



Valley VOTE

4622 Ventura Blvd, #424 Sherman Oaks, California 91403

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VALLEY VOTE REPORT: January 16, 2017 MEETING
Minutes accumulated by Denny Schneider, Secretary

Galpin Ford - 2nd Fl. Meeting Room, 15505 Roscoe Boulevard, North Hills, CA 91343

Valley Vote meetings are held to address critical public policy issues impacting the San Fernando Valley. The next meeting will be February 20, 2017

Wayde Hunter, Pres. North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens

Mr. Hunter has an extensive background in environmental studies and issue resolutions and is presently the Chair of the Sunshine Canyon County Landfill Community Advisory Committee. He recounted the impacts of the Landfill on local residents, the efforts being made to resolve the conflicts, and the current status of potential resolution.

The Sunshine Canyon Landfill is operated by Browning-Ferris Industries, a wholly owned subsidiary of Republic Services. Located in the north end of the Valley, this landfill accepts most of the LA City and LA County refuse and the amounts of trash, though regulated, are still growing.

Within five minutes it was clear that the conflict has been a protracted, decades-long fight of major frustration. Local residents remain impacted by horrific odors. Children in their local school experience health impacts including nausea and even vomiting. LAUSD has installed special indoor filters for each classroom, but it is insufficient!

Mr. Hunter described the procedure by which odor complaints are processed and provided handouts with a summary of years of data. These complaints fall under the CA Health and Safety Code §41700 and District Rule 402. The gravity of the problem prompted South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) to file lawsuit case 3448-14 against the landfill operators.

There is a very high bar within the key monitoring agency, SCAQMD, to even constitute a Notice of Violation to Sunshine Canyon. SCAQMD issued 194 of them last year alone. Six people must agree to file odor complaints at the 1-800-CUTSMOG hotline within an hour before an inspector is dispatched to attempt to locate and verify the odor source. This landfill received 23.5 times more odor complaints than a total for all other landfills within the entire Southern California jurisdiction.

Numerous times CA has directed processes changes and restricted dumping traffic and times. Mr. Hunter pointed out that odor impacts are greatest when discharged into prevailing winds toward the community. Odor complaints correspond with these wind direction changes toward the community.

A series of hearings from August to November were held at SCAQMD headquarters in Diamond Bar where dozens of Valley residents testified. Before the case was concluded, however, a stipulated settlement was prepared by the lawyers of SCAQMD and Browning-Ferris. The settlement agreement identifies some restrictions on landfill operations, but not all that the community expected to be imposed or feels that they need. This issue is far from over.

Valley VOTE Member Reports

Government's Ironic Housing Costs - Victor N. Viereck

At a time with so many homeless people, and a lack of what's called affordable housing, it's ironic to discover what is causing the problem. While governmental officials (including elected officials) complain about so many homeless people and strive to do something they think would increase available housing, their supposed solutions to the problem are what make it worse.

Before the 1986 Federal Tax Reform Act there certainly was not as low of a supply of so called Affordable Housing. The 1986 Federal Tax Reform Act eliminated a tax shelter that motivated people to invest in apartments. It changed the depreciable life of rental housing to 27 ½ years from 19 years, and limited the amount of loss that could be written off each year.

The Los Angeles Rent Stabilization Ordinance (RSO), started in 1979, prevents the ability of apartment owners to cover all cost increases, discouraging investment in housing. No more than half of the cost (excluding interest) of improving the property can be recovered by pass through to the tenants. For newer tenants, passing through additional costs does not make sense.

Starting somewhat in 2017, but fully in 2018, the City of Los Angeles will be requiring apartment owners to provide the city's housing department (HCID) information by apartment address and number the current rent of each apartment, and what date that rent became effective. That process takes time (and money if a management company is doing the paper and/or computer work). It also will take a lot of time for city employees to accumulate and record. While there is not yet a fee to cover that cost, it's obvious that the city will try to assess apartment owners, tenants, or both for the cost. That's another potential housing cost increase.

Upcoming very soon is the significant cost increase of the City of Los Angeles' exclusive trash hauling. The city will have one separate trash hauling company for each of 11 franchise zones, and will annually collect \$35 million in franchise fees from the trash hauling companies, which will be passing that cost, and much more to the apartment owners and commercial property owners. While the city officials express their supposed concern about the lack of affordable housing, they continue to ignore the high costs they impose on housing providers.

