



Valley VOTE

Organized Toward Empowerment Voters
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VALLEY VOTE REPORT: July 20, 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 September 21, 2015.***

This meeting featured Assemblywoman Patty Lopez who presented her priorities to effectively represent her district. This was followed by a presentation describing the proposals to improve Bob Hope Burbank Airport and supplemented by a series of topical presentations by Valley VOTE executive board members. Following the formal meeting a committee of the whole was lead by Executive Board Member Susan Shelley to address the upcoming LADWP utility cost increases.

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



Assemblywoman Patty Lopez, CA 39th Assembly District

In November 2014 new comer Patty Lopez defeated an incumbent to represent the eastern San Fernando Valley based on a human services platform. She is a twenty-year public servant, not politician. Some of her first words spoken to us were, "I oppose the High Speed Rail in our community; water

is more important to us." Last weekend she held a town hall to discuss the rail and its impacts. "None of the four routes through our community are acceptable." As the SFV representative she will speak for us and supports the CA Sen. Vidak bill to put HSR back onto the ballot for another authorization vote. ASM Lopez explained that opposition letters should be sent to all 80 Assembly members, not just her. She is most interested in all issues that impact her constituents' quality of life, especially quality public education and immigrant civil rights. She introduced her chief legislative director, Kristi Lopez, who reviewed bills for which ASM Lopez is advocating:

- House Resolution to restore Education Week in CA.
- AB233 Health Care Block Grants for Cal work subsidies supporting early learning that will allow people to work. Failed in committee due to cost of extending child care from 6 to 12 months.
- AB260 Foster Care Youth services to reduce pregnancy rates and cycle through preventative education of foster care youth before and after pregnancy. Support in group homes.
- AB1366 Dream resource centers and liaisons at higher ed sites and AB540 Increased College education eligibility. Target October for passage. Supported by CHIDLA, a group like MALDEF.
- AB1448 Solar Energy Bill to allow aesthetically pleasing clothes lines in apartment buildings that are no more than three feet high. The objective is to reduce carbon footprint activities.

- AB559 Support giving Dept. of Fish and Wildlife authority for protecting milkweed plants and to save the monarch butterfly during their migration. Feds have set aside \$3M for public-private partnerships to secure habits; gives authority to enter into contracts with Feds.
- AB1207 Mandate two-year minimum frequency for child care training for teachers and care givers to recognize mental or physical child abuse and how to report it.
- AB563 Sr. Centers must have guidelines for supporting aging seniors with disabilities.



Lucy M. Burghdorf and Mark Hardymen–Burbank Airport Terminal Upgrades

Bob Hope Airport is operated by an airport authority with representatives from Burbank, Glendale, and Pasadena controlled under a new, modified Joint Powers Agreement. After many years of discussion within the authority a brokered deal has been struck to update the

terminals without expansion of the number of gates. Several locations are being considered, but each of the Cities will now have the ability to protect their interests via a scheme requiring majority voting by each of the Cities within the JPA Authority. The Cities retain zoning rights and some of the land currently held by the Airport Authority will be sold to pay for the new development.

A new terminal will be built, not to exceed 355,000 square feet in size on runway adjacent property, will provide better ground access and train access. The servicing areas and amenities will be increased to provide improved traveler experience. Funding of construction activities will inject up to \$400M into the local economy. The new terminal will be built first to facilitate a smooth transition with the old one demolished as soon as the new is successfully operating.

The Authority has been trying, unsuccessfully, for several years to obtain approval from the FAA to substitute a mandatory 10 PM to 6:59 AM operation curfew for the voluntary one that currently exists. This process is called a “Part 161” after the section of the FAA regulations. The process is very time consuming and costly. The request was rejected last year by the FAA, but the authority vows to try again in the future. The mandatory restriction would have had financial penalties attached to violations.

The new airport has improved parking and is connected to the existing Metrolink train station. It has an integrated consolidated rental car facility as well.

For more information go to www.bobhopeairport.com or call 818-840-8840.

Valley VOTE Committee Reports:

Victor N. Viereck- Improve Pension Values & The Economy

One of the major threats to local and statewide governmental agencies, building the need for allocation of tax resources, is the significant undervaluation of public employee pension plans. If the pension plans remain so underfunded they threaten the ability of the legally responsible governmental agencies to fulfill their responsibilities.

While not necessarily completely fulfilling the need, there is a means of substantially accomplishing the need. That concept would also be a great boost to the national (and local) economy. Since the United States corporate income tax rate of 35% is the highest in at least the industrialized world, it is causing inversions and promoting business to invest in other countries instead of the United States, preventing growth in our country. By reducing the United States corporate income tax rate from 35% to 15%, earnings, and therefore common stock share values

would improve by 30.77%, reducing the eventual need to increase the allocation of local tax resources to adequately fund the pension plans.

While some elected officials and some candidates promote a 25% U.S. corporate income tax rate, that's too close to the rates for many other countries. It would be better to undercut many more by going to the 15% rate. It would be a great incentive to invest in the United States, and not have to be as concerned about underfunded pension plans. It would also be a great incentive to transfer funds invested in other countries back home to the United States.

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

Ralph Kroy, Sunshine Canyon

The landfill is located at 14747 Fernando Road, near and West of the "I — 5" and the 14 freeway intersection. The facility is now owned and operated by Republic Services, as the BFI Sunshine Canyon Landfill, and operated as a joint L A City and County operation.

The landfill continues to get complaints of odors , but this month, at a lower level, due to the annual reduction of complaints in the summer months.

The July meeting of the Community Advisory Committee, CAC, at the Knowllwood Country Club, the County Health Department speaker, Dr. Cyrus Rangan, again stressed that oder complaints are reports of a serious problem that must be addressed.

