

Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council

7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga, CA 91042 - (818) 951-7411 FAX (818) 951-7412

AGENDA MONTHLY BOARD MEETING Wednesday, March 8, 2006 – 7 PM Mt. Gleason Middle School 10965 Mt. Gleason Avenue • Sunland

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assisted listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting by contacting the Amelia Herrera-Robles n, at (818) 374-9895, toll-free at (866) LA HELPS, or e-mail Amelia.Herrera-Robles@mailbox.lacity.org

The public is requested to address the Board/Committee on any item of the agenda prior to the Board/Committee taking action on an item. Comments from the public on Agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered and at the discretion of the presiding officer(s). Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda can be heard during Open Forum Period. Public Comment is limited to two minutes per speaker, unless waived by the presiding officer(s) of the Board/Committee.

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order & Board Roll Call

Comments from the STNC Chairman (Welcome, Speakers Times, Calendar [April Meeting], NC Office)

Presentations (install DAC)

1st Public Comment

Presentation – Mary Benson – “Rim of the Valley”

Executive Committee Reports

- Treasurer
- Recording Secretary – Minutes / Grievance
- Corresponding Secretary

Committee Reports

- Safety – Nina Royal
 - o LAFD Battalion Commander & LAPD Sr. Lead Officers
- Outreach – Dan McManus
 - o Committee Meeting 3/11 & Mayor’s Day of Service on 5/7

Design Advisory Committee (DAC) – Victor Castro

- o 8040 Foothill Blvd. (former K-Mart/proposed Home Depot site)
- o 7200 Foothill Blvd. (former Ford Property at Foothill & Commerce)
- o Planning Issues CD2

Ad-Hoc Committee Reports: Rules, Bylaws, Communications

Citywide Budget

New Business - Discussion/Action:

1. Board Recommendation #1 that STNC endorses CF06-0399 – Ridgeline Protection
2. Board Recommendation #2 to approve Budget Committee recommendations.
3. Board Recommendation #3 to approve Outreach Committee recommendation to endorse The Foothills Paper & Coffee Stop Farmers Market & Fair to be held twice a month.
4. Discussion/Action on the appointment of District 1 representative to the STNC board.
5. Discussion/Action to endorse the actions of the Design Advisory Committee (DAC).
6. Discussion/Action to appoint alternates to DAC.
7. Discussion/Action to approve Outreach Committee’s Mayor’s Community-wide Day of Service recommendations.
8. Discussion/Action: Motion be made in L.A. City Council open session to make permanent the two Area Planning District Budget NC Representatives to the Mayor.
9. Discussion/Action: Motion be made in Los Angeles City Council open session to make a ruling that 50% of all new City Councilperson employees be hired from those living within the geographic district of that Councilperson.

2nd Public Comment

9:00 PM - Adjourn

For detail information on the above items, please see the handout at the STNC meeting on Feb 8, 2006 or call the STNC office for a copy at (818) 951-7411. The handout will be available on the STNC web site on 2/6/06.

Agenda is posted for public review at: Sunland-Tujunga Chamber of Commerce 8250 Foothill Blvd. Unit B, Sunland; Municipal Building, 7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga; and Sunland Senior Center, 8640 Fenwick Street, Sunland.

