

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council

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Date of NC Board Action: 03/20/2007

Type of NC Board Action: Against Proposal

Impact Information

Date: 04/06/2009

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 09-0670

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Brief Summary: The HGNNC opposes the construction of the Smart Energy Transport System (WesPac jet fuel pipeline) whether it is routed under Redondo Beach Blvd. and north up Vermont Avenue or under El Segundo Blvd. (the Alternative B route). Our reasons are the risk of jet fuel leaking into our ground water, the danger to the pipeline from methane gas along Redondo Beach Blvd. and El Segundo Blvd., and the true costs to the City of remediating a leak.

Additional Information: This proposed project provides financial incentives to the City of Los Angeles and to WesPac Pipelines at the expense of the safety of the residents and stakeholders of this area and the safety of our underground aquifers. There are four other existing jet fuel pipelines which currently provide jet fuel to the LAX Fuel Consortium. This is an unnecessary additional jet fuel pipeline.

**Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council  
Board Meeting of March 20, 2007**

Present: Bettye Watson (Vice President), Rosalie Preston (Recording Secretary), Joan Jacobs (Corresponding Secretary), Betty Hawkins (Treasurer), Adrian Valenzuela (District 2), Rey Paduani (District 3), Luetta Watson (District 5), Willie Blackmon (District 6), Gloria Christmas (District 8), Neodros Bridgeforth (Faith-Based Representative), and Dr. Peter Rivera (Community Organization Representative)

In the absence of President B.J. Mynatt, the meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Vice President Bettye Watson.

1) Neodros Bridgeforth moved and Gloria Christmas seconded that the minutes of the February 20, 2007 Board meeting be approved as presented. (10-0)

2) **Treasurer's report:** Betty Hawkins reported that the account for the HGNNC bank debit card was fraudulently used to purchase over \$200 worth of jewelry from a Philadelphia company via the Internet or telephone. This is the first instance of our card being improperly used. The bank will reimburse our account.

3) **Filling of Board vacancies:** Two candidates expressed interest in being the District 1 Representative: Ray Johnson and Patricia Martir. The Board asked each to give their background and interest in the position. Patricia is the case manager for the Robert F. Kennedy Institute, a social service agency which is based in the Harbor Gateway Community Center, and she has a background in community organizing. Ray worked as an aide to Mayor Tom Bradley and has lived in the Merit Tract of the Harbor Gateway for the past sixteen years. He was on the formation committee for the HGNNC and filed last fall to run for the District 1 position. The Board voted to appoint Ray Johnson to the District 1 seat (Johnson-6, Martir-1, abstentions-4).

There was discussion of the definition and scope of "Business" for the Business Representative seat. Some Board members thought that it referred to ownership of a small business or active involvement in a business enterprise, but others understood it to be a position which contacts and outreaches to the businesses in the community since this was the role of the previous person occupying the position. Lu Watson moved and Joan Jacobs seconded that Patricia Martir be appointed the Business Representative. (10-0)

As regards the Youth Representative position, Marco Perez, DONE project coordinator, advised that before filling this position, the Board should write the current representative to let him know that his absences from Board meetings have prevented the Board from having a quorum and asking him to clarify his intentions as to continuing on the Board. The Board agreed to table this appointment until the March 27 General Membership meeting to give time for the letter to be sent and received.

4) The guest speaker, Vincent M. Moreno of CALTRANS, will be rescheduled.

5) **Election Committee Report:** Marco Perez, DONE project coordinator, reported that the committee met on March 12 at Rosecrans Park. The previously approved election procedures were updated and should be ready to send to DONE for approval by April 29. Candidate filing

forms should be ready by May 28 and the election is scheduled for Saturday July 28. The committee is actively recruiting new members and the next Election Committee meeting will be Tues. March 27 from 5:45 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the 135<sup>th</sup> Street School auditorium.

6) **Letter to L.A. City Planning Department:** It was moved by Joan Jacobs and seconded by Rey Paduani to write the Planning Department to request that they put a hold on the proposed Home Depot project at 661 W. Redondo Beach Blvd. until the proposed Sam's Club project at 15134 S. Vermont Avenue has received final approval. (10-0)

7) **Letter to Planning Department Director Gail Goldberg:** It was moved by Joan Jacobs and seconded by Rey Paduani to write Gail Goldberg requesting that she attend a community forum at the 135<sup>th</sup> Street Elementary School in the month of June to address planning issues of both the Harbor Gateway North and the Harbor Gateway South Neighborhood Councils. (9-0)

8) **WesPac Pipeline jet fuel pipeline:** Rosalie Preston reported on the late notification to the HGNNC of the three public scoping meetings held last week on the draft EIR for the Smart Energy Transport System Project in which WesPac Pipelines in cooperation with the L.A. International Airport Airline Consortium Fuel Corporation will build a 24 mile long jet fuel pipeline from Wilmington to LAX via Redondo Beach Blvd. and Vermont Avenue through the HGNNC. When underground along Redondo Beach Blvd., the pipeline will be 12-inches in diameter. Ray Johnson moved and Neodros Bridgeforth seconded a motion to write Ms. Linda Moore of the Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering Environmental Management Group for the City of Los Angeles that the HGNNC is opposed to this pipeline project. (12-0) Individual stakeholders are also encouraged to send in their comments before the March 30 deadline.

