

NIVA MEETING RECORD

April 11, 2007

ANNOUNCEMENTS The Calif. High-Speed Rail Authority has announced that it is initiating the environmental review process on the Los Angeles-Anaheim segment of the proposed Sacramento to San Diego high speed train service. This proposal is of interest to NIVA's member associations since one segment of the overall line is proposed to parallel the existing Metrolink rail line across Irvine.

SEMA Construction was selected by the City as the successful bidder out of 7 to construct the train & bike path bridges over Jeffrey Road. The bid, supposedly the lowest, was \$27.56 Million. The award was made Mar. 12 with construction expected to start in June and to be completed by Dec. 2009.

After objections raised by NIVA following the last Senior Citizens Council [SSC] member election about the lack of a polling place in North Irvine, the Council approved a revision to the SCC bylaws last night which changed the membership from 7 members (5 appointed by the Council and 2 elected by senior residents) to 9 members (5 appointed by the Council and 4 members each of which are representatives from 4 Citywide organizations with senior interests, e.g., the AARP). The changes would go into effect this August -- the time at which the previous-required election would have occurred.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. PA-10 JAMBOREE MEDICAL/SCIENCE CENTER COMMITTEE [Nancy LaPorte] - No response has been received from the City to the Mar 4 e-mail to Doug Williford, Dir. of Com. Dev., expressing objection to the lack of landscaped berm or hedge to screen KIA Motors parking lot vehicles from view of motorists on the SB I-5 Freeway.

2. PA-40 R & D DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE () - TIC has invited members of the Community Task Force to a presentation on April 16 on the latest revision of the proposed PA-40 development plan. Melvold is a member of the Task Force. Details of the presentation will be presented at the May NIVA meeting.

3. NORTHERN SPHERE (PA-3, 5B, 8A, 9, 9C) COMMITTEE - A PC hearing was held on April 5 on the Master Plan for development of 3 multi-story apartment complexes (991 units total) to be built along the north side of Irvine Blvd. west of Sand Canyon to Groveland in Stonegate (PA-9B). The density of the complexes range from 22.03 to 24.35 DUs/acre which is below the 31 DUs/acre allowed under its 2.3J zoning. The structures will be 2 and 3-story with the buildings articulated so that frontage along Irvine Blvd. is only 2-story. TIC had requested administrative relief to allow several 7 and 8 foot high sections of perimeter fencing along Irvine Blvd. Two of the complexes were approved [5/0] as submitted. However, Site #3 located at the NE corner of Irvine Blvd. and Groveland was approved 4/1 [Gaido dissenting] after adding a condition that no vehicular gates be permitted and that an additional pedestrian gate to provide direct access either Irvine Blvd. or Groveland.

OLD BUSINESS

1. EL TORO MCAS REUSE - An April 2 response was received to NIVA's Feb 28 letter from Larry Agran, Chairman of the OC Great Park Corp. concerning the proximity and proposed enlargement of the Musick Jail. Basically, he states that he and the Board share the NIVA's concerns and that they have been conveyed via the Mayor in person to County Sheriff Carona.

Bids were due Last April 5 on construction of facilities for the Balloon ride at the Great Park. An award is expected near the end of April with construction to start in haste in May for scheduled opening to the public on July 14.

There is some controversy surrounding the possibility of an enlargement of the existing but supposedly temporary FBI firing range which is located in and grandfathered into the wildlife preserve and corridor adjacent to the Great Park. The range had been abandoned by the military and was only activated by the FBI following 9/11. It would appear that a shooting range and a wildlife preserve are incompatible. Nonetheless, the FBI is supposedly in negotiations with the FAA to build a permanent facility on the land.

Lennar Corp., which has the Heritage Fields division developing El Toro, has experienced a financial pinch in earnings as a result in the downturn in the residential market. The key question is whether Lennar will have the financial wherewithal to proceed in a timely fashion with its commitments to the Great Park and be able to develop Heritage Fields so as to provide the anticipated tax base for the Great Park.

No resolution has been reached between TIC and Lennar over the need and timing for performance of additional traffic studies associated with the development at El Toro. Lennar has yet to submit any formal application for its previously disclosed intention to increase the number of residential units in its development in exchange for transfer of more land to the City for the Park.

