

NIVA MEETING RECORD

Nov. 9, 2005

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Since the OCTA has officially abandoned the Centerline Project at its Board meeting of Oct 14th in favor of an alternative, the concern NIVA had previously about the use of the existing railroad ROW between Harvard and the Great Park area should no longer be of concern.

In the Oct 21 OC Register, it was reported that per the U.S. Census Bureau, Irvine's daytime population is 248,709 due to the influx of employees and college students. This number represents a figure 74% bigger than the city's residential population of 143,072. Note, the latter includes childrens in households while the former includes adults who are primarily drivers of vehicles entering the city. It no wonder Irvine has such a large traffic problem.

At the Oct 11 meeting, the Irvine City Council was presented a transportation study which indicated that future traffic improvements being considered which involve a tunnel from Riverside to Orange County would divert 15% of the traffic to Irvine (that is North Irvine primarily!!). As a result, the Council at its Oct 25 meeting approved [4/0, Choi absent] a resolution opposing any possibility of a tunnel through the Cleveland National Forest that would connect the I-15 Freeway to the SR-133 toll road.

For those of you still concerned about the small "slap on the hand" punishment imposed on the Exxon-Mobil Corp. for the years of Permit violation at the Walnut Center Mobil service station, you might note the very recent discloser that the Corp. hit a record \$9.9 Billion profit for the 3rd quarter 2005. This followed the previous quarter's record income. Their sales amount to \$45 Million/hour but were "fined" the equivalent of \$1.72/hour of violation time over the 7 year period!

Notice was received from the planners of the OC Marathon of the traffic delays and road closers for the Sunday, Jan 8, 2006 event from 6Am to various opening times in early afternoon. The course includes the portions of Jamboree and Portola Parkway in North Irvine. It is not clear whether traffic will be able to even cross these segments in the closed periods. If so, our residents will be unable to go west or east except via the I-5 to beyond Jamboree and Alton Parkway, respectively. To go north would require a routing of the I-5 onto Tustin Ranch Road to Jamboree.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. PA-10 JAMBOREE MEDICAL/SCIENCE CENTER COMMITTEE [Nancy LaPorte] - There has been no contact from the City on a followup meeting with Kia reps. on the exterior colors for the building.

The City Council hearing on the General Plan Amendment/Zone Change [GPA/ZC] is scheduled for Dec 13. A listing of noted deficiencies/erroneous assumptions used in the original March 1998 traffic study, which City staff contends is adequate for this GPA/ZC, was discussed at the meeting. Because of the staff position, no new or different traffic mitigation measures were proposed as part of the proposed change and consequently, consider to be required by the PC when they considered the GPA/ZC. It was agreed that these differences would be brought up to the Council in presentation during the hearing even though it is assumed that the GPA/ZC is probably a done deal as far as the City is concerned.

2. NORTHERN SPHERE (PA-3, 5B, 6, 8A, & 9) (_____) - Community Services Commission [CSC], Subdivision Committee [SC] and Planning Commission [PC] hearings are scheduled for Nov. 16, Nov. 23, and Dec 1, respectively, to consider the Vesting Tentative Track Map, Master Landscaping and Trails Plan, and Park Plan for PA-9C (the 78-acre area between Sand Canyon and the Corridor, Irvine Blvd. to Trabuco). 1,046 residential units are proposed for this site. NIVA's previously expressed concerns dealt with the need to extend the Venta Spur Trail through the project and over the ETC to the Great Park.

OLD BUSINESS

1. EL TORO MCAS REUSE - The letter agreed at the last meeting to be sent to the OC Great Park Board listing NIVA's North Irvine community concerns for consideration by the Corp. in development the Park Plan was sent Nov 3. Copies were distributed at the meeting.

At the Oct 11 meeting, the Irvine City Council selected staff's proposal to reassign the previously-derived State \$121 Million State funds for monorail development to a proposed 5.5-mile elevated rail line to connect the ITC with a loop through the Great Park. Over the next 45 days, the City will work with the Great Park Corp. and the City's Redevelopment Agency to see about approval of funding for a \$5.6 Million study. Such a proposal has the potential of creating an alternative to vehicle transportation to the Great Park and therein reduce the traffic through North Irvine by park users. This of course means the Metro-link/Amtrak will need to provide greater number of trains especially on weekends for connections. It was agreed at the meeting that NIVA should go officially on record in favor of this proposal. A letter is to be sent to the City Council.

