



STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Your Advocate for Studio City

September 2019

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SCRA COMMUNITY MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 10TH

Guest Speaker Councilmember Paul Krekorian; presentation by Andy Rodriguez and Miles Orr, Department of City Planning, Community Planning Division speaking on the Community Plan Update

Councilmember Paul Krekorian is chair of the Budget and Finance Committee. He serves on the boards of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), Metro link and the San Fernando Valley Council of Governments, a coalition of leaders advocating for the Valley's two million residents and many other committees all of which concern our members and residents.



Andy Rodriguez and Miles Orr will be speaking about, and gathering community input on updating the Southeast Valley Community Plans that are over 20 years old. Input into this plan is vitally important to our community. This updated plan once adopted will guide building heights, density, zoning and more for the next 10 years.

On October 1, 2019 - Special Meeting. Harvard Westlake and its proposed HW River Park development on Whitsett will be the subject of a special meeting that is hosted by the SCRA and Save LA River Open Space. Harvard Westlake has been invited to present their proposal. A question and answer session will be conducted. Further details to follow.

For those who are unable to attend, written questions may be submitted to Scrboard@StudioCityResidents.org, or call the office at 818-509-0230 and leave a message with your question.

FAA ADMITS FLIGHT PATH MOVED OVER OUR COMMUNITY *Update from UpRoarLA*

FAA met with STAFF from the following offices: Cong. Sherman, Cong. Schiff, Sen. Feinstein, Sen. Harris, LA City Council Members Krekorian, Koretz, and Ryu, LA City Attorney, City of Burbank, City of Glendale, City of Pasadena, City of Los Angeles, BUR Authority, BUR, LAWA, VNY, Southwest Airlines, Alaska Airlines, American Airlines. Also included were lobbyists from Airlines for America and the National Business Aviation Association. Members of the public were not included or allowed to attend.

It was a 2+ hour meeting. Significantly, the FAA admitted the flight path out of BUR has shifted south over our community, but FAA staff claimed to not know the cause.

From the information UproarLA was able to gather, the FAA spent much of the meeting on a long presentation that will be made available to the public. The FAA spoke at length about the history of both BUR and VNY airports and how noise generation from planes has changed since the 1960s. The presentation also included information regarding airspace pre-post SoCal Metroplex (aka NextGen), passenger growth at both VNY and BUR.

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(FAA, cont'd)

FAA staff also stated there will be a contract in place with whomever it hires to conduct the Environmental Assessment by the end of fiscal year, September 30, 2019.

We hope this meeting heralds a quick resolution to our suffering. We need meaningful solutions now.

Please continue to email/call the offices of the officials listed above and let them know how this new path is effecting your lives and our community. Tell officials there are clear, easily implementable solutions that could be put in place. **RIGHT NOW.** We need their help holding the FAA and BUR accountable.

FROM YOUR BOARD

A Request For Permit Denial

The Studio City Residents Association (SCRA) joined the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Sunshine Hill Residents in opposing the removal of 6 Interior Live Oaks on the hillside located at 11472 West Laurelcrest Drive. As stated in the said Santa Monica Conservancy position e.g. the entirety of the subject property is located within the Santa Monica Mountains Zone (established in Section 33105, California Public Resources Code), an environmental resource of critical concern. CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2(a), which lists Exceptions to Categorical Exemptions makes it clear that the subject project is ineligible for a Categorical Exemption due to its location.

Los Angeles has a tree protection ordinance for the purpose of making an informed judgement about native habitat, both plant and animal, and the overall social benefits in keeping the character of our neighborhoods. The proposed tree removal and destruction of a verdant hillside in the Santa Monica Mountains zone would be a significant biological impact that must be addressed in a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND).

The Studio City Residents Association's position is that the subject tree removal permit be denied, or continued until further environmental review has been conducted by the City, and a MND has been circulated for public comment.

Board of Public Works file: BPW-2019-0508, located at 11472 West Laurelcrest Dr.