A brush fire was also reported at the landfill facility. The fire occurred on June 13, 2015, and was contained to less than one acre. The cause of the fire was the falling down of two electrical power poles. The failure of the poles is a concern that is being investigated at this time. An inspection of all the poles, on a scheduled basis, has been suggested at the CAC meeting. A preliminary report of the fire was sent to the Sunshine Canyon Local Enforcement Agency, SCL LEA, on June 15, 2015.

Ralph Kroy REKroy@aol.com



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- Mobility 2035

It is a Plan on how and where bus, auto, train, passenger vehicle, and even pedestrian transportation will be implemented to facilitate mobility around LA. This plan is a LA City wide plan which contains some items that have been identified by a limited Environmental Impact Review to include significant, unavoidable impacts that cannot be mitigated. The plan is expected to be approved by the City Council using a statement of overriding consideration which means that the City acknowledges that significant impacts will occur by actions in the plan but wishes to go forward any way. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires review of projects for environmental impacts such as noise, pollution, traffic, and other impacts. CEQA does not preclude any action but allows projects to be approved even when the impacts are significant so long as they have been identified and quantified. The City apparently accepts that the impacts are an unavoidable consequence of their action plans will approve the plan in August. Richard Katz has expressed concerns and identified issues that will delay first responders by substantial traffic impacts. Most people in the room had never heard of the plan nor seen it and it is apparently far enough in the approval process to be a fait de complet.

Don Schultz, Chair Public Safety Committee Valley VOTE

Ernie Hilger, Veteran Affairs

Our organization has assisted over 400,000 veterans with their claims in 2014 and millions of veterans since its founding on September 25, 1920.

A Coalition is composed of eight (8) Congressionally Chartered Veterans Service Organization VSO organizations consisting of Disabled American Veterans(DAV), in concert with the Veterans of Foreign Wars(VFW) , the American Legion(AL), American Veterans (AMVETS), Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), Jewish War Veterans (JWV), American GI Forum (AGIF) Vietnam Veterans of America(VVA) represent over 400,000 veterans in the State of California. We are supported by our State Leadership and by over 6.1 million veterans nationally through our national organizations and national leadership.

This Coalition has been Invited to the Decision Making Table by the Veterans Administration Central Office (VACO) —This Congressionally Chartered VSO Coalition will be providing Input and Its weighted influence — the West Los Angeles VA Settlement Plan and Master Plan.

Our VSO consensus group will keep moving forward and not become fixated on minutia. We will not be bogged down by revisiting the lawsuit, interpretation of various rulings, etc. Rather, we ask for Valley Vote to continue to support the veterans community to effectuate meaningful changes at the West LA VA for the benefit of veterans and their families.

We call on all CITIZENS TO EXERCISE THEIR Collective Responsibility & Do THE Right Thing on Behalf of Veterans in the Greater Los Angeles Community.

Ernie Hilger erniehilger@hotmail.com>, Legislative Chair DAV Chapter Camp Kearney Van Nuys CA 7/20/2015

Denny Schneider - Airport Report

Welcome new Executive Director Deborah Ale Flint to LAWA. She joins us from Oakland with a reputation for working with the surrounding communities. It should be a pleasant, wanted change.

Meanwhile, her first Board of Airport Commission (BOAC) meeting was fraught with conflict. One of the agenda items called for approval of a non-exclusive access agreement to allow Transportation Network Companies (TNC) like Uber and Lyft to pick up passengers from the terminals.

The item was met by a packed Board Room of about fifty detractors from the cab, limo, shuttle companies and National Organization for Women who expressed concern about safety, adequacy of controls, and a "level playing field" of competition. There were also concerns expressed about additional vehicle traffic and parking in the surrounding communities. Local heads of Uber and Lyft along with several drivers and a couple business groups spoke in favor. Several bad publicity articles were in the LA Times and elsewhere about Uber concerning safety violations on the day of the vote.

Safety and Security Concerns identified included:

- Less stringent background checks to eliminate drivers with critical felonies.
- No finger printing nor issuance of IDs as done for other transport vehicle types.
- Lower limit coverage than mandatory insurance for other vehicles to cover accidents.
- Lower payments to TNC drivers might limit critical maintenance.
- Questionable adequacy of controls to collect \$4 airport access fees.
- Only temporary vehicle identification and no transponders on TNCs. Reliant on TNC control system honesty.
- Heavier, unsafe traffic in Central Terminal Area. Difficulty in finding designated passengers at general pick up areas on upper level of roadway.
- Personal cars as old as ten years can be used by TNC.
- No special license requirement; must address smart phones while driving.
- No handicap compliant vehicles or green vehicle requirement.

Several smaller California airports including San Francisco and San Diego already authorized operations.

To the surprise of few in the audience, BOAC approved the item as Mayor Garcetti purportedly requested. Council member Koretz vowed to take LA City Council control of the topic and over-ride their action to improve controls. LAX is now the largest airport to authorize Uber operations.

Airport staff acknowledged concerns of detractors and noted they would suspend TNC operations with a 30 day notice clause if planned controls did not work. This item can be watched on LA City Channel 35.

For more info: Denny Schneider, President Alliance for A Regional Solution to Airport Congestion
Denny@WeLiveFree.com 310 641-4199 land 213 675-1817 mobile

Susan Shelley – LADWP; 120 days to oppose rate hikes

LADWP has proposed substantial rate increases for water and electricity to be imposed over the next five years. Susan Shelley has started a Valley VOTE discussion process to get volunteers to review all aspects of these increases and to identify actions that we should take. We must get organized and speak out before the increases are approved by the City Council. We plan to work with the Neighborhood Councils and others to ensure that our concerns are heard. To volunteer contact Susan Shelley.

Susan Shelley Susan@SusanShelley.com

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.