

ACONA Meeting Agenda for Tuesday, May 28, 2024, 7:00 PM

ACONA Team: Elliot Gold, Nina Ehlig, Ellen Walton, Nic Arnzen, Capt. Jabari Williams, Holly Rundberg, Carlotta Martin, Sussy Nemer, Isis Moulden, Jon Hainer

Future Meetings: The next ACONA meetings are expected to be live and hybrid:

- September 24th
- November 20th (Wednesday)

## **Altadena Library District - Upcoming Programs and Events Presentation**

**Presented by: Brin Wall**

1. Summer Reading Program at ALD
  - Duration: June 1 to August 17, 2024.
  - Activities: Participate in reading and activities challenge for all ages, earn prizes, and contribute to a 500,000-minute community reading challenge.
  - Sign-Up Information: Begins June 1, available at the kickoff event, Main Library, or online.
  - Further Details: Visit [AltadenaLibrary.org/summer](http://AltadenaLibrary.org/summer).
2. Summer Reading Kickoff Event
  - Date: Saturday, June 1, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM.
  - Location: Altadena Main Library.
  - Activities: Sign up for summer reading, meet animals, eco crafts, games, coffee and plants sale, face painting, etc.
3. New Offering: Lunch at the Library
  - Details: Free lunch for children and teens (0-18) from June 3 to August 2 (excluding June 19 and July 4).
  - Time and Location: 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM at Main Library Community Room.
  - Additional Activities: Learning enrichment activities and free books on Fridays.
4. Additional Summer Events at Altadena Libraries

- Program Duration: June 1 to August 17, 2024.
- Events Include: Over 100 events like author talks, DIY/craft activities, book clubs, etc.
- Community Encouragement: Promote reading, renewing library cards, and program participation.

#### 5. Upcoming Events

- Repair Cafe: Saturday, June 29, 10:00 AM, Main Library.
- One Book, One County Book Discussion: Saturday, July 20, 2:30 PM, Community Room.
- Savoring Roots: Saturday, July 13, 11:00 AM, Community Room (registration required).
- Author Talk: Saturday, July 27, 2:00 PM, Community Room.

#### Contact Information:

- Visit [AltadenaLibrary.org/summer](https://AltadenaLibrary.org/summer).

### **Los Angeles County Parks & Recreation: Upcoming Programs and Events Presentation**

#### **Presented by: Guillermo Portillo**

1. Summer PAD Activities at Loma Alta Park
  - Offered by: LA County Department of Parks and Recreation.
  - Events: Sports, bingo, arts and crafts, dance classes, movies, concerts, recreation classes, etc.
2. Summer Sports Programs at Loma Alta Park
  - Programs: Basketball, lacrosse, volleyball, cheer, etc.
  - Registration: Contact LA County Parks or visit their website.
3. Recreation Classes at Loma Alta Park and Charles S. Farnsworth Park
  - Classes Include: Tennis, jump rope, urban ballroom dance, line dancing, ballet, salsa, etc.
  - Registration: Online at <https://parks.lacounty.gov/reserve/>.
4. Family Storytime Event at Loma Alta Park

- Schedule: Every second and fourth Wednesday of the month, 4 PM - 5 PM.
- Location: Social Hall at Loma Alta Park.
- Activities: Reading, music, arts and crafts, STEAM experiments.

Contact Information:

- Contact Information Recreation Services Manager: Guillermo Portillo Email: gportillo@parks.lacounty.gov Phone: (626) 398-5451
- Recreation Services Supervisors: Charles Carter Email: ccarter@parks.lacounty.gov Phone: (626) 398-5451 Alejandro Miranda Email: amiranda@parks.lacounty.gov

**AltadenaWild - Proposed Developments and Community Impact Presentation**

**Presented by: Sarah Wolf**

1. Closure of Nuccio's Nursery and Proposed PolyFields Sports Complex
  - Nuccio's Nursery, operational for nearly 90 years, will be closed.
  - Polytechnic School proposes "PolyFields" sports complex at the site, including stadiums, courts, and lighting systems.
2. Issues with Proposed PolyFields Development
  - Potential Impacts: Increased wildfire risk, traffic congestion, and environmental degradation.
  - Concerns: Raised by AltadenaWILD, a community organization valuing the natural environment.
3. Timeline of AltadenaWILD Actions
  - 2022-2024: Series of actions including letters, meetings, and establishment of programs to address concerns and engage the community.
4. Primary Elements of PolyFields
  - Yet to receive an official detailed layout of proposed facilities including stadiums, courts, training, and wellness centers.
5. Impact of Polytechnic Sports Complex

