

# Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition

## DRAFT MINUTES OF THE LANCC GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, March 1, 2014 at 10 a.m.

### LANCC Officers

Terrence Gomes, Chair  
Fred Mariscal, Vice-Chair  
Connie Acosta, Secretary  
Glenn Bailey, Treasurer

### MEETING LOCATION:

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power  
111 N. Hope Street, L.A. 90012

## A. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

1. Fred Mariscal, Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 10:25 a.m.
2. Introduction of LANCC representatives and leaders from the L.A. Neighborhood Councils (NCs):

25- Members Present	J. Yvawek-Garb, A. Teran, B. Gelfurl, R. Waller, C. Acosta, F. Mariscal, D. Rockello, E. Lim, N. Royal, D. Barron, S. Twining, Dr. C. Scott, B. Peppermuller, G. Wilson, J. Grave, E. Morales, M. O’Gara, H. Keifer, T. Dunnavant, B. Ross-Blumer, W. Hilliard, S. Gold, G. Aggas, F. Wada, I. Spiegel, B. Ratner, B. Koontz.
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## B. Presentations

1. Los Angeles Department of Water and Power --- Evelyn Cortez-Davis, Manager of the LA City Recycled Water Program

To request for a copy of today’s DWP presentation email [lancc.minutes@gmail.com](mailto:lancc.minutes@gmail.com)

LADWP	<a href="mailto:evelyn.cortez-davis@ladwp.com">evelyn.cortez-davis@ladwp.com</a>
LADWP	<a href="mailto:yoshiko.tsunehara@ladwp.com">yoshiko.tsunehara@ladwp.com</a>
LA Sanitation	<a href="mailto:doug.walters@lacity.org">doug.walters@lacity.org</a>

Evelyn started her presentation with a question that Terrence had posed to the LADWP last week, “*Why is recycled water going down the river when we are in a draught?*”

Why is water so critical here in the city of LA?

“We have historically imported 90% of our water from hundreds of miles away. We can’t sustain this,” said Evelyn. “In the long term, we have to switch from this trend and make sure we have more local water to draw from.”

This presentation will focus on the conservation of water: The need for the capture of more storm water, increase the strategies for water conversation, and engage in more water recycling.

### A Bit of History

In 1976-1980 we purchased about 8% of our water, and most of our water came from L.A. aqueducts. Things have changed over the years, and our L.A. aqueducts supplies have been curtailed significantly largely due to environmental commitments up in the Owens Valley.

Evelyn stated that presently, we are at historically dry levels in draught. We have less water than we have to operate. The Owens Valley aqueduct is 100 years, and we have never delivered less water than we did last year [2013] in its 100th anniversary. Today, we use the same amount of water that we did in 1970 even though we have about 1million more people in the city. "What a fantastic conversation story," said Evelyn. Still, "we need to do storm water capture and water recycling if want to be successful as a city."

### Where are we as a city in water usage?

L. A. still one of the lowest cities of 1million people in the country in term of gallons per capita. L. A. use 129 gallons per capita per-day-usage; this is the overall usage of the entire city including industry and residents. The residential usage is about 89 gallons per capita, per-day usage.

### Projected Water Conservation for 2013-2014

DWP wants to increase the different uses of recycled water in the city; instead of using drinking water, DWP wants to set up the infrastructure to supply recycled water for industrial uses, dust control, street sweeping, agricultural irrigation, etc. The purple fire hydrates have been supplying recycled water at Griffith Park for 3 decades.

Big plans to build three major water recycling projects. These are joint efforts with the Bureau of Sanitation and LADWP.

- The Downtown Recycled Water Project will take water that is tertiary treated from the L.A. Glendale plant and flow it to the L.A. downtown area. "13 miles of new pipeline will be build to bring the water to the downtown area, costing about \$33 million," Evelyn said.
- San Fernando Valley Pipeline Water Recycling Project  
"A Pipeline Project Proposal, environmentally mitigated negative-declaration document was presented and adopted by the DWP Board last fall. We had some follow up presentations on this project in the valley-- to the Valley Alliance NCs and other individual NCs" Evelyn stated.

There are different segments of pipeline that will be build and phased. DWP will assess each phase of the project; when the building of a particular segment takes place, additional notices will be made available to the community that will be impacted. This project will span 22 miles of pipeline with an approximate cost of \$55 million.

