

SHPOA

Shadow Hills Property Owners Association
Dedicated to Preserving Rural Community

A Neighborhood Where Families Grow



Volume 47, Issue 1

SHPOA Jan-Feb 2024

RECAP AND MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 14, 2023 GENERAL MEETING By Tina Eick, SHPOA Board

The Shadow Hills Property Owners (SHPOA) held their General Meeting on November 14, 2023 at Tierra Del Sol. The meeting was well attended with many neighbors participating in the "Cookie Pot Luck", bringing their favorite sweets for all to share.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm with Tina Eick leading the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. Eick thanked the current Board of Officers for their continued hard work and consistent activism. Due to the reality that Shadow Hills is a unique community within the City of Los Angeles and requires neighborhood participation in order to protect and preserve these special qualities from massive over-development, our SHPOA Board members are gratefully appreciated. They are awesome!

As an aside: We are continually reaching out to you in the community who would like to get involved. There are many committees that might appeal to your interests. You can review the list on the second page of the Newsletter. Please contact us at shpoa@shpoa.us

Following President Eick's address, Teresa Lamb Simpson from Congressman Schiff's office briefly discussed the Congressman's local concerns and Woman-Of-The-Year honorees, among whom included Evelyn Serrano from Sunland-Tujunga.

Committee reports: Tina Eick gave a brief update on the Live Studio Audience application, (which will be heard by City Planning on January 9th. More details can be found in the SHPOA Notice on the front page of this Newsletter). In a conversation with Mr. Chris Pearson, Vice President, in charge of real estate properties for Hudson Pacific, which owns the newly constructed film studio on Peoria St, Mr Pearson agreed to send a copy of the Traffic Study to SHPOA as soon as it is available. SHPOA agreed to send a formal letter to Hudson Pacific outlining our concerns and conditions for approval. Hudson Pacific will respond to SHPOA via email to each of the conditions.

Bill Eick contacted the developer's representative who addressed the SHPOA membership at the last General membership meeting asking for approval for a 90 unit senior living complex on Sunland Blvd. At that meeting the membership unanimously disapproved of the proposal. Eick reported that at

(Cont'd next column)

Please Mark Your Calendar

Plan To Attend 2 meetings on January 9, 2024

**1. City Planning Hearing via Zoom re:
Live Studio Audiences. See details in article
below, "City Planning Hearing"**

**2. Tuesday January 9, 2024, 7:00 pm @
Tierra Del Sol, 9919 Sunland Blvd.
Discussion of the City Planning Hearing
regarding the Live Studio Audience application
that was held earlier that day.**

(Continued)

this time, the proposal is on hold.

Cindy Bloom gave a brief update on the status of the High Speed Rail issue.

New Business included the Election of SHPOA Officers for 2024 and a referendum to approve an increase of annual membership fees starting in January 2024. The SHPOA Officers and the referendum were unanimously passed.

The newly elected SHPOA Officers for 2024 are:

President - Tina Eick
Vice President - Jacqy Gamble
Executive Secretary - Susan Wong
Recording Secretary - vacant
Treasurer - Michael Stein
Membership - Gerardo Barrientos

The annual membership fee increase, starting in January 2024 will be \$30.00.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 ... at which time everyone happily exchanged delicious cookies and fond memories!



CITY PLANNING HEARING January 9, 2024

A virtual hearing has been scheduled for January 9, 2024, for the Department of City Planning to consider Hudson Pacific's request to allow live studio audiences at the soundstages at 11038 Peoria St. The initial Conditional Use Permit (CUP) prohibited live studio audiences primarily due to the negative traffic impacts.

City Councilwoman Rodriguez's office has reached out to SHPOA to let us know how important it is for our neighbors in Shadow Hills to attend this virtual

(Please see "Hearing" on p. 2)

2024 SHPOA Board Members

(if no email is listed, please send to board@shpoa.us)

Executive Officers

President:	Tina Eick board@shpoa.us
Vice President:	Jacqy Gamble
Executive Secretary:	Susan Wong
Recording Secretary:	vacant
Treasurer:	Michael Stein
Membership:	Gerardo Barrientos

Appointed Officers

Land Use:	Bill Eick
Equestrian and Trails:	Rosey Payne (Liaison) Robin Phipps
Neighborhood Watch:	Vacant
Daily Fodder and Lost/Found Pets	Susan Wong shpoa@shpoa.us
Webmaster:	Michael Stein webmaster@shpoa.us
Traffic Safety Coordinator	Carlos George
Newsletter Editor and Article Collection:	Tina Eick board@shpoa.us
Newsletter Advertising :	Michael Stein webmaster@shpoa.us
Newsletter Design/Layout:	Cindy Bloom
Hospitality:	Gerardo Barrientos
Historian:	vacant
SHPOA's Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 345, Sunland, CA 91041
SHPOA's E-mail Address:	shpoa@shpoa.us or board@shpoa.us

Website: www.shpoa.us

Senior Lead Police Officers:

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<i>Sun Valley/Shadow Hills West</i>	Eric Perez 38338@lapd.online 818-634-0755
	LAPD Foothill Div. Front Desk 818-756-8861

Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council (FTDNC)

www.ftdnc.org

<i>President:</i>	Kevin Davis president@ftdnc.org
<i>Shadow Hills Reps:</i>	Cindy Bloom cindybloomftdnc@gmail.com
	Oma El omael.ftdnc@gmail.com

("Hearing" cont'd from p. 1)

meeting. City Planning makes note of how many people attend these hearings and takes their interest and comments into consideration. In addition, a vigorous email campaign will also be crucial to get our concerns to City Planning, and for them to take those concerns seriously.

