



Mar Vista Community Council



Green Committee

Sunday, April 26, 2015 - 9:30 A.M.

Mar Vista Farmers Market

Grand View at Venice Blvd.

Tables Adjacent to the Post Office

Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Public comment
3. Motion to approve March minutes
4. Reports
 - a. MVCC Green Tent
 - b. 2015 Green Garden Showcase
 - c. Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance (NCSA)
 - d. Water Wise Expo
 - e. California Friendly Landscape Training
5. Discussion
 - a. Eliminating parkway turf (possible motion to follow)
 - b. Illegal watering (possible motion to follow)
 - c. Mayor's SaveTheDropLA campaign
 - d. Virtual Garden Showcase
6. Old business
 - a. MVCC Methane Resolution

WHEREAS, Los Angeles has one of the most substantial greenhouse gas footprints in the world. NASA has found that we also have one of the worst methane footprints around: 61% higher than previous estimates, which is a serious problem since methane is even more effective at trapping heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles is suffering on the front lines of global warming. the City is into year four of the worst drought in recorded history, which scientists are now saying has been exacerbated by climate change, and, as of the March, 2015, Metropolitan Water District board meeting the Sierra Nevada snowpack has nearly vanished and the State and the City are likely headed for serious water rationing; and

WHEREAS, NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory has launched their Megacities Carbon Project to measure multi-year emission trends of carbon dioxide, methane and carbon monoxide attributed to Los Angeles and other megacities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that, by the adoption of this Resolution, THE MAR VISTA COMMUNITY COUNCIL HEREBY SUPPORTS Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Koretz's motion calling on our City departments to come up with a specific and detailed plan to address

our methane problem.

THE MAR VISTA COMMUNITY COUNCIL ALSO URGES the City Council of Los Angeles to take a global leadership role as we inventory our methane leaks, eliminate them where appropriate and capture methane where possible to create a renewable energy source.

b. Animal product greenhouse gas motion

WHEREAS the livestock industry has an enormous greenhouse gas footprint and approximately 51% of global greenhouse gas emissions can be attributed to raising livestock and their natural byproducts, including an inordinate amount of methane; and

WHEREAS A recent study at Oxford University found that if we cut our meat intake by half, we can cut our carbon footprint by more than 35%; stick to sustainably raised fish and we can cut it by nearer to 50%; go vegan and the difference can be 60%; and

WHEREAS, these numbers inspired our country's foremost nutrition advisory panel, the U.S. Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee, to take a stand and recommend that Americans eat more plant-based foods and fewer animal-based foods; and

WHEREAS, we could reduce greenhouse gas emissions significantly by reducing the consumption of animal products which would also have enormous benefits in water use reduction as well.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the Mar Vista Community Council hereby urges the City of Los Angeles to embark on a public service education campaign to educate residents on the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the consumption of animal food products and utilize Mar Vista to develop the program and pilot the campaign.

c. Resolution opposing Phillips 66 Santa Maria Refinery crude by rail operation

The proposed Phillips 66 oil train offloading facility in San Luis Obispo County would bring nearly 3 million gallons of toxic crude oil per day into California. These mile-and-a-half long oil trains carry oil in unsafe tank cars through communities and over precious watersheds.

WHEREAS, the US and Canadian rail companies are common carriers, meaning they are required to carry whatever product shippers wish to put on the rail lines resulting in a 4,000% increase in crude by rail being carried on the rail lines in the past 3 years,

WHEREAS, this increase in Crude By Rail transportation has resulted in several disasters in the US and Canada (Lac Megantic, Quebec, Casselton, North Dakota, Hammond, Indiana, Aliceville, Alabama, Lynchburg, Virginia as well as four in the last weeks) which have resulted in the loss of human life and billions of dollars of damages to communities and their surrounding environment,

WHEREAS, the people of Los Angeles are concerned with the increase in oil-train traffic through many densely populated areas and the risk it poses to our city of almost four million people due to the Phillips 66 oil train off-loading facility expansion in San Luis Obispo County,

WHEREAS, the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) concludes that the proposed Phillips 66 rail spur would cause significant and unavoidable rail accident hazard risks along the main rail line that could result in oil spills, fires, and explosions near populated areas,

WHEREAS, the transport of crude oil by 100-car 1.4-mile long unit trains to the Santa Maria Refinery would occur on the Union Pacific railroad tracks through the City of Los Angeles from the Port of LA or Colton toward San Luis Obispo County, creating even more diesel pollution in already disproportionately impacted communities,

WHEREAS, our current rail system is designed to connect residents to their destinations throughout Southern California, not to move large quantities of hazardous materials like crude oil,

WHEREAS, an analysis of potential blast zone radii of rail lines carrying toxic and volatile crude from the San Fernando Valley all the way through South LA and the Harbor Area would impact homes, schools, parks, and businesses located adjacent to the tracks,

WHEREAS, the same blast zone map indicates the risk to a significant stretch of the Los Angeles River destined to receive \$1 billion in local, state and federal investment over several years to overhaul much of an 11-mile soft-bottomed stretch of the river between Griffith Park and downtown,

WHEREAS, previous rail car derailment explosions in North America have demonstrated most emergency responders, including those in the City of Los Angeles, do not have sufficient equipment and supplies, such as fire suppression foam, to adequately respond to a catastrophic explosion of a rail car derailment explosion,

WHEREAS, the RDEIR does not evaluate the relative air quality or greenhouse gas emissions for the Los Angeles region,

WHEREAS, the Mar Vista Community Council sees impacts to our local and regional community from trans-shipment of tar sands crude through our communities as vital to our interests, taxing emergency responders and harming regional air, land and water quality resources,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Mar Vista Community Council asserts the only San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission action that would avoid this public safety risk to Los Angeles County and beyond is denial of the project,

THEREFORE BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, the Mar Vista Community Council requests the City of Los Angeles City Council write a letter of opposition to the San Luis Obispo County Planning Commission to deny this project a permit until such time as it can be proven to be safe.

7. New business
8. Public comment
9. Motion to adjourn

**in compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting, may be viewed at <http://www.marvista.org> or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact secretary@marvista.org.*

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