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VALLEY VOTE REPORT: April 17, 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 May 15, 2017

Dennis Zine, Retired LA City Councilmember, Reserve LAPD

Mr. Zine provided his unique perspective as former CD3 LA Council member and 33 years with LAPD to discuss quality of life in the San Fernando Valley. Since retirement from the Council he writes articles for the websites Rants and Raves, City Watch, and Warner Center News and has guested on Channel 11 as well as continuing as a reserve officer.

Crime is skyrocketing. CA politics is resulting in early release of criminals back into our communities. After sentences are imposed special circumstances such as getting a GED automatically reduce sentences substantially. Arrests have plummeted and new "tolerance and understanding" directives in force for LAPD officers are causing officers to retreat from confrontations. Even when they are right they must defend every action taken. Officers are concerned that every move is second guessed and that they must act to avoid jeopardy for themselves and their families. Meanwhile major crime increases are experienced in all categories.

Mr. Zine pointed to increased incidence of home invasions and burglaries which have less criminal penalties than dealing drugs. He's concerned about prison overcrowding and spiking crime. He is also concerned about Police Commission positions interpreting proper police response actions and noted that the Mayor is culpable for appointing people whose policies risk the health and wellbeing of our officers ahead of criminals.

He told us that an apathetic, inactive voting public is not going cause any improvement. There's an election coming up on May 15 with only one measure--change of the makeup of a board of review for officers and in some areas a LAUSD school board member election. Less than a 5% participation is expected which will cost millions of dollars.

A new gas tax, SB1 which is 38 pages long is becoming law. It's misleading and large cost estimated to be as much as \$52B per year. It will initially impose \$.12 per gallon then plus inflation annually and a license fee with inflation surcharge as well. Expect your registration taxes to remain the same or increase even though your car is getting older. Over the few next years expect as much as \$1 tax per gallon. This all Democratic enacted. No elected Republican exists at the state level and the legislature has a Democratic supermajority. There's much gas tax for roads that already being diverted to other purposes. Now there will be much more.

The state keeps increasing spending. Deficits are growing despite major increases in revenue. Pension payouts are increasing. As Council member and then as Controller candidate he pushed for pension changes. Sometimes people are making more in retirement than they did when working. Current employee retirement plans are fixed per court decisions but new hires' plans could be modified. Current payouts are guaranteed instead of based on contributions, but this change is opposed by the unions.

Mr. Zine supported Ontario Airport independence and was pleased that their airport was restored. He expects much improvement since self rule is finally restored.

Mr. Zine noted that increase in shootings and told us that we need to be able to protect ourselves. In one case the officers were found to be out of policy. The first shot of a suspect was considered within policy because they were in jeopardy, but since they shot twice the second shot was not??!

We need to become involved as citizenry or we will not have the protections we need and deserve.

Ben Tanimoto, LADWP Groundwater Remediation Planning

Mr. Tanimoto laid out the magnitude of the current task to supply water: 4 million residents, 473 square-miles including 681,000 connections providing 540,000 acre-ft/water. This need will increase to over 675,000 acre-ft/water by 2039 with our main source of water, Metropolitan Water District, decreasing from 64% to only 11%. Conservation and reuse will become critical to meeting our needs as only 57,000 acre-ft/water is recoverable from groundwater sources.

Mr. Tanimoto identified 115 existing wells in the SFV for pumping groundwater, but by 2015 contamination has left only 30 were reliable sources of clean water. High levels of volatile organic compounds (VOC) and inorganic contamination are evident throughout the Valley. The LADWP remediation programs primarily address the VOCs so that groundwater sources can increase supply as much as 140% to help meet future needs.

A quarter billion dollar cost is expected to make groundwater improvement changes. Much of the money bill be coming from matching grants from CA and federal sources although polluters well be required to fund efforts when practical. Even with all of these projects it will be difficult to fund sufficient efforts to meet demands as the inorganic contamination is more difficult to improve than the VOC contamination.

Four ambitious projects were identified that are expected to reap benefits within five years for the SFV water needs. Most of this effort is in the planning stages and moving forward into construction.

Valley VOTE Member Reports

Victor N. Viereck - Rent Control

Due to the high level of homelessness there have been many public meetings about it. At such meetings a lot of statistical and other details are reported. But, with all the details given, reports on effective solutions are negligible. Recently there was a California State Assembly bill, AB 1506 that was drafted to eliminate restrictions against rent control in California. As tough as rent control is in various California cities, AB 1506 would have made it horrendously worse. Fortunately, AB 1506 created so much opposition the legislators pulled it (for this year).

Just like anything consumers need, providing housing needs the free market to motivate people to invest in construction of and continued ownership of apartments. The free market results in the greatest provision of funding apartments (and other housing). But rent control has been stifling funding of apartments. If pricing for food was limited as much as rent control limits rents, there would be fewer supermarkets and restaurants, causing the cost of food to be much higher, and the reduction of food availability. The only success price controls on food might accomplish would be reducing obesity.

