



Valley VOTE

Organized Toward Empowerment Voters
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VALLEY VOTE REPORT: June 15, 2015 MEETING

Minutes accumulated by Denny Schneider

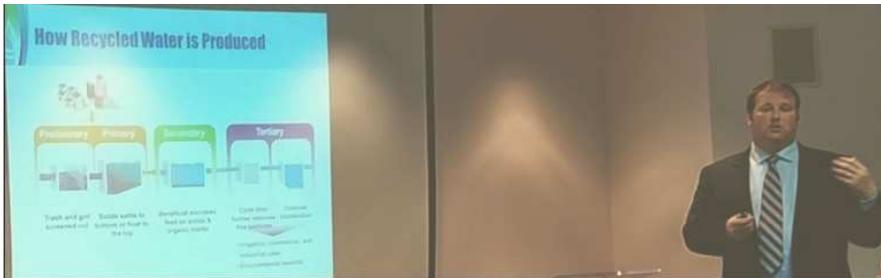
Galpin Ford - 2nd Floor Meeting Room, 15555 Roscoe Boulevard, North Hills, CA 91343

*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 July 20, 2015.***

This meeting featured a presentation and follow up discussion with LA Department of Water and Power management Anthony Tew of the Water Recycling Policy Group and Yoshiko Tsunehara of the Water Recycling Planning Group followed by a presentation by Wayne Williams about the Clean Money Campaign to reduce the influence of campaign financing on politics. Several presentations were made by Board members on topics of general interest as well as a public speak session.

President Joe Vitti spoke of the impacts that Valley VOTE, a premier volunteer organization in the San Fernando Valley, is, and has been making to improve Valley quality of life. To volunteer for positions as Board member and Executive Board member of Valley Vote or to see the dozens of impact position statements taken to improve the SFV visit our website: www.ValleyVOTE.org

Anthony Tew and Yoshiko Tsunehara, LA Department of Water and Power



Water is a key concern for local residents which is discussed daily. It is the lack of water and the on-going restrictions. Our guests provided insight into ongoing supply problems, attendant impacts and restrictions, and water quality issues.

There was a discussion of the high costs of water due to increased regulations and limited supply. Mr. Tew and Ms. Tsunehara reminded us that most of our water comes from hundreds of miles away via aqueducts and that all of it is expensive and getting more so. They then went on to discuss the multiple claims for water by numerous jurisdictions.

Their pictures highlighted that our water source mountainous areas show a total lack of snow pack supply and that reservoirs are at record low levels. They talked about stormwater capture, conservation, and recycling to help compensate for a general lack of primary water supply. They discussed alternative sources for water including desalinization and even dragging an iceberg south was suggested from the audience. Residents have done well with recycling. Since 1970 there's been no increased water use despite a million person population growth.

Our guests were proud of the water quality and the amount of testing that is done on our supply. Go to <https://www.ladwp.com/ladwp/faces/ladwp/aboutus/a-water/a-w-wqreport>. A new 2014 report is due to be posted very soon. Go to www.waterreuse.com for suggestions to save water.

Ms. Tsunehara described the amount of processing to ensure that even recycled water is safe. The old campaign of “Toilet to Tap” was described as misleading and evoked an incongruent image instead of reality. The presentation explained the advanced treatment used on wastewater before it is reinjected into the ground. They explained microfiltration, reverse osmosis, and ultraviolet/hydrogen peroxide disinfection. Further, nature refilters the water as it flows underground. They invited Valley VOTE and other groups to join the Recycled Water Advisor group by sending a note to the presenters at recycledwaterinfo@ladwp.com.

Many questions were raised about the status of our 7200 miles of distribution pipes and the cost to maintain them. Expansion of the 57 miles of purple recycled water pipe would be very expensive to duplicate. That’s why the recycled pipes only support high usage areas for recycled water. Similarly, questions about the relationship between our water uses and the needs of the Central Valley farms arose. When discussing Northern California water use we noted that some areas don’t even have water meters to measure their use despite that the drought has expanded to their areas as well.

Alternative water sources were also discussed, but the focus was still on reuse. Groundwater injected is acceptable for use after travelling about six months. Pumped water has generally been in the ground 10-11 years before reuse.

Our presenters noted that most collection is done “upstream” from the water processing done at Hyperion. It was noted that LADWP is one highest users of electricity to pump our water the long distances and that processed water released at Hyperion into the ocean would have to be pumped back uphill.

Several answers to questions were promised and will be posted with these minutes when received. Examples of outstanding questions include: How are PCBs monitored in our drinking water? Is Hexavalent Cr monitored? How can we use purple pipe recycled water for public trees in bad need of water? How do we improve on the Owens Lake court judgement to stop using drinking water to stop dust which will save rate payers enormous money? Are Title 22 pyrogens measured?

