

**Sun Valley Watershed Stakeholder Meeting**  
**April 15, 2010**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**Sun Valley Park and Recreation Center**  
**8133 Vineland Avenue**  
**Sun Valley**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**I. Introductions**

The meeting was called to order, beginning with self-introductions.

**II. Review Mission Statement**

The mission statement was read aloud to the group.

**III. Follow Up Items from Previous Meeting**

- a. **LACFCD, City of LA BOS – Schedule a meeting between the City of LA BOS, Rec & Parks, BOSS and the LACFCD to discuss maintenance issues about the Sun Valley Park.**
- Richard Gomez of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) stated that there had been a training session in 2006 with staff from the City of Los Angeles (City of LA) and the LACFCD.
  - The LACFCD is working to create a responsibility matrix based on the maintenance agreements for the Sun Valley Park. The matrix would identify the responsibilities of the various parties involved.
  - The LACFCD will work with the City of LA Bureau of Sanitation (BOS) to schedule a meeting soon.
  - Kosta Kaporis of the City of LA BOS stated that the Tuxford Green Project has been replanted and that weed-abatement at the site has been done by BOS. The City is working to find an internal group to maintain the site on a long term basis and will possibly contact local stakeholder groups.
  - Maria Chong-Castillo from Supervisor Yaroslavsky's Office clarified that the responsibility of finding a group to maintain the Tuxford Green Project lies with the City.
  - Mike O'Gara mentioned that the trees at the site had not been replanted yet.

**Follow Up Items:**

- City of LA BOS will give an update about the status of the replanting of the trees at the next Stakeholders meeting.

- b. LACFCD – Send update to the stakeholders regarding the questions about the telemetry system at the Sun Valley Park.**
- Richard Gomez gave an update for the telemetry system at the Sun Valley Park. The probes for the telemetry system are maintained by the LACFCD. The readings from the probes were not being correctly transferred to the SCADA system, therefore the system was shutting down inadvertently.
  - The system has now been adjusted, and should be functioning correctly.

#### **IV. Sun Valley Watershed Feasibility Study**

Brian Whelan of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) gave an update on the Feasibility Study.

- The LACFCD continues to partner with the Corps on the Sun Valley Watershed Feasibility Study.
- A design charette was held on April 7th, at the Corps' Los Angeles District Office. Participants from the LACFCD, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) and the Army Corps attended the workshop.
- The Corps is progressing with the Baseline Conditions Report and has already completed the hydrology and geotechnical appendices. The socioeconomics and environmental assessment reports are in draft form, and the cultural and biology reports are moving forward. The Corps is expecting that intra-agency review of the report will be completed by October, and that the report will be releasable to the public in December.
- The funding for Fiscal Year 2011 looks promising, with funding provided by both the House and the Senate for the first time. With potential funding, the Corps is looking to complete the Feasibility Study next year.
- The funding may have been a result of the lobbying for Los Angeles River Day in Washington this February. The LACFCD partnered with the City and the Corps for these efforts.
- The Corps is currently working on the baseline conditions report; the next step will be the F4 report (Alternative Analysis). The Corps will solicit input from everyone, and then make a recommendation.
  - The Corps anticipates that the Feasibility Study could be completed in the Fall/Winter of FY12, or even possibly the end of FY11.
- Rebecca Drayse brought up the recent changes to the flood hazard areas, and recommended that the Corps consider the City of Los Angeles' floodplain analysis.
  - Richard Gomez stated that the flood insurance requirements might come into play through the Environmental Justice component of the Feasibility Study.
  - A copy of the City's floodplain analysis has already been provided to the Corps.
  - Brian Whelan clarified that the Corps has restrictions on what can be funded because this is meant to be a restoration project.

- Angela George stated that the LACFCD would be analyzing the City's floodplain study. The flood zone insurance requirement has been temporarily delayed. The projects outlined in the Sun Valley Watershed Management Plan may alleviate flooding; however, the projects will take years to implement.
- Kosta Kaporis mentioned the Cesar Chavez Recreational Complex project at the former Sheldon-Arleta Landfill that may serve to alleviate flooding. This project is not located within the Sun Valley Watershed.

## **V. Project Progress Report (Gomez - LACFCD)**

Richard Gomez of LACFCD provided a brief update on the Sun Valley Watershed projects.

### **a. Strathern Pit**

- Maria Chong-Castillo announced that on March 16, 2010, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors adopted the settlement of the condemnation case with Los Angeles By-Products for the acquisition of the Strathern Pit. Ownership of the site has been transferred to the LACFCD.
- The LACFCD is working with the City on a funding agreement for the transfer of Proposition O grant funds towards the Strathern Wetlands Project.
- Mike O'Gara proposed that the project be named for Rory Shaw, the City employee who passed away while working to repair a sinkhole at Tujunga Avenue in 2005.
  - Maria Chong-Castillo recommended that the residents work through the City Council's office to name the project.
- Funding has been set aside through Proposition O, with \$10 million designated for acquisition and \$7.8 million designated for construction.
  - The City has been facing budget concerns, and there is a possibility that the funds will be withheld.
  - The LACFCD is preparing to obtain authorization to enter into a Funding Agreement with the City by June 1st. An agreement is necessary for the funds to be transferred from the City to the LACFCD for the project.
- The LACFCD is currently in the process of regrouping with the design consultant to start up the design process again.

### **Follow Up Items:**

- Maria Chong-Castillo requested that a preliminary design schedule be prepared for the next meeting.
- ### **b. Valley Steam Plant**
- LADWP is finalizing a Scope of Work document for internal review.
  - LADWP is revising the project cost estimates based on the Scope of Work recommendations.