The exact time of the meeting will not be known until the agenda is posted during the first week of January, at the latest 72 hours in advance of the hearing. You can check for the posting of this agenda at <https://planning.lacity.org/about/commissions-boards-hearings>, and we at SHPOA will let you all know as soon as we know.

SHPOA's January General membership meeting will be that same evening, Jan. 9, 2023, at 7:00 PM at Tierra del Sol. We will have updates about the hearing at that meeting.

We encourage all of you to take a moment to send an email (or a snail mail) to Dang Nguyen, the City Planner assigned to this case. The case number must appear on all communications.

Case # CPC-2014-3258-CU-SPR-ZV-ZAA-PA1

Contact info for Dang Nguyen:

Email: Dang.Nguyen@lacity.org

Phone: 818-374-5027

Mailing address: 6262 Van Nuys Boulevard

Room 430

Van Nuys, CA. 91401

Here are some talking points for emails/mail/phone calls to City Planning. Please pick out some of the issues, and explain why they would be important to you. Include personal examples if you can.

Open with how you are related to the Soundstages

EXAMPLE: I live in the neighborhood just east of the Soundstages at 11038 Peoria Street in Sun Valley. The Shadow Hills neighborhood is in CD7, while the soundstage buildings are at the edge of CD6. The properties are adjacent to homes. The soundstage buildings are as close as 30 feet to some of the houses in this neighborhood.

State your position:

EXAMPLE: I oppose live studio audiences due to the severe negative impacts if said application is approved by the city. In order to mitigate these impacts to our community, our neighborhood group, Shadow Hills Property Owners Association (SHPOA) has met with Hudson Pacific and the Sun Valley Neighborhood Council to work on traffic mitigations should the application be approved. These meetings have been positive resulting in an on-going effort to collaborate on mitigation efforts.

State the conditions you would like to see if the plan is approved:

EXAMPLES: If the application is approved for a CUP allowing live studio audiences, would like to see that the following conditions be included in the CUP in order to mitigate these severe negative

(Please see "Hearing" on p. 3)

("Hearing" cont'd from p. 2)

impacts:

1. Prohibit live studio audience traffic through the community of Shadow Hills, specifically on Stonehurst Ave and Peoria Street from the east.

2. No offsite parking be allowed on Peoria Street, Elinda Place, Stonehurst Ave or any other streets in Shadow Hills.

3. Live studio audience parking must be located off site, at another Hudson Pacific film studio location lot and shuttled to and from the Peoria Street film studio.

4. Hudson Pacific's IT department must contact Google and other traffic search engines to get those search engines to reflect a ban on the use of Stonehurst Ave and Peoria Street from traffic coming from the east to the Hudson Pacific film studio on Peoria St. All traffic must be directed to Glenoaks Blvd on all search engine sites.

5. If feasible, all traffic to the Peoria Street film studio must use Pendleton Street easement to enter the southwest portion of the property.

6. Hudson Pacific contact information must be permanently installed on the perimeters of the film studio property, so that neighbor's can contact them if they have any complaints. Some neighbors on Elinda Place had to deal with flashing blue lights on the buildings aimed at the houses for months during construction and had no way to reach anyone.

7. Live studio audiences must be limited to weekdays between the hours of 9 am to 6 pm. Outdoor filming must be limited to daylight hours, with prior notification to local neighbors. A list of addresses will be provided by SHPOA to Hudson Pacific.

8. Adherence to all prior conditions and mitigating measures set forth in the original approval for the project. This has not been the case during construction.

9. Upon completion of studio construction, all exterior lighting must be directed away from all neighboring residences.

10. The City must have new and larger signage installed on all pertinent streets. The signage will include traffic limitations, weight limitations for trucks, a Dead End sign of Elinda Place, etc. CD7 Deputy Ricardo Flores is currently working on ordering new signs and has been meeting with SHPOA, CD6 staff, and neighbors on the placement of said signs.

10. Repave Peoria Street, from Glenoaks to Stonehurst Ave. Keep the speed bumps east of the studio intact.

11. Hudson Pacific shall install video camera on its property on Peoria Street to monitor traffic. Access to those videos will be provided to Council District 6, Council District 7 and the SHPOA upon request. Such videos shall be maintained/stored for 60 days.

12. Create a landscape mural on the east side of the buildings to ease visual blight on neighbors. Hudson Pacific is currently putting a list of prospective artists for the mural which will be presented to neighbors and

(Please see "Hearing" on p. 4)

Shadow Hills Property Owners Association

SHPOA

Membership Form

Shadow Hills area residents, it's always time to join SHPOA! We are here for you!

Your support and participation are vital to the preservation of our rural community.

Membership only = \$30

Newsletter only = \$10 (non-Shadow Hills area)

Donations are always gratefully received.

