

SHPOA

Shadow Hills Property Owners Association
Dedicated to Preserving Rural Community

A Neighborhood Where Families Grow



Volume 39, Issue 2

Year-End—December 2016

The Local Politics of High Speed Trains... A Voter's Guide! By Dave DePinto

Let us be very clear that, as we enter the third holiday season under the threat of the damaging high speed train proposals, we are not happy with either the political void that existed in the decade leading up to today's quagmire, nor the unfocused and divided political response to the routes under consideration.

After two years of a lack of representation on the high speed train issue and other issues by disgraced, resigned,



former Councilman-turned lobbyist, Felipe Fuentes, I was the first community leader to publicly call for his resignation. That resignation cleared the way for the LA City Council to take action to support unanimous public opinion OPPOSED to damaging high speed train routes through our communities such as E2 which would tunnel out of the hillsides above Lake View Terrace, bridge over the Big Tujunga Wash, tunnel into the hillside of Shadow Hills, under Shadow Hills, come out above ground in Sun Valley, and then tunnel into Burbank. Below is a voter's guide to which elected officials are representing us well and those that are not.

(See *Voter's Guide* on pg. 2)

HOT ITEMS IN THIS ISSUE...

- **The Winners & Losers: Local Election Update – p. 4.**
- **Meet LA City Council President Herb Wesson, Jr. p. 5-6.**
- **Voters' Guide: Whom to Watch & Watch Out for, pp. 1-3.**
- **SHPOA needs YOU in 2017! JOIN or RENEW NOW! SEE p. 3.**
- **Concerns of our Community: Tree Pruning, Water Use, Fracking, Sidewalks, and more, pp. 6-15.**

"2-Year Anniversary" Meeting Brings the People Out!



A standing-room-only audience of local businesses, community leaders, elected officials and CD7 candidates attended the "2-Year Anniversary" high speed train meeting at Angeles National Golf Course on December 2. Attendees received an update on the project, related politics and insights from Frank Oliveira, a statewide leader and property victim of the high speed train project in California's Central Valley. 🐾

NEW YEAR SHPOA MEETING - JANUARY 10, 2017

by Sue Mansis

"Let us Entertain You!" **Come join us at Tierra del Sol, Tuesday, January 10, 7-9 pm.** for an evening of cheer, dance, song and YOUR wish list for 2017! SHPOA presents entertainment by the infamous "Tap Chicks," along with delectable goodies for a hilarious night of fun and forecast for the New Year! 🐾

Renew Your SHPOA Membership for 2017

By Katherine Dayen

It's time to renew your SHPOA membership for 2017 for only \$25. Please use the enclosed envelope or pay electronically on the SHPOA website: www.shpoa.us.

Services provided by SHPOA include: Informational Meetings, Election/Candidate informational events, Newsletter, Daily Fodder, Neighborhood Watch, Website, Land Use and Political Advocacy, Equestrian and Trails Improvements and Advocacy for Street Improvements. For the past two years, SHPOA has provided leadership to the SAFE Coalition to fight the damaging high speed train proposals. **Thank you.**

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(Voter's Guide cont'd from pg. 1)

LA City Council Motion by Councilmembers Krekorian, Wesson and O'Farrell

Thanks to Councilman Paul Krekorian who introduced the Motion, and Council President Herb Wesson who, along with Councilman Mitch O'Farrell, seconded the Motion, steps are finally being taken by the LA City Council to represent local residents on this issue. The Motion must still be reviewed by Committees before being voted on by the full City Council and being submitted to the high speed train Authority.

The Council Motion states opposition to above ground routes through Big Tujunga Wash. With the City spending many millions of dollars to restore and to preserve the LA River in the vicinity of downtown Los Angeles, SAFE Coalition members were able to work with the Council offices to point out the heresy of construction sites, bridges, train tracks and wiring structures in the midst of a flood plain containing Haines Canyon Creek, a tributary to the Los Angeles River. We expect the Committee hearing process will allow for discussion of many other objections to the high speed train project and we will keep you informed.

Council President Herb Wesson, Jr.

The following article tells you more about our Council President, Herb Wesson, Jr., who is supervising Council District 7 until the spring elections. Mr. Wesson has been a breath of fresh air for our community as he and his staff have been accessible, concerned and responsive. We are very pleased that in a very short time, Mr. Wesson has restored the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council to its home at the North Valley City Hall, after being "evicted" by former Councilman Fuentes.

In addition, Mr. Wesson has both seconded the Motion by Councilman Krekorian, and appeared at our election information event at All Nations Church in October and pledged to "stand with" us and support our opposition to high speed trains in our community.

Please express your support for the Motion by writing to LA Mayor Eric Garcetti, mayor.garcetti@lacity.org; Mayor's Chief of Staff Ana Guerrero, ana.guerrero@lacity.org; LA City Council President Herb Wesson Jr., councilmember.wesson@lacity.org; LA City Councilman Paul Krekorian, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org; LA City Councilman Mitch O'Farrell, councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org and referencing motion 16-1068 When SHPOA asks for your help in writing letters and/or attending the upcoming City Council committee or full Council meetings, please do all you can to assist.LA County Board of Supervisors

LA County Board of Supervisors

In May 2016, the LA County Board of Supervisors expressed unanimous support for our community, calling for removal of the damaging E2 above ground route. We are thankful for the leadership provided by Supervisors Mike Antonovich and Sheila Kuehl and their staffs. Incoming Supervisor Kathryn Barger strongly supports our community on this issue, as well.