The Great Park Corp. officials presented the Park Business Plan to the Board at the Mar 22 meeting. Basically the plan estimated the expenditure for development and operation of the Park over the next 5 years at \$446.8 Million for improvements and annual operating cost starting at \$90,000 and increasing to over \$1 Million by 2012. The Plan, including the level of Park development progress, is obviously very dependent on the housing market and Lennar's ability to make anticipated payments. Most Board members expressed skepticism over the reliability of the Plan and were dissatisfied with the level of detail in several critical areas. Though there is potential for partnering with private entities, there is concern about the level of advertising in the Park that might result. Approval of the Plan was continued.

Mayor Krom has recently met with several state and federal legislators and officials of the National Archive to discuss the possibility of establishing a branch of the National Archives at the Great Park.

2. **MUSICK JAIL EXPANSION** - In relation to the concerns about future security risks associated with the proposed enlarged and higher security prison, it is noted that a jail inmate escaped from the OC Men Central Jail in Santa Ana on April 8th by simply walking out of it due to lax security. Though the prisoner was considered a low-level risk (car theft), the Central Jail itself is supposed to be a high-risk security jail.

3. **NORTH IRVINE LIBRARY** - At the Mar 12 meeting of the Irvine Library Services Advisory Committee, a mission statement was developed for the Committee and an RFP developed for soliciting proposals for development of a Library Implementation Plan. The RFP and the previously-adopted Library Service Ratio of 0.86 sq. ft. of library/capita was presented to the City Council at a Mar. 27 meeting. (The Council had previously approved a set-aside of \$100,000 from the 2006 carryover funds for such a possible consultant study.) However, rather than approving the RFP, the Council directed the Committee to work with City staff to see how the Plan can be developed without the necessity of outside support. One suggestion is to form a working staff committee. However, this would bypass resident input and place the responsibility in the hands of those who "dropped the ball" on library needs to begin with!

Staff, therefore, submitted a scope of work to the City Council on April 10 for they themselves to perform the work. However, there is grounds to be concerned since it was staff -- primarily that of Community Services Dept. -- that ignored the need to increase the library facilities commensurate with the City's residential development. The Council also considered the Committee's recommendation to adopt a higher library service standard of 0.86 square feet per capita. Results of Council's consideration to be provided at the meeting if known.

4. **COMPLETION OF PETERS CANYON WASH AND WALNUT TRAIL "GAPS"** - Per the City's

Capital Improvement Status [CIS] Report of Mar 31, for the Peters Canyon Wash south of Walnut to north of El Modena, \$400 thousand and \$2.125 million is budgeted, respectively, for channel improvements. The next upcoming target date is June 30 as the expected receipt of County approval.

5. NB CULVER I-5 UNDERCROSSING - Per the City's CIS Report of Mar 31, for the Culver/Trabuco Road Widening @ I-5 Project, the next upcoming target date is for Council approval on June 12. The expected construction schedule is 9/07-6/08. For the Culver/I-5 SB Ramp Widening, the next upcoming target date is for review of the COOP Agreement of April 15. The expected construction schedule is 4/07-12/07.

6. NORTH IRVINE TRANSPORTATION MITIGATION PROGRAM - Per the City's CIS Report of Mar 31, for the Jeffrey Road/Walnut Widening (\$446 thousand budgeted), the next upcoming target date is June 30, 2007 for sending out the RFP. For the Sand Canyon @ I-5 NB and SB Ramps, \$6 Million is budgeted and the next upcoming target date is May 31, 2007 for sending out the RFP.

7. "SMART" PEDESTRIAN CROSSING OF YALE & GRADE-SEPARATED CROSSING FOR VENTA SPUR TRAIL - Recall that the City hired a consultant -- IBI Group of Irvine -- to perform a study of the proposed bridge to get some definitive answers to some major concerns about the proposed bridge. The understanding was that the study scope would include (1) research & data collection, (2) aesthetics and visual impacts analysis, (3) right of way delineation, (4) utility and drainage impacts analysis, (5) trail connections compatibility to Jeffrey Open-space Trail, (6) impacts to existing development, (7) construction costs, (8) environmental analysis, and (9) community outreach. The consultant completed its study with results giving in the report entitled *Venta Spur Trail/Jeffrey Road Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge Feasibility Report* dated Mar 27, 2007. City staff held a community meeting at City Hall on the subject on April 5. There was no change in the notice procedure from that of the community meeting last July. NIVA had requested extending the distance of the notices, holding the meeting within the immediate neighborhood possibly at Northwood Park, and at a time not conflicting with normal dinner hours to accommodate working residents. However, no changes were incorporated in City mode of operation in response to the specific request. For some unknown reason, City staff has set a deadline of April 13 for receipt of written comments. Details of the report and community meeting were presented and discussed at the meeting.

