

**Harbor Alliance of Neighborhood Councils**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**July 3, 2013**  
**Kaiser Permanente Conference Center**  
**25965 S. Normandie Ave., Harbor City, CA**

**Attendees:** Northwest San Pedro NC – Diana Nave (Chair), Ray Regalado, Scott Allman; Coastal San Pedro NC – June Burlingame Smith, Robert Gelfand; Central San Pedro NC – Allyson Vought, Carrie Scoville, Linda Alexander, Pat Carroll; Harbor City NC – Olive Reed, Grant Reed, Greg Donnan; Harbor Gateway South NC – Miguel Cordova; Harbor Gateway North NC – Rosalie Preston; Wilmington NC – Patrick Wilson.

**Other** – Skip Baldwin and Lucy Mejia (Wilmington Citizens Committee), Noel Weiss, Michelle Garakian (LA Business Council), Alicia Rivera (Clean LA Solar Coalition), Penny Good (Sierra Club Beyond Coal Campaign), Freddie Quintana (LAUSD Dist. 7), Dr. Fred Pickel and Camden Collins (OPA), and Joe Hari (DONE).

Chair Diana Nave convened the meeting at 6:35 p.m. Joe Hari set up a webcam so the meeting could be recorded. Carrie Scoville volunteered to take meeting notes.

Introductions were conducted around the room.

**DWP Ratepayer's Advocate: Dr. Fred Pickel**

Dr. Fred Pickel, Executive Director / Ratepayer Advocate, Office of Public Accountability (OPA), City of Los Angeles, Mail Stop 130-20, 201 North Figueroa St, Suite 520, Los Angeles, CA 90012-2623. Email [fred.pickel@lacity.org](mailto:fred.pickel@lacity.org), phone 213-482-6814, website [opa.lacity.org](http://opa.lacity.org)

Dr. Pickel explained he performs the role of ratepayer analysis for the City of LA. The OPA was established by the voters in 2011, he was brought in one year ago. Deputy Director Camden Collins has just been added to the Office.

He is here tonight to discuss the City's solar power initiatives and implications for ratepayers.

Department of Water and Power (DWP) rates are expected to increase 20% in the next 3-6 months due to ongoing drought conditions. That will be up 47% from January 2012. The rate increases are anticipated to take place in October 2013, and again in January 2014. The monies will be going to the Municipal Water District (MWD) to purchase water from the Sacramento delta.

The DWP is currently conducting three types of solar power initiatives:

1. Solar Incentive Program – household solar with net metering. Residential units may utilize solar power for their own use. Excess power is not sold back to the power grid, electric bills can get as low as \$0. 13.6 cents per kilo Watt hour (kWh) is the average residential rate. There are no concerns about this program from the Ratepayer Advocate.

The other two programs involve feed-in tariffs (FiT)s. These are designed for industrial solar projects (vendors) to be able to sell power back to the DWP power grid. Projects are 30 – 3,000 kW, or .03 to 3 mega Watts (MW), in scale.

2. FiT 50 – These are smaller (30 kW/3MW) solar projects conducted on LA industrial rooftops that are linked to the 200 MW Beacon solar array site in Kern County. The energy is auctioned. There are no concerns about this program from the Ratepayer Advocate since the energy is sold at market rate.

3. FiT 100 – These are 30kW/3MW solar projects conducted on LA industrial and large scale residential rooftops, and land parcels. The program will issue 20 year contracts to purchase 20MW of energy at a rate of 17 cents per kWh with no competitive bidding. LA City Council contract approval has been waived for this program so the bids will be final. DWP is opening bids July 8 at the .17 cents per kWh rate. July 15 the bids will close, then contracts will be issued by lottery. The Ratepayer Advocate found this program to be problematic because there is set pricing for the energy rates and no bidding.
  - Rates are continually dropping for the cost of solar, yet these contracts guarantee a 20 year fixed price at an inflated rate.
  - This plan would cost the city, and ratepayers, \$230-300 million over 20 years.
  - Considering the average residential rate is 13.6 cents kWh, this is overbid by 5 times.
  - At this price the ratepayers are being used to subsidize the commercial and industrial solar industry.
  - Other solar types sell for a rate as low as 9 cents per kWh.
  - Other agencies start at 8.79 cents per kWh. An LA County solar project is being done by Palo Alto for 6.9 cents per kWh.
  - There is also a question on the number of jobs created. These will be for installation of solar panels only, which are temporary in nature. No long term maintenance positions are anticipated. This does not fit the Federal definition of three years needed for permanent job creation.

