

CRA Favored Assembly Bill 2531 Vetoed, L.A.'s Mayor, City Council and State Reps Scolded

By Katharine Russ

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed AB 2531 before the midnight deadline on September 30, 2010. In his letter to the State Assembly, Schwarzenegger said, "Redevelopment funds are to be used solely for the purpose of eliminating blight in urban neighborhoods in California cities. This bill would authorize the use of redevelopment funds for projects that are not necessarily blighted as well as for projects outside the redevelopment area, and as such would violate the primary purpose of redevelopment law. For these reasons I cannot sign this bill."

Assembly Bill (AB) 2531 sailed through the Assembly and the Senate with overwhelming approval and awaited the Governor's signature to become law. The bill authored by Assemblyman Felipe Fuentes, a former aide to Mayor Villaraigosa, has previously introduced 11 bills that were written and pushed for signature by lobbyists since he took office in 2007.

Prior to AB 2531's passage, The Information Technology and Government Affairs Committee (ITA/GA) of the Los Angeles City Council held a meeting to hear comments on the amendments to the bill by the California Redevelopment Agency (CRA). The agenda item was hidden among various other lengthy reports and no notice was given prior to the meeting. Even though public comment was allowed, no one spoke for or against it.

A January 19, 2010 Council file #10-0002 agenda item reads as follows: "Chief Legislative Analyst reports and Resolutions relative to recommendations for the 2009-10 State Legislative Program from the following City departments: Airports, Harbor, Transportation, Community Redevelopment Agency,



Information Technology Agency, Los Angeles Housing Department, Animal Services, and Los Angeles Department of Aging, among other departments."

Aside from other recommendations, the following amendments to modify the definition of 'physical blight' were also included and passed by the City Council as part of these recommendations: "Modify the CRL (California Redevelopment Law) of the State of California (Health and Safety Code Sections 3300 et seq.) to amend the definition of "physical blight" to include: 1) Public housing projects in the City of Los Angeles that are more than 50 years old, 2) Areas unhealthy for persons to live or work by (a) high incidences of obesity, diabetes, and other diseases which are affected by poor access to fresh food; (b) or high incidences of asthma, lung cancer and other respiratory diseases which are affected by air pollution or the presence of contaminated properties and 3) Areas that suffer from a lack of parks and open space." The bill (recommendations) passed on Janu-

ary 20, 2010.

Assemblyman Cameron Smyth felt the Fuentes' bill set bad precedent. Smyth added, "The City of Los Angeles was actually the sponsor of AB 2531, so they were well aware of it and clearly in support."

Stephanie Joy Mar, Communications Deputy for Councilman Tom LaBonge affirmed "AB 2531 was a clarification of original State law that the City Attorney felt was over-broad. Other California cities have defined CRA jurisdiction in the same way. This passed through City Council for a public discussion and vote." LaBonge supported the modifications.

Frank Mateljan, Deputy City Attorney, disputed Mar and issued the following statement. "I checked with the lawyers in our office, and it appears that the vote of support for AB 2531 by the City of Los Angeles was a policy decision made by the Mayor and the City Council and not one of the legislative bills that was sponsored by our office. There were very few people here who were even familiar with it."

AB 2531 was authored by Fuentes based on decisions made by the Mayor and the City Council. It expands the statutory definition of redevelopment to include job training, small business incubators, non-profit funding, construction loans, funds for capital and/or equipment purchases and has the added advantage to expend funds immediately because redevelopment agencies are already in place statewide.

AB 2531 was written expressly for the City of Los Angeles. Section IV of AB2531 says, "The City of Los Angeles has a First Deputy Mayor (Austin Beutner) who serves as the Chief Executive for Economic and Business Policy advocating for investment and jobs by working with the City's Department of Water

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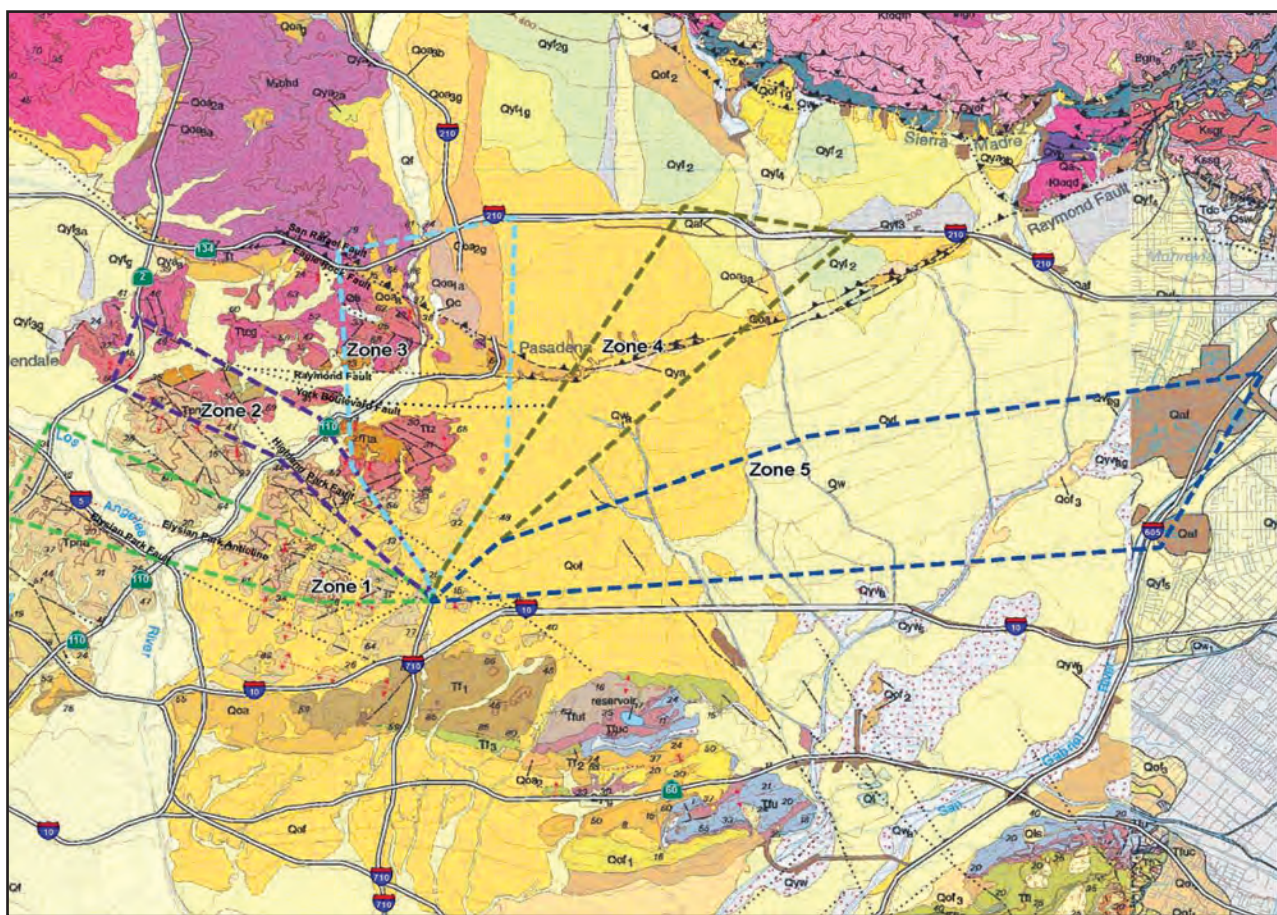
710 Tunnel Could Devastate Region

Anthony J. Portantino
District 44
Ca. State Assembly

Today, the city of La Cañada Flintridge is under the direct threat of increased traffic congestion and air pollution from the proposed completion of the 710 Freeway. Caltrans and MTA are proposing to move forward with the scoping and environmental study of a tunnel as an alternative to a surface-routed 710.