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Check one: ☐ New ☐ Renewal ☐ Newsletter Only
For Paypal, www.shpoa.us "Online Member Payment" OR
Mail this form with your check to:

SHPOA-P.O. Box 345, Sunland CA 91041-0345

Benefits and Value of SHPOA Membership

Preserve Country Lifestyle

- ✓ Fight for code enforcement to protect residential zoning
- ✓ Provide legal counsel and referrals
- ✓ Expand trail system, open space and wildlife corridors
- ✓ Support equestrians and equestrian organizations
- ✓ Advocacy with government and law enforcement agencies
- ✓ Assisting families impacted by fires or other natural disasters

Protect Public Safety, the Environment and Property Values

- ✓ Initiate Neighborhood Watch groups
- ✓ Liaison to local police and fire departments
- ✓ Assist animal health and care
- ✓ Reduce speeding, unsafe driving and trash truck traffic
- ✓ Community beautification and clean-ups
- ✓ Partner with real estate community
- ✓ Leading the fight to defeat the high speed train proposals

Promote Shadow Hills

- ✓ Market unique lifestyle and real estate properties
- ✓ Conduct SHPOA membership drives
- ✓ Hold general member meetings with guest speakers, helpful information and entertainment
- ✓ Bi-monthly newsletter
- ✓ Daily email outreach and information
- ✓ Website information
- ✓ Special events and signage

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("Hearing" cont'd from p. 3)

community for approval.

13. Provide a conference room for monthly community meetings.

If you KNOW that you intend to attend the virtual meeting, and/or if you sent an email or letter, please let us know at shpoa@shpoa.us. This way we can keep an accurate count of our community input. The City councilwoman's office would also like an estimate of the number of attendees from Shadow Hills. We will ask this again closer to the meeting.

Please sign up for SHPOA's Daily Fodder to receive updates on this important project and others. www.shpoa.us (scroll down on homepage and you will see the signup form). You can opt out at any time and it's FREE!



THE DEBRIS BASINS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY By Michael Summe, Resident

When I moved to California in the late '70's, I settled in the flat lands of the LA basin and stayed there for more than 35 years, paying scant attention to the mountains. In 2012, I retired and started hiking and biking into the mountains near my new home in Shadow Hills. During these excursions, I would sometimes come across strange fenced-in enclosures, each of which contained a pit that sloped down to form a wall. Many of the sites included a tower with rectangular slots cut into its sides. The areas were protected by stout cyclone fences. On the locked gates two signs were hung. One prohibited trespassing; the other declared that the site was under the control of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (DPW) and gave what was obviously a street name followed by the mysterious letters "D.B."

A fellow hiker told me that these sites were "debris basins." This didn't mean much to me until I read an essay entitled "Los Angeles Against the Mountains" in John McPhee's book, *The Control of Nature*. This eye-opening article prompted me to do some research. I called the L.A. Flood Control District and obtained a comprehensive data base of the 172 debris basins it maintains. I later found some 10 to 13 more debris basins that were not on the list. So, there are 180 or more of these structures in L.A. County. Most but not all are controlled by DPW.

My purpose in this article is to share some basic facts about these important structures. At the end of this article, you'll find a list of near-by debris basins you can visit. The bracketed numbers in the text refer to the sources I consulted; you may want to check these out, too.

What is a debris basin? The DPW provides this definition: "Debris basins are instrumental components of the flood control system. Located at the mouths of canyons, debris basins capture the sediment, gravel, boulders, and vegetative debris that are washed out of the canyons during storms. The debris basins capture the material and allow the water to flow into

(Please see "Debris" on p. 5)



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("Debris" cont'd from p. 4)

the downstream storm drain system. . . ." [3] Each debris basin consists of an excavation that begins at the bottom of a water-shed canyon and ends at a dam. A short distance uphill of the dam is a structure that resembles a perforated silo. Most of these silos are made of corrugated metal, some of concrete. The DPW calls these structures "risers." They allow the water to pass through the perforations even when solid debris has accumulated around the riser. The water then flows through the dam and down a spillway on the other side. Some debris basins contain other "outlet works" such as a porous basin that allows water to soak into the ground or a well that stores water that can later be pumped into the public water supply. [2] In the hills above a debris basin, one may find check dams which direct water into the canyon. The older basins don't have complex features; the oldest may not even have risers. As for size, most debris basins "are associated with small catchments and . . . are commensurately modest, with capacities under a hundred thousand cubic yards." [1] An example of a small, simple debris basin is Haines Canyon DB; a mid-sized one, Deer DB; a large one, La Tuna DB (with 2 risers, one metal, one concrete).

What is the purpose of debris basins? The answer is best explained as the interaction of two inexorable forces. The first is the geology of Los Angeles. The mountains that dominate our landscape are among the youngest and most rapidly rising on earth and the most unstable. As John McPhee points out in his essay, the San Gabriel Mountains are "shedding, spalling" and "disintegrating at a rate that is . . . among the fastest in the world." [1] The second inexorable force is people. Los Angeles County has a population of 10 million, and we all know that more and more houses are being built in the mountains and foothills. What happens when these two forces interact is explained on the DPW website.

Although the weather in Southern California has often been described as the best to be found anywhere, it is capricious and capable of producing enormous flood devastation. Storms, moving in from the Pacific generally from October to March, come up against the numerous steep mountain ranges [that] ring Malibu, the Los Angeles Basin, and the Antelope, San Fernando, San Gabriel, and Santa Clarita Valleys. These storms frequently produce enormous amounts of runoff that spill out onto the flatlands leading to the Pacific Ocean or Mojave Desert. And, if the age-old fire sequence has occurred along the hillsides during the dry months, the rate and amount of runoff are substantially increased. Since the geological composition of the mountain ranges erodes quite easily, a heavy mix of debris is added to the descending storm waters. [3]

What is meant by a "heavy mix"? McPhee explains

(Please see "Debris" on p. 6)



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that the debris flows "more or less resemble fresh concrete. They consist of water mixed with a good deal of solid material, most of which is above sand size. Some of it is Chevrolet size." His automotive metaphor is not inappropriate; one mudslide "was not only full of boulders, it was so full of automobiles it was like bread dough mixed with raisins." To make matters worse, the mudslide was fast enough to overtake residents who tried to flee downhill in their cars. [1]

