



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

June 2014

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SCRA UPDATES COMMUNITY ON KEY ISSUES

The Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) May Community Meeting addressed two important community issues, the function and activities of the Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB) and major landscaping improvements on the north bank of the Los Angeles River between Whitsett and Coldwater Canyon Avenues, which will be part of the Los Angeles River Greenway in the San Fernando Valley.



KTLA's Josh Rubenstein addressed the SCRA in his role as president of the CPAB. The CPAB is a part of a community outreach program set up pursuant to a Consent Decree agreed to by the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and the U.S. government. The North Hollywood Division CPAB works closely with Studio City Senior Lead Officer Mike Lewis on its three-part mission:

1. Spearhead emergency preparedness, which organizes neighbors, block by block, to map their specific needs and address measures to be taken in the event of an emergency;
2. Establish front desk protocols at the North Hollywood Police Department in order to improve citizens' first contact with the LAPD, e.g., identifying whether an incident is within the LAPD's purview and when it is necessary to refer an incident to other city departments with jurisdiction; and
3. Create police programs and training for youth.

Esther Feldman, principal of Community Conservation Solutions, provided a presentation about the landscaping and related works to be installed on the north bank of the the Los Angeles River in Studio City between Whitsett and Coldwater Canyon Avenues. Feldman was accompanied by a naturalist, designer and contractor, each of whom spoke to their specific area of expertise.

The plan includes creation of a sloping bank down to the River along the length of Valleyheart Street with a 2:1 slope that will be too steep for vagrants to camp. At the foot of this slope there will be a planted ditch called a bioswale. This bioswale is designed to catch the runoff from the slope. By re-grading the bank from the River toward the bioswale, contaminated water will be captured and treated and not drain untreated into the River. After the natural cleaning process by the plants installed in the bioswale, the water will then percolate into the underground aquifer.

The project includes 4,000 trees and shrubs with additional seeding on the slopes and river banks. The oaks, walnuts, sycamores, shrubs and seeding are all intended to restore the native habitat and species that depend on such a habitat.

The project will break ground in Fall 2014 and will take several years to complete. Complete closure of the area is expected for approximately nine months. The SCRA will help organize community planting days in 2015 and will volunteer for other activities should the need arise. Upon completion, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) will maintain this section of the greenway.



OP-ED: CALIFORNIA'S TITLE FIGHT ENTERING NEW ROUND

by Art Yoon, executive vice president, FilmLA., Inc.

Greater Los Angeles is often described as the film and television production capital of the world. But how long Los Angeles will retain this title is in doubt, since for more than 15 years, dozens of other states and nations have lured new film and television projects away from California with generous tax subsidies.

A flight of recent studies from groups like FilmLA., the LAEDC and the Milken Institute detail the consequences of the phenomenon known as "runaway production." Each film project enticed to shoot elsewhere shortchanges local communities. Whether we measure the local impact in terms of lost middle-class jobs, reduced state and local tax revenue, or surrendered economic prosperity, the local human and financial costs of runaway production are undeniable.

Also undeniable is the solution. If California is to retain its film industry heritage, and Los Angeles to hold onto its heavyweight title, Sacramento must take action and help the state compete for new film business.

In 2009, then California State Assemblymember and present Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Krekorian championed the creation of a Film & Television Tax Credit Program for California. The program, which still operates today, allocates up to \$100 million per year in tax credits for qualified in-state film and television projects. The program rewards filmmakers who invest in California, buy goods and services in-state, and employ local film crews and talent. It also explicitly disallows tax benefits for director and star salaries, which focuses program benefits on working California families.

So do film incentives work for California? Yes and no. Since it was introduced, the current program has brought hundreds of film projects to California, creating more than 50,000 jobs in the process and injecting \$4.7 million in direct production spending into the state's economy.

But California's program has several drawbacks as well. Last year alone, the California Film Commission received 380 tax credit applications, but had resources to accept only 34 of them. That doesn't include all the filmmakers who didn't bother to submit applications because their projects - including big-budget films and one-hour network television series - are currently ineligible. Denied the incentive, filmmakers usually film elsewhere. As businesspeople, their location decisions are shaped more by the market than their preferences.