Congressional and State Legislators

Also supporting our communities are Congressman Adam Schiff, Senator Carol Liu and Assemblywoman Patty Lopez. Fortunately, incoming Senator Anthony Portantino and Assemblymember Raul Bocanegra attended our recent candidate/election events and expressed strong support for the SAFE Coalition and strong opposition to above ground routes such as E2.

Interestingly, and this is where the political drama begins, neither Mayor Eric Garcetti, the supposed champion of efforts to protect the LA River (who is up for re-election next Spring), nor Senator Bob Hertzberg, whose district includes the Big Tujunga Wash, are supporting the SAFE Coalition...each are stalling for time and are much too cozy with the Governor's Office, special interests and the high speed train Authority. And make no mistake about it, the Authority loves to see division amongst our local politicians as they did with former Councilman Fuentes who championed a route change that removed some above ground routes but left E2 in place and left his own constituents unprotected. We have found that if you give the high speed train Authority any wiggle room, they will exploit it to their advantage.

Los Angeles Unified School District

District 6 Board Member Monica Ratliff toured the above ground routes with SAFE and quickly offered her support publicly and in the form of a Motion by the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education. Unfortunately, that Motion was delayed by lobbying by special interest labor unions, but will be revisited as soon as possible. SAFE Coalition recently conducted a site tour for staff in the District's Environmental Safety department and plans to seek a new motion before the Board of Education.

Mayor Eric Garcetti

SAFE Coalition leaders have been trying to meet with and get the Mayor's support since February 2016 to no avail. Literally dozens of calls and emails requesting the (See ***Voter's Guide (more)*** on pg. 4



▶ **“LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD VOLUNTEERS!”** ◀

Our community is blessed to have dedicated volunteers. Those who work hard on your SHPOA board are no exception! Each December, we hold ELECTIONS and invite YOU to become a part of the SHPOA effort. Please come out on Wednesday December 14 for these Elections and show your support.

ALL positions are open - but those with NO chair for 2017 are in **bold-face** type.

Please! Consider joining the SHPOA Team THIS YEAR!

For more information, or to be placed on the ballot a post, please contact SHPOA or Sue Mansis (818-554-8113).

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Shadow Hills Property Owners Association



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

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- ✓ Expand trail system, open space and wildlife corridors
- ✓ Support equestrians and equestrian organizations
- ✓ Advocacy with government and law enforcement agencies

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

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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"FAILING to Plan is planning to FAIL!"- Ben Franklin

(Voter's Guide (more) cont'd from pg. 3)

Mayor's support have been submitted, and several in-person commitments by the Mayor to meet have not been fulfilled. We find the Mayor's inaction very hypocritical since he's championing efforts to save and restore the LA River, yet he's ignoring the LA River here in the northeast San Fernando Valley. We also feel neglected here in the northeast San Fernando Valley by our Mayor, who seems focused on environmental protection near downtown but not for one of the Valley's most important environmental assets.

You may communicate your dissatisfaction directly to the Mayor by writing to:

- **Chief of Staff Ana Guererro: ana.guererro@lacity.org**
- **Mayor Garcetti: mayor.garcetti@lacity.org**

Senator Bob Hertzberg

Senator Bob Hertzberg, who toured the damaging above ground routes with SAFE back in August 2015 and stated his support at that time, has withdrawn his support and is supporting additional studies and more time for the high speed train Authority. Hertzberg, like Fuentes, tried to take credit for route changes that removed some above ground routes, but not all. We surmise that Hertzberg has opted to support special interests and his relationship with the Governor OVER the interests of his constituents and stakeholders.

By flip-flopping his position on high speed trains in our community, Senator Hertzberg has not only abandoned his constituents, but all stakeholders who expected him to protect the Big Tujunga Wash which is located in his District.

You may communicate your dissatisfaction directly to Senator Hertzberg by sending an email to:

- **Chief of Staff Diane Griffiths: diane.griffiths@sen.ca.gov**
- **Senator Hertzberg: senator.hertzberg@senate.ca.gov**

Future Politics

We'll have more to do and say about our elected officials and their positions on high speed trains in the New Year, especially in Council District 7, where, as of the time of this newsletter's printing, more than 20 different candidates had declared their intention to seek the council seat. 🐾

Local Election Update

By Dave DePinto

As a public service to Shadow Hills and neighboring communities, SHPOA led the way with other leading community organizations host two very well-attended election information events in April and in October. Here are local 5LA County Supervisor 5th District – Kathryn Barger elected over Darrell Park

- **California Senate District 25 – Anthony Portantino elected over Mike Antonovich**
- **Assembly District 39 – Raul Bocanegra elected over Patty Lopez**
- **Assembly District 43 – Laura Friedman elected over Ardy Kassakhian**

• U.S. 29th Congressional District – Tony Cardenas elected over Richard Alarcon. (Next column)→→→→