- LADWP is coordinating efforts with the Environmental Affairs group to prepare the CEQA document for the project.
- The project concept proposes redirecting flows from Tujunga Wash; however, offsite street flows will not be diverted to the site.
- LADWP worked with Olga Ayala from Councilman Tony Cardenas' office on a concept to divert off-shore flows from Sheldon Street onto Little San Fernando Road. However, they are not able to vacate Little San Fernando Road at this time.
- LADWP will begin design for the Valley Steam Plant late next year. The design will be done in-house.
- There is a recycled water tank at the site. This water is utilized in the plant.
- Mike O'Gara mentioned that facilities at the Tillman reclamation plant provide tertiary treatment for wastewater. The recycled water could be used by industries such as Vulcan.
  - Mark Hanna stated that the demand for recycled water exceeds the available supply.
- Kosta Kaporis asked whether the Sun Valley Watershed Management Plan (SVWMP) proposed bringing water from offsite into the Valley Steam Plant.
  - Mark Hanna clarified that although the SVWMP did propose capturing offsite water, the Power System of LADWP was not in favor of bringing in water from offsite.
- Rebecca Drayse from TreePeople mentioned that there will be a need to re-evaluate the projects that are identified in the SVWMP because design elements may change. Planned projects should take current designs into consideration so that the objectives of the SVWMP are still reached. There may also be a need to consider additional projects within the watershed.
- Angela George of the LACFCD requested that information be relayed to the group as it becomes available. Additional opportunities should also be considered.

### **Follow Up Items:**

- The LACFCD will add an agenda item for additional project opportunities.

#### **c. Whitnall Highway Power Line Easement Storm Water Pilot**

- Johanna Chang from LADWP reported that the concept report for a pilot project that establishes infiltration basins on LADWP right of way has been completed. The report has been reviewed by LACFCD.
- LADWP is finalizing the scope of work for the project and hopes to begin design in early summer 2010.
- The concept report is different from what was proposed in the SVWMP. LADWP has worked internally with the Power System to relocate distribution lines and determine substructures. It would be difficult to push the basin capacities further.

- The infiltration study that was done for the Whitnall Gardens Pilot Project can be used for the Powerline Easement Project.

### **Follow Up Items:**

- LADWP will provide the concept report to the LACFCD to send to the stakeholders.

#### **d. Whitnall Garden Pilot**

- Susan Avila from LADWP reported that a concept for a pilot project along Whitnall Highway that incorporates stormwater capture and open space enhancements has been completed.
- Approximately 15,000 cubic feet of stormwater runoff will be captured.
- LACFCD is looking into possibly contributing funds for the project.
- There are many underground substructures at the site. LADWP is working towards completing a more refined design that takes these into account.
- LADWP is working with Los Angeles City Councilman LaBonge's office.

#### **e. Sun Valley Middle School**

- The Supervisor's Office has been meeting with LAUSD. LAUSD continues to have interest in the use of the school property to capture, treat, and infiltrate storm water.
- The Sun Valley Middle School may have other priorities, such as budget issues, that need to be addressed.
- Nury Martinez from LAUSD Board of Education has been in contact with Maria Chong-Castillo. The LAUSD is still working on their master plan and will have to determine where Sun Valley Middle School falls.

#### **f. Sun Valley Park Drain and Infiltration Enhancement**

- The project is complete; recently enhancements to the facility were made. The existing samplers were replaced and three additional samplers were installed, for a total of six samplers onsite. The new equipment is automated and will take samples based on flow volume. The system is functional.
- During recent storm events, 65 acre-feet of water was infiltrated. It was previously estimated that only 30 acre-feet of water would be infiltrated each year.

#### **g. Sheldon Street Flooding**

- There are issues with flooding along Sheldon Street that are caused by stormwater. The City of Los Angeles is interested in addressing those issues.
- Mike O'Gara mentioned that he had noticed work being done at the site.

#### **h. Sun Valley Watershed Website**

- There is an effort to revamp the look of the Los Angeles County

Department of Public Works website, and the Sun Valley Watershed website would be updated to remain consistent with the same look.

- The maintenance manual for the Sun Valley Park and other project information can be added to the website.
- Rebecca Drayse mentioned that the text to introduce the website should be updated to reflect the fact the Sun Valley Watershed Management Plan has been created; the Sun Valley Park Project has been built, etc.

**Follow Up Items:**

- The LACFCD will have the website updated by the next Stakeholders meeting.

**VI. Elmer Avenue Update (Drayse - TreePeople)**

Rebecca Drayse of TreePeople provided an update on the Elmer Avenue Neighborhood Retrofit Project.

- The project will be completed next week.
- TreePeople will be holding a training session this Saturday for the residents to train them on maintenance.
- On June 3rd, a ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held to officially open the project.
- At the next Stakeholder's meeting, a walk-through of the project site can be organized.
- The portion of the project in the alley has not been funded, and would require \$130,000 to implement. State funding is being pursued.
- This project serves as a good example of the resident participation that is proposed in the SVWMP.

**VII. Other Activities of Interest to the Stakeholders**

- There is new construction near the intersection of Lankershim Boulevard and Strathern Street.
- The Melody Nursery will be closed down and a CVS pharmacy will be constructed at the site.
- Any new construction will be subject to SUSMP requirements.
- Rebecca Drayse had talked to the City Council for a Watershed Overlay Zone. This would also involve the City Planning Department.

The next Stakeholders' meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2010.

*"The mission of the Sun Valley Watershed Stakeholders Group is to solve the local flooding problem while retaining all stormwater runoff from the watershed, increasing water conservation, recreational opportunities, and wildlife habitat, and reducing stormwater pollution."*