

# Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils

VANC

34 San Fernando Valley Neighborhood Councils  
Established March 03, 2003 by Jill Banks Barad-Hopkins

**Thursday, April 11, 2024 6:30-9:00p.m.**

**Via zoom: Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/98759241651>**

**Recording of this meeting can be found at [www.VANC34.ORG](http://www.VANC34.ORG)**

**Note:** VANC is an independent Alliance and is not required to follow the Brown Act. We are able to prevent individuals from participating in VANC meetings if they are disruptive, or sufficiently unrelated to VANC business.

**Note:** To be added to the email list, send your information to [www.VANC34.org](http://www.VANC34.org)

**SkyRail <https://laskyrailexpress.com/> presentation and  
Vahid Khorsand, Public Works Commissioner**

**Reminder:** VANC meetings are to discuss various topics so that you can educate your NC for further discussion and possible action.

**Reminder:** VANC agenda is posted at [www.VANC34.ORG](http://www.VANC34.ORG)  
Zoom attendees, please identify your NC along with your first name

## AGENDA

- 1. Welcome and Introductions:** Linda Gravani, chair [VANC34.chair@gmail.com](mailto:VANC34.chair@gmail.com)
- 2. Qualified Candidates:** 2 minutes no discussion
- 3. Guest Speaker Mark Waier SkyRail –**
  - [Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project - LA Metro](#)
- 4. Guest Speaker Vahid Khorsand – Commissioner of Department of Public Works (Done Priorities)**
- 5. CITY Clerk –** Ed Moreno, Division Manager and Melvin Canas, Program Manager to provide update on FUNDING ISSUES identified during March VANC meeting

6. **BONC Commissioners** – **Keren Waters**, North Valley [keren.waters@lacity.org](mailto:keren.waters@lacity.org)  
**Len Shaffer**, South Valley [commissionerlenshaffer@gmail.com](mailto:commissionerlenshaffer@gmail.com)  
Update on Mandatory Training – how are stakeholders who are committee members to handle training? Deadline 30JUN2024????

9. **DONE:** Interim General Manager Vanessa Serrano or designee -

10. Budget Advocates – Update [www.budgetadvocates.org](http://www.budgetadvocates.org)  
**SAVE THE DATE:** Saturday 15JUN2024 8am IN PERSON at City Hall  
Contribute funds to Budget Advocates for BUDGET DAY see required form  
[Congress-Budget Advocacy Funding Contribution Form rev03182024 pdf form.pdf \(lacity.gov\)](#)

Do you want to see a specific budget?

EX: Emergency Management, LAHSA, DONE.....

<https://sites.google.com/lacity.org/departments-budget-requests/home>

11. CF23-0600-S115 Proposal to Eliminate Vacant Positions  
**SEE CAO'S LIST OF POSITIONS NOT FILLED AND SELECTED FOR ELIMINATION. (5 from DONE)**

12. CONGRESS of NEIGHBORHOODS – Also needs funding - **consider your year end funds**  
Must agenda and vote on your NC's agenda in April or May. Submit on the City Clerk's funding Form – see link <https://clerk.lacity.gov/sites/g/files/wph1491/files/2024-03/Congress-Budget%20Advocacy%20Funding%20Contribution%20Form%20rev03182024%20pdf%20form.pdf>

13. **CITY PLANNING ISSUES** – There are 3 methods to **INCREASE** density in our neighborhoods. Each are independent of each other – NOT coordinated.

1. Mayor Bass' Executive Directive #1 (see Hot Topics # 2)
2. Housing Element
3. Community Plans (See Hot Topics # 2)

If you and/or your NC needs/wants more information, please contact me (Linda Gravani) at [VANC34.Chair@gmail.com](mailto:VANC34.Chair@gmail.com).

14. CF24-0002-S1 supports SB817 which would allow all advisory entities to meet virtually – [24-0002-S1\\_misc\\_02-13-24.pdf \(lacity.org\)](#)

15. **Items from the floor:**

- City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto - Will attend PlanCheckNC on 13APR2024 11AM
- Jeff Mausner – Requesting humane treatment of Dogs and cats (see hot topics # 3)

16. NC Anniversaries: **CONGRATULATIONS!**

**19 Years Mission Hills**  
**21 Years Chatsworth**

**17. THANK YOU** for all **you do** for your communities and the city of Los Angeles and I appreciate your participation in VANC!

