

ACONA September 26, 2023 Meeting Notes

After introductions, the following topics were presented.

Update on Community Questions

Speaker: Nic Arnzen, Altadena Town Council/ACONA

Note: The slides for Nic's topics are full of information. They are in the Meeting Agenda. There are also many links from this presentation as well as the others under the ACONAonline Resource tab.

- Altadena Farmer's Markets

Altadena Farmers' Market that was at Loma Alta and are now doing online ordering and pickup next to Pizza of Venice.

Altadena Neighborhood Farmers Market is the one that is now at Loma Alta Park. They usually also have an activity — this week it's a concert.

- Polytechnic School Sports Complex

AltadenaWILD has gotten over 5K signatures on a petition opposing the sports complex, 60% from Altadenans. Distributing lawn signs and publishing a newsletter. Polytechnic school's website says their process is open and inclusive. They will submit plans to the county in October. County review is a multi-year process.

- Caring for trees in a drought

Even though we've had a lot of rain that's not a guarantee that we're totally drought-free. It's important to know when and how to water your trees.

- Bear Cart rollout & Bear Wise Program

Be on the lookout for bears, and knowing and communicating with your neighbors is very important.

SCE Upgrades in the Meadows

Speaker: David Ford, SCE Government Relations Manager

Milissa Marona, ATC member from The Meadows (CT 4603.01) gave background on the need for an upgraded service to The Meadows.

Service upgraded from 4KV to 16KV. Fire hardened system. Project took three months to complete. Multi-million-dollar project. The upgrade should make it less likely that there will be a need for Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS).

Water during Fire Season

Speaker: Nina Jazmadarian, Foothill Municipal Water District

Import water from Metropolitan Water District (MWD) and distribute it to the local water companies (except Kineloa). Eighty percent of Altadena water is from local supplies. But groundwater levels are lower so there needs to be a reduction in pumping and thus greater reliance on imported water. FMWD doesn't get any water from the California aqueduct. Have backup generators so they can continue to pump water during power

outages. Fire agencies keep a certain amount of water in reserve to fight fires, but don't have enough water reserves for the kind of large wildfires we've been experiencing. For those they have to rely on chemical methods and other means. MWD has a turf replacement program (see Resources tab for link).

Q&A

Announcement: Altadena Heritage Tree giveaway — one tree per household. Apply through altadenaheritage.org. Giveaway ends September 30.

Q: Are bear carts seasonal? A: No, they replace regular carts and are year-round.

Q: There was a NextDoor video saying the person was told they were not in the zone for bear carts. A: Everyone is eligible for bear carts.

Q: Is there an exploration of new methods in water capture? A: We're maxed out on pipe capacity to get to storage areas. Diamond Valley Lake is being filled at maximum transport volume. Spreading grounds are being used. No new methods, but low-impact methods are under consideration: infiltration galleries under sports fields, for example. There are not enough spreading grounds. Need to see individual home gardens acting as spreading grounds rather than trying to get the water into storm drains.

Q: Any of The Meadows' new wiring underground? A: No. Underground wiring is about five times more expensive to install.

Q: Meadows resident has solar and has been providing power to the grid since April but were told they won't receive credit until the interconnection, which may happen in December. A: David Ford will handle this offline with the customer.

Info: Direct link to order bear-resistant carts:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScdx-CGlouNe-4BIUrk6orcuhNIDMzqGxrMplK3VYCF1dPw4Q/viewform>

(Also under the Resources tab.)