At the Oct 27 meeting, the Great Park Board approved a procurement policy similar to that of the City. They also agreed to have Board members visit the establishments of the 3 park design finalists. The decision on final selection of the park designer has been postponed until January to accommodate this trip. The trip would entail visits to the headquarters in Barcelona (Spain), Mill Valley (California), and New York City and a few of the parks designed by each. Fuscoe Engineering was hired by the Corp. to evaluate construction and design costs for the Park and did so last Jan, 2003. However, due to expected rising costs of cement, building material needs for recent hurricane restoration along with rising fuel costs, the Corp. has hired Parsons Brinckerhoff to re-estimate the construction costs of the Park.

2. NORTH IRVINE LIBRARY [Dave Melvold] - The City has announced the other members of the Irvine Library Committee as appointed by each Councilmember. These are in addition to Councilmembers Choi and Shea. They are as follows:

Mark Petracca (Shea appointment) - Political Science Prof. @ UCI
Dave Melvold (Choi appointment)
Jim Arn (Agran appointment) - retired & works part time at Heritage Library
Felicity Figueroa (Krom appointment)
Melissa Levine (Kang appointment)

The first meeting is scheduled for Nov 16 at 6:30 PM.

3. HEAVY VEHICLE ROADWAY RESTRICTIONS [Jerry Kirchgessner] - Melvold will contact the City to set up a meeting with the City staff. Ciulik and Kirchgessner to attend with Melvold.

4. LOWER PETERS CANYON COMMUNITY PARK/BECKMAN HS JOINT-USE AGREEMENT [Terry Kiser] - Last Oct 13, IUSD Superintendent Dean Waldfogel announced negotiations between the District and Irvine Valley College to build a second district stadium on the college campus as a joint venture. Should this occur, this ought to negate the need for any future stadium attempt at Beckman HS by IUSD as a joint venture with the TUSD. [ITEM TO BE CLOSED]

5. ORCHARD HILLS VILLAGE [PA-1]LAND-USE PLANNING - The development project is moving along at a good clip. The City's Subdivision Committee [SC] reviewed the Master Tentative Tract Map 16529 for all 1,320 acres of of PA-1 on Oct 12 and 8 subdivision tentative tract maps (Maps 16703-04, 16707-10, 16717-18 for Tract 16529) for the 210 acres in the western half of the project (Neighborhoods 1 & 2) on Oct 26. In both cases the SC recommended PC approval to the PC with only 3 changes -- none of which would be significant to our community. The 8 tentative tract maps would accommodate 681 single-family units in densities varying from 2.08 to 5.42 units/acre with the average being 3.23 units/acre.

The PC held a hearing on the Master Landscape and Trails Plan, Park Plan, and Master Tentative Tract Map 16529 on Oct 20 and approved the application as presented by staff with no changes. On Nov 3 hearing, the PC approved the 8 tentative tract maps with only the SC-recommended changes.

Also at the Nov 3 meeting, the PC approved the proposed Sign Program for the PA-1 village identification signs. It should be noted that the application entailed administrative relief once again to increase the size of the sign -- this time over 12 feet high making these signs higher than the City of Irvine entry sign along the SB side of the I-5 Freeway! During this hearing, Melvold brought up the fact that even though the village will be prominently named, the boundary for the City will not as there are no significant monument-type signs currently proposed or funded for the major arterials entering the City in this area. Most significant is that of Portola Parkway at the west boundary. He suggested that the City "dust-off" the shelved Gateway Program and look into some appropriate City-signs for the North area. The PC consequently requested staff to update them on the Gateway Program in the near future.

Obvious to those who pass the site, the avocado groves on the site upon which residential is to be built have been removed recently. Rough grading is expected to commence shortly if not already.

The TUSD and IUSD are considering adjusting the district boundaries between the two in the areas of the Old Tustin Marine Base and in Orchard Hills. Besides making it easier for the students, it should also reduce traffic generation. Too bad this discussion does not also include Lower Peters Canyon at least for Beckman High School.

6. FUTURE NORTHWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL - Per Myra (936-5327) in IUSD Planning & Construction, the State has accepted the transfer of sites for the school in concept. Now it must go before the District's Board for approval. This action is expected in Jan 2006.

7. BOWERMAN LANDFILL EXPANSION - NIVA received a copy of a Aug 1, 2005 internal City memo from City Planner David Law in Com. Dev. Dept. to Mike Byrne in the City Manager's Office detailing the concerns the City wants addressed in the NOP for the Expansion. These were supposedly passed on to the OCIWMD. However, the City expressed no interest or concern about the increased truck traffic from the proposed increase in daily dumping tonnage or the extended life of the site, nor is there any concern expressed about the impact of the truck traffic down Sand Canyon which now has residential alongside in contrast to the land use in the original Bowerman EIR. There also is now more development in the area than previously with the closing of the Marine Base. A traffic study of some sort is expected to be a part of the EIR and per David Law, the City will be looking at it carefully at the time of receipt of a draft EIR.

