



# Valley VOTE

Organized Toward Empowerment Voters  
4622 Ventura Blvd, #424 Sherman Oaks, California 91403  
www.valleyvote.org Contact: President, Joe Vitti (email: javittisr@cs.com)

## **VALLEY VOTE REPORT: October 17, 2016 MEETING**

Minutes accumulated by Denny Schneider

**Galpin Ford - 2nd Floor Meeting Room, 15555 Roscoe Boulevard, North Hills, CA 91343**

*Valley Vote meetings are held the third Monday of each month to address critical public policy issues impacting the San Fernando Valley. **The next meeting will be November 21, 2016.***

This meeting featured long time Valley resident State Senator Robert Hertzberg, former Speaker of the CA Assembly, businessman, family man, and supporter of Valley independence. Several Board members also presented reports covering various topics of interest.

Valley VOTE continues to advocate for San Fernando Valley citizens. To volunteer for positions as Board member and Executive Board member of Valley Vote or to see the dozens of impact position statements taken to improve the SFV visit our website: [www.ValleyVOTE.org](http://www.ValleyVOTE.org)

### **Robert Hertzberg, CA State Senator**



Senator Hertzberg has spent decades advocating for Californians and those living in the San Fernando Valley. As the Democratic leader and Assembly Speaker, Robert Hertzberg worked with members of both parties to eliminate discrimination against LA residents who wanted to succeed from Los Angeles and to form their own city. During his tenure as Speaker he fought for Valley independence and facilitated removal of a biased CA law against LA residents who wanted secession. They changed the requirement that applied only to LA residents and none of 482 the other CA cities. LA had a short 90 day signature collection period for a succession referendum as opposed to 180 days for all others.

Bob was, and is, a strong advocate for good environmental practices and effective infrastructure. Under his leadership the Valley got its first piece of MTA transportation—the Orange Line. It was built with limited Measure M funds. Bob is a pragmatic. He saw the handwriting on the wall and noted that if they had fought for a light rail train along the Orange Line route it may have never been accomplished due to the rail higher costs compared to a dedicated bus route. Instead, the Orange bus line was designed and built to accommodate a future upgrade to rail. The Orange line is extremely successful and has exceeded all predictions of ridership. He supports upgrade to a full light rail along with many other rail projects in the SFV.

After leaving the Assembly, Bob took a 12 year hiatus from public service and built a very successful Solar energy company. He feels strongly in giving back to his community and returned to CA politics in the Senate.

Instead of attacking individual issues that are easily accomplished for a self promotion that would be useful for running for a future elected office, Bob prefers to highlight and impact the “elephants in the room.” Senator Hertzberg is taking on our tax system. He noted that 78% of our jobs are within businesses of 10 or less employees. He told us that these businesses must be protected and allowed to prosper if CA is going to improve. He has proposed a tax collection change that is “revenue neutral.” All services should be taxed along with goods. Along with this “increased revenue source” he wants tax rates for small businesses reduced and new tax rebates made for lower income people.

He covered many topics beyond just small business aid. He is pushing for cleanup and redevelopment of hazardous waste sites, making voting more convenient and modern, punishing ransomware as a serious crime, creating an effective Early Earthquake Warning System, safeguarding the Aliso Canyon Gas Storage Facility, upgrading California’s Website providing campaign finance and lobbying information, improving accountability and oversight of tax checkoffs, speeding up traffic amnesty reviews, and generally improving transportation systems throughout the SFV.

## **Valley VOTE Committee Reports:**

### **Victor N. Viereck- LA Proposition HHH vs Homelessness**

With so many homeless people government officials are promoting more programs that are probably not as affordable as they think. As a major part of their preparation of HHH is a \$1.2 billion bond to help fund so called Affordable Housing, with 55 year covenants.

Among unfortunate parts of the concept is the lack of experience such officials have operating housing. A very high proportion of the homeless who naturally need housing also (to put it mildly) need social help. That too is expensive. What is referred to as Affordable Housing is housing with significantly lower rents than market rate housing. It's one thing to fund the construction of housing, but adequate maintenance of housing increases as the property ages. Just because the rents for Affordable Housing are much less does not mean that maintenance is any cheaper. Property that has lower rents has lower value, therefore reducing property tax revenue. Nonprofits that own affordable housing are not subject to property tax. If so called Affordable Housing is built on property that was previously taxed, that's lost tax revenue.

The proposed HHH bonds would not be directly paid for by everybody. To cover their tax increases commercial property businesses would have to raise prices. Home owners would have to pay the property tax increase. Since owners of Los Angeles Rent Stabilized apartments cannot pass through the tax to tenants, the owners have to absorb the whole increase.