Despite ardent calls from the La Cañada Flintridge City Council and my office to slow this process, freeway proponents plan to charge ahead, potentially before even January. It is imperative that we continue to advocate for a valid cost-benefit analysis before hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars are wasted on a tunnel project that will be a financial disaster and devastate northeast Los Angeles, South Pasadena, Pasadena, La Crescenta, Glendale, and La Cañada Flintridge. How did we get here, and what has La Cañada Flintridge been doing about it? During the 1998 special election for a seat on our city council, former Los Angeles Fire Chief Don Manning, was the first to highlight the 710 as a serious issue to be addressed. Upon being elected to the city council a year later, I requested we take a formal position to support an alternative to extending the 710 freeway. Today, the La Cañada Flintridge City

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Grass Roots Democracy, a Work in Process



By Councilmember Paul Krekorian

I am proud to say that the local empowerment movement is alive and well. Though we certainly have many issues to resolve and a host of problems that need attention, I am confident that, with the community's help, we will reform the city's relationship with its 92 neighborhood councils to make the system an even more accountable, efficient, and effective means of grassroots democracy.

My confidence was buoyed recently when I led the first of two neighborhood empowerment town hall forums. I want to personally thank those who attended our workshop on Sept. 19 in Van Nuys, and I very much look forward to the next one this month at USC. (We will announce a specific date very soon on our policy blog, cd2policy.com). With more than 100 volunteer leaders representing more than two dozen-neighborhood councils, I was truly awed at the passion, energy, and idealism from each and every one of the participants.

We received tremendously useful and pragmatic feedback through the open discussions in the working groups and from the stakeholder presentations made during our workshop. A recap of that information is now available on our policy blog, www.cd2policy.com, and following our next workshop, we will have a complete recap of all the feedback we received. (By the way, you can enter your email address on our blog to receive updates of new posts by clicking the "Subscribe to the blog" button on the right column.)



Neighborhood Council leaders meet with Councilman Paul Krekorian for the first town hall regarding the future of the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment.

But this is just a start. After we hold our second town hall, we will begin to package all of the information and use that to improve the city's Department of Neighborhood Empowerment for years to come. We can't do that, though, without you. You are an essential part of our continued effort to strengthen local democracy.

Please join us on the road to change grassroots democracy by providing your comments, and by being an active participant in the work of your neighborhood council, which you can find by visiting our website, cd2.lacity.org/District2/NeighborhoodCouncils.

Editor's Note: Councilmember Paul Krekorian leads the Second District and chairs the city's Education and Neighborhoods Committee.

You Should Know...

By Nina Royal

A new online reservation system for selected County Parks became effective October 1. According to Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, residents are now able to book a reservation and make a credit card payment for a wide range of activities, including picnic areas, swim lessons, campsites and RV spots, and meeting rooms at selected parks and recreation areas. They are starting with the following facilities: Dockweiler Beach, Castaic Lake State Recreation Area, Arcadia County Park, Alondra Park in Lawndale, and Charles S. Farnsworth Park in Altadena. New facilities will be added over the next six months.

The new program site is: Los Angeles County Activity Registration and Reservation System, or LACARRS. It was developed jointly by the County Parks and Recreation, Beaches & Harbors and, Internal Services Departments, and the Chief Information Office.

PlanCheck - Sat. Oct. 9 at 10 a.m. - Michelle Sorkin, Citywide Urban Design Guidelines.

PlanCheckNCLA Announces Neighborhood Council Case Tracking System - At the Sept. 11 meeting of PlanCheckNCLA Challis MacPherson and Jim Murez of the Venice Neighborhood Council announced upcoming dates for presentations of the new case tracking system created by volunteers for volunteers. Data from CNC reports will be in the system as soon as it is received from City Planning. NCs will be able to subscribe to the system to defray maintenance costs. To sign up for a presentation, contact PlanCheckNCLA or Challis MacPherson. More info: PlanCheckNCLA.com

Core Findings and Community Care Facilities Code amendments will be discussed at workshops through out the city. The Valley location is at the Marvin Braude Center, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd, Van Nuys, on **Saturday, October 9**, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. It is designed so people have the opportunity to participate by giving their input regarding, Code Amendments, and proposed ordinances. Public hearing will be Thursday, October 14 at 8am. For more information visit: www.planning.lacity.org.

The Columbus Day and Italian Heritage Month Festivities, set for **Sunday, October 10**, is normally held the Sunday before the federal designated holiday the second Monday of October in the County Square, located on Hope Street in Los Angeles. The venue has changed because The Square is being refurbished, and this year's free festivities will be held at Casa Italiana, 1051 No. Broadway, Los Angeles. Contact the *L'Italo-Americano Weekly Newspaper*, 818-767-3414, or Call 626-254-0449 for further information.

Station Fire Hearing date changed - The date for the Congressional Panel Discussion regarding the Station Fire is now set for **Tuesday, October 12**, 9:00 am to 11:00 an at the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, Court

Room #3, 125 So. Grand, Los Angeles. A large crowd is expected because this is a chance for those affected by the fire to be heard.

Owners of Verdugo Hills Gold Course to address community - Michael Hoberman, of Snow Ball West Investments and Fred Gaines, land us attorney will address the Land Use Committee of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council on **Monday, October 18**, at 7:00 pm, in the North Valley City Hall, 7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga. Councilmember Paul Krekorian, CD 2 Representative and his staff, arranged the meeting. The Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) is expected to be released early 2011.

The "Save the Verdugo Hills Golf Course Committee" is sponsoring a Fund Raiser, hosted by Los Rapidos Mexican Eatery all day, Thursday, October 7, at 3231 Foothill Blvd., LaCrescenta. For more information visit: <http://gcvoice.org>, and www.thegolfcourses.net/ca/446930.htm.

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month -New Horizons, a leader in programs for adults with developmental disabilities, is hosting a Business Forecast Breakfast with special guest speaker, Jack Kyser, Chief Economic Advisor for Southern California Association of Governments to thank employers within the L.A. Community for hiring their clients. The date is **Tuesday, October 19**, 8:00 am - 9:30 am, at New Horizon's Sam's Café, 15725 Parthenia St., No. Hills. Parking is available in front.

Great California Shakeout - will take place on **Thursday, 10-21**, at 10:21 am. Register at shakeout.org/socalwest/ According to Earthquake Specialist, Dr. Lucy Jones of Cal Tech, we can expect a major earthquake sooner than later and we all need to be prepared. This is an opportunity to determine how well we are prepared and what we must do to protect ourselves and our family, both in the workplace and at home. For more information visit: www.shakeout.org/drill/

Logan's Run for Autism Awareness - On **Saturday, October 16**, a 10K, a 5 K Trail Race, and a 1K Walk/Roll race will begin at 8:00 am in Hansen Dam Park, 12202 Osborne St., Lake View Terrace. The event will include Refreshments, Entertainment with Live Bands, Raffles, Free Mammograms, etc. The event is sponsored by Jay Nolan Communities Services who provides support service for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder so that those afflicted might lead fulfilling lives. For more information visit: www.runforautismawareness.com

A 2011-2012 Housing and Community Development Plan Community meeting - is being sponsored by the CDD along with Mayor Villaraigoa. They are hosting a series of meetings for community members to assess and identify the needs of their communities with regard to Block grants for public services, facilities, neighborhood and public improvement, economic development, hous-

ing, etc. Public comment will be included in the Consolidated Plan and submitted to the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development. The meeting will be held on **Friday, October 29**, 6:00 pm, at M. Braude Constituent Center, 6262 Van Nuys Blvd., Van Nuys.