New Business - Discussion/Action – March 8, 2006

1. Board Recommendation #1 that STNC endorses CF06-0399 – Ridgeline Protection Motion -- *See attached City Council Motion*
2. Board Recommendation #2 to approve Budget Committee recommendations.
 - a. Ratify emergency spending budget to include approval for spending until required reconciliations are accepted by DONE for the following items only:
 - 1) Office Admin \$5,220.00 through 6/30/06
 - 2) Telephone/DSL
 - 3) Office Expense
 - 4) Gas Expense
 - 5) Postcards for meeting announcements
 - 6) Copying for meeting minutes, handouts, announcements
 - 7) Postage
 - 8) Possible new copier/fax if repair not possible.
 - b. That \$5,220.00 be reallocated from the Outreach committee budget to a new category called administrative salary budget.
 - c. Approve revised STNC FY 2005/2006 Budget.
 - d. Approve new Expense Requisition and Pre-Approved Expense Reimbursement Forms as designed by the Treasurer.
3. Board Recommendation #3 to approve Outreach Committee recommendation to endorse The Foothills Paper & Coffee Stop Farmers Market & Fair to be held twice a month.
4. Discussion/Action on the appointment of District 1 representative to the STNC board.
5. (Victor Castro) Discussion/Action to endorse the actions of the Design Advisory Committee (DAC). *See attached DAC Minutes*
6. (Victor Castro) Discussion/Action to appoint alternates to DAC.
7. (Dan McManus) Discussion/Action to approve Outreach Committee Mayor's Community-wide Day of Service recommendations.
8. (John Blue) Discussion/Action: Motion be made in L.A. City Council open session to make permanent the two Area Planning District Budget NC Representatives to the Mayor. *See attached*
9. (John Blue) Discussion/Action: Motion be made in Los Angeles City Council open session to make a ruling that 50% of all new City Councilperson employees be hired from those living within the geographic district of that Councilperson. *See attached*

MOTION

PLANNING and LAND USE MGT!

FEB 24 2006

Ridgeline vistas are one of Los Angeles' most valuable natural resources. However, the dwindling supply of developable land, advances in technology and the high price commanded by view homes are increasingly contributing to the destruction of prominent ridges in all areas of the city.

While the City of Los Angeles has enacted the San Gabriel/Verdugo Mountains Scenic Preservation Plan, the Hillside Ordinance, and the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan, there are still many hillside areas with prominent ridges that are left unprotected.

In 2004, the County of Los Angeles adopted the Santa Monica Mountains North Area Community Standards District Grading and Significant Ridgeline Ordinance which places strict limits on grading and requires preservation of skyline views. Among the measures contained in the County ordinance are:

- Restrictions on homes in areas characterized by unstable geologic conditions and limits on grading of slopes in excess of 25 percent
- Protection of significant natural features
- Prohibitions on skyline development and the location of structures below ridgelines to preserve views of natural skylines
- Preserving views of skylines from designated public places, including streets and highways

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Department of City Planning prepare a report discussing the feasibility of drafting a citywide ridgeline protection ordinance to be presented to the Planning and Land Use Management Committee in sixty days that includes the following:

1. Cataloging the existing, unprotected ridgelines in the City of Los Angeles
2. Analyzing existing ridgeline protection measures in current Los Angeles City law
3. Evaluating the potential applicability of the County Ridgeline Ordinance to the City of Los Angeles
4. Recommending any other measures which could aid in the protection of our City's dwindling ridgelines

Presented by


JACK WEISS, Councilmember Fifth District

Seconded by



February 24, 2006

06-0399

EG

SUNLAND TUJUNGA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT FORM

This form is to be used for preapproved expenses that need reimbursement.

This must be accompanied by original receipts attached.

This form must be signed by the Chairman of the committee that incurs the expense.

Committee: (Circle one)

ADMIN OUTREACH EXEC BD

SAFETY ELECTION BUDGET

OTHER _____

Expense Category:

Committee Chairman's Approval:

Date:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

SUBMITTED BY: (print name)

Notes:

SIGNATURE:

Treasurer Signature:

Date:

DATE:

PHONE:

* NOTE: A SEPARATE FORM MUST BE FILLED OUT FOR EACH COMMITTEE.



THE FOOTHILLS PAPER &

COFFEE STOP

FARMERS MARKET & FAIR



Sunday, Mar 19th 2006

Sunday, April 2, 2006

Sunday, April 16, 2006

Sunday, May 7th, 2006

Sunday May 21st, 2006

Sunday, June 4th, 2006

Sunday June 18th, 2006

Sunday, July 2nd, 2006

Sunday, July 16th, 2006

Twice a month on Sundays

**VENDORS CALL 818-951-8562
IF INTERESTED IN
PARTICIPATING.**

**LOCATED AT THE COFFEE STOP
7937 FOOTHILL BLVD.**

FINALLY BACK TO SUNLAND TUJUNGA

PHONE FOR MORE INFO: 818-951-8562
FAX: 818-446-0943
EMAIL: MARIANNE @ THEFOOTHILLSPAPER.COM

“Big Sunday 06, A Citywide Community
Day of Service”

