



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED HERE

200 condominiums
6 buildings 45 feet high
635 parking spaces



August 2009

THE STATE OF OUR OPEN SPACE/SLAROS UPDATE

State Senators Fran Pavley and Carol Liu jointly called a meeting on July 10, 2009 to discuss the future of the Los Angeles River. Save Los Angeles River Open Space (SLAROS) - formerly known as Save Studio City Golf & Tennis - joined Assemblyman Mike Feuer, Assemblywoman Julia Brownley, Maria Chong Castillo from County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky's office and representatives from Councilmember Ed Reyes' office. The MTA and representatives from the LA River Project Office were also in attendance.



Meeting attendees discussed proposals to clean up the river, clean up the surface water entering the river, recharge the aquifer under the San Fernando Valley, establish parks and recreation facilities, create jobs and act to tie together the disparate communities. There was even a tie-in to a high speed rail system. Melanie Winters of The River Project said the San Gabriel Range has three times the rainfall of the San Fernando Valley. She suggested the runoff from this range, managed and directed to the ocean by the present system river and wash channels, should be engineered to recapture this valuable resource and stored. In support, the MTA representative said the old model of getting the water to the ocean as fast as possible was no longer viable. The Project Manager and Environmental Supervisor for the Bureau of Engineering,

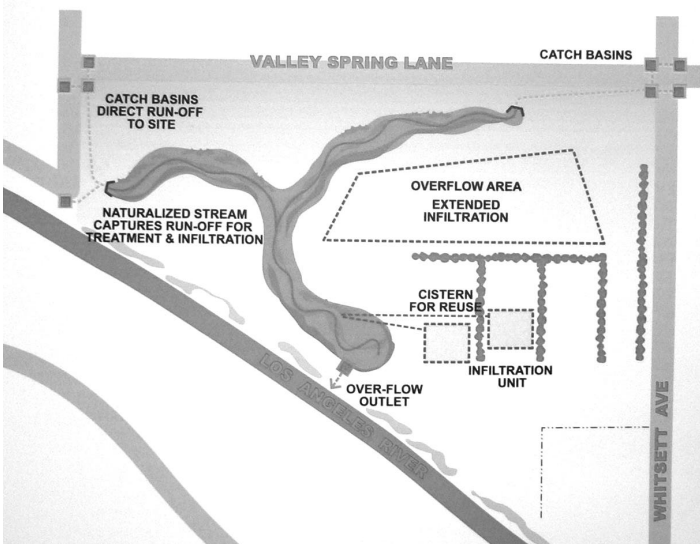
Carol S. Armstrong, PhD, gave a PowerPoint presentation that tied together the proposals to show how, as a whole, they could be very effective in addressing the ongoing problems for the benefit of all. Ms. Armstrong will speak to SCRA members later this year.

In other news, SLAROS has extended its contract with Community Conservancy International to conduct feasibility studies on the Vision and Concept Design as previously demonstrated and accepted by the SCRA. SLAROS placed an article in Studio City Lifestyle magazine explaining the present status of its development. The article was a response to the statements made by Wendy Greuel in her farewell piece in Lifestyle, which may have left the impression the status of Weddington Golf & Tennis was resolved. SLAROS remains vigilant in its ongoing efforts to preserve that open space.

On a related matter, on July 17, 2009, Assemblyman Mike Feuer held an open conference focusing on the reduction in water resources in California and the disagreements by many groups and industries about the way to solve this crisis. Part of the discussion addressed a story the SCRA has had heard many times: that channels such as the Los Angeles River that merely transport water to the ocean are in direct conflict with our needs and are actually doing a disservice, when in fact this water must be retained for use by the greater Los Angeles area. Much of what was considered at the conference supports the proposal for the 17 acres in Studio City called Save Los Angeles River Open Space.