Reunion for VHHS classes of 1952 to 1957 will be held Oct 24,25,26 2010 at the Riverside resort casino in Laughlin , NV for more information call Harry at 1-818-353-5428 or Janis at j-knott@sbc-global.net

A Rim of the Valley Special Resource Study - in both Los Angeles and Ventura Counties is being conducted by the National Park Service. The purpose is to determine whether any portion of the study area is eligible to be designated as a unit of the national park system. It will also explore ways to protect resources and provide more outdoors recreation opportunities. Meetings in the North Valley will be held at North Valley City Hall, 7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga, Tuesday, October 5, at 7:00 pm, and Herrick Elementary School, 13350 Herrick Ave., Sylmar, Wednesday, October 13 at 6:30 pm. For those who can't make the meetings, Public Comment is open through **October 29**. For more information, visit [/www.nps.gov/pwro/rimofthevalley](http://www.nps.gov/pwro/rimofthevalley), or email pwr_rimofthevalley@nps.gov

LADWP increased their rebates for Energy Efficient Appliances and Home Improvement Projects - Some affected products as of October 1, are variable speed pool pumps and motors, central air units or heat pumps, old refrigerators, Energy Star dual pane windows, skylights, and air conditioners. These are just some of the many items that will be eligible for the increased rebates. For further information visit: www.ladwp.com/crp, or call 800-374-2224,

Upcoming San Fernando Valley Veterans Parade needs your help - the Seventh Annual Parade in honor of our Veterans is coming up on **Thursday, November 11**. In the past most of the expense for permits, etc., were provided free by the city. However, this year, due to the economic crises in Los Angeles, community members who organize the parade must ask Valley Communities for help in order to pay for permits, fees and other necessary public services, etc. Some of those services include, but are not limited to, traffic control personnel, equipment, water, golf carts, police, emergency medical, and other services. Although Neighborhood Councils cannot give cash, they can pay for any invoices regarding the above necessities.

Because the Parade honors all Veterans in the San Fernando Valley, they are looking for Valley Veteran organizations such as the American Legions and VFW's to participate in their own floats as well as school marching bands if available. For further information, call Dan Rosales Jr., Planning Director, Office of Councilmember Richard Alarcon at, 818-756-8409, or, 818-631-5914.



COMMENTARY

People Power Can Beat the City Hall Political Machine



By Ron Kaye

Day by day, the failure of City Hall becomes more visible and our elected officials’ desperation to save themselves more urgent. With residents and businesses outraged over endless rate hikes, power outages and bursting water pipes, the City Council is holding hearings in various parts of the city on demands for a fully independent and fully funded Rate Payer Advocate to protect the public.

With the budget hold growing deeper and deficits totaling more than \$2 billion looming in the next three years, the Council is moving rapidly ahead on a measure supposedly intended to protect the emergency reserve fund from being raided so easily. With voters alienated to the point few turn out for elections, the city’s leadership are proposing a series of changes to increase public matching funds for candidates, conduct all mail-in voting and allow voter registration on election day. All these and possibly other measures likely will go on the March 8 ballot when seven Council seats in the even-numbered districts are up for election and voter

turnout is expected to run between 7 to 13 percent of registered voters. One of the last refuges of failed government is to drape itself in the cloak of reform. The City Council with one member facing felony perjury and voter fraud charges and a Mayor under investigation for flagrant disregard of ethics law, have reached the point where they have nowhere to turn except to pose as reformers of the government they have broken. Unlike four years ago when four incumbent Council members ran unopposed, at least six of the seven seats up for election in March are competitive. And a political action committee – LA Clean Sweep at lacleansweep.com --- has been formed to reach out across Los Angeles to muster support for a slate of challengers to the failed City Hall political machine’s candidates. I helped found LA Clean Sweep for the sole purpose of bringing people in every community together regardless of their own political beliefs to bring a big broom through City Hall to clean out the corruption and end the cycle of failure that threatens to throw LA into bankruptcy. There is no other way. Only people power – thousands of small contributors, thousands of people working phone banks and walking precincts – can defeat the political machine that can raise millions of dollars from the same developers, contractors, con-

sultants, political operatives and unions that have called the shots for too long. This is about good government, government of, by, and for the people. It’s not about liberal or conservative. LA Clean Sweep is calling for candidates who are open and honest, who have the courage to make fiscally responsible decisions, who understand what core services the city should provide, and they need provide healthy neighborhoods and a healthy business climate. City Hall’s policies are to make taxpayers pay a second time for the services they need and take what little wealth is left in the treasury and give it away to developers and businesses from as far away as China to buy a few jobs, when half a million residents are unemployed or given up hope of finding jobs. They will not conceal the nakedness of their failure in a series of piecemeal reforms unless you sit on the sidelines and allow their strategy of divide-and-conquer to succeed. LA can still be saved from the destruction of over-development and under-employment, from the chaos of bankruptcy and slashed services. It all depends on you. *Editors Note: Ron Kaye writes for RonkayeLA.com and the NVR.*

The Other Side of the Health Care Issue



By Robert J. Barbera

Political unrest, along with television and newspaper sensationalism, gave rise to medical concerns for, not only those who are not covered by medical insurance, but to those who are covered. The constant bandage of the negativism goes beyond the many wonderful realities that abound in medical care. The lack of appreciation for our huge progress in our health care is not even mentioned. While we question ad nauseam about the number of people underinsured, we should consider the greater number of insured people.

The cost of health care has gone up disproportionately for a reason. The wonders provided by innovative technology in the health industry have produced substantial results. Not only are we living longer, we are also living healthier. Health analysis techniques have grown exponentially. Transplants along with a multitude of surgeries and medicines unheard of fifty years ago are now common place. Why target the insurance industry? Our health care comes at a price. Start-ups in the ever-expanding medical care are costly. In time, out of proportion premiums for health insurance in a free market economy will level off. Mandating compulsory health insurance will bring in price fixing and costly regulatory supervision. The good news is many people are covered by health insurance and do not want any changes. Some people, for one reason or another, are satisfied to make their choice not to purchase medical insurance. Their medical decisions should be up to them. They do not want to pay for a plan to cover those not covered. The uninsurable, due to their destructive life style, should be responsible for their action. For those who cannot buy insurance due to preexisting conditions or cannot afford health insurance, the govern-

ment has provided plans. Pharmaceuticals with profit incentives invest in research for the “magic bullet”. As a consequence, medicine prescriptions from pills to injections continue to evolve for our better health. Competing pharmaceuticals continue to develop better medications. Here again, cures and relief from so many ills are now common place. Hospitals continue to streamline their efficiency. The enormous investments in infrastructure should not go unnoticed. Hospitals are providing quality and pleasant surroundings. Medical records are easily accessed and equipment is state of the art. Hospitals are gearing up for potential catastrophes from epidemics to natural disasters. Doctors and nurses are pivotal in the medical society. It is a calling to become a medical professional. Years of training are required to become licensed. We hold them to a higher standard of care. Local and federal regulatory authorities should be limited to complaint issues. Establishing a bureaucracy to replace or even add to the insurance industry will inevitably lead to higher costs and cumbersome requirements. Government services lack incentives for greater quality and consumer choices. . It makes no sense to have medical decisions made by a bureaucracy. We are the beneficiaries of a better quality of life. In the market place, we should continue to have choices. We decide our life style and live accordingly. It is no wonder medical costs have risen because we expect more. It makes more sense to not only look at the cost of health care but to know what constitutes the cost. What value do we put on good health care or even a healthier life? The answer is, we put a very high value on health care and we are receiving it. We must be careful not to replace our current medical system for the possible unintended consequences.