- LA Groundwater Replenishment Project: Treatment, Conveyance, Replenishment and Extraction

*Treatment:* Purify the recycled water nearly to a distilled level in quality and put it in the ground by means of building a new purification facility.

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*Conveyance:* Flow the water up existing pipelines and other pipelines that need to be build.

*Replenishment:* Flow the water into the existing spreading grounds of the northeast Valley, the Hanson Spreading Grounds and Pacoima Spreading Grounds, where the recycled water would percolate traveling about 200 to 300 feet down below the surface of the ground to mix with existing ground water.

*Extraction:* “At the same time, there is a team of people that are working on the extraction piece and clean up piece as I stated before,” Evelyn said.

**DWP Project Dates** (Info taken from the charts in the DWP Presentation shown at LANCC on 3/1/14.)

2009 -- 2025 Public Outreach

2009 -- mid 2012 Recycled water master plan documents

2013 -- end to of 2014 Environmental Analysis (CEQA/NEPA)

Sept. 6 --Oct. 21, 2013 (45-day Public Comment Period)--Notice of Preparation/Initial Study

End of 2013—Draft EIR

2013 -- start of 2015 Preliminary Design

Early 2014 – PRESENTLY--in the process of developing the EIR Draft Report

Fall of 2014 –Releasing EIR Report for Public Comment (Open 60-day Period)

Then return to LANCC to gather information, comments, answer questions.

Early 2015 --Review of Final EIR -- EIR Certification

Summer 2015 – The DWP Board will consider the Final EIR Report. Then, only if adopted, project will proceed. “Nothing will proceed until our board adopts the EIR,” Evelyn stated.

End of 2015 -- 2018 Final Design

2016 The preliminary steps of Construction start; then continuing construction period through 2021.

2021 -- 2022 Post Construction

2022 DWP Proposed Operational Objective

**Cash in Your Lawn** --- [www.LADWP.com/CF](http://www.LADWP.com/CF)

The LADWP California Friendly Landscape Incentive Program provides residential and commercial customers with cash incentives for replacing healthy grass with water conserving landscaping. Residents can receive up to \$2 per square foot of turf replaced and \$1 per square foot for commercial entities.

**Know your Watering Days** --- [www.LADWP.com/waterconservation](http://www.LADWP.com/waterconservation)

City of L.A. Water Conservation Ordinance limits outdoor watering with sprinklers to 3 days a week.

**Odd Addresses:** Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

**Even Addresses:** Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday.

All outdoor watering is prohibited from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., regardless of the watering day.

**Other Prohibited Water Uses** --- [www.LADWP.com/WaterConservation](http://www.LADWP.com/WaterConservation)

- Watering of any hard surfaces such as sidewalks, walkways, driveways or parking areas.

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- Outdoor watering during periods of rain;
- Allowing runoff onto streets and gutters from excessive watering;
- Allowing leaks from any pipe or fixture to go unrepaired;
- Washing vehicles without using a hose with a self-losing water shut-off nozzle; and
- Serving water to customers in restaurants unless specifically requested.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT WAS SENT TO LANCC:

#### **Environmental Notices for GWR Project**

[www.ladwp.com/envnotices](http://www.ladwp.com/envnotices)

#### **Rain Barrels**

Here is a link to the MWD program information page – SOCalWaterSmart - BeWaterWise

<http://socalwatersmart.com/index.php/qualifyingproducts/rain-barrels>

Please find an information sheet attached (with maintenance and installation information).

The criteria for a rebate are:

1. Minimum size: 50 gallons
2. Rain barrel must be designed for the intended purpose of rain capture
3. Should have a cover to prevent mosquitos, rodents and debris from entering
4. The rain barrel must be mounted in a way that allows the barrel to receive water unimpeded from a rain gutter.
5. Should not block or restrict access to walkways or pathways
6. Rain barrel must not be connected to the irrigation system and must be distributed through a hose or bucket
7. Should be elevated 6 inches off the ground on a solid foundation
8. Should be strapped to your home for safety if the height of the barrel is two times greater than the width.
9. Maximum of four rain barrels per home.

#### Questions by LANCC Membership (LM):

LM: Doesn't current state law forbid using recycled water as potable water?

Evelyn: That is correct.