Improve Water Quality: Integrate Natural Treatment of Urban and Stormwater Runoff

- Green approaches for capturing and naturally treating polluted urban and stormwater runoff from surrounding areas
- Assist in improving water quality in the Los Angeles River and at beaches and coastal waters
- Incorporate water recycling through storage and reuse



NEW ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY JANE USHER ADDRESSES SCRA



Jane Usher, recently appointed Assistant City Attorney as head of the signage task force, spoke to SCRA members and guests at the SCRA's July Community Meeting. Ms. Usher said Los Angeles can become a world-class city while keeping its communities intact by using new and inventive ideas. She believes there is hope to change things for the better and provided several suggestions to make that happen:

According to Usher, the community needs to be on the front line and the eyes and ears for the City: the direction Studio City goes in development and growth is up to SCRA members, who should be a voice at the table for discussions on any project in Studio City prior to the public hearing on the proposed project. Usher said whenever a fence goes up or dirt is being moved, that is a red flag. The earlier the community involvement takes place, the better. Waiting till the public hearing takes place is too late. She discussed two tools to use in identifying future projects:

ZIMAS, which gives information on any address, including square footage, zoning, building permits, etc. The easiest way to access the ZIMAS search is to Google "ZIMAS" or visit zimas.lacity.org.

The Early Notification System. Visit www.lacity.org and look at the bottom of the home page for Neighborhood Council's Early Notification System to sign up and have agendas e-mailed. Sign up with or check the Land Use Committee of the Studio City Neighborhood Council.

Usher also said the millions of dollars authorized for the Michael Jackson memorial shows the City needs a plan that defines where its obligation to provide security stops and who should make decisions on spending. She suggested the City revisit the model used in the Olympics.

Usher also addressed the number of medical marijuana dispensaries proliferating in Studio City. The law says persons who are prescribed medical marijuana can create a collective to grow and use the drug. There is no provision for selling marijuana. There are reports that some dispensaries in Los Angeles are supplied by the Mexican drug cartel.

In speaking on past matters in response to a question about signage proposed at the MTA/Universal site, Usher reiterated that environmental issues govern. She explained City Hall has worked too long on the concept that unfettered growth is the only way for a city to sustain itself and that there has to be another model.

BREAKING NEWS

Update on Bob Hope Airport

For decades, the Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority has wrangled with residents of the various communities served and affected by Bob Hope Airport operations over the noise generated by air traffic. When the Authority was established, the City of Los Angeles declined an opportunity to become part of the Authority. As a result, while City residents (such as those in the Cahuenga Pass, Studio City and Valley Village) are directly affected by aircraft noise from planes departing on Runway 15, those residents have not had an opportunity to directly affect airport operations for many years.

Despite attempts by the City Attorney to enforce various state noise standards, by residents and businesses to reach a compromise directly with the Authority, and by interested citizens through participation in a 1997 FAA Part 150 Study, the Authority has resisted all attempts to turn the current voluntary curfew at the airport into a mandatory curfew. Similarly, meetings with previous FAA administrators have failed to yield positive results. At the same time, the Authority has pursued additional development at the airport, in particular an increase in the number of gates from 14 to 19. Largely through the efforts of a few key Burbank officials on the Authority, the increase in gates, along with the inevitable

growth in air traffic and noise, has been stymied. The Authority's claims that Valley business would be severely harmed as a result of a mandatory curfew were not only unproven, they failed to take account those businesses, such as CBS Studios, that were negatively impacted by the airport's increasing operations. And, of course, the Authority failed to take into account the potential impact on home values.

Finally, after yet another study, the Authority has determined a mandatory curfew is appropriate and desirable. Accordingly, the Authority has asked the FAA for permission to implement a mandatory 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. flight curfew at the airport. The Authority has notified interested residents they should make comments to the FAA in support of the proposal or otherwise by July 22, 2009. Accordingly, SCRA has filed a letter of support with the Authority to make the curfew mandatory.

SCRA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The SCRA membership renewal drive has been a heartwarming success. Please check the mailing label on this newsletter. If it reads 6/09, then the SCRA has not received your renewal. You can renew on line at www.studiocityresidents.org or mail your check to the SCRA office. Please include your address, phone number and e-mail address.

IT'S HAPPENING IN STUDIO CITY

TreePeople Once Upon a Canyon Night takes place in the beautiful S. Mark Taper Foundation Amphitheatre in Coldwater Canyon Park, 12601 Mulholland Drive. For all reservations, please call (818) 623-4877 or email shows@treepeople.org. General admission: \$15; seniors: \$10.

