



Voters Organized Toward Empowerment  
14622 Ventura Blvd, #424 Sherman Oaks, California 91403  
www.valleyvote.org Contact: President, Joe Vitti (email: javittisr@cs.com)

**VALLEY VOTE REPORT: January 19, 2015 MEETING**

Minutes accumulated by Denny Schneider

Galpin Ford - 2nd Floor Meeting Room, 15555 Roscoe Boulevard, North Hills, CA 91343

*Valley Vote meetings are held the third Monday of each month to address critical public policy issues impacting the San Fernando Valley. The next meeting will be February 16, 2015.*

This meeting featured Daryl C. Arbuthnott, Deputy Chief, L.A. Fire Department and Bill Elmer, deputy for Patty Lopez, California 39th District Assembly Member along with several topical committee reports.

President Joe Vitti encouraged all to become active participants either as Board members or Executive Board members. For details of how to become an active Valley Vote volunteer or to see the dozens of position statements addressing key Valley VOTE issues, visit our website: [www.ValleyVOTE.org](http://www.ValleyVOTE.org).

**Daryl C. Arbuthnott, Deputy Chief, L.A. Fire Department, Valley Bureau**

Chief Arbuthnott is a native Angelino and a 34 year Veteran of the L.A. Fire Department. Deputy Chief Arbuthnott served in numerous positions including Assistant Bureau Commander of the Emergency Services Bureau when he managed the day to day operations of 106 fire stations and 2900 fire personal. He has served as both the North and South Division Commander command and control over 470 square miles of the Los Angeles area.

His top three priorities as the Valley Fire Chief include building a productive relationship for fire members, the community, and improving upon the LAFD's emergency response effectiveness.

Chief Arbuthnott noted that the total LAFD manpower is down 318 firefighters, but that Mayor Garcetti is working to improve this. Responsiveness is critical and the geographic size of the SFV makes this a difficult task. Under his leadership LAFD is now coordinating closely with LAPD for all emergencies. Radios used are use shared frequencies to facilitate communication.

Although some resources remain short, the LAFD is using statistical driven needs evaluation to improve availability.

Paramedics use "triage Clausen protocol." Paramedics are comprehensively deployed from the closest fire station in a manor called "tiered response" in which

critical 911 emergency calls, such as a heart attack, are routed directly to the closest fire station instead of the previous method of sending the calls to an assessment team to decide where to route them.

Chief Arbuthnott called for more community involvement in preparations for disasters. The local fire stations are capable with hazmat and air testing equipment. He agrees that CERT training is important and that supplies should be stored in local buildings. He will work to get Building and Safety to establish less restrictive rules for the storage of supplies in churches and other public facilities.

Adding additional stations to the existing 106 fire stations is not practical at this time due to funding limitations. Stations that are closed likely had projected high costs of refurbishment and renovation. These stations are being replaced in their entirety. Closed stations do not remain in LAFD inventory. Instead they are given back to General Services Department for repurposing and/or sale.

When asked about how responsiveness can be improved, Chief Arbuthnott noted that specialized fire truck teams are deployed. One truck has specialty ladders and paramedic capacity while another has water supplies. Depending on the emergencies a team can be broken up to add extra resources as needed.

### **Bill Elmer, deputy for Patty Lopez, California 39<sup>th</sup> AD Member**

**Recently elected ASM Patty Lopez was scheduled to speak to Valley VOTE, but due to an emergency ASM Lopez was unable to attend. Her deputy, Bill Elmer, an engineer with 40 years' experience spoke instead. She desires to attend in the future and we look forward to her joining us.**

ASM Lopez believes that she can make a difference and that education is the key for families to improve the quality of life.

She has been a homeowner and a resident since 1989 and has been very active in a number of organizations:

- \*North Valley Occupational Center- Aviation Center work
- \*Parent volunteer- Served on the Site Council at San Fernando H.S. and Middle School and Morningside Elementary School.
- \*Mexican Legal Defend fund - Member Parent School Partnership since 2007 to present. Advocate High Education equality laws.
- \*Parent Organization Network - 2008 to present - "Padres Activos SFV" Helps parents learn their responsibilities and their immigration and civil rights.