Sick people from all over the world come to the United States for quality treatment they can not receive in their country. Government in the medical field is an intrusion to our free choices. Trying to control any industry should be limited. Americanism has been built on free enterprise. Our progress in the health care industry is legendary. We have been foremost in medical research and treatment. This is underlined by a free society where liberty abounds. *Editor’s Note: Mr. Barbera is Chairman of the Americanism Educational League. To contact him, visit: <http://www.americanism.org>.*

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SOUND OFF

Update on 710 Freeway Expansion

By Dr. Tom Williams

The 710 North is like a slowly advancing stealth train, but where are the Controls? The 710 is a MESS...Metro approved the PublicPrivatePartnership (PPP) review in January, but so far no results for the public, only for private partners. To confuse and be paid by us, Metro approved the first Measure R Bonds for \$800M, and for three Bond Agents to share \$8M origination fees. Why are Bonds needed? Metro has no money to pay for new staffs and committees for Measure R projects, including a new Highway Czar.

What happened to the Measure R 30/10 Transit Initiative program and 710 North? 30/10 got caught by Metro directors and Antonio Villaraigosa had broadened the 30/10 program with "Highway Acceleration" for 710 South and North, Antonovich's HiDesert Corridor, and any Metro's "eligible projects". Even PPP review balanced three transit and three highway projects...so Villaraigosa changed his Transit 30/10 to FIT the Metro process.

The "No 710 Action Coalition" developed the 710 North Notebook and provided it to Metro so they will know what the project is. Regarding the need, Doug Failing said, "We need the 710 North to

solve the congestion caused by the 710 Gap." Is the 710 for Trucks or Cars and Vans? No one has answered because Metro doesn't want to be tied down.

The "NO 710" members developed a 2010-11 schedule for the 710 North that follows the Metro processes leading to CEQA Scopings, or, as in Orange County, where the Transportation Authority shelved the SR-91/ICE tunnel because of technical, management, and costs issues. "NO 710's" Schedule follows Metro's project development steps for both the Gold and Green Line's extensions and I-605 Hot Spots (all Measure R) such as: needs, feasibility, corridor(s) definitions, alternatives, designs, and costs/financing and maybe even PPP. So now "NO 710" is focusing on Metro process before Scoping.

What is Metros/Caltrans' Grand Plan/Needs for 710 North? Caltrans/Metro need money and are focused on highways' Congestion Pricing (Fees not Taxes) with converting HOV lanes to HOToll/Express Lanes. Caltrans/Metro are adding HOVs wherever practical, but I-5 (Buena Park-Sunland) is their cash cow. However, they need to get trucks off I-5 from I-605 to SR-134 by banning trucks from I-5 and diverting trucks to I-710/SR-710 North, to I-210 North, to I-210/I-5.

"NO 710" discovered Metro/Caltrans forgot that their I-710 South's CEQA is ahead of SR 710 North, and we are coordinating with Opposition along 710 South and will link the whole North Mess with the south snow job. Even before 710 South Scoping/EIR comes out for "Public Comments", "NO 710" will focus during the next few months on LA City's project EIRs for the Southern California International Gateway (SCIG) and Intermodal Container Transfer Facility (ICTF). "NO 710" will practice on these project's EIRs and use their certified information for their freight rail transport allocations and the remaining truck loads going north to us along the 710 North Corridor all the way up to Antonovich's High Desert Corridor (+SR138).

It is going to be a long Winter, but "NO 710" is trying to melt Metro/Caltrans' snow jobs and get us in the 710 corridor informed and aware of the coming train through their blizzards.

Editors Note: D.r Tom Williams is long time El Sereno resident and an environmentalist by education and profession. He holds a PhD from UC Berkeley and spent 40 years working with CEQA water resources with Parsons and URS, and many years in Dubai, the Middle East, China, and South East Asia.

Prison Parole Story

Aug. 2010 issue

I'm an LAPD officer and just wanted to say that I appreciate your recent article about the failed parole policy. I work a gang unit and know from personal experience that even someone on "Supervised Parole" doesn't have much supervision as it is. So this policy of non-revocable parole is ridiculous Just good to see someone doing real investigative journalism and pointing stuff like that out... thanks.

*Anonymous
Los Angeles*

Thank
You

Los Angeles



Department of Water & Power

NEW

CASH REBATES

Help You Save Energy and Money



As of October 1st LADWP will increase many of its cash rebates on energy efficiency appliances and products.

- \$500 on a high efficiency variable speed pool pump and motor
- \$100 per ton on 15 SEER and above, or \$120 per ton on 16 SEER and above central air unit or heat pump
- \$50 for recycling your old refrigerator
- \$2 per sq. ft. of glass on Energy Star® windows
- \$65 for Energy Star® refrigerators
- \$50 for Energy Star® room air conditioners

Also starting October 1st LADWP offers rebates for whole house fans and cool roofs!

For more LADWP Consumer Rebate Program information and applications, visit www.ladwp.com/crp or call toll free 1-800-374-2224.

Rebate amounts apply only to qualifying purchases made after September 30, 2010. Rebates are offered for qualifying products only. Terms and conditions apply.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Valley Task Force Kicking Crime



Commander James Cancler
Assistant Commanding Officer
Operations Valley Bureau
Los Angeles Police Department

A new program was recently kicked off by Operations-Valley Bureau (OVB) to combat auto-related crimes; specifically grand theft auto and burglary from motor vehicle. This program is called, “Lock it, Hide it, Keep it.” The program was designed to educate the community concerning auto related crime and how best to avoid being a victim.

The program also introduced to the public the Department’s use of a “Bait Car”. It would be un-

wise to go into too much detail on how the bait car is used, we feel it is important to let the public know that this program is in place. Most community members are law-abiding citizens, and we want you to know we are working hard to protect you and your property. But for those who are out there to victimize and steal, we want you to know we are looking for you. We want you to wonder if the next vehicle you plan to break in to or steal may be owned and controlled by the Los Angeles Police Department, and you will be prosecuted.

The Valley Crime Task Force’s (VCTF) Bait Car Detail has been very successful during its first six months of deployment, averaging fourteen to sixteen arrests per month. In several cases, the sus-

pects' profiles were found to be consistent with career criminals who specialize in property crimes. The criminal histories of these arrestees spanned the range in severity from petty theft to attempted murder. Many of these individuals arrested were also confirmed to be on conditional release from prison (parole), or some type of a probation status (most with search and seizure conditions).

If you’d like to see the bait car in action, please check out our video posted on You Tube at the following address: VCTF Bait Car (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PwRr8YX_SWc&feature=youtube_gdata_playeraddress)

LAPD Town Hall Meeting Held



By Nina Royal

LAPD Chief Charlie Beck was the scheduled Guest Speaker at the North Valley all communities Public Safety Town Hall Meeting on Friday, September 8, spearheaded by Rubin Garcia, Safety Chairman of the Pacoima Neighborhood Council. Unfortunately, a last minute change in plan took place due to an emergency situation in another part of the city that required Beck’s participation.