In February 2014, hope appeared in the form of Assembly Bill 1839 - new legislation authored by Assemblymembers Mike Gatto (D-Los Angeles) and Raul Bocanegra (D-Pacoima). AB 1839 calls on the legislature to make California more competitive by enhancing the state's film credit. Among other improvements, AB 1839 will increase funding and change eligibility rules.

Support for AB 1839 continues to grow, buoyed by the 74-0 passage out of the Assembly. Next up is the State Senate and the Governor, so stay tuned.

If you are in California's corner, you'll want to support AB 1839. Visit filmworksca.com for more information, and sign our petition to help Hollywood keep its title.

SCRA MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

The Studio City Residents Association membership drive is in full swing. Be sure to return your membership form when you receive it, and please ask a neighbor to join as well. You can sign up online at StudioCityResidents.org.

CONSTRUCTIONS BEGINS ON LANKERSHIM PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) has been briefing the board of the Campo de Cahuenga Historical Memorial Association on a monthly basis as part of Metro's partnership with the Studio City's historical site. Campo de Cahuenga is located next to the Red Line station and is the site of a future bridge across Lankershim Blvd. The SCRA is represented on this board by SCRA Board Member Connie Elliot. Metro has assured the Campo that the site will be accessible throughout the construction and that anything found that is of archeological significance will be protected.

The Metro has established an office on the bus turnaround section of the station. Exploratory borings have been accomplished. The bridge, which will replace the street level crosswalks, will be built both from the station side and the NBCUniversal side with parts of the bridge constructed before being taken to the site. The structure will be built from April-May 2015 with completion expected in February 2016.

During the process, Lankershim Blvd. will be closed during some nights to accommodate construction. Metro will give advance notice through on-site signage and alerts to the council districts. The SCRA will notify its members of these closings.

REMEMBERING POLLY WARD



For more than 30 years, Polly Ward was a leader in the development of Studio City. She wore many hats and attended an untold number of meetings to advocate on behalf of the community. Ward served as a vice president of the Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) for many years and was the original manager of the Studio City Farmers Market. The Studio City community owes a huge debt of gratitude to Ward for the tireless volunteer work she provided to the community.

In recent years, Ward moved to Idaho to be closer to her family; she passed away on April 2, 2014. In honor of Ward and her service of many years, the SCRA will make a donation to her designated charity. Contributions can be made to:

Lions Clubs International Foundation
"Melvin Jones Award"
P.O. Box 266
Meridian, Idaho 83680

RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY: NORTH VALLEY RIVER WALK

The Village Gardeners will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the recently completed greenway from Coldwater Canyon Avenue to Fulton Street on the north bank of the Los Angeles River. The event will be held on Saturday, June 21, 2014 at 11:00 a.m. at Valleyheart Drive and Ethel Avenue. There will be ample street parking. Visit <http://www.thevillagegardeners.org/> for artwork, murals, plans and details of the project.

BEAUTIFYING STUDIO CITY

CBS Studio Center is a big reason why Studio City looks great. The Studio brings excellent jobs and commerce here to Studio City. CBS hosts two Los Angeles television stations, KCAL and KCBS. Entertainment programs produced at the Studio are sold all around the world, and a slice of those sales stays right here in the local community.

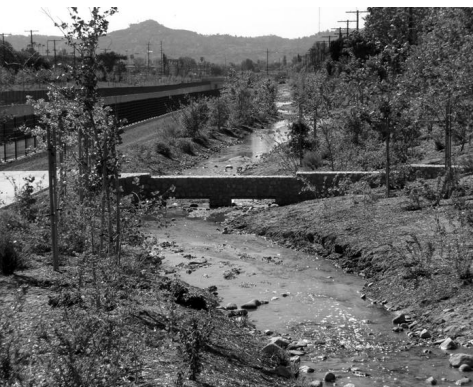
Beyond the Studio's well-known role as a leading local employer and taxpayer, it also directly contributes to the Studio City community with top management personally involved in many initiatives. CBS Studio Center President Mike Klausman is a board member of the Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA), and CBS is a leading benefactor of SCBA. Klausman personally co-founded the Studio City Farmers Market, and CBS Studio Center is the lead member of the Studio City Business Improvement District.

