



# STUDIO CITY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

*Your Advocate for Studio City*

**July 2011**

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## OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR AN LA RIVER NATURAL PARK ON WHITSETT

Community Conservation Solutions, consultants to the Studio City Residents Association, presented the latest studies for the proposed LA River Natural Park at a special community meeting hosted by the SCRA on June 9, 2011. More than one hundred members and guests attended the meeting, which was held at the Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn. Results of the studies were met with overwhelming enthusiasm by those present and received unqualified support from the guest speaker, Councilmember Paul Krekorian, and Jason Levin, Valley field representative from State Senator Fran Pavley's office. (The Senator was unable to attend given last-minute budget negotiations in Sacramento.)



Drawing on his experience as a former state assembly member, Councilmember Krekorian briefly covered the water issues facing California, the energy costs of moving water around the state and the need to face the issue of water demands now and for the immediate future. He explained that at the local level, Proposition O (Prop O) funds may become available to purchase the site known as Weddington Golf and Tennis: he strongly advocated these funds be used for this purpose as Prop O funds are designated for water quality projects that capture surface water runoff all year round, improve water quality by cleaning it up, recharging groundwater and other water saving/clean up/ reuse applications.

Councilmember Krekorian commended the community for its activism and involvement and described the project as "transformative regarding the way Los Angeles thinks about its water supply and the way we live." For example, he explained the storage capacity in the San Fernando Valley aquifer, properly recharged, will save billions of dollars the State spends for storage in Northern California and shipment of water to the south and other parts of the State. In support of his position and efforts to obtain funds to acquire the property, the Councilmember appeared before the Prop O advisory board prior to the SCRA meeting to make a strong case that Prop O funds be used for the project. He argued the LA River Natural Park vision complies with many aspects of the conditions set forth for use of the funds. Councilmember Krekorian also mentioned that Prop O funds have funded only four projects in the San Fernando Valley, but so far none have been in his council district.

## LA ZOO UPDATES COMMUNITY AT SCRA JULY COMMUNITY MEETING



The SCRA welcomes Los Angeles Zoo Director John Lewis at the upcoming July SCRA Community Meeting on July 12, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. Lewis will talk about new exhibits, upcoming exhibits as well as other happenings at the zoo, including the Zoo's LAIR (Living Amphibians, Invertebrates and Reptiles) Center, which is scheduled

to open in late 2011, and Rainforest of the Americas, which will be a multi-tiered, mixed species area featuring animals from the Americas. Lewis has served as zoo director since 2003. Prior to his arrival in Los Angeles, he was director of the John Ball Zoological Gardens in Grand Rapids, Michigan for 17 years. He also worked at the Minnesota Zoo and began his career at the Louisiana Purchase Gardens & Zoo. The SCRA Community Meeting will take place at the Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn Theater Room. Light refreshments begin at 7:00 p.m.

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## (LA River, cont'd)

The feasibility study conducted by Community Conservation Solutions proposed a "green solution" of a river-oriented park. The proposal is to naturally clean runoff from the surface streets, thereby improving the water quality that discharges into the river, store water in the aquifer, preserve riverfront land, create native habitat, generate solar power, provide regional recreation amenities and establish an LA River Regional Public Access Hub and Trailhead for public access to the LA River in the San Fernando Valley. As discussed during the meeting, there is a public parking garage within walking distance and none of the sixteen acres would have to be used for visitor parking. Renderings showed the bicycle hub, planting along the river edge and bike and walking trails on both sides of the river between Whitsett and Coldwater Canyon that will tie into proposed future bike and walking trails throughout the Valley.

Questions posed to both the Councilmember and Community Conservation Solutions brought out many other aspects of the project. Some of the questions were premature given the present status of the project. However, assurances were given that this is an ongoing process and that all concerns that may arise later will be addressed and considered.

Representatives from Congressman Howard Berman's and Supervisor Yaroslavsky's offices attended. Jason Levin spoke on behalf of Senator Pavley, providing assurance of her ongoing support for the project and reminded all "to never give up."

The full report can be found at [conversationsolutions.org/larnp.html](http://conversationsolutions.org/larnp.html). Click on the links on the left-hand side of the page. For more information, visit the Save Los Angeles River Open Space website at [savelariveropenspace.org](http://savelariveropenspace.org).

## OP-ED: FILM WORKS: "REEL" JOBS FOR A REAL IMPACT

By Veronique Vowell

When film and television productions leave for other states and countries, Los Angeles, and, in particular, Studio City, suffer the consequences.

Ever since Mack Sennett built his studio (now known as CBS Studio Center) in 1929, the entertainment business has been a pillar of Studio City's economy. Other businesses followed as crew members built homes and stayed in the area: a new community was created.

Recently, large billboards, light pole banners and bus shelter signs display the slogan: "Film Works! reel jobs: real impact for Los Angeles." This campaign is an outreach to the public by Film Works LA to act as a reminder to

everyone how valuable the entertainment industry is to all of us and how, by working together, individuals and organizations can help strengthen the ties between communities and the entertainment business, keeping Los Angeles the entertainment production capital of the world.

Today, many entertainment corporations and countless entertainment workers make Studio City their home (e.g., Hallmark Channel, CBS Productions, producers, actors, location managers and supporting crafts at every level.) These local citizens spend money in the community, shopping; eating at local restaurants; sending their children to local schools; and paying property, corporate, state and local taxes. This money moves through our very local economy and keeps our community vibrant.

The industry recognizes that filming on the streets and avenues of our community can be overwhelming and inconvenient, but we do what we can to embrace the filming activity as we do not want to lose an industry that directly and indirectly employs more than 250,000 people in the greater Los Angeles area.

Film Works is coordinated by FilmLA, a private, 501(c) 4 not-for-profit organization that oversees the permitting process for on-location motion picture, television and commercial production. Any questions, comments, ideas or offers for support should be directed to [filmworksia.com](http://filmworksia.com)

*Veronique Vowell is a location manager and a member of Teamsters Local 399. She serves as government affairs manager for Location Managers Guild of America and is a board member of FilmLA.*

## ANNUAL SCRA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

June 2011 -2012 annual SCRA membership renewals have been mailed. If 6/11 is on the address label on this newsletter, your SCRA membership renewal is due. The cost of membership remains the same low price of \$25 per household. Seniors are \$10 per household. Contributions are greatly appreciated.

## REDISTRICTING REPORT

The California Redistricting Commission, which is charged with drafting the lines for Congressional, California State Senate and Assembly and the Board of Equalization, held one of many public comment meetings in Oxnard on June 22, 2011. Several SCRA board members attended the hearing and filed papers supporting the SCRA position: SCRA President Alan Dymond spoke about the State Senate and Assembly district divisions. Board members from SCRA sister organizations, Save LA River Open Space and Studio City Beautification, were also present.

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## TO THE MARKET

### Studio City Farmers Market Gets Into The Groove

Not one, not two, but three new organic farmers have joined the Studio City Farmers Market since the last SCRA newsletter. Check

out Oasis Organics, Sweet Tree Farms and Ace Ranch Avocados. The market's other organic farm is a long-time vendor at the market, Island Farms. Stop by and congratulate Laurie, Alan and the rest of their family and pick up a bag of their beautiful French Orange and Ruby Apricots. Hungry? Sample some of the Market's fare from another new vendor - beautiful smoked fish and pate from the Dupuys family of Ventura Fish Company. Enjoy organic soups from the Organic Soup Kitchen, a nonprofit dedicated to helping homeless women and children, and sweet treats, such as whiskey bread pudding, from Delilah Bakery. Stop by the manager's table for more information on the newest happenings at the Market.

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.