How effective are the debris basins? Although the basic premise of McPhee's essay is that man cannot control the mountains of Los Angeles, he admits that, "generally, the debris basins work." But, they are not a hundred percent effective. Debris basins can and have been overwhelmed—sometimes with catastrophic results. Also, debris basins are expensive. Not only to build, but to maintain. To function properly, the debris must be regularly cleaned out which not only requires expensive contracts, but also raises the question of where the debris goes. It is easiest if the site is nearby, but I'm sure you won't be surprised to learn that this is not always popular with residents. Sometimes the debris, which, in the absence of man's intervention, would have washed down to the ocean, is hauled in the opposite direction, over the mountains. McPhee explains the resultant irony, "Now there is a beach problem. Sand is being lost to offshore canyons and is not being replenished. . . . A place that values its beaches as much as Southern California has no choice but to buy sand." And people can be picky! "When thirty thousand yards of sand was put on Zuma Beach, people complained that it was the wrong color." [1]

A history of debris basins. In his essay, John McPhee tells us that, by the early years of the twentieth century, Los Angeles citrus growers had succeeded in building up "a moat of oranges between the metropolis and the mountain front." However, when wildfires in late 1913 were followed by heavy rains and a flood in early 1914, it was clear that more protection was needed. [1] The government responded. In 1915, the California legislature created the Los Angeles County Flood Control District. [3] One of its first projects was the Devil's Gate Dam, which was built in 1920 to control the Arroyo Seco. A few years later, nature again delivered its one-two combination. At the end of 1933, wildfires denuded the slopes above Pasadena, La Cañada, La Crescenta, and Montrose. Then on New Year's day, a "Noah-type storm" struck, "mobilizing . . . a number of almost simultaneous debris flows that came out of the mountains, went through the orchards and into the towns, killed dozens of people, destroyed hundreds of houses, and left boulders the size of icebergs." [1]

Ironically, there was an unexpected benefit to this disaster. People noticed that a gravel pit in Haines Canyon above the village of Tujunga had swallowed the debris flow that would otherwise have wiped out the community. According to McPhee, this gravel pit became the inspiration, the model for future debris basins. [1] Be that as it may, the 1934 flood started a decades long

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building spree. Fifteen were built on the south facing slopes of the San Gabriels in the immediate aftermath of the '34 flood. Seven more were built in the 1940's, again, most on south facing slopes in the greater Pasadena area. However, one was built as far west as Northridge and another as far east as Brea. Nineteen were built in the '50's, with most on the south facing slopes above Foothill Boulevard, though one was built in Whittier, one in the Verdugos, a few more in the San Fernando Valley. Twenty were added in the '60's, some in the core area, some in Glendora, and one in Newhall. Twelve were built between 1970 and 1975. Then the timeline gets a bit fuzzy. There are 97 debris basins for which I could not find operation start dates.

My guess is that these 97 undated debris basins—or most of them—were built after 1975. I say this because the information I do have suggests that the building of debris basins coincided with housing development, and most of the undated debris basins are located in areas where I suspect residential encroachment into the foothills and mountains occurred later than in the areas already identified. To the east, these areas include Monrovia, Duarte, Glendora, Rowland Heights, Diamond Bar; to the west, Canoga Park, Calabasas, Malibu; and to the north, Santa Clarita, Castaic, Palmdale. As part of my research, I visited 5 debris basins in the hills along Hillcrest Parkway in Castaic. The neighborhoods are obviously newly built; and, at the end of the cul-de-sacs that mark the uphill limit of development, I found the debris basins. My conclusion? That they were built contemporaneously with the housing tracts. Is this correct? Perhaps.

Leads for the curious. In this section, you will find resources you can consult if you would like to learn more about LA County's 180+ debris basins.

A. An annotated list of sources. Some of these sources contain dramatic pictures.

1. The essay "Los Angeles Against the Mountains" in The Control of Nature by John McPhee. This is a must read for anyone interested in the geology of Los Angeles.
2. A two-page fact sheet prepared by the DPW to explain debris basins: <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/lacfd/sediment/dcon/366.pdf>
3. A multi-page website explaining sedimentation and erosion on the DPW's website: <https://dpw.lacounty.gov/wrd/sediment/>
4. An on-line historical article vividly describing the 1934 New Year's Flood: <http://www.cvhhistory.org/meetings/oldmeetings/newsletter/jan08news.pdf>
5. A website with dramatic pictures of the devastating 1934 New Year's Flood: <http://www.glendaleca.gov/home/showdocument?id=13944>
6. An on-line copy of a 2009 L.A. Times article entitled "Storm to test Southern California debris basins." <http://articles.latimes.com/2009/dec/04/local/la-me-debris-basins4-2009dec04>

(Please see "Debris" on p. 8)

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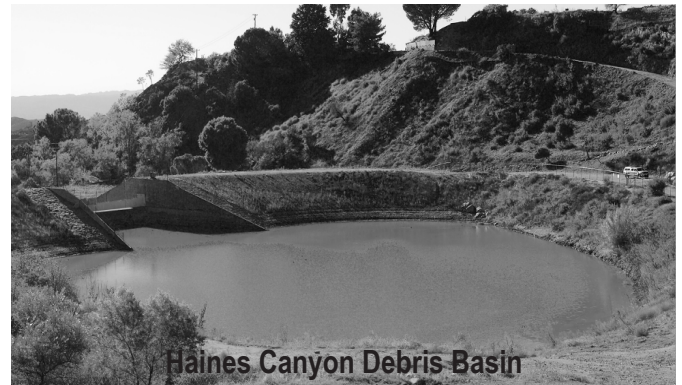
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7. An on-line article entitled "Shape Shifters: Debris Basins and the San Gabriels," published by the Friends of the Pleistocene. It contains high quality pictures of LA debris basins. <https://fopnews.wordpress.com/2011/01/27/shape-shifters-debris-basins-and-the-san-gabriels/>