See slide below for more information:

### **FiT 100 Impact on Customers**

- ❑ Comparable solar / renewable pricing
  - Large solar project bids appear to be under 8 cents/kWh delivered to major transmission
  - CPUC reports renewable auction mechanism 1.0-20 MW renewable bids under 9 cents/kWh for 2012
  - CPUC has revamped their under 1.0 MW Feed-In-Tariff program for SCE, PG&E, SDG&E to start at 8.9 cents/kWh
  - Last week, City of Palo Alto announced a 80 MW purchase from 3 projects at 6.9 cents/kWh, including one based in Los Angeles County
- ❑ Customer cost impact of first 20 MW allocation at 17 cents/kWh over 20 years versus other renewable programs at 7-9 cents/kWh: \$61-75 million
- ❑ Total excess customer cost for continuation of all 100 MW of the five 20MW allocations (17 cents, 16 cents, 15 cents, 14 cents, and 13 cents) versus other renewables
  - Other renewables at 7 cents/kWh: \$302 million (\$15 million per year)
  - Other renewables at 9 cents/kWh: \$231 million (\$8 million per year)
- ❑ Incremental carbon impact reduction from FiT versus other solar renewables: Zero additional carbon benefits
- ❑ Comparison:
  - Customer cost of accelerating IPP shutdown by one year: about \$250 million
  - You could buy more than twice as much solar power in the larger ("Palo Alto") deals
  - You could not spend the extra funds, and reduce rate increases



Other rate additions to consider:

- In January, 2013 there was a short term water rate increase due to the loss of two coal fired power plants.
- Delayed infrastructure repairs are needed. There will be an increase from .13 to .27 over the next 16 years.

Actions Recommended:

The Ratepayer Advocate recommends a review of the FiT100 program. A six month program review was recommended by the City Council when it was approved last January.

1. Call the DWP General Manager and ask for the review
2. Call CD15 and ask for same

**Clean LA Solar: Alicia Rivera**

Alicia Rivera from Coalition for a Better Environment asked if she give a rebuttal do Dr. Pickel's presentation. CBE is a member of the Clean LA Solar group that put together the feed-in-tariff (FiT) program.

Ms. Rivera read a prepared statement on the FiT100 program benefits. South LA, East LA, and parts of the San Fernando Valley need jobs and solar power.

Ms. Rivera asked if she could present at Dr. Pickel's other events. Mr. Pickel agreed and asked if he could present at Clean LA Solar program events.

She asked the HANC for another opportunity to speak when her organization could give a more thorough presentation.

**California Freight Mobility Plan Meeting: Rosalie Preston, Scott Allman**

The CA Freight Mobility Plan is an outgrowth of MAP 21, the Federal Transportation Authorization bill passed last year.

CalTrans has put together a Freight Advisory Committee which is conducting these focus groups to develop the Plan. This used to be known as the Goods Movement Action Plan under Governor Schwarzenegger.

Rosalie and Scott attended a local focus group where only seven people showed up. They were looking at long range planning for trucking, rail, air and ships. They were asked about funding freight transportation with a public tax.

More meetings are anticipated, results will be given to the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) for compilation and submittal to the Plan.

More information can be found at CalTrans website:

[http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/ogm/california\\_freight\\_mobility\\_plan.html](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/ogm/california_freight_mobility_plan.html)

**Forum with City Attorney: Linda Alexander**

A meeting was held in San Pedro last week with City Attorney-elect Mike Feuer to determine if there is interest in holding a town-hall type forum in the Harbor Area with the City Attorney. There was positive interest in an event of this nature and consideration of hosting it at Harbor College was discussed.

**ACTION ITEM: A committee was formed to follow up on a town hall forum with the new City Attorney. Members are: Diana Nave, Miguel Cordova, Greg Donnan, Allyson Vought, Carrie Scoville, and Linda Alexander.**

Patrick Wilson is to follow up with Wilmington NC for interest.

**DONE Update: Joe Hari**

Joe Hari, Policy Director, DONE distributed brochures on Board Elections 2014, Empower LA Awards 2013, and Strategic Plan 2013/2014. Links to some of these documents can be found at:

<http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/EmpowerLA-Strategic-Plan-Template.pdf>

<http://surveymonkey.com/s/EmpowerLAAwards2013>

<http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/NCElectionOutreachSurvey-SurveyMonkey.pdf>

**NC Budget Update:**

Lengthy discussion on new DONE fiscal requirements. The budget deadline is July 12. NC Strategic Plan, updated Board Roster and Outreach survey are now needed along with Budget proposals. Board roster vote now required for approval of all NC expenditures.