### (Redistricting, cont'd)

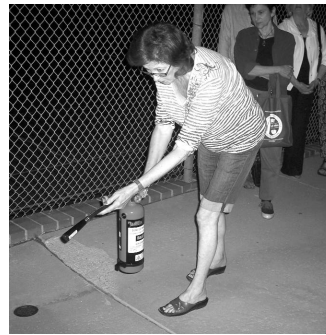
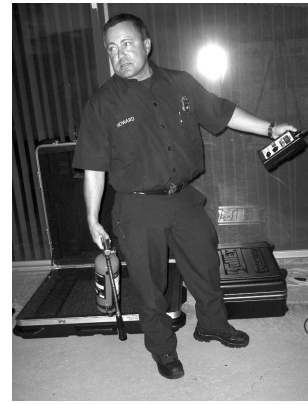
The SCRA's position is that the State Senate district should comply with the same boundaries of two State Assembly districts. These two districts encompass areas that have the most common interests with Studio City, such as the Santa Monica Mountains, the Valley overall and the cities west of Studio City. The SCRA opposed the proposed Senate district that would extend though the Santa Clarita Valley up to the Ventura County line: the basis for the opposition was that Studio City has no community of interest with the Santa Clarita Valley. Similar opposition was made by speakers from Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the mayor of Malibu, Topanga Town Council, California League of Conservation Voters and Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky.

Written comments from the public will be accepted through July 28, 2011. Testimony can be submitted online to [votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov](mailto:votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov), by mail to the Citizens Redistricting Commission, 901 P St, Suite 154-A, Sacramento, CA 95814 or by FAX at 916-651-5711. The draft maps can be found at [wedrawthelines.ca.gov](http://wedrawthelines.ca.gov). Interactive maps can be found at <http://134.173.236.112/DraftPlans/>

The SCRA board thanks SCRA member Brendan Huffman, a public policy consultant, who guided the board through the redistricting process. This assistance to the board helps the SCRA remain effective as an advocate for Studio City.

## SCRA HELPS PREPARE THE COMMUNITY IN CASE OF A DISASTER

The SCRA Crime & Safety Committee organized a successful seven-week Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program with Firefighter Kurt Howard as the instructor. The course was coordinated with Ruth Cole and Steve Weinberger, who live in the Studio Village Townhomes complex. The site's recreation room provided a Studio City location for the class. CERT training is an excellent way to become prepared for everyday emergencies and to help ready the neighborhood for the possibility of major catastrophes. In a large earthquake, trained individuals will serve as the first responders since the police and fire departments will either be out of commission or assessing the situation and deployed to areas such as hazardous material spills, fires that could escalate into major damage, gas fires, etc.



The CERT class teaches such skills as what type of fire extinguisher to use with different types of fires, what to buy to be prepared, how to assess a situation and what to avoid to keep oneself safe in a disaster. Thanks to all SCRA members and others who participated and to Studio Village for providing the location.

## 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](mailto:scraboard@studiocityresidents.org).*

**Q:** An SCRA member sent a note expressing concerns for a homeless woman who hangs out at a gas station near the corner of Lankershim and Ventura Blvd. The member wanted someone to help the woman and also said the woman's belongings didn't exactly "decorate the neighborhood."

**SCRA:** The SCRA's crime and safety chairperson spoke to the LAPD's senior lead officer for that area, Officer Robert Benavidez. He knows the homeless woman. Officer Benavidez said she has no warrants out for her arrest and has turned down offers of help. If someone is not in trouble with the law, the police cannot force that person to accept help. The gas station in question is okay with her being there. As Studio City Senior Lead Officer Mike Lewis mentioned at an SCRA Community Meeting, there is only so much one can do if a person resists efforts to help.

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## **(Ask SCRA, cont'd)**

**Q:** Why does the median on Laurel Canyon Blvd. across from Flair Cleaners look so skimpy (one tree, mostly limp) and unwelcoming? The other medians are lush and inviting. This median is almost the entrance to Ventura Blvd. and the Farmers Market, and it looks like a poor, neglected patch of Los Angeles.

