaining, reusing, or demolishing Mare Island historic buildings. Preservation advocates

claimed that the Plan did not adequately protect the Island's unique and irreplaceable resources or comply with mandates of the California Environmental Quality Act. The agreement prevents the preservation community from filing litigation on the Plan.

Dr. Anthea Hartig, Director of the National Trust's Western Regional Office, noted that, "Few other military resources west of the Mississippi, if any, compare to Mare Island. From side wheelers to submarines, it has been a critical part of California and American history for almost 150 years. The rehabilitation of the Island, listed in whole on the National Register of Historic Places with key portions designated as National Historic Landmark Districts, stands out as one of the most important preservation efforts in recent memory."

Lennar Mare Island spokesperson, Jason Keadjian, agreed. "This agreement allows us to move forward with developing the industry, commerce, and jobs envisioned by the comprehensive Mare Island Specific Plan," Keadjian said.

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