



## MINUTES

### Outreach Committee Meeting

**Thursday March 7, 2019 11:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**Location: Bel Air Ridge Clubhouse – 2760 Claray Los Angeles, CA 90077**

- 1. Call to Order/Roll:** Robin called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m.  
**Outreach Committee Members:** *Robin Greenberg, Chair; Nickie Miner, Maureen Smith, Irene Sandler, André Stojka & Matt Post.*  
**3 present:** Robin, André, Irene  
**3 absent:** Nickie, Maureen, Matt
- 2. Public Comments:** Susan, Biff and Bruno Naylor introduced themselves as living in a canyon with a webcam for the wild animals, and are interested in the work of the neighborhood council.
- 3. Discussion & Possible Motions in Preparation for the Ben Allen Town Hall @ the Skirball on March 14, 2019 7-9 pm.** We need everyone there at 6:30 to take peoples' names as they come in. We need banners and a podium banner.
- 4. Discussion & Organizing the Questions for Ben Allen. Review of questions prepared by board members as follows:**

#### **Questions from André Stojka**

1. Senator Allen your environmental stance on fishnets and plastic straws is appreciated.

Your constituents in Studio City, Sherman Oaks, Encino and Bel Air have serious noise and pollution problems which are dramatically changing their environment and impacting their health.

The FAA, unilaterally, without any environmental impact report, has rerouted commercial airplanes from Burbank airport over homes, schools, protected mountain areas and animal crossings, changing historic flight patterns that have worked well for decades. These include noise sensitive communities in the SM Mountains.

What will you do to, on the State level, to protect your constituents by persuading the FAA to return flights to their historical patterns?

2. Senator Allen, there is a serious water shortage in Southern California. What do you see as a solution? What to do to build an infrastructure to have water security?

The twin tunnel water project was designed to bring Northern California water to Southern California during the rainy season where excess water is available. Water would stop flowing when damage to the Sacramento Delta is possible. By reducing the twin tunnels to one tunnel, less water will be available Southern California where your constituents live. How did you vote on this issue and is there anything you can do to keep the twin tunnel project?

We understand that agriculture consumes one-third of the water supply.

What do you think about desalinization and/or other ways, e.g., using gray water, that are not as costly?

(Discussion was held about this, with Mindy and André differing about the two tunnels. Discussion included that we're antiquated in our approach, we waste water, and need to change the way we do things; a 5-prong approach; no need for a dual tunnel. The problem is the waste in agricultural uses.)

3. Senator Allen, there is a shortage of affordable housing in both Los Angeles and San Francisco. The high-speed bullet train could have alleviated the affordable housing problem of both cities by providing quick high speed transportation for city workers to areas with more affordable housing.

Instead, the project is using Los Angeles, San Francisco and Federal taxpayer money to provide transportation between two small cities in the San Joaquin Valley.

Did you vote on funding for the bullet train? What can you do to make this project more beneficial to your constituents?

4. Senator Allen, your colleague Scott Weiner is proposing State-mandated zoning changes in Los Angeles city areas which would replace single home neighborhood with high rise buildings, (SB 50 – Scott Weiner). How will you vote on this issue?

Do you believe cities have the right to self-determination without State interference?

5. Proposition 13 shifts locally-collected Property tax revenue to the State for redistribution. Since Los Angeles is the largest tax-producing city in the State, do you agree it should receive more funds from the State for the schools of your constituents?

The 2% yearly increase in total property tax of California raises huge amount of money. What do you do to ensure your constituents are receiving their fair share of the revenues?

(Irene recommended that we gather together the representatives to fight for Southern California.)

Irene recommends that we wisely use the money that we have; find unused portion of the tax money that has gone to Sacramento and areas. She asks how much money is there? How is it spent? What can it be spent on?

**From Maureen Levinson** (already forwarded to the Senator's office)

**SB 50 (WeinerWorld) & Housing Committee:** I hope the Senator will speak on SB 50 and why he was removed from Housing and how can we get him back on that Committee!