**SCRA:** A couple of years ago, a car ran over this median, knocking out the existing tree, which was replaced by the Studio City Beautification Association. The tree is a Chinese Pistache tree approved for planting in the Ventura Corridor Specific Plan (VCSP). The VCSP allows only Pistache and Palm trees. This section by Flair Cleaners is part of the regulated specific plan.

Chinese Pistache trees take about five years to bush out and do look a little sickly until they get established. As long as this tree is leafing each year, it is healthy and will eventually look like the bushy trees on the island to the south.

**Q:** How much longer will the DWP work take on Moorpark and Whitsett?

**SCRA:** The DWP is supposed to be finished with work at Moorpark and Whitsett within a month and then will start work on Coldwater Canyon Blvd. Trunk line construction crews will be mobilizing into the first work zone on Coldwater Canyon Blvd. between Dickens Street and Van Noord Avenue. Work in this area is scheduled to be completed at the end of December 2011.

For more information, please reference <http://www.ladwp.com/ladwp/cms/ladwp013128.jsp>

**Q:** Why didn't the community receive adequate warning of the weekend closure on Laurel Canyon Blvd. from Fryman down to Ventura Blvd.?

**SCRA:** On the Thursday before the closure, the SCRA was able to track down very limited information from the Department of Transportation regarding the Laurel Canyon closure. The SCRA sent out a News & Notes eblast with this information as soon as possible.

This past April, the City sent a notice to local neighbors that the resurfacing would take place at the end of May. The notice about the June closure left open the date the work would be done. SCRA members can help by keeping their eyes and ears open when there are notices of similar nature so we can keep our members informed.

## **FROM YOUR SCRA BOARD**

### **Vineland Trees**

The Board was informed that Street Services would not reverse its decision to cut down the large mature trees on Vineland and Ventura. (By now they are gone). The SCRA is sorry that its extended efforts to save these trees were not successful.

### **#96 Bus Service on Tujunga Saved**

Through diligence by SCRA board member Barry Johnson, bus 96 along Tujunga is still operating.

### **Billboards at Vons**

The SCRA has placed a call to the appropriate city department regarding the billboards that sprang up in front of Vons on Laurel Canyon Blvd. The hope is to have them removed as soon as possible. These billboards are in noncompliance with the Ventura Blvd Specific Plan.

### **Mayoral Candidate Speakers**

From time to time, the SCRA will host the mayoral candidates at its community meeting. The first guest will be at the September 13, 2011 SCRA Community Meeting. This is will be an opportunity for the community to get to know, first hand, each of the candidates. The September speaker, chosen randomly, will be Jan Perry.

### **Redistricting**

A good portion of the board meeting was used to educate board members on the implications of new redistricting rules and the work that is being done by the Citizen's Redistricting Commission. For information go to [wedrawthelines.ca.gov](http://wedrawthelines.ca.gov).

## **UPDATE ON "A SAFER WAY TO WALK TO SCHOOL"**

As reported in the April SCRA newsletter, Gussie Millar and Shanee Krebs, students at Millikan Civic Academy, decided to pursue the creation of a safe sidewalk on Laurel Canyon Blvd. from the Cantons to Carpenter as their community service project. They were successful in obtaining Studio City Neighborhood Council approval for a "Scoping Study" to determine feasibility of the sidewalks and possible placement. Gussie and Shanee presented a very professional package with many signatures from the neighborhood's 250 plus homes that are isolated because there is no safe access along Laurel Canyon Blvd. to Carpenter Avenue.

The SCRA is happy to report that in June, Gussie and Shanee met with Councilmember Krekorian, who directed his District Director, Damian Carrol, and Council Aide, Geoff Yazzetta, to contact the Department of Transportation regarding a "Scoping Study" and to set up a meeting with Gussie, Shanee and then the Department of Transportation, all of whom would then have a follow-up meeting with the Councilmember.

