



November 2022

SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING

Bridges Academy - GYM
Tuesday, November 15, 2022
Meeting from 7:15 PM to 8:45 PM

Live Zoom for members unable to attend in person

S CRA invites everyone to join us at the November community Meeting. The door opens at 7pm with the meeting starting promptly at 7:15 pm with a police report from Senior Lead Officer, Shawn Smith.

Following Officer Smith, Our Guest Speaker, Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian will speak about current legislation and conduct a Q&A at the end.

It was last November 2021 that SCRA had its first “in-person” meeting after the pandemic. We are continuing to meet live and providing Zoom access for person who cannot make the meeting.



In 2023, Assemblymember Nazarian's assembly term will end. During his tenure, Nazarian has worked tirelessly for the seniors in our community, housing the homeless, he has sponsored programs for women's self-defense, and successfully passed legislation for the state to invest in college funding for newborn children (CalKIDS). He has introduced an Aging and long-term care bill and successfully passed the Slow Streets Act signed by the Governor.

SCRA is working to improve the sound during these meetings.

'GOLFINGLY YOURS' IS A MUST-SEE DOCUMENTARY

Save LA River Open Space board member, Kelsey McCallister, granddaughter of the prior owner/operator of Weddington Golf and Tennis has produced a documentary about the history of the property and what can happen if this open space becomes a huge sports complex as proposed by Harvard-Westlake. The link to this 30-minute documentary, can be found at: www.GolfinglyYours.net.

BURBANK AIRPORT NOISE UPDATE

It is our understanding that the long-awaited environmental assessment of NextGen RNAV departure procedures SLAPP and OROSZ, for Burbank Airport, is about to be published in draft form for public comment. We believe that the lawsuit filed by the City of LA, Save our Skies, and joined by SCRA has made the FAA more focused on the health, environmental, and safety issues created by the southern shift of Burbank departures. Additionally, use of the newer THRNE arrival procedure that has been sending vastly increasing numbers of jets on an arrival pathway over the Santa Monica Mountains into BUR, will be greatly limited, by January 2024.



BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

Meg McDonald Seltzer, SCBA President

Have you seen it? Did you have to look twice to make sure it was there?



Yes, the "Studio City Welcomes You" sign on Vineland at Whipple is installed. And while this shiny sign is currently surrounded by dull dirt, that's only temporary. SCBA is working on finding funding for planting colorful native and drought-tolerant plants and ground cover.

We know getting this sign cleared by the city and installed took a long time and tested our patience and good humor. But our teamwork made it happen. So, when you look at this photo of the Welcome Sign standing tall, be proud. We did this together.

Continuing our beautification tour on Vineland, just south of the Welcome sign, you may have noticed the weed-choked



median under the 170 freeway has been cleaned up. Credit for this cleanup and a special Studio City Beautification Association thank you goes to Tiffany Zeytounian, Studio City Field Deputy for LA City Councilmember Paul Krekorian, District 2. SCBA Board Member Andy Epstein contacted Tiffany and she quickly coordinated the cleanup. We thought you'd enjoy seeing these before and after photos.



And have you seen our Beautification Lawn Signs? We installed a dozen of these signs throughout Studio City to highlight the areas SCBA has beautified. And the enlarged QR Code offers you an easy way to make a tax-deductible donation to Studio City Beautification Association using your cell phone.

Turn on the camera app and point your phone at the QR Code on the sign. A link to the SCBA website will appear. Click on the link and you'll be taken to the SCBA donation page. Then simply follow the easy instructions to make a donation.

You can also donate to SCBA by going straight to our website www.StudioCityBeautification.org and click on "Donate" or call the office at (818) 509-0230.



Thank you for being a member of the Beautification Team that keeps Studio City looking beautiful.

Stay safe and see you in the neighborhood.