8. A web address where you will find the U.S. Geological Survey's "The Reservoir Sedimentation Database (RESSED)." The database contains information on debris structures from many parts of the country, including 75 from LA County. The links open up data sheets that are full of details; e.g., start dates, size, elevation, etc. http://water.usgs.gov/osw/ressed/interactive_map/map_ca.html



9. http://www.spl.usace.army.mil/Portals/17/docs/regulatory/RGP/RGP_45.pdf A 73 page PDF published by the Department of the Army. It is labeled "a modified Regional General Permit (RGP 45)" and is related to a project to clean out 158 of LA's debris basins. It is dated Aug. 10, 2015. Page 15 contains a map of all LA County's debris basins, pages 16-20 contain a spreadsheet with the addresses and GPS coordinates. Interesting attachments with pictures of endangered plants and animals.

10. [https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=A+14:20+minute+video+by+entitled+Los+Angeles+Debris+Flow](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query+A+14:20+minute+video+by+entitled+Los+Angeles+Debris+Flow) by 3 agencies of LA County government. This site contains the most dramatic video of a mudflow I have seen.

B. Some near-by debris basins.

NAME	ADDRESS	DATE
Blanchard D.B.	6400 St. Tujunga	1968
Blue Gum D.B.	10320 Haines Canyon Ave., Tujunga	1968
Cooks D.B.	5025 Boston Ave., Glendale	1952
Deer D.B.	1290 Beaudry Blvd., Glendale	1954
Denivelle D.B.	7710 Denivelle Road, Tujunga	
Haines Canyon D.B.	Northern end of Haines Canyon Ave.	1936
La Tuna D.B.	9050 La Tuna Canyon Road, Sun Valley	1956

(Please see "Debris" on p. 9)

("Debris" cont'd from p. 8)

Lopez Canyon D.B.	12000 Paxton St., Lake View Terrace	1954
Oliver D.B.	11300 Dominica Ave., Lake View Terrace	
Rowley D.B.	10890 Amidon Pl., Tujunga	
Schwartz D.D.	925 Foothill Blvd., Sylmar	
Shields D.B.	5300 La Crescenta Ave., La Crescenta	1937
Zachau D.B.	SeveThills Dr., Tujunga	1956

An earlier version of this article appears in the November and December 2019 editions of The Cornerstone, the newsletter of Bolton Hall Museum, the home of the Little Landers Historical Society.



DESIGNATING THE COASTAL LIVE OAK AS AN OFFICIAL CITY TREE By Elektra Kruger, Resident

The Coastal Live Oak (*Quercus Agrifolia*) has long been the unsung hero of the Los Angeles urban forest being the City's most common native tree and historically an integral part of many native cultures having sustained indigenous inhabitants with its edible acorns. In the 18th century, settlers used its wood as fuel for charcoal to fire kilns for the making of adobe. The bark grows an average of one inch thick allowing the oak to withstand most low to medium intensity fires with its inner tissue intact enabling new branches to sprout later. Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell believed the Coastal Live Oak should be recognized for its historic, cultural and symbolic value to the region so in early December 2022 presented a Motion to City Council asking that they instruct the Bureau of Street Services and the City's Cultural Heritage Commission to report on the feasibility of designating the California native Coastal Live Oak as the "official" tree of the City of Los Angeles. A submitted public comment stated that Coastal Live Oaks are evergreen trees providing year-round canopy shade, cooling, fire deterrence and habitat while using less water than the sterile non-native trees we have been putting in our urban forest. We need to restore the Coast Live Oak as the dominant tree in our urban forest. Bestowing upon it the honor of being the City's "Official Tree" should help facilitate that. A second public comment reminds us that the current official City tree is the Coral Tree which is not even native to Los Angeles, but native to South Africa. Los Angeles deserves to have one of its own designated as its Official Tree. Three Neighborhood Councils submitted Community Impact Statements supporting the designation of the Coastal Live Oak as Los Angeles's Official Tree. The City Council's Public Works Committee reviewed Councilmember O'Farrell's Motion and approved the Motion as written and forwarded their recommendation to the City Council that they too should vote to approve the Motion. The Motion has laid collecting dust on a City Council desk, probably because Councilmember

(Please see "Oak" on p. 10)

Adrian Vargas

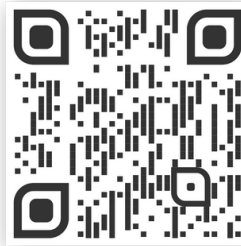
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("Oak" cont'd from p. 9)

O'Farrell is no longer on the City Council to help push it. If this Motion means anything to you, you might contact Councilmember Monica Rodriguez, your Councilmember, to take up the fight.