8. NORTH IRVINE SENIOR CENTER - NIVA received a letter dated Mar. 29 from John McAllister, Dir. of Com. Services, providing an update on the progress and efforts of City staff on this issue. After reviewing and discussing the details of the letter, it was decided that NIVA would take no action at this time but continue carefully follow staff's efforts. In the discussion, there were concerns expressed about staff's continued advocacy of multi-use centers and the possibility of such at the Northwood Community Park. The "Mormon Church property", NIVA's suggestion as a possible location, was included in the listing of possible locations to be studied.

9. CITY EUCALYPTUS WINDROW TREE PROGRAM - Per Steve Bourke of the City, a report should be coming out this mid-Summer about the findings from the City's program on evaluating tree integrity as learned from the 70 or so trees projected to have problems. These were consequently cut down and assessed to determine accuracy of evaluation process.

10. NOISE IMPACT OF TRAIN HORN BLOWING AT HARVARD CROSSING - OCTA staff was expecting to submit a request for additional funding to the Transit Planning & Operations Committee last Mar 22 for approval before submission to the Board sometime this month. Per Katie Berg of the City, the OCTA Board approved an additional \$20 Million last week bringing the total to \$40 Million to cover several locations throughout the County. She's expecting to hear by the end of next week on what amount Irvine will get.

11. CULVER DRIVE/WALNUT AVENUE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - NIVA was previously expected a PC hearing in April. No word as yet and possibly it has been delayed. Per the City's Mar 31 Capital Improvements Status Report, the project is budgeted for \$2.408 Million. The next upcoming target date is April 30 for sending out the RFP. The design and construction expected schedules are 7/07-7/08 and 9/08-9/09, respectively. It was noted that the direction arrows on the driveway exit from Heritage Center at Scottsdale have been repainted during the previous week or two so that the inside lane is now a combination left-turn and thru while the outside lane is right-turn only.

12. LOWER PETERS CANYON COMMUNITY PARK ANNUAL JOINT-USE EVALUATION - NIVA received a response from the City to NIVA's letter of Feb 15 inquiring as to the findings of the evaluation of the year's joint-use operation. After reviewing the letter at the meeting, it was decided that it appeared to contain a satisfactory response even though there is no mention of the inclusion of the Beckman HS aquatic facility in the consideration. Melvold will send a letter to McAllister thanking him for the quick and satisfactory response. (Letter sent April 26, 2007.) [ITEM TO BE CLOSED]

13. NON-RESPONSE FROM CITY ON CORRESPONDENCE - A meeting was scheduled with the City for April 19 at 9 AM. LaPorte, McFadden, Melvold, and Zelinko expressed interest in attending the meeting. Melvold will contact Ravenscroft and Kiser -- attendees at the first meeting -- to determine if they are interested and available. The City has suggested the following as agenda items: (1) Provide an update on placing signs where bike trails and streets cross; (2) Follow-up on TIC's commitment to provide \$1.5 million for noise attenuation along a segment of the I-5; and (3) Provide approach for how to direct pedestrians to safely cross at Yale/Venta Spur. Items discussed but not resolved at the prior meeting included Heavy Vehicle Roadway Restrictions and the request for a Draft of Building Facilities Master Plan. Other issues for which there has not been any known or reasonable progress or have simply appeared to be ignored by City staff are (1) Bryan Ave. bus turnout and (2) Response to inquiry about landscape screening of KIA Motors from I-5 Freeway.

14. INTERSECTION SIGNAL SYNCHRONIZATION CABINETS - Zelinko has presented a suggestion to the City that the City consider transforming the refrigerator-looking cabinets into some form of art by camouflaging them through color and design to blend with the surroundings. Public Works Dir. Gomez indicated that the City will consider the suggestion. Ken Louie of the City contacted Zelinko about the color of the cabinet at Bryan and Culver and suggesting the colors of tan or green.

NEW BUSINESS

1. ROYAL STREET COMMUNICATIONS APPLICATION FOR WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES - On Mar 21, the City issued a Notice of Intent to adopt a Negative Declaration and supporting Initial Study for Royal Street Communications' application for a Master CUP establishing guidelines for installation of up to 30 wireless communications facilities throughout the City. No details are provided on either the locations or guidelines; however, comments were due by yesterday to the City. A hearing is expected before the PC.

NEXT MEETING - Next meeting is scheduled for Wed., May 9, 2007.