

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

**Wednesday, February 20, 2008, 2:00 p.m.**

**Committee Members**

Adi Liberman (Vice-Chair)	<b>Mark Gold</b>
Mary Nichols (Chair)	<b>Francine Diamond</b>
Craig Perkins	Tiger Kang
<b>Gideon Kracov</b>	Teresa Villegas
Cynthia McClain-Hill	

**City**

Charles Modica (CLA)  
Mark Tullai, (CAO)  
Shahram Kharaghani (BOS)  
Kendrick Okuda (BOE)  
Chris Westhoff (City Attorney)

**Bold indicates members present.**

The meeting was call to order at 2:15 p.m.

**I. Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes from January 16, 2008 will need to be deferred to the next meeting for approval due to lack of a quorum.

**II. City Administrative Officer /Chief Legislative Analyst/Citizen's Oversight Advisory Committee (COAC) representative update on Proposition O (Prop O) issues and Administrative Oversight Committee meetings:**

1. The AOC met at their regular meeting on January 31, 2008 and heard a presentation from Bureau of Sanitation (BOS) on the Boyle Heights Joint Use Community Center project. BOS requested the AOC to place the project in queue as a potential future Prop O project. The AOC voted to approve the

Boyle Heights project to be placed in queue without funding. The project may be moved forward when funding becomes available.

2. The BOS advised the AOC that the Lincoln Heights Interchange Restoration Project was no longer feasible as the project was to divert flows from a storm drain that was never constructed. The AOC voted to remove the project from consideration of Prop O funding.
3. The AOC voted to approve a third bond sale in the amount of \$100.6 million, covering the period from April 2008 to March 2009.
4. The Bureau of Engineering (BOE) presented the December Monthly Report and provided the AOC with updates on the South LA Wetlands, Peck Park Canyon and Grand Boulevard Tree Wells projects.

### **III. Update on matching funds for Fremont High School Project**

1. The BOS provided an update regarding this project. The total project budget for the Fremont High School Garden Stormwater Improvement is approximately \$5.5 million. BOS stated the Los Angeles Unified School District will extend availability of their joint use funds for one year to December 2008. The City will need to provide \$2 to \$3 million in additional funding for the project to be viable.
2. The COAC inquired whether Prop O funding is currently available for this project. BOS responded that all Prop O monies have been allocated. Funding for this project would require the reallocation of funds from other approved projects. In order for this reallocation to occur as a high priority, the project will need to provide significant water quality benefits. If this is the case, a recommendation can be made to Council for the reallocation of funds, which would provide front funding for the project. Although the project scored high, the project concept was developed later to resolve land issues with the Los Angeles Unified School District in order for the project to be viable for consideration of Prop O funding by COAC. BOS will present project funding options at the next meeting.

### **VI. Oversight of project construction**

1. Adi Liberman discussed how to best utilize the information provided in the UCLA Report presented by Dr. Michael Strenstrom at the January 16, 2008 COAC Meeting. Adi also requested additional information on catch basin screens versus inserts.
2. Adi also discussed the function of the COAC. He suggested focusing on oversight by determining project parameters, which would consider cost, milestones, effectiveness, community involvement, etc. He also suggested

focusing on a small number of projects each COAC meeting based on significance.

COAC members made the following comments regarding its role in project oversight:

- a. Ensure projects improve water quality;
- b. Gain knowledge and awareness of potential issues relating to projects by focusing on four or five at each meeting;
- c. Determine whether COAC should be involved in determining design criteria details;
- d. Notify COAC of all project budget and schedule issues in a timely manner;
- e. COAC will assign responsibility, and focus on the following three areas:
  - Project timing;
  - Project budget;
  - Water quality benefits.

Mark Gold stated that three Prop O projects were completed last year, two are scheduled for completion this year, two in 2009, eleven in 2010, five in 2011 and two in 2012. The two large projects are to be completed in 2013 and 2014. An emphasis needs to be placed on funds, time and effectiveness. These areas must be monitored and red flags identified as soon as possible so they can be addressed immediately.

3. UCLA Report Discussion:

The COAC raised a concern over the public's perception of the UCLA Report and emphasized the importance of informing the public as to why the results of the study differed from the City's project rankings. The COAC requested that that this issue be included on the next meeting agenda.

4. Catch Basins Screens versus Inserts Discussion:

BOS reported that 38,000 catch basins (CBs) throughout the City are cleaned two to three times a year. The catch basin cleaning data have been collected over a number of years by BOS's operation and maintenance personnel. These data were used to conduct a high trash generation study that resulted in identifying three zones - high, medium, and low trash generation areas and is the basis to prioritize the installations of CB screens and inserts.

