

# Proposition O Citizen's Oversight Advisory Committee (COAC) Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 21, 2007, 2:00 pm

## Committee Members

Adi Liberman	Mark Gold
Mary Nichols	Francine Diamond
Craig Perkins	Tiger Kang
Jose Sigala	Teresa Villegas

Cynthia McClain-Hill

## City

Shahram Kharaghani (BOS)

Kendrick Okuda (BOS)

Rafael Prieto (CLA)

Beryl Taylor (CAO)

Ms. Mary Nichols called the meeting to order at approximately 2:00 pm.

### **I. Approval of Minutes for January 8, 2007 and January 17, 2007**

1. A motion was made to approve the January meeting minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### **II. CAO/CLA update**

1. The COAC vice-chair reported on the City of LA Energy and Environment Committee meeting. The committee was interested in how the COAC approved projects. They had issues with making people wait through entire meetings then not getting their project heard. In general the committee was pleased with approved projects. The vice-chairman also reported on the AOC meeting. The AOC made a recommendation on the Wilmington Drain project that the COAC approve the entire project instead of just the design portion. Bond issuance takes place in the summer and the next set is getting ready to be cut. Wilmington Drain will be placed on the next agenda. Sanitation said that the Wilmington Drain needs to be kept on the accelerated schedule separate from Machado Lake.

### **III. Discussion and Possible Action for Concept Reports**

1. Los Angeles Zoo Parking Lot (Project No. 01-9)- A representative from the zoo discussed the re-design of the Zoo parking Lot. The COAC discussed the fact that the project has evolved from

earlier versions of the project. The project is \$14 million but it is a large, visible demonstration project. The zoo still needs another project in addition to the current project to meet the Regional Board requirements. The project is no longer being considered by the Regional Board therefore it can come before the COAC. A motion was made to approve the project and the project was approved with 6 ayes and 1 nay.

2. Public comment, Connie Morgan, President. GLAZA. 71,000 people are members of GLAZA.
3. Hansen Dam Recreational Area Parking Lot and Wetlands Restoration Project (01-14) - Plants will be inserted to remove pollutants. The project has some federal funding. The project has no recreational aspects. The cost of the project is \$2.2 million. The parking lot project has been amended to just installing swales in the existing parking lot. The COAC discussed if discharge of pollutants to the habitat would be an issue and if the project could somehow be counterproductive. A motion was made to approve the project and the project passes with 6 ayes and 1 abstention.
4. Catch Basin Opening Screen Covers (Project No. 01-52b) - BOS presented the catch basin covers project . A COAC member mentioned that the openings looked larger than 5mm openings. The total cost is \$44.5 million. Some COAC members were concerned that the inserts do not seem to be installed in areas that have heavy trash loads. The schedule for catch basin installation is just preliminary. The COAC requested that BOS provide an executive summary to the committee of the trash study from which the trash density map was created. A COAC member requested that Heal the Bay and the COAC committee be listed under on Page 2, Number 4 on the Catch Basin Insert report. A motion was made to approve the project, and the project was approved unanimously.

#### **IV. BOE Monthly Report and BOS report on Prop. O issues**

1. BOE presented the monthly report. Changes were made to the report per COAC comments from the last meeting. Pre-design for the LFDs should be completed in March. The preliminary cost of the LFDs is \$35 million and BOE will most likely be requesting full funding. BOE will give a status report at the next meeting for full funding of the LFDs.

#### **V. Presentation LA River Revitalization Master Plan**

1. BOS/BOE presented the LA revitalization Master Plan. The four goals of the Plan are to revitalize, green the neighborhoods, capture community opportunities and create value. A COAC member suggested to the other members that \$50 million from Prop. O be set aside to help fund LA River Master Plan projects.

##### ***Public Comment on Master Plan***

2. Celia Brugruau, William C. Velasquez Institute. Ms. Brugruau asked the COAC to consider the motion to set aside money for LA River Projects. There is an extensive group of youth that are looking forward to additional recreation opportunities.
3. Irma Munoz, Aliunza de los pueblos del Rio. Ms. Munoz' community group held a community meeting in Canoga Park and received feedback that the water quality is horrible and the water smells.
4. Joyce Dillard. Ms. Dillard said that there are tributaries to the LA River that have not been analyzed. The Planning Commission approved a housing development next to the river. There are

a lot of aspects to the Master Plan and Ms. Dillard does not feel that Prop. O was designed to support those projects.

5. The COAC chair suggested that since the item was not formally agendized, there cannot be a vote. A formal resolution will be on the agenda for the next meeting. An amendment is made to change the wording of the agenda item to read “a regional, multi-use benefit project”.
6. Mr. Sigala will be resigning his post on the COAC committee and this was his last meeting.

#### **VI. Discussion and Possible Action on the revised Prop. O Project Selection Criteria**

1. The COAC asked how currently funded projects fared with the new selection criteria. BOS stated that most of the projects passed with the new selection criteria. The COAC requested that the results be provided at the next meeting. A motion was made to revise the project selection criteria and the motion was approved.

#### **VIII. General Public Comment**

1. Jeanette Vasburg, Ballona Network. Ms. Vasburg stated that the LA River Master Plan is wonderful but Ballona Creek also needs attention. She stated that some of the projects had non-water quality portions and suggested that the COAC take that money and spend it on projects that will have some water quality benefits.
2. Paul Herzog, Surfrider Foundation. Mr. Herzog asked if the COAC is ever going to discuss the Ballona regional project which hinged on Playa Vista selling some of their property. A COAC member that was on that subcommittee said that there has not been another meeting. The committee will follow up on the recommendations made.

The meeting was adjourned.