Coming up in March 2017, City Elections will include races for the following seats:

- LA City Council, Council District 7
- LA Mayor, LA City Attorney and LA City Controller
- Los Angeles Unified School Districts 2,4,6
- Los Angeles Community College Districts 2,4,6

SHPOA will again host an election information event prior to the March elections. Please stay tuned to SHPOA's Daily Fodder for further information. You can subscribe for free to **Daily Fodder** by sending your name, email address and contact information to Terri Ortiz at shpoa@shpoa.us. (See item below) 🐾

Daily Fodder – All the News that's Fit to Print...Daily By Terri Ortiz

SHPOA has a daily "community news" service called "Daily Fodder." For free, anyone may subscribe to Daily Fodder and receive updates of breaking news such as fires and power outages, public safety such as Neighborhood Watch updates, equestrian news such as events and fundraisers at various venues, garage and estate sales with great merchandise at great prices, local charitable events, equestrian equipment sales, high speed train updates, community meeting dates and locations, important City news and much, much more. There is nothing that even comes close to Daily Fodder in the entire Foothills region.

It's free and you should not leave home without it. Just send your contact information (especially your email address) to Terri Ortiz at shpoa@shpoa.us and you'll be added to our daily distribution list. Isn't it good to know the information you need about our community is at your fingertips! 🐾

Meet LA City Council President Herb Wesson, Jr. By Dave DePinto

Herb J. Wesson, Jr. has served as the President of the Los Angeles City Council since November 2011 and has represented Council District 10 since 2005. Wesson is the first African American to hold the position of Council President in the city's history and has been re-elected three times to lead the city's legislative body. During his tenure as Council President, Wesson has presided over monumental policy initiatives making Los Angeles a better place to live, work and raise a family. Not only have local policy initiatives—which include raising the minimum wage, pension reform and consolidating city elections to increase voter turnout—positively affected local residents, but in many cases the city's actions have spurred state and national response and served as a model for similar policies.



Wesson chairs several committees including the Rules, Elections, Intergovernmental Relations, and (See **Meet Herb Wesson, cont'd on pg. 6**)

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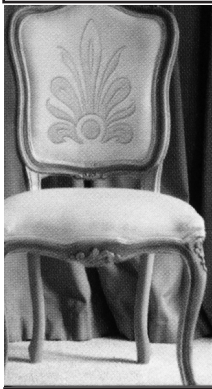
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(Meet Herb Wesson, (cont'd from pg. 5)

Neighborhoods (REIRN) Committee, Board of Referred Powers and the Ad Hoc Committee on the 2024 Summer Olympics. He is the Vice Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Comprehensive Job Creation. As chair of REIRN, Wesson has facilitated the empowerment of Neighborhood Councils while finding new and innovative ways to engage the public and promote civic engagement.

Since assuming office Wesson has brought much needed economic development to the 10th Council District. Wesson has presided over completed and highly anticipated development projects bringing economic investment and jobs to the community such as Midtown Crossing, a 330,000-square-foot urban retail development, Kaiser Permanente Baldwin Hills/Crenshaw Medical Offices, which will provide primary and specialty health care services for local residents, District Square, a proposed 300,000-square-foot retail complex located steps from Metro's Expo/Crenshaw Station, and Cumulus, a proposed transit oriented development on 12 acres which will include a mix of residential units, office space and pedestrian-oriented retail. According to a report by the L.A. Area Chamber of Commerce, under Wesson's leadership Council District 10 has the second highest private employment growth rate in the city, is setting the trend for mixed-use developments citywide and boasts an increase in local business activity. 📌

COMMUNITY, CITY & COUNTY CONCERNS

City Support for Neighborhood Improvement Projects? by Elektra Kruger

Throughout the City, non-profit organizations, homeowners' associations, Neighborhood Watch groups, churches, schools, Neighborhood Councils and any variety of community groups undertake community improvement projects. Participation in, planning of and implementation of such projects should be encouraged, not hampered by City policies and processes creating inordinate barriers to such efforts.

In late November 2014 Councilmember Mitch Englander submitted a Motion to City Council asking that City agencies work together to determine means by which the City may best assist community organizations seeking to undertake community improvement projects - the Department of Public Works, the Department of Transportation, City Planning, the Office of the City Attorney, the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, the City's Administrative Officer and the City's Chief Legislative Analyst. The Motion recommended determining a single point of contact for community assistance, determining ways to streamline all processes involved in initiating a project and the permit approvals needed, resolve any liability issues that may arise that may hinder volunteer efforts and methods of outreach to stakeholders who might want to assist and who may be impacted for their input.

The Motion has been supported by the Mid-Town North Hollywood Neighborhood Council, the Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council, the Venice Neighborhood Council and the Northridge East Neighborhood Council. The latest letter of support was submitted in late January 2015. Why is it that something that could be so valuable

to our community's improvements remains so hindered when our own residents are willing to be the worker bees?

