

**CONTACT:** Jay Beeler

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PHONE:** (562) 597-9000

**DATE:** March 29, 2006

## **HOME DEPOT DESIGN CENTER SUPPORTERS LAUNCH WEBSITE**

A group of East Long Beach residents supportive of the proposed Home Depot Design Center at Studebaker Road and Loynes Drive are behind a new website designed to educate the community on the numerous benefits this project brings to Long Beach and the local neighborhoods. The website, [www.designcenter4lb.com](http://www.designcenter4lb.com), was launched on Wednesday, March 29, and provides a detailed description of the project, focusing on the Design Center aspect, ways in which the community benefits, facts and figures, a Q&A section as well as ongoing project details.

The group's primary goal was to create a central clearinghouse of information for residents to stay up-to-date on the development. A telephone survey of 500 high-probability voters conducted last August found that overall, 65 percent of those polled citywide support the project with 71 percent favorable because it keeps sales dollars in Long Beach, and an equal number supportive because it creates jobs to improve the Long Beach economy. At 78 percent, "cleans up blight" was the biggest reason those polled were favorable.

The website also presents highlights from an economic impact report prepared last October by CSULB Professors Lisa M. Grobar and Joseph P. Magaddino. Their study determined that 389 new jobs and \$650,000 in tax revenues for the city's general fund — after one year of operation — will result from the Design Center, family restaurant and retail stores proposed for the 16.7 acre site.

Others interested in showing their support for the Design Center project are welcome to complete the form in the "contact us" section at [www.designcenter4lb.com](http://www.designcenter4lb.com) or call (562) 597-0509.