MONITOR USE OF CITY FUNDS

At the July community meeting, LA City Controller Ron Galperin gave our members an incredible road map on transparency at City Hall. Galperin stated that LA City is a Big business Non Profit and public trust must be built into the system. In his capacity as Controller, Galperin has

established a user friendly on line collection of data in order to have a more responsive government that works for all. Information can be accessed at www.LAController.org

One example is the Property Panel that is now available to us. This is a guide to publicly-owned properties in the City of Los Angeles. Galperin has mapped more than 792,000 publicly and privately-owned properties within its boundaries of the City of Los Angeles. The Property Panel map takes a look at nearly 14,000 properties in the City owned by six major public entities, including 7,508 properties owned by the City itself.

The L.A. Controller's site has information on free tax preparation and parking tickets and Checkbook LA, funds that are available to tap into for specific uses, also how to do business with the City of LA and many more useful tools for use by the public.

Communities can use this data to address and find solutions for community issues, find funds for community projects and for general activism. Galperin's aim is to bring transparency to City Hall. You can access this information at LAController.org.

BEAUTIFICATION UPDATE

Meg McDonald Seltzer, SCBA President

Good news, the Studio City Beautification Association's proposal to put a "Studio City Welcomes You" sign on the Vineland median at Whipple has been approved by the city and permits are now being issued. If it seems to you that it's taken a long time to get approval, you're right. What we all thought would be a straight forward process turned out to be a 1000 piece jigsaw puzzle. But finally, we have the green flag to fabricate and install the sign. And getting the 'go sign' is thanks to the due diligence and tenacious follow through by our wonderful vendor Signs and Services Co. Stay tuned.

And a big thank you to our maintenance crew SK Landscaping for their quick work getting the light fixed at our Studio City Welcome sign behind Ralphs on Ventura Boulevard. The light went out when vandals kicked it in, but it's back on now and shining bright.

And speaking of shining bright, the Studio City Beautification Association invites you to shine a light on the beauty of our

community...in pictures...taken by you. Your photos will be published on our Facebook page and

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(Beautification, cont'd)

Instagram account, and you'll get a photo credit byline. For reference on the sort of photos we use, "You can follow us on Instagram @StudioCityBeautification."

Pictures can be of anything you think shows off the beauty of Studio City. They should be clear, in focus and hi-res with a brief description of where the photo was taken, i.e. street name, nearest cross street. And you can be in them too! We encourage you to visit our beautification sites and take selfies. For a list of beautification locations, go to www.studiocitybeautification.org

In an effort to insure submitting your photos is a smooth process, SCBA created a special email address that is simple and relates to what we're doing "mystudiocity@gmail.com"

Please add this email to your phone contact list so you can submit your photos and descriptions with ease. All submissions will go straight to the 'desk' of our board member and skilled social media specialist Christine Hsia. Studio City is our community; let's show off its beauty!

See you in the neighborhood.

WHO IS THE SCRA AND WHERE IS IT NOW?

In 1962, SCRA was an organization founded by local residents. Its first major action with a successful outcome was to oppose a slated State Highway Plan, Route 170, that would cut a freeway through the heart of Laurel Canyon from the Valley to the Westside. Local resident Benjamin Warfield Bennet spearheaded the effort by going to Sacramento with the support of many in the Valley and from those in and on the other side of the hills. "Ben", as he was known, later became president of the SCRA which was then incorporated in 1977. In 1984 a SCRA Beautification committee was spun off to incorporate as Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA), a nonprofit able to accept tax deductible contributions. In 2004 another SCRA committee, Save Studio City Golf and Tennis Committee, incorporated as Save LA River Open Space (SLAROS), a nonprofit able to accept tax deductible donations. These three nonprofits working together and sharing resources are managed by our volunteers calling on outside professional help from time to time when necessary to advance its joint objectives.

One achievement which all involved can be jointly proud of is that from 1989, the SCRA committee (later incorporated as SLAROS), opposed many proposed condominium developments on what was then Studio City Golf and Tennis. SCRA and SLAROS continued with the wishes of



TO THE MARKET

With summer in full swing the fruits of the season are ripe for glorious pies and sweet desserts of all kinds. Prefer something savory? It's also squash season, and the

variety is mindboggling - there's a different squash for every day of the week.