In a late November 2016 meeting, Council Office representatives testified at a Hearing of the City Council's Public Works Committee recommending that the Department of Public Works and the City's Information Technology Agency (ITA) work together to streamline the approval process for neighborhood improvement projects by updating the appearance of/functionality of related websites and to provide a report as to how well departments respond to inquiries made by community groups. The Committee recommended that the City Council direct the Department of Public Works and the ITA to develop a proposal for improved marketing of existing City resources and services available to community groups wishing to perform beautification projects including:

- A new, more user-friendly and visually appealing webpage
- A list of community improvement projects to consider
- Instructions on how to complete each project along with a list of key City Departments involved
- Remove "dead-links" to old City Web-Sites
- Identify roadblocks encountered by community groups seeking to undertake beautification projects and recommend potential solutions
- Review existing department protocols for responding to 311 inquiries about community improvement projects and recommendations for tracking the types of calls received and their outcomes

At its November 8, 2016 session, the Los Angeles City Council adopted the recommendations of its Public Works Committee. 🐿

Urban Forestry Management
by *Elektra Kruger*

Aside from the natural beauty that trees provide for our neighborhoods, Los Angeles depends on a thriving urban forest as a defense against heat island effect and other impacts of climate change on our neighborhoods. It is the Urban Forestry Division of the Bureau of Street Services that is responsible for the management of the urban forest in Los Angeles including maintenance of existing trees, assessing the overall health of the tree population in Los Angeles and determining and acting upon any stratagem to improve the general urban forest's overall health.

The urban forest faces many challenges such as the xylella disease rendering many trees non-viable, a comprehensive sidewalk repair program that will necessitate removal of many mature trees and new developments being permitted that will impact an existing urban canopy in a neighborhood. Recognizing the many challenges facing the City's Urban Forest, in early August 2016, Councilmember Paul Krekorian felt it was time to revisit the Urban Forestry's policies and programs and to begin focusing on long-term sustainability.

The Councilmember submitted a Motion to City Council asking that they instruct the Urban Forestry Division to develop an Urban Forestry Management Plan backed by relevant data that will result in a more sustainable urban forest with greater diversity and resiliency, that would (See *Urban Forestry* cont'd on pg. 8)

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(Urban Forestry, cont'd from pg. 7)

encourage increased plantings in those neighborhoods with minimal tree cover and provide a net increase in the City's overall tree canopy over time.

The Motion was referred to the City Council's Public Works Committee for their review and recommendation. The Studio City Neighborhood Council responded to the Motion by asking that it be expanded to cease removal of ALL mature parkway trees (those being greater than 10 inches in diameter) due to required driveway apron widening when new construction occurs, that driveway aprons should be allowed to remain their current size if a mature tree would have to be removed to meet code-compliant apron dimensions, and that any removal of a mature parkway tree - for any reason - should require a Variance. Good thinking on their part. SHPOA will provide updates on this Motion as they occur. 🐾



Hydraulic Fracturing and Earthquake Risk by Elektra Kruger

All high-pressure hydraulic fracturing (aka "fracking") creates "seismic events", many small enough not to be noticed as "earthquakes" - noticeable earthquakes generally read at a magnitude greater than 3 on the Richter scale. The United States Geological Study (USGS) has reported a dramatic increase in the number of earthquakes ("seismic events" greater than a reading of 3 on the Richter scale) in the central and eastern United States over the past few years - greater than 300 earthquakes from 2010 to 2012 compared to an average of 21 per year between 1967 and 2000.

This increase in "seismicity" is occurring not only at fracking sites, but near locations where fracking wastewater is being injected into deep disposal wells many of which are in Oklahoma, Arkansas and Ohio. Prior to the introduction of the fracturing technology, how often have you heard of earthquakes occurring in these states? Much of California - and especially Los Angeles - is located along fault lines within one of the most active and potentially dangerous earthquake zones in the United States. Can we risk unnecessarily provoking activity along these fault lines?

Were the City to follow its own land use regulations, it does have the authority to regulate various oil and gas drilling and production activities. But even assuming the City would enforce its land use regulations as they relate to oil and gas exploration and extraction including hydraulic fracturing, acidizing, gravel packing and fracturing wastewater disposal, the time has come for a comprehensive review of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to determine whether existing zoning and land-use regulations for these activities are sufficient to assure public health, safety and environmental quality.

In early September 2013, Councilmembers Paul Koretz and Mike Bonin co-presented a Motion to City Council asking that the City Attorney, with the help of the Planning Department, be requested to prepare and present an Ordinance prohibiting all activity associated with well-stimulation activities such as hydraulic fracturing until such time as companies participating in these activities can provide proof of protection to the environment and

natural resources, allow the government access to, testing of and disclosure of chemicals used, and require full disclosure of proposed testing sites giving adequate time for public input prior to consideration of approving permits.

Hydraulic Fracturing in LA
by Elektra Kruger

Hydraulic Fracturing (aka “fracking”) is an oil and natural gas extraction process utilizing a very highly-pressurized injection of a mix of water, sand and unrevealed chemicals underground in order to “fracture” rock formations allowing an increased flow of oil or gas from a well. This practice threatens to contaminate underground aquifers which provide much of our drinking water, releases potent greenhouse gases and may even cause earthquakes - even in parts of the country that have had no prior history of earthquakes prior to the practice of fracking in their region.