She would like to promote connections with schools to promote higher education for youth, improve opportunities for Adult education, and create pathways for students to graduate high school with appropriate skills to pursue a career.

Although she has been in the legislature for only two weeks both her local Laurel Canyon and Sacramento offices are open for constituent service business.

He fielded questions about numerous topics. Some questions remained open and will be followed up with answers from Deputy Elmer. Key topics addressed included, but were not limited to the following summaries:

- No position yet on high speed rail from Burbank to PMD.
- Noted the challenges of SB1818 CA law that was supposed to encourage affordable housing vs controversial LA City implementation efforts.
- ASM Lopez supports the sunset of bills so that effectiveness can be assessed before reasserting them.
- She supports protection of Prop 13.
- She also believes that schools should have separate Manual Arts programs and also in HS as well.
- She is aware of the DMV issue that there are 3 super centers in the Valley for illegal registration that are creating significant congestion in surrounding residential communities.
- Deputy Elmer agreed to look into the Branford street on ramp to freeway closure and cleanup of the freeway in Arleta. He noted that a couple cases have been opened with CalTrans.
- Interested in helping to establish a young people's group to coordinate with Valley VOTE.
- AB590 sunsets this year. Addiction records being sealed and can cause additional crime concerns.
- Will look into how to match student abilities with jobs for education. Homeless situation LANC wants Brentwood action.

During the Q & A V V Board Member Ernie Hilger noted that case workers are assigned to all totally disabled vets. E-mail him at [ErnieHilger@hotmail.com](mailto:ErnieHilger@hotmail.com) if you know anyone who needs help.

### **Valley VOTE Committee Reports:**

#### **Joe Vitti – re: membership**

Our purpose is to fight for fair representation for the SFV and to ensure the City acts in the best interest of its citizens. Membership applications were distributed and can be found on the website.

#### **Vic Viereck - Split Roll Ruse**

The State of California is still, continuously under the threat of an increase in property tax on commercial property in California. In a city and state known for anti-business climate, approving increased property tax (through split-roll) on commercial property is a job killer.

Although the property owner writes the check to pay the property tax, the commercial property tenant has to pass the tax on to its customers-you and me. With one exception, we the customers pay the property tax. The exception is in cutting other costs, such as jobs. There are multiple reasons not to increase the cost of doing business. Preventing property tax increases keeps California businesses more competitive with out of state and foreign businesses. It also helps make merchandise and services more affordable for consumers. If tax increases, like other costs, cannot be covered through sales revenue, other costs need to be cut. That means eliminating jobs. Eliminating jobs, along with reducing (if possible) other expenses hurts the whole economy. While some businesses would have to close, others will not open. That hurts employment.

Increased property tax also reduces net taxable income for state (& federal) income tax purposes, and therefore reduces income tax revenue. It also REDUCES PROPERTY VALUES, which also offsets tax revenue increases. It's not just big corporations, but EVERYBODY who would suffer the impact of the proposed split-roll. Please protect jobs and our economy by rejecting the split-roll.

For additional info: Victor N. Viereck, CPA 12702 Tiara Street, Valley Village, CA 91607 (818) 985-9174 vicviereck@sbcglobal.net

### **Bart Reed – Transportation issues**

Bart spoke about several key bus and train issues. He told us that a MeasureR2 Townhall will be held on 2/26 6-9pm to assess what valley should request.

The head of Metro link left in January and his counterpart at Metro, Art Laheay, is also leaving this spring.

Bart identified an effort to make Van Owen St one way under freeway! However he points out that if one misses their stop it would require a 1 mile further away go-around.

CicLAvia bike awareness is March 22. Anecdotally an estimated 20% increase in business is seen on Sundays when the event is held.