Several HANC members objected to these requirements which are seen as burdensome on volunteer Boards / Treasurers, and unnecessary bureaucratic procedures. It is not up do DONE to approve an Outreach Plan, and it is not seen how a Strategic Plan is any of DONE's concern. Mr. Hari responded DONE is simply trying to get NCs thinking proactively about budget planning and linking it to broader issues of the NC. HANC members objected again saying the budget may or may not have anything to do with the NC's planning for the year. The major emphasis of an NC is more likely to be on forming policies, not funding.

**NC Funding System:**

The new funding system is being postponed. Wells Fargo cannot implement major portions of the program. NCs are to continue with monthly reconciliations though.

Diana Nave recommended DONE meet with NCs for input on developing a new system. The system planned has numerous fatal flaws.

Linda Alexander stated the communication with all of this is not working. NCs were not aware that a Strategic Plan, Board Roster and Outreach Survey were required along with the Budget. This information is buried in the weekly Empower LA email newsletter. It should be front and center.

**Empower LA Awards:**

Empower LA nominations are due July 12. There have been no responses to date.

**NC Elections:**

The budget is not clear in the Elections brochure. In fact all the brochures are not clear whether the content is of mandatory templates or suggested guidelines.

HANC members stated this needed a better roll-out.

**Consider Motion Requesting Minimum of 60 Day Notification: Bob Gelfand**

Item withdrawn, author not present. Postponed until August.

**Consider Motion Requesting Change in Policy Regarding Time Allocated to Speakers Representing NCs at City Council, Boards and Commissions: Bob Gelfand**

Motion to table until August moved by Ray Regalado, second by Miguel Cordova.

Central SP	Aye
Coastal SP	Nay
Harbor City	Nay
Northwest SP	Aye
Wilmington	(left the room)
Harbor Gateway North	Nay
Harbor Gateway South	Aye

3 ayes, 3 nays, Motion failed.

**ACTION ITEM: Motion Requesting Change in Policy Regarding Time Allocated to Speakers Representing NCs at City Council, Boards and Commissions**

**We call on the City Council to allow Neighborhood Council representatives speaking officially on behalf of Neighborhood Councils be given the same courtesy that is extended to other elected officials and City department representatives when addressing the City Council, Boards, Commissions and City Council Committees.**

Moved by June Burlingame Smith, second by Rosalie Preston.  
**Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.**

**LANI Conference Information: Rosalie Preston**

Rosalie Preston reported on the annual LANI conference held at USC.

LANI works with LA City Departments and 501(c)3s. They offer grants for community improvement and beautification projects. LANI will write the grant. It would need support from the Councilmember.

Among the topics discussed at the workshop were: Mobility Element, Public Art, 50 Parks Initiative, Improving business districts (BIDs), Beautification committees.

Resources are listed on their website: [www.lani.org](http://www.lani.org)

**Sharing:**

Freddie Quintana announced he has been accepted to attend the prestigious Assembly Fellowship Program in Sacramento this fall. He will be leaving the employ of LAUSD this summer to prepare for graduate school entrance exams. Everyone congratulated Mr. Quintana and wished him well.

Diana Nave discussed the fines now being instituted for parking at broken parking meters. Mike Gatto (AD 43, Burbank) has introduced Assembly Bill 61 to stop it. Fines are levied to discourage breaking a meter in order to park for free.

Noel Weiss – Rancho LPG was cited in March with 6 violations. Pressure is needed on Herb Wesson to do something about it. A Risk Management Ordinance is needed backed by insurance. Mr. Weiss wants CD15 to introduce the motion. Councilmember Buscaino has introduced seven motions, all are in committee.

Carrie Scoville – Considering a Facebook page for the now defunct PCAC. Lengthy discussion followed on reconstituting committee.

June Smith - The Harbor Community Benefit Fund needs to ask for a full accounting of the TraPac monies and put it in a public fund where it will be visible. She raised concerns that NCs are not being notified of events in their district. There was a recent ribbon cutting at Plaza Park that NCs were not notified of.

Question asked if there will be a NC President's meeting on June 29 with CD15.

Allyson Vought – announced she is the new CD15 Bicycle Advocate. Diana Nave recommended a community notice be produced on the how's and why's of bike lanes.

**Next Meeting: Wed August 7**

Allyson Vought of Central San Pedro to Chair.

Diana will be gone and will not be able to prepare the agenda or take the notes. Rosalie Preston will fill in for Lynn Lyons, Coastal SPNC will take notes.

Agenda items:

1. Forum with City Attorney – HANC Committee
2. Consider Motion Requesting Minimum of 60 Day Notification – Doug Epperhart

The meeting adjourned at 9pm

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