THANKS TO BARBARA ROBBIN

Save LA River Open Space (SLAROS) Board Member Barbara Robbin has resigned her position on the SLAROS board but will continue to remain active in both SLAROS and the Studio City Residents Association. The SLAROS board thanks her for her service as a board member.

UPDATE ON WATER ISSUES/SENATOR PAVLEY'S VALLEY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

At her quarterly Valley Advisory Committee in May at Pierce College, State Senator Fran Pavley presented an overview of the present status of water conditions, supply considerations and proposed California Water Legislation for 2014 that addresses present and future water supply problems in the state. A survey of the snow pack in the Sierras upon which Southern California depends for much of its water shows the pack is at its lowest since 1988. It is at 32% of normal levels as of April 1, 2014.



TO THE MARKET

It is stone fruit season, and the Studio City Farmers Market is teeming with fresh peaches, apricots, plums, apriums, pluots, tangerines and the ever-popular cherries. There are many varieties from which to choose, and every farmer has samples that make deciding which ones to buy even harder.

The Studio City Farmers Market welcomed two new vendors in May. Kadi Products specializes in French sheep's milk yogurt. Made with only sheep's milk and fruit and no sugar, the yogurts are thick, creamy and delicious. New flavors are added regularly and currently include orange, strawberry, raspberry, coconut, blackberry, apricot, mango, date and several others. Stop by for a sample. The yogurt can be found on the north side of the market near the children's section.

Middlebar features farm-to-table cocktail mixes and has a popular Bloody Mary mix, a wonderful concoction of farm fresh tomatoes and spices. In addition to pickles, pickled celery and rum soaked cherries, Middlebar will be introducing other farm fresh cocktail mixes depending on what is in season. Top sellers include grenadine, a chili lime margarita mix and a blueberry mix using fresh market blueberries. Middlebar is located on the north side of the market near Laurel Canyon Blvd. Be sure to stop by the booth for a sample.

The Studio City Farmers Market is presented jointly by the Studio City Residents Association and the Studio City Chamber of Commerce. Free parking is available at the CBS lot on Radford. Stop by and visit! The Market is open on Sundays from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

For comparison, the snowpack was at 39% of normal levels in 2007 (California Department of Water Resources).

Regarding the use of groundwater, during "normal" years, 35% is drawn from groundwater sources, but, in times of drought, the water drawn from groundwater is as high as 50-60%. That heavily impacts the aquifer as more water is removed than is being replenished. A March article in the *San Jose Mercury News* reported, "Despite the historical drought, many farmers are opening new acreage to more intensive cultivation, converting row crops to orchards, such as almonds and grapes that command a higher profit but demand more water to survive." Vance Kennedy, a retired hydrologist, was quoted as saying, "It's an arms race. Newly deepened wells drain the water



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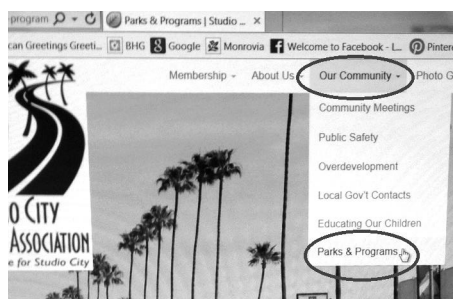
below existing wells, forcing neighbors to drill even deeper wells or risk going dry." Contamination of groundwater is another challenge that makes groundwater unusable, a fact known only too well in certain locations of the San Fernando Valley.

The Senator identified and made reference to the fact that California is the only western state that does not manage or regulate groundwater. As to storing water, she said that nearly 190 reservoirs in California are estimated to have less than half of their original capacity because of sediment build up. Possible solutions include storm water capture and use. That includes use of recycled water to recharge the aquifer.