BEEMAN PARK NEW GYM UPDATE FROM CD4 COUNCILMEMBER NITHYA RAMAN

To give some backstory, when Councilmember Nithya Raman initially inherited this project, the funding gap was roughly around \$7 million. Through her office's persistence, they were able to secure \$3 million from the recent LA City Fiscal Year 22-23 budget, and another \$4 million from Federal funding. They are currently waiting for this federal funding to come online through either an appropriation bill or an amendment toward appropriations. Another obstacle encountered was that in the time between securing this additional \$7 million in funding and waiting for Congress to approve their funding, BOE estimated an increase in the cost of the total funding due to inflation. They have not yet received information as to how much additional funding may be needed but are continuing to push for the Departments to push this project forward. All that being said, they are still unsure as to when they will be able to put a shovel in the ground and have timing for anything related to the project.

CITY PLANS TO SPEND \$4,300 PER OAK TREE - MISUSE OF CITY TRUST FUNDS

The Studio City Residents Association joined with the Hillside Federation, nine individual Homeowner and Residents Associations, and six conservation groups in a letter to the Board of Public Works regarding "Public Works Trust Fund No. 834 - Oak Tree Deposit Funding Relocation; BPW-2022-0650"

This coalition, which represents thousands of residents, was recently informed of a proposal by the City of Los Angeles to use trust money associated with the removal of oak trees and other protected trees to plant street trees in areas that might be quite distant from where the trees were removed.

The letter stated that replacements for the removal of native trees and shrubs should be done in the communities where the impacts occurred.

The City has been noticeably absent from land conservation efforts undertaken over the last few decades, instead, relying on State agencies, nonprofits, and individual citizens to raise funds to preserve open space and native woodlands. Here, an opportunity has presented itself for the city to participate in preservation efforts and the city should seize it. The coalition requests that the city use the trust money to purchase land for open space which would be far more efficient than the proposed planting project.

The proposal by staff is to spend \$304,743.40 just to water 154 oak trees in a time of extreme drought. Moreover, the proposal includes spending \$288,183.28 on salaries and overtime to install and maintain these trees. Only a very small fraction of the money will go towards purchasing the trees.

The coalition requests that the Board deny the requested use of the funds and instead develop a well-planned and effective

(Continued, Page 3)

(Trees, cont'd)

program that spends the money collected for losses of native trees in the areas where those trees were cut down.

NEGATIVE RESPONSE FROM LA CITY:

At the hearing, the Board of Public Works made it super clear they had ZERO interest in preservation. They "don't do that." Period.

They are spending \$4300 per oak tree on this project. What a colossal letdown. The City of LA expects the conservancy, non-profits, and the general public to do all the conservation work. The second-largest city in the United States just can't be bothered.

HAPPY 60TH ANNIVERSARY TO SCRA



The SCRA kicked off its 60th year as a vital partner in advocating for residents of Studio City. The LA City Council adopted a resolution that was presented to the SCRA at the September Community by Councilmember Paul Krekorian and Field Deputy to Councilmember Nithya Raman, Jorge Plascencia.

"NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by the adoption of this resolution, the Council of the City of Los Angeles hereby commends the STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION for its outstanding contribution to the well-being of our city and joins with members of the association in celebrating its 60th anniversary."

The SCRA thanks the Council Members for this recognition on behalf of all of our dedicated volunteers, both past and present, who have given tirelessly of their time to make Studio City what it is today, an oasis in this big city of LA.



STUDIO CITY - SHERMAN OAKS - ENCINO COALITION SAYS "NO" TO BAD PLANNING

California State legislators, over the years, have taken local control of land-use decisions away from communities and our elected local officials and City Council. These bills mandate that certain projects will be a by-right, i.e., "by-right" means development that will not be subject to review and input of local concerns such as probable impacts on our neighborhoods, e.g., infrastructure, environment, water, fire minimum parking. All of these concerns will not come before the public or city council for any review. These bills override local zoning and are enforceable by the state. The state has created a "strike force" that will sue or impose major fines on cities that do not comply with these new state housing laws. An individual developer or special interest group can sue the city if a project is denied.

Given this, the city has to comply or else. Facing the reality that affordable housing is a major concern in our city and statewide. Sherman Oaks, Encino, and SCRA have joined to demonstrate that there are alternate sites that would lend themselves as part



TO THE MARKET

With fall comes a lot of squash, so versatile and so many varieties, they're perfect for soups, stews, pies, muffins, and more.