Victor N. Viereck 818-985 9174

Neighborhood Initiative (Mar. 7 ballot) - David DeVoss

The Neighborhood Initiative listed as Measure S on the March 7, 2017 ballot hopes to implement a two-year moratorium on mega-construction projects that create traffic, displace longtime residents and destroy neighborhoods all for the sake of building luxury condos and offices. The two years would be used to update residential and commercial zoning that is 50 years out of date. City planners, developers and city councilmen have used obsolete zoning as an excuse to grant exemptions and variances on an ad hoc basis that fuels the city's "pay to play" political culture.

The initiative mandates several needed reforms. Right now developers can minimize the disruption their projects cause by writing their own Environmental Impact Reports. Measure S requires that potential traffic and environmental degradation be assessed by independent experts and the assessments be paid for by the developers themselves. Prior to the start of construction, developers will have to show that their projects do not burden the community with parking and traffic gridlock.

Today, developers make cash donations to city politicians, who then go into closed door meetings and agree not to enforce existing regulations. Measure S would try to curtail this "pay to play" atmosphere by forcing meetings into the open and insisting the city council follow its own rules.

Big developers are waging a campaign of disinformation, saying Measure S will prevent the city from building affordable housing, despite the fact that Measure S has no effect on affordable housing. Also they insist the moratorium on massive development will cost jobs. This is unlikely since Mayor Garrett already has said the recently passed \$120 million in mass transit improvements will create 465,000 jobs.

David DeVoss - www.eastwestnewsservice.com

Veterans Housing and Health Care - Ernie Hilger

A “veteran centric only” Business Plan and Mission Statement were established by passage of the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016" (HR 5936) on September 29, 2016

The VA plan is for a phased development plan for 1,200 supportive housing units on the campus. The estimated schedule for completion is: “Developing 490 units within the first 30 months, 280 additional units within 4 to 5 years, and 430 additional units within 6 to 10 years—all totaling 1,200 units.”

See the Disabled Veterans of America (DAV) link addressing VA health care alternatives and choices <https://youtu.be/BNQVxMjP7Dw>. ‘Choice’ is important to improving VA health care, particularly for those who choose and rely on VA. The current Veterans Choice Program funding ends August 2017. This Veterans Choice program must be refunded to extend the program for the benefit of veterans and their families.

A good description of necessary support actions is contained in Secretary Mc Donald’s Cabinet Exit Memo written January 5, 2017 - va.gov www.va.gov/opa/publications/docs/VA-Exit-Memo.pdf

Ernie Hilger 818 926 6892

Airport Report – Denny Schneider

Traffic, traffic, traffic in and around LAX. Arrive at least two hours early for a domestic flight! The number of LAX passengers increased about 8% last year to about 80 million annual passengers. Vehicle traffic increased even more! FAA says expect 30% more by 2030.

\$14B in construction delays at LAX is one reason for gridlock. Per a LAX press release: “Passengers using LAX in January will need to plan ahead to navigate sidewalk and vehicle lane closures and in-terminal work. Construction alerts showing Central Terminal Area (CTA) roadway lane restrictions and sidewalk closures, as well as a pedestrian walking map and helpful airline terminal finder, can be found at www.laxishappening.com.”

Another cause of the log jam cause is transportation network companies (TNC) vehicles (i.e. Uber and Lyft) go around the Central Terminal Area several more times than private vehicles seeking to find their assigned passengers.

Aircraft Noise Complaints are up dramatically all over the region. The FAA states that there have been no changes in flight paths. The FAA does, however, acknowledge that there WILL BE changes starting in March as NextGen flight controls are implemented. All airports’ operations are effected. Many FAA meetings and webinars are scheduled throughout Southern California. See

www.FAA.gov/nextgen/communityengagement/socal Sample of list of meeting dates/location:

Jan 23--Veterans Memorial Building, Culver City Jan 25—Palisades Charter HS, Pacific Palisades

Jan 30—Burbank Com. Svcs Bldg, Burbank Jan 31—Community Ctr Grand Ballroom, La Habra

Denny Schneider, President ARSAC www.RegionalSolution.org 213-675-1817

Valley VOTE is a 501c4 nonprofit with NO PAID STAFF. Your ANNUAL dues helps us to continue to meet our goals. Member \$25; Board Member - \$50. Thanks!!! Mail your check to Valley VOTE - 14622 Ventura Blvd. #424 Sherman Oaks CA. 91403 We thank you for your support.

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 our web site - Valleyvote.org. The press and public are invited to attend our meetings. Our next meeting will be Monday evening, February 20, 2017