Sunday, May 7, 2006

Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council
recommended projects and needed
volunteers:

1. Tree Planting along Foothill Blvd. in
Sunland-Tujunga (20-50)
2. Community Clean-Up (20-50)
3. Historic Home Tour 2006 (25)
4. STNC light pole banners on Foothill
Blvd. (20)
5. Paint Tujunga Post Office outside west
wall (10-15)
6. Commerce Ave. façade and street
clean-up (12-20)

Political commentators of every political stripe have long noted that there is a huge gap between the voting people and their elected Council representative in LA City Hall. This has led to an almost permanent sense of isolation and alienation between the two.

Inside this gap, special interests have flourished and taken hold, pushing the City in the directions they want, not necessarily where the people want.

The special interests are allowed permanent access to the chambers of City Hall where they call the shots, write the rules and daily meet the Councilpersons.

The people are allotted one day a year, on a Saturday morning, for two hours, to hear the City's Budget read to them by a young clerk -- with not a Councilperson in sight to listen to the real stories from the 'hood.

[We, the elected representatives of the Neighborhood Councils] or [I] have some suggestions to improve the communication between the power and the people.

~~~~~

**Whereas, in keeping with the oft-stated intent of our new Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa to be the Mayor of all the people, to increase neighborhood contacts and to reach out to the commonest person among us...**

**And in keeping with the populist and democratic philosophy of the new LA City Council President Eric Garcetti...**

**And in keeping with the affection Councilperson [here submit your District Councilperson] has long shown the ordinary and working people of [his/her] District...**

**We the Representatives of the [here insert your own Neighborhood Council's name] Neighborhood Council do hereby recommend that:**

#### ONE

**A motion be made in LA City Council open session to make permanent the two Area Planning District Budget NC Representatives to the Mayor.**

All these Budget NC Representatives are to meet once, on February 28<sup>th</sup> 2006, with the Mayor to "discuss" the 2006/7 City budget, which launches July 1, 2006.

If these Representatives are permanent and meet with the Mayor on a monthly basis, the real fiscal concerns/priorities of the Neighborhoods will be directly brought to the attention of the Mayor without any interference with special or political interests. The Mayor can thus directly take the pulse of the city, and speed the needs.

This satisfies the Los Angeles Mayor's, Council President's and District Councilperson's desire for direct connection, and the People's desire for direct access.

#### TWO

**A motion be made in Los Angeles City Council open session to make a ruling that 50% of all new City Councilperson employees be hired from those living within the geographic district of that Councilperson.**

This guarantees that the Councilperson will be in immediately personal touch with the needs of the district and not isolated from the people of that district.

There is a wealth of talented people living in every district, and there is no reason to hire outside, and risk further voter isolation that is the cause of so much trouble. It is insulting to the people of the districts to imply there is no native talent.

The only requirements should be that they are steadfast American citizens of sound mind, stout heart and good common sense with no major gang affiliation, no major criminal record and no major political connection.

This satisfies the Los Angeles Mayor's, Council President's and District Councilperson's desire for direct connection, and the People's desire for direct access.





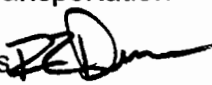
## Valley Community Planning

Marvin Bruade San Fernando Valley Constituent Service Center  
6262 Van Nuys Boulevard, Suite 351 ? Van Nuys, CA 90012 - 2709



February 16, 2006

TO: Sergio D. Valdez  
Transportation Engineer  
Department of Transportation

FROM: Robert Z. Dueñas   
Senior City Planner  
Department of City Planning

SUBJECT: **RESPONSE TO TRAFFIC ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED HOME DEPOT  
LOCATED AT 8040 FOOTHILL BOULEVARD, SUNLAND ENV-2005-319-MND**

*Y*  
*EAF*

The Department of City Planning has reviewed your traffic assessment, dated December 12, 2005 and the traffic study submitted by the applicant for your review, dated March 2005. In that assessment your office compared the traffic generation/trips of a proposed 123,505 square-foot home improvement store to that of a 99,330 square-foot retail building. Based on your prior and current policies, the applicant was allowed to consider the vacant 99,330 square-foot building as "fully occupied" with a retail use, for their analysis. While your policies for recognizing that existing traffic generation/trips should be subtracted from new (replacement) uses can be considered as reasonable in determining the actual impacts a new use will have on an area, there are situations that may require varying from that policy.