Gussie and Shanee were recognized by Councilmember Krekorian before the full Los Angeles City Council at the June 14, 2011 City Council meeting for the girls' contribution to safe sidewalks. Their efforts fit into the overall city plan to reduce traffic and create connective corridors for pedestrian traffic.



## HILLSIDE FEDERATION PUSHES CITY OF LOS ANGELES FOR "CLEAN HANDS" ORDINANCE

Ben Saltsman from County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky's office addressed a recent Hillside Federation meeting, where he reported on the progress and effectiveness of the County's "Clean Hands" ordinance. This ordinance is a common sense rule that "if you violate the zoning code, we will not process a new application on your property until you remedy the existing violations." This ordinance is important because local governments lack the resources to perfectly monitor and enforce zoning requirements.

Saltsman reported the City of Los Angeles does not have a "clean hands" ordinance. Rather, property owners with one or more code violations have been allowed to obtain grading, building and other permits without first bringing their properties into compliance with all land-use regulations. The need for a "clean hands" ordinance is especially important in hillside areas.

In an April 28, 2011 letter to Bud Ovrum, general manager of the City's Department of Building and Safety, and Michael LoGrande, director of the City's Planning Department, County Supervisor Yaroslavsky said, "It is time for the City to adopt a common-sense clean hands policy similar to Section 22.04.110 of the County's Zoning Code."

**THERE WILL BE NO  
SCRA AUGUST  
COMMUNITY  
MEETING AND NO  
NEWSLETTER IN  
AUGUST.**

**WE'RE ON  
SUMMER HOLIDAY!**

**ENJOY!**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Alan Dymond

*A recent meeting of the Valley Advisory Council to State Senator Fran Pavley addressed the redistricting of political divisions in California. These divisions will be decided by a fourteen person Citizens Redistricting Commission, which is comprised of five Democrats, five Republicans and four "decline to state" registered voters.*

*The new districts must comply with the Federal Voting Rights Acts and consider a community of interest for each division: the divisions must be fair to reflect the best interests of the people, not the incumbent or political parties.*

*One issue of concern to certain areas of the State is when a Senate district is renumbered. If and when this occurs, the result is that the district may not have Senate representation for two years. Odd-numbered Senate districts vote in 2012 and even-numbered districts vote in 2014. Therefore, if a district with an odd number is changed to an even number, there will be no election for that district until the 2014 election. For example, San Francisco has an odd-numbered Senate district and changing it to an even-numbered district would mean it would have no election until 2014. San Francisco is currently trying to protect itself with a campaign called "Keep San Francisco ODD."*

*The deadline for approval of the final map is August 15, 2011. Approval will come with affirmative votes of three of the five Democrats, three of the five Republicans and three of the four "decline to state" registered voters. If there is no agreement, then the matter goes directly to the California Supreme Court, which will appoint three masters to draw the lines. Any legal challenge to the new districts goes directly to the California Supreme Court for review.*

*The new political divisions will affect us all. Please read the article about redistricting in this newsletter and get your comments to the commissioners. Thank you.*

*Alan Dymond*



# MONTHLY COMMUNITY MEETING

## Tuesday, July 12, 2011

### Agenda

**7:00 p.m.** Refreshments

**7:30 p.m.** John Lewis, director of  
the Los Angeles Zoo,  
on new exhibits and  
upcoming plans

#### THANK YOU TO BEVERLY GARLAND'S HOLIDAY INN

The SCRA thanks Beverly Garland's Holiday Inn for its many years of generously subsidizing SCRA's use of the hotel theater and for providing complementary parking for SCRA members during the SCRA monthly community meetings.



#### SCRA Committees

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

#### Officers

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Art Howard  
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#### Immediate Past President

Art Howard

#### Beautification Association

Bill Harmond, Executive Director  
Francesca Corra, Director  
Michael Klausman, 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, Steve Hirsh,  
Art Howard, Patty Kirby  
saveopenspace@SLAROS.org

#### School Liaisons

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

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