The Market is happy to welcome Ferment This, makers of kombucha, tonics and a blend of roughly 25 organic vegetables and seven organic fruits (depending on seasonal availability) fermented for 30-60 days. This is considered the most enzyme rich food in the world and one serving is considered to have more probiotics than an entire bottle of the most potent probiotics. Ferment this is on the north side of the street near Radford, Stop by for a sample.

the Weddington Family who considered themselves as part of the valley community that this site, although privately owned, would remain as an open space with access for the greater community. To this end the Weddington family were active in making it a benefit to the community and be incorporated into the Sherman Oaks-Studio City -Toluca Lake District plan (Ordinance 142584) as open space for use by the community as was intended by the family.

Some call it the crown jewel, our Studio City Farmers Market. The Market started in 1999 with a joint ownership between the SCRA and the Studio City Chamber Commerce Foundation. This joint effort was duly qualified by the IRS as a nonprofit, a true community benefit farmers market because after necessary expenses are paid, all net proceeds are distributed back into the community through a series of grants in various amounts to other nonprofit organizations in Studio City and in other localities.

Other Highlights worth a mention: 2008 Fought Mansionization in Studio City after a long-involved battle, 2012 Helped secure funding for Carpenter School to install an outdoor lunch area, and 2016 with the help of the neighborhood prosecutor and LAPD, security cameras installed at the trailhead parking lot at Fryman Canyon

Finally, SCRA partnered to secure public funding to revitalize the LA River south bank bike path landscaping from Laurel Canyon to Whitsett in the amount of \$420,000.

These are just a few of the milestones along the way. The big ones start at "impossible!", then "improbable" but then

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(SCRA, cont'd)

seeing it become "possibly probable?" then on to "probable" then finally "success". Success by building on those who went before, financial support from our members, cooperation from many city departments and elected officials and their staff at both local and state levels, and a core group of hard-working volunteers, all whose efforts, when combined result in SUCCESS.

SCRA SLAROS SCBA. All three are still here for our community and will remain so.

HAVE YOU RECEIVED YOUR SCRA MEMBER CARD?



The New SCRA Member (Discount) Card is a Win-Win for Residents and Businesses.

At publication, twenty-six local Studio City Businesses are now offering a special offer or discount to current membership, with more merchants signing on:

Belle Bakery * BLVD Hotel and Spa * Ceremony * Classic Toys * Dana Kathryn Jewelry * Danielli Menswear * Flair Cleaners * Gangadin Indian Cuisine * Indian Art Center of California * James Thomas Stained Glass * Kit Kraft * La Knitterrie Parisienne * Lemonade * Matthew's Jewelry Store * Mister O's * Panache Boutique * Pepe's NY Pizza * Pinz Bowling Center * Rain Bar & Lounge * Rudy's Barber Shop * Spa Le' La * Sportsmen's Lodge * Victoria's * The Village * Wild Flora and The Yellow Balloon.

If you haven't renewed yet, it's easy to do it, just go online at www.StudioCityResidents.org, click on Membership and follow the links. Click on the yellow icon for more information on the all new SCRA Member Card. Follow the prompts to see the most current list of participating businesses and offers.

Be sure to give us your email address to receive periodic updates on Airport noise, Weddington Golf and Tennis and many other issues affecting your lifestyle. The database is capable of taking two email addresses per household.

The all-volunteer SCRA Board of Directors thanks you for your continued support.

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 don't know if this something the SCRA can do anything about but the alley behind CBS (from Radford to Colfax) is a landmine of potholes. Can the City get in there and repave or at least repair the dangerous potholes.

SCRA: Vice President Barry Johnson who is also transportation Chair of the SCNC. Barry states that there are probably about 50 potholes. So far, only one big pothole at Carpenter and the alley has been filled. Krekorian and his staff are aware.

Q: What can be done about litter at 101 Freeway at Vineland Avenue?

SCRA: A Customer Service Request was filed by Vice President Barry Johnson, with Caltrans to clean up Litter - Trash and Debris from the Southbound 101 Off-ramp to Vineland Avenue. Customer Service Requests can be filed with CalTrans at <https://csr.dot.ca.gov>

Q: Good morning, who do I call about scooters being left at my house? It's been there 3 days.

SCRA: Contact the Scooter Company directly. We know of no government office that will respond.



GREENWAY CLEAN UP STUDIO CITY.