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**  
**VANC VIRTUAL Meeting Thursday May 9, 2024**

\*PlanCheck 10AM 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month, details [www.plancheckncla.com](http://www.plancheckncla.com)  
*Educate yourself on City Planning and Land Use issues.*

\*LADWP MOU 1<sup>ST</sup> Saturday of the month, details at:  
<https://www.ladwpnews.com/dwp-nc-mou-and-advocacy-committee-meetings/>

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**HOT TOPICS** For April 11, 2024  
KNOWLEDGE IS CRITICAL – INFORM YOUR NC

1. **CF24-0002-S1** Forwarded to: **To Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee**  
Resolution (Blumenfield, Hernandez - Krekorian) relative to including in the City's 2024-25 State legislative Program a position on AB 817 (Pacheco), which would amend the Ralph M. Brown Act to authorize the Los Angeles City Council and other legal legislative bodies to permit subsidiary, purely advisory bodies to meet by teleconference.  
[24-0002-S1 misc 02-13-24.pdf \(lacity.org\)](#)
2. City Planning – How will this affect your community? What does your NC want for your community?
  - **Mayor Bass's Executive Directive #1 (ED1)** [Mayor Bass Executive Directives | Mayor Karen Bass \(lacity.gov\)](#) **United Neighbors Guidelines for ED1 Ordinance with explanations**
  - **HOUSING ELEMENT** – City Planning released proposed targeted amendments to rezone areas to fulfil the goal of adding 456,643 housing units mandated by California Legislature.
  - **Community Plans** - consists of a policy document, a General Plan Land Use map, and a zoning map. The policy document lays out the community's guiding principles, goals, policies, and programs. [Updates to the Southwest Valley Community Plans | Home | Los Angeles City Planning \(lacity.gov\)](#)

### 3. Humane Treatment of Dogs and Cats – By Jeffrey Mausner

In July 2018, the Los Angeles City Council unanimously adopted a resolution making it the official position of the City of Los Angeles to oppose the dog meat trade. This City Council resolution was initiated by a resolution of the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC), consisting of representatives of all 34 Neighborhood Councils in the San Fernando Valley, dated August 9, 2018. The City Council resolution stated, in part:

*WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles, with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and*

*WHEREAS, in recent years the city of Los Angeles has been one of California's leaders in pursuing progressive animal welfare policies and practices; and*

*WHEREAS, it is estimated that 10 to 20 million dogs in China, 5 million dogs in Vietnam, and one million dogs each in South Korea, Indonesia, and Cambodia are killed for food each year; and*

*WHEREAS, dogs in these countries are kept in cramped, rusty cages stacked on top of each other, and slaughtered in brutal ways such as hanging or electrocution, ...*

*NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes into its 2019-2020 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT for legislation or administrative action that would request the governments of China, Vietnam, South Korea, Cambodia, and Indonesia to ban the sale of dog meat and to enforce their animal cruelty laws.*

See <https://koreandogs.org/la-resolution/>

See also [City Council and VANC Resolutions](#)

Since the passage of these VANC and City Council resolutions in 2018 and 2019, several governments in the named countries have banned dog meat.

On January 9, 2024, the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea (South Korea) unanimously voted to ban dog meat nationwide. See CityWatchLA, January 11, 2024, [South Korea Bans Dog Meat! LINK](#); [In Defense of Animals LINK](#); VANC and the City Council Resolution were featured in the anti-dog meat movie that was presented to the South Korean National Assembly before the vote on banning dog meat. [LINK TO THE MOVIE](#). [VANC in CityWatch](#).

In March 2023, Jakarta, the capital city of Indonesia, banned dog and cat meat. [LINK](#). Previously, in December 2019, the province of Central Java in Indonesia banned dog meat. See CityWatchLA, [LINK](#). In 2021 and 2022, the Central Java province renewed its commitment to put an end to dog meat trafficking; several regions of Central Java – Semarang, Blora, Brebes, Karanganyar, Sucoharjo, Salatiga, and Purbalingga – indicated their intention to criminally prosecute those involved in the dog meat trade. [LINK](#).

In December 2021, Hoi An, an historic trading port and World Heritage site in Vietnam's Quang Nam Province, signed a memorandum of Understanding to phase out dog and cat meat from the city. This is the first time that a city in Vietnam took such comprehensive action to end the dog and cat meat trade. [LINK](#). Organizations in Vietnam are working to end dog and cat meat in other cities, including the capital city of Hanoi.

In April 2020, the cities of Shenzhen and Zhuhai in China banned dog and cat meat. See CityWatchLA, April 6, 2020. [LINK](#). In May 2020, China's Ministry of Agriculture released the latest version of the Directory of Genetic Resources of Livestock and Poultry. Dogs and cats are no

longer listed as animals that can be bred, raised, traded, or transported for commercial food purposes. [LINK](#). However, further action is required, including criminal penalties and enforcement, as millions of dogs are still brutally killed each year in China's dog meat trade.

In July 2020, Siem Reap Province in Cambodia, home of the Angkor Wat Temple complex, banned the sale and consumption of dog meat, implementing criminal penalties for violation of the ban. [LINK](#). Also in July 2020, the Indian state of Nagaland banned the import, trading, and sale of dog meat. [LINK](#).

VANC extends its congratulations and appreciation to the Los Angeles City Council and to these governmental entities for their humane actions!