



## NORTHWEST SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (NWSPNC) Sustainability COMMITTEE REPORT

\*Joint meeting held with the Sustainability Committee of  
the Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council (CSPNC)

**Meeting held at *San Pedro City Hall, Room 452, on Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017***

**Committee Member Attendees:** Chuck Hart, Gwen Henry, Laurie Jacobs, Bobbi Lisk, Sarah Valdez, Chris Valle, and Darlene Zavalney

**Non-Committee Member Attendees:** Frank G. Anderson, CSPNC; Joseph Luis Pinon, CSPNC; Dr. Allen Franz; Bill Roberson, CSPNC

**Committee Members not in attendance:** Chris Valle

### **1. Welcome and introductions**

### **2. Public Comment on items not on the agenda.**

- a. People's Climate Movement to be held on April 29<sup>th</sup>, hosted by the So Cal 350 climate action group. Marchers will meet at the Banning Park and Recreation Center at 11:00 AM, and will make their way to the Tesoro Refinery located at 2101 East Pacific Avenue. Please visit [www.socal350.org](http://www.socal350.org) for more information.
- b. Native plants sale to be held at the South Coast Botanic Garden on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>
- c. Communities for a Better Environment has received a grant from Harbor Community Benefit Foundation, looking for homes/apartment buildings to install air quality monitoring system.

### **3. Overview of native plants event. Lessons for the future: What aspects of the event were successful? What aspects could have been improved?**

- a. An immense "thank you" to Dr. Allen Franz, who gave a fascinating presentation on the geological history of the San Pedro Peninsula and how plants that have evolved in the area (native plants) may support biodiversity and combat the ongoing mass extinction.
- b. Improvements for the future: improve marketing tactics by obtaining promotional flyers sooner and distributing them much more broadly across town; seasonal change in event date so as to avoid rain; coordination with Councilman Buscaino's office in promoting the event. Laurie Jacobs suggested coordinating a series of similar events in the future, and incorporating outreach to schools. Laurie Jacobs suggested including a series of educational articles on native plants in the next few NWSPNC newsletters.

### **4. Discussion of a letter to Mayor Eric Garcetti and Councilman Joe Buscaino regarding the Great Streets, Gaffey Street initiative as well as the Western Avenue Vision Plan, urging the use of native plants in all landscape designs.**

- a. Dr. Allen Franz, Darlene Zavalney, and Frank G. Anderson attended community hearings and submitted comment requesting the use of native plants in all landscaping. Gaffey Street currently in phase one of concept, with two more phases scheduled. Christian Guzman obtained a list of plants currently scheduled for planting. Bidding process for landscaping won by a plumbing company. Dr. Franz suggested that committee expand scope of the letter of request and urge the Mayor, Councilman Buscaino, and other pertinent parties to adopt a policy to require the use of native plants in all citywide public landscaping. Laurie Jacobs suggested that perhaps our request should be for 80% of all citywide public projects. Committee to contact city arborist, as well as obtain official city plants list.

5. **Discussion of LA Metro's response to a letter the Central San Pedro NC sent urging them to stop using diesel buses in the Harbor Area. What can stakeholders do to help control pollution from buses?** □
  - a. –Tabled— due to time constraint.
6. **Presentation on Communities for a Better Environment's campaign to have Los Angeles adopt an ordinance to require sound buffering of oil extracting equipment within 2,500 feet of residences.** □
  - a. **\*\*Item was bumped up to item 3 of meeting schedule.\*\***
  - b. Eric Romann, representative of STAND “Standing Together Against Neighborhood Drilling,” spoke with committee regarding its current campaign to end urban oil drilling, requesting support of neighborhood councils. STAND is a coalition of six citywide community groups.
  - c. Los Angeles is the largest urban oil field in the United States. Currently there are over 1,000 active oil wells in Los Angeles, with 50% of wells located in Council District 15. Wells represent a significant health and safety risk to families living in proximity to them, including reproductive harm, cancer, cardiovascular disease, and an increased risk for miscarriage, among other issues. As an example of the real harm these wells cause, Mr. Romann explained that the U.S. military will not have such wells placed near homes and other sensitive areas in Iraq as they are placed here in Los Angeles. STAND calls for the City of Los Angeles to pass an ordinance that enacts a 2,500-foot health and safety barrier around wells. A motion has been introduced to initiate a feasibility study for such an ordinance.
7. **Discussion and possible recommendation on Communities for a Better Environment's campaign to have Los Angeles adopt an ordinance to require sound buffering of oil extracting equipment within 2,500 feet of residences. (Action Item)** □
  - a. Questions posed by committee:
    - i. How does STAND plan to address regulation that has been grandfathered in?
      1. Mr. Romann pointed to the team of legal experts STAND has assembled. STAND believes that the extensive legal research conducted by their team of legal experts shows indisputable evidence in support of a 2,500-foot setback. Further, Houston, Texas, has successfully passed a similar ordinance that calls for a 1,500-foot setback.
    - ii. If such an ordinance is passed, how many wells would be shut down and how many wells would continue with operations?
      1. 30% of wells in L.A. would be shut down.
    - iii. City Council members currently supportive?
      1. Several City Council members have indicated support, desire a feasibility study to be done first.
    - iv. Will this go before the County Board of Supervisors?
      1. No. STAND is focused on the City, first.
    - v. What is the estimated cost to tax payers for such an ordinance?
      1. Feasibility studies regularly conducted by City, thus no additional cost. No exact numbers on hand, but
  - b. Several committee members expressed concern about the lack of inclusion of the Rancho LPG storage tanks, would like coalition to address the risks posed by the storage tanks to the community as well.
  - c. STAND seeking neighborhood council support of:
    - i. Legal land use study.
    - ii. Ordinance calling for 2,500-foot health and safety setback around oil wells in Los Angeles.
  - d. Motion passed in support of legal land use study, as well as in support of an ordinance calling for 2,500-foot health and safety setback. Motion made by Sarah Valdez, seconded by Darlene Zavalney. 4 “yes,” 1 “no.”
8. **Discussion of fiber optic communications infrastructure in San Pedro. How does it encourage sustainability? How can the neighborhood councils promote such**

**infrastructure development? □**

- a. Fiber optic communications would support economic growth, support Port renovation projects such as AltaSea and Ports o' Call renovation.
- b. Further discussion will be continued at next committee meeting due to time constraint on today's meeting.

**9. Continue discussion on a Clean Air Fair for San Pedro. □**

- a. —Tabled—due to time constraint

**10. Adjourn**

**Next meeting: *Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-7:30 pm, at SP City Hall, Room 452***