Fortunately, the great Southern

California weather means the Farmers Market still has stone fruit. It's not too late for a peach pie, or why not try burrata from Fresco Pasta with a seared peach drizzled with balsamic vinegar from Uncle Burch. This makes a great starter to any meal but is particularly good with pasta and scallops or shrimp from Bluewater Seafood or Fisherman's Catch.

The Market is happy to welcome Zaiqa Kitchens. They make delicious Indian food - think chicken tikka over biryani rice and samosas with a soft pastry filled with delicious meat and vegetarian fillings. They are located near the entrance to the small parking lot. Stop by for a sample.

As a reminder, dogs are not allowed at the Market. This is a health code violation. Saying an animal is a service animal when he is not is also illegal. Thank you for your understanding of this.

of the solution by identifying lots of commercial space throughout our communities where we can and should add new housing. Presently, this approach was sent to our Councilmember, Nithya Raman, with no response to date.

The governor just signed a bill that allows commercial corridors to be used for housing. In LA, we have always had that option. Let's use that option and not target single-family zoning.

The Planning Department is looking everywhere for more places to add housing. Councilmember Raman introduced a motion to have the Planning Department study the viability of using affordable housing overlay on top of the present zoning throughout the city, which includes single-family residents.

Overlays would add height (up to 33 additional feet) and unlimited density to our neighborhoods. We don't need apartment houses among our single-family homes. We have plenty of room in our commercial corridors.

The Sherman Oaks-Encino-Studio City Coalition recently established a detailed proposal and sent it to Councilmember Raman indicating how to add more housing in our communities while protecting our neighborhoods. She is currently considering the proposal yet seems hesitant to remove housing overlays in our single-family neighborhoods. Our proposal is responsible and achievable. We do not say "no" to more housing - but we are saying "no" to bad planning.

SCRA believes the coalition has done good planning. Let's see if the Councilmember is prepared and willing to work collaboratively on the proposal with the coalition.

The Planning and Land Use Committee of Sherman Oaks HOA reports that Councilmember Nithya Raman is Pushing the Affordable Housing Overlay Zones to be used in all future Community Plan Updates as the main justification for zoning

(Continued, Page 4)



**“A PICTURE IS WORTH A 1,000 WORDS.”
BE AWARE OF WHAT MAY BE IN STORE FOR STUDIO CITY
DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PERIOD OF MANY, MANY YEARS**

(Planning, cont'd)

our communities. What the overlay zones currently look like is not yet well defined. The Planning Department appears to be implementing them as a means to reduce zoning for single-family residents.

This concept, conceived by Councilmember Raman in August 2021, was marketed, in part, as an effort to create more affordable housing in Sherman Oaks, Encino, and Studio City neighborhoods. In August 2022, the City Council voted 12-0 to support her Overlay Zone motion and directed the Planning Department to prepare an ordinance that would expand incentives for developers to create more affordable housing. The City Council also instructed the Planning Department to report back on recommendations for a local incentive ordinance with an emphasis on our communities.

ASK THE SCRA

One of the functions of the SCRA is to empower its members, who are the eyes and ears of the community. The SCRA can assist by providing opportunities to make all of Studio City a better place to live. Please send questions to scraboard@studiocityresidents.org.

Q: What hours is construction noise allowed in the City of LA?

SCRA Contactors, gardeners, painters, landscapers, tree trimmers, etc. can work from 7 am to 9 pm, Monday through Friday, 8 am to 6 pm on Saturdays or Holidays (Yes, Holidays... even Christmas!) and No work on Sundays. (That's a total of 80 hours a week... I don't think it's unreasonable to ask that they confine their work hours to those 80 hours.) You can report anyone working outside of those days and hours by calling 311. Also, there is no limit to the noise they can make during their approved hours.

Q: What is the telephone number I should be using to report violations of parking restrictions in Studio City? I have someone ignoring a two-hour limit, staying all day, smoking dope, and sleeping the effects off in the car, for the past two

days. If parking enforcement is not coming by daily, it will be here forever.

SCRA: Contact Valley Parking Enforcement at 818-374-4823 to report this situation. Operators are on duty 24/7 to dispatch Parking Enforcement Officers.