There have been over 1,000 documented cases of water contamination near fracking sites nationwide. Not only is there the threat of contaminating our drinking water - the process itself uses large volumes of water (remember the drought?) competing for water supplies needed by the residents of Los Angeles. Well operators are not required to disclose the chemicals they use in their fracking process, making it impossible for the DWP to monitor contamination during its routine water quality testing cycle.

Los Angeles has been moving toward aquifer recharge as an alternative to surface reservoirs to improve its self-reliance on local water resources. I don't feel these aquifers should be jeopardized. Lacking the requirement for each well operator to disclose the chemicals it is using, if it is ever determined that our groundwater resources have become contaminated, it is going to be impossible to assess where financial liability should fall for after-the-fact clean-up. So, guess where that cost is going to fall? On you and me - the taxpayers.

The Department of Water and Power is planning to build two groundwater treatment centers in the San Fernando Basin estimated to cost between \$600-\$800 million to restore groundwater pumping from San Fernando Valley wells that the DWP has been closing since the 1980's that had been determined to produce contaminated water from such areas as Superfund pollution sites - this in the hope of containing pollution plumes migrating toward as yet productive wells. 🐾

Hydraulic Fracturing and Local Water Quality
by Elektra Kruger

In early September 2013, Councilmembers Paul Koretz and Mike Bonin co-presented a Motion to City Council asking that the City Attorney, with the help of the Planning Department, be requested to prepare and present a Draft Ordinance prohibiting all activity associated with hydraulic fracturing in the City of Los Angeles until such time as companies participation in these activities can provide proof of protection to the environment and natural resources such as the City's water supplies, assurance that fracking processes will not activate seismic events, that state and federal legislation and regulations are put into place including those consistent with the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act

(See **Water Quality** cont'd on pg. 10)

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(Water Quality cont'd from pg. 9)

and to disclose chemicals being used such that the DWP can monitor our groundwater for possible contamination and require full disclosure of proposed testing/extraction sites giving time for public input prior to consideration of approving permits.

The Motion was referred to the City Council's Planning and Land Use Management Committee for their review and recommendations. The non-profit organization Heal the Bay, which is dedicated to ensuring that California's coastal waters remain safe, healthy and clean, has expressed concerns over the potential threats to water quality and supply from well stimulation/fracking operations and, thus, supports provisions requiring additional scientific study, accountability, transparency, disclosure and regulatory oversight. Environment California, a non-profit environmental advocacy group, discovered a Congressional study released in 2011 which determined that 13 different cancer-causing chemicals were known to be used in fracking fluids by oil and gas companies between the years 2005 and 2009 (U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Energy and Commerce, Minority Staff, "Chemicals Used in Hydraulic Fracturing", April 2011). 🐾

Motion for SFV Aquifer Remediation
by Elektra Kruger

In late May 2014, City Council adopted a Motion to create the Los Angeles - Eilat Innovation and Cooperation Task Force, aka the LA-Israeli Task Force, whose purpose was to foster technology development, business development, educational opportunities and research opportunities in "clean technology", water resources, solar energy and environmental technologies. The Task Force included the DWP, Public Works, the Mayor's Office, the City Council's Innovation and Technology Committee, the City Council's Public Works Committee, the City Council's Energy and Environment Committee, the Consul General of Israel, Clean Tech LA and the general LA and Israeli business community.

The overall objective of the Task Force was to strengthen initiatives relating to alternative energy, environmental technology, health, the food and agriculture sector, etc. One of the priorities of the Task Force is remediation of the San Fernando Valley groundwater aquifer which plays a vital role in achieving LA's sustainability goals by assuring a locally-sourced, reliable water supply for the City. Remediating the groundwater will very likely involve a significant capital investment by both the City and its ratepayers.

In mid-May 2016, Councilmember Bob Blumenfield submitted a Motion to City Council asking that it request the Department of Water and Power research various technologies that could cost-effectively be incorporated in a San Fernando Groundwater Aquifer remediation effort such as the in-situ soil treatment utilized by the Israeli company Natyfit. According to the DWP, it has committed to restoring its annual local groundwater production by the year 2025 to be accomplished through remediation of the San Fernando Aquifer contamination and replenishment with additional stormwater capture efforts. 🐾

Groundwater Production Planning
By Elektra Kruger

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has committed to restoring its annual local groundwater production by the year 2025 per its 2015 Urban Water Management Plan. Among the various means to attain this goal is remediation of the contaminated waters of the San Fernando Basin aquifer, augmenting Basin water pumping, groundwater replenishment systems and expanded stormwater capture systems.

It will be the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control that will be in charge of the design, construction and operation of remediation projects put in place at contaminant source sites. The DWP has no place in selecting the ultimate treatment method chosen at these locations, but can assist with monitoring well data relevant to these project sites. The DWP will, however, take the lead in developing overall basin-wide remediation of its groundwater production well fields with the exception of any United States Environmental Protection Agency Superfund projects.