8. STATE BILL AB406 ON PROJECT EIR PREPARATION REQUIRING INDEPENDENT CONSULTANTS [Refer to NIVA Mar 24, 2003 letter to Assemblywoman Hannah-Beth Jackson.] - According to the historical record, the most recent action was the referral of the bill to the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality on Feb 17, 2004 and that of its review completion on Nov 30, 2004. No further progress reported.

9. JEFFREY OPEN-SPACE SPINE - [Draft of NIVA reply to the City response of June 27 to be prepared for review and approval at NIVA meeting. Analysis of response and drafting of reply to be done by Melvold, Zelinko, and Kiser.] A meeting time of 11 AM on Fri., Nov 18 at Melvold's was tentatively set for meeting to analyze the City response.

10. "SMART" PEDESTRIAN CROSSING OF YALE & GRADE-SEPARATED CROSSING OF JEFFREY FOR VENTA SPUR TRAIL - A draft response to the City was reviewed and approved at the meeting. Melvold, Kiser, and Zelinko will meet with the City should they request a meeting with NIVA. [NIVA letter sent Nov. 10, 2005.]

11. NORTH IRVINE SENIOR CENTER - [Melvold and Kiser are to give a followup presentation to the Irvine Senior Citizens Council at one of their upcoming meetings requesting that they agendized the siting of the center.] Preparations were briefly discussed regarding the planned presentation at 9 AM Thursday, Nov. 17 Meeting of the Council.

12. WB BRYAN BUS-STOP AT YALE - The City has decided to install a bus turn-out. A meeting is scheduled for Tues, Nov 15 @ 10:30 AM at City Hall with Ali Taghani and Rick Zanzimier and Melvold to discuss the details.

13. CITY BICYCLE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE - The Bike Committee update report was scheduled for Nov. 3 to the PC. The actual draft report will be available for public scrutiny at an Open House scheduled for 5:30 to 7:30 PM on Tuesday, Nov. 15 at City Hall. A review of the staff report for the PC update reveals a possible lack of attention to the needs of the "common residential community" needs versus those of the avid bike enthusiasts. Also apparently lacking is consideration of trails for future destinations in determining prioritizing of improvements. The Great Park would be a good example of this oversight. Currently the City has 132 miles & 43 miles of on-street & off-street bike trails, respectively, and is proposing 143 miles & 74 miles, respectively. Details were not provided beyond a map displayed on an overhead. Melvold gave a presentation praising the undertaking but questioning why there appears to be little attention to expansion of the planning into newly expanded City areas. Subsequently, the PC requested staff to return to them for their consideration with a "gap list", i.e., a list of the missing segments of the trail system including future trail segments in newly annexed areas. Staff was expected to return with the list in Jan. Commissioners Cosgrove and Mavity agreed to work with staff on developing the list. Mavity indicated interest in seeing that the Venta Spur trail to the Great Park is included on the list. To be eligible for funds from the State of California Bicycle Transportation Account, the City must adopt and updated Plan by Feb., 2006 -- so there is some urgency.

NEW BUSINESS

1. CALIFORNIA HOA OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM - Two bills are being considered at the State Legislature -- AB770 by Assemblyman Mullin and SB551 by Senator Lowenthal. These bills if approved would tax each unit \$10 every 2 years to set up the program with increases allowed up to a maximum of \$20/2 years. They are in their 2nd year of consideration and must be passed by Jan 31, 2006 to be enacted. They are both currently going through committee reviews and amendments. The former is in the Assembly Committee on Business and Professions and the latter in the Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development. Irvine Planning Com. Mavity has requested NIVA to investigate the possibility of supporting a request to the City Council to go on record against these bills. It was agreed that NIVA should inform its member associations post haste to allow them to individually respond to either the City, Legislature, or both as they see fit. A flyer will be prepared and sent out as soon as possible.

2. NOISE IMPACT OF TRAIN HORN BLOWING AT HARVARD CROSSING - There was discussion about the noise impact on the neighboring residential community during the night time from evening trains blowing their horns. It is realized that the City has spent a considerable amount to build the existing Culver and pending Jeffrey bridges which, in addition to vehicle safety, eliminates the need for train horn blowing altogether at these locations. The Harvard crossing is also in residential but it is feasibly unrealistic to expect a bridge at this location. Discussion followed on what has been done in the City of Placentia and whether similar action can be taken at this location. Price will contact the City of Placentia to get the details on the installations, their costs, and how they went about getting it implemented. NIVA would then consider getting both Irvine and Tustin to back a similar mitigation measure.

NEXT MEETING - Next meeting is scheduled for Wed., Dec 14, 2005.