9) The Emergency Preparedness Committee report was tabled.

10) **Extension of the DWP M.O.U. with Neighborhood Councils:** The DWP M.O.U. 2, which would extend the current M.O.U. (Memorandum of Understanding) between the Neighborhood Councils and the DWP on coming to the Neighborhood Councils before any major decisions are made, was approved by the HGNNC 11-0. Rosalie Preston made the motion and Rey Paduani seconded it. The motion also included having Neodros Bridgeforth as the HGNNC representative in any meetings with the DWP.

11) **Big Sunday, April 28 and 29:** Marco Perez advised us that volunteer projects for that day do not have to involve clean-up project but could be things like tree planting or other volunteer activities in one's neighborhood. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa is asking Neighborhood Councils to contribute volunteers and financial support for Big Sunday projects. President B.J. Mynatt has suggested that if each neighborhood has a project on Saturday April 28, then the HGNNC could fund lunch via a caterer for all of the volunteers at the Harbor Gateway Community Center. 135<sup>th</sup> Street School will do a school clean-up project in order to be eligible for funding of a loudspeaker system. The 135<sup>th</sup> Street Neighborhood Watch will assist the 135<sup>th</sup> Street School with its clean-up. Gardena Elementary, 118<sup>th</sup> Street School, and Gompers Elementary have been contacted with no response

so far. The Board tabled approval of funding for volunteer lunches until the March 27 General Membership meeting.

12) **Distribution of American Red Cross certificates:** This item was tabled until the March 27 General Membership meeting.

13) **Funding for March 24 Hot Peppers Festival:** Patricia Martir requested reimbursement for some of the expenses of putting on District 1's first Hot Peppers Festival, which celebrates the culmination of their Community Beautification Grant. The grant paid for new dark blue trash receptacles along Gardena Blvd. and concrete benches for the Gardena Elementary School. The Board voted 12-0 to provide up to \$500 for reimbursement of Festival-related expenses contingent upon receiving properly documented receipts. The motion was made by Rosalie Preston and seconded by Ray Johnson.

14) **Announcements:** Rey Paduani requested that Board members take flyers for the March 27 General Membership meeting to distribute in their neighborhoods.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Minutes taken by Rosalie Preston

Adrian White - Chair  
Delores Allmond - Vice Chair  
Rosalie Preston – Rec. Secretary  
Joan Jacobs - Corresp. Secretary  
Gloria Christmas - Treasurer  
District 1 Rep. -- vacant  
Adrian Valenzuela - District 2 Rep.  
Reynaldo Paduani - District 3 Rep.  
Betty Hawkins - District 4 Rep.



## Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council

Llewyn Fowlkes - District 5 Rep.  
Willie Blackmon - District 6 Rep.  
Mattie Menser - District 7 Rep.  
Leo Youngblood - District 8 Rep.  
Business Rep.- vacant  
Neodros Bridgeforth - Faith Based Rep.  
Dr. Peter Rivera - Community  
Organization Representative  
Eva Cooper - Youth Rep.

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Paul Kim, President of the Board  
Board of Transportation Commissioners  
100 S. Main Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

July 2, 2008

Dear President Kim and Board of Commissioners:

Our Neighborhood Council has received the notice of completion of the Environmental Impact Report for the Smart Energy Transport System project (the WesPac jet fuel pipeline). As we have previously notified Councilwoman Janice Hahn, Councilman Bill Rosendahl and Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, we would like you and the other members of the Board of Transportation Commissioners to be aware of our opposition to this project, which will either cross under our Neighborhood Council District along Redondo Beach Blvd. and north on Vermont Avenue, or under El Segundo Blvd. (Alternative B route).

Our Board voted on March 20, 2007, to oppose this project. Our major issues are:

- the risk of the pipeline leaking jet fuel into our ground water due to its proximity to the Avalon/Compton and other earthquake faults, the constant vibrations of heavy trucks using the roadways above the pipeline (which would be only a few feet below the road surface), vibrations from trains passing over it at several places along its route, and damage from other utilities or future construction projects inadvertently cutting into the pipeline
- the danger of damage to the pipeline if methane gas, located at various locations along its route, were to explode; these locations include along both Redondo Beach Blvd. and El Segundo Blvd.
- Air quality concerns
- the financial and service burden to the City of Los Angeles and its taxpayers to remediate a leak or explosion. Although at our January 22, 2008 General Membership meeting the WesPac

spokespeople said that they would cover the expenses of any fuel spill, the fact remains that City Fire Department personnel would be the ones responding. The exact nature of WesPac Pipeline's liability after a leak or explosion has still not been made clear.

Therefore, despite the draft EIR's reiteration that the proposed mitigation measures would reduce the danger of release of hazardous materials to a "less than significant level," we stakeholders of the Harbor Gateway North Neighborhood Council are neither reassured nor convinced that the project is in any way in our best interests. From our perspective, the project serves solely to financially benefit a private company (WesPac Pipelines-Los Angeles LLC) at taxpayer expense.

Sincerely,

Joan Jacobs, Corresponding Secretary  
HGNNC

cc: Rita L. Robinson, General Manager Department of Transportation