

ACONA Meeting Notes, November 3, 2015

Following introductions, the following topics were covered.

Meet the Captain

This is Capt. Stuckey's first assignment since being promoted to captain. She looks forward to working with the community. Coffee with the Captain, Monday, December 7 at the Coffee Gallery.

El Niño

Jeff Reeb, Director, Los Angeles Co. Office of Emergency Management

Cycle: mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery.

Homeless community is going to be especially vulnerable. Many are living in flood control areas.

Winter shelter program has been extended to try to meet anticipated increased need. Sheriff's Dept. is part of the mitigation/response part of the cycle.

Resources: www.LAcounty.gov/elnino has many resources. Twitter hashtag #larain

NOAA alerts can be received over cellphone. Be sure to have a backup battery or solar charger for your cellphone.

Keith Lilley, LA County Public Works Dept. Water Resources Division

Pre-storm preparedness

US Army Corps of Engineers does infrastructure work ahead of the storm (flood control channels, e.g.,)

National Weather Service, California Dept. of Water Resources work with the county

81,799 debris basins and culverts that need to be cleaned out.

3300 miles of storm drains

Roads are part of the flood control system; carry water to storm drains.

500 miles of open channels that need to be cleared of overgrown vegetation annually

Debris basins are the first line of defense before the storm drains. They are cleared if they are more than 25% full, 5% if there's been a forest fire.

14 dams from which water is slowly released onto spreading grounds.

Devil's Gate Dam sediment removal will begin next year. Need to get permits.

1900 cubic yards of debris and sediment were removed from the base of the dam this year.

22 projects to increase spreading grounds in the past few years.

Storm operations centers are activated during major rainfall events. Coordinate with county Office of Emergency Management

Resources: See PowerPoint Agenda.

Barking Dogs

Sheri Koenig, Animal Control Manager

Sgt. Zeke Morales, Baldwin Park Animal Care Center

What's the protocol for barking dogs?

Must be continuous and unwarranted barking.

[Three step procedure](#) (click on link to view full procedure)

In short:

Step 1: in writing or via animalcare.lacounty.gov (see ACONAOnline.org

Resources for form), file a complaint. Can't be anonymous. Acknowledged with a letter. County sends a letter to the person with the dogs.

Step 2: If in two weeks there's no action, re-notify the county. The case will go to arbitration between you and your neighbor.

Step 3: Petition to informant; must have three or more neighbors who agree that this is a nuisance. Letter of non-compliance to the dog owner, then it goes to the District Attorney's office.

Chickens and roosters: an officer will visit, if it sounds like there may be cockfighting going on. Not illegal to have chickens in Altadena, but they must be caged and a specified distance from human dwellings.

What if the dogs are "distant"?

The hillsides can cause barking to sound close when it's distant. Let the county know.

Do we call the Sheriff's?

No, but if you can't pinpoint a location, officers will drive out to try to do that.

Should we talk to neighbors first?

Yes, if they're approachable.

What about dogs left in their yards at night? Can't sleep because dogs are barking.

Nocturnal animals will cause dogs to bark.

Encourage neighbors to bring their dogs in at night.

Leash Laws?

More of an issue on the trails where people are more likely to let their dogs off their leash.

Can the Altadena Town Council take action?

They send it back to Animal Control.

Animal Control is far away in Baldwin Park

Yes this can affect response times.

What about Pasadena Animal Control?

Unincorporated county areas can't make use of private city services.

Are their fines?

Yes, for violations. Not for barking yet.

How long does it take for the County to take action?

As fast as it gets reported. There are four priorities. Sick or injured animals, bites are responded to ASAP. Barking dog complaints follow the three-step procedure.

Ultimate solution: Take the issue to your neighborhood association/neighborhood watch.

If you don't have one, this is a good issue to organize one around.

See Resources section of ACONAOnline.org for noise complaint procedure, form, and other resources.

County Q&A

Sussy Nemer, representative for Supervisor Antonovich

Questions about zoning (no plans for rezoning. A business can apply for a zoning variance. Most issues have to do with parcels not being big enough to accommodate increased parking needs), welcome wagons (there's a brochure that gets mailed to new residents).

Open Q&A

WEA: Wireless Emergency Alert is automatically part of your phone's software and will alert you when there's an issue in your area. NOAA weather alerts are an example. 458-HELP Public Works dispatch if you need help with a flood maintenance issue.