Urgent drought legislation is in the works: Senate Bills SB 103 and 104 are before the Budget and Fiscal Committee for review, and there are three Senate bills and four Assembly bills that may be on the November 2014 ballot. The Studio City Residents Association will continue to monitor these issues and update our members throughout the year.

VISIT THE NEW SCRA WEBSITE

The Studio City Residents Association's (SCRA) new website, StudioCityResidents.org, has a wealth of information and updates on key issues of importance to the community. Summer is almost here and what better time to enjoy one of Studio City's many parks. The website's Parks and Programs page includes a map

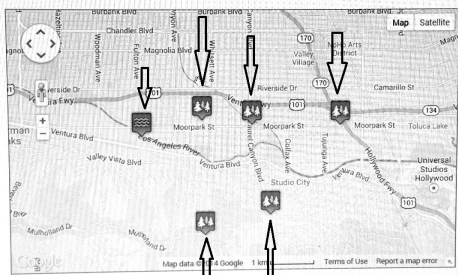


with location information about each of these much-beloved community resources. Click on any of the green park icons, which will bring up an address of that specific park with directions as needed.

Scroll down past the map for a brief description of each park. The park's name is highlighted in blue, which means there is a link to

PARKS & PROGRAMS

Studio City is fortunate to have within its boundaries five magnificent public parks for recreational and outdoor activities.



an additional website with more information. Blue text indicates the copy is a link to an external web resource.

The SCRA is interested in continuous improvement and is interested in input from its members. Questions or

comments about the website or its content should be directed to the SCRA at (818-509-0230) or SCRABoard@studiocityresidents.org.

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: I recently cut down a hedge on my property to build a fence. With the hedge gone, I found that a very bright light from the apartment building across the street was shining directly into my living room. Is this allowed?

SCRA: The SCRA spoke to the City of Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety, and the answer was "no." Lights shining from a property are required to be two lumens or less, which means no more than the light of a candle held two feet in front of you. If the Department needs to come to the property to check the light, it charges \$600. The SCRA recommended that our member first contact the owner of the apartment building to ask for a reduced wattage. In this case, the apartment owner complied.

Q: Neighbors who own the hill behind our house want to cut into the hill to create a private walking path. The SCRA told us that we would know that the process has begun when we see pink or yellow flags on the hill. Today, we saw two men walking on the hill with some hand-held 'hold up to your eye' equipment and hanging pink strips of cloth on tree branches. Is this the signal we were expecting? If so, how should we phrase our inquiry to the City? Do we acknowledge that the land owners want to create a personal walking path? Or, do we not mention we know that and instead just say, "We see survey flags; we're curious about what's going on, and we're concerned for our safety."

SCRA: Flags are a telltale sign that work may begin. There is a two-fold process to follow. Call 311, and tell the operator you want to see if a permit is being applied for at the address of the property. The operator will forward your call to a live person in the correct city department. Also, call the Grading Engineering Department directly and ask to speak to the grading inspector for your area to see if a grading permit has been requested. If there are other neighbors who are concerned, ask them to call as well. You need to tell the inspector what you know about the walking path because the inspector will be very interested in any hill cuts. State your concern that this is above your property, and a hill failure would end up in your back yard.

The Outcome: The Department of Building & Safety explained that if there is no grading required to create the private walking path on the hill behind the house, it is considered gardening, and no permits are required. However, they also said it is possible that no permits have been applied for yet because the property owners are in the early stages of surveying the hill in order to design the walking path. If grading is involved, the owners will need to apply for a permit.

Q: Why have I not seen any birds in the SCBA bird sanctuary at Oakdell on Laurel Canyon Blvd.?

SCRA: The birds this sanctuary attracts are owls and other night hunters so it is not unusual that there are not many birds there during the day.

FROM YOUR SCRA BOARD

Representatives from Sportsmen's Lodge presented the proposed remodel and expansion of the property's event center to the Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) Board. The hotel has been totally remodeled and will remain as is. The event center to the west of the hotel is being redone. The ponds will stay, but the event center will be discontinued and reconfigured as small retail shops with several restaurants. A 24-hour Equinox gym will be built on Coldwater Canyon Avenue just north of the 76 gas station at the corner of Coldwater Canyon Avenue and Ventura Blvd.