Q: The signal timing on Vineland Ave was re-timed during the pandemic to allow people to get the walk sign without pressing the button. With people back to work for a while now, plus school starting up again, getting from Ventura and Vineland to Riverside and Vineland can take as long as 10 minutes... yet the side streets are getting roughly the same time being green as Vineland.

- The light at Bluffside now appears to be time 50-50 for north/south traffic and east/west traffic. There isn't enough vehicle traffic or pedestrian traffic to warrant this.
- The light at the 101 southbound freeway offramp still defaults to the walk sign, but I've only seen a handful of people crossing it ever (it's easier - and safer - to cross at Aqua Vista)
- There seems to be a new sensor at the 101 exit on the north side of the freeway. Literally, any time it senses a car it triggers a red light.
- The light at Whipple is really bad. It seems to be about 50-50 like Bluffside now (in the last few years, both lights had defaulted to walk, but at least seemed biased toward north/south traffic). I understand there's a school down that street but it doesn't warrant such a long green period.
- The walk buttons going east/west on the south side of the Moorpark/Vineland intersection are broken and, ironically enough, is the only crosswalk I really take. It also doesn't default to walk, which I'm fine with, but it's been this way a few weeks now and means I have to run against a do not walk signal

SCRA: SCRA reached out to Tiffany Zeytounian, Deputy to Councilmember Krekorian. Tiffany's response: "Automated Traffic Surveillance and Control (ATSAC) replied that these signals are all still running Covid timing where the side streets and the pedestrian timing come up even when there is no demand. ATSAC does not have a date when these signals will be returned to normal operation. It is likely that these will be returned to normal once the COVID emergency declaration is declared over by the Mayor's office but should I hear otherwise SCRA will be informed."

IT'S NOT A DONE DEAL

Fight Harvard-Westlake's Sports Complex
SaveLARiverOpenSpace.org



Get your Bumper Sticker now!

For more information on how you can get your bumper sticker, visit us at:

SaveLARiverOpenSpace.org/Get-Involved

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Alan Dymond

Artificial turf, or as I like to call it, plastic grass, is too hot to play on unless it is first cooled down with water. That fact is not unknown to our member's families who attend schools that have replaced natural turf with plastic grass. But there is more. Elements of the "grass" are made using man-made chemicals derived from petroleum. They are polyfluoroalkyl substances which are more commonly referred to as PFAS. They do not degrade, cannot be removed from our water or air, and are known as forever chemicals.

Rain, and sunlight act to accelerate the particulate breakdown of the "grass" resulting in plastic PFAS settling on surfaces. It mixes with the air, goes into the San Fernando aquifer, and drains to the Los Angeles River. It enters the bodies of those who are in proximity either just by walking or exercising there.

SCRA authorized independent laboratory tests on the artificial turf specified for use at the Weddington site. The test results and findings indicated a health risk to the public in the use of this product.

Therefore, in conjunction with Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER), a wide-ranging symposium on health risks in the use of artificial turf has been arranged. The symposium will include information on native plants and what you can do to save water, i.e., why not use nature's present solutions without causing unintended consequences?

Updates and links will be provided through our News & Notes emails and other social media platforms as details and the agenda, are finalized. For those of you receiving our Digital Newsletter, the symposium is scheduled to take place at the Christian Science Church, 4032 Whitsett Ave, Studio City, CA 91604 on November 6th at 4:00 PM. For those unable to attend the symposium, it will be recorded, and we will send a link to that recording once available.

Featured Speakers: Charles Miller serving as Moderator (Ambassador, International Climate Reality Leadership Project), Kyla Bennett, Ph.D., JD Director, Science Policy Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER), Diana Zuckerman, Ph.D., President, National Center for Health Research, Kreigh Hampel (Environmental Educator, Past Recycling Coordinator, City of Burbank), Katie Tilford (Assistant Director, Theodore Payne Foundation), and Melanie Winter (Director, The River Project).

Paid lobbyists for the River Park? A complaint has been filed with the Los Angeles Ethics Committee that three people, purported to be members of Harvard-Westlake school, have been acting as lobbyists at many public hearings, e.g. at neighborhood councils meetings to seek support for the Harvard-Westlake River Park that would replace Weddington Golf and Tennis and seeking support from such entities as Friends of the Los Angeles River and Southern California Tennis Association. The complaint alleges lobbying activities beginning February 2020 through April 2022.