LM: This question is more directed to our civic leaders and the state legislation not necessarily to DWP. I'm objecting to words, "Urgent" and "We are in dire need" City leaders have always known that we live in the desert... If we had shortage of water, the city of LA wouldn't be in unison with HUD in Washington D.C. to build these proposed multi-levels of residential high-rise projects throughout the city that New York opposed and won against."

LM: What kind of purification are we using?

Evelyn: A combination of 4 steps: 1) micro-filtration 2) reverse osmosis 3) ultra-violet light—for disinfection, and 4) Hydrogen Peroxide

LM: "You said there were polluters in the San Fernando Valley, who are they? Do you have a list of these companies who are polluting our waters? I want to know who they are since we live there and have NCs. This shouldn't be anonymous because that

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anonymous thing covers so much.”

Evelyn: These aren't activities that are still going on.

LM: There was an article in the LA Times about small plastic pellets (micro beads) floating down the LA River and they are not being filtered out.

Doug: I'll look into that and provide a report.

LM: Why don't we use ocean water that is at our doorsteps?

Evelyn: “Two things, public perception and political will at that time when we tried to...”

## 2. WI-FI for the City of Los Angeles --- LA City Councilmember Blumenfield, CD 3 [Blumenfield@lacity.org](mailto:Blumenfield@lacity.org)

- Represents the West San Fernando Valley: Reseda, Canoga Park, Tarzana and Woodland Hills.
- Formerly served in state assembly
- “I was the author of legislation to allow schools to use digital textbooks,” Blumenfield stated.
- Presently, LA City Council Chair of the Innovation Technology Committee.

### LA Community Broad Band Proposal

“The idea is to make LA the most connected city in the nation that will make us a magnet for tourism, education and business,” Blumenfield said. “We have a digital divide. 30% of Angelinos don't have access to Broad Band either they can't afford it or live in an area that's not serviced by it.”

- “A proposal such as this will cost several \$Billion dollars,” Blumenfield stated. “We have about a \$Billion dollars that could be part of this proposal.”
- This type innovation is in use at Corpus Kristy, a small flat area requiring one tower. “But LA City is much more complicated and we don't have the money for it,” the councilman said.
- The city would attract the high tech or regular companies that would normally locate here but aren't because we don't have that kind of [Broad Band] access.

Blumenfield has put together --- in working with the Mayor's office and Information Technology (IT) agency ---an RP- proposal to create a public-private partnership “where we're asking big carriers and big tech companies, to bring proposals forward on how they would partner with the city and provide Broad Band access to every home and business in the city,” and free city-wide connectivity mainly through Wi-Fi.

This will cost over several billion dollars. “They [Tech Companies] have a strong interest in partnering with the city because the city has tremendous amounts of assets that we can allow to be used for something like this [Broad Band Proposal]. We have 17ft. high, light posts almost

everywhere in the city. They can re-fiber the posts and provide free Wi-Fi from those signals. Then, they can provide premium services to you as a customer or business, completely portable in the city. This would potentially be very profitable for them as distributors [the tech companies]. It would be a win-win scenario where they can win and the city can win," Blumenfield stated.

The councilmember proposes to have an RP Proposal out in a month or two and open it up for bids. "And hopefully have a coalition partner that will allow us to have this kind of build up and have a transformative jump for our city," he said.

#### LANCC Membership (M) Questions and Comments:

LM: I think that any antenna should be 50 feet instead of 17 feet...  
I hope that you are concerned with safety. There are multiple antennas that are 17 ft. high from where people live and that bothers me.

LM: Before going to Wi-Fi, I think the city departments need to talk to each other and clean up the computer systems before the city takes on this task.

LM: Electro-radiation, radio-waves, microwaves ...

LM: I was in Russia not too long ago, and we Wi-Fi all the way.

Blumenfield: We just have to make sure that we are addressing all those issues.

### 3. Recode.la ---Tom Rothmann, LA City Planning Department

"Recode.la is not an enforcement agency," Rothmann said. "We are not re-zoning anything. We are recoding to have a list of comprehensive tools, updating the book, but not changing what's on the ground."

- There are 3 types of commercial zoning: C1, C2, and C4. C2 zoning covers 85% of the city's commercial zoning and it's all the same whether the commercial site is in the valley, San Pedro, or downtown LA.
- "Whether we have 35 or 95 community plans, what matters is what is the zone that is on your lot." Rothmann said.
- There's a proliferation of illegal units due to lack of zoning. There are single-family homes located in multifamily zoning that may or may not be legal because they don't have enough lot area. We're looking at creative flexible zoning to help the owners get permits.
- A Single-family home on a 7,500 sq. ft. lot qualifies for the building of an additional unit according to AB1866, building requirements for properties 1,500 sq. feet in size.

There will be 7 Regional Forums, 3-hour workshops, throughout the city in the months of March and April. For exact dates and time view: <http://recode.la/stay-informed/events>

#### 4. Mayor's Office City of Los Angeles --- Rick Cole, Budget Deputy

Garcetti's Administration works differently than former Administrations. In the past there were 12 to 16 Deputy Mayors, whereas the present administration has four Deputy Mayors.

"The Mayor's Office has four deputy mayors, or we can call them ambassadors," said Cole. "Their purpose is to create a well run city government."

There are 4 Deputy Mayors in in charge of the 4 departments:

1. Public Safety
2. Prosperous Economic Development—oversees airports, ports, etc.
3. City Services oversees 12 agencies: Public libraries, Zoo, etc. "making this a more livable community."
4. Budget and Innovation "Running the city in an efficient way"
  - i) Information Technology (is critical to everything we do)
  - ii) Personnel Department
  - iii) City Clerk
  - iv) General Services

\$1Billion, if we are off by 1% that equals to \$49 Million. That is the entire budget of the City Clerk, Neighborhood Empowerment Department, and Cultural Affairs combined. That's the scale that we are dealing with.

People can tell you "We're in pretty good shape, or we are in our way to bankruptcy."

"That's right," Rick said.

### THREE BUDGETS

#### 1. CURRENT BUDGET

\$4.9 Billion --- we have a shortfall of 5%, estimated fiscal projection of what we expect to spend. "We have a shortfall; we have less money than what we expect to spend. And we'll fix that."

The city shortfall presently is \$242 million of what we expect to spend. We are doing good. 3 or 4 years ago, our short fall was \$1Billion.

#### 2. CAPITAL BUDGET—LA City doesn't have funds in this category (Deficit)

"Deficit is when we spend more money than we have," Mr. Cole stated.

- Billions of dollars—maintain streets, sidewalks, public buildings... we are working on that today. We have a huge capital deficit. It gets worst every year because we've been putting it off since before Mayor Hann."

#### 3. RETIREMENT

- We're working with two pensions 17 Billion + 7 Billion totaling \$25 Billion of invested money that belongs to our future retirees. We need about 30% more to pay these bills.

"I'm concern with both," said Mr. Cole.

Police Officers:

- We have 9,963 police officers in the city of L.A. We have funding for 10,000 police officers to cover 400 square miles. 300 officers will retire this year.
- Per capita crime is lower than it was in 1949. "For some departments creating a matric of success is difficult," Cole stated.

Code Enforcement:

- Code Enforcement – There 25 actual inspectors, 51 including clerks and supporting personnel.
- "We want to add 14 code enforcement inspectors and bring back 12 retirees part time. The cost of that is \$364,000 a year. Money is coming from fee income. It is net cost not gross cost."

Technology: Facts and Reasoning

- The city's 311 service receives 1.2 million calls a year.
- "How can we get our computers to talk to each other," Cole said. "The Tech Department reduced their work force from 700 down to 400 employees. And increased their task load."
- "Our focus is not on how much money we're spending, but rather what are we buying with that amount."

"We don't want to do layoffs. We want to keep our tree trimming, sidewalk repair and pothole repairs. At least keep them at the current level because eventually we want to restore them. And we want to have a balanced budget. Right now all that doesn't add up."

**5. L.A. Housing Department ---Robert Galardi**

Because the LANCC Meeting ran over by an hour, Mr. Galardi announced to answer questions out in the hall. Mr. Galardi will return to present at the next LANCC meeting.

**C. REPORTS** NONE

**D. Updates** NONE

**F. ANNOUNCEMENTS** NONE

The Next LANCC Meeting date is April 5, 2014 at 10 AM.

**G. ADJOURNMENT:** Fred Mariscal adjourned the meeting at 1:05 p.m.