Victor N. Viereck 818-985 9174

Ernie Hilger - Veterans Housing and Health Care

Historical - The West Los Angeles VA was campus was originally deeded to be a home for Veterans in the original land grant in 1888. Over time, the VA made decisions to lease out parts of the VA campus issuing 23 enhanced use leases to organizations that had no affiliation or positive impact on Veterans.

Veteran groups initiated a lawsuit prohibiting the Veterans Administration from developing the almost 400-acre West LA campus for other than veterans use. Valley VOTE Board of Directors supported the Veterans Plaintiff lawsuit August 18, 2011.

A settlement Plan was developed for the benefit of veterans and their families. The Campus was re-dedicated as a National Soldiers Home on June 4, 2015.

The VA developed a veteran centric master plan (January 2016) for the campus centered around input from Veterans and the community. The focus was to make the expansive campus a home for those Veterans who had the most need.

In September 2016, legislation was enacted by 114th Congress allowing GLA to provide permanent supportive housing (PSH) on the CAMPUS. The target population is the chronically homeless, aging, disabled, female veterans with children and those who are severely physically or mentally disabled. The goal will be to strategically locate units designated for those underserved populations, in a manner to provide convenient access to the pertinent care and services that they will need, in a safe setting and environment.

September 2016 an award was made to Concourse Federal Group (subject matter experts in master planning and implementation and enhanced use leasing) and at a Town Hall Meeting April 12, 2017 at West LA announced the the Community Veterans Engagement Board (CVEB) established goals for this year and named chair persons.

- The RFQ for for Building 201 and 208 will go out March 31 due May 8, 2017
- Hold a Public Hearing for Building 205-208 on 20 April 2017
- VA to host meetings with the WLA community regarding the "environmental umbrella reports requesting inputs for new construction (Hospital and housing). This is important because of Masters of their Own Interests are providing inputs.
- VAGLAHS is Hosting a Project Information/Update Session (April 20, 2017) at the Wadsworth Theater 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM.

ONLY TWO NON-VA PROVIDERS OF CARE ON REMAIN ON CAMPUS:

- New Directions uses building 110
- The Salvation Army was to vacate buildings 207, & 212 by September 2016. The residents in their program are being moved prior to the closure of this facility. Some residents attending the April Town Hall meeting voiced concerns for their care and medications during the transition period to the VA representatives present. The VA representatives dealt proactively with the concerns to ensure complete medical care and housing expectations will be met.

The veterans community at large wishes to thank Valley Vote for their continued support to make ending veterans homelessness a reality in Los Angeles and the Nation.

We further request that Valley Vote members and the citizens at large be ever vigilant and cognizant as to how this project is progressing to ensure that it doesn't stagnate.

Please exert your political influences to assist when required to make this project a success for all veterans and their families.

Ernie Hilger 818 926 6892

Ralph Kroy Sunshine Canyon

Background: The landfill is located at 14747 San Fernando road.

Status: The landfill continues to emits odors, and stinks. The company, BFI / Republic Industries, is doing too little to solve the problem.

The City and the County are also doing little to solve the problem. Follow the money. They are getting money from the operation as tipping fees.

The SCAQMD is acting almost powerless in this operation - until recently. Future SCAQMD hearings will review what little improvements have occurred during the last reporting period.

Ralph Kroy rekroy@aol.com

Airport Report – Denny Schneider

LAX Traffic was “normal” yesterday; bumper to bumper. Out of the mouth of babes... My 7 year old granddaughter said, “if it’s so busy here all the time why doesn’t LA have more than one airport?” Los Angeles World Airports has \$13 billion in upgrades on-going but no new airport or major improvements in other So Cal airports are anticipated at this time!

LAX plans a \$3B Landside Access Modernization Program (LAMP) located in Manchester Square near the 405 and areas approaching LAX. LAMP is almost entitled and includes an MTA train stop at Aviation and 96th, a Consolidated Rental Car Facility, two intermodal facilities, and an automated people mover (APM) to deliver people into the Central Terminal Area.

No question that these traffic improvements are urgent. Even without more LAX departure gates the larger aircraft and higher load factors facilitates 35% growth in passengers to over 100 million annual passengers (MAP) from the current 75 MAP. Only time will show if these changes improve or only maintain current congestion levels.

Cudos for planned major terminal upgrades. This will make everyone’s travel simpler; airlines are moving closer to their alliance partners to simplify transfers. Next month the most complex move ever seen at any American airport is planned for dozens of airlines. Delta Airlines is moving from its south locations into terminals 3 and 2 along with major upgrades. Additionally, Southwest is completing their major terminal one changes. United and American have improved their terminals along with changes allowing south complex terminal passengers to proceed between terminals without leaving the TSA controlled areas.

Some of the changes will be within the next few years; others may be ten years into the future. None of the changes will occur without difficulties. All are planned while LAX continues to operate. Manchester Square (MS) used to be the site of hundreds of homes. Currently there are over 500 homeless encamped there. A major effort is underway to resite and help these people. Initial MS preliminary construction will be started this Fall.

PS LAWA construction hiring is continuing. 45 employers are participating in an event Wednesday, May 17th from 10am-2pm at Rogers Park in Inglewood

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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, May 18, 2017