### **Ralph Kroy - Sunshine Canyon**

The growth and operation of Sunshine Canyon has been of concern for many in the north Valley because of the direct impacts of smells, noise, and pollution. The site generates 15000 cubic feet per minute of methane and cancer inducing volatile organic compounds (VOCs) with dangerous amounts of emissions released into the air. From 11/2008 to 2014 over 6000 odor complaints were filed and 99 notices of violation of rule 42 issued by AQMD. It is one of the largest landfills in the country located next to, and downstream from the LAMWD water treatment plant and LA water reservoir. This impacts all of the region as to where to put our garbage and new solutions must be found. This is another example of one area being severely impacted with only limited responsiveness from the government that is supposed to protect its citizens. Ralph provided facts, figures, and dates of agreements ignored as growth has been approved. In 2008, for instance 90 million tons of capacity

expansion was approved that severely damaged the surrounding environment and allowed for destruction of thousands of otherwise protected oak trees.

### **Don Schultz- Group Homes**

Numerous complaints caused Council to direct planning to propose ordinance in 2006. 2008 made draft. Council took up in 2010, but took no action due to advocates. Typical has 6 residents by right. 7 or more not addressed by CA. About 20 people in one home @ \$800/month revenue provides a big income! We are still waiting for City action. Enforcement is light since there is only one City Attorney devoted to nuisance actions. The state has passed laws limiting our actions. We will need to help; this issue is not going away because the state failed to set standards. Many of these poorly run homes are crime magnets.

### **Denny Schneider-Airport Report**

There's one way to describe LAX – UNDER CONSTRUCTION. Several of the old terminals are getting a face lift, the expansion joints of the Central Terminal Area (CTA) upper roadway are being replaced, and construction on Tom Bradley International Terminal and support buildings continue. Then, outside of LAX the Crenshaw-LAX line is being built—target 2019... There's additional work on a northern portion of the Midfield Terminal Gates being added and much more.

The result: congestion. Every day is like Thanksgiving holiday season with bumper to bumper delays. LAX passenger use is at an all-time high of 71 Million Annual Passengers while the FAA/LAWA is targeting for an additional 75% increase beyond that! Don't expect relief soon—either at the airport or on the 405 freeway.

Las Vegas betting odds are against any relief soon! LAWA tells us that a significant ground traffic solution is an integrated multi-modal transportation facility (ITF) near the current Lot C along with a new Consolidated Rental Car Facility (ConRAC).

At the end of this month LAWA plans to release a Notice of Preparation for these two facilities plus a new automated people mover (APM) that will connect from Manchester Square near the 405 freeway into the CTA. There is good and bad with the planned APM which I will be reporting on in my next report.

Adding to the construction mix are the FAA required upgrades of the runway safety zones at the end of all four runways. This is all in addition to the currently delayed, but still planned, runway expansion program.

Presentation slides from a large town hall are posted at [www.RegionalSolution.org](http://www.RegionalSolution.org)  
Denny Schneider, President Alliance for A Regional Solution to Airport Congestion (ARSAC) [www.RegionalSolution.org](http://www.RegionalSolution.org) Denny@WeLiveFree.com

### **Sound Off!**

Valley Vote's has added a public comment period to its monthly meeting. Coming toward the end of the meeting, Sound Off! will give members and guests an opportunity to briefly voice their opinions and concerns in brief two-minute presentations. Members attending our meeting will have the opportunity to discuss their concerns.

The press and public are invited to attend the meeting.  
The next Valley VOTE meeting will be on Monday, February 16, 2015 at Galpin Ford.

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#### Valley VOTE Mission Statement

Valley VOTE is a diverse coalition of San Fernando Valley residents, business people, educators, community activists, and organizations, committed to exploring and fostering the implementation of programs that empower the people of the San Fernando Valley and the City of Los Angeles, to improve local governance, education and public participation on policy matters. We meet monthly to address key policy issues and hear reports from our standing committee chairs. For additional information about Valley VOTE, for an upcoming meeting agenda, or for previous meeting reports and press releases, we encourage you to go to the Valley VOTE website.