

Conference Focuses on California Water Issues

By Soledad S. Garcia, Chair,
Community Infrastructure Committee

For the past 17 years, a group of dedicated water-minded people have spent hours of their time discussing workshop topics and selecting qualified speakers while gauging the "hot" issues of the day.

On November 14 and 15, 2007, participants selected from 19 workshops to be updated on the status of "Global Changes." The presenters wove the issue to bring it to our present-day reality on farming, ranching, fishing and from our water sources from the Delta to the Colorado River and streams.

Ranchers and farmers answered hard questions on water conservation: How much water is consumed by cattle? Why are you still growing water-thirsty

crops? What are you doing to mitigate water usage? How are you recycling water? What newer methods are you utilizing so that irrigation is conserving water? Should farmers and ranchers have meters? Where is the oversight when you pump groundwater?

Of course, the conference was taking place before the great water and snowfall we are having. We were in a drought condition and getting ready to start rationing.

None of the presenters doubted that our climate was indeed changing, that we were losing land, that glaciers were melting faster, that the ocean was gaining water, that the temperature of the ocean was changing, and that the use of fossil fuel had to be lessened.

The Delta's water is diverted for the

protection of fish. Southern California will have a third of that water shut off to us for their preservation. Interestingly, some endangered species may still be fished with restrictions and permits.

Unfortunately some permits last for as long as 50 years. As climate changes, those permits should be changed to take into consideration those conditions and identify them to protect the fish.

Southern California has salmon migrating into local streams in Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego counties. The steelhead goes out to sea to grow and returns to streams to spawn.

The steelhead is tough and adapts to dry conditions, some high temperatures and low stream flows. Their DNA may provide the diversity that will be needed by steelhead along the northern coast

should climate warming proceed as forecast.

Global warming is here; climate change is impacting our coasts and cities. We have heat waves and rising sea levels.

The Bay Delta conservation plan is a challenge that will need strategic planning because of the effect on northern and southern cities.

Water management is paramount to the state's economy and to the health of the population. We have choices in lessening the use of fossil fuel to reduce air pollution. It is within our purview to implement changes positively.

NC Oversight Group Questions LADWP Need for Rate Increases

By Soledad S. Garcia,
Board Member / Chair,
LADWP MOU Oversight Committee

On February 8, the LADWP Board of Commissioners accepted the general manager's rationale on why Los Angeles city ratepayers should pay higher and additional rates for water and power. The board will forward its answers to the energy and environment and budget and finance council committees, which will meet after February 16.

On December 11, 2007, Erik Garcetti, president of the city council, together with the joint committees of energy /environment and budget/finance, set aside for 60 days DWP's proposal for another 23-30 percent single-family residential hike. The council members stated they had not received information from DWP to justify increases. Accordingly, the councilmembers submitted their own questions to DWP.

The NC/LADWP Memorandum of Understanding Oversight Committee (OSC) had gone before two committees and council to plead the rate payers' cause to delay council's decision for monies beyond the quarterly cost adjustments and surcharges which were steadily amounting to 50 percent and 57 percent respectively to 2010.

The OSC indicated that DWP figures were misrepresented and that the Huron audit report had not been presented within the prescribed time for a

substantive OSC response.

In the meantime, the OSC had informed the previous general manager as well as the acting manager, the controller, committees and council that city charter section 266a required an industrial, economic and administrative (IEA) five-year survey, due no later than November 2007.

On January 5, the general membership of the oversight committee unanimously passed the *Resolution Regarding the Proposed LADWP Rate Actions for 2008-2010*. The following statement was loud and clear: "...that the city council ensure the expeditious completion of the IEA survey and that the city council not approve any LADWP rate increase action until the information and recommendations of the IEA be considered by the mayor, controller, city council and general public so as to allow all to make informed decisions."

On February 6, the OSC chairperson and three representatives met with the DWP general manager, mayor/council liaison, and a DWP financial administrator to discuss NC/DWP matters.

The OSC chair presented the IEA resolution. The general manager demanded that the chair rescind the resolution. The representatives, however, reminded the general manager that the resolution had been sent to the NC's the previous month.

He was advised that the councils require approximately 60 days to obtain results. The OSC representatives said they would make every effort to convey LADWP's position to all NC's.

The NC/LADWP Memorandum of Understanding Oversight Committee asked the 74 participating neighborhood council oversight members to agendize the resolution and advise the chair of the results.

Social Security in San Pedro

A satellite Social Security Administration office is now open at the county's San Pedro health facility located at 150 West Seventh Street. Hours are 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays.

LOS ANGELES NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS/LADWP MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION REGARDING PROPOSED LADWP RATE ACTIONS FOR 2008-2010

At its duly noticed general membership meeting on January 5, 2008, the NC/LADWP Oversight Committee, representing 74 Neighborhood Councils, moved, seconded, and unanimously approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS City Charter Section 266a requires an Industrial, Economic and Administrative (IEA) Survey of proprietary departments be completed at least every five years; and

WHEREAS the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power is such a proprietary department; and

WHEREAS the last such LADWP IEA Survey was completed in 2002; and

WHEREAS the Mayor, Controller and Council, as required by the City Charter, have not ensured the timely completion of the required IEA Survey by November, 2007;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NC/LADWP Oversight Committee requests that the City Council ensure the expeditious completion of said IEA Survey AND that the City Council not approve any LADWP rate increase actions until the information and recommendations of the IEA Survey can be considered by the Mayor, Controller, City Council and general public so as to allow all to make informed decisions.

Buscaino's Beat continued from page 3

Stadium. The San Pedro School Safety Collaborative, along with Justice for Murdered Children, will be coordinating this vigil. Joe Gatlin and I are co-chairing this vigil.

The mission is to continue to promote peace in our community and recognize the young lives lost to gang violence. The vigil is expecting to draw a crowd of nearly 1,000. Weekly planning meetings are taking place at San Pedro High School.

We are seeking funding to help offset the event costs. Please call me or email me if you are interested in helping plan this long-overdue event.

Teen CPAB Meetings

Please note the upcoming Teen Com-

munity Police Advisory Board meetings, which will be held at the San Pedro Boys & Girls Club's Teen Center.

Tuesday, February 26, 3:30 p.m.

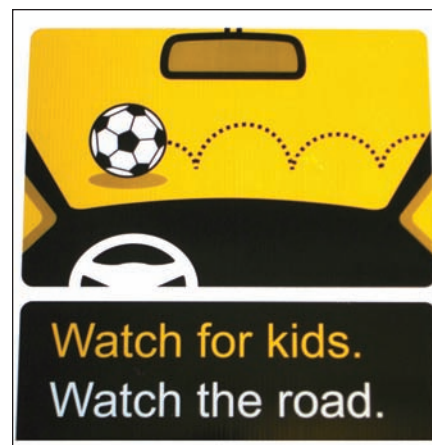
Tuesday, March 25, 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 15, 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 27, 3:30 p.m.

Also, our second annual Teen-Police Conference is tentatively scheduled for April 24. Harbor's Teen CPAB will again play an active role in planning the conference.

Five other Teen CPAB groups from other LAPD stations will be invited to participate at this year's conference which will highlight anti-gang prevention and issues related to diversity and tolerance.



Everyone Wins...

When You Use the Right Bin!

CITY OF LOS ANGELES • DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS • BUREAU OF SANITATION

City of Los Angeles
Blue Bin Recyclables

- Glass bottles & jars
- Aluminum cans
- Tin or metal food cans
- Aerosol cans
- Empty & dry paint cans
- Plastic jugs & bottles
- Grocery & dry cleaning bags
- Newspaper
- Envelopes
- Magazines
- Phone books
- Fliers
- Cardboard
- Metal Hangers
- Styrofoam

Questions?
www.larecycles.org
1-800-773-2489
multifamily@lacity.org