Victor N. Viereck For additional info: Victor N. Viereck, CPA 12702 Tiara Street, Valley Village, CA 91607 (818) 985-9174 vicviereck@sbcglobal.net

### **Ralph Kroy, Sunshine Canyon**

The Landfill is located at 14747 San Fernando Road, West of the 1-5 and the 14 Freeway intersection on the borders between the communities of Granada Hills and Sylmar, and is owned by BFI/Republic Industries. It is also one of the most cited landfills for odors in the State, if not the Country.

Why are we still giving another landfill report? The landfill still STINKS. The landfill is reaping huge profits at the expense of those living nearby. They have not stopped the problem.

On Wednesday October 12, 2016, City Councilman Englander called for a crackdown on Sunshine Canyon Landfill after thousands of odor complaints from residents. It also follows a petition by regional air regulators to limit the hours and amount of trash allowed at the country's largest landfill.

The Councilman submitted a motion to follow Los Angeles County in calling for a public health investigation of odor complaints. This was reported in the Los Angeles Daily News, by Dana Bartholomew. "There is absolutely no reason people should be forced to live and go to school in these conditions", said Englander. "This community has suffered enough, Republic needs to immediately implement the necessary changes to stop the odors."

There are further hearings by the South Coast Air Quality Management District scheduled to resume Tuesday, October 25, 26, and 27, 2016 at the SCAQMD office, and November 5, 2016 at CSUN.

Ralph Kroy REKroy@aol.com

### **Ernie Hilger – Veterans**

On September 29, 2016 the president signed a critical piece of legislation; the Bipartisan Bicameral Bill H.R. 5936: The West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016 which codified the West LA Veterans Master Plan authorizes construction start for Homeless Veterans.

The 2016 Master Plan West LA VA is a "synthesis 21 century document" taking inputs from the greater Los Angeles Community for the benefit of future generations of veterans and their families.

See <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/114/hr5936/text> for details.

The West LA VA would be authorized to carry out several types of leases to organizations that will provide assistance to veterans at the facility. Currently, some of the tenants at the facility are businesses and other groups that are not in the business of helping veterans. These companies and other groups will be asked to leave the facility to maintain the statutory requirement the campus be veteran centric.

This bill will also allow for the development of supportive housing for homeless veterans and their families, and for others to provide health care, education, family support, job training, transportation and other services to benefit veterans and their families. This is an important first step towards combating the epidemic of veteran homelessness in Los Angeles and nationwide. The first construction will be for women veterans with children.

For more information: Ernie Hilger, Legislative Chair, DAV Chapter Camp Kearney, Van Nuys  
ErnieHilger@hotmail.com

### **Denny Schneider - Airport Report**

LAX is moving forward with its Draft Environmental Impacts Report for Landside Access Modernization Program. This includes some street improvements around the area, a new Consolidated Rental Car facility in Manchester Square near the 405, an MTA train stop, Intermodal drop off facilities, and a people mover to connect all of these elements into the Central Terminal Area. I'm disappointed that LAX has chosen the quicker to build, cheaper people mover that has three stops in the middle of the CTA instead of drop offs at the curbside check in areas. The comment period is extended to Nov 15.

LAX IS improving connectivity among terminals. LAX dedicated its Terminal 4 Connector between Tom Bradley International Terminal and the south complex terminals. This allows passengers to go to any of these terminals without having to go through TSA twice.

The FAA is going to start implementing NextGen in SoCal starting next month. This includes new, modernized GPS satellite controls for aircraft flight paths. See <https://www.faa.gov/nextgen/communityengagement/socal/> for more details.

A webinar will be held on October 20, 2016 at 8-9:15 PM PDT. Go

to <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7945750898119001348> or dial 213 929-4212 and use access code / Meeting ID 388-832-043

Ontario Airport get's its freedom from Los Angeles starting November 1. The Inland Empire has assembled a good management team to improve use at ONT. It is currently running around 3 MAP with a capacity of 30 MAP.

Denny Schneider, President Alliance for a Regional Solution to Airport Congestion [www.RegionalSolution.org](http://www.RegionalSolution.org)  
Denny@WeLiveFree.com 213 675-1817

-----  
**Valley VOTE Mission Statement**

**Valley VOTE is a diverse coalition of San Fernando Valley residents, business people, educators, community activists, and organizations, committed to exploring and fostering the implementation of programs that empower the people of the San Fernando Valley and the City of Los Angeles, to improve local governance, education and public participation on policy matters. We meet monthly to address key policy issues and hear reports from our standing committee chairs. For additional information about Valley VOTE, for an upcoming meeting agenda, or for previous meeting reports and press releases, we encourage you to go to the Valley VOTE website.**