Deputy Chief Kirk Albanese, top cop of the San Fernando Valley attended the meeting in Beck’s place that was held at the Alicia Broadous-Duncan Multipurpose Center. Albanese addressed the State of the Department and State of the neighborhoods and gave an update regarding crime to over 300 people in attendance. Garcia had collected questions to be addressed by Chief Beck before hand, but switched to a line up of persons who wished to speak to Albanese, which still ran smoothly as he fielded questions regarding traffic, crime and other quality of life issues.

Chief Beck has promised to attend another Town Hall Meeting that will be planned for a later date.

C-PAB Members Gathered at Annual Summit

By Nina Royal

Community Police Advisory Board (C-PAB) Members citywide attend the Annual LAPD C-PAB Summit held at the Police Administration Building in Los Angeles, Saturday, September 25. Chief Charlie Beck was on hand to welcome the group of approximately 300 people.

The event was geared toward Emergency Preparedness. Guest Speakers included Mary Grady, LAPD's Public Information Director, who encouraged everyone to keep their eyes open for suspicious persons and suspicious activities. She gave a presentation on “I Watch LA” If you see something that looks and feels suspicious, report it and let the Police make the decision if what you observed warrants follow up. It's better to be safe than sorry. For further information visit: <http://www.lapdonline.org/iwatchla>

James Featherstone with L.A. City’s Emergency Management Service spoke about his department and it’s responsibility of coordinating emergency preparedness and planning for the entire 475 square miles of the city during major emergencies and disasters. They coordinate the response, mitigation and recovery efforts, For more information visit: <http://emergency.lacity.org/>

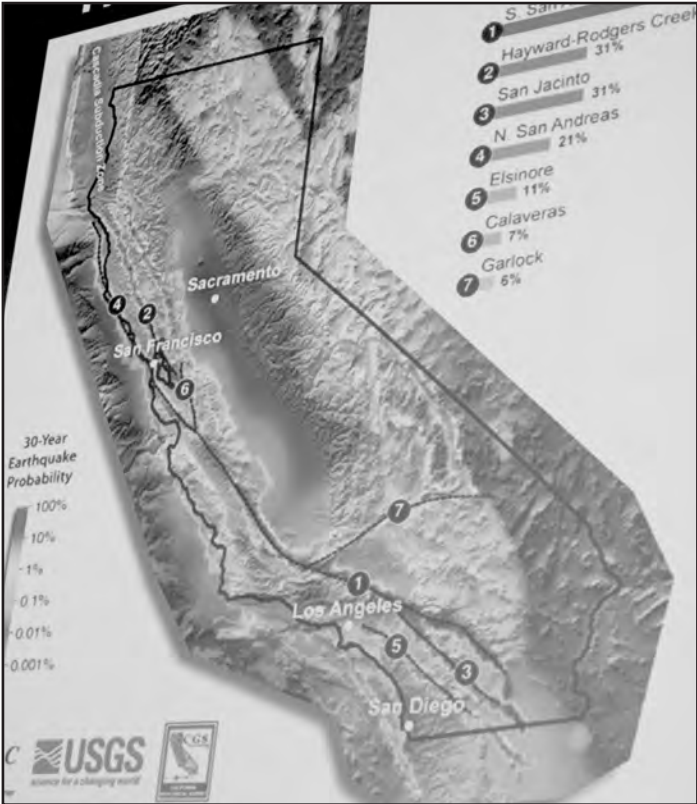
Dr. Lucy Jones, Chief Scientist of the US Geological Survey gave a very informative visual presentation on the probability of future earthquakes in So. California, including what to expect and the importance of being prepared. For information regarding preparedness and training, Visit: ww.cert-la.com

Upon conclusion, the group was given a tour of the 9-1-1 Emergency Center and the new Jail.

Editor’s note: After reading this article, I hope everyone will make a real effort to check their disaster preparation plans and supplies as soon as possible. The life you save may be your own.



Dr. Lucy Jones, CalTech



Above: LAPD Police Chief, Charlie Beck

Left: California’s earthquake faults



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Arl - Arleta, **G.H.** - Granada Hills, **K.C.** - Kagel Canyon, **LA** - Los Angeles, **LVT** - Lake View Terrace, **LTC** - La Tuna Canyon, **M.H.** - Mission Hills, **NR** - Northridge, **NVCH** - North Valley City Hall, **Pac** - Pacoima, **S-T** - Sunland-Tujunga, **S.V.** - Sun Valley, **Syl** - Sylmar, **V.N.** - Van Nuys, **PC** - Panorama City

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Thursday, Oct 7

PCNC Land Use
Mission Comm. Hospital
14860 Roscoe Blvd., PC
6:30 pm 818-894-7841

S. V. Rotary
Mandarin Terrace
8815 Sunland Blvd., SV
12:00 pm -1:30 pm
818-768-9888

PCNC-Commerce Com
Wells Fargo Bank
8548 Van Nuys Blvd., PC
2:00 pm

Healing from the Ashes
Art Show & Auction
8263 Foothill, Sunland
Documentary Film
7 pm Info:
818-445-1675

Kagel Cyn Civic Assoc.
Dexter Park, KC
11053 No. Trail Rd. KC
7:30 pm

MHNC Board & Gen Meet.
Mission Police Station
11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
6:30 pm

NHNE NC Outreach
Valley Plaza Library
12311 Van Owen St., No Ho
6:30 pm

Best Start Regional Mtng.
New Horizons
15725 Parthenia St., No. Hills
11:00 am

Fundraiser-Save VHGC
Los Rapios Restaurant
3231 Foothill, La Cre-senta
All Day

Friday, Oct 8

GHNNC Policy & Rules Comm
11139 Woodley Ave., GH
4:00 pm

Casino Night
Sun Valley C of C
Fairways Restaurant
Hansen Dam Golf Course
10400 Glenoaks Blvd., Pac
5:30 pm -10:00 pm

Saturday, Oct 9

Public Meeting
Group Homes Ordinance
M. Braude Center
6262 Van Nuys Blvd., VN
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Community Cleanup HistoricLA
Meet at Northridge Christian Church
18901 Chatsworth St., Nrdge
9:00 am - 11:00 am

Plan Check NC
Hist. Downtown O.R. Center
114 W. Fifth St., L.A.
10:00 am -1:00 pm

Little Landers Historical Society
Presents The History of the Southwest Museum at Bolton Hall Museum
10110 Commerce Av Tujunga – 1:00 pm
Info: <http://www.little-landershistoricalsociety.org/>
818-352-3420

Bolton Hall Museum
New Exhibit Opens
Out to Lunch Dining Then and Now
10110 Commerce Av Tujunga
Info: <http://www.little-landershistoricalsociety.org/>
818-352-3420

GHNNC, Rules & Policy Comm.
11139 Woodley Ave., GH
4:00 pm

Sunday, Oct 10
COLUMBUS DAY

Civic Celebration
Casa Italiana
1051 N Broadway, LA
Free 10:00 am-12:00

Monday, Oct 11
COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY

FTDNC Budget Comm
9797 Wheatland Ave., SH
7:00 pm

SNC Land Use Comm
Sylmar Park
13109 Bordon Ave., Syl
6:30 pm

Tuesday, Oct 12

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents “Out to Lunch-Dining”
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm-4:00 pm 818-352-3420

PCNC Commerce
Wells Fargo Bank
8548 Van Nuys Blvd., PC
2:30 pm 818-714-2133

SVANC Gen Meet
10631 Vinedale St., SV
6:30 pm

SNC Outreach Com.
Sylmar Park
13109 Bordon Ave., Syl
6:30 pm

Northridge West NC
Beckford Elem. School
19130 Tulsa St., Nrdge
7:00 pm

MHNC Budget & Finance
LAPD Mission Station
16161 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
7:00 pm 818-892-2414