The material selection of CB screens and inserts was based on two criteria. The material must be long-lasting and resist corrosion. The CB screens and inserts are manufactured with five millimeter openings. Different CB screens and inserts were tested and were chosen based upon cost efficiency, ability to reduce the potential for flooding, and meet Trash TMDL design standards.

The combination of CB screens and inserts were used in the high trash zones (70% of trash comes from this zone). For the low and medium zones, only screens will be installed to assist in reducing operation and maintenance cost.

Currently, the installation of catch basin screens and inserts has led to a 30% trash reduction into the storm drain system.

#### **IV. Bureau of Engineering Monthly Reports and Bureau of Sanitation Updates:**

##### **1. BOE Monthly Reports:**

a. BOE updated the COAC on four projects and their pre-design consultants.

- Echo Park Lake Rehabilitation – Black & Veatch
- Temescal Canyon Park Stormwater BMP – Metcalf & Eddy
- Westchester/LAX Stormwater BMP – Metcalf & Eddy
- Penmar Water Quality Improvement – Brown & Coldwell

Initially, no bids were received for the Peck Park Canyon Enhancement project. However, two bids were received after the project was re-advertised. It was surmised that no bids were received initially due to the holidays and the fact that consultants were awaiting the outcome of the selection process for the Machado Lake project.

b. The COAC inquired as to the procedure for consultant selection for the design of projects. BOE provided the following:

- BOE issues a Task Order Solicitation (A request for proposal);
- Consultant submits written proposal;
- City staff reviews proposals and ranks them based on defined criteria;
- City develops a select list of consultants for interview based on the rankings above;
- City conducts interviews and proposes the selection of consultant;
- The city considers best value, not just low bids, and takes experience into account;
- City staff makes recommendation for the Board of Public Works' approval of the consultant.

c. The COAC indicated that design and construction must be monitored carefully. Any cost savings from being under budget must be placed into a reserve fund. The COAC indicated that the establishment of a reserve fund should be considered to fund project cost overruns and for reallocation to other projects.

- d. The South LA Wetlands Park Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has been completed, and will need to be discussed at the next meeting.
  - e. The AOC approved a bond sale of \$100.6 million, which requires Council approval.
2. BOS Updates:

- a. The Santa Monica Bay Beaches Wet Weather Bacteria TMDL projects (Westchester/LAX Stormwater BMP, Temescal Canyon Park BMP, Penmar Water Quality Improvement) will need to be completed before the rainy season of 2009; they were divided into two major elements:
  - Phase I - Capturing bacteria
  - Phase II - Beneficial uses of captured rainwater such as irrigation

The bacterial concentrations are high throughout a storm, not just during the first flush; therefore size needs to be based to meet the 17 exceedance days allowed by the Bacterial TMDL.

The Department of Health Services and Regional Board will need to provide some protocols for reuse of urban runoff in parks for irrigation. BOS has initiated a Task Force to look at the reuse issue and formulate guidance that can be utilized for all projects.

- b. The draft concept report for the Taylor Yard - G2 project was prepared and internally distributed for comment. The draft will be presented to COAC following incorporation of all comments. BOS has begun developing a concept report for the Albion Way project.

## **VII. Annual Report to City Council**

Fran Diamond and Craig Perkins are working on developing an annual report format.

## **V. Reimbursable Grants Issues/Update**

- a. BOS was able to obtain approximately \$10 million from Prop 50 - Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan (IRWMP) funding for three projects:
  - Wilmington Drain - \$4.5 million
  - South LA Wetlands Park - \$3.2 million
  - Atwater - \$2.3 million

BOS will need to perform a considerable amount of work to administrate and manage these funds. The State will be providing the funds to the City on a

reimbursement basis through an agreement process with the Los Angeles County.

- b. Mark Gold reported that he was appointed by the CA State Department of Water Resources to be on a committee to determine the distribution of \$90 million of Prop 84 funds into various categories.

The COAC mentioned that their involvement should not be limited only to this \$90 million. The COAC would like to weigh in on decisions made in State Department of Water Resources and maybe even work with Caltrans, since Caltrans has a significant amount of stormwater dollars.

#### **VIII. COAC sub-committee reports**

No discussion or action was taken regarding sub-committee reports.

#### **IX. General Public Comment**

Public comment was made by Joyce Dillard regarding project cost overruns; She indicated her support for COAC to provide oversight in tracking status of the project schedule and cost. City staff needs to bring back to COAC's attention any potential cost overruns.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.