

SHPOA

Shadow Hills Property Owners Association
Dedicated to Preserving Rural Community

A Neighborhood Where Families Grow



Volume 38, Issue 6

Year End 2015

One Year Anniversary of High Speed Rail

By Dave DePinto

December 2 marked the one year anniversary of several high speed rail routes that would severely damage our communities. We have a big fight on our hands – technically, legally, politically, environmentally and financially to spare our region of this menace and horrible, wasteful government program.

Shadow Hills is working in partnership with neighboring communities such as Lake View Terrace, Sunland-Tujunga, Kagel Canyon, Sun Valley, La Tuna Canyon, Pacoima, San Fernando and Santa Clarita to present a united front to elected officials and the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) as our best means of defeating these proposals. The worst of the proposals is “E2” which would create an above ground bridge and track across the Big Tujunga Wash from tunnel openings in Lake View Terrace to tunnel openings in Shadow Hills.

Over the course of the year, we had many accomplishments such as removing above ground elements from routes “E1” and “E3.” Awareness remains high due to lawn signs and banners throughout the community. We’re also starting to see several elected officials express their opposition to the above ground elements, but several are still far too supportive of high speed rail overall, of giving high speed rail additional time and money, and not holding them accountable.

In late November, we learned that the CHSRA was behind schedule on agreed-to environmental studies, were not executing the studies in the proper manner, and were canceling public information meetings that were supposed to occur in November/December. Thus, we called a community leader meeting at Tierra del Sol,

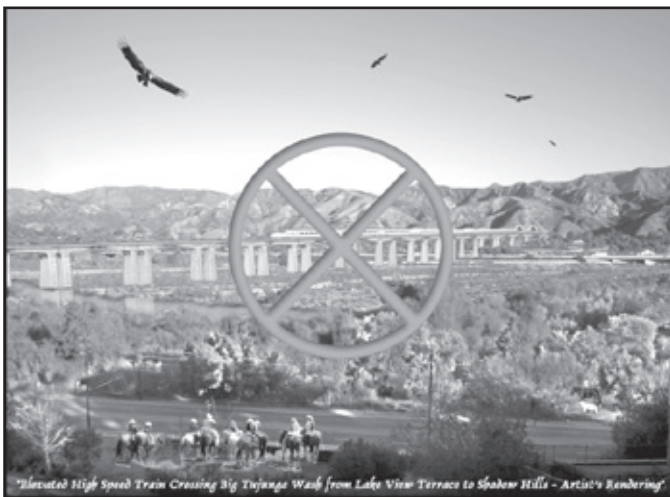
which was attended by nearly 100 leaders representing SHPOA, several Neighborhood Councils, the Kagel Canyon Civic Association, and most, but not all, of our local elected officials.

In attendance were Assemblymember Patty Lopez, San Fernando Mayor Joel Fajardo, and representatives from Congressman Cardenas’s office, Congressman Schiff’s office, Senator Hertzberg’s office and Supervisor Antonovich’s office. We were very disappointed that Councilman Fuentes did not attend or send a staff representative to this meeting and that he also canceled an important, informational and educational site visit to Haines Canyon Creek in the Big Tujunga Wash for his staff.

At the “Anniversary” meeting, we presented indisputable video evidence of the commitments that high speed rail had failed to honor and that our elected officials had failed to enforce. A full recap and video of the meeting is available on the website www.dontrailroad.us.

Following is a listing of failures by the California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) and a listing of action items we are pursuing aggressively with CHSRA and our elected officials throughout the holiday and yearend period.

(See *HSR One Year Anniversary* on pg. 2)



High Speed Rail must stop, or we'll have this eyesore!

GET YOUR “NO HIGH SPEED RAIL” LAWN SIGN!

Contribute \$10 to S.A.F.E. to fight high speed rail and receive a free lawn sign. You may contribute and receive a lawn sign on the S.A.F.E. (www.dontrailroad.us) and SHPOA (www.shpoa.us) websites. All

proceeds from your contribution help fund the lawn signs and related outreach and education to stop high speed rail from destroying our communities.



HOT ITEMS IN THIS ISSUE...

- *One Year of High-Speed Rail Failures! List & Actions! p. 2*
- *Tips on surviving the El Niño this winter—See pp. 8 & 9*
- *Special El Niño Coverage Inside! Starts on p. 7*
- *SHPOA needs YOU in 2016! JOIN or RENEW NOW! SEE p. 3*
- *Street Paving Gaining Traction! See pp. 2 & 3*

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(HSR One Year Anniversary cont'd from pg. 1)

One Year “Anniversary of Failure”

1. Failed to complete environmental studies PROMISED by the Board at June 2015 meeting
2. Failed to respond to community and elected official requests to ELIMINATE SURFACE ELEMENTS
3. Failed to communicate with community since June, canceling PROMISED Fall outreach meetings
4. Failed to appoint a new, Southern California board member to represent impacted communities
5. Failed to transparently, collaboratively and correctly plan scope of work for independent, 3rd-party review of environmental studies
6. Failed to be transparent/truthful by falsely promoting unattainable schedules/timelines
7. Failed to protect local property values and community character
8. Failed to define “rolling EIS/EIR process” and “tunneled” transportation corridor
9. Failed to modify or remove routes that damage water resources and endangered species
10. Failed to obtain funding for the project and failed to disclose potential cost-overruns

Call for Action – Don’t Railroad Us; Stop the Train; Stop and Fix the Environmental Study Process

1. Commit to transparency, honoring of commitments, realistic timelines and meeting deadlines
2. Remove surface elements near densely populated and sensitive environmental/water resources
3. Reveal facts re: communication of removal of E2 to local elected official(s) prior to releasing SAA Report
4. Add tunneled alternatives to SAA Report/ environmental studies – non-Burbank; beneath freeways
5. Commit to testing of water, seismic and tunneling in Big T Wash and San Fernando Road Corridor
6. Identify independent, 3rd-party experts to provide input to scope and review of environmental studies
7. Include Board representative for impacted communities in Palmdale to Burbank project section
8. Hold management accountable and provide remedies when failures occur.



Road Repairs Finally Getting Traction

By Carlos George

The squeaky wheel still gets the grease or, in this case, their roads resurfaced. As the “Czar” for street improvements in Shadow Hills (and a member of the SHPOA board of directors), I help SHPOA and you by staying in touch with the city’s road departments and our council office. Our persistence has been rewarded. Contact me (webmaster@shpoa.us) if you have a question or need help with a problem on your street. We

Contribute \$25 for your 2016 SHPOA Membership Today!

It's the perfect time to make your \$25 donation to support SHPOA for 2016. SHPOA operates by calendar year from January through December. At present, we have about 300 paid members, but many people who have received all of SHPOA's benefits this past year (newsletter, meetings, Daily Fodder, representation on high speed rail, Neighborhood Watch, etc.) haven't contributed to those benefits with either funding or volunteer involvement.

SHPOA is an all-volunteer organization and your contribution is used solely for services provided on your behalf. Your contribution and participation really are important. Please mail your membership payment of \$25 to the address on the Membership Form today, or visit the SHPOA website (www.shpoa.us) to join and/or pay on-line.

Thank you.



all must continue to communicate our needs to the City's road department and Council District 7 staff.

Resurfacing of the following areas have recently been started or completed, and we remain hard at work on other priority streets in our community:

- Ditson Street and Wheatland Avenue
- McVine Avenue/Wentworth Street/Hillrose Street
- Ormond Street and Wheatland Avenue
- Pearson Place and La Canada Way
- Wheatland Avenue/Sunland/Ormond Street



Shadow Hills Home Lights Up for the Holidays!

By Kevin King

For those who really enjoy outdoor Christmas decorations, be sure to check out the King family residence at 10443 La Canada Way (right off of Wheatland Ave.). For the 5th year in a row, this spectacular display of lights is definitely not to be missed. In previous years, it has been featured on television by one of the local news channels.

Combining both "old school" lights as well as laser lights, this beautiful display really shines. What started as a few lights 5 years ago has grown over the years. As of now we have over 50,000 lights strung.

It takes a little over two weeks with two full-time and three part-time workers just to get the lights in place. The hardest part is getting the 30 foot Christmas light tree put up. It's quite heavy and takes several men to lift it up and put it into the ground.

The lights will be turned on each evening at dusk and will remain on till approximately 1:00 am. The display will be running till January 9th. For the best view, drive on Wheatland Ave. and then make the right turn onto La Canada Way.

Shadow Hills Property Owners Association

SHPOA
Membership Form

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

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

Membership = \$25
Newsletter only = \$10
Donations are always gratefully received.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Check one: New Renewal Newsletter Only

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

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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SHPOA Board of Directors Elections

By Katherine Dayen

The SHPOA Board of Directors elections were held at the recent general meeting at Tierra del Sol. The following officers were elected:

- President – Dave DePinto
- Vice President – Sue Mansis
- Treasurer – Cindy Bloom
- Executive Secretary – Linda Fullerton
- Recording Secretary – Katherine Dayen
- Membership Director – Lois Dayen

Our community owes tremendous thanks to the Board for their volunteer and leadership efforts. SHPOA is uniquely independent and the strongest voice in our ongoing efforts to protect the quality of life in Shadow Hills and neighboring communities. A short list of the projects headed up by SHPOA and its committee members include:

- Neighborhood Watch (Sue Mansis)
- Newsletter (Mike McCoy, Elektra Kruger, Cindy Bloom and Linda Fullerton)
- General meetings
- Daily Fodder (Terri Ortiz)
- Website (Carlos George)
- Equestrian and Trails (Jim and Andrea Gutman, Nikki Ahten, Tamara Loperfito)
- Hospitality (Martha Hankins)
- High Speed Rail (the entire SHPOA Board)
- Studio Project and Land Use (Bill Eick)
- Volunteers (Anton Bosch)

Expedited Permitting Process for Rooftop Solar?

by Elektra Kruger

Over the last several years, the State has encouraged and prioritized the adoption of solar power as a renewable energy resource, yet local permitting processes governing installation of rooftop solar energy systems vary greatly in each local jurisdiction often resulting in extended delays in issuing needed permits. To address this bureaucratic wall, in late September 2014, the Governor approved a measure requiring all local jurisdictions to adopt an Ordinance creating an expedited and streamlined permitting process for small residential rooftop solar energy systems by September 30, 2015.

In response to this State measure, in mid-August 2015, Councilmember Felipe Fuentes submitted a Motion to City Council asking that they call upon the Department of Building and Safety, Department of Water and Power and the Office of the City Attorney to work together to prepare such an Ordinance for the Los Angeles City Council to review and adopt by the magic date of September 30, 2015. The Motion was referred to the City Council's Energy and Environment Committee and Planning and

Continued in column at immediate right)

Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church Welcomes Pastor Arlo Tysinger

Pastor Arlo Tysinger was born and raised in Southern California. Growing up she spent her free time on the stage, at the beach, camping and at Church. She attended the University of California in Santa Barbara and majored in acting and playwriting. During summer breaks, she worked at Ecke YMCA in camp programming and volunteered at Calvin Crest. Calvin Crest is a beautiful Presbyterian Camp & Retreat Center located right outside of Yosemite. At Calvin Crest, one of the leaders encouraged her to consider going into ministry. After a year of discernment, she attended Columbia Theological Seminary near Atlanta, Georgia and spent two years serving at StandUp For Kids in the heart of downtown Atlanta. Stand up for Kids is a non-profit that works with America's street kids and children who have been forced into prostitution. She then served at Old First Presbyterian Church in San Francisco as the Pastoral Intern. After Seminary, accepted a call as the Associate Pastor at the First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen, New Jersey. While on the East Coast, she met and married Zach Tysinger in August 2014. They have a miniature schnauzer named Bellatrix. Pastor Arlo stated that at that time she and Zach felt lead to pursue a call at a Church that was dedicated to worship, mission and the community. They found that call at Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church. She looks forward to getting to know Shadow Hills, engaging in community outreach, preaching the Gospel, enjoying potlucks and celebrating the life of Christ with you!

Land-Use Management Committee for their review and recommendations.

The Energy and Environment Committee waived consideration of the Motion probably because of the tight timeline within which they had to work. Of course the City had only itself to blame for this. The Governor signed the measure on September 21 2014 and Los Angeles couldn't be bothered to start working on that State order until mid-August 2015 giving them just a month and a half to meet the State mandate. The pressure was on the City Attorney to get a Draft Ordinance written up lickety-split, which he did. Elements of the Draft Ordinance included such things as qualified solar energy systems being eligible for on-line submission of permit applications, electronic signature of all forms, timely notice of any application deficiencies and consolidated and timely inspections.

For a solar energy system to be eligible for the streamlined permitting process, it may not have a larger than 10 kw AC nameplate or 30 kw thermal rating, may only be installed only on a single family or duplex family dwelling, and solar panels or module arrays may not exceed legal height allowances. The Planning and Land-Use Management Committee agendized a review of the proposed Ordinance at its September 1, 2015 meeting. On September 18, 2015, City Council adopted the Ordinance to add a stream-line permitting process for small residential rooftop solar energy systems to the Los Angeles Municipal Code and the Mayor approved the Ordinance September 28, 2015 to become effective November 8, 2015. 🐾

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**“The rain in Spain
stays mainly
in the plain.”**

—Alan Jay Lerner
from *My Fair Lady*

Sidewalk Repair Trust Fund

by *Elektra Kruger*

For as many Motions that have been submitted to City Council over the years and are being discussed and debated over for those years, the City still hasn't managed to develop a program for repairing the many miles of damaged sidewalks throughout the City. The poor SHPOA newsletter editors have to pick and choose among the massive queue of articles I dump on them as I begin to follow each new Motion related to sidewalk repair that gets filed with the City and begins its travel through the system of reviews, recommendations and votes.

In early July, 2014, Councilmembers Paul Krekorian and Herb Wesson co-presented a Motion related to sidewalk repair that was so all inclusive there really should never have to be another one. It begins with a request that the City Council instruct the City's Administrative Officer to establish a Sidewalk Repair Trust Fund for all future sidewalk repairs. The Motion further recommends:

- the "50/50" program be reconstituted or that a similar cost sharing program for residential sidewalk repairs be designed and initiated in which any funds in the program are to be used exclusively for privately-owned residential properties
- that funding be shared equitably across all communities
- that an incentive program be created encouraging significant lengths of contiguous sidewalk to be repaired at any one time by prioritizing the application and/or increasing repair subsidies for those applications that request repairs to be made to more extended or even entire blocks of sidewalk
- that a low-interest loan program be established that property owners could borrow from to make the necessary repairs with repayment to be secured by a lien against the home for any unpaid balance.

Just as neighborhoods may be part of a Lighting District in which each household within that District pays an annual fee for street light maintenance, a similar Assessment District could be created for sidewalk repairs and maintenance if a neighborhood wishes to go that direction. An inspection/enforcement program needs to be developed for those sidewalks with easements over commercial or governmental properties. BTW, the magic word here is "easement". Sidewalks are City easements over private property - not a feature adjacent to a property, public or private - which makes it the property owner's responsibility to keep the sidewalks in good repair. The only exception per code is when the disrepair is a function of tree root damage. The City is supposed to take responsibility for that.

The enforcement program would begin with issuance of repair orders. If after a reasonable amount of time the repairs are not made, a fine will be charged and those monies will be deposited in the Sidewalk Repair Trust Fund. This Motion still had more parts to it - these will be covered in a future issue of the SHPOA newsletter. 🐾



The El Niño Cometh?

by Elektra Kruger

There supposedly have been indications of a 90+% chance of an El Nino event this year with the possibility of it running into the Spring of 2016. That would be a lot of water with some claiming it will be the strongest El Nino on record. Previous El Nino events in Los Angeles have resulted in mudslides, debris flows, widespread flooding and high tides. I was thinking that 2005 was an El Nino year - Shadow Hills sure had its share of mudslides and failing retaining walls that year. Neighbors gathered together at neighbors properties to help one another haul mud out of driveways, one hired a movie prop crane to lift a car parked in the back yard over the roof of the house and onto the front yard driveway because the sideyard driveway access to the backyard where the car was parked collapsed. Everything that year made for an interesting video of Shadow Hills history.

But Councilmember Mike Bonin believes the last El Nino event to have been in 1997-1998 resulting in 17 deaths and +/- \$550 million in damages throughout 35 counties in California. Guess that was a good one too. Given that another El Nino is anticipated this year, Councilmember Bonin has decided that the City of Los Angeles should prepare for it by ensuring that the City takes steps to prepare our hillsides, storm drains, debris basins, bridges and other related infrastructure to be able to handle a significant amount of rainfall as well as making a concerted effort to educate the public on steps each can take to help reduce their individual chances of experiencing any storm-related damages.

As such, in late July 2015, the Councilmember submitted a Motion to City Council asking that the Bureau of Sanitation, Bureau of Street Services and the Department of Water and Power be instructed to report back to the Council on any and all efforts they are undertaking to prepare the City's storm drains, gutters, debris basins, public utilities and any other relevant critical infrastructure to deal with an El Nino event. Additionally, he asked that the City Council instruct the Emergency Management Department and Fire Department report to them all efforts being taken to prepare and educate residents living in low-lying areas, along our hillsides and in, and within the path of debris from, recent burn areas on how to protect themselves and their properties from effects of a serious storm event.

The Motion was referred to both the City Council's Public Works and Public Safety Committees for their review and recommendations. 🐾



El Nino Cometh? – The City's Water Infrastructure

by Elektra Kruger

Since the early 1990's, the Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN) has prepared an annual "Wet Weather Preparedness and Operations Plan" which reviews LASAN's operational procedures designed to protect public health and safety, the environment and public property as well as reviewing LASAN's wastewater and stormwater facilities whose normal operations may be threatened during storm events. LA has separate (See **Water Infrastructure** cont'd on pg. 10)

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You're Surviving the Here's How

Water conservation is wo created by warmer than severe storms, high wind are some tips on how to



- Develop a Family and Business Emergency Plan**
Every family or business needs to communicate in the event of emergencies. Talk about how you can work together, what responsibilities each family member or employee should have, how to reach one another, pets, escape routes, meeting places and storing and securing valuables.
- Maintain Emergency Contact Information and Supplies**
It's a good idea to have emergency contact information (police, fire, paramedics, doctor, hospital, insurance policies, etc.) in safe, accessible locations, and on your cell phone. Keep emergency supplies (food, water, tools, batteries, flash lights, clothing, extra keys, etc.) in your garage and car trunk.
- Seek Advice from Licensed Contractors and Insurance Firms**
Once the storms arrive, local utilities and roofers, electricians, plumbers and landscapers, will be working under emergency conditions. Now is the time to meet with them to make sure your home, business, apartment or condo is inspected and repaired. Make sure your contractors are licensed and check references.
Call your insurance agent about coverage from wind, fire and flooding. Discuss the scope and limitations of your present policies.
- Trim Trees**
Every year, it is wise to reduce the risk of fire branches. Top heavy trees during wet, windy weather branches that hang over chimneys, and remove close to structures.
- Install Sand Bags Erosion Control**
Fire stations and home stores are good source Place sand bags and driveways, curbs, door wherever stormwater mudslides are likely.
- Have Roofing P Inspected and Rep**
Your roof protects your possessions. Preventat is much less expensive.
- Clean Rain Gut**
Leaves, twigs, bird dro and other residue can resulting in both heavy leaks onto other parts Clean them out with a leaf blower.
- Clean Storm Dr**
Regularly remove debris drain, itself, or route water private property. All you rake, gloves and a garbage too large, call your local services department for

Drought... How to Survive El Niño

Working! But this fall and winter, El Niño, a weather condition of normal ocean temperatures and weather, may create sudden risks, fire danger, power outages, mudslides and flooding. Here are ways to prepare.



Trim tree branches and falling trees can fall over roofs, gutters and trees that stand too

Install Rain Barrels

Rain barrels are available from some municipalities for free or with a rebate. You may purchase them both online and at home improvement stores. They may be connected to a gutter or near a runoff location. Use the saved water to irrigate your vegetation or to fill your pool or spa.

Inspect Neighboring Properties for Risks from Trees, Brush and Stormwater Runoff/Mudslides

If neighbors' trees or hillsides place your home at risk of damage from overhanging trees, branches, brush, boulders, rocks, water or mudslides now is the time to talk with them and obtain professional advice. Similarly, make sure your property is not causing problems for neighbors.

See a Fire, Flood or Rushing Water? Stay Away, Stay Informed and Call for Help!

Government agencies are professionally trained to deal with emergency circumstances. Evacuate if instructed to do so. Do not walk or drive into dangerous fires or floods and stay away from stormwater channels and basins. Program your cell phone and email to provide you with emergency updates. Enroll in special training, such as CERT, if you'd like to know more about helping yourself and your community.



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family and your roof maintenance in the long run.

trimmings, nests, feathers clog rain gutters, broken gutters and of your structure. ladder, brush, rake or

bins that could clog the water from streets into need is a broom, edge can. If the job is sanitation or street help.



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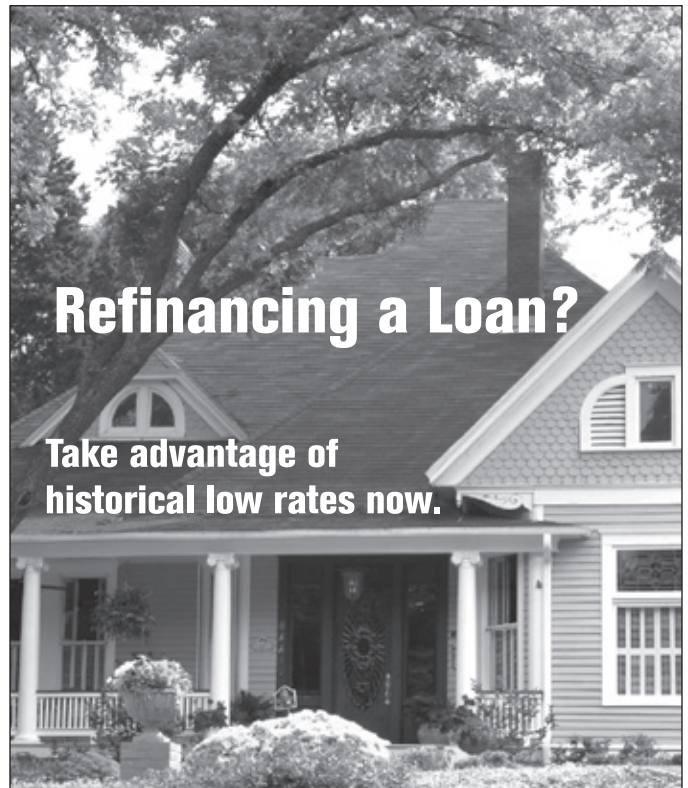
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(Water Infrastructure cont'd from pg. 7)

systems for the collection, conveyance and treatment of wastewater (sewage) and stormwater, which is runoff from rain events, both of which are the responsibility of LASAN.