**Insurance fire protection astronomical increases for homeowners:** I would also like to discuss fire insurance in our Bel-Air neighborhood and other areas that suffered from the recent fires — many of our residents have had their fire insurance either canceled or premiums raised at a minimum of 4 times since the Skirball fire.

**From Maureen Smith:**

1. After having a nightmarish experience at the Santa Monica DMV trying to obtain an Real ID ( I was not successful and must go back to the DMV), do you have the results of the audit of the DMV customer service and information technology functions? I read in the LA Times that California's Real IDs are not federally compliant. Is that still true and what is the problem?

2. Could you talk about the "right to die" legislation and the parameters of the law.

**From Ellen Evans:**

What's the Senator's position on SB50? Are you a supporter?

- What is the Senator's position on SB50?
- What should the scope of local power be vs. state authority?
- Ingress and egress points in hillsides are often quite near transit stops. Increasing density at many of these points would create a hazard for emergency evacuation. Is this an acceptable by-product of an effort to create more housing?

Does the Senator accept campaign contributions from developers?

Environmental issues:

How do we protect open space, wildlife, ecosystems, and other natural community resources when these all have been and continue to be compromised by development?

How would the Senator see a successful single-use plastic ban playing out?

What would be the single most impactful piece of environmental legislation the state could enact?

The initiative process may be another: SB47- Clean Money Initiative + effort to repeal article 34

**Questions from Irene:**

Are you considering removing natural gas on a state level?

Property Taxation: The State of California was supposed to help us with regard property tax credits, and what question of whether 13 should be revised for business commercial property. Property taxes go up 2% each year. Where does it go? Now where the money that we used to be able to right off for property owners go?

Cars polluting atmosphere; what about pollution from airplanes? Van Nuys, LAX, Burbank, Ontario, John Wayne

1. Now that property owners can no longer get state tax deductions, can deduct no more than \$10,000 of property tax, what will that do to the housing market in Ca.?
2. Should drivers pay for congestion pricing, while the funds raised are not used for fixing roads, but rather for funding public transit?
3. Does the legislature know how many people will use public transit that is disconnected from the places that people want to go... to work, to visit friends/relatives, to shop outside their own neighborhoods. go to a restaurant, travel at night? Los Angeles is too spread out for people to give up their cars. Public safety is still a big issue on public transit and while waiting for public transit.

What about the Bullet train?

5. Will Ca. mandate more charging stations throughout the state for electric vehicles? State owns any? What is the future of statewide charging stations?

6 Will we have driverless cars in our future? Do you want them? What do you think about having driverless cars/trucks on the road within the next two or three years?

Nickie: Weiner SB58, the 4am bar bill and the contents of SB179. I want to know his stand, Ben Allen's position. And of course SB50.

Questioned if Metro is a state agency?

Discussion took place about the Metro transit project to make tunnels and a monorail.

As to the four options, 600 feet under Bel air to UCLA, why can't they do what NY and Chicago does, go to the fast lanes on either side of the freeway. Irene noted that the current project is County. Robert: Why not go on the 405? Irene: They have a proposal to go on the west side, to do a monorail, 35 feet over the Mulholland Bridge, to go over the hill and stop at Getty Center, but there are many reasons, it's a steep incline and heavy trains can't go up. Irene noted that the east valley people to Mission feel left out, because they are poor. They have always wanted express lane and express bus. They haven't done the express bus because they lack power to go up the hill. Asked if we could increase the technology for buses to go up hill, it would be cheaper than the tunneling, etc.

**d. Scenic Highways:** On 09/24, item was deferred as quorum was lost.

**Discussion and Possible Action:** To set up guidelines, as interim guidelines are not being followed; to encourage Councilmembers from CD4 & CD5 that the city needs to provide funding to adopt the guidelines and to confer with experts.

(Of note, per the 09/24 minutes, Ellen discussed with Nick that the guidelines were extremely old and it was agreed that this is an issue.)

**5. Adjournment 12:17**

**Next Meeting Date: TBD**