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LOS ANGELES TO REDUCE PURCHASE OF IMPORTED WATER

By Elektra Kruger, Resident

All three of our major water import systems – the Los Angeles Aqueduct, the State Water Project and the Colorado River – cross the San Andreas and other seismic faults all of which in and of themselves should serve as motivation to expand and diversify our own local water supply sources. A comment from the public urged our Councilmembers to make the most of the precipitation that we have been receiving as we cannot depend on the continued availability of imported water and must do more to capture, store and reuse local stormwater and minimize the amount that goes to the ocean. Water use sustainability projects should be made a funding priority. On March 24, 2023, the City Council's Energy and Environment Committee reviewed a Motion presented by Councilmember Yaroslasky relative to a request for the LADWP, along with assistance from the Bureau of Sanitation and the Metropolitan Water District, to prepare and present a report on the City's reduced purchase of imported water and increased reliance on local water supplies, improving infrastructure and on conservation projects in the planning and/or development stages with a review of current sources of potable water, the feasibility of

(Continued next column)

(Continued))

achieving existing targets within the timelines stated in existing Mayoral Executive Directives eg the reduction of importation of potable water by 50% by 2024, etc. The Committee approved the Motion with the additional amendment that the report include current water contingency plans and the resilience of water import systems if an earthquake were to cause a failure to the Los Angeles Aqueduct, State Water Project and/or Colorado River deliveries through the Metropolitan Water District. The Committee forwarded its recommendation to the Los Angeles City Council for a final vote. At its April 14, 2023 meeting, the City Council adopted the request for this report pending reconsideration. On August 9, 2023, the DWP submitted a report to the City Council in response to this request. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power was established by the City Charter in 1925, taking over the City's municipal water system and responsibility for the use, sale and distribution of water both potable and recycled in the City. Today, the LADWP is the nation's largest municipal utility and serves approximately 448 million gallons of water (both potable and recycled) to 4 million people every day. The LADWP ensures its water supply reliability, resilience and sustainability through investment in a diverse portfolio of water supplies in the face of climate change, earthquake risks and other major disruptions.



MAYORAL DECLARATION OF THE AQUEDUCT SYSTEM EMERGENCY

By Elektra Kruger, Resident

On January 13, 2023, Mayor Karen Bass declared a State of Emergency as a result of the significant impacts of substantial precipitation brought on by a series of atmospheric river storm systems that began on January 9, 2023. A portion of the wall of the Los Angeles Aqueduct partially collapsed on March 11, 2023, as a result of flooding from the extreme runoff endangering public property, infrastructure and the environment and will continue to impact the City of Los Angeles' Aqueduct System. Insofar as this emergency results in a demand for the immediate expenditure of public funds to safeguard life, health and property, Councilmember Paul Krekorian presented a Resolution to the City Council asking that they approve that the competitive bidding restrictions enumerated in the City Charter and the Los Angeles Administrative Code be suspended until April 21, 2023, or until the termination of the State of Emergency, whichever comes first and for the Los Angeles Department Water and Power to authorize and order any action relative to the procurement of construction contracts, supplies and equipment, but only if monies for such payments is drawn from the LADWP's own proprietary funds. The LADWP is to report every two weeks to the City Council on the reasons justifying suspension of competitive bidding and why doing so was necessary to respond

(Please see "Aqueduct" on p. 11)

("Aqueduct" *cont'd from p. 10*)

to the emergency including why permitting a delay in obtaining competitive proposals or bidding would not be reasonably practical. They must also instruct all City departments and agencies to represent the City to coordinate all inquiries necessary to obtain whatever State and Federal assistance that may become available to the City and/or to the citizens of the City who may be effected by the emergency. The Resolution was adopted repeatedly by the City Council at successive monthly meetings through its September 15 meeting, each time pending reconsideration at a subsequent meeting. Beginning late May 2023 however, the Department of Water and Power did begin submitting its bi-weekly reports. The May report stated that the DWP began taking immediate action to manage water flow into the Owens Lake and to begin repairing dust-control measures. The Los Angeles City Council initially resolved to temporarily waive competitive bidding restrictions until April 21, 2023, so that construction contracts, supplies and equipment could be procured quickly. Due to the continued state of emergency, the City Council took action at their meetings on Friday April 21, 2023, and Tuesday May 16, 2023, to extend the state of emergency by an additional 30 days each thereby extending the timeline for suspending the requirement for competitive bidding.



SINGLE USE FOODWARE
By Elektra Kruger, Resident

The City of Los Angeles is a large consumer of goods and producer of waste including its consumption of food or beverage and related Foodware and Foodware Accessories. The City recognizes that its own activities or activities of those using or operating in City facilities or on City property can positively or negatively effect the environment. The purpose of Ordinance No. 187718 is to accomplish the following:

1. By specifying ways to eliminate the use of Single-Use plastics including the banning Expanded Polystyrene Foodware products and Single-Use or Disposable containers, the City or anyone using or operating on City property shall adopt zero-waste policies. Food and beverage providers operating on City property can and should be required to supply reusable containers and shall permit customers to use their own reusable Foodware or Foodware Accessories. Positive environmental change can be effectuated by reducing food waste by recovering Surplus Edible Food, using blue bins for recyclables and using green bins for food waste whether that be fruits, vegetables or meats and food-contaminated paper Foodware.

2. Surplus edible food is to be donated to a Food Rescue Organization.

3. Half meal portions, child meal portions and a la carte options shall be offered to help reduce food waste

4. No disposable Foodware shall be provided for dine-in meal or catered service. Customers may purchase reusable to-go Foodware through a vending machine or other similar food container system.

5. Contractors shall use only recyclable or

(Continued next column))



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(Continued)

compostable Foodware for to-go service

6. Regardless the form of meal service, beverages shall be served in reusable or recyclable bottles or cans made of glass, metal or recyclable plastic.

