



**Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council**

P.O. Box 457  
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 Website: WWW.SVANC.COM  
 Email: info@svanc.com

**Board Meeting MINUTES  
 Tuesday, October 9, 2018  
 6:30pm – 8:30pm**

**Meeting Location:**  
 Alliance High School  
 11933 Allegheny Street  
 Sun Valley, CA 91352  
 (MAIL NOT ACCEPTED AT THIS ADDRESS)

Board Member	Roll Call	Funding Vote Eligible*	Category	Seat
Aggas, Gary; <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Signatory</i>	Present	YES	Resident	R5
Allen, Mark B.; <i>2<sup>nd</sup> V.P./Cardholder</i>	Absent	YES	Business	B1
Carbajal, Jackelyn	Present	YES	Youth	Y1
Correa, Steve	Present	YES	Resident	A1
Duenas, Angelica	Present	YES	Resident	R2
Fierro, Martha	Present	YES	Resident	R6
Garcia, Steven	Present	YES	Business	B6
Khalaf, Sam	Absent	NO(F)	Business	B2
Koenig, Mylo; <i>Treasurer</i>	Absent	YES	At-Large	A1
O'Gara, Barbara	Present	YES	Senior Rep	S1
O'Gara, Mike	Present	YES	At-Large	A2
Palomino, Catherine	Absent	YES	Resident	R3
Perez, Carmen	Absent	YES	Business	B7
Power, Rick	Present	YES	Business	B5
Roque, Frank	Present	YES	Senior Rep	S2
Sower, Cindy; <i>President</i>	Present	YES	Business	B4
Sower, Michael	Present	YES	Business	B3
Thum, Wendy	Present	YES	Resident	R4
Vacas, Monica; <i>1<sup>st</sup> V.P.</i>	Present	YES	Resident	R7
Venegas, Eddie	Present	YES	Comm. Int.	C1
(VACANT)			At-Large	A4
(VACANT)			At-Large	A5
(VACANT)			At-Large	A6
(VACANT)			At-Large	A3
(VACANT)			Youth Rep	Y2
<b>TOTAL: 19</b>	<b>15 PRESENT, 05 ABSENT</b>			

\*Funding vote eligibility key: **A**=age less than 18 yrs.; **E**=Ethics training; **F**=Funding training; **N**=not taken; **X**=expired  
 \*\* Advance notice given for absence

ITEM 1: Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, SVANC Code of Civility  
 Ms. Sower called the meeting of the Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council to order at approximately 6:45PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mr. Aggas took roll. Fifteen Boardmembers were present and a quorum was met. There were approximately sixty members of the public present at the meeting. The Code of Civility was recited by the Boardmembers present.

ITEM 2: Opening Remarks.  
 Ms. Sower reminded the board members to check their folders.  
 Speaker Cards/Question will be used for this meeting. If you have a question please write it on the card. Questions will be asked after presentation. The use of the meeting room is only until 8:30PM, so there may not be time to answer all of the questions.

The Sun Valley Neighborhood Council wants to know how you feel so please fill out the comment cards and they will be shared with The High Speed Rail Authority. The Sun Valley Neighborhood Council High Speed Rail Committee can be reached at [hsr@svanc.com](mailto:hsr@svanc.com)

Ms. Sower read the participation guidelines for the presentation part of the meeting including no personal attacks and no interrupting of the speakers.

ITEM 3: Ms. Sower announced the Vacant Board Seats.

- a. 2 Seats: At Large Stakeholder, remainder of term, term ends 2019
- b. 2 Seat: At Large Stakeholder, remainder of term, term ends 2021
- c. 1 Seat: Youth Representative (age 14-21), term ends approximately April 2019

Applications available on our website, DUE BY Tuesday, October 30, 2018

ITEM 4: Motion/Discussion/Vote to appoint Boardmember Steve Correa to the Executive Board Secretary position that is being vacated by current Secretary Gary Aggas. Thank You Gary Aggas for your service to this Executive Board. (Aggas)

Public comment: no comment

<b>SVANC ITEM 4 Motion to appoint Boardmember Steve Correa to the Executive Board Secretary position that is being vacated by current Secretary Gary Aggas. Moved: Power Second: Duenas</b>				
<b>Yes –15</b>	No – 00	Recuse – 00	Not Eligible –00	<b>Absent –05</b>
Aggas, Carbajal, Correa, Duenas, Fierro, Garcia, B. O’Gara, M. O’Gara, Power, C. Sower, M. Sower, Roque, Thum, Vacas, Venegas	NONE	NONE	NONE	Allen, Khalaf, Koenig, Palomino, Perez

Presentation to thank Gary Aggas for his work on the Board

ITEM 5 Motion/Discussion/Vote to approve Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for September 2018. (A supplemental report will also be provided with anticipated expenses.)

