



Case to be heard in January

FCD and environmentalists face off over “Big Dig” at Devil’s Gate

BY BILL CHRISTIAN
DIRECTOR, WPRA

Having virtually neglected sediment accumulation in the basin behind Devil’s Gate dam over the past two decades, the LA County Flood Control District (FCD) expects to move forward — absent an unfavorable court decision or pre-trial settlement — with what it believes is an urgent and necessary sediment removal program. The Arroyo Seco Foundation and Pasadena Audubon challenged that vision in December 2015 by jointly filing a suit to force the FCD to modify its plan. The case is slated to be heard in January.

Looking back

Devil’s Gate Dam was built in 1920 as a part of a massive County flood control program following major destructive floods in 1914 and 1916. Named for a nearby rock outcropping that, say some, resembled the face of a devil, Devil’s Gate was the first debris dam in Los Angeles County.

Big Dig could complicate relook, restoration

Pasadena Mayor Terry Tornek recently proposed the City take an integrated *relook* at the Arroyo Seco to develop a new vision for how the Arroyo is used, managed and governed. That relook would include an assessment of the Arroyo’s current and future values to the community.

The LA County Flood Control District

approach to sediment removal at Devil’s Gate Dam would necessarily and significantly short-circuit Mayor Tornek’s plan and, quite likely, interrupt other governmental planning efforts, including a comprehensive Arroyo Seco restoration plan currently led by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

– Bill Christian

Twenty years ago, Pasadena established the Hahamongna Watershed Park as a commitment to protect our rich environmental and water resources for future generations. Pasadena also encouraged the County to rehabilitate Devil’s Gate Dam, which had been condemned after the 1971 Sylmar earthquake, and to operate it in a way that would be compatible with preservation

and restoration of habitat, wildlife and recreational opportunity in the basin.

A key to achieving those lofty goals, however, was implementation of a continuous sediment management program to provide flood protection, but avoid massive disruptive events, such as the “Big Dig,” every few decades. Sadly, the FCD has not removed any significant quantities of sediment since 1994.

Rose Bowl Stadium lists major 2017 events

City residents within line of sight or sound of the Rose Bowl Stadium should note that the Rose Bowl Operating Company (RBOC) has thus far scheduