

# SHPOA

Shadow Hills Property Owners Association  
Dedicated to Preserving Rural Community

*A Neighborhood Where Families Grow*



Volume 46, Issue 6

SHPOA Nov-Dec 2023

Recap and Minutes from the  
September 12, 2023 General Meeting  
By Susan Wong and Tina Eick, SHPOA Board

The SHPOA General meeting held on September 12, 2023 was very well attended by the community who were eager to hear the presentation from the developer's representative for the 90 unit complex proposal on Sunland Blvd. and an update on the film studio's request for live studio audiences.

1. The first speaker, Armik Shahnazarian, a Permit Processing Consultant, spoke about the development of 9528 Sunland Blvd. He presented their preliminary plan for 90 units (479 sq. Ft. per unit) on the property. He emphasized that they are currently in the **idea phase of the planning stage** for this property development. No decisions have been made and no permit applications have been filed.

2. Mr. Shahnazarian stated that the purpose of his presentation was for him, the developer and the owner to get community feedback for their plan.

3. The current plan calls for 90 units on about 8 acres of the 15 acre property on the south side of Sunland Blvd. across from Helen Ave. The proposed development has been labeled "senior housing", and he made reference to it being "assisted living - non medical" housing a few times. It would be a gated community.

4. He stated that these are not "tiny homes", and would not be housing for people experiencing homelessness. These 479 sq. ft. units would be rented out.

5. They would not be seeking a zoning change, but will be seeking a "Conditional Use Permit", which allows a use that is not consistent with the actual zoning and is granted only if certain conditions are met. The property is currently zoned RE40, which is one house per acre, which is consistent with surrounding properties and the Shadow Hills community.

6. The Shadow Hills neighbors then politely voiced their concerns. Many neighbors voiced similar concerns, and the following is a summary:

*(Cont'd next column)*

**SHPOA Final Meeting of the Year**  
**Tuesday, Nov. 14th**  
**Tierra Del Sol, 9919 Sunland Blvd.**  
**7 - 9 pm**

Please Mark Your Calendar  
and Plan to Attend

- \* SHPOA Election of Officers for 2024
- \* Update on the Film Studio
- \* Update on the 90 unit CUP on Sunland Blvd.  
But wait, there's more!  
**Cookie Pot Luck - bring a dozen or more cookies for sharing.**  
**HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

*(Continued)*

- a. **TRAFFIC.** The 90 units have 90 parking places, plus 15 visitor spaces. Adding 90+ cars to Sunland Blvd. (a "Scenic Corridor") is not unacceptable. If the seniors have aides coming and going, it will add even more cars.
- b. **DENSITY.** This type of density is totally inconsistent with the Shadow Hills equine community. It is not in keeping with the Community Plan. We have fought hard to keep our neighborhood safe for the protection and preservation of animal keeping and the pleasant, quiet enclave for rural living.
- c. **SAFETY.** There are two in-and-out driveways in the proposed development, and no traffic light for easy access out onto busy Sunland Blvd., which takes a sharp curve to the southwest. Turning left out of the development would be quite dangerous or impossible. And that may be worse with senior drivers. There was some discussion about putting a traffic light at one of the entrances, but there is a traffic light a few houses down on Stonehurst and Sunland, and putting TWO stoplights that close together is not acceptable.
- d. **UNDESIRABLE LOCATION for SENIORS.** Not all seniors continue to be able to drive, and there are no sidewalks on the south side of Sunland Blvd. for any of

*(Please see "Recap" on p. 2)*

## **2023 SHPOA Board Members**

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

### **Executive Officers**

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| President:           | Tina Eick<br><a href="mailto:board@shpoa.us">board@shpoa.us</a> |
| Vice President:      | Tad Butler  |
| Executive Secretary: | Owynn Lancaster   |
| Recording Secretary: | Jacqy Gamble  |
| Treasurer:           | Michael Stein   |
| Membership:          | Michael Stein   |

### **Appointed Officers**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Land Use:  | Bill Eick  |
| Equestrian and Trails:                                       | Rosey Payne (Liaison)<br>Robin Phipps  |
| Neighborhood Watch:  | Vacant   |
| Daily Fodder and<br>Lost/Found Pets                          | Susan Wong<br><a href="mailto:shpoa@shpoa.us">shpoa@shpoa.us</a>   |
| Webmaster:   | Michael Stein<br><a href="mailto:webmaster@shpoa.us">webmaster@shpoa.us</a>  |
| Traffic Safety Coordinator                                   | Carlos George  |
| Newsletter Editor and<br>Article Collection:                 | Tina Eick<br><a href="mailto:board@shpoa.us">board@shpoa.us</a>  |
| Newsletter Advertising<br>:                                  | Michael Stein<br><a href="mailto:webmaster@shpoa.us">webmaster@shpoa.us</a>  |
| Newsletter Design/Layout:                                    | Cindy Bloom  |
| Hospitality:   | Gerardo Barrientos   |
| Historian:   | vacant   |
| <b>SHPOA's Mailing Address:</b>                              | <b>P.O. Box 345, Sunland, CA 91041</b>   |
| <b>SHPOA's E-mail Address:</b>                               | <b><a href="mailto:shpoa@shpoa.us">shpoa@shpoa.us</a> or<br/><a href="mailto:board@shpoa.us">board@shpoa.us</a></b>                      |
| <b>Website:</b>  | <b><a href="http://www.shpoa.us">www.shpoa.us</a></b>  |
| <b>Senior Lead Police Officers:</b>                          |  |
| <i>Sunland/Shadow Hills/LVT</i>                              | Wilcer Godoy<br><a href="mailto:36495@lapd.online">36495@lapd.online</a> 818-634-0705  |
| <i>Sun Valley/Shadow Hills West</i>                          | Eric Perez<br><a href="mailto:38338@lapd.online">38338@lapd.online</a> 818-634-0755<br><br>LAPD Foothill Div. Front Desk<br>818-756-8861 |
| <b>Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council (FTDNC)</b> |  |
|  | <b><a href="http://www.ftdnc.org">www.ftdnc.org</a></b>  |
| <i>President:</i>  | Kevin Davis<br><a href="mailto:president@ftdnc.org">president@ftdnc.org</a>  |
| <i>Shadow Hills Reps:</i>                                    | Oma El<br><a href="mailto:omael.ftdnc@gmail.com">omael.ftdnc@gmail.com</a>   |

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

the residents to walk anywhere! There isn't even the possibility of putting a sidewalk in due to the steep hill coming right down to Sunland Blvd as Sunland goes northeast, and another steep hill going straight down to Sunland Blvd as Sunland Blvd goes southwest. There is no shoulder on this part of Sunland Blvd. Non-drivers would be stuck inside the crowded development.

- e. The FIRE DANGER is, of course, mapped as severe on this property. Evacuating 90 senior citizens (plus caregivers) safely, especially having to use Sunland Blvd., does not seem even remotely safe or even possible. The fact that this is a NEW dense development in a high severity fire danger zone suggests that the developer and/or the owner would NOT BE ABLE TO GET INSURANCE for dwellings on this property, or even for construction of dwellings on this property. It was not clear if the developer had considered this.
- g. People move to Shadow Hills to be close to NATURE. We have an abundance of animals living in this area, and a 90-unit development backing onto the Verdugo Mountains would displace some animals and disturb many others.
- h. The conditions that must be met for them to get a conditional Use Permit for senior housing, as detailed on the City of LA Planning Dept. website were read out loud at the meeting for website.) As near as we can tell, they only conform with #3. The proposed project would need to conform with the following:

1. The strict application of the land use regulations on the subject property would not result in practical difficulties or unnecessary hardships inconsistent with the general purpose and intent of the zoning regulations.

2. The project's location, size, height, operations and other significant features are compatible with and do not adversely affect or further degrade adjacent properties, the surrounding neighborhood, or the public health, welfare, and safety.

3. The project shall provide services to the elderly such as housing, medical services, social services, or long-term care to meet citywide demand.

4. The project shall not create an adverse impact on street access or circulation in the

(Please see "Recap" on p. 3)

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

surrounding neighborhood.

5. The project provides an arrangement of uses, buildings, structures, open spaces and other improvements that are compatible with the scale and character of the adjacent properties and surrounding neighborhood.

6. The project is in substantial conformance with the purposes, intent and provisions of the General Plan, applicable community plan, and with any applicable specific plan.

7. Mr. Shahnazarian did mention that an alternative plan they had considered was to use SB9 (a new state law) which allows properties to be split in half and would allow two houses instead of one (which is currently under the RE40 zone). This would allow an approximate 30 homes on the the entire property (15 acres) which would be reduced when factoring in the slope density factor - which basically states that the steeper the slope, the fewer the homes. He said they initially rejected that idea "due to the environmental impact." He did not elaborate. Examples of conditions that may disqualify a project from using SB 9 include the presence of farmland, wetlands, fire hazard areas, earthquake hazard areas, flood risk areas, conservation areas, wildlife habitat areas, or conservation easements. The state government code goes on to say that exemptions can be made for sites that have adopted sufficient fire hazard mitigation measures. Mr. Shahnazarian said that they were planning on putting several fire hydrants in the development. That comment was met with skepticism.

8. Ricardo Flores, CD7's rep for Shadow Hills, spoke about how supportive Monica Rodriguez has been of the horse keeping communities and of Shadow Hills, and that she is aware of this situation and will be following it.

9. At the end of this portion of the meeting, Mr. Shahnazarian said that he would bring our feedback to the developer and owner, and would get back to us, possibly with a revised plan. The unanimous reaction from the neighbors attending the meeting was a firm rejection to the proposal for a 90 unit complex on Sunland Blvd.

10. The second speaker, LAFD Captain Bryan Nassour, was called away to a fire during our meeting, and did not get to speak.

11. SHPOA President Tina Eick reviewed UPDATES ABOUT THE STUDIOS ON PEORIA. She spoke recently with the studio rep, Chris Pearson, and he seemed to agree

(Please see "Recap" on p. 4)

## Shadow Hills Property Owners Association

# SHPOA

## Membership Form

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

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

Membership only = \$25

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

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For Paypal, [www.shpoa.us](http://www.shpoa.us) "Online Member Payment" OR

Mail this form with your check to:

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

### Benefits and Value of SHPOA Membership

#### Preserve Country Lifestyle

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

#### Protect Public Safety, the Environment and Property Values

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

#### Promote Shadow Hills

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

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

on just about everything we asked for, and agreed to work with the city to participate and cooperate with improvements that the city must do (street paving, traffic signs, etc.). All live studio audiences will be bused in from an offsite parking lot to the west. The studio's IT staff are working on getting the traffic and GPS apps to change the routes suggested for getting to the studios from the east (now they are routing people up Stonehurst and down Peoria.). They even agreed to have us choose a muralist to paint the grey wall facing the homes on Elinda. Now we are working on getting everything in writing.

12. Ricardo Flores, CD7's rep for Shadow Hills, spoke about CD7's role in solving some of the issues around the studios. He has finally been able to meet with the new representative for Sun Valley (CD6), Raphael Gonzalez, about signage. They agree that the tiny, faded signs that say "No right turn" and others that have weight limits on Peoria will all be replaced. In addition, they have already started the process for getting a DEAD END sign for Elinda. Ricardo would like anyone with IDEAS FOR OTHER SIGNS AND THEIR LOCATIONS in that area to email him at [Ricardo.x.flores@lacity.org](mailto:Ricardo.x.flores@lacity.org).

All in all it was a very informative meeting thanks to all of you who attended. Your input was critical to the understanding of those intending to change the very unique rural lifestyle that exists in Shadow Hills and our consistent and united efforts to protect it. The meeting ended at 9:00 pm



### SHPOA Slate of Candidates for 2024 Election By Tina Eick, SHPOA Board

This month's November meeting (11/14-23) will be the Election of Officers for the SHPOA Board for 2024. The slate of candidates for the elected positions on the Board are as follows:

President: Tina Eick  
Vice President: Jacqy Gable  
Executive Secretary: Susan Wong  
Recording Secretary:  
Treasurer: Michael Stein  
Membership: Gerardo Barrientos

The following is a list of Committees (and volunteers on said committees) which are appointed by the Officers before the January 2024 meeting:

(Please see "Election" on p. 5)



Sign up for Daily Fodder for lost/found animals, local events, emergency notifications, and more. It's free!  
[shpoa.us](http://shpoa.us) (scroll about half-way down)

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

Land Use: Bill Eick  
 Equestrian Trails: Rosey Payne  
 Neighborhood Watch:  
 Outreach (Daily Fodder): Susan Wong  
 Newsletter Editor: Tina Eick  
 Newsletter Design & Layout: Cindy Bloom  
 Advertising: Michael Stein  
 Traffic and Safety: Carlos George  
 Special Projects: Tad Butler  
 Webmaster: Michael Stein  
 Technology: Owynn and Sarmin Lancaster  
 Historian: vacant  
 Hospitality: Pam Nesbith

If you are interested in getting active and want to continue our mission to protect and preserve our unique community, please join us and get on the Board! Contact me at [shpoa@shpoa.us](mailto:shpoa@shpoa.us) or call me (Tina) at 818-926-1831.



### First SHPOA Dues/Advertising Increase Since 2012

By Michael Stein, SHPOA Board

The Shadow Hills Property Association has been an active organization in our neighborhood since 1968. Board Members are required to be paid members. SHPOA last raised its dues from \$20 to \$25 in January 2012. Our recurring non-discretionary costs (mostly comprised of our annual liability insurance and Constant Contact outreach email application that supports the community favorite Monday-Friday, "What's happening" Daily Fodder emails) have increased.

While our expenses have gone up, our dues have not. \$25.00 dues in 2012 would be \$34 or a 36% increase in 2023 dollars. The SHPOA funding issues were discussed at the October SHPOA Board of Directors Meeting, and the Board recommended to increase SHPOA Membership Dues from \$25 to \$30 and Newsletter Advertising Rates by 10% as of January 1, 2024. The dues and advertising rate increase proposal will be presented to SHPOA Membership at the November General Meeting for approval.

#### Proposed Rates:

|                    | Proposed | Current |
|--------------------|----------|---------|
| Annual Membership: | \$30.00  | \$25.00 |

#### Advertising Rates per Newsletter Issue (6 per calendar year)

|                   |          |          |
|-------------------|----------|----------|
| Business Card Ad: | \$ 50.00 | \$ 45.00 |
| ¼ Page Ad:        | \$105.00 | \$ 95.00 |
| ½ Page Ad:        | \$210.00 | \$190.00 |

(Please see "Dues" on p. 6)



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("Dues" cont'd from p. 5)

Please reach out to the SHPOA Treasurer, Michael Stein, at [webmaster@shpoa.us](mailto:webmaster@shpoa.us) for any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your understanding that these rate increases are needed to ensure a vibrant and effective Shadow Hills Property Owners Association.

The volunteer SHPOA Board Members appreciate your support and understanding.



Mayoral Declaration Of The Aqueduct System  
Emergency – Update  
By Elektra Kruger, Resident

On January 13, 2023, Mayor Karen Bass declared a State of Emergency as a result of the significant impacts of substantial precipitation brought on by a series of atmospheric river storm systems that began on January 9, 2023. A portion of the wall of the Los Angeles Aqueduct partially collapsed on March 11, 2023, as a result of flooding from the extreme runoff endangering public property, infrastructure and the environment and will continue to impact the City of Los Angeles' Aqueduct System. Insofar as this emergency results in a demand for the immediate expenditure of public funds to safeguard life, health and property, Councilmember Paul Krekorian presented a Resolution to the City Council asking that they approve that the competitive bidding restrictions enumerated in the City Charter and the Los Angeles Administrative Code be suspended until April 21, 2023, or until the termination of the State of Emergency, whichever comes first and for the Los Angeles Department Water and Power to authorize and order any action relative to the procurement of construction contracts, supplies and equipment, but only if monies for such payments is drawn from the LADWP's own proprietary funds. The LADWP is to report every two weeks to the City Council on the reasons justifying suspension of competitive bidding and why doing so was necessary to respond to the emergency including why permitting a delay in obtaining competitive proposals or bidding would not be reasonably practical. Instruct all City departments and agencies to represent the City to coordinate all inquiries necessary to obtain whatever State and Federal assistance that may become available to the City and/or to the citizens of the City who may be effected by the emergency. The Resolution was adopted repeatedly by the City Council at successive monthly meetings through its September 15

(Please see "Aqueduct" on p. 7)

("Aqueduct" cont'd from p. 6)

meeting, each time pending reconsideration at a subsequent meeting. Beginning late May 2023 however, the Department of Water and Power did begin submitting its bi-weekly reports. The May report stated that the DWP began taking immediate action to manage water flow into the Owens Lake and to begin repairing dust-control measures. The Los Angeles City Council initially resolved to temporarily waive competitive bidding restrictions until April 21, 2023, so that construction contracts, supplies and equipment could be procured quickly. Due to the continued state of emergency, the City Council took action at their meetings on Friday April 21, 2023, and Tuesday May 16, 2023, to extend the state of emergency by an additional 30 days each thereby extending the timeline for suspending the requirement for competitive bidding. To be continued in a future issue of the SHPOA newsletter.



### Let Go & Start Fresh: The Fall Equinox Is Here By Eva Lund, Resident

Summer supposedly ended when the autumnal equinox took place in September which marks the beginning of fall. As we watch leaves changing colors, we are reminded that nature's cycle is mirrored in our lives. Fall is a time for letting go, to release things that have been a burden. Traditionally, Fall is the time to honor the harvest. Metaphorically, it refers to the harvest of the goals and intentions you set or plan when the year started and how those have been evolving or growing. It is a good time to consider what you no longer need, and what you need to let go of. It is a good time to reconnect with your true self and prepare your mind with good energy. Traditionally, the Fall Harvest is a time where people celebrate a successful and bountiful harvest of crops! Coming together, people give thanks for the crops they've gathered, share food and gifts, and celebrate a strong sense of community before they prepare for the winter season. A great time for our Shadow Hills community to come together is at our Special Spirit Harvest Festival Craft Fair on November 4th between 10am-1pm. (<https://www.specialspirit.org/news-media>).

During the month of September, SSI held volunteer training sessions under the direction of Morgan McGinnis. SSI is dedicated to the highest quality protocols and safety standards encompassing our volunteer involvement.

(Please see "Start" on p. 8)

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- For more information call: 888-4LAPET1 or 888-452-7381.

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("Start" cont'd from p. 7)

With the model of mentorship, SSI provides volunteer opportunities and encourages students with more experience to act as mentors for younger or more inexperienced volunteers. Enhancing their knowledge base of horses and horsemanship skills, many of our students have become volunteers. For more information on becoming a volunteer at SSI, please contact Morgan McGinnis, volunteer coordinator [info@specialspirit.org](mailto:info@specialspirit.org).

On Saturday, September 30, a Beloved student chose to celebrate his seventh birthday at Special Spirit Ranch. Hosting over 20 children and as many parents and friends, Special Spirit Ranch, provided farm animals/ ranch tours, petting zoo, games, activities, picnic area for a fabulous lunch, piñata, and pony rides. It was a memorable and fun-filled, joyful time for all. Donny and his family were brimming with gratitude for the Special Spirit family, including staff, and our precious animal partners.

On Saturday October 7, California State Senator Caroline Menjivar commissioned Special Spirit Ranch to host the first annual Equine Experience for LAUSD Middle School girls in her Senate District 20. Coordinating with the Senator and her staff, Special Spirit staff and volunteers were immensely successful in providing a full day of interaction with farm animals, creative arts and crafts, and horseback riding for 40 participants. The students were sectioned into 3 groups rotating through three stations where they brushed, groomed, pet small farm animals, including goats, sheep, pigs, mini horses, and a mini donkey. In the art studio they were able to create Taylor "Swiftly Friendship" bracelets and they all enjoyed horseback rides. A delicious Mexican lunch was served, catered by El Mariachi Loco from Tujunga. The fabulous day's events culminated with Senator Menjivar riding "Tiki", one of Special Spirits' many safe and reliable, willing, and beautiful horses. As an equestrian herself, Senator Menjivar is passionate about our uniquely stunning community and preserving our equestrian lifestyle here in Shadow Hills. Additionally, the Senator is intentionally aware of the physical, emotional, and spiritual benefits of horse/human interaction and is actively promoting Equine Assisted Services as provided by Special Spirit Ranch.

Teaming with a local non-profit providing "aged-out" foster youth and underserved young women, SSI has had the privilege

(Please see "Start" on p. 9)

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

of working with participants. Through the dedication and faithfulness of our equine partners, equine assisted services have proven to increase confidence, resilience, self-worth and decrease anxiety, depression, stress, and hopelessness. Our goal at SSI is to bring people and horses together in a nurturing, peaceful, inclusive, and serendipitous environment, committed to promoting recovery, healing and holistic health and wellness.



Sen. Menjivar with LAUSD Students



### Up-Date On The Sidewalk Repair Ordinance By Elektra Kruger, Resident

A "fix and release" policy is now part of the City's sidewalk repair program. According to this policy, the City repairs sidewalks currently in a state of disrepair at which time a "Certificate of Compliance" is issued to the owner of the parcel adjacent to the sidewalk indicating that it is henceforth the homeowner's responsibility to maintain the sidewalk fronting his property in a good state of repair. In mid-December 2021, a public comment was submitted to the City stating that in their opinion the "fix and release" program has been a failure and that it should not be on the shoulders of working class people to have to maintain broken sidewalks. Significant funding should be committed to a sidewalk repair program from new federal infrastructure moneys from the Infrastructure, Investment and Jobs Act. The South Robertson Neighborhood Council recommended removing trees from the urban canopy in cases where a sidewalk's disrepair is caused by root growth. Reducing the urban tree canopy is actually somewhat counterintuitive since there is an effort to increase the urban forest to help reduce

(Please see "Sidewalk" on p. 10)

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

the City's heat island effect, increase removal of carbon from our air and that among the sidewalk designs presented – sidewalks do not need to be in a straight line but can be "curvy" leaving greater space between sidewalks and tree trunks. A public comment was submitted on behalf of the Plaintiff Class in Willits, et al. v. City of Los Angeles, a class action lawsuit initiated by disability rights advocates alleging that poor sidewalk conditions across Los Angeles failed to meet ADA codes thus being a danger to pedestrians, especially to persons with disabilities. As finalized in 2016, the settlement required the City to spend \$1.37 billion over a 30 year period to repair broken sidewalks, create accessible curb ramps, and address other access barriers. The Willits class opposes using any Willits settlement funds to pay for a sidewalk conditions survey, inventory and/or assessment as that would be an improper and impermissible use of settlement funds. The Willits Settlement Agreement provide for an annual commitment of \$31 million to make sidewalks accessible to people with mobility disabilities. The annual commitment is only to be used for Program Access Improvements. In late January 2022, Councilmember Paul Koretz

(Continued next column))

(Continued))

asked the City Attorney and Bureau of Street Services whether the Willits Settlement Funds could be used to pay for a sidewalk conditions inventory and assessment. The Plaintiff Class in Willits expressed opposition to the use of Willits funds for conditions assessment. Willits Settlement funds were not intended to be used for anything other than the intended purpose of actually repairing sidewalks and creating/repairing curb ramps. To be continued in a future issue of the SHPOA newsletter.



## Theft Of Copper Wiring From City Street Lights

By Elektra Kruger, Resident

On February 8, 2023, the City Council adopted a City Council's Public Works Committee recommendation directing the Los Angeles Police Department and the Bureau of Street Lighting to report to the Council on the enforcement strategies underway and/or being considered in an effort to fortify the street lighting network. Approximately 6,000 reportable copper theft incidents have occurred during the fiscal year 22-23 with only 70 reports having been filed with the police department. The Bureau of Street Lighting added they have experienced delays in reporting caused by long waits at community police stations and not being aware of other alternatives. In an effort to mitigate delays and provide a sustainable streamlined reporting system, the Bureau of Street Lighting (BSL) was introduced to the Community Online Reporting Service (CORS) Theft reporting link explicitly created for the Bureau of Street Lighting personnel to report thefts online. The username/password protected link can be modified for each reporting person. The CORS Theft reporting link process takes only two to three minutes per report allowing the Bureau of Street Lighting to report large quantities of incidents in expedited time. Currently, the CORS link takes theft reports in excess of \$5,000 in losses per report only. The BSL requested having vandalism as an additional reporting option to the CORS link. The Police Department's Office of Operations forwarded that request to the CORS Vendor NexisNexis. The BSL additionally identified concerns with homeless encampment activity resulting in vandalism and thefts to Bureau facilities and City light pole connected infrastructure. The Police Department's Office of Operations created a document containing 21 hyperlinks directing users to each patrol area's Senior Lead Officer

(Please see "Copper" on p. 11)

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("Copper" cont'd from p. 10)

to serve as a resource outreach contact. The City Council's Public Works Committee also requested that the City Attorney report to the Council on an overview of prosecution efforts related to crimes committed against the City's street lighting network.



### Pacoima Reservoir Restoration Project Update By Cindy Bloom, SHPOA Board

On October 12, 2023, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works held a public information meeting at El Cariso Park. The meeting was well attended by residents of Kagel Canyon, Sylmar, Pacoima, Shadow Hills, and others.

This 3-Phase Project will increase the water storage capacity of the Pacoima Spreading Grounds, and in turn, increase the Spreading Grounds' capacity to recharge the San Fernando Groundwater Basin. It will also establish a new community bike-path nearby. Phase 1 is expected to start in late 2025 and will require removal of 1.5 million cubic yards of sediment over 5 years (or less) and a controlled release of water into the Pacoima Wash.