Saturday, August 15, 2009, 8:00 p.m. - I See Hawks In LA in concert

Saturday, August 22, 2009, 7:30 p.m. - The Animal Guys, a unique cross section of fascinating creatures.

Studio City Branch Library

Friends of the Studio City Library: A visit with America's First Lady of Crime, Faye Kellerman, on August 24, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Faye returns for a second appearance, joined by her daughter, Alyza Kelleman, with whom she has co-authored a new young adult science fiction novel, Prism. Kellerman will also discuss her brand new Peter Decker/Rina Lazarus mystery series novel, Blind Man's Bluff. Both events are free, but seating is limited and on a first come, first serve basis. Books are available for purchase at each event.

Book Donations: Every Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Book Sale: Saturday, August 29, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Please bring bags or boxes for purchases.



Banners acknowledge those who put much effort into the Oasis project. The Studio City Beautification Association is moving forward towards completion.

COMMUNITY CRIME REPORT

By SCRA Crime & Safety Committee Chair Tiffany Petroc

Editor's Note: Studio City Senior Lead Officer Mike Lewis's article will be appear next month.

Neighborhood Watch Pays Off for Local Residents

Last month, informed and alert residents helped the Los Angeles Police Department apprehend a criminal who was responsible for a string of burglaries and lewd acts in eastern parts of Colfax Meadows. A number of residents along Kraft and Tujunga, between the Los Angeles River and Moorpark Avenue, witnessed a young white male, about 20 years old, committing crimes and reported him to Senior Lead Officer Mike Lewis. Neighbors communicated with one another through emails, conversations and surveillance video clips of the suspect to ensure everyone was aware of the suspect's description, actions and whereabouts. Within a week of the



TO THE MARKET

If you can't get enough of this year's sweet summer fruits, come to the Studio City Farmer's Market and taste the wonderful peaches and variety of plums our local farmers have to

offer. Tomatoes are starting to flood the market with at least five different varieties of cherry tomatoes and everyone's favorite - heirlooms. Yang Farms has an interesting collection of heirlooms. New at the market is Domenico's Artisanal Food, who replaces Barbara from Pacific Ocean Harvesters who retired last month and will surely be missed. Dominick, the owner of Artisanal Foods, is a wonderful chef and makes the best sundried tomato pesto used by Wolfgang Puck and featured on the Food Network.

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.

communication flurry, the police apprehended the suspect on a lead from residents who phoned the LAPD after spotting him. Using fingerprints to identify the man, the police determined he had a criminal record and was in violation of his parole. Officer Lewis expects the criminal will get a lengthy sentence and would like to thank all neighbors involved for their diligence and commitment to making Studio City a safer place to live.

Be Diligent - Report Crimes to LAPD

Sometimes, when residents are victims of burglaries, they do not file police reports, if articles stolen from their house or a vehicle are not expensive, or if they do not intend to report the theft to their insurance company. It is very important for residents who are victims of any theft to contact the police department to file a report. The police use these reports to apprehend suspects and minimize crime in Studio City. Without an accurate account of burglaries taking place, the police cannot be aware of any increase in crime within a particular neighborhood. Senior Lead Officer Mike Lewis uses crime data to help assign where LAPD officers should focus efforts in Studio City and to identify where Neighborhood Watch meetings may be helpful. In addition, if the police make an arrest, and the suspect has stolen property in his possession, they use the filed police reports not only to return the stolen property to its owner, but also to link the burglar with specific incidences of theft. Without a set of full police reports, the extent of the thief's criminal behavior will not be realized and could minimize the burglar's sentence.

Community Policy Academy begins this Month

The Los Angeles Police Department will begin the next Community Police Academy class on August 27, 2009. The academy is for citizens who would like to become more familiar with police operations. The classes are held for 10 consecutive Thursdays with a graduation date of October 29, 2009.

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(Crime Report, cont'd)

Citizens will learn about a variety of police operations, including air support, communications and patrol functions. If you are interested and/or have questions, you can contact Sergeant David Delgado, Officer in Charge, North Hollywood Area Senior Lead Office, at 818-842-1557.

Homeless at Library Reported

A representative from the Studio City Residents Association spotted four individuals, two women and two men, with sleeping bags and belongings one Thursday morning at 9:00 a.m. in front of the Studio City Library. The people appeared to be homeless and camping overnight under the overhang near the entrance to the library. The people were reported to the LAPD, and the police will be patrolling the library over the next couple of weeks to ensure individuals are not sleeping there nightly.

FROM YOUR SCRA BOARD

New Board Member: The SCRA Board welcomes Barry Johnson as the newest member of the board. Barry is shepherding Studio City's much sought after Zoning Overlay through the Los Angeles Planning Department (see related article). Barry reported that pursuant to a request from Councilmember Paul Koretz (City Council District 5), the hearing on "Hillside" designations at the City Council's Planning and Land Use Committee was continued. This delay has forced the Planning Department to proceed with the Studio City Overlay, excluding those properties designated as flat south of Ventura Blvd, and will delay the protection of these properties from mansionization.

Los Angeles River: Board member Connie Elliot was elected chair of the SCRA's newly formed Los Angeles River Committee. Connie lives adjacent to the River and has been heavily involved in all aspects of the RIO project and the River Master Plan. Connie is also a board member of the Campo de Cahuenga Historical Memorial Association.

Transportation: Todd Royal, SCNC Transportation Committee Chair, met with the Board to discuss transportation issues in an advisory capacity. Two SCRA Board members, Bill Harmond and Barry Johnson, sit on the SCNC Transportation Committee. Apparently the smart crosswalk at Tujunga south of Moorpark is not effective in ensuring the safety of pedestrian traffic at this busy business section of Tujunga. Colfax Bridge is scheduled to be demolished, and traffic rerouted through Tujunga. Todd reported the vehicle count may be large enough to warrant a full traffic light at the intersection where the smart crosswalk was installed and, in order to slow traffic down, the City is considering re-striping the street to create one lane in both directions.

Civic Committee: The longstanding Civic Committee has disbanded at the request of its members. This group originally started as the Women of the Chamber to help promote

business, then morphed into a Studio City Civic Committee through the SCRA. The committee raised funds for schools, youth programs and other civic organizations. The committee inaugurated the "The Fran Quigley Award" in 1994, which has been presented to recipients for activities that better Studio City. The Board voted to continue presenting the "The Fran Quigley Award."

STUDIO CITY OVERLAY ORDINANCE UPDATE

On July 8, 2009, the SCRA, along with the Studio City Neighborhood Council Land Use Committee chaired by Lisa Sarkin, joined the Los Angeles Planning Department in holding a community workshop on the potential overlay. This meeting was the first of hearings on the proposal to enact an overlay that will be in addition to the recent mansionization ordinance. The overlay would adjust the floor area ratio (total floor area to lot size) of single family residences so future projects and remodels will be in greater alignment with the scale of existing neighborhood homes.

There were comments shared both in favor and against the proposal. When a meeting attendee asked why the City is bringing this proposal, given its usual need to increase the property tax base, the Planning Department explained this proposal is not city driven but was developed by the residents of Studio City who want to see reasonable control on the overbuilding that has been taking place.

For further information, contact overlay@studiocityresidents.org.

FREE TREES

Does the summer sun cook your roof? Are your cooling expenses out of control? Is the driveway far too hot?



Here's a great deal that can help cool you down. The City of Los Angeles is offering every homeowner in Studio City as many as seven shade trees free.



Visit: <http://www.ladwp.com/ladwp/cms/ladwp000744.jsp> and browse the brief section on planting these new trees. Pass the easy quiz. Submit your application, and, voila, free shade trees will be delivered to your door.

For additional help or to get answers about the free tree program, call 800-473-3652 and select "Trees for a Green LA" or email Tree.Program@ladwp.com.

ASK THE SCRA

Editor's Note: Email your community questions to scraboard@studiocityresidents.org

Q: There are so many recommendations floating around about how best to dispose of medications. What is the best method?

SCRA: The SCRA was advised at its June Community Meeting by Board of Public Works Commissioner Cardenas that the recommended method is to place all unused medications in sealed plastic bags and place them in the trash. Commissioner Cardenas said the Bureau of Sanitation does not want medications entering the waste water disposal systems.

Q: How do I get rid of my old batteries? Aren't they considered hazardous waste?

