

The WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL's
SANTA SUSANA MOUNTAIN AREA COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES - 07/22/09

WEDNESDAY, July 22, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m.

at the Fairwinds Retirement Center,

8138 Woodlake Ave, West Hills

(the South east corner of Roscoe and Woodlake – enter from Woodlake)

DEFINITION of SSMAC & CONDUCT OF SSMAC MEETINGS: Revised: 04/18/09

The SSMAC is a Standing Committee of the Los Angeles City Chartered West Hills Neighborhood Council (WHNC).

We are a gathering of WHNC Stakeholders, that is; anyone who lives works, owns property and/or has a declared interest in West Hills.

This Committee has as its policy to **Engage ALL interested parties,** including:

- (1) All WHNC Stakeholders**
- (2) City, State & Federal Regulatory Agencies**
- (3) Other City, County, State & Federal Agencies & Organizations**
- (4) Current & potential Owners, Operators and Staff Members of the properties of Concern (most of whom who are, by definition, WHNC Stakeholders, anyway)**
- (5) Environmental Activists**
- (6) Health and Environmental Experts**

As with any **Official Government Organization** in the State of California, we are bound by the Ralph M. Brown Act. **Public Comment**, the **Participation** of all interested parties and involved government agencies and **Preparation** for our meetings is actively encouraged.

We come together to learn about, to share our experiences, to discuss and to develop NC-related recommendations regarding the environmental conditions of our NC's neighborhood and all sides of the Santa Susana Mountain.

On approval by the membership, we may address public health concerns in the WHNC area.

We welcome and will consider all opinions but have a zero-tolerance for unseemly behaviors, foul language, and personal attacks in our meetings and in our dealings with others.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** and **SELF-INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS** with **BRIEF** elaboration of recent activities, conferences, meetings or communications of interest.

Cliff Ruff (COO/CD3 Zine) Albert Saur

Dan Brin

Alec Uzemeck

John Luker

Charlene Rothstein

Bob Brostoff

Wally Perfect,

Jack Unger

Chris Rowe

Adam Salkin

Daniel Wiseman

Rupal Patel (Renewable Resources ↔ Boeing)

COMMENTS from HONORED GUEST, Mr. Ruff: He came to observe the SSMAC in order to follow-up on the previous complaints that SSMAC had been overly contentious and not conducted in an orderly manner. He will report back to Councilmember Zine.

2. **REVIEW & APPROVAL of the AGENDA and APPROVAL of the June 2009 Minutes**

- a. The Agenda was reviewed, amended and approved.

- b. The Minutes of June 24, 2009 were deferred to the next meeting.

3. **CHAIRPERSON's COMMENTS:**

- a. Conduct of the Meeting. Sign-up sheet.

- b. Thanks to the many agency and consultant participants that took the time out of their busy schedules to come and participate in our June 2009 SSMAC meeting.

- c. Specific thanks are due to our host, Fairwinds Senior Residence. Dan Brin will prepare a plaque to show our appreciation to Pat Luc (General Manager) and Susan Basowski & Annie Vardi (Activities Managers). – **ACTION (MSP – unanimously)**

4. **FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT on matters not on this agenda – no requests.**

5. **Current Status of Corporate Pointe – Alec Uzemeck – 5 minutes**

The L.A. City Property & Land Use Management Committee (PLUM) heard the Zoning Commissioner's (Tom Glick's) favorable report on the Corporate Pointe @ West Hills (CP@WH) on July 21, 2009. Prior to that there is an agreement between Trammel-Crow (TC) and three local groups; West Hills Neighborhood Preservation CMTE, WH Neighborhood Watch and Hidden Hills Homeowners Assn. At the hearing, Charlene Rothstein asked for the addition of a landscape plan; a request duplicating the written submission of the WH Zoning & Planning Committee. PLUM approved the project pending the landscaping plan. T-C is planning to submit to Building & Safety in November...(perhaps) before it goes to the full City Council.

Questions were raised because the results of the DTSC-supervised testing for VOCs and Radiation are not available, yet. There will be a requirement for the owner of CP@WH (MEPT) to comply with all (DTSC-)required mitigation.

Questions were raised about the legality & promptness of the formal notification. A call to Barbara Greaves, City Clerk support person for PLUM – 1-213-978-1068, revealed that widespread notification is not done unless the property owner requests an appeal to a zoning change, just the “usual” notice and download of agendas on the Council & Committees Calendar at <http://lacity.org/lacity/YourGovernment/CityCouncil/CouncilCalendar/index.htm> She advised us that we can submit requests to be notified of the progress of this Council File (#09-1510) on the Council File M System (<http://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/>).