The City's sewage collection system consists of more than 6,700 miles of interceptor and mainline sewers, 140,000 maintenance holes, 46 pumping plants and a variety of other support facilities such as diversion structures, siphons, etc. There are 4 City Wastewater Treatment Plants - the Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant, the Los Angeles Glendale Water Reclamation Plant, the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant & the Terminal Island Water Reclamation Plant.

Here is the fun part - a large portion of the City's sewer system is over 100 years old with approximately 50% of the pipes being more than 50 years old which is considered the "midpoint" of its life expectancy. Anyone ready for a sewer water geyser? Thus far, the primary objective of storm water drainage systems has not been capture and aquifer recharge, but one of flood prevention and getting the water to the Santa Monica Bay or San Pedro Bay ASAP.

In residential neighborhoods, stormwater collects in gutters and is conveyed to one of the approximate 79,000 catch basins located Citywide. In addition to the catch basins, the City's storm drain system contains over 1,265 miles of piping, 270 miles of open flood control channels (e.g. the LA River), 9 stormwater pumping plants, 8 low-flow diversions, 63 debris basins and 3 spreading grounds.

El Nino Cometh? – Flood Control

by Elektra Kruger

The flood control system in southern California is operated by three different jurisdictions:

- The US Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for the large regional infrastructure such as the Sepulveda Basin, Hansen Dam and the LA River
- The Los Angeles County Flood Control District is responsible for smaller but regional infrastructure such as the Big Tujunga Wash, Ballona Creek and the larger storm drains
- The City of Los Angeles' Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN) is responsible for the smaller storm drains and catch basins.

The major cause of flooding in Los Angeles is short-duration high-intensity storms because Los Angeles is highly developed increasing stormwater flow-rates as soil surface continually becomes more and more covered by new buildings and pavement creating stress on the flood protection capacity of the City's storm drain system. The majority of the City's storm drains are designed to carry a 10-year storm event intensity (a storm so severe that it statistically happens only once every 10 years).

The City currently has records of over 400 locations subject to chronic flooding that are in need of infrastructure upgrades. These are scheduled for improvements when "funding becomes available". In the meantime I guess whatever "funding" we do have needs to be spent on

the far more expensive reactive after-the-fact repair work than on the preventative proactive periodic and regular up-grades. Slowly, we are beginning to realize the importance of increasing efforts to capture and store stormwater run-off to become increasingly more self-sustaining in terms of local water needs. 🐾

EI Nino Cometh? – Stormwater Run-Off

by Elektra Kruger

There is an increased effort toward dealing with stormwater run-off to capture, infiltrate and use more run-off upstream in the watersheds through the use of such “green” infrastructure as cisterns, grassy swales, bioswales, porous pavement, rain gardens, drywells, constructed wetlands, etc., as opposed to merely diverting it as quickly as possible to the Santa Monica and San Pedro Bays.

The Enhanced Watershed Management Programs (EWMPs) exemplifies this effort by capturing and recharging aquifers with run-off from a storm event producing 0.75 to 1.5 inches of rain over a 24 hour period. Over the last 25 years, 85% of the City’s storm-events have produced this or less rain. Severe storms may increase the groundwater level causing it to flow or infiltrate into the sewer system overburdening its capacity and resulting in system overflows.

As part of its Wet Weather Plan, the Bureau of Sanitation claims that the City has implemented many proactive operational and maintenance programs to enhance the overall performance of the City’s stormwater system such as cleaning of catch basins especially in high trash-generation areas. Catch basins are supposedly cleaned at least once during the dry weather season (May-October) and once during the wet season (October to April). During the cleaning process, staff records the amount of debris removed from each basin to determine which basins are greater than 50% full at the time of their cleaning - these become designated as “High Priority” and supposedly are cleaned a minimum of two additional times during the wet weather season.

There are 4,500 catch basins classified as “High Priority” in the City. There are 63 catch basins in the foothills that capture debris, sediments and mud. Proper operation of these debris basins is critical especially after fires that strip the slopes of vegetation leaving them highly susceptible to erosion. 🐾

EI Nino Cometh? – Replenishing Groundwater

by Elektra Kruger

The Department of Water and Power claims that it continuously monitors weather patterns in preparation for any impacts rainfall may bring to its facilities in Central and Southern California and is strategically planning to manage all increased levels of rainfall that may occur through projects of stormwater capture to be used to replenish our groundwater aquifers.

An important component of the DWP’s storm response is the Los Angeles Aqueduct (LAA) system. Along its 200 mile long right-of-way, there are numerous reservoirs with a cumulative capacity of nearly 300,000 acre-feet of

(See *Replenishing Groundwater* On pg. 12)

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(Replenishing Groundwater cont'd from pg. 11)

storage which, if full, could serve half the City's annual water needs. DWP is responsible for over 200 facilities throughout the City's metropolitan area and claims to prioritize work orders at facilities most in need of attention. They claim to clean out debris basins and drainage channels under their jurisdiction to manage run-off and sedimentation.