SCRA: Yes. Batteries are indeed hazardous waste and should not get into the landfill. Other examples are old TV's, unused paint and solvents. Take them to a hazardous waste disposal

site. The closest sites are in Sun Valley at 11025 Randal Street (hours: Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) and in Glendale at 4600 Colorado Blvd. (hours: Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) Look up "LA City Hazardous Waste" online, which will provide a web site with detailed information about what items fit the hazardous waste description.

NOTICE TO ALL SCRA MEMBERS AND GUESTS:

No Community Meeting in August.

Meetings resume on
September 8, 2009.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Alan Dymond

The title of the book written by then Senator Barak Obama, [Audacity of Hope](#), has a certain ring to it. Whether one has read the book or not, this title raises the question whether we can be audacious enough to hope to overcome the inertia in the manner in which Los Angeles is run: can we, the activists, organizers and, ultimately, the voters, change the old tired political model.

For instance, the Los Angeles Planning Commission had before it the issue of huge digital electronic billboards at the Convention Center. Our newly elected City Attorney Carmen Trutanich requested a two week continuance on the hearing so his office could, in effect, review what had been proposed, or, in other words, take a fresh critical look. Normally and historically, such a continuance would be granted as a courtesy to another city office. Yet, this request failed miserably. It wasn't even DOA: it was stillborn. Commissioner Father Kezios made a motion for the continuance, and one of our members, Barbara Monihan Burke, spoke in support of the motion to continue and asked the courtesy be extended to the City Attorney's office. And what happened? Not one Commissioner would second the motion in order to get it before the board: it didn't even get to a vote. Would our City Attorney have found something of concern? Maybe or maybe not. But what harm could there be in a two-week continuance on the hearing? By the way, didn't Carman Trutanich win by a landslide? Wasn't it an upset to the downtown machine? Didn't he run on a platform to which the voters related? As part of his campaign, didn't he seem prepared to look into the billboard issue?

This now leads to matters of great concern to all of us here in Council District Two when we vote in September to fill the vacant councilmember seat. The issue of who should be voted in as the representative of the people in our council district is not complicated. Who has first-hand knowledge of the local issues? Who has experienced the day-to-day problems and, more importantly, on a broader platform, who will not be beholden to business as usual and be an independent voice.....for us? And who is backing which candidate?

So back to [Audacity of Hope](#). Do not despair, there is hope, and we can change things for the better. All we need to do is to figure out who is the best candidate for Studio City. Remember, the last thing the politicians want is for us to go vote. It is so easy for them to have their core supporters determine the outcome of the election by keeping the turnout low. Let's not let them do this to us.

Our council district is shaped like a barbell. Historically, the outcome of elections for the district has been determined by how the lower half of the barbell votes. And that includes all of us here in Studio City: we know what we have to do. Absentee vote anyone?

Alan Dymond



NO COMMUNITY MEETING IN AUGUST

September Community Meeting:

September 8, 2009

7:00 p.m. Light refreshments

7:30 p.m. Greg Bartz, Neighborhood
Outreach Representative for
the Los Angeles Department
of Water and Power on the
status of water use
restrictions.

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.*



SCRA Committees

Crime and Safety
Los Angeles River Committee
Membership
Overlay
Planning and Land Use
Studio City History Project

Officers

Alan Dymond, President
Mark Batterman, Exec. Vice President
Bonnie Goodman, Exec. Vice President
Claudia Freedle, Admin. Vice President
Connie Elliot, Secretary
Laura McKinzie, Treasurer

Board Members

Barry Johnson
Beth Dymond
Bill Harmond

Steve Hirsh
Bonnie Kalaf
Andrea Neumann
Tiffany Petroc
Robin Seidel

Immediate Past President

Art Howard

Beautification Association

Bill Harmond, Executive Director
Francesca Corra, Director
Rick Rabins, Director

Park Advisory Board Liaison

Mark Batterman

Director of Animal Welfare

Robin Seidel

Save L.A. River Studio City Open Space

Co-Directors
Laurie Cohn, Alan Dymond, Kathy
Hassett, Steve Hirsh, Art Howard
SaveLARiverOpenSpace@studiocityresidents.org

School Liaisons

Carpenter - Bonnie Goodman
Oakwood - Tammy Lundgren
Walter Reed - Bonnie Kalaf

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