

# Valley VOTE

## Monthly Report for Feb 15, 2016 Minutes accumulated by Joe Vitti Galpin Ford Meeting Room- North Hills

### Jack Humphreville & Jill Stewart - Neighborhood Integrity Initiative (NII)

Jack Humphreville began the presentation by recalling recent ballot measures that were not passed due to a pattern of voting by the Valley and the West side of L.A. Mayor Villagrosa's Solar Initiative and the Sales tax increase proposed in Prop A, were both defeated due to a large "No" vote from the Valley and the West side communities. Jack believes the *Neighborhood Integrity Initiative (NII)* would be strongly supported by these voting groups and would pass if **NII** is on the ballot this year. Jill Stewart joined the discussion of the proposed ballot measure **NII**. Jill has accepted the position of leading the effort to pass the **NII**. She said the proposed plan would be "*the biggest ballot measure to attack the developers for control of City Hall.*" Prop U, effecting Westwood and Encino, years ago was able to stop developers but that was for a limited area. This ballot measure is **city wide**. Jill said the collecting of signatures is getting started. "*We need 63,000 by April 26, 2016 to get on the Ballot this year.*" .

Passage of **NII** would stop developers from their current freedom of changing the character of neighborhoods throughout the city. The writing of Environmental Impact Reports (EIR) for their projects will be stopped. The EIR's must be written by the City and the developer will have to pay the City for the service. There will also be a **2 year moratorium** of any changes to the Community Plans. Everyone is fed up with grid lock in L.A. Developers should not be deciding what should be built in the city. City Council members and developers will be not be able to build projects that are larger than current zoning permits. Projects built without zoning limitations are destroying neighborhoods and affordable housing. Smart development would, avoid as much as possible, the traffic congestion that we all have to deal with. Jill said she knows one individual who plans to spend 2 million dollars to oppose **NII**. Jill and Jack are very interested in hearing from you if you would like to help with the effort to pass **NII**.

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The web site for Neighborhood Integrity Initiative(.NII): [www.2preservela.org](http://www.2preservela.org)

### Ralph Kroy Sunshine Canyon Landfill

The Sunshine Canyon Landfill continues to receive more and more complaints and violations from the citizens and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The health issues have been discussed at the last several of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill - Community Advisory Community (SCL-CAC) meetings at the Knollwood Country Club. Doctor Cyrus Rangan, Director, Bureau of Toxicology and Environmental Assessment, County of Los Angeles Public Health Department (DOHS) and his nurse have been stating that the odors from the landfill are truly a nuisance, and health hazard. A special meeting was held at the Knollwood United Methodist Church, 12121 Balboa Blvd, on February 9, 2016 in Granada

Hills. The meeting was attended by over one hundred concerned citizens. Dr. Rangan spoke, and answered questions for two hours. He stated that the health problems that the citizens have were real, and must be addressed. He also suggested that more continued active involvement by the public to get pressure on the government agencies overseeing the landfill's operations was needed. A list of many of the potential hazardous gases found at the landfill site from the SCAQMD web site was provided at the meeting.

### **Susan Shelly      DWP Governance**

The governance of the LADWP is in need of serious reform. That was the conclusion of studies by the RAND Corporation in 2001, the Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury - 2011, the LA 2020 commission in 2014, and Navigant Consulting for the city of Los Angeles in 2015. Now the City Council has passed a motion by council member Felipe Fuentes to consider a ballot measure that would change the current Board of Commissioners from a volunteer five-member board to a professional, paid board, and make a few other changes as well. That motion was referred to a committee, where it sits now. The City Council should not approve the new Water Rate Ordinance or the new Power Rate Ordinance, both of which have been approved by the current LADWP Board of Commissioners. Because there is wide agreement that the governance of the LADWP is broken, the rate increase should be considered after, not before, governance reform. The RAND study examined different types of governance in other municipal utilities. In some places the utility reports directly to the City Council, in others it is a city-owned corporation. All options should be thoughtfully considered by the city of Los Angeles before a charter amendment is finalized for the ballot. The city government's use of the DWP as a source of revenue for general city spending continues to be troubling. The annual city transfer may be struck down by the courts, and even if it is not, the estimated \$270 million a year that is collected from ratepayers and transferred to the city treasury should be halted. The money collected from ratepayers is needed to pay the bills at LADWP, evidenced by the demand for a rate increase. Reform must come first.

### **David DeVoss      DWP Protest**

David De Voss followed up on Susan Shelley's presentation by distributing a petition he drafted calling for a halt to DWP's proposed 25 to 30% rate increase. If 300,000 DWP customers petitioned the LA City Clerk by Feb. 17 to stop the rate hike, then DWP under guidelines established by the city would be obliged to do so. The goal of getting 300,000 protest petitions individually signed, mailed or hand delivered to City Hall was a high bar to reach, but the number of protests received would show the depth of frustration of DWP customers. A number of Neighborhood Council members put their signed protests in envelopes which were mailed by Valley VOTE that same night so they could be delivered by the morning of Feb. 17.

### **Adjourn**

***P.S. For further information about the DWP Protest go to the Valley VOTE web site and read our position paper entitled "LADWP Rate and Wage Increases" dated Dec.12,2015.***

[valleyvote.org](http://valleyvote.org)

*We are a 501c4 non-profit with no paid staff. We appreciate member's dues to help us meet our goals.*

### **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 [valleyvote.org](http://valleyvote.org)

### **Next Valley VOTE Meeting**

Our next meeting will be on Monday, March 21, 2016 at Galpin Ford Community Room. Our featured speaker will be **State Assembly Member Patty Lopez**. The press and public are invited to attend our meetings.