PCNC Outreach
PCNC Office (4th Floor)
14500 Roscoe Blvd., PC
6:30 pm 818-714-2133

GHNNC Safety Comm
11139 Woodley Ave., GH
2:00 pm

Sun Valley Chamber Meet
Villa Scalabrini
10631 Vinedale St., SV
12:00 pm

Wednesday, Oct 13

Officer Appreciation Day
LAPD Mission Div.
11121 Sepulveda Blvd., MH
6:00 am – 7:00 pm

STNC Gen Meet.
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T
Refresh. 6:30 pm
7:00 Mtng..
818-951-7411
www.stnc.org

FTDNC Exec. Board
9747 Wheatland Ave., SH
7:00 pm
Sun Valley Beautiful
9081 Tujunga Ave., SV
11:30 am
www.ftdnc.org

No Ho Holly. .Nhbr’d Watch
Pentecostal Church
6800 Radford St., No Ho
6:30 pm 818-331-1398

FTDNC Equestrian Meet.
9747 Wheatland Ave., SH
7:00 pm

Pan. City Neighborhood Watch
9261 Wakefield, PC
6:30 - 7:30

Rim of the Valley Meet
13350 Herrick, Syl
6:30 – 8:00 pm

Thursday, Oct 14

Valley Alliance of NC’s
Sherman Oaks Hospital
4929 Van Nuys Blvd., S.O.
6:30 pm

FTDNC Equestrian Comm
9747 Wheatland Ave., SH
7:00 pm

GHNSNC Gen. Meeting
Granada Hills Pavillian
11128 Balboa Blvd., GH
7:30 pm

LAPD Foothill CPAB
Big Jims Restaurant
Sheldon St. & Laurel Cyn, SV
6:00 pm

Saturday, Oct 16

Fundraiser - LAPD
Devonshire Div.
St. Nicholas Greek Church
Balboa Blvd. & Plumber St., Nrdge
5:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Fundraiser –Terra Del Sol
Family Fun Fall Festival
Terra Del Sol
9919 Sunland Blvd., SSH
10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Fundraiser -Taste of Italy
Historic Italian Museum
424 No. Main, LA
\$35 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Sunday, Oct 17

Bolton Hall Museum
Presents “Out to Lunch-Dining”
10110 Commerce Ave., S-T
Docent Tours
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
818-352-3420

Monday, Oct 18

Valley Vote
Galpin Ford
15555 Roscoe Blvd., NH
6:30 pm

GHNNC Land Use Comm
11139 Woodley Ave., GH
7:00 pm

STNC Land Use Com
Re; Verdugo Hills Golf Course
NV City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd., S-T
7:00 pm

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www.GHSNC.org, www.GHNNC.org,

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Continued from cover — **Vetoed**

and Power, the Port of Los Angeles, and the Los Angeles World Airports. However, Los Angeles doesn't have an economic or community development department that coordinates municipal efforts to attract and retain private investment and jobs. City officials want their Redevelopment Agency to take on economic development duties in addition to its existing redevelopment efforts.”

Ron Kaye, publisher of RonKayela.com, a city-wide newsletter, was the first to report on AB 2531. Kaye wrote, “The legislative history of AB 2531 shows it was written specifically to empower Beutner as the city's economic czar controlling the harbor, airport, DWP, planning, building and safety and among other departments to get his hands on local, state and federal money and channel it through his hand-picked leadership at the CRA to whomever he wants.”

Redevelopment activities are funded through a pioneering concept approved by the voters of California known as "Tax Increment Financing (TIF). When a redevelopment area is formed, the property tax values on the tax roll at the time of formation become a property tax "base" for redevelopment funding purposes. To be able to create a redevelopment project area neighborhoods within it must be declared “blighted”. Under AB 2531, any piece of private land can be

seized by CRA/LA and given to another private entity that has a better use for private property. That means all the taxing entities, such as schools, will lose even more funding to subsidize these projects.

Long time activist and a neighborhood council land use committee member, Elaine Brown, lamented, “The schools are failing miserably. Libraries are closing. Public health clinics are a thing of the past. Services have declined to dismal levels. Even in high-risk fire areas, fire stations are open only on a rotation basis. With a declining population, this makes the burden on those of us who remain in Los Angeles that much more difficult. More CRA/ERA projects will make this worse.”

Lucille Saunders, President of the LaBrea-Willoughby Coalition, wrote in her letter to the Governor, “The CRA/LA has never met its mission of “community development.” It has a long history of enriching large developers and itself, and promoting cronyism.”

Ziggy Kruse, HNN-TV, agreed in her recent post regarding the Assembly Bill. “With AB 2531, CRA/LA is no longer restricted to its Project Areas. It can move in, push out the owners, pay them pennies on the dollar and give the land to any crony, be it CIM Group, Steve Ullman, Hal Katersky, Bernie Madoff, a nephew of a city councilmember, basically to any

one. All the CRA has to say is ‘We want it.’ Every single piece of property within the City of Los Angeles would have been vulnerable to CRA’s Kelo Eminent Domain power. Kruse’s piece can be seen at: www.citywatchla.com

In a May 3, 2010 report, The California Senate Office of Oversight and Outcomes found that, among other things, “There are no legal penalties for filing incorrect or incomplete information” and “The State does not verify most information submitted by redevelopment agencies.” Without any oversight on potential specious developments, every property, regardless of its zoning, is vulnerable to seizure.

Several questioned the legality of state legislation enacted, solely, for a single city.

Smyth, who voted against AB2531, said, “It is well within the Legislature’s authority to enact policies simply affecting one City, County, or special district- most of which are non-controversial.”

AB 2531 was anything but a ‘non-controversial’ policy and at the end of the day, the bill was not signed. Saunders, as well as many other community members, have vowed to keep a watchful eye on this bill and all others like it. Saunders added, “We united, got out information, and mounted a veto movement. We truly dodged a ‘big one’

Katharine.russ@charter.net

Winners of “The Spirit of Johny Carpenter Awards” Announced

By *Nina Royal*

Richard Troy, Eva Lund, and Andrea and James Guttman will receive an award for their community service in the foothills at the Eighth Annual Thanksgiving Dinner/Korean BBQ “Spirit Awards & Community Scholarships” presentation, Friday, November 19. A free dinner will be served from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm in the cafeteria of All Nations Church, 10000 Foothill Blvd., Lake View Terrace.

A Silent Auction to benefit the "New Heaven on Earth" Ranch, whose mission is to honor Johny Carpenter’s legacy by working with local schools and at risk physically and mentally challenged children.

Also included in their mission is a goal to create the “Johny Carpenter Museum” which will house a collection of Johny’s keepsakes and preserve the history of the original ranch.

A concert will follow the awards. Cile Borman and Pat Walmisley, along with church members, will be

providing musical entertainment. They are only asking the community to bring their favorite homemade desserts to share.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP so they know how much food to prepare, and also if you would bring a dessert to share. They are also welcoming contribution items for the auction of ads for their program.

For further information call: 818 470-5235 or email: lamikec@yahoo.com


First Public Candidate Forum for Election 2011 Held

L.A. Clean Sweep, a Non Partisan Political Action Committee held their first citywide Candidate’s Forum on Saturday, September 25. Candidates representing six districts and over 100 persons braved the heat to attend the event held at the American Legion Hall in Highland Park on what was dubbed the hottest day of the year. The mission of the committee is to seek and help qualified candidates to run for office.

For more information visit: www.cleansweepla.com



Left to right- Arnulfo Yanez (cd14) Amberly McDowell (cd8) Michael N. Cohen (MC) Armineh S. Chelebian (cd12) Dinesh Lakhanpal (cd12) Bernard Parks (cd8) Austin Dragon (cd10)) Anthony Butka (cd14) David Baron (cd6)



September 27, 2010, Sherman Oaks, CA. The United Chambers of Commerce has taken official positions on the following critical issues facing the San Fernando Valley, Los Angeles County and all of California.

Oppose: **Prop 19** Marijuana. Legalize marijuana for people 21 and older and allow local governments to regulate and tax it.

Support: **Prop 20** Redistricting Congress. Expand authority of Citizens Redistricting Commission (authorized in 2008 under voter-approved Prop. 11) to Congressional Districts, removing electeds from the process.

No Position: **Prop 21** Parks. Establish an \$18 annual vehicle license surcharge to help fund state parks and wildlife programs. Motorists who pay would get free admission.

Support: **Prop 22** Local Funds. Bar state from taking/borrowing money dedicated for local governments, redevelopment or transit agencies.

Support: **Prop 23 AB 32 Suspension**. Suspend state law - (AB32) requiring reduced greenhouse gas emissions - until state jobless rate drops to 5.5% or less for a full year.

Oppose: **Prop 24** Repeal Corporate Tax Breaks. Repeal recent legislation that allows business to carry back losses, share tax credits and use other formulas (sales-based income) to lower taxable income in the state.

Oppose: **Prop 25** State Budget. Change vote requirement to pass the state budget from two-thirds to a simple majority. If budget is not based by June 15 deadline, all lawmakers would forfeit salary until passed.

Support: **Prop 26** State Fees. Increase legislative vote requirement from majority to two-thirds for approving state fees, levies and surcharges (with limited exceptions). Requires local politicians to get voter approval for "Hidden Taxes."

Oppose: **Prop 27** Redistricting Citizens Commission. Reverse Prop 11, eliminating Citizens Redistricting Commission and give authority back to electeds.

We invite your comments and questions. Please direct your inquiries to the Executive Assistant of United Chambers of Commerce at: 818-981-4491 or email:marian@unitedchambers.org.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Continued from cover — 710 Tunnel

Council continues to be a strong opponent of both the surface route and the tunnel extensions.

The 710 Freeway is a 50-year old transportation policy that fails to consider how the economy, workforce habits, and transportation needs have all dramatically changed. In 2005, the Federal Highway Administration decertified the environmental impact report for the surface route and rescinded the record of decision, essentially deleting the freeway from the federal highway program. South Pasadena, Pasadena and La Cañada were all approached by the MTA, Caltrans and the Southern California Association of Governments and asked to entertain a tunnel option. South Pasadena and Pasadena took no formal position on the tunnel and voted not to oppose sound research of a tunnel option.

Some of the information that was shared with La Cañada contradicted the information shared with South Pasadena and Pasadena. Our city council was additionally asked to comment on documents that we were forbidden to read. The conclusion I drew from this request was that proponents wanted to publicly say that we were consulted, without actually sharing any information with us or garnering any meaningful input.

It became clear that project proponents were embarking on a severely flawed process of evaluating the feasibility of a tunnel as an option to a surface freeway. I have personally been misled on numerous occasions by proponents of the tunnel. The long-promised comprehensive feasibility study has never been completed and each faulty study has been followed by promises that the community's questions will be answered in the next study. To date, no one can tell you how much the project will cost and how many cars and trucks will use it. An average citizen would not choose to build an addition to his home without first knowing how many square feet

he was building and how much it would cost. Yet, MTA and Caltrans are determined to march toward the tunnel without the answer to these two basic questions.

There have been several efforts to utilize Sacramento in order to usurp the local process, most recently through a senate bill that sought to declare the tunnel as the preferred alternative to the gap closure. I strongly opposed this bill and worked to get the governor's office to veto it. I have joined with the city of La Cañada Flintridge as a vocal critic of the latest geotechnical study — not for its understanding of soils and subsurface conditions, but because it contains no comparative analysis or financial feasibility. Yet again, the proponents are preparing to move forward to the next study.

Recently, I brought my questions to the state transportation commission and, for the first time, felt that my concerns were considered. Our current city council has been doing an excellent job of collaborating with other freeway opponents and our mayors have attended many regional meetings, asking tough questions that search for answers. Many of those questions remain unanswered by tunnel proponents. There is also a renewed sense of urgency by our residents who have joined activists from surrounding communities in strong opposition to the 710. These efforts do make a difference. Writing to Chair James Earp of the California Transportation Commission, Chair Don Knabe of the MTA or Director Cindy McKim of Caltrans to share your views would be very helpful in our efforts to stop the 710.

There are some who believe that we should embrace the tunnel and trade a formal deletion of the surface route in exchange. The thinking seems to be that the tunnel will sink under its own financial weight and never get built. I disagree with this theory. I believe the tunnel proponents are serious in their desire to complete the tunnel, and that anything that we do to help it along will make

increased traffic on the 210 much more likely. A freeway tunnel in today's Los Angeles County is outdated and unnecessary. Modern transportation planners are reintroducing mass transit and alternative methods of moving goods. The cost of a tunnel option will be astronomical and since no traffic analysis has been undertaken in consideration of today's traffic patterns, there is no guarantee that a tunnel will provide the congestion and air-quality relief that would justify such an amount of money. Meanwhile, there are a number of other contemporary transportation projects that can be completed for a fraction of the tunnel's cost.

Residents in the corridor must work together and resist efforts to be split off, or splintered, by the pitting of one proposed route against others. This project will be devastating for our entire region. It is not an upstream or downstream, east or west issue. This is an outmoded, shortsighted plan on its way to becoming a train wreck. Decades of construction and billions of dollars must not be wasted on a project that does not solve a transportation problem and is unnecessary in our region. I am honored to stand with those who continue to issue a clarion call for modern 21st-century solutions that address our congestion and air-quality issues, developed in a transparent and open process, that truly considers the input and well-being of all stakeholders throughout our communities.

Editor's Note: This article was first published in the La Canada Sun, Sept. 29, 2010, and was edited to fit this space. Civic organizations in the communities of Montrose, La Crescenta, and Sunland-Tujunga also believe this project is too expensive, and that the increase in traffic will negatively impact the environment and their communities to the extent that they voted formally to oppose the I-710 extension to the I-210/Foothill Freeway.

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Golf n’ Grill offers the only Mongolian Grill in the Crescenta Valley!

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Golf n’ Grill, opened its doors in February of 2009 after a year and a half of development that transformed an abandoned lot and structure into a lush tropical garden, and a mountain café.

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THIS N THAT

Presidential Parting



Maja Trochimczyk, Poet Laureate, Lloyd Hitt and Councilman Paul Krekorian

By Marlene Hitt

It was late in the afternoon of August 8 when Bolton Hall Museum began to fill then overflow with family and friends. Well wishers gathered to celebrate Lloyd Hitt’s success as President of the Little Landers Historical Society for the past ten and one

half years and the culmination of his service in that office.

What a magnificent party it was! Lloyd doesn’t get in the “Guinness” record books of Sunland-Tujunga because another, Mel Carlson, served for thirteen years during the 1980s.

Thanks to the new LLHS President, Sheri Smith, leaders Lynn Lowry and her husband Mike, and Regina Clark the party was splendid. Sandy Shaffer-Broms served iced tea from a decorated side table, Regina had provided a lovely buffet as well as a heartwarming Power Point production she called “This is Your Life” about Lloyd and his life up until 2010.

She showed photos and documents to show Lloyd’s notable service not only in the historical society but in experience with many jobs, in the military, in U.S.C. School of Pharmacy, in the practice of pharmacy and drug store management and in church and community leadership.

Bill Skiles recorded this special moment as he took photos. There was much laughter and camaraderie shown in those photos.

The museum was so full that the chairs were all used. It was the best party ever held, honest. Lloyd and Marlene Hitt were overcome with the memories of their lives and the love of the people of Sunland-Tujunga. They are grateful to the past and present council members, Wendy Greuel and family and Paul Krekorian and our special Mil-lie from Mike Antonovich’s office. Deputies of the council members and dignitaries from the town were all there in one place.

Lloyd announced that he would still be around to fix things - he had just finished putting a new doorknob on the kitchen door.

Hurrah’s to the Little Landers officers. They will carry on to even greater accomplishments. The Hitt family thanks you all.

Editor’s Note: Marlene Hitt is Director of Bolton Hall Museum, a former Sunland-Tujunga Poet Laureate, writes for the NVR...and wife of Llody Hitt

Ghost Tour Fundraiser at Pioneer Cemetery

In a celebration of Sylmar's rich history and lore, The San Fernando Valley Historical Society and the Los Angeles Mission College Drama Club will debut Voices of Pioneer Cemetery: Flashlight Ghost Tour, a Halloween weekend performance featuring live historical reenactments and phantasmagorical installations. Performances will be from 6 p.m.-12 a.m., Friday, October 29 - Saturday, October 30 at the historic San Fernando Pioneer Memorial Cemetery, 14451 Bledsoe St., Sylmar California.

For the first time since the cemetery closed in 1939, we will hear and see dramatic interpretations about some of our local citizens who led productive lives here in the Northeast Valley, according to Jacky Walker, co-chair of the historical society’s Pioneer Cemetery committee. Our ghost tour is not a spooky show or haunted house, so don’t expect to be chased by ghouls. Do expect to be engaged, unsettled, fascinated, moved, and hopefully more involved in the community and all our rich local history.

Voices of Pioneer Cemetery was written and will be directed by Guillermo Aviles-Rodriguez, Professor of Theater/Cinema at Los Angeles Mission College in Sylmar. A walking tour will feature dramatic portrayals of some of Pioneer Cemetery's resident citizens, and historic/ghost scenes in the classical theatrical tableau vivant (living statue) style. We are excited to bring this original artistic

production to the community at such a unique historical venue, said Aviles-Rodriguez. Our actors are working hard to make their portrayals and scenes hauntingly memorable. We anticipate a sell-out crowd, so secure tickets early.

Tickets are available through Drama Club members or by order form on the historical society’s website at www.sfvhs.com. Admission is \$20 before October 15, and \$25 thereafter. No children under age seven will be admitted. Tours will launch every 30 minutes beginning at 6 p.m. with the last tour concluding at midnight. For further information contact Jacky Walker at 818-970-1286 (cell)

The San Fernando Pioneer Memorial Cemetery is the second oldest cemetery in the San Fernando Valley, and contains the unverified remains of more than 600 local citizens whose graves are largely unmarked due to long-term neglect and vandalism. The cemetery is currently undergoing an archaeo-geophysical survey to determine where lost graves are located so the historical society can proceed with further preservation. Proceeds from this event will benefit the lost graves discovery project.

The cemetery is located on Foothill Boulevard at Bledsoe Street between the Roxford and Polk Street exits off the 210 Freeway. For additional information and group reservations, call (818) 970-1286 or (818) 365-5860, or email sfvhs@verizon.net.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

HERE'S MY CARD



Carrick's Journey

—Part Twenty-Nine

By Tomi Lyn Bowling

Whisker's didn't really know what to expect when he set out on this journey. He only knew that Sebastian, Drake and Fanella would be there, where ever there was, to instruct him further. Though he started out very early in the morning it was now getting dark and Whiskers stopped quite suddenly nearly causing the woman behind him to fall over to avoid running into him. He stood in his spot, looking around at the vast numbers of people making this trek. Whiskers stepped off the path where the others continued in a line. He walked over to a thicket of trees and began to settle in for the night. Whiskers looked up inside the trees as though he was making sure he was safe beneath it. Then he suddenly let out one of his famous belly laughs, set down his big rifle, dropped his back packs and belts and jumped onto the trunk of one of the trees. He shimmied up the trunk and reached out into the branches. Much more carefully he made his way back down. He gently placed the three eggs he had found in a pile of leaves while he made a little fire. Whisker's reached down to grab one of the eggs just in time to see a small piece of shell come flying off. He was not prepared for what happened next. The appearance of a little bird head popping out of the egg even made a grumpy old man coo. Tired, hungry, and now realizing he had not found his night meal at all, he mustered up the strength to climb back up into the tree and return the hatching chicks to their nest. As he came back down he noticed the line of travelers had all but disappeared. He stepped back into the path and looked forward and back several times in disbelief. There were a few still walking but the rest had disappeared. He walked forward a few yards and then saw that one group had now gone off to the side, just like he had done. Then he noticed another and another. Everyone had parked themselves for the night. Whiskers went back to his little spot and started to unroll his blanket. A cloth packed with some meat and bread fell out as he did. He smiled when he saw the cloth. He knew exactly where that cloth had come from. He happily ate some, but not all, having to work hard to stop and save some for later.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Al Piantanida — Veteran of the Year 2010



By Nina Royal

Arleta resident, Al Piantanida, was picked Veteran of the Year for the 39th State Assembly District by Assembly member Felipe Fuentes. He was presented his award at a luncheon held at the Sacramento Convention Center on June 23.

Piantanida, a U.S. Army Vietnam Veteran, is a long time Community Activist who volunteers to help Veterans' causes, such as homelessness and health issues. He constantly puts on events as well for other community needs regarding Youth and Senior Citizens. He is Past President of the Arleta Neighborhood Council and founder of the Arleta Community Watchdogs, a Neighborhood and Business Watch that works with LAPD's Mission Station. He uses his spare time to work at the Panarama Baptist Church Food Bank weekly and is the head of the East San Fernando Valley Nature Parkway Organization. He volunteers his time for a number of activities, which includes delivery of the newspapers for the North Valley Reporter, an all-volunteer community newspaper. He will be participating in this year's SFV Veterans Day Parade on November 11, volunteering to drive someone as usual.

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Important Meeting

SAVE The VERDUGO HILLS GOLF COURSE!
The Verdugo Hills Golf Course Committee
savethegolfcourse.org

Michael Hoberman,
Investor and
Spokesperson for
Snowball West
Investments, the owner
of Verdugo Hills Golf
Course, will make a
presentation at the LUC
Meeting on October
18th.

- Updated plans for the golf course will be presented
- This is the time to send a clear message to the owners of the golf course
- If you care about preserving our precious open space, please attend this meeting and voice your opinion

Land Use Committee (LUC) Meeting
Monday, October 18th, 2010
7:00 PM
North Valley City Hall
7747 Foothill Boulevard, Tujunga 91042

For additional information, visit
www.SaveTheGolfCourse.org

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**The Heart of L.A. Veteran's Job Fair slated for
Saturday, October 16, 2010
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**The event is being held at the First Church of the Nazarene
(3401 W. 3rd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90020)
Special Guest Speakers:**

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Admiral Michael G. Mullen, US Navy
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Thursday, November 11, 2010 at 11:11 am

For more Parade information visit www.sfvveteransdayparade.com
818.837.7767