For more information go to www.LADWP.com



Wayne Williams, Clean Money

Valley VOTE has had presentation in the distance past by the Clean Money Campaign whose purpose is to remove or at least reduce the influences of money in political campaigns. Wayne provided an update of the current activities of California Clean Money Campaign. We would like to thank Wayne for taking time out of his busy schedule to be with us this evening,

Mr. Williams spoke eloquently in favor of AB700 which would increase public disclosure of funding for propositions. He noted \$Billions are being spent on campaigns and that limits have been thwarted each time they are set.

The aim of AB 700 is to:

1. Require the three largest funders of the committees that pay for ballot measure ads (two largest on radio ads) to be shown clearly and prominently—on the ads themselves—so viewers see as they watch.
2. Follow-the-Money rules in code require funders disclosed on ballot measure ads to be the true contributors to the committee that paid of the ad, even if they try to hid behind multiple layers of organizations.

Passage of this bill is not certain, but has a reasonable probability.

Everyone is encouraged to contact California Clean Money Campaign at 800 566-3780 or info@CAClean.org. Alternatively, visit their website at www.CAdisclosure.org

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. Please send your dues to help defray costs. Your board is all volunteers. Membership applications were distributed and can be found on the website www.ValleyVOTE.org

Victor N. Viereck- Split Roll Property Tax Consequences

In order to succeed in their campaign to change Proposition 13 through what is called Split Roll the so called "Make It Fair" proponents are being deceitful. One deception is the claim that loopholes have allowed big commercial properties to be taxed at nearly the same level as they were in 1975. Since Proposition 13 became law in 1979, compounding of the annual 2% property value increase (as authorized in Prop. 13) results in an over 99% assessed value increase. That means almost doubling the property tax on such properties. Another major deception is who ultimately pays the cost of property taxes on large commercial property.

While the check for property tax comes from the commercial property owner, through what's called a triple net lease, the commercial tenant reimburses the property owner. But for the commercial tenants to cover that cost, they need to do one or more things. Those include raising prices to us (the customers), reducing employment, and/or if possible, reduce other costs. If the price increases, job cuts, and other cost cutting fail to cover the costs, businesses will close. Further impacts are lost jobs, higher prices (that reduce purchasing power), reduced taxable income, and reduced property values (that reduces potential property tax). Even though businesses are already leaving California for lower cost states, the higher operating cost will make California even less competitive. Everybody (in California) suffers.

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

David DeVoss - Water Issues

As California lumbers into its fourth year of drought and third month of severe water restrictions focus is shifting to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and its desire for a rate hike. Given the age of the city's water mains and the ruptures that occur far too often, it's clear DWP needs a revenue boost. Unfortunately, the utility's lack of transparency, misuse of existing funding and propensity to serve as a cash cow for local politicians alienates taxpayers.

Since 2005, DWP has had an MOU with Neighborhood Councils that establishes points of contact on both sides. But regular meetings with the Neighborhood Councils often are postponed because of the crush of regular business. Proposed rate hikes and mandatory water restrictions, however, create a sense of urgency for closer communications.

Accordingly, Valley VOTE would like to establish a working committee composed of interested Neighborhood Councils and other Valley leaders willing to consult with DWP on a regular basis. Valley VOTE Executive Committee member Susan Shelley will chair the committee. Please report back to Valley VOTE by the July meeting on July 20 with the name of your Neighborhood Council representative willing to work on water issues. Our hope is to finalize the structure and composition of the Valley Water Resources Working Group so that regularly scheduled meetings with the DWP can begin in September.



Michelle Dornfest-Special Olympics

Los Angeles will welcome 7,000 inspirational athletes, from 177 countries, to the 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games, on July 25, 2015. The Special Olympics is expected to be this year's largest sports and humanitarian event in the world.

What began as the vision of one woman, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, evolved into the Special Olympics International -- a global movement that serves more than 4 million people with intellectual disabilities.

Maria Shriver said: *"We need this city to actually live up to its name—The City of Angels. We need to spread our wings. We need to show that we are more than red carpets; we are more than Hollywood, that we are a city ourselves of open arms. We are a city of generosity and compassion."*

It will be the biggest gathering L.A. has hosted since the 1984 Olympic Games. More than 30,000 volunteers and 500,000 spectators are expected to support the athletes competing in 25 events, over nine days.

The Special Olympics will showcase the unlimited potential of people with intellectual disabilities.

A global music anthem, "Reach Up", was created for the Special Olympics. The music is accompanied by Bree Bogucki, a singer and Special Olympics athlete, and Madison Tevlin, a young woman with Down Syndrome, who found fame earlier this year with her cover of "All of Me". The song was inspired by the transformative power of Special Olympics Unified Sports – a program that pairs athletes with and without intellectual disabilities on and off the field of play.