The Department is implementing projects intended to prevent erosion of roadways and slopes within their facilities with the intention of completing these prior to the on-set of the wet-weather season while other projects on their to-do list are being postponed until after the wet-weather season so as not to disturb compacted soils which would create unstable soil conditions. The Department also maintains a network of groundwater replenishment facilities here in the San Fernando Valley. 🐾

El Nino Cometh? – Keeping Trash Out of Storm Drains

by Elektra Kruger

LASAN monitors weather reports issued by the National Weather Service and the local media. If a severe storm were to be forecasted, LASAN issues a wet weather notification putting all facilities on alert. A LASAN designated "Storm Commander" tracks a storm as it progresses over LA and ensures that all LASAN divisions are following its Wet Weather Preparedness and Operations Plan and is responsible for coordinating response measures to emergency situations.

The general public also needs to do its fair share. Drains and gutters need to be cleared of debris and be in good working order. Debris or litter should be cleaned up from yards to avoid having it washed away during a storm event potentially plugging up storm drain inlets.

Heavy and long-term storm events create challenges for LASAN's weekly trash and recycling services for over 750,000 residences. Some of these include:

- Closure of disposal and recycling facilities so material may need to be diverted to other processing facilities
- Heavy downpours might cause driving hazards not only to the public but to the collection trucks. Drivers have been given authority to cease collection at their discretion, pull over and determine whether the downpour will subside and, if they do not believe it will, to get further instructions from their supervisors which may even result in delaying collections for a day especially in the many substandard roads of our hillside communities that are subject to flooding, mudslides and general access for the large collection vehicles that have a difficult enough time on these roads on bright sun-shiny days.
- LASAN management may cancel collection days entirely on days with heavy downpours and flooding and will notify residents through their Customer Care Center (a service to begin October 19, 2015) not to place their trash bins at the curb to avoid having them being tipped over & having their contents or even the bins themselves carried off by run-off resulting in blockage of storm drains.

• 🐾

El Nino Cometh? – Stormwater Capture and Spreading Grounds

by Elektra Kruger

Among other efforts, the City oversees an overall water management system. This includes such things as the Los Angeles Aqueduct (LAA) and a network of groundwater recharge facilities in the SFV which, historically, has recharged the San Fernando Groundwater Basin (SFB) with a volume of water equivalent to 16% of the City's entire annual water needs.

For decades the DWP has partnered with the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) and Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to assure that our watersheds maximize collection and retention of our stormwaters - this through a network of dams, rivers and any number of other facilities. The USACE owns and operates several stormwater facilities including our Hansen Dam and regional channels. The LACFCD operates the Pacoima Dam, the Big Tujunga Dam up in the Big Tujunga Canyon and 5 spreading grounds in the SFV that recharge the San Fernando Valley Aquifer.

During rainstorms, water is retained at both the Pacoima and Big Tujunga Dams for controlled releases into the Tujunga and Pacoima channels directing it to a series of 5 spreading grounds from which it percolates into the groundwater aquifer. This system of controlled release and spreading ground percolation provides not only flood control, but also water conservation and the natural improvement of water quality that comes with the percolation system.

The LAFCD claims to maintain the spreading grounds by regularly clearing debris, removing invasive species and tilling the soil to maximize recharge capacity. Rubber dams and intake structures along the spreading ground channels supposedly are also being cleared of debris to allow for unobstructed flow of stormwater. 🐾

El Nino Cometh? – Infrastructure Investments and Water Saved

by Elektra Kruger

Much of our water infrastructure is undergoing renovations and improvements to enhance their capabilities. The Big Tujunga Dam has recently been seismically retrofitted to once again allow for maximum storage. Additional retrofits and renovations have been completed at the HD Spreading Grounds. Improvements to the Tujunga and Pacoima Spreading Grounds are scheduled to begin in 2016 and improvements to the Lopez Spreading Grounds and Pacoima Dam are in the design phase.

All these upgrades will ultimately increase the capability for a greater volume of stormwater capture during rain events - particularly in events of high precipitation. More water will be retained and used to recharge our groundwater aquifer rather than be shuttled out to sea. The DWP is also beginning to focus on smaller scale projects that ultimately will retain more rainwater and reduce localized flooding such as the construction of "green streets" and provision of rain barrels to City residents. Rain barrels help residents participate in individual stormwater capture efforts to retain water for

(See *Infrastructure-Water Savings* on pg. 14)

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New England Weather. Speech to the New England Society [December 22, 1876]

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(Infrastructure-Water Savings cont'd from pg. 13)

their private future use such as a water source for private yard irrigation.

