

4622 Ventura Blvd, #424 Sherman Oaks, California 91403

www.valleyvote.org Contact: President, Joe Vitti (email: javittisr@cs.com)

VALLEY VOTE REPORT: March 20, 2017 MEETING

Minutes accumulated by Joe Vitti

Galpin Ford - 2nd Fl. Meeting Room, 15505 Roscoe Boulevard, North Hills, CA 91343

Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger

Supervisor Kathryn Barger proudly serves the residents of Los Angeles County's 5th Supervise District — the county's largest — spanning 2800 square miles, which includes 22 cities and 70 unincorporated communities in the San Gabriel, San Fernando, Cresenta, Santa Clarita and Antelope Valley. She is an advocate for the environment and efforts to preserve open space, enhance parks, trails, recreational programs and facilities. She strongly supports libraries and after-school programs to serve communities.

The supervisor covered a great number of issues during her presentation and responded to numerous questions from the audience.

She pointed out, for example, the issue of time served. If you violate your parole, you are supposed to go back to prison for a year. However if you are placed on probation your sentence drops to 6 months, and with good behavior you can be out in 30 days. Mrs. Barger feels this is not enough time to dissuade behavior. She points out that a Whittier police officer, that was recently murdered by a drug addict that was released **very early** from prison, is an example of the unfortunate consequences of the regulations of Proposition 47. It states that criminal offenders who commit certain non-serious and non-violent drug and property crimes would be sentenced to reduced penalties (such as shorter terms in jail). This is an the unacceptable outcome supported by Proposition 47. The supervisor is going to bring together a number of interested individuals such as Jackey Lacey, Police representatives, L.A. Times representative, the County Sheriff, plus others to a Round Table discussion of the issues associated with Proposition 47 and to recommend changes to improve its effectiveness in the sentencing of law breakers.

Mrs. Barger has also been dealing with the health issues of escaping gas in Aliso Canyon in Porter Ranch. From the beginning of the health problems impacting the residents, she has been working with the City of Los Angeles to assist the families that were displaced from their homes to escape to safe environmental conditions in nearby community housing. She also believes that safety valves should be installed on all the pipes delivering gas to the Aliso Canyon community. She is also working with the city of Los Angeles to purchase property that is adjacent to the current boundary of the City-County line in Porter Ranch. The annexation of 180 new homes originally planned to be built by the contractor on the newly purchased city property, will be stopped.

Supervisor Barger stated that the Sunshine Canyon Landfill operators have the responsibility to operate the landfill without the local community being impacted by odors from the facility. They have the responsibility to control the odors. This is a quality of life issue for the many residents close to the Landfill. She is working with

City Council Member Mitch Englander to deal with the odor complaints from the community. She is planning a visit to the Sunshine Canyon landfill soon, to see for herself what the facility and the operations are all about.

Sharon Markenson

Sharon Markenson is retired from the Los Angeles Unified School District where she taught secondary English/Language Arts for 35 years. She was trained to present information on climate issues by the Climate Reality Leadership Corps in Chicago in August 2013. Her presentation reviews the science of global warming, how climate change affects Earth's natural systems and contributes to extreme weather and what people can do about the problem right now.

Sharon pointed out that the U. S. and our western European allies have been burning coal and fossil fuels since the 1860's. So there is plenty of Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere. Carbon Dioxide will last for a few hundred years in the atmosphere. At the recent United Nations Climate Summit in Paris 195 country's agreed to participate in reducing the effects of global warming. In the U.S. we are going ahead with the use of wind and solar systems to generate our power needs in place of coal that contributes significantly to global warming. At the conclusion of her remarks Sharon introduced the audience to the " Citizens Climate Lobby". The Web site for the organization is citizensclimatelobby.org

Citizens Climate Lobby is a non-profit, non-partisan, grassroots advocacy organization focused on national policies to address climate change. Our consistently respectful, non-partisan approach to climate education is designed to create a broad, sustainable foundation for climate action across all geographic regions and political inclinations. By building upon shared values rather than partisan divides, and empowering our supporters to work in keeping with the concerns of their local communities, we work towards the adoption of fair, effective, and sustainable climate change solutions. In order to generate the political will necessary for passage of our Carbon Free Proposal we train and support volunteers to build relationships with elected officials, the media and their local community.

Victor Viereck

Opposite Results With AB 1506

On March 17, 2017 the California Assembly State Housing Committee had a supposed Hearing at 300 South Street regarding AB 1506. Most, if not all the Assembly members left before any of the public had a chance to speak.

The primary providers of most rental housing (apartments) are investors. While banks and other lenders provide a major portion of the funding, it's the investors who are responsible for repayment of the debt incurred. Besides covering costs, if investors cannot make an adequate profit, there is no reason for investments to be made. The Los Angeles Rent Stabilization Ordinance already **prevents owners from covering at least half of their costs** (not even including finance costs) of capital improvements. At least vacancy decontrol helps somewhat in covering such costs. If AB 1506 becomes

law, the vacancy decontrol safeguard will be eliminated, converting profitable properties into loss operations.

