

ACONA Meeting Notes September 26, 2017

Following introductions, the following topics were covered:

Altadena Library Update - Mindy Kittay

Community Conversations Initiative outcomes:

October: Newsmakers program: teaching teens about TV news reporting and writing.

Be the Media: Citizens news program

Community Calendar: any free community event can be posted

Mindy presented a video (link available in Resources) outlining the five goals of the five-year plan and progress toward those goals.

Altadena Town Council Update - Okorie Ezieme and Pat Sutherlen

Pat went over the structure and purpose of the Town Council (see slides in the Agenda PowerPoint). There are currently five ad hoc committees (film, bylaws, education, website, and community relations), with plans to form additional committees. Community members as well as Town Council members can be on these committees.

California Waterfix: Modernizing the System - Christine Frey

MWD is considering participation in this program. MWD is the nation's largest water wholesaler, serving about 19 million people, with 26 member agencies (including Foothill Metropolitan Water District) in six counties. Water is imported from Northern California and the Colorado River. Integrated Resource Plan projects out to 2040 on water needs in Southern California.

WaterFix is the infrastructure piece. Eco Restore addresses ecosystem issues.

More info: mwdh2o.com/waterfix

Q&A:

Food and water watch website has an alternate view of the project. States that most of the water will benefit the Central Valley, not Southern California.

Response: we have been getting less and less water from the Delta. This project will restore the amount of water we get.

Q: Digging tunnels in earthquake fault zones doesn't seem like a good idea. A: the tunnels are being built in zones without many faults and will be deep enough and built such that they will be earthquake responsive.

Q: What about the small farmers in the north? Will they lose water if the tunnels are in place? A: There would still be restrictions on how much water could be pumped.

Q: Isn't there doubt about whether the tunnels will actually be built? A: With the approval of the environmental permits that just happened, the project (which has been ongoing in the planning stage for many years) can now move to funding. If not enough agencies want to participate, the project won't move forward.

Comment: Use of water for non-environmentally friendly projects is water wasteful.

Q: Is the cost allocation of Waterfix (45% Central Valley, 55% state agencies) the same as the water allocation? A: Yes.

Q: What is the worst/best case situation if we participate? A: Stabilization of the water supply that we get from the Delta. Multiple agencies are responsible for building out water storage. There is not water storage project associated with Waterfix.

Q: Why aren't we looking into desalinization ocean water? A: It's very expensive and energy intensive.

Q: Do you have knowledge of conversations in building these tunnels if terrorism is a factor? A: The two tunnels are designed to be at least 150 feet underground; as far as Christine knows terrorism has not been part of the discussion.

Q: Fracking close to water tables: Is that being sucked into the regular water supply? A: Haven't heard of anyone fracking into the Bay Delta and fracking water getting into our supply. The water is treated before it's delivered to consumers.

Q: Frackers drill down about a mile, but they also go horizontal. What if they hit your pipes? A: Haven't heard that of being an issue with the pipes.

Q: Land Use Committee meetings have been cancelled on more than one occasion. Could word be given out to let the public know if a meeting is being cancelled. Nextdoor doesn't reach everyone. A: The ATC website is a work in progress, but the plan is to include notifications of meeting cancellations that float to the top of the website.

Q: Cost of water project to residents — \$2-3 per month — will that increase as the project progresses? A: That is the anticipated end-cost (i.e., as high as it will probably get).

Comment: Public comments at the ATC meetings are taken seriously by the census tract representatives.

Q: Read in the paper that one of the water districts has already given the project the thumbs-down. Does that mean the project is a no-go? A: The MWD will be voting on the MWD's 26% share in October, not on the whole project. If other water districts opt out, the districts that remain may opt to pay for and get a larger share of the water.

Q: Devil's Gate water project — is there an update? A: The route across Woodbury to New York has been cancelled.

Q: What is happening with the Altadena Marketplace? A: It's with Regional Planning and the meeting has been postponed several times. The topic will be addressed in October. The ATC reviewed the proposal at its May meeting. See Resources section for a link to the minutes.