The biggest complaint was that many residents just found out about the project even though it had been in the works for a while. Further, numerous residents along Little Tujunga Road/Osborne, the only excavation route in our area, did not receive the mailers promoting this particular meeting and, in fact, had found out about the meeting by sheer accident. The route will continue to Vulcan landfills: Sheldon, Glenoaks, or the Boulevard Pit.

The main concern was that trucks will be making their way down this winding, narrow road that is peppered with multiple horse trail crossings. As it is, it is extremely dangerous for equestrians just with normal vehicular traffic. These large dump trucks will only increase the danger. The other route is Placerita Canyon Road to Sunshine Canyon landfill.

The public comment period on this Phase has been extended to Wednesday, November 15, 2023. Comments must be postmarked or received no later than Wednesday, November 15, 2023, by 5:00 pm.

Written comments can be submitted via mail to: Los Angeles County Public Works, Stormwater Engineering Division, P.O. Box

(Continued next column)

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(Continued)

1460, Alhambra, California 91802-1460, Attn: Sediment Management Section Via email to: [reservoircleanouts@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:reservoircleanouts@pw.lacounty.gov).

(Please see "Reservoir" on p. 13)

## Failure To Enforce LA's Protected Tree And Shrub Ordinance

By Elektra Kruger, Resident

Los Angeles has taken steps to protect its native trees and shrubs by instituting a Protected Tree and Shrub Ordinance whose aim it is to establish standards for the preservation of four significant trees and two significant shrubs native to southern California. Unfortunately, City departments have not been working well together to protect them. In early March 2018, the Los Angeles Community Forestry Advisory Committee recommended revising and expanding penalty options for violations of, and ensuring further enforcement of, the Protected Tree Ordinance by creating an Urban Forest Task Force or separate policing arm dedicated to overseeing enforcement of the Ordinance. Numerous City Neighborhood Councils submitted Community Impact Statements supporting this strengthened enforcement Motion as did the Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife (CLAW). As a local advocate for wildlife and wildlands, CLAW supported a comprehensive protection plan for our urban forest. LA's trees provide critical habitat for wildlife and we must mitigate one of the biggest threats to LA's trees – damage or impulsive removal of said trees during a development process. Testimony from a member of the public asked that the City institute a moratorium on the removal of ALL trees until full enforcement of the Protected Tree Ordinance is in place unless the trees are dead or diseased as determined by an independent arborist. At its December 4, 2019, hearing the City Council's Public Works Committee recommended that the City Council vote to instruct the Bureau of Street Services and Urban Forestry Division work with the Department of City Planning and the Department of Building and Safety to convene and consult with stakeholder groups including the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, arborists, community groups, environmental groups (like TreePeople, FOLAR, Northeast Trees, Friends of Griffith Park, California Native Plant Society, members of the Community Forestry Advisory Committee) and the Mayor's biodiversity group to prepare and present a report regarding recommendations for strengthening the Protected Tree Ordinance including, but not limited to, determining methods to preserve overall native tree cover and habitat areas, limiting damage to trees retained during development and possibly adding protected trees based on their circumference and species notability. Eight Neighborhood Councils

(Please see "Tree on p. 13)

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

supported the Los Angeles Community Forestry Advisory Committee's recommendation to increase enforcement of the Protected Tree Ordinance with three more also supporting it with some added amendments of their own. The City Council voted to accept the Public Works Committee recommendations to instruct the noted groups to prepare and present a report with their recommendations for strengthening the Protected Tree Ordinance. To be continued in a future issue of the SHPOA newsletter.



("Reservoir" cont'd from p. 11)

The Draft Environmental Impact Report will be issued in about 6 months and the public may submit additional comments at that time.

For more information, please visit <https://dpw.lacounty.gov/wrd/Projects/Pacoima/>




### Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council Election Update By Cindy Bloom, SHPOA Board

The Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council (FTDNC) failed to secure enough candidates to form the board in June. As a result, a robust outreach effort was led by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) to seek candidates to run in another election to hopefully get enough folks seated so that the board can resume its activities.

The Neighborhood Councils are part of the City. Just like employees, Neighborhood Council volunteers must take a few online training courses every 2 years to ensure compliance in various categories.

Fortunately, enough candidates did apply, and the election/selection process will occur on Wed., Nov. 15th from 4-8 pm at its office, 9747

(Continued next column)



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|---|--|

(Continued)

Wheatland, Shadow Hills. Please stop by and cast your vote!

For more info about the election: <https://empowerla.org/2023ftdncselection/> or email: [raul.preciado@lacity.org](mailto:raul.preciado@lacity.org). Once the board is seated, anyone who meets the qualification requirements may ask to be appointed to the board or committees at any time. The FTDNC serves Lake View Terrace, Shadow Hills/Stonehurst area, and La Tuna Canyon.

Make sure to bring some kind of identification to show that you are a stakeholder. Participation is open to those who are 16 years or older, live, work, or own property or a business within FTDNC's

boundaries, as well as to "community interest stakeholders," such as church members, local students (or parents of students), or members of local service organizations. [www.ftdnc.org](http://www.ftdnc.org).

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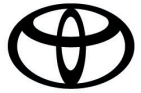
## **Increase Fines For Damages To Urban Tree Canopy** **By Elektra Kruger, Resident**

As we encounter increasingly extreme heat as a result of climate change, it is more important than ever to not only increase our urban tree canopy but also to protect the trees already shading our streets. The current fines levied through the Administrative Citation Enforcement program for violations related to damages to our urban canopy limits the first offense to \$250, \$500 for the second offense and \$1,000 for the third and any subsequent offense. By comparison, fines for sign regulation violations start at \$2,000 for the first offense of a 10ft x 15ft or smaller sign. Trees are an invaluable asset to our community's climate resilience and fines for their removal or damage should reflect this. In recognition of this, in early August 2023, Councilmember Kevin DeLeon presented a Motion to the Los Angeles City Council asking that they instruct the Bureau of Street Services to report on an administrative fine schedule for violations commensurate with urban tree damages including but not limited to loss of shade, loss of carbon storage, increase to local average surface temperature of adjacent streets, decrease in local air quality associated with loss or damage to any and all said trees. At an August 23, 2023 City Council Public Works Committee hearing, a public commentator expressed support for application of fines commensurate with damages to trees, however noted that damages should also be based on tree valuation. Fines should reflect the intrinsic value of a mature tree that is damaged/lost and not merely the cost of replacing a mature tree and planting a sapling in its place. The Public Works Committee recommended that the City Council instruct the Bureau of Street Services to create a fine schedule commensurate with urban tree damage/loss and to request the City Attorney along with input from the Bureau of Street Services to suggest the appropriate party to receive the citation and fines and to use valuation tools developed by the International Society of Arboriculture to comply with the public commenter's suggestion. A written communication received from the public also noted the importance of maintaining the urban tree infrastructure due to its ability to help collect stormwater. The Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council submitted a Community Impact Statement expressing support for the Motion noting and that "street tree protection policies deserve a robust enforcement program."

(Please see "Fines" on p. 15)

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("Fines" cont'd from p. 14)

The City Council adopted the Public Works Committee report on September 9, 2023.



**High-Speed Train Update**  
By Cindy Bloom, SHPOA Board

By the time that this newsletter hits mailboxes, The California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) would have held two "listening sessions" on November 6th (in person) and 7th (virtual).

Public comments to the Draft Environmental Report were submitted last December. Save Angeles Forest for Everyone (SAFE) submitted a 156-page comment letter as well as hiring a well respected consulting firm to provide a report on seismic impacts.

The Final Environmental Report is expected to be released by the end of the year.

These sessions' purpose is to provide information prior to the release. For updates on this project, please visit [www.dontrailroad.us](http://www.dontrailroad.us) for the most current information.



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**Next SHPOA General Meeting: Tues, Nov 14th @ 7 pm at Tierra del Sol**

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### Key Community Locations & Contact Info

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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)  
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Tierra del Sol: 9919 Sunland Blvd., Shadow Hills (818-352-1419)  
Village Christian School: 8930 Village Ave., Sun Valley (818-767-8282)  
City of LA North Valley Neighborhood City Hall/Office: Council Member  
Monica Rodriguez, District 7, 13520 Van Nuys Blvd., Suite 209,  
Pacoima, CA 91331 (Tujunga location being renovated) same phone  
number: (818-352-3287)

### Community Calendar

#### Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council (FTDNC)

- 3rd Thursday, Every Month 7 p.m.
- Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center
- [www.ftdnc.org](http://www.ftdnc.org)

#### FTDNC Land-Use Committee meeting

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

#### FTDNC Equestrian Committee meeting

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

#### FTDNC Public Safety Committee meeting

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

#### LAPD Community Coffee Time

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#### Hansen Dam Park Advisory Board

- LAST Tuesday, Every Month 7 p.m.
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