

Sustainable City Commission Emailed Comments Agenda Item #2

From: Padric Gleason Gonzales

Sent: 12/6/2020 at 10:37 AM

While I appreciate the updates and focus on reducing emissions and exploring alternative fuels, this presentation lacked the type of concrete goals and timelines that I would expect. Measurable and time-bound goals ensure that your commission can hold these departments accountable.

Also, having seen the ongoing procurements approved by the council, it's clear that not all departments are committed to greening their fleets. I encourage you to demand more precise commitments and hold all government entities accountable. Long Beach City Government needs to 'lead by example', not simply phase in a less carbon future. We need bold and decisive action NOW.

Regards,
Padric Gleason Gonzales

From: Juan E. Ovalle

Sent: 12/10/2020 at 3:49 PM

Greetings Sustainable City Commission,

As a follow up to Agenda Item # 2, the "Our County" presentation it is with greater sense of urgency that I request your added involvement in many issues related to sustainability, equity, parity and justice.

At this moment, we ask that you and our elected officials represent and protect us by requiring a full Environmental Impact Report at 3701 Pacific Place Project (the former Golf Learning Center southwest of Crown Point, across from Los Cerritos Park and Elementary School).

Development Includes:

- Asphalt parking lot for 580 vehicles (trailers, campers, boats, trucks)
- Three-story structure and office space (150,000 sf with 11 Truck Loading Docks)
- Truck/RV wash bay.

Site was formerly a toxic waste and sewage site, which was buried and covered by a plastic membrane in the 1980s to limit neighborhood exposure to the toxic materials and gases. Development preparation includes grading and moving this toxic soil, kicking up hazardous dust that is carried by the prevailing winds into our community.

Western Long Beach has a severe need for more parks and open space. Historical development favored industry, which resulted in higher levels of pollution.

With your support, we can stop the development of this brownfield site and work with Federal, State, and Local Agencies to address what will really benefit our communities; more Parkland, Wetlands, and open space to serve as the lungs of our neighborhoods. The eastern side of Long Beach has seventeen times more acreage dedicated to parks and open space than the west side (of Long Beach).

The alternative is not more asphalt that creates urban heat islands; this is a shortsighted approach. Let's think about the long-term health of our neighborhood and future generations. There will never be another opportunity for the city to acquire and develop this many acres for parkland. This is our only chance.

If the "Our County" presentation left you with something to think about it should be Equity in its various manifestation such as equitable and sustainable land use. As well as the need to assessable parks, public lands and public spaces that create opportunities for respite, recreation, ecological discovery, and cultural activities. Let's not miss another golden opportunity in the City of Long Beach.

Please find the attached letter requesting your support for a full Environmental Impact Report for the proposed Pacific Place Development Project and we hope we can count on you to support the Our County vision and Riverpark Coalitions effort to protect open spaces for future generations.

Sincerely,

Juan E. Ovalle
Riverpark Coalition
<http://www.riverparkcoalition.org>

From: Renee Lawler
Sent: 12/10/2020 at 1:10 PM

Dear Decision makers:

The main goal of this Sustainability plan – "Equitable and sustainable land use.." has proven historically not to be achievable or realistic and is reason for continued stake-holder community concern.

Many plans, recent and in decades past have presented similar idealistic goals and yet the green space, culturally and historically significant features, trails and neighborhoods along the

LA River corridor continue to suffer with cumulative negative impacts due to development and planning decisions that fail to consider this primary goal.

In LA County, many time-consuming and costly plans such as the one you are presenting have been produced (the LA River Master Plans, Riverlinks Plan, Open Space Plan, LA River Revitalization Plan, County Trails Manual). Those efforts have also outlined sustainable goals for open space, habitat & environmental corridor concerns that also included extensive stakeholder participation. Despite similar hard work by contemporaries and countless hours of sincere effort by many the goal of sustainable open space and community equity is not actualized decade after decade and there is a dis-connect between local, regional and state planners with the stakeholders needs and desires.

An example of this dis-connect and in-equity and non-sustainable planning at a local and regional level, after decades of extensive stakeholder input, is the development project at 3701 Pacific Place. This is a River-adjacent open-space, earmarked as the “jewel of the river”. It was designated as such to be retained/acquired for much needed parkland in the west Long Beach and south LA River vicinity – in a region of known lower income minority demographic with great need for parkland and recreation opportunities. But as we speak today it is being developed for an RV park placing communities and sustainable goals at risk. As long as density and/or development projects continue to encroach upon the LA River, then that linear environmental corridor and open space habitat will not be sustainable.

Page 14 High Level Goals – “Accessible parks, public lands and public spaces that create opportunities for respite, recreation, ecological discovery, and cultural activities”

As long as cities such as Long Beach continue to proceed in LUE and zoning changes and not work in tandem or take any regional plan seriously, then “equitable and sustainable land uses” will fail.

As long as individual entities resist consideration of the larger sustainable goals, (public works, development services, city council, planning commission, regional and state entities such as LACFCD, LA County, DTSC and LA River Revitalization), then sustainable land use and equity for open space, trails, cultural features and community needs will never be achieved.

Renee Lawler