A comprehensive assessment of groundwater quality throughout the San Fernando Basin was completed in 2015 as part of the DWP's 2009-2015 Groundwater System Improvement Study which identified the primary contaminants in each well field. The DWP is currently in the process of developing three basin-wide groundwater remediation facilities to deal with the primary contaminants at those three well field locations - Tujunga, North Hollywood West and North Hollywood Central. The DWP also participated, in conjunction with the Los Angeles-Eilat Innovation and Cooperation Task Force, in assessing the feasibility of a pilot project at Miliken Community School to substantially increase the annual saving of the amount of acre-feet of water. To be continued in a future issue of the SHPOA newsletter. 🐾

Groundwater Replenishment
by Elektra Kruger

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has committed to restoring its annual local groundwater production by the year 2025 per its Urban Water Management Plan - a strategic plan for attaining and maintaining long-term water supplies by, among other means, developing stormwater capture systems. The DWP, in conjunction with the Los Angeles-Eilat Innovation and Cooperation Task Force, participated in assessing the feasibility of a pilot rainwater harvesting project at Miliken Community School.

The project was modeled after successful rainwater harvesting projects in Israel. Based on preliminary analyses, the DWP has determined that the school's rainwater capture potential for the school's footprint (assuming that we ever get any rain again I guess) is 2.2 million gallons or 7 acre-feet of rainwater annually. Captured stormwater could potentially offset the school's potable water use by that amount thereby assisting the City's on-going water conservation efforts.

The DWP will provide further recommendations for possible future demonstration projects at the school to
 (See **Replenishing Groundwater** On pg. 12)

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(Replenishing Groundwater cont'd from pg. 11)

serve additional beneficial uses such as non-potable toilet flushing. This is already commonplace in Israel. Eilat has been a Sister City of Los Angeles since April 1959. We share many of the same issues in terms of resources - drought, renewables, clean technologies and sustainable clean water supplies. It is this that has fostered the formation of the Los Angeles-Eilat Innovation and Cooperation Task Force. 🐾



Sidewalk Repair Proposal
by Elektra Kruger

A Citywide sidewalk repair proposal now bouncing through the bureaucracies of City Hall is one referred to as the "Fix and Release" program. Basically, this calls for the City to repair all sidewalk damage resulting from tree root damage - a responsibility the City had actually taken upon itself in the 1970s despite a State regulation stating that all sidewalk repairs regardless of cause abutting a private property shall be the responsibility of the private property owner. The City took this responsibility upon itself because most of the trees responsible for sidewalk damage were City planted trees.

As it has been a failing on the part of the City to maintain the sidewalk infrastructure over the years, it does see itself as being responsible for the sidewalk's current state and is considering accepting responsibility for initial repairs. Thereafter, however, the "release" part of this program, following those repairs, would release the City from any future responsibility for maintaining the sidewalks and the LAMC Ordinance holding the City responsible for any sidewalk damage is to be removed from the LAMC.

The Central City Association of Los Angeles, while not opposing the proposed program in concept, has some reservations on the issue of warranty. They expressed no opposition to a shorter period of warranty for sidewalk repairs in commercial and industrial areas due to heavy usage that may be associated with businesses in those areas, but they feel that the issue of sidewalk damage caused by City trees remains and that by limiting a post-repair warranty period to five years while still requiring property owners to maintain trees that have previously caused the sidewalk damage in the first place would place the property owner in an unfair situation of possibly facing costly root damage repairs in seven or eight years through no fault of their own. The Association recommended maintaining the five year City repair warranty for five years for damage related to normal "wear and tear" while extending the warranty for damage caused by City-controlled trees to twenty years. To be continued in a future issue of the SHPOA newsletter. 🐾

Sidewalk Repair Proposal – Fall 2016 Update
by Elektra Kruger

In mid-August 2016, the City Attorney released a Draft Ordinance of the Sidewalk Repair Proposal that has been under long-term consideration within the walls of City Hall to the Los Angeles City Council for their final approval. The Draft Ordinance included elements of the return of sidewalk, driveway and curb repairs and maintenance to private property owners. The Ordinance provided

details of a "Fix and Release" Program that most of the City residents have come to accept as the best solution to getting our thousands of miles of damaged sidewalks repaired.

Under the "Fix and Release" Program, the City would first repair the damaged sidewalks and then prepare and present a Certificate of Compliance to the private property owner after which it will become the responsibility of the property owner to repair and maintain sidewalks fronting his property. It also detailed Sidewalk Repair Incentive Programs that would be made available to hopefully see sidewalks repaired that much sooner by having private property owners do the initial repair themselves at a reduced rate utilizing rebate programs. Following the receipt of the Certificate of Compliance, the private property owner would have a 20 year limited warranty on the repair during which time the City would guarantee one re-repair of that sidewalk except in the case of damage caused by the owner or a third party.

After such time as a Certificate of Compliance has been issued, if ever the sidewalk, driveway or curb becomes damaged to a point that it can be deemed dangerous to any person walking thereon, or in any way violates the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Board of Public Works shall notify the owner - as determined by the last known address indicated on the last equalized assessment rolls - that repairs are needed. A Notice of Non-Compliance and Order to Repair will also be posted on a conspicuous place on the property.

In late November 2016, the Atwater Village Neighborhood Council submitted a Community Impact Statement to be added to the Council File stating that if a mature tree is to be removed as part of a sidewalk repair activity it is not only to be replaced with two trees, but also that the City of Los Angeles needs to commit to a plan that would fund the planting, establishment and care of the replacement trees. Without such a secure funding source too much would be left to chance as replacement trees would be younger, generally a smaller species and in these times would have to struggle to survive due to pests, extreme heat and drought. 🌳

Tree Pruning Laws and Ordinances – Are They Working?
by Elektra Kruger

There are a number of existing City laws supposedly protecting trees in our City. We have the "Protected Tree Ordinance" which prohibits the destruction of certain native tree species - the Oak, Black Walnut, California Bay and Western Sycamore - on private property without a permit issued by the Bureau of Building and Safety or on City right-of-ways without a permit issued by the Bureau of Street Services. Unfortunately we find that these permits are frequently handed out like Halloween candy.

The Ordinance authorizes the Bureaus to investigate and take enforcement action against individuals or businesses that illegally harm these protected native trees - yet how often do they actually take enforcement action when we report an incident of numerous protected tree removals? The Bureau's Urban Forestry and Investigation and Enforcement Divisions are authorized to seek revocation

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of issued building permits and to withhold issuance of any new building permits for up to ten years for the more egregious of circumstances where entire hillsides are cleared of their oaks in the middle of the night or on a weekend.

How easy is it for you or me to get the Bureaus to take these violations seriously - but we are not alone. According to the City Attorney's Office, while they have encouraged the Bureaus to enforce this important Ordinance, over the decade since the Ordinance was first enacted, few if any cases have been referred to their Office for consideration of criminal filing.

It is the Bureau of Street Services that is the primary law enforcement agency charged with the duty to enforce tree protection laws along public right-of-ways, however historically it has only been the Department of Building and Safety or the Los Angeles Police Department that have referred cases to the Office of the City Attorney for criminal filing. Criminal prosecution could result in up to six months in jail or up to a \$1,000 fine, probation and restitution. Restitution can cover the cost to replace harmed trees and recover the cost of the City's investigation and enforcement in these cases.

The filing of these criminal misdemeanor prosecutions serves not only to punish those individuals and businesses that harm trees, but can serve as a deterrent to others who might think they can harm trees with impunity. In an early March 2016 report, the Office of the City Attorney stated that it would be pleased to work with the Bureau of Street Services and any other relevant City departments to focus on long-needed improvements to the way the City protects its urban forest. The Office of the City Attorney reported that adding enforcement by means of citation can legally be done but cautioned against using a citation in lieu of

(See **Tree Pruning** on pg. 14)








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(See **Tree Pruning** on pg. 14)

pursuing misdemeanor criminal violations in cases where a great deal of damage should call for tougher action.

Action on these cases should not be made more elusive by ease of issuing an administrative citation, especially when these more egregious offenders would more-than-likely consider an administrative citation as nothing more than the cost of doing business. This report prepared by the City Attorney's Office was forwarded to the City Council's Public Works Committee for their review in early March 2016. In late March 2016, the Los Feliz Neighborhood Council filed a Community Impact Statement supporting the Councilmember's Motion. To be continued. 🐾

Addressing Excessive Water Usage by Elektra Kruger

Los Angeles and California remain mired in an historic and extreme drought causing both the City and State to issue water conservation mandates. In an effort to deal with the disparity between water conservationists and abusive water wasters, in early October 2015, Councilmember Paul Koretz submitted a Motion to City Council asking that they request the Department of Water and Power to prepare and present a report on measures that could be taken both short-term and long-term to address excessive water use among DWP customers including such things as imposing severe financial penalties and possibly even going so far as to shutting off water to chronic water use abusers.

The DWP released its report in late December 2015. The City's Emergency Water Conservation Plan Ordinance has been the foundation of the LADWP's conservation policies. The DWP claims to have complied with both State and local conservation mandates, but also claims that "certain provisions of the Ordinance make it difficult to monitor and address behavior of the most excessive water users in the City." The largest users of water tend to have large lots more-than-likely with large turf areas subject to the greatest potential for water waste. They also claim that these large lots are typically walled or gated making inspection and enforcement of the Ordinance difficult.

The DWP's Water Conservation Response Unit (WCRU) is currently required to observe and verify a violation of the Ordinance before a citation can be issued. Really? What a bureaucracy and waste of resources for little return. Has it ever occurred to anyone to just review current vs. past water usage to determine if there is a reduction in water usage or not? If there does not appear to be a reduction, then they can always send out their magic Response Unit to see why. Is it a failure to stick with a 3 times per week early AM watering schedule or is there a water leak requiring repair? But to depend solely on reports from such a Response Unit without simply reviewing historical trends in water usage via billing history is ludicrous.

While not using a review of billing/usage history to decide whether issuance of citations is warranted, the DWP did apparently review usage history to encourage water conservation among the top 1% single family customer (approx 4,600 customers) water users by sending these a letter in May 2015 stressing the importance of complying with restrictions of the Water Conservation Ordinance, providing water-saving tips and offering rebate information for water-conserving appliances available. To be continued in a future issue of the SHPOA newsletter. 🐾

And Now for Excessive, Excessive Water Use By Elektra Kruger

Many residents have accepted their fair share of responsibility in reducing water consumption lowering consumption by 17% by August 2015. But there are those that merely snub their noses failing not only to reduce their water consumption but seemingly to blatantly increase it. In October 2015, the Los Angeles Times ran an article reporting that a Bel-Air homeowner was using 1,300 gallons of water HOURLY - enough to serve 90 average households. Bel-Air was reported to have four of the top five water users in the STATE. What makes this all the more egregious is that the expense of importing water to cover supply shortages falls on the shoulders of all DWP customers including those that have fully complied with austere water use rationing measures.