Public comment: no comment

<b>SVANC ITEM 5 Motion to approve Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for September 2018. Moved: Power Second: O’Gara</b>				
<b>Yes –15</b>	No – 00	Recuse – 00	Not Eligible –00	<b>Absent –05</b>
Aggas, Carbajal, Correa, Duenas, Garcia, B. O’Gara, M. O’Gara, Power, Roque, C. Sower, M. Sower, Thum, Vacas, Venegas	NONE	NONE	NONE	Allen, Khalaf, Koenig, Palomino, Perez,

ITEM 6: Motion/Discussion/Vote to co-sponsor in a cleanup November 3 (with a fallback date up to December 1, if needed) along the San Fernando Road between Sheldon and Lankershim. The staging area will be at the Alliance MIT High School. The SVANC would provide Breakfast and supplies for between 50-75 volunteers from the local schools, Military Academy, office of the Council Woman and Assembly Woman, Graffiti Busters and local businesses. Cost of food and supplies not to exceed \$150. (Thum)

Public comment: no comment

<b>SVANC ITEM 6 Motion to co-sponsor in a cleanup November 3 (with a fallback date up to December 1, if needed) along the San Fernando Road between Sheldon and Lankershim. The staging area will be at the Alliance MIT High School. The SVANC would provide Breakfast and supplies for between 50-75 volunteers from the local schools, Military Academy, office of the Council Woman and Assembly Woman, Graffiti Busters and local businesses. Cost of food and supplies not to exceed \$150. Moved: Duenas Second: Power 8:37PM</b>				
<b>Yes –15</b>	No – 00	Recuse – 00	Not Eligible –00	<b>Absent –05</b>
Aggas, Carbajal, Correa, Duenas, Fierro, Garcia, B. O’Gara, M. O’Gara, Power, C. Sower, M. Sower, Roque, Thum, Vacas, Venegas	NONE	NONE	NONE	Allen, Khalaf, Koenig, Palomino, Perez

ITEM 7: Motion/Discussion/Vote to co-sponsor a Citizenship Workshop with the International Rescue Committee (IRC), on November 17, 2018, at Holy Rosary Church. Approve spending \$6.00 a piece for lunch for 30 volunteers, up to but not to exceed \$180.00. Approve the Event Approval Form. (Duenas)

Public comment: no comment

<b>SVANC ITEM 7 Motion to co-sponsor a Citizenship Workshop with the International Rescue Committee (IRC), on November 17, 2018, at Holy Rosary Church. Approve spending \$6.00 a piece for lunch for 30 volunteers, up to but not to exceed \$180.00. Approve the Event Approval Form. Moved: Garcia Second: Power</b>				
<b>Yes –15</b>	No – 00	Recuse – 00	Not Eligible –00	<b>Absent –05</b>
Aggas, Carbajal, Correa, Duenas, Fierro, Garcia, B. O’Gara, M. O’Gara, Power, C. Sower, M. Sower, Roque, Thum, Vacas, Venegas	NONE	NONE	NONE	Allen, Khalaf, Koenig, Palomino, Perez

ITEM 8: Public Comment on non-agenda Items, one (1) minute per speaker

1. Sarah Ramaswack- stated that the Sun Valley Neighborhood Council is a strong Neighborhood Council and she thanked them for their support of the Neighborhood Council Congress. Ms. Ramaswack reminded everyone of the next Congress.
2. Principal Jonathan Tiongco thanked the community for coming out to the event. The school is a proud member of the community. Sun Valley has been a huge partner in creating a safe environment around the school and a safe school.