Stormwater capture projects and their average yields anticipated for the 2015-2016 "Water Year" include such projects as improvements to the Big Tujunga and Pacoima Dams for a projected conservation of 6,900 acre feet of water recharge, improvements to the 4 spreading grounds for a projected conservation of 26,480 acre feet of water recharge, and numerous localized smaller projects including green roadway medians, greenways and parks for a projected 388 acre feet of water recharge - all for a total of a projected 33,768 acre feet of water recharge - water that otherwise would have been lost to the ocean. One acre-foot sustains approx 3 average size households for an entire year. 🏡



Adding Greywater to Green Building Codes

by Elektra Kruger

The State of California is experiencing one of the most severe droughts on record. In January 2015, Governor Brown declared a State of Emergency and in April 2015 issued an Executive Order requiring a statewide 25% reduction in potable urban water usage. In mid-April 2015, Councilmember Paul Krekorian submitted a Motion to City Council asking that they instruct the City's Chief Legislative Analyst, the Department of Building and Safety, the Bureau of Sanitation, the Department of Water and Power and any number of other relevant City Departments to work together to create a report on recommendations for revisions to the Green Building Codes requiring the use of greywater systems in all applicable circumstances such as surface irrigation and toilet flushing.

The Motion was first heard in the City Council's Energy and Environment Committee in early June 2015 at which time one representative of a Business Improvement Association testified in favor of the Motion and one private individual testified in opposition. Our Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council supported the Motion noting that, if approved in its entirety, would eliminate fees and streamline the process of residential greywater diversion system installation. This would help restore our ever-shrinking aquifers as well as reduce the City's sewer loads both of which would add to the City's goal of reaching sustainability.

In late September 2015, the Department of Building and Safety reported to the Mayor with a Proposed Water Conservation Ordinance to help ensure that enough water remains available for human health and safety, growing food, fighting wildfires and protecting fish and wildlife. The proposed Draft Ordinance calls for a new subsection to be added to the Los Angeles Municipal Code to state that any hot water system shall not allow any more than 0.6 gallons of water to pass through any water fixture before hot water arrives and that the hot water supply piping from the water heater to the fixtures of any residential units having individual water heaters shall take the most direct path. Properties with 500 sq ft or more landscaped areas are to have a separate

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meter to monitor landscape irrigation and other outdoor water uses such as ornamental fountains. Locks are to be installed on all publicly accessible exterior faucets. Any permanently installed outdoor in-ground swimming pool or spa must be equipped with a manual or power-operated reel cover system. To be continued in future issues of the SHPOA newsletter. 🐾



Tujunga Spreading Grounds

by Elektra Kruger

The Tujunga Spreading Grounds (TSG) Enhancement Project is a 150-acre facility owned by the DWP and operated by the LA County Flood Control District (LACFCD). It is intended to help recharge the San Fernando Groundwater Aquifer. The Enhancement Project is designed to increase the Spreading Grounds storage capacity from 100 to 790 acre-feet (AF) and to nearly double its intake capacity resulting in an anticipated total recharge capacity of 16,000 AFY - enough water to supply approximately 40,000 single family homes.

The Project will include a deepening and consolidation of 20 existing basins into 9 large spreading basins, the installation of 2 high-flow intakes with inflatable rubber dams, a modification of existing intake to help improve water quality and remove sediment, installation of control houses, installation of slide gates and spillways and installation of a remote control telemetry system. Included will be community access for open space passive recreation. Construction is anticipated to begin in late Fall 2015 to be completed in the summer of 2017 with a public groundbreaking event tentatively scheduled for early 2016.

Preparations for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) began in 2012 to help alleviate concerns about potential impacts on the community. One of the greatest concerns was emissions and increased truck traffic that would be associated with hauling an estimated 1.2 mill cubic yards of soil away from the site. The opposition to this increased truck traffic resulted in the DWP & LACFCD working together to come up with an alternative method for moving the soil. The project is located in close proximity to the receiving facility Vulcan, so an option of using an electrically powered conveyor system was selected.

Most so-called outreach was only with CD6 or CD7 staff, but there were a number of presentations at Neighborhood Council meetings including the Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council, the North Hollywood West Neighborhood Council and the Mission Hills Neighborhood Council. Unless I am missing something, there was only one public meeting dedicated solely to the Draft EIR for the Spreading Grounds Project. Further update meetings are promised for Neighborhood Council meetings, but they have promised also to accept requests for update presentations from others.

It would be nice if someone/some groups would sponsor an update presentation dedicated solely to the Spreading Ground Project which would not be limited by the time constraints of Neighborhood Council meeting presentations. To be continued in future issues of the SHPOA Newsletter. 🐾





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