The existing building had been vacated by the previous tenant since approximately October 2004. Allowing your practice of review gave the appearance that the home improvement store would reduce the traffic flows in the area over that which is currently generated by the use on site. The current tenant (of less than 3 months) is a discount book store occupying approximately only 30-40% of the building and realistically not generating any substantial traffic flow. During the last year (2002 -2003) that the site had been fully occupied the tenant likely had a declining customer base and the trips being generated were not near that presented by the figures used in the traffic study. While your policy tries to recognize current trips verses new trips to determine a project's traffic impacts, in this project, recognizing the trips generated by a 99,330 square-foot retail use as reflecting the current traffic conditions, is not a true reflection of the existing situation and that of the previous years.

February 16, 2006

Page 2 of 2

In addition, during our review of the traffic study and your analysis the department has received a substantial amount of comments regarding the projects impacts. The Councilperson for the area and many residents feel that the project will have a substantial traffic impact on the community. Based on the concerns of the Council office, the substantial number of community residents and our concerns that the traffic study does not accurately reflect the existing traffic conditions, we can not accept the analysis and conclusions of the traffic study as being sufficient to allow the city to take action.

In order to determine the impacts of the proposed 123,505 square-foot home improvement store on the current traffic in the area, the trips calculated from a defunct retail store should not be subtracted from the overall analysis. A revised traffic study is required for the project in order for our department and the city decision making bodies to adequately review the traffic impacts on the area as required by CEQA.

cc: Dale Thrush, Planning Deputy, 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
Robert Sutton, Deputy Director, City Planning Department  
Dan Scott, Principal City Planner, City Planning Department  
Terry Kaufmann-Macias, City Attorney

**NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
OFFICERS**

**Jim Alger**  
President  
**Sherry Ramstead**  
Vice President  
**Meg Augello**  
Treasurer  
**Judy Nutter**  
Secretary

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
CALIFORNIA**



**Antonio Villaraigosa, Mayor**

**NORTHRIDGE WEST  
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
GOVERNING BOARD**

**Beverly Adler**  
**Dawn Alger**  
**Sam DeFrisco**  
**Carrie DeYoung**  
**Judith Frazin**  
**Linda Smith-Frost**  
**Elizabeth Jacobsen-Pell**  
**Jamie Ramstead**  
**Judie Levin-Sanchez**

February 25, 2006

To whom it may concern;

The Northridge West Neighborhood Council stands shoulder to shoulder with the Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council, the No to Home Depot campaign, and the residents of the Sunland-Tujunga community in their opposition to the installation of a Home Depot on Foothill Blvd in the City of Sunland.

Our Neighborhood Council has experience both in working with, and against, the will of corporations in our community. Developers who choose to work with the Neighborhood Council are received cordially, and in virtually all instances have met with project approval with slight modifications. Developers and companies who have either refused to meet with the Neighborhood Council, or have attended Neighborhood Council meetings with the intent of telling the council what they were going to do, as opposed to working with the council and community, more times than not end up being defeated.

Should there be any doubts I need only point you to our Neighborhood Councils recent defeat of Wal-Mart in Northridge as an example of what is becoming more and more commonplace in Los Angeles; communities asserting local control.

After carefully considering the circumstances at the Sunland site, and hearing the communities concerns the Neighborhood Council voted unanimously to oppose the proposed Home Depot. Furthermore, the Northridge West Neighborhood Council has offered whatever support necessary to ensure that the residents of Sunland-Tujunga achieve an amenable outcome. The NWNC has also recommended that this item be forwarded to the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Congress for a vote of support. Should they succeed in that effort, over 40 Neighborhood Councils will join Northridge West and Sunland-Tujunga in their opposition.

I strongly recommend that Home Depot take a step back and re-evaluate their position. Should you have any questions I may be reached at (818) 359-7256.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Alger".

**Jim Alger**  
President  
Northridge West Neighborhood Council  
Senator-LANCC Congress