6. STAKEHOLDER EDUCATION

- a. U.S.E.P.A. Technical Assistance Services for Communities (T.A.S.C.) was introduced. It is an opportunity for community groups to hear/learn about the basics and some of the technical details related to hazardous waste and the clean-up process. Topics that SSMAC participants would like discussed include:
 - Interpretative summaries of technical documents.
 - Definitions of terms: Risk Assessment, Toxicology, RCRA Facility Investigations (RFI's)
 - Nature and Hazards of alpha-, Beta- and Gamma Radiation ... Sources of each.
 - Focus on SPECIFIC DISORDERS (Malignancies, organ damage, etc.)
 - Archeological Evaluation of key properties
- b. The Cal E.P.A. Education & the Environment Initiative (E.E.I.) is a full curriculum for K-12 schools. The subjects covered for the upper grades include some of the same material as the Federal E.P.A. program, above.

ACTION – Recommend that WHNC request Educative Material AND Educational Opportunities from TASC, EEI and other sources. **7-Yea, 3-No, 1- Abstain (pass)**

7. Current Status of SSFL

- a. All parties to the negotiations (DTSC, LA-RWQCB, Boeing, DOE & NASA) are saying that the Consent Understanding (Agreement or Decree) should be complete, soon...hopefully, within 1 – 2 months.
- b. Norm Riley the key person at the DTSC has offered to come to a WHNC or SSMAC meeting to describe it for us ... when it is ready. We will then have 30 days to comment and voice our opinion.
- c. Some, but definitely not all, of the SSFL testing (Perchlorates, VOCs, Radioactives, etc.) should be available soon and be ready for our consideration and surveillance.
- d. The Ultimate Dispensation of the AREA - **Possible ACTION**
 - The Santa Susana Mountain Park Association (SSMPA) has suggested an Amendment and some specific language for AB102 (Cameron Smyth, Santa Clarita). This State Bill recommends that the SSFL be turned into a State Park, once the clean-up is concluded. SB102 has [passed Cal Assembly and is now in Cal Senate. It may be there for two years. John Luker & Jack Unger of SSMPA described some of the details and read a LETTER \(attached\) which emphasizes](#)

and justifies the “Final Dispensation to be (formally) open space...named the Rocketdyne/Simi Hills State Historic Park.” It asks that the proposed Advisory Committee be established sooner, on January 1, 2010.

MOTION (Luker/Uzemeck): WHNC/SSMAC supports the recommendations of the SSMPA re: SMYTH AB 102 (copy attached) ACTION – MSP (Unanimous)
...see ATTACHMENT #1

8. Discussion of guidelines for the Santa Susana Mountain Area Committee.

...see ATTACHMENT #2. SSMAC deliberated the contents of these Proposed Policies for WHNC Committees and made the following recommendations. ACTION

- a. The Proposed Policies are recommended to the full WHNC Board of Directors for final deliberation and approval/rejection.
- b. After receiving the initial charge from the WHNC Chair, each Committee may select the style of deliberations and definition of Members from the three choices (listed 2a – 2c). SSMAC opts to use 2c.
- c. From this time forward, the MEMBERS of the SSMAC are Albert Saur, Dan Brin,, Alec Uzemeck, John Luker, Charlene Rothstein, Bob Brostoff, Wally Perfect, Jack Unger, Chris Rowe, Adam Salkin, Daniel Wiseman (Chair), Joanne Yvanek-Garb (Secretary), Barry Seybert and Jacquie Young.

FUTURE additions will require a simple request to join (may be verbal) plus a majority vote of existing members.

9. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT – none requested

10. Final Remarks, Announcements and Suggestions for future Meeting

- Propriety of Regulatory Agencies delegating the choice and contracting of Evaluators to Property (Responsible Parties) Owners.