Audubon Center at Debs Park, the MRCA plus many volunteers once again cleaned up the Greenway that is adjacent to the river and the Golf and Tennis property on Whitsett. At one "community meeting" at the Six restaurant an announcement was made encouraging HW students, staff and others to help. By all accounts the event was deemed a success by the volunteers such that more are planned. Keep posted for further events at this Zev Yaroslavsky LA River Greenway. Photo courtesy of Silvia.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2020: STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The election for the Studio City Residents Association offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, for the 2020 term will take place at the Annual General Meeting, January 14h. 2020.

Nominations for the above officers may be filed in writing at the SCRA offices, 12069, Ventura Place Ste H or by mail, SCRA, P.O.Box 1374, Studio City, CA, 91614 no later than October 10th 2019. Attention: Nominating Committee, Martha Hanrahan, Claudia Freedle, Robin Seidel. Pursuant to the bylaws, Alan Dymond, as President, will act as chair of the committee.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Alan Dymond

The news in 2017 that Harvard Westlake had purchased the Weddington Golf and Tennis site was received with extreme caution and concerns.

The SCRA had been seeking funding to buy the property from the Weddington heirs, who were willing sellers, and place it in the public domain as open space under city control such as the LA Recreation and Parks department. But the recession hit, and it was impossible to get any public funding despite support from our elected officials at local, state and federal levels.

SCRA is not an organization that gives up easily, so it consulted with the Trust for Public Land. One solution they suggested was that a public private partnership be considered, a model that has been successfully used many times in many cities. So, when Harvard Westlake came onto the scene, could they be one of the partners? Would the wishes of the elders of the Weddington Family, that it remains privately held and open to the public, be taken into consideration? Would it balance the interests of Harvard Westlake with those of the Studio City community?

The present project now called the "HW River Park" started out being referred to on their website as the Harvard-Westlake Community Athletic Center. The name was then changed to Harvard-Westlake Athletic Center. The "HW River Park" plan has six of 16 acres open to the public, removes golf and cuts the number of tennis courts in half. The proposed project has caused concern to our members and the neighborhood as it has grown from practice fields relieving pressure on the main campus to include, among other elements, an Olympic-size swimming pool, bleachers and a 500-car garage. What was to be locker rooms and showers for the students became a full-size gym consisting of three basketball courts spread over close to an acre.

Harvard-Westlake's proposed development represents a dramatic shift in - and intensification of - land use that raises concerns among our members and the extended community including:

- Quality-of-life intrusions by school and their guests that affect the neighborhood's safety and tranquility*
- Limitation or elimination of continued public access to historical recreational space*
- Detrimental impact on Studio City environment, continuing far into the future*

SCRA and SLAROS have scheduled a Special Community Meeting on Tuesday October 1, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. Thirty-sixth Church of Christ Scientists, 4032 Whitsett Ave, and Studio City.

Harvard Westlake has accepted the invitation to make a presentation to the community and address the concerns and respond to questions. All are invited.

Alan Dymond

SCRA Officers

Alan Dymond, President
Barry Johnson, Vice President
Claudia Freedle, Admin. Vice President
Connie Elliot, Secretary
Charles Blakeslee, Treasurer

Board Members

Beth Dymond
Martha Hanrahan
Stephen Sass
Robin Seidel
Karen Younce

Beautification Association

Meg McDonald Seltzer, President
Beth Dymond, Vice President

Connie Elliot, Secretary
Charles Blakeslee, Treasurer

Board Members

Andy Epstein
Christine Hsia
Barry Johnson
Karen Younce
StudioCityBeautificationAssoc@gmail.com

Save L.A. River Studio City Open Space Officers

Alan Dymond, President
Laurie Cohn, Vice President
Chip Meehan, Vice President
Beth Dymond, Secretary

Charles Blakeslee, Treasurer
Board Members
Patty Kirby
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Studio City Farmers Market

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Newsletter

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RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

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**SCRA
COMMUNITY
MEETING**

Tuesday, Sept 10, 2019

MEETING LOCATION:

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

AGENDA

- 7:00 p.m.** Refreshments/meet your neighbors.
 - 7:30 p.m.** Guest speaker: Councilmember Paul Krekorian; presentation by Dept. of City Planning: Community Plan Update
- One block south of Ventura Bl, at Laurel Canyon Bl. and Maxwellton Rd. Parking off of Maxwellton Rd. Free parking is available in the school parking lot. Enter from Maxwellton Rd. Security will assist.*