Among its existing measures addressing excessive water use, the DWP has enrolled 2,000 of its highest single family customers in a Home Water Use Report Pilot Program (which you and I are paying for) in which individualized bi-monthly reports are sent to the customers giving them a comparison of their water use to that of similar-sized households. These reports also provide information on DWP Conservation Programs targeted for their size property/household that, if implemented, might help them reduce their water usage. Other municipalities having instituted similar programs have reported average water savings of five percent.

The DWP's Water Conservation Response Unit (WCRU) is the enforcement body of the City's Water Conservation Ordinance and investigates all waste reports submitted by residents - i.e. enforcement is primarily "complaint driven". If you are aware of chronic and high level water use abusers you must report them to actually get much in the way of conservation enforcement. The WCRU team has a whopping 6 full-time staff that supposedly also manages to patrol the entire City. They claim to have received and processed over 15,000 reports of water waste in 2015.

Councilmember Koretz's Motion suggested imposing severe financial penalties on chronic large level water users, but the State Constitution disallows this. Per the State Constitution, water rates must be based on cost of service - it is not legal to apply arbitrarily high water rates to high water users. That leaves me with two questions. 1.) If water rates must be based on the cost of service, then why is it that DWP customers are underwriting the transfer of hundreds of millions of dollars annually of "surplus funds" to the City's General Fund for the City to disperse as they wish? and 2.) If it is illegal to apply arbitrarily high water rates to high water users then what is this Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 baloney? To be continued in a future issue of the SHPOA newsletter. 🐾

Waste Tires to Sidewalks? by Elektra Kruger

The City of Los Angeles' Bureau of Street Services has estimated that some 40% of the City's 10,750 miles of sidewalks are in disrepair mostly as a result of tree-root damage. A variety of alternative materials have been used in sidewalk repair in a number of cities. In 2008, Santa Monica implemented a program using composite pavers made of 30% recycled crumb rubber and 70% plastic derived from agricultural irrigation pipes. These pavers are

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anticipated to result in an 80% reduction in the need for sidewalk repairs during their 20-year maintenance cycle .

The Los Angeles Bureau of Street Services has experimented with a number of alternatives to conventional concrete cement including such things as rubber panels, recycled mixed plastic materials, mixed poured rubber and porous concrete - all these ranging in cost from \$24 to \$32 per square foot compared to the \$35 per square foot when using traditional concrete cement.

Through a variety of waste tire amnesty programs (not to mention illegal dump clean-ups of tires tossed by the side of the road), approximately 650 tons of waste tires are collected annually in the City of Los Angeles. Los Angeles has an agreement with CalRecycle under which waste tires collected from Los Angeles Sanitation District Yards are transported to state-approved waste tire facilities for recycled use. Reuse of waste tires as a material mix for pavers to fix broken sidewalks could serve as one of these reuse applications hopefully also serving to meet the goal of greater sidewalk sustainability once used as a repair product.

In mid-January 2016, Councilmember David Ryu submitted a Motion to City Council asking that they instruct the Bureau of Street Services and Bureau of Sanitation along with the City's Administrative Officer and Chief Legislative Analyst to report to the City Council on the feasibility of initiating a citywide pilot program of sidewalk repair/reconstruction using alternative materials such as composite rubber/plastic pavers using crumb rubber obtained from used/waste tires collected from Bureau of Sanitation District Yards. The Motion was referred to both the City Council's Public Works and its Budget and Finance Committees for their review and recommendations. Updates to be reported in future issues of the SHPOA newsletter. 🐾

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Community Calendar

Alcoholic Family/Friends Support Group

- Every Monday evening, 7:00-8:15 p.m.
- Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church
10158 Johanna Ave. @ Sunland Blvd.
For Info: (818) 353-2500

FTDNC Land-Use Committee meeting

- 1st Tuesday, Every Month
- 7 p.m.
 - 9747 Wheatland Ave.

Neighborhood Watch

- 3rd Tuesday, Every Month
- 6:30 p.m.
 - East Valley Municipal Bldg.

Hansen Dam Park Advisory Board

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

Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council

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

ETI C20

- 4th Wednesday, Every Month
- Call Becky Borquez, 818-352-3634

SHPOA ADVERTISING DEADLINE For Sept-Oct '16 Newsletter: August 17!

IMPORTANT CITY NUMBERS

- Dial 311 – Info on all City Services
- L.A. Dept. of Water & Power (800) 342-5397
- Street Service (800) 996-2489
- Large Item Pickup..... (800) 773-2489
- Abandoned Car..... (800) 222-6366

Key Community Locations & Contact Information

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 CD7 Councilmember
Felipe Fuentes; 7747 Foothill Blvd., Sunland (818-352-3287)