7. Contractors shall provide hydration or bottle

(Please see "Foodware" on p. 12)

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("Foodware" *cont'd from p. 10*)

refill stations. No water shall be provided in plastic bottles or disposable cups.

8. Condiments shall be served in dispensers whether manual or with electric pumps. They are not to be available in individual packets.

9. At dine-in or catered meal services, contractors shall only use reusable (whether washable or cleanable) napkins and tablecloths.

10. Disposable paper napkins provided for take-out are to be unbleached and contain a minimum of 30% post-consumer recycled content.

11. By no later than January 1, 2025, contractors shall equip all restrooms accessible to customers with electric hand dryers. If the City provides composting or other processing of used restroom paper towels, then contractors shall collect and separate used paper towels from other restroom sanitary waste for depositing into designated collection bins to be delivered to designated composting sites.

12. Restroom hand soap is to be provided in refillable containers.



FURTHER EXPANSION OF THE SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS NATIONAL MONUMENT By Elektra Kruger, Resident

The Antiquities Act was passed by the United States Congress in 1906 and signed into law by President Theodore Roosevelt on June 8, 1906. The Antiquities Act gives the President of the United States, by Presidential Proclamation, the authority to create National Monuments from federal lands to further protect natural, cultural, historical or otherwise significant features on those lands. In a letter dated June 8, 2023, addressed to President Biden, Vice President Harris, Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack and Chair Mallory of the Council on Environmental Quality, on behalf of the Congress of the United States both United States Congressman Judy Chu and Senator Alex Padilla have requested the issuance of a Presidential Proclamation under the Antiquities Act to expand wilderness protection to the mountains and foothills north of the Los Angeles Basin by adding 109,167 acres of this land to the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. The San Gabriel Mountains provide Los Angeles residents some 70% of their open space and some 30% of their drinking water. It is known for its rich cultural, historical and geological resources and provides critical habitat for threatened and endangered species including the California Condor, Nelson's Bighorn Sheep and the Santa Ana Sucker. In light of this, in 2014 President Barack Obama exercised his authority under the Antiquities Act to protect approximately 436,177 acres of the National Forest System as the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. This designation, however, omitted most of the western area of the Angeles National Forest. The requested 109,167 acre expansion would increase the Monument by approximately one-third its current size and would include neighborhoods such as Sylmar, Santa Clarita and Pacoima as well as portions of the Big Tujunga Creek, the Arroyo Seco, the upper Los Angeles River and the upper Santa Clarita River. In late June 2023, Councilmember Monica Rodriguez presented a Resolution to the Los Angeles City Council asking that the City of Los Angeles support the issuance of the Presidential Proclamation under the Antiquities Act as well

(Please see "Mountains" on p. 13)

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("Mountains" cont'd from p. 12)

as any administrative and/or legislative action necessary to expand the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument by these 109,167 acres thereby preserving their natural resources and wildlife habitats. In mid-August 2023, in a report submitted to the City Council's Intergovernmental Relations Committee, the Cities Chief Legislative Analyst recommended the City support the Resolution.

To be continued in future issues of the SHPOA newsletter.




UP-DATE ON THE SIDEWALK REPAIR ORDINANCE By Elektra Kruger, Resident

It was determined that no Willits Settlement funds are to be used for anything other than the intended purpose of actually repairing sidewalks and creating/repairing curb ramps. They could not be used to pay for any sidewalk condition inventory/assessment. At the May 5, 2023 City Council session, the Council approved a recommendation submitted jointly by the Council's Public Works and Audits Committees to instruct the City Administrative Officer to identify \$500,000 funding for a sidewalk inventory and assessment pilot program including funding needed for Contractual Services and to instruct the Bureau of Engineering and Bureau of Street Services to report to the Public Works Committee, prior to any implementation of a sidewalk inventory and assessment pilot program with its proposed scope and methodology including areas to be prioritized. A new line item was recommended by the Bureau of Engineering and Bureau of Street Services for the FY 2023-24 City Budget to redesignate \$500,000 funding originally listed for "Access Request Acceleration" to a new line item entitled "Pedestrian Facility Inventory and Assessment." A Pilot Phase of this Facility Inventory and Assessment will allow the City to investigate, understand and then provide detailed recommendations for the most cost-effective and practical means to accomplish the City-wide Inventory and Assessment and then manage and utilize the resulting data within the City's existing asset management tools. The Pilot Phase of the Inventory and Assessment is to:

□ Research available inventory and assessment technologies, assessments completed by other public entities and their outcomes, technical specification of the City's current asset management programs and other sources of available city data

(Please see "Sidewalk" on p. 15)



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HISTORY OF THE TUJUNGA VILLAGE NATIVE AMERICANS

By Elektra Kruger, Resident

The neighborhood of Stonehurst lies approximately one mile south of the ethnohistoric village of Tujunga. The Fernandeno word "Tujunga" is often translated as "The Place (or Village) of the Old Woman". During the Spanish period, the area was also referred to as "La Reina" (the Queen) perhaps in reference to Mary, the mother of Jesus. The queen was in the formation of a whale at the mouth of Little Tujunga Canyon. Although the natives of the village of Tujunga are often listed as Gabrielino, Gabrielinos being Indian tribes that inhabited the greater part of the Los Angeles Basin, Santa Catalina Island, etc, only a few of the "people from the village of the Old Woman", the Tuhuvit, were actually baptized at Mission San Gabriel, the majority being baptized at Mission

San Fernando and thus should be referred to as "Fernandeno", a specific and distinct subgroup of the Gabrielino. The village was occupied at least as early as 2,000 BC. Baptismal records from Mission San Fernando show that the last natives were removed just after 1800 AD. Investigations of the village site were first