According to the complaint, the three people presenting themselves as Harvard-Westlake school are Ari Engelberg, Head of Communications and Strategic Initiatives, Stacy Marble, Director of Community and Public Affairs, and David Weil, Chief Financial Officer.

The property is owned by a Limited Liability Company (LLC) that is registered with the city and state as the lobbying entity. The makeup of the members of the LLC other than David Weil is not known.

If that's not enough to deal with, how does it strike you to find out that the fire station on Whitsett may have to be removed and relocated? As revealed in the Draft EIR filed with the city, the reason given is that access to the fire station will not be available for firefighting and other related activities because incoming and outgoing traffic created by Harvard-Westlake would block access to the fire station trucks!

Harvard-Westlake traffic is designed to enter the sports complex at Valleyheart Dr. during standard hours of athletic activities plus its extra hours for special events at the "River Park".

Back to the PFAS. Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, PEER, issued a release describing the effects of PFAS compounds on public health. A new sample of Field Turf - the brand proposed for use in the Harvard-Westlake project - in its original packaging was sent to Eurofins Laboratory in Lancaster, PA, where a Synthetic Precipitation Leaching Procedure (SPLP) test was conducted. The SPLP test determines the potential for chemicals to leach into groundwater. Artificial turf is exposed to acidic rain and ultraviolet light, both of which can degrade artificial turf and result in chemicals coming off the field.

On September 30, our attorneys on behalf of the Studio City Residents Association and Save LA River Open Space, filed comments, in addition to what had been filed previously, on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Harvard-Westlake River Park Project. The latest analysis and testing provide substantial new information regarding the Project's impacts and thus necessitate new analysis and recirculation of the DEIR. Once that analysis has been conducted, SCRA is very concerned that the Planning Department will issue a Final EIR without enough time for all entities to respond to whatever is issued by Planning. Once the final EIR is issued, there will be public hearings and then the matter will go before the LA City Council.

To this end we ask our Councilmembers and the new mayor, whoever that may be, to intercede and make sure that the process is conducted in a manner that is fair and just. SCRA members and other stakeholders are the ones who must live for years with whatever happens on that property. I don't have to talk about the reality of having a sports complex not just next door but consider the impact it will have when it comes time to sell your home, your biggest asset.



SCRA In Person COMMUNITY MEETING

Tuesday, November 8, 2022

AGENDA

7:00 p.m. Meet and Greet
7:15 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

- Report from Senior Lead Officer Shawn Smith
- Guest Speaker: Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian
- Live Zoom for members unable to attend

MEETING LOCATION

Bridges Academy—GYM
3921 Laurel Canyon Blvd
Studio City, CA 91604

Free parking in school lot.
Enter on Maxwelton.



SCRA B near d@studcityresidents.org
www.studcityresidents.org

Hello Again.

The SCRA Member Discount Card is back for our **4th** year! We are celebrating the SCRA's **60th anniversary** and are proud to support our local businesses. When you renew your membership, you will receive your new Member Discount Card that is welcomed at these local businesses:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Anna Cheselka Dance | Gisele Tune |
| April Davis Investigations | Gramercy Boutique |
| Arnold's Copy & Print | Habit |
| Auto Plaza | James Thomas Stained Glass |
| Back to Wellness | La Knitterie Parisienne |
| BLVD Hotel & Spa | Matthew's Jewelry Store |
| Ceremony | Mister O's |
| Charles' Shoe Repair | Panache Boutique |
| Chateau de Luce | Pepe's Pizza |
| Classic Toys | Pizza Rev |
| Cocoa and Candy | Prosecco Trattoria |
| Creation Station Studio City | Rain Bar & Lounge |
| Dana Kathryn Jewelry | SALT Optics |
| Danielli Menswear | topdrawer |
| Diana's Boutique | The Village |
| Eye Candy Optometry | Vitello's Restaurant |
| Eyedentity Eyewear | Wild Flora |
| Flair Cleaners | |



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STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



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