

ACONA Meeting Notes

November 27, 2018

After introductions the following topics were covered.

Grocery Outlet Store on Lake Avenue

Michell & Mario Guajardo

Opportunistic sourcing, so there are some items that aren't always available; others are stock items that are always in the store. Owners are invested in the community; they will be giving back to the schools. There are over 300 stores, many in Northern California. (See Q&A for more responses.)

Credit and Debit Card Crimes in Altadena

Captain Vicki Stuckey, Altadena Sheriff's Station

Identity theft: No matter where the crime occurs, you can report it to your local agency. Nineteen people per minute nationwide fall victim to identity theft. How to protect yourself: don't go on unprotected websites; don't use public unsecured networks to shop; turn off wifi on your cellphone if you use it for shopping. Be aware of card skimmers: that there's no extra hardware on card readers (ATM machines; gas station card readers). Shred mail that has your info on it. Phishing: don't give out secure info over the phone. If your purse/wallet is stolen, call the credit bureaus to alert them. Use a stand-alone credit card for shopping, not one attached to your bank account.

Southern California Edison Infrastructure: Public Safety Shutdowns

David A. Ford, Government Relations Manager, SCE Local Public Affairs

\$45-million power upgrade is just about wrapping up in Altadena. Ten of the 20 largest fires have happened since 2015. SCE is an above-ground company. Looking for ways to harden the system (more resistant to fire) — insulated wires, covered conductors, fire-resistant poles, faster fuses. Bark beetle is causing major problems with drought-stressed trees. SCE is working to remove dead and dying trees. PSPS: Public Safety Power Shutoff: shutting down power if predictive measures show there is severe fire danger. Also growing and improving the fire monitoring system. 2004 was the last PSPS, in Idylwild. There was another one there this year. Prior to the Woolsey fire, sent out notifications that power might be shut off. It was shut off in Saugus, Newhall, Simi, Santa Clarita for a few hours. Won't de-energize a whole city or community at once. Send out early notifications to first responders, medical facilities (two days ahead). One day ahead, send out a notification that PSPS is likely. If monitoring shows it's necessary, power is shut off. Everyone is informed again when power is restored. Line is checked afterwards for integrity.

Altadena Fence Registration

Alex Garcia, Supervising Regional Planner, Zoning Enforcement East, Department of Regional Planning

Twenty fences have been registered so far out of 20,000 potential residences to be registered. Over-height fences can be registered and protected for 15 years (till Jan 1, 2034). Registration deadline is April 1, 2019. Register online or in person, downtown or in Arcadia. Registration workshops here at the Altadena Community Center on December 19, January 29, March 13, all from 6-9 pm, and February 23 from 9:30am-12:30pm.

New County Traffic Safety Initiative

Justin Robertson, Policy Analyst, PLACE (Policies for Livable Active Communities and Environments) Program, LA County Department of Public Health.

Vision Zero (flyer on website): looks at collision data to see where people are getting killed or seriously injured to focus solutions on those areas. Implementation of this program in New York

City saw a 28% decline in traffic fatalities, 45% decline in deaths among people walking. One person is killed on unincorporated streets every 5 days. Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death among young children in LA County. In the spring, a draft of the action plan will be available for public comment. On December 6 at 6:30pm, will be distributing and collecting a survey at the Altadena Town Council Safe Streets Committee meeting. Public invited.

Q&A:

Q: Porch mailings: are cameras a deterrent? A: They help. If you aren't going to be home when a package arrives, arrange to have it delivered to a neighbor or to your workplace.

Q: Issue: there are no sidewalks in Altadena. A: County Board says this is a priority. Some places will need sidewalks to address Vision Zero concerns. Solutions will differ on what the problem is and what the community's response is. Feedback from community will influence response.

Q: SCE Weather station data: is it accessible to the public? A: Will investigate to see if it's available.

Q: There seem to be a number of programs. Are they collaborating with each other? A: Vision Zero is a holistic look at the factors. Vision Zero will provide focus for where Complete Streets program (for example) is brought to bear.

Q: Car speed. Was told that speed limit can't be lowered because there isn't enough traffic. A: Complicated, because it deals with state law. Right now there's a bill that the governor signed to take a look at that state law. There's a state task force to look at injuries/fatalities related to speed limits. (Speed limits are now governed by what is called the 85th percentile rule.) In the meantime, you can also address the designed speed of the street.

Q: There was an extended power outage in Altadena recently. Was not a PSPS. A: It was a downed tree that took out a long circuit.

Q: There was supposed to be a four-way stop at Casitas & Figueroa to be installed in 2019. Was told that within 6 months there had been four bad accidents. At Windsor and Figueroa there was supposed to be a traffic light installed. Hasn't happened. Do there have to be fatalities before something happens? A: There is some movement on this right now.

Q: Right now fence height enforcement is complaint-driven. If someone has a registered fence, are county people coming out to look at these fences in 2034? A: No, it will still be complaint-driven.

Q: When is Grocery Outlet opening? Will carts be free? A: Opening December 13. Carts will be free.

Q: How is it possible to have such deep discounts at Grocery Outlet? I've heard there is a short window before the pull date. A: Most items will sell out before the sell-by date. Will donate items to Friends in Deed for items past pull date. Many items have long sell-by dates; not everything in the store is short-dated.

Q: Package theft: Heard that in Sierra Madre they are putting out dummy packages to catch thieves. A: Altadena hasn't done this but if they do they won't advertise it.

Q: Have heard not to put car registration in car. A: California vehicle code says car registration must be in your car at all times.

Q: Sidewalks: If sidewalks are put in, are homeowners assessed? A: Public Works is the department to ask about this. Justin will follow up.

Comment: Town Council members are very responsive to inquiries and concerns. Much appreciated.