ATTACHMENT #1 - AMENDMENT to AB102 (Smyth)

----- Original Message -----

Subject: [SSMPA officers] AB 102 Amendment Request from Santa Susana Mountain Park Association (SSMPA) [1 Attachment]

Date: Wed, 01 Jul 2009 12:10:02 -0700

From: Jack Unger <junger@ask-wi.com>

Reply-To: newSSMPAofficers@yahoo.com

To: assemblymember.smyth@assembly.ca.gov

CC: jarrod.degonia@asm.ca.gov, senator.pavley@senate.ca.gov, aron.miller@sen.ca.gov, Louise.Rishoff@asm.ca.gov, councilmember.smith@lacity.org, FifthDistrict@lacbos.org,

"Jones, Millie" <MJJones@lacbos.org>, linda.parks@ventura.org, damon.wing@ventura.org, LAdams@calepa.ca.gov, nriley@dtsc.ca.gov, Susan Callery <SCallery@dtsc.ca.gov>, woody_smeck@nps.gov, rscha@parks.ca.gov, sgood@parks.ca.gov, "Graham, Karma" <kgraham@parks.ca.gov>, "Tejada, Barbara" <BTEJADA@parks.ca.gov>, edmiston@smmc.ca.gov, skei@smmc.ca.gov, "Paul Edelman" <edelman@smmc.ca.gov>, "Fellows, Merrilee (HQ-NB000)" <MFellows@nasa.gov>, thomas.d.gallacher@boeing.com, kamara.sams@boeing.com, Thomas Eisenhauer <teisenhauer@renewablegroup.com>, thomas.johnson@em.doe.gov, Stephanie.Jennings@em.doe.gov, Daniel Wiseman <dwisemanmd@yahoo.com>, newSSMPAofficers@yahoogroups.com

July 1, 2009

Dear Assemblyman Smyth,

The Santa Susana Mountain Park Association (SSMPA) has been in existence for nearly forty years, working to protect and preserve open space in the Simi Hills and Santa Susana Mountains. Our group was instrumental in the creation of the current Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park located just South of the 118 Freeway in Chatsworth. We are writing you now to express our support for your bill AB 102 that proposes the formation of a new State Park on the land currently known as the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL). We strongly believe this land needs to be protected as permanent open space and that the formation of a new park on the land is the best way to preserve this critical wildlife habitat and allow it to be enjoyed by future generations.

We have reviewed your bill AB 102 as it is currently written and although we agree with the intent, we respectfully request that you incorporate the changes shown in red on the attached markup of the bill. Incorporation of these changes will make AB 102 a better bill resulting in the creation of a better State park.

[Introduction] - Park Name– The bill currently proposes to create and name a new park - the "Santa Susana State Park". We suggest that this name be changed to the "**Rocketdyne / Simi Hills State Historic Park**" for the following reasons:

- a) There is already an existing "Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park" located only 2 miles from the proposed new SSFL park site. Having a new "Santa Susana" State Park so close to the existing "Santa Susana" State Park would be very confusing to the general public.
- b) Rocketdyne and rocket engine testing is an integral part of the history of the new park site. This site played a pivotal role in reaching the moon and developing our national space program. Recognizing these historical facts in the "Rocketdyne" Park name will help insure that some of the remaining rocketry-related historical artifacts survive in the new park to inform and educate future park visitors.
- c) The proposed new "Santa Susana" park is not physically located in the Santa Susana Mountains. The SSFL site is actually located in the Simi Hills. The Simi Hills are both

geologically unique and significantly older than the more geographically- distant Santa Susana Mountains.

d) In addition to the Rocketry History significance, the SSFL is also important because of its Archaeological History, Native American History and Motion Picture History. For example, the Native American cave paintings that your AB 102 bill refers to are listed on The National Register of Historic Places. Because of this historical richness, designating the park as a “Historic Park” is completely appropriate.

Our proposed “**Rocketdyne / Simi Hills State Historic Park**” name addresses all of the above issues.

[Section 1(a)] – Placing Additional Emphasis on Archaeological Protections – The current AB 102 text correctly focuses attention on preservation of the Native American cave paintings however we suggest that additional emphasis on archaeological protection is extremely important and beneficial. Adding the words “**and other archaeological resources and treasures**” to **Section 1(a)** adds this much-needed emphasis.

[Section 1(a)] – Recognizing the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor – AB 102 as written correctly points out that “The Santa Susana Field Laboratory property in Ventura County will play an important role aiding in the preservation of critical habitat and wildlife corridors, as well as historical artifacts of regional, statewide, and national importance” however the SSFL also encompasses a vitally important section of the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor. We therefore request the addition of the following text: “**This area is also a crucial link in the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor**” to **Section 1(a)**.