The SCRA Board agreed that the scope and scale of the project is in line with the ambiance of Studio City. The Board however, does have a few concerns, namely traffic mitigation and

parking, and decided to consult with the Studio City Neighborhood Council (SCNC) on traffic issues since the SCNC has already begun its review. The SCRA Board has requested a copy of the project's parking study and the specific number of expected users at any given time. The Board is also interested in the connection from the bike path at Whitsett Avenue to Coldwater Canyon Avenue at the western exit. At present, this is still under review in order to comply with the American Disabilities Act.

The name of the remodeled area will be Sportsmen's Landing; project managers anticipate an anticipated 100 additional jobs at the completion of the project. Sportsmen's Landing will improve the river frontage and landscaping along Ventura Blvd. The SCRA Board has not yet seen a detailed landscaping plan.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Alan Dymond

Many of the letters published in the Daily News and the Los Angeles Times about the Los Angeles Clippers suggest that comments made by David Sterling were an exercise of free speech, and that one has the right to say what one wants. That is a right we all have; however, isn't there a concomitant obligation to free speech that one should listen when exercising that right? What if one's view is expressed, and, on the other side, the opposite view is being expressed, but neither listens to the other? So where am I going with this? Not to preach surely, but to confirm that the Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) does listen to all sides and that the organization takes on a position and recommends it to our members only after conducting considerable research and listening to all points of view.

Representatives of the proposed Sportsmen's Landing have met with both the SCRA Board and the Studio City Neighborhood Council Land Use Committee, each of which raised concerns and asked for additional information. Subsequent to the SCRA board meeting, the SCRA learned that an organization has been formed to oppose the project. Additionally, the SCRA received an email asking why there are no public hearings. On this question, we learned that since there are no variances or zone changes, and the project is in compliance with the Ventura Blvd. Specific Plan, public hearings are not required. However, the SCRA has not yet independently verified that this is the case.

Other concerns are being raised about the Equinox Gym proposed for the site. Again, the SCRA has learned that the gym can be located there since it was approved in the prior application. However, the new proposal has the gym being relocated to the front of the property on Coldwater Canyon Avenue. Is there an impact on the neighborhood by this relocation change? What exactly received approval under the prior proposal and is being carried forward to the present proposal? Is it in compliance with the Ventura Blvd. Specific Plan? There will be other questions, some based on lack of information, and some that have merit.

The Studio City Neighborhood Council (SCNC) is an advisor to Councilmember Krekorian and the Los Angeles City Council. Lisa Sarkin, vice president of the SCNC and an SCNC board member, has appointed an advisory committee to further review the project. That report will be submitted to the SCNC's Land Use Committee and will be reviewed at a public hearing.

Perhaps a public forum could be arranged so all can understand what present entitlements are in place and if there are mitigation measures that would be effective. This may be the time to arrange discussions on a broader scale so all can be heard.

Alan Dymond

SCRA Committees

Burbank Airport, Chair: Chris Barnes
Crime and Safety
Los Angeles River Committee
Membership
Planning and Land Use

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Co-Directors
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Art Howard, Patty Kirby, Chip Meehan,
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Rio Vista - Barbara Robbin
Walter Reed - Bonnie Kalaf

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RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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**NO
COMMUNITY
MEETING
IN JUNE**

**July 13 Community Meeting
program to be announced.**

**For details,
visit the SCRA website
StudioCityResidents.org
or Facebook page at
the end of June.**

Meeting Location

**Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn Theatre
4222 Vineland Avenue, Studio City**

*When entering the hotel driveway, turn left and go through the parking turnstile. Drive to the end and turn right. Go to the large back lot. The handicap entrance is from this lot. Walk to the southwest corner of the lot, and signs will direct you to the Beverly Garland Theatre. **PARKING WILL BE VALIDATED at the sign-in-table.***

The SCRA thanks Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn for continued support of the monthly SCRA Community Meetings