California State University, Northridge, ("CSUN"), in partnership with the communities of Chatsworth, Northridge, Reseda, Tarzana, Winnetka and Woodland Hills, have been selected as Host Towns, for five delegations of athletes and coaches from around the globe.

At their Host Towns, delegations of athletes from around the world will be celebrated. The schedule of events will include taking part in cultural activities unique to each area, and practicing for The Games. CSUN will be home for nearly 500 athletes from Azerbaijan, Hellas (Greece), Malta, Serbia, Venezuela and Vietnam from July 21-24 as they train and prepare for the World Games.

Michelle Dornfest, Media Publicity Chair San Fernando Valley Host Town : www.LA2015.org

Don Schultz- Street Prostitution

SFV Street Prostitution (VV 6/15/15 Meeting)

As most of us familiar with the sometime described term "Sepulveda Boulevard Prostitution Corridor in the SFV", the Boulevard, in particular that stretch of Sepulveda from Ventura Boulevard to the south going north to Devonshire Street at the other end has been known to be riddled with crime activity which includes drug dealing, street prostitution and gang activity for over 3 decades.

While the LAPD Vice units have done a commendable job with arrests of pimps, street prostitutes and "Johns" over the years (over 150+ arrests the 1st Quarter of this year) LAPD cannot arrest their way out of this disgusting enigma. Used condoms continue to appear in residential streets, sidewalks and business parking lots along and adjacent to Sepulveda Boulevard here in the valley.

Simply put, LAPD needs more tools rather than just moving the problem from one area of Sepulveda to another up and down the boulevard from one police division to another. It's time to think outside the box as the saying goes. LAPD Chief Beck has indicated that he is not in favor of the impounding of convicted "Johns" cars. Unfortunately for the Chief, those of us who have to live with the street prostitution issue on a daily basis, the reinstatement of impounding the vehicles of the cars used in the sex act between the johns and the prostitutes is a necessary step.

While local lawmakers ponder how to change existing laws, the organization G.A.S.P. (Groups Against Street Prostitution) has researched this issue as it exists nationwide and worldwide in other large cities and has come up with the following recommendations:

- 1) Immediately implement the practice of impounding convicted john's cars and work with the media to get that message out to the public
- 2) Create a "Sex Crimes Court" that deals only with convicted johns

If we continue to do what we have been doing why would we expect different results.

Don Schultz, Chair Public Safety Committee Valley VOTE

Susan Shelley – High Speed Rail

Recently the California High Speed Rail Authority held a community open house in Santa Clarita. The purpose was to answer the public's questions and solicit public comment about proposed routes for the Palmdale-to-Burbank section of the bullet train.

This is currently in the planning stages, fast-tracked by legislation last year. In media reports, Sen. Bob Hertzberg was quoted saying this would help to give L.A. residents a sense that the bullet train would benefit them.

The opposite seems to have happened.

On June 9, the CHSRA board met and heard comments from the public. Three hundred angry people waited in line to express their opinions. The crowd overflowed the meeting room.

Opposition to the train's initially proposed route through San Fernando and Santa Clarita been strong and vocal from the elected governments of both cities.

Alternate routes, requiring long tunnels under the Angeles National Forest, may be considerably more expensive than the initially proposed route. Cost estimates were not available, the CHSRA said that will be the subject of the next phase of study.

There is no fire-escape plan in place in the event of a fire or explosion in a deep tunnel as currently envisioned. The CHSRA's literature on pros and cons of the various routes lists "fire and life safety" as one of the "cons" of the deep tunnel option.

For comparison, the Channel Tunnel under the English Channel is actually three tunnels, plus a service tunnel for maintenance and emergency personnel, with transverse tunnels connecting at regular intervals. This multiple-tunnel option would of course be more expensive than the plan for a single tunnel divided in half, or for the twin-bore tunnel, one train in each direction.

The CHSRA's information officers contend that the bullet train will not need taxpayer subsidies to operate, and the ballot measure that authorized the project does not permit taxpayer subsidies.

A concern about the lack of ridership guarantees (subsidies) was expressed by at least one of the private companies that wrote to the governor about becoming a contractor for the project.

The bullet train is currently being funded by twenty-five percent of the state's revenue from cap-and-trade fees (intended to discourage the use of fossil fuels by putting "a price on carbon"). You're paying higher prices for gasoline and diesel fuel because of cap-and-trade fees, and that's where a quarter of the money is going.