[Section 1(c)] – Acknowledging Waterborne Contamination - We agree that the contamination of the ground caused by testing at the site was a great misfortune however because ground water is the primary vehicle that moves this contamination, we request addition of the words “**and the water**” to **Section 1(c)**.

[Section 3(a)] – Specifying an Early Advisory Committee Formation Date - Currently AB 102 requires the formation of an “Advisory Committee” no later than **January 1, 2012**. We respectfully request that this date be changed to **January 1, 2010**. Critical decisions need to be taken right now to properly catalogue and protect the archaeological and historical treasures contained within the property. Park planning and design needs to begin at the earliest possible moment. If we wait until 2012, many invaluable historical and archaeological resources may be destroyed and lost forever.

[Section 3(b)] – Adding the Native American Community – We suggest adding “**Native American**” to the list of communities to be represented on the Advisory Committee. The SSFL site is obviously rich in Native American history.

[Section 3(d)] – Incorporating Short-Range Planning – We suggest adding the words “**short-range planning**” to this Section. Short-range planning is vitally important and needs to be on the Advisory Committee agenda along with long-range planning.

[Section 4] - Allowing for the Possibility of Parcel-by-Parcel Land Transfer – In Section 4, we agree that no property should be transferred until such property is cleaned pursuant to Article 7 5.5 (commencing with Section 25359.20) of Chapter 6.8 of 8 Division 20 of the Health and Safety Code (SB 990) however we see no need to rule out the possible parcel-by-parcel transfer should the cleanup processes so permit. Accordingly, we request that the words “**Each parcel of**”, “**on each parcel**”, and “**each parcel**” be added where shown on the attached markup of the bill.

We appreciate your consideration of our requests. We look forward to working with you, your staff and your fellow legislators to pass this improved version of AB 102 and to create a new State Historic Park on SSFL land.

Respectfully,

Jack Unger
President - Santa Susana Mountain Park Association
PO Box 4831
Chatsworth, CA. 91313

Phone 818-227-4220

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Email (junger@ask-wi.com)

ATTACHMENT #2 – Deliberated Recommendation to WHNC

PROPOSED POLICIES for WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL COMMITTEES

At the June 24, 2009 SSMAC meeting, we discussed the name, Mission and Vision of SSMAC plus several ways to define a SSMAC MEMBER and their voting privileges. After due consideration, it seemed worthwhile to review and (perhaps) revise the WHNC policies governing all of our committees. This document lays out many of the elements of a policy for review, modification and approval.

ORIGINS of WHNC COMMITTEES

- 1. Already in existence and operating satisfactorily
– no modifications needed.**

2. In existence but needing review and revision of their working rules.
 - submission of “a REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE” stating the issues for deliberation and recommendation of the full WHNC Board of Directors
3. Newly created – Ad Hoc and Standing Committees
 - Created by the WHNC President (CoChair) with the advice and consent of the full board
 - Creation of a “CHARGE TO THE COMMITTEE,” time frame and level of authority
 - Assignment of a Leader (Chair) and Members of the Committee.

DEFINITION of the MISSION STATEMENT and VISION STATEMENT

Although Mission and Vision Statements may be part of the initial CHARGE, they may be revised or modified by the committee and accepted after approval of the full Board.

MEMBERSHIP and MEMBER privileges

1. COMMITTEES make RECOMMENDATIONS which require approval by the full Board.
2. If already in existence but needing review and revision, there are the following choices:
 - ACTION item – opened to the decision of each Committee. - UNANIMOUS**
 - a. “Town Hall” style in which every person in attendance who claims to be a WHNC Stakeholder may comment on and vote on issues.
 - b. Committee (voting) Members must also be members of the full Board of Directors.
 - c. Committee (voting) Members may be members of the full Board and may be non-Board WHNC Stakeholders who affirm their intention by regular participation.
3. “Straw Votes” in which everyone present can vote and be counted “YEA” or “NAY” or “ABSTAIN” on an issue is a permissible Committee action - **ACTION item – opened to the decision of each Committee.**
4. Continued Membership & voting privileges are contingent on regular attendance and participation in Committee activities – **ACTION – opened to the decision of each Committee. - UNANIMOUS**

AUTHORITY of the OFFICERS of the COMMITTEE

The Chair, Vice Chair(s), Secretary, and other officers have the same responsibilities outlined for parallel offices of the Full Board. They form an Executive Committee, create the Committee’s Agendas, post and file the Committee’s documents. – **ACTION**

The Chair has the responsibility to conduct the meeting in a productive and orderly manner -