

Valley VOTE

Valley Voters Organized Toward Empowerment

By
Michelle Dornfest

Community Meeting Report – September 16, 2013

**“It is not enough to understand, or to see clearly.
The future will be shaped in the arena of human activity,
by those willing to commit their minds
and their bodies to the task.”**

Robert F. Kennedy



Joe Vitti, President, Valley Vote; Kevin Modesti, Daily News
Editorial Writer; Richard Leyner, Valley Vote

GUEST SPEAKER: Kevin Modesti

THE “TURNING POINT” ISSUES IN THE L.A. CITY MAYORAL ELECTION 2013

Daily News editorial writer, Kevin Modesti, addressed the “turning point” issues in the recent Los Angeles City Hall election. He said that the Valley voters appeared to have a sudden change of heart, which resulted in a change of votes, from candidate, Wendy Greuel, to Eric Garcetti. He added: “The Valley is not a monolith; it is a lot of different communities and different interests.” He believes that the new Los Angeles City Council will listen even more intensively to the local Valley Residents and Neighborhood Councils.

The trends for the future will be a shift of economic power in the Valley. Key issues that he addressed, which strongly affect the Valley, include:

- i) **Transportation.**
- ii) **The Re-Greening of the Los Angeles River.**
- iii) **The Improvement of the “Emergency Response Time” by First Responders.**

The Daily News encourages Letters to the Editor from the community, alerting the Daily News to community concerns.

Modesti he is part of an editorial Opinion Board at the **Daily News**, that writes editorials, endorses candidates and determines which local political issues merit closer attention. The Daily News ranks as the ninth largest paper in the country. A native and resident of the San Fernando Valley, Modesti came to the Daily News in 1985 to cover the Los Angeles Dodgers. The Daily News' current circulation is about 80,000. The nine-newspaper L.A. News Group (“LANG”), of which the Daily News is the flagship, has a combined circulation of about 425,000. Because the LANG is counted as one newspaper for purposes of official circulation, the Daily News has the ninth largest circulation in the country.

COMMENTS:

Joe Vitti, President, Valley VOTE, said:

“Since, the time of the San Fernando Valley Secession Movement, things have improved in the Valley. The Valley has an increased representation in City Hall. The Secession Movement helped to create Neighborhood Councils, more representation on Commissions, Boards and on the City Council. Transportation has improved with the Orange Line bus way across the Valley, and the new extension to Chatsworth.”

Denny Schneider, Valley VOTE Board Member, said:

“It is critical that we have more in-depth investigative news reporting.”

Richard Leyner, Chairman, Valley VOTE, said that we need more investigative information from the local newspapers on many issues, including:

- a) Consolidation of the City Planning Department and Building & Safety Department.
- b) The “Save Our Streets” Initiative.
- c) City Hall Budget: Reporting on the outcomes of expenditures.

Victor Viereck, CPA –

The Valley Economic Report

September, 2013

A SIDEWALK SOLUTION

Viereck discussed the issue of the broken sidewalks; and the fact that people are getting injured on these “roller coaster” sidewalks. He said that elected officials have not developed a complete and workable solution to repair the sidewalks. Vic presented his recommendations for property owners who want to take care of sidewalks adjacent to or in front of their property. In summary, he believes that property owners should be allowed to repair sidewalks, without permit fees. Then, the homeowner should be allowed a credit against the transfer tax, for the costs they paid to repair the sidewalks.

BART REED,

The Transit Coalition, Executive Director

BURBANK AIRPORT UPDATE – SEPTEMBER 2013

- a)
Legislation is being drafted, which is expected to allow for the creation of a walkway from the train to the Burbank Airport Terminal.
- b)
Discussion of Public Employee Retirement Act Pension Reform. There is a several-month delay on discussions of pension reform issues, for transit agencies.
- c)
The Building of Bus Stops for the Blind in certain locations: In Process.
- d)
Rail Cars:
Metro was awarded a Contract to build rail cars. They will be assembled in Palmdale, CA; which will increase employment in that area.
- e)
Electric Buses:
An electric bus factory will be built in Palmdale.

DENNY SCHNEIDER

President Alliance for a Regional Solution to Airport Congestion:

The Latest BURBANK AND LAX Airport Issues

The Bob Hope Airport in Burbank is looking into major upgrades, especially on the 83 year-old terminal. A meeting will be held on September 18 to discuss controlling helicopter noise in Torrance, hosted by Los Angeles Area Helicopter Noise Coalition. Industry and FAA leadership from Washington DC will be attending. At this stage, "most airport noise controls are voluntary." The next meeting will be held on September 26.

The LA County Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC) considered the current appeal to overturn a finding that the new LAWA plan for LAX expansion North meets the County planning department land use requirements. The staff report initially called to uphold the appeal. However, at the meeting, the staff appeared to reverse itself. The Commission voted to deny the appeal. The Commission, however, proceeded to ask LAWA to consider a LAX design, with a to-be-determined "friendlier" approach to appellant stakeholders. LAWA agreed. There is a lot of activity at LAX involving the rework of the runway safety areas for both LAX complexes. NOP's for these projects were released for comment. This week, the Tom Bradley International Terminal will have another ribbon cutting. The new Board of Airport Commission appointees are expected to meet later this month.

Announcements:

Denny Schneider -

Valley VOTE Board Member, was nominated for the Howard Drollinger Achievement Award. To receive the "Howard Drollinger Achievement Award," an individual must be a business leader, educator or professional service provider who has made a meaningful commitment of time, talent or treasure that has had a significant impact on the Westchester/Playa del Rey community.

The Award will be presented by the Drollinger Family at the Westchester Family YMCA Kids Need Heroes Luncheon Thursday, September 26, 2013.

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