



CITY OF
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WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

JOINT BOARD AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ONLINE AND TELEPHONIC MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 14, 2022 7:00 PM

APPROVED

Co-Chair Steve Randall called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM and a quorum was established.

Committee members in attendance: Steve Randall, Charlene Rothstein, Saif Mogri, Brad Vanderhoof, Rosi Mariconda and Joan Trent.

Other Attendees: Bonnie Klea, Chris Rowe and Sandi Bell

The minutes from the August 10, 2022 meeting was approved as amended.

Comments from the Chair: Steve did not have any comments.

During the Discussion & Possible Action on Taking a Position Against the Release of Genetically Engineered Mosquitoes (GE) in California, Steve Randall mentioned that the committee will not be able to vote on the item due to some miscommunication about the agenda. Sandi Bell made a presentation, and stated that Mosquitoes have been prevalent this year and that Vector Control has been very pro-active. Sandi mentioned that there are some plants that keep mosquitoes away, e.g., Lavender, Geranium Varieties, Peppermint, marigold, catnip, etc., as well as tiki torches and citronella. Genetically Modified (GM) mosquitoes are mosquitoes that have been implanted with a gene that was not originally present or naturally occurring in the insect, that disrupts the normal processes of mosquitoes' offspring. The release of GM mosquitoes is not intended to stop an outbreak, however their release over a period of several months can reduce the number of a specific mosquito species. The EPA has approved releasing 2.4 Billion GE Mosquitoes in Florida and California. Chris Rowe suggested that we should vote at the next month's meeting to consider sending a letter to the City Council to not release these GE mosquitoes in Los Angeles. Steve agreed to put it on next month's agenda for a vote. Saif suggested that irradiated mosquitoes might be better than the GE mosquitoes.

Steve Randall provided information on the Settlement Agreement reached between DTSC and Boeing, as well as a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Los Angeles Water Board (LAWB) and Boeing. The MOU requires The Boeing Company – *after soil cleanup is complete* - to prove that storm water runoff is no longer polluted and human health and the environment are protected. Boeing agreed to not litigate a stringent risk-based cleanup standard selected by DTSC, up to and including a "resident with garden" standard for chemical contamination. Together with the DTSC Settlement Agreement, the MOU ensures that the cleanup will move forward as soon as possible and in a manner that will protect human health, groundwater, surface water and the environment.

The Tree Canopy item was tabled to next months meeting.

Steve adjourned the meeting at 7:58 PM.

The next scheduled meeting of this committee is October 12th