Susan Shelley Susan@SusanShelley.com

Denny Schneider - Airport Report

1. New Executive Director Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA)

Former director of Oakland Airport, Deborah Ale Flint will start a new regime at LAWA. I have guarded optimism because she has a history of improving airports while working closely with local neighbors. She understands regionalization and believes that LAX expansion by moving the north runway is unnecessary.

2. FAA releases Environmental Assessment for So.Cal. Metroplex flight path changes. Two and a half years in the making, FAA finally released their secret plans to an exclusive meeting with elected officials. Their stated goal is to make changes to improve efficiency (called capacity enhancement) without impacting enough people on the ground to justify a full level environmental review. This plan impacts all

communities throughout Southern California and impacts takeoff and departure routes to all airports. It is NOT easy to decipher and contains more acronyms than a bowl of alphabet soup. Public meetings during the next two weeks will be held to inform the public. The stated format will be to have graphics of the changes with “experts” to address individuals’ questions. Changes are replete with NextGen supportive GPS controlled routing to supplement and replace existing FAA controller verbal directions to departing and approaching airports. The more direct flight paths are expected to save fuel for the airlines in to increase the number of flights. The public has only 30 days to comment and then the FAA will be free to implement the changes! Locations and detail documents can be found at http://www.metroplexenvironmental.com/socal_metroplex/socal_introduction.html

For more info: Denny Schneider, President Alliance for A Regional Solution to Airport Congestion
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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.

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS FROM LA SAN DEPT ASKED AT THE JUNE 2015 V.V. MEETING

I apologize that this has taken so long, I have answers to the questions we could not answer at the presentation.

1. Do pyrogens get through the wastewater treatment process?

For this we contacted LASAN and received this response from Kay Yamamoto, Supervising Water Biologist, LA Sanitation, Environmental Monitoring Division:

My understanding is that even drinking water contains pyrogens. The term pyrogen is commonly used in the pharmaceutical industry as they have to eliminate pyrogens from injectables by further treating tap water using specialized filtration systems. Pyrogen-free purified water and highly purified water used in the pharmaceutical industry are produced using a combination of reverse osmosis systems and continuous electrodeionization, a very costly process. So to answer your question, yes, wastewater treatment plant effluent contains pyrogens but I do not know of anyone that wants to inject the stuff into their bodies to produce this effect.

2. Is there a cost difference between State Water Project water and Colorado River Aqueduct water?

Most of our MWD connections in East LA and Harbor are treated water. It is mostly Colorado River water and blended with some water from East Branch of SWP. Untreated MWD water from SWP is treated at LAAFP. During maintenance of LAAFP, SWP water treated at MWD's Jensen Plant is provided to us. MWD water rates are blended rates. We are billed based on tier 1/tier 2 and treated/untreated regardless of the source of the water. The chart below provides a breakdown of the cost of water since 2012. I have highlighted the actual volumetric cost (what LADWP pays). This chart was pulled from the MWD website [click here to go to the site](#).

Effective January 1st		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Tier 1 Supply Rate (\$/AF)		\$106	\$140	\$148	\$158	\$156
Delta Supply Surcharge (\$/AF)		\$58	*	*	*	*
Tier 2 Supply Rate (\$/AF)		\$290	\$290	\$290	\$290	\$290
System Access Rate (\$/AF)		\$217	\$223	\$243	\$257	\$259
Water Stewardship Rate (\$/AF)		\$43	\$41	\$41	\$41	\$41
System Power Rate (\$/AF)		\$136	\$189	\$161	\$126	\$138
Full Service Untreated Volumetric Cost (\$/AF)	Tier 1	\$560	\$593	\$593	\$582	\$594
	Tier 2	\$686	\$743	\$735	\$714	\$728
Replenishment Water Rate: untreated (\$/AF)		\$442	**	**	**	**
Interim Agricultural Water Program: untreated (\$/AF)		\$537	**	**	***	***
Treatment Surcharge (\$/AF)		\$234	\$254	\$297	\$341	\$348
Full Service Treated Volumetric Cost (\$/AF)	Tier 1	\$794	\$847	\$890	\$923	\$942
	Tier 2	\$920	\$997	\$1,032	\$1,055	\$1,076
Treated Replenishment Water Rate (\$/AF)		\$651	**	**	**	**

Treated Interim Agricultural Water Program (\$/AF)		\$765	***	***	***	***
Readiness-to-Serve Charge (millions of dollars)		\$146	\$142	\$166	\$158	\$153
Capacity Charge(\$/cfs)		\$7,400	\$6,400	\$8,600	\$11,100	\$10,900

3. Do Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB's) remain in contaminated ground water after treatment?

After treatment for PCB's the treated water does not have detectable PCB's with current testing technology. The MCL for PCB's .0005 mg/L or 500 PPT, which is set by the EPA.

Thank you for your patience. I hope you will be able to attend the next RWAG workshop.