(Please see "History" on p. 14)

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("History" *cont'd from p. 13*)

undertaken in 1945 by Edwin F. Walker of the Southwest Indian Museum. There was an extensive midden deposit with numerous pieces of bone and shell. Numerous artifacts were found including projectile points, utilized flakes, cobble core tools, hammer stones, scrapers, metates, manos, bowls, mortars, pestles, comals, steatite pipes, beads (made of stone, bone, shell and historic glass), stone pendants, polishing stones, southwest pottery shards (including black on white, red on buff, etc), several types of bone artifacts including whale bone grave markers and burials and house pits. There were also later historic materials dating to the Spanish, Mexican and early American periods including glass, porcelain, stoneware, tile, etc. Given the minimal distance between this large village site and today's Stonehurst neighborhood, chances are the prehistoric inhabitants of the village of Tujunga utilized the south bank of the Wash and the surrounding area.



TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON THE ISSUANCE OF BREEDING PERMITS
By Elektra Kruger, Resident

The Los Angeles Department of Animal Services (DAS) is facing a dire and inhumane crisis in our shelters, most notably that of overcrowding. A myriad of factors have gotten us to where we are today, factors such as a dearth of pet-friendly rental units, failure to spay/neuter our pets and the issuance of breeding permits which is the one factor within the City's immediate control. As of July 31, 2023, the DAS has issued a total of 1,141 annual breeding permits – and that is only for half of 2023 so far. Each cat litter can yield an average of 6 kittens while a dog litter averages 4 puppies depending on the size of the dog. Cats can become pregnant as early as four months of age and have their first litter at six months. In seven years, a single cat can produce litters that they themselves procreate to produce as many as 420,000 cats in their lifetimes. The over one thousand breeding permits issued in the first seven months of 2023 can result in at least 4,500 animals during the year. In addition to permitted breeding, our City is dealing with unpermitted, unregulated breeding. Because the City is unable to determine exactly how many of these illegally operating breeders there are, we have no way of estimating how many unpermitted canines/felines are populating our City and our shelters. What we do know is how many babies one animal is capable of having. A dog goes into breeding season 1 to 2 times per year meaning one dog could produce an average of 8 puppies/year. One cat can have 3 to 4 litters/year and can become pregnant again as soon as she has given birth. If owners of breeder-purchased pets find need to surrender their animals these animals more than likely will end up in the shelter system adding increased stress to the system. Our approach to addressing the overcrowding in the City's animal shelter system must be multi-pronged, but stemming the increase in breeding permits can have some impact on solving the problem. In an effort to deal with the problem, in mid-September 2023, Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez presented a Motion to City Council asking that they request the City Attorney's Office in consultation with the Department of Animal Services prepare and present an Ordinance amending the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) to place an immediate and indefinite moratorium

(Please see "Breeding" on p. 15)

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("Breeding" *cont'd from p. 14*)

on the issuance of new breeding permits. The Motion was referred to the City Council's Neighborhood and Community Enrichment Committee for their review and recommendations.

To be up-dated in a future issue of the SHPOA Newsletter.



("Sidewalk" *cont'd from p. 13*)

□ Coordinate the request and receipt of input from public and private pedestrian facility stakeholders and various City departments

□ Identify the pedestrian facilities to be inventoried and evaluated as required by federal regulations and recommended by available industry guidance and the best practices of other large municipalities

□ Determine pilot locations throughout the City that are representative of the diverse designs and conditions of the City's pedestrian facilities which include hillside areas, residential areas, major transit corridors, underimproved areas, etc.

□ Report back on the scope, schedule, technologies and estimated cost for the City-wide Inventory and Assessment.

To be continued in a future issue of the SHPOA newsletter.



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Key Community Locations & Contact Info

All Nations Church: 10000 Foothill Blvd., Lake View Terrace
Bolton Hall: 10110 Commerce Ave., Tujunga (818-352-3420)
Lake View Terrace Recreation Center: 11075 Foothill Blvd.,
Lake View Terrace
Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church: (Johanna/Sunland Blvd.
intersection); Pastor Arlo Tysinger (818-353-2500)
Stonehurst Park: 9901 Dronfield, Stonehurst/Shadow Hills (818-767-0314)
Stonehurst Elementary School: 9851 Stonehurst Ave., Sun Valley
(818-767-8014)
Tierra del Sol: 9919 Sunland Blvd., Shadow Hills (818-352-1419)
Village Christian School: 8930 Village Ave., Sun Valley (818-767-8282)
City of LA North Valley Neighborhood City Hall/Office: Council Member
Monica Rodriguez, District 7, 13520 Van Nuys Blvd., Suite 209,
Pacoima, CA 91331 (Tujunga location being renovated) same phone
number: (818-352-3287)

Community Calendar

Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council (FTDNC)

- 3rd Thursday, Every Month 7 p.m.
- Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center
- www.ftdnc.org

FTDNC Land-Use Committee meeting

- 1st Tuesday, Every Month 7 p.m.
- Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center

FTDNC Equestrian Committee meeting

- 2nd Thursday, Every Month 7 p.m.
- Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center

FTDNC Public Safety Committee meeting

- 2nd Wednesday, Every Month 6 p.m.
- Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center

LAPD Community Coffee Time

- 1st Thursday, Every Month :00 a.m.
- SVANC Office, 8720 Sunland Blvd., Sun Valley

Hansen Dam Park Advisory Board

- LAST Tuesday, Every Month 7 p.m.
- Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center

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