

Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Fernangeles Park, Gymnasium
8851 Laurel Canyon Blvd., Sun Valley, CA

Meeting Scheduled for 6:30 pm

Board Member	Title	Status
Mike O’Gara	President	Present
Mary Benson	1st Vice President	Absent
Elidia Vasquez	2nd Vice President	Present
Karina Garcia Valles	Secretary	Present
Julie Monroy	Treasurer	Present
Dionisio Alcala, Jr.	Board Member	Present
Susan A. Bartlett	Board Member	Present
Tina Cameron	Board Member	Present
Rafael Cardenas	Board Member	Present
Manuel de la Torres	Board Member	Present
Jon Eshbch	Board Member	Present
Stephen Franklin	Board Member	Present
Raul Gonzalez	Board Member	Present
Danielle Harmon	Board Member	Present
Luis O. Medina	Board Member	Present
Carmen Perez	Board Member	Present
Jerry Piro	Board Member	Present
Arthur Sweet	Board Member	Present
Nancy Vasquez	Board Member	Present
Vinita McClennon	Board Member	Absent
Lee McTaggart	Board Member	Absent
Frank Felix	Board Member	Absent

- Meeting was called to order by Mike O’Gara at approximately 6:37PM
- The Pledge of Alliance was recited by Alexis from Sun Valley Middle School
- Mike O’Gara recited the Sun Valley Area NC’s pledge.
- Mike O’Gara summarized important topics to be discussed/observed throughout the evening, including:
 - Powerpoint presentation by Doug Corcoran regarding WM’s proposed plan, which includes:
 - Building a Transfer Station/Materials Recovery Facility (TS/MRF) which will be over 100k square feet, this will be the Recycling Center
 - an application to increase, over a period of time, the amount of waste they receive
 - an application to increase the amount of green waste they receive; and,
 - an application to increase the amount of construction and demolition waste they will be allowed to receive
- This will increase traffic into/out of the facility and the streets of Sun Valley.

Mike's gave the following instructions for the meeting:

- Don't interrupt the speaker
- 2-minute limit per question will be granted to the members of the audience
- Comments can be made by filling out the yellow comment page in the packet on your seat. These will be submitted to the L.A. Planning and Zoning Office's Hearing Officer the day of this project's Public meeting, which most likely will be scheduled in late October or early November
- If you have a question that was not discussed, write it down on the yellow question page in the packet on your seat. These questions will be shared with WM within the next week and hopefully they will be answered before the hearing.
- Fill out your name and number on the forms
- Write your name and address on the sign in sheets, so you can be notified of future public meetings
- Registration Voting forms are available

Doug Corcoran, Director of Special Projects, WM

- Thanked the SVA NC's Board and audience
- Stated his 20 year history with Sun Valley; 10 years with an office on Tujunga Ave.
- Gave history of Sun Valley to put project in perspective:
 - In the late 1800's, what is now Sun Valley was known as the Roberts' "water stop" because trains traveling through stopped here to get water for their steam engines.
 - In 1896, the town became known as "Roscoe"- back then Roscoe was declared to be one of the five healthiest places to live in the US.
 - In 1911, the Valley received its first paved street, Sherman Way – was 16 miles long and cost \$500,000- it has been said that a portion of the road closest to Sun Valley still has potholes from the rains of 1915!
 - In 1949 the town leaders decided that "Roscoe" was not a "glamorous" enough name for what they had planned so they issued ballots to the community to rename it.
 - In 1950, the city officially became Sun Valley.
 - Sun Valley had a vibrant, diverse, multi-cultural population
 - A community dedicated to meeting the needs of our children/to working together/to good quality of life and jobs that allowed us to live well
 - Sun Valley in the last 58 years has become an industrial landscape
 - Valley steam plant were built, more quarries were dug to provide material to build the roads, freeways and other developments that make up Los Angeles today
 - When the quarries ran out of usable sand, rock and gravel, it seemed like a great idea to fill them with trash- so Sun Valley became home to 27 or more landfills
 - When the landfills were filled, they looked like a good spot for auto wrecking yards
- Five of the busiest freeways now cross alongside or through Sun Valley.
- The way the current industrial landscape was built did not adequately consider/address the impacts on the surrounding community—because now more is known about the dangers of chemicals like asbestos and lead-base paint.
- Through it all, Sun Valley has remained a vibrant community who has never forgotten those early visions of a place that is:
 - Safe for our families
 - Where people can make a good living
 - In a clean and green environment

The Sun Valley Recycling Park

- WM wants to be the first Sun Valley industry to move into a cleaner, better future
- Project WM is proposing to:
 - Build a state of the art, aesthetically pleasing, fully enclosed, 100,000 sq ft facility on 11 acres, south of the old landfill, which is now closed and has not received any waste since April 2007.
 - Process up to 1000 tons per day of recyclables, such as paper, aluminum, glass, plastics, cardboard from small and large businesses
 - Receive up to 4000 TPD of waste which will be shipped out of Sun Valley to landfills away from and outside of L.A.
 - Continue to process green waste, up to 2500 tons per day, for agricultural mulch and compost. WM is one of the largest green-processors in the State of California, and one of the major processors for the City of L.A.

Benefits of the Sun Valley Recycling Park

- WM has incorporated your input to make this a one-of-a-kind in Sun Valley and in the entire City.
- This project will support Sun Valley through:
 - 240 jobs out of the WM facility
 - \$30 million per year of contribution to the local economy of the NE San Fernando Valley
 - Community leadership – WM’s goal wants to serve as a role model for businesses and industries to follow

Meeting Highest Environmental Standards - Clean and Green

- The massive stakeholders’ input has inspired the following improvements to the original plans:
 - LEED certification: as their website states "LEED" is a third-party certification program, a nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings or “environmentally-sensitive buildings.”
 - LEED certification ensures that WM constructs and operates a facility up to the most exacting environmental standards in the country
 - Not required by law
- This building will be a negative pressure building to trap dust, odors and fumes, which means that these will be pulled-in to the building where they will encounter misters, odor control and then will be exhausted out of the roof of the building after they’ve been treated.
- The ramps will be built out of concrete instead of asphalt to reduce dust, help improve LEED status, and reflect heat from the sun as oppose to absorb it. This is also not required by law.
- WM has committed to price incentives to encourage customers to use cleaner burning trucks, with cleaner fuel, with cleaner engine technology that cause less emissions.
- WM will plant 200 trees throughout the facility, especially along San Fernando Road

Regulated and Guided by CEQA

- The Environmental analysis is directed, controlled, and mandated under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), which was designed to make sure that potential impacts from a project are known to the community in which that project will be located, and that they will be addressed and mitigated.
- This project is unprecedented from an environmental analysis stand point, as far as the level and depth of scrutiny this project has undergone.
- Under CEQA the following categories of potential impacts were studied in detailed:
 - Air Quality
 - Traffic
 - Land Use
 - Noise
 - Aesthetics
 - Hydrology
 - Geology
 - Hazardous Material Handling
- After the completion of an approximate two-year study period under the direction of the City, the results of the studies were made available for the public’s review for a period of 90 days, even though a 45-day review period is what ‘s required by law, WM presented it for 90-day public review period.
- 1000 plus comments and over 150 letters were collected from the community by the City about this project
- WM responded, as required by law, to each and every comment. Then the agencies review this process to make sure that WM properly and fully addressed the communities’ concerns and the studies that were done were valid and trustworthy.
- At the end, five categories, out of the list mentioned above, needed additional attention:
 - Air Quality
 - Traffic
 - Aesthetics
 - Noise
 - Odors
- Through the science and studies completed as part of the EIR and through all of our conversations with the community, WM came up with the following solutions to address the aforementioned categories:
 - Air Quality and Odor concerns – WM has incorporated the following features into the project:
 - A negative pressure building to capture dust, odors and fumes
 - Maximum of 24 hours of time before green waste is removed from the site
 - The most modern/cleanest available engine technology for the equipment that will operate in this facility

- Reduced tip fees for clean fuel/clean emissions vehicles coming to the site
- Commitment to ensure that WM's hauling fleet meets and exceeds all air quality regulations
- Pavement of all vehicle access areas to reduce dust-PM 10
- Traffic Concerns:
 - Participation in the City's ATSAC program to improve traffic flow by installing traffic light synchronization
 - Commitment of a host fee that can be paid on a lump sum or on a per ton basis, to the community that can be used for a variety of projects including traffic mitigation and to improve road conditions, if that is what the community chooses
 - Commitment to add WM's expertise and relationships to help the SVANC and others secure additional funding for further road condition improvements
- Aesthetics
 - WM is committed to an aesthetically beautiful building
 - WM has committed to plant 200 additional trees around the facility and along San Fernando Rd; about 1,700 trees have been planted on the site in the last 10 years.
 - The attractive landscaping with drought tolerant plants and low-water usage type of species
- Noise
 - The MRF/TS building is completely enclosed, thus noise is controlled
 - The row of trees along San Fernando Rd. serves as sound blockers
 - The interior walls of the building will be covered with sound attenuation material, essentially a buffering or muffling type.
 - WM has incorporated green features throughout the building because it is going to be LEED certified.

Why this project is good for Sun Valley

- The host fee can be used for all kinds of community needs- youth programs, sidewalks, road repairs, and health programs, whatever the community chooses.
- Keep local jobs so people can afford to raise their families here
- Keep WM working with local vendors resulting in a positive economic contribution in Sun Valley
- WM is committed to fight along with the community to ***keep the money in Sun Valley***, for its benefit and improvement

Sun Valley Recycling Park: Right project, right now - What does Sun Valley need?

- Cooperation among the residents, business and industry must have a single focus. Industry and businesses must commit to:
 - Meet the highest environmental standards
 - Respond to the community
 - Being reputable and the will invest in the facility and the community
- WM asked the community to look at this project in total, realize that it takes big steps, not impossible leaps, for transformation to occur
- WM asked the SVANC to vote to support the project because it represents a standard for excellence and the vision for Sun Valley's future

Q&A Period

Q: Julie Freeman, North Hollywood resident; What environmental impacts will it have in the City of L.A. and why is it good for Sun Valley?

A. First of all, recycling. L.A. is at the top of the list for recycling. This project will add another 1,000 tons a day of recycling capabilities to the city of L.A. Second is trash; as of now, there still doesn't exist the alternative technology solutions for dealing with trash in a cleaner way, thus there is still a lot that needs to be buried. Transfer stations are needed to move out the waste, because they gather the waste from smaller trucks and load it into larger trucks thus resulting in fewer trucks on the road. Finally green waste needs to be processed it into mulch, compost, fuel, etc.

Q: Karl Kunak, North Hollywood resident; Why WM has not worked with the Neighborhood Council to figure out a way of encapsulating the green waste with an enclosed building with negative air passage.

A: First, WM does a good job in odor control, three years ago a series of baffle fences with odor neutralizer sprayers were installed along the fences, and the operation was completely encircled with these sprayers, including on the equipment to reduce the odor and dust. The year before this system was installed, WM received 136 odor complaints traced back to the operation, the year after it was installed WM received 26 odor complaints and the year after that only 3 odor complaints. So far this year, only 1 odor complaint has been reported because of the high level of deodorant from WM. The NC will be involved in every discussion about this facility.

Q: Julie Monroy, Who will determine how the Host fee monies will be distributed and spent?

A: It is not known yet. There needs to exist an official legal entity who can be in control of that money. Typically host fees are controlled by City councils. This is why WM will work jointly with the community to make sure the monies from this host fee stay in Sun Valley.

Q: Sarah R, North Hollywood NE NC: How has this project been protected against activity along the Verdugo fault line and any unknown faults underneath this facility against such things as liquefaction?

A: The design WM has for the facility includes a review, study and analysis of the faults that are there. The Verdugo fault runs near there, but that portion of the fault was recognized by the USGS as a non-active section of the fault. However WM has incorporated into the design the ability for the building to flex. For example, WM can actually have from one side of the building a shift of up to 10' without any major negative impacts, this is beyond the maximum estimated displacement that would happen from the fault if it was still active.

Q: And since WM is on a hill, there is no possibility of liquefying that soil?

A: No, the soil there will not liquefy because it is not that type. There is also an inert fill, which is concrete, asphalt that will be pulled out, ground up, and compacted back in place, thus basically forming a ridge. A lot of the structural, geological, seismic engineering reviews have addressed any potential earthquake impact or any other seismic activity.

Q: Ellen Mackey, East Valley Coalition, scientist, activists, residents of Sun Valley:

1. Please address the issue of particulate matter

A: WM has a frame over the conveyors with sprayers that spray the materials as they move along, keeping the dust at lower levels. WM is open to someone visiting to verify and monitor this system.

2. What level of LEED certification are you considering?

A: WM has reached Silver so far, and is trying to get the Gold. The consultant/architect on the LEED standard is Alchemi Consulting.

3. What kind of green energy?; and 4. Why not solar in Sun Valley?

A: WM is using landfill gas as a renewable energy source. WM is currently looking into solar panels as part of trying to reach the Gold Certification LEED. WM is also researching a type roof material that functions as a solar panel.

5. Who controls the fees from the community?

A: Maybe the City Council based on the input from the community, NC, and other community members, but it's still uncertain.

Q: Cynthia Dupree, Shadow Hills, Sun Land resident, member of East Valley Coalition: Is your price incentive for clean burning trucks, but is it a substantial or minimal incentive?

A: WM considers it as a substantial incentive; however the exact number has not yet been worked out. Conversely, WM will give a price penalty to dirty trucks that will be significantly noticeable and will have an impact on the truckers.

-Q: In this case, what is a clean and dirty truck?

-A: WM has not yet written that program yet, but will definitely find some way to validate that the engine Technology and the fuel is "clean." WM will use stickers and plates given by SCAQMD.

-Q: The \$30M per year to the local economy is it all post fee or does it include WM's taxes?

-A: This amount is not the host fee. The host fee is separate. This is the economic contribution of WM's business, which include, taxes, payroll, purchases from local vendors, which eventually has a multiplying effect. The bulk of the \$30 is in local purchases, payroll and the impact it has on other local businesses.

-Q: WM will plant 200 trees, but this is a requirement, so who will maintain these trees?

-A: WM will maintain those trees. As you've noticed, WM has planted 1,700 trees on the site in the past 10 years and the majority are doing well.

Q: Sam K. ex-NC, Sun Valley resident: How can the community get a guarantee that some of the money will stay in Sun Valley?

A: Some suggestions include committing to talk to Councilman Cárdenas and letting him know the community wishes. What the Councilman always says is that he agrees that the money should stay in Sun Valley and wants to make sure that this project is the best project that it can possibly be in Sun Valley.

Q: Fr. Richard Zanotti, pastor of the Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church, Sun Valley: Is this going to be a 24-7 operation?

A: The transfer station will not be 24 hours, at 8:00 PM being the last receipt of waste. The Recycling Center, WM has asked for 24-hour operation, which is market driven, but will not receive material 24-hour per day. The green waste is not 24 hours, but a 7-to-7 operation. The trucks will be from 6:00-8:00 for receiving waste during the week, and on weekends, on Saturdays the trash generally will be done earlier; recyclables may come in until 8:00. WM is not proposing to be open on Sundays.

Comment: Gil F., customer of WM, resident of San Fernando Valley: Expressed his school contacted WM to donate two dumpster for their project, their staff was very responsive to the request, donating two large dumpster, that arrived on time, and were collected early Monday morning before the kids returned to school. As a result of WM's efforts the school saved \$10K. To the Board of the SVANC, WM is program-responsive to the community, willing to be generous, and an organization with integrity.

Continuation of SVANC General Meeting's Agenda

- Presentations and Announcements from Elected Officials and/or their Representatives
 - Antonio Sanchez, from the Mayor's Office, announced a Foreclosure Forum on October 11, 2008 organized by the Mayors' office and ACORN
 - Project's applications for the Mayor's Day of Service were distributed. It will be held in November.
 - Erick Menjivara, office of Councilwoman Gruel, announced the Child Health and Safety Fair on October 11, at 645 W. Saint Clair Avenue at Valley Plaza Park (by Victory and the 170 Fwy).
 - The VOY Art Project: the artist and his engineer are presenting their final submittal with their corrections to Bureau of Engineering. In 2-3 weeks we will have a better idea of where this project stands.
 - Gracie Liu, DONE representative, announced that October 11 is the Congress of Neighborhood Councils and the Community Budget day. Also if stakeholders is not getting the email blast form DONE and notice notifications from the Planning Department please let Gracie know.
- **Public Comment**
 - Mr. Karl Kunak asked the members of the Bradley Landfill CAC to take five suggestions of how the money in the Trust Fund should be spent, to their next meeting.
- **Board Member Comment**
 - Elidia shared great news from Poly high school, the students met all the API and AYP test scores in order to meet the No Child Left Behind goals, and since all these requirements have met then they are officially out of Program Improvement.
 - Mike O'Gara announced that the two parks in Sun Valley have had baseball/softball games. Sun Valley Park took first place in softball for the valley region and citywide, and Sun Valley also won for minor baseball.
 - One of the board members talked about a skateboard park and a VMX bike path on the WM hillside of its site.
- **Committee Reports:** The president, treasurer and land use chairs will present their reports at the next Board member's general meeting.
- Outreach was done at the park, see banners on the wall, with about 200 attendees.
- Environmental Justice Zone committee will meet in two weeks, and the ad-hoc office committee will meet in about three weeks.
- **New Business** – none

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:10 PM.