- Environmental concerns: Tree removal, light pollution, and disruption of sensitive ecological areas.
6. Development Process for New Sports Complex
- Submission, review, and negotiation stages with L.A. County Department of Regional Planning.
  - Decision-making process involving Regional Planning Commission and potential appeals.
7. Ways to Help AltadenaWILD
- Spread awareness, sign petitions, volunteer, utilize social media, document wildlife, and provide support through donations and volunteering.
  - Utilization of iNaturalist for documenting local wildlife and contributing to biodiversity conservation efforts.

## **San Gabriel Valley Mosquito & Vector Control District**

**Presented by: Anais Medina Diaz**

1. Overview of SGVMVCD
  - Public health agency dedicated to managing mosquito populations and vectors in the San Gabriel Valley.
  - Services 26 cities and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County, protecting over 1.5 million residents.
2. Mosquito Threats and Protection
  - Mosquitoes are the world's deadliest creatures, capable of transmitting diseases like West Nile virus, Zika, and dengue.
  - Disease outbreaks can occur with one infected mosquito.
  - Protection methods include removing stagnant water, using insect repellent, and community action.
3. Mosquito Breeding and Control
  - Breeding grounds include standing water in containers, ditches, and ponds.
  - Control measures involve emptying and cleaning containers weekly, turning over items that can hold water, and repairing leaks.

#### 4. West Nile Virus (WNV) Spread and Prevention

- WNV spreads through mosquito bites.
- 2023 WNV+ Mosquito Data for Pasadena, SGVMVCD.

#### 5. Innovative Technologies for Mosquito Control

- Wolbachia: Bacteria infecting mosquitoes, preventing eggs from hatching.
- Sterile Insect Technique (SIT): Releasing sterilized male mosquitoes to prevent offspring.
- Self-Limiting Mosquitoes: Genetically modified mosquitoes with offspring survival prevention genes.

#### 6. Services Provided by SGVMVCD

- Mosquito surveillance to identify high mosquito populations.
- Breeding ground reduction efforts.
- Control measures including treating adult mosquito populations.
- Public education on mosquito-borne diseases and prevention methods.

Contact Information: Address: 1145 N. Azusa Canyon Road, West Covina, CA 91790  
Phone: (626) 814-9466 Website: [sgvmosquito.org](http://sgvmosquito.org) Service Requests: Phone: (626) 814-9466

### **Los Angeles County Trash Collection Services for Altadena/Kinneloa Mesa**

**Presented by: Chris Sheppard, Khaled Alqam (Los Angeles County Department of Public Works), Matt Blackburn (Universal Waste Systems), Shawna Dawson Beer (Beautiful Altadena)**

#### 1. Community Concerns and Feedback

- Leaking Trucks: Complaints about trash collection trucks leaking fluids, causing messes.
- Missing Cart Replacement: Residents facing challenges in obtaining replacement trash carts.
- Trash Dropped on the Ground: Issues with trash falling out of collection trucks or bins.
- Missed Collections and Billing Errors: Instances of irregular trash collection and billing discrepancies.

## 2. Operational/Service Changes

- Enhanced Training: Improved training programs for drivers to enhance service quality.
- Visual Check by Drivers: Drivers to visually inspect and report broken carts for replacement.
- Waiving Police Report Requirement: No longer requiring a police report for missing cart replacements.
- Frequent Truck Inspections: Increased inspections to identify maintenance issues promptly.
- Service Hours: No service before 6:00 a.m. to minimize disruptions.

## 3. Bear-Resistant Cart Program

- Program Details: Free program available to qualified residents in Altadena/Kinneloa Mesa.
- Cart Sizes: Options include 32, 64, or 96 gallons for trash, recyclables, and organic waste.
- Manufacturer: Carts manufactured by Kodiak and certified by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee.
- Additional Program Details: Senior discounts and roll-out service available for certain residents.

## 4. Virtual Meeting: Living with Bears and Bear Cart Program

- Informational session on living with bears and details about the bear-resistant cart program.

## 5. Community Feedback and Petition (Shawna Dawson Beer)

- Community Engagement: Over 600 residents signed a petition addressing issues with trash services.
- Price and Service Concerns: Concerns about the declining service quality despite expectations of cost-effectiveness.
- Bear Cart Program Issues: Residents asked to resubmit requests, highlighting program flaws.
- Community Demands: Specific demands for addressing flawed processes, improving services, and accountability.

- DPW and UWS Response: Commitments from DPW for continued training and addressing concerns, with UWS expected to improve service performance.
- Community Call to Action: Encouragement for residents to report issues and participate in feedback initiatives.

Contact Information for Follow-Up: Shawna Dawson Beer: [dawson@saucela.com](mailto:dawson@saucela.com)  
[beautifulaltadenaog@gmail.com](mailto:beautifulaltadenaog@gmail.com)

Public Works: (888) CleanLA (253-2652), [Trash@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:Trash@pw.lacounty.gov)

Khaled Alqam: [kalqam@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:kalqam@dpw.lacounty.gov)

Universal Waste Systems: Julio Hernandez, Operations Supervisor:  
[juliohernandez@uwscompany.com](mailto:juliohernandez@uwscompany.com)

## **Q&A Summary**

### **AltadenaWILD:**

Q: Is there an alternative plan for the Nuccio's property? What suggestions do you have for the property? Please be sure to share all of the ways the community can get involved and support you in the Beautiful Altadena groups.

A: You can read about the alternatives here: <https://www.altadenawild.org/a-better-idea>. Should the Poly deal fall through for whatever reason, there would be opportunities for land conservation, conservation plus lease-back, a small housing development, etc. We need volunteers to help at outreach events, help with admin support, marketing/fundraising support, writing letters and making public comments (at the appropriate time). We also need help with documenting wildlife (photos, videos, iNaturalist). Email [altadenawild@gmail.com](mailto:altadenawild@gmail.com) for more info.

### **Vector Control:**

Q: Has vector control considered using sterile release programs for Aedes mosquitoes?

A: Vector control is using larvicides and other methods but not sterile releases or spraying, as mosquitoes are resilient to sprays.

Q: Are there any plans for spraying as Pasadena has been doing?

A: No plans for spraying; focus remains on larvicides like Btl. Additional questions can be emailed to Anais Medina Diaz at [amedinadiaz@sgvmosquito.org](mailto:amedinadiaz@sgvmosquito.org).

## **UWS Sanitation Services Contract with County**

Q: Why has there been a significant increase in service fees?

A: The increase is due to annual rate adjustments based on the consumer price index. Extra charges apply for additional blue and green bins.

Q: How can residents sign up for bear-resistant carts?

A: Visit the Public Works/UWS webpage or email Public Works at [Trash@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:Trash@pw.lacounty.gov) for assistance. Website link: [bit.ly/akmbearcarts](http://bit.ly/akmbearcarts)

Q: Why are there long lead times for cart replacements or repairs?

A: Carts should be replaced the next day. For issues, contact Matt Blackburn [or Julio Hernandez] at UWS. No police report is needed for stolen carts, just a simple form.

Q: Why are there maintenance issues with supposedly new trucks?

A: The contract did not require brand new trucks. Maintenance issues are due to wear and tear, and trucks are checked three times a day.

Q: What can UWS do about residents who leave waste bins in the street all the time?

A: Report such issues to UWS or Public Works for appropriate action.

Q: Can UWS pick up additional green waste after windstorms?

A: UWS can schedule large green waste pickups free of charge after windstorms. We will do a better job at publicizing the free services such as free cardboard pick up, green waste pick up. If you have any questions or concerns regarding trash service, please feel free to call (888) CleanLA (253-2652) or email [trash@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:trash@dpw.lacounty.gov). (This includes if you have already signed up for a bear-resistant cart[s] and we can assist.

Q: What can be done to improve UWS customer service and communication?

A: UWS is working on improving communication. \*\* Residents suggest adopting practices from other successful waste management companies like Athens.

Q: Can UWS clarify the holiday schedule and how it affects subsequent pickup days?

A: Holiday weeks delay the entire week's schedule.

Q: What will be done to address the ongoing issues with UWS service?

A: Public Works and UWS are committed to making improvements. For unresolved issues, follow up with Public Works at [Trash@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:Trash@pw.lacounty.gov) or Khaled Alqam at [kalqam@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:kalqam@dpw.lacounty.gov). But contact UWS first.



Q: What constitutes a breach of contract, and what are the consequences if service does not improve?

A: This question may require legal input from County Counsel. Public Works and UWS are committed to working together to resolve issues.

Q: Would like to hear about quarterly complaints.

A: We can definitely participate in the monthly Altadena Town Council Meetings and provide updates/tallies to resident complaints