

## Citywide Issues Committee

### Report

- 1) Meeting was called to order: In attendance Rafael Garcia, Joe Vitti and Sid Gold, Chairperson. Absent Ralph Kroy
- 2) Public comment on non-agenda items: There were no public comments
- 3) Measure B: Discussion and possible recommendation to the GHNNC: Material was handed out for support and opposition to Measure B. After discussion by the committee the following is proposed to GHNNC;

Whereas the process that brought Measure B to the ballot bypassed appropriate notification to NC's and the Board of DWP and

Whereas Measure B was not fully vetted and

Whereas opposition to Measure B does not imply that this is an opposition to the appropriate development of renewable energy sources as mandated in AB 32 and

Whereas there is a significant discrepancy of \$ 2.5 Billion dollars between the cost estimates submitted by DWP consultants, PA consultants and the Huron Group and

Whereas California Energy Commission through the method of levelized cost has shown that the use of photo-voltaic cell technology as proposed in Measure B is much more costly than alternate renewable sources from a factor of two (solar-parabolic) to a factor of nine (Biomass-LPG) and

Whereas fifty percent of the proposed work will be completed after the year 2012 and

Whereas there is significant concern that the true rate increase to be passed on to DWP customers proposed by the Huron Group (one dollar a month) is a considerable understatement and

Whereas the Huron Group supposition that the cost of production of solar cells will drop from 2009 to 2012 is based on data supplied by a Wall Street firm (J.P. Morgan) whose credibility to predict future direction of any market is questionable and

Whereas Measure B as proposed would change the Charter of the City of Los Angeles

Whereas opposition to Measure B is recommended by the following NC's and groups and individuals:

#### **Community Groups**

Progressive Democratic Club - Greater Harbor Area  
Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils  
Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition  
Valley Industry & Commerce Association  
Association of Builders and Contractors  
Granada Hills Chamber of Commerce

#### **Neighborhood Councils**

Watts Neighborhood Council  
MidTown NoHo Neighborhood Council  
South Robertson Neighborhood Council  
Sun Valley Neighborhood Council  
Westside Neighborhood Council  
Northridge West Neighborhood Council  
Winnetka Neighborhood Council

West Hills Neighborhood Council  
Chatsworth Neighborhood Council  
Greater Valley Glen CC  
Reseda Neighborhood Council  
Woodland Hills Warner Center Neighborhood Council  
Valley Village Community Council  
Bel Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council  
Encino Neighborhood Council  
Tarzana Neighborhood Council  
Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council  
Studio City Neighborhood Council  
Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council  
Westside Neighborhood Council  
Hollywood United Neighborhood Council  
Hollywood Studio District Neighborhood Council  
Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council  
Granada Hills South Neighborhood Council  
Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council  
Harbor Gateway South Neighborhood Council  
Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council  
Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council

**Individuals**

Councilman Greig Smith  
Councilman Dennis Zine  
City Controller Laura Chick

**Be it resolved that the GHNNC OPPOSE Measure B, "Green Energy and Good jobs for Los Angeles Program," which will be on the March 3, 2009 ballot and further**

**Be it resolved that the GHNNC communicate its opposition to Measure B to all appropriate parties**

- 4) **Billboard Ordinance:** Discussion and possible recommendation to the GHNNC: There was discussion in regard to this matter. Material from various sources including the City Council, Department of Public Works and Valley Village NC. After discussion by the committee the following is proposed to GHNNC:

Whereas as an Interim Control Ordinance (ICO) was proposed by City Council on December 17, 2008 prohibiting erecting new billboard, conversion of existing billboards to digital, supergraphics signs on the sides of buildings and alteration of existing billboards and supergraphic signs and

Whereas the City's previous ordinance allowed exceptions to the ban and

Whereas the exceptions created supplemental use districts which resulted in billboards being erected along freeways which breached a 55 year ban on billboards facing freeways within Los Angeles City and

Whereas there is no current inventory of billboards in the City and

Whereas DWP meters have been possibly connected to billboards without permits and

Whereas a law settlement by the City and billboard companies (Vista Media, Clear Channel, CBS Outdoor, National Advertising and Regency Outdoor) resulted in allowing signs illegally

installed to be retroactively legalized and allowed the companies to convert 878 of their existing signs to digital and

Whereas digital signs may not only be a nuisance but also a danger to drivers

**Be it resolved that the GHNNC supports retention of the Citywide ban on new billboards including ones along the freeway and further**

**Be it resolved that GHNNC supports repealing the supplemental sign district ordinance and further**

**Be it resolved that GHNNC supports repealing the provision allowing specific plan ordinances to permit billboards and further**

**Be it resolved that GHNNC supports the repeal of the provision allowing developmental agreements to allow billboards and further**

**Be it resolved that GHNNC supports the prohibition of further conversions of signs to digital billboards and further**

**Be it resolved that GHNNC supports the prohibition of supergraphic signs on the sides of buildings and further**

**Be it resolved that GHNNC supports consideration of disallowing bench and shelter advertising if this part of any appeal ion regard to the lawsuit of Metrolights vs. City of Los Angeles and further**

**Be it resolved that GHNNC encourage the city to reexamine the billboard agreement to see if it may be renegotiated or overturned and further**

**Be it resolved that the City of Los Angeles develop appropriate fines and possible criminal prosecution of those companies fro violating the billboard ordinance and further**

**Be it resolved that fines from these violations be used to help the Department of Building and Safety, Department of Public Works and Department of City Planning to develop appropriate monitoring of billboards and signs in the city and further**

**Be it resolved that the GHNNC communicate to DWP and City Council to develop programs to prohibit of establishing electrical connections to any billboard or sign which is not properly permitted and further**

**Be it resolved that GHNNC communicate to all appropriate persons and agencies of these actions.**

- 5) City Council Files: Discussion and possible recommendations to the GHNNC: The committee discussed the recent action by City Council regarding the ability of NC's opening council files. The committee also discussed form 54 which would have to be completed if a NC wished to open a council file. The committee could not reach a consensus in this matter and leaves it up to the Board if they wish to proceed in regard to Council File openings.
- 6) Committee comments; Suggestion made that at the next committee meeting we discuss the Mansionization of hillsides in the City.
- 7) Adjourn. At 8:30 PM

Submitted by:

Sid Gold

Chairperson Citywide Issues Committee