ITEM 9: Board Member Comment on non-agenda Items, one (1) minute per speaker: No comments

ITEM 10: Board Meeting Adjournment 7:06PM

<b>SVANC ITEM 10 Motion to adjourn. Moved: Vacas Second: Venegas</b>				
<b>Yes –15</b>	No – 00	Recuse – 00	Not Eligible –00	<b>Absent –05</b>
Aggas, Carbajal, Correa, Duenas, Fierro, Garcia, B. O’Gara, M. O’Gara, Power, C. Sower, M. Sower, Roque, Thum, Vacas, Venegas	NONE	NONE	NONE	Allen, Khalaf, Koenig, Palomino, Perez

**THE SUN VALLEY AREA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL'S WEBSITE [WWW.SVANC.COM](http://WWW.SVANC.COM)**

**SVANC Office at 818-767-82620 or email [info@svanc.com](mailto:info@svanc.com)**

The Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council moved into the Town Hall Presentation portion of the evening. High Speed Rail Presentation Palmdale to Burbank

Pros

Michelle CHSR Authority-  
The Refined SR14 Route has risen to the top of the Proposed Alternative Routes. The High Speed Rail Project will be studied mile by mile, block by block, and everything needs to be looked at. There are still conversations to be had. There are 3 routes on the map E2, E3, and preferred route SR14. The Primary approach is to tunnel under the mountains and use existing railroad corridors that have to be modernized. Additional tracks will need to be added then electrified. Not all areas are fenced so there will need to be fencing added. There will be sensors to prevent accidents as well as grade separation corridors. An Earthquake Warning System will also be installed. The plan is not perfect but there have been studies for better integration and SR14 has the best balance. This infrastructure project is generating attention.

Carlos Velasquez, CHSR-  
Mr. Velasquez presented graphics and gave more information. The SR14 Route after the refinements has zero residential displacements in this section. The Vulcan Gravel Pits will be used for depositing soil and a conveyor belt system will be built to move construction materials. The Vulcan Pits when full could be developed. The maps showed at which points the High Speed Rail would be above ground and where it would be underground.

There will be a grade separation at Sheldon Street. Noise barriers, if needed, will be used.

Rick Simon High Speed Rail Team (Engineer)-

Mr. Simon went through a block by block presentation of the route through Sun Valley. At some points the High speed rail will be partially at grade. Parts of the route will be constructed utilizing a cut and cover system. Old San Fernando Road will be closed permanently from Penrose to Tuxford. A new Terminal at Burbank Airport was built to for better connectivity.

Juan Carlos HSR-

Environmental studies are being done. The information will be shared at future public meetings. It will take several years to review everything. The chosen route will be announced in January 2021. Contact us if you have any questions.

Ms. Sower- the Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council will be voting on November 13, 2018. The results will be given to the High Speed Rail Authority at their meeting on November 15, 2018.

Sylmar Neighborhood Council, Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council, and Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council have voted not to support the SR14 Route. Pacoima Neighborhood Council is still deciding. The Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council has received several letters of support for their position. Assemblywoman Luz Rivas questions the funding gaps. Congressman Tony Cardenas does not support it being built at or above grade. Senator Hertzberg does not support the High Speed Rail at or above ground in any of the areas he oversees in the San Fernando Valley. Councilmember Nury Martinez is in opposition to it being at or above ground in her district. All letters that have been received will be included with the Neighborhood Council's vote to the High Speed Rail Authority.

Ms. Sower thanked the Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council High Speed Rail Committee for all of their hard work.

Cons

Susan Lustig-

Everyone's voice is important. One of the biggest infrastructure projects in the state is coming through Sun Valley. Proposition 1A was on the ballot on in November of 2008. The vote was yes 52.6%, no 47.4%. 9.95 Billion Dollars in General Obligation Bonds were approved that needs to be paid back with interest. It was also to be built on existing transit or energy corridors. It was to run from San Francisco to Los Angeles in 2 hours 45 minutes. The route was proposed along the 5 freeway. Other routes were then developed. Then E1, E2, and E3 were reworked. Currently SR14 has been chosen as the preferred route. Due to Environmental Justice the route was moved so that it would not go through the City of San Fernando. Ms. Lustig explained the issues that would affect the surrounding communities with the other routes.

In 2008 phase 1 and 2 was estimated to cost \$45 Billion dollars. The current costs are estimated at \$77.3 to \$98 Billion dollars. If it takes the train over 3 hours to reach its destination it is no longer competitive with the airlines. The Project was to be completed in 2028, but now the project is estimated to be completed by 2033. The Environmental Reports that were to be completed in 2011 are now estimated to be completed in 2020.