The conversion into loss operations will create foreclosures, bankruptcies, and loss of potential investors. Not only does that kill the provision of very needed housing, it results in the loss of income tax revenue and property tax revenue.

Considering the foregoing, if AB 1506 becomes law, the opposite of its supposed intention (a complete loss) is the result and it becomes a statewide financial disaster.
vicviereck@sbcglobal [818-985 9174](tel:818-985-9174)

Ralph Kroy

SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL

Since my last report in February, the SCAQMD Hearing Board held another hearing on the Order for Abatement of Odors on March 1, 2017. As you know, the stipulated agreement reached on January 10, 2017, was a watered-down one, that only restricted the long-haul transfer trucks from bringing in garbage before 9:00 a.m. However, at the same time they were ordered to: 1). Come back with a plan to reroute the curbside trash trucks that were still coming into the landfill before 9:00 a.m. 2). Complete 7 test grids at the landfill using Posi-Shell which is a part of the Intermediate Cover Enhancement Project (ICE), along with covering 20 other grids with additional dirt in the same area because those grids were exhibiting high methane gas emissions which impacted the community at night.

BFIC has a history of blaming others for their failures, and so it was no surprise when they said that the weather was so bad that they were unable to complete the 27 grids, and that no test information was available from the 7 test grids. The plan to reroute the curbside trash trucks turned out to be not a plan at all, but merely a rehash of the City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Sanitation's summary of the inconveniences and extra costs it would incur by not opening the landfill until 9:00 a.m., and BFIC's summary of how many miles more they would have to travel, and the injustice caused to other communities by the greenhouse gases (GHG) caused by those extra miles.

To the surprise of the public, BFIC and the SCAQMD's attorneys, who were now making BFIC's case for them since it was a "stipulated order," the Board got fed up with the excuses, and ordered that effective, March 20th..... TODAY.... that the landfill will be "closed to all vehicles" until 9:00 a.m. Another Hearing is scheduled for March 29th.

OTHER ACTIONS

Under an Order to Abate Odors issued by the County Department of Health Services on 11/09/16 BFIC has until March 30, 2017 to eliminate or drastically reduce the odors.

Under a NOV issued by County Regional Planning to BFIC on 10/09/16 for failure to provide information to the County Public Works, a Hearing was held on March 7, 2017, however, it was continued to May 2nd since Regional Planning would take 3- 4 weeks to

comply with a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) seeking exculpatory evidence. The fine levied that day if found guilty was \$133,000 + \$1,000 per day until compliance.

Due to a failure of BFIC to close the landfill during the excessive rainstorms (29.64 inches of rain Oct 17, 2016 thru Feb 17, 2017 with over 10 inches both in January and the first few weeks of February 2017), the SCL-CAC is sending a letter to all agencies that oversee the landfill, asking who had the responsibility or the authority to close down the landfill which is a public nuisance, in order to prevent the infiltration of water into the waste mass, and the subsequent additional methane and odors that would be generated

(Wayde Hunter contributed to this report)

Ralph Kroy Ralph Kroy@aol.com

David DeVoss

Street Vendors in Los Angeles

The L.A. Street Vendor Campaign contends that the city should not allow neighborhoods to totally prohibit sidewalk vending, nor require vendors to get permission from neighboring shops to do business outside. We disagree completely.

A business owner who pays property taxes, business taxes and personal income taxes should not be confronted by an unlicensed – and untaxed - vendor selling a similar product on the sidewalk outside his store. Neither should a residential neighborhood like Pacoima be compelled to accept unregulated vendors and their customers who leave a trail of trash in their wake.

Witness what has happened along Candy Cane Lane in Woodland Hills that for more than 60 years delighted Valley residents with elaborate Christmas lights and decorations. Gone are the charities and community groups selling hot chocolate. Over the past three years, they've been replaced by unlicensed street vendors loudly flogging LED swords, princess wands, fried hot dogs and athletic shoes. Many residents won't

decorate this coming Christmas because of the noise and litter attending unregulated street vending.

The City Council should remember that many immigrants own small businesses. They should not be put in jeopardy by vendors operating under a different set of rules or - in the present situation - any rules at all. For this reason Valley VOTE believes:

- All street vendors should be licensed and required to pay fees that cover the full cost of regulation. Vendors who fail to seek licenses, or ignore the rules the permits require, should be cited and fined an amount sufficient to discourage future illegality
- Strict sanitary rules should be required of all vendors selling foodstuffs
- No vendor should be allowed to operate within 75 yards of a brick & mortar business selling the same product
- Vendors should not obstruct vehicular or pedestrian traffic
- Neighborhoods concerned about their quality of life, and working in conjunction with their City Council representative, should be allowed to declare themselves vendor-free.

David DeVoss DavidDeVoss@sbcglobal.net

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 our web site - Valleyvote.org. **Mail your dues to Valley VOTE-14622 Ventura Blvd. # 424 ,Sherman Oaks, CA. 91403 - Thank you.***

We are a 501c4 non profit with no paid staff. We appreciate the dues payments from our members to help meet our goals. The press and public are invited to attend our meetings. Our next meeting will be **Monday evening April 17, at Galpin Ford.**