Fare estimates in 2008 were to cost \$55.00, but today that amount has risen to \$64.00 with a round trip ticket costing \$93.00. A private operator might help to lower the cost. The Bonds still need to be paid back at a rate of \$647 million dollars per year. When the High Speed Train project was proposed, The Federal Government was expected to contribute \$17 to \$19 Billion dollars, but they have only contributed \$4 Billion. Besides the State and Federal funds being used for the project there was an expectation of large amounts of private funds to be invested in the project, but nothing has been invested by the private sector. There is no viable funding plan for the High Speed Rail Project. It was stated that no homes would be demolished in this section of the project for the construction of the rail although there are 14,327 residences are 2,500 feet of the projected route. Local residences will be affected by traffic, noise, pollution, and vibration. Thousands of businesses will also be affected and several will be eminent domain or shut down due to the project.

In July 2005, the City Council passed a motion that parts of Sun Valley were to be designated as a Social Justice Area. That issue is being ignored in Sun Valley while it was enforced in the City of San Fernando. There needs to be strict enforcement in Sun Valley due to the higher risks of Cancer due to the industrial and waste facilities.

The Tunnel Boring Machine can only move forward as the Tunnel lining is being constructed at the same time. The amount of dirt expected to be removed and deposited in the Vulcan Pit is 7 million cubic yards, an amount that would fill up the Rose Bowl 10 times over. Concerns are being raised about the risks of Valley Fever Spores becoming air borne during the construction. 200 cases were reported after the Northridge Earthquake. There are 10 schools in the Sun Valley area which raises those concerns. There are many Geotechnical Documents that can be reviewed online.

Due to the recent needs to evacuate many horses during the recent fires, a deal was reached with Vulcan

and the local Equestrian Community that Vulcan will allow horses to be brought to their property for boarding. This could affect that agreement and stop about 800 horses from having a local place to go in the event of an emergency.

To dispel one of the rumors; there will be no cargo or packages being shipped through the High Speed Rail System.

Sun Valley will be inundated with impacts of the High Speed Rail without any benefits to the community.

Burbank will get a World Class Multi-Modal transportation hub and Sun Valley gets piles of dirt.

Ms. Lustig asked all of the Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council Leaders to do their own research. It also needs to be reminded that is if the SR14 route is not approved the High Speed Rail Authority will go back to considering E1 and E2.

#### Question and Answers

Question-How is there a benefit to Sun Valley?

Answer- There is a lack of density; therefore the project will increase traffic. There is no stop in Sun Valley; therefore people have to drive to Burbank to get on the high speed rail. There are high unemployment rates in the areas that the rail line passes through and those community members will not be able to afford the ticket price.

We do not want people to drive to the High Speed Rail Stations people should use other forms of transportation like light rail. There is a radius of impacts at 1, 3, and 5 miles that ripple out. Those are opportunities for your region. Burbank is re-zoning the area around the airport to increase density. The City of Los Angeles could do the same. You could become a seamless part of it. Infrastructure projects bring jobs.

Question-How and when will the choice of routes be determined?

Answer-The initial choice will be in November. Once chosen, studies of all three alignments will be conducted. In January of 2021, the final decision will be made.

Question-How can you put the High Speed Rail at grade next to a hospital?

Answer-The tracks will be adjacent to current existing tracks. All impacts will be studied.

Question-Why not stay in a tunnel? Why come up at to grade level at all?

Answer-The High Speed Rail cannot go through the Spreading Grounds and other areas where there are other technical constraints.

Question- What is the advantage to Sun Valley?

Answer- Emissions may be reduced on the I-5 because people could take the train instead. The High Speed Rail creates connections to work and schools. It gives an advantage to people who would like to work in the Antelope Valley. We are at a tipping point in how we build our cities. It will change Sun Valley over what it is today.

Question- Will Old San Fernando road be closed?

Answer- Some parts of Old San Fernando will be permanently closed.

Question-You will be taking away my businesses access, how are you going to compensate the businesses?

Answer- By purchasing the property. We will evaluate the right of way. It is a good business practice for us to look for other ways to build access. If we are unable to we value the property and make a purchase. We may be able to create access for some businesses.

Ms. Sower thanked everyone for attending the meeting and reminded attendees that the Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council needs to hear from Stakeholders and get their opinion. They also need to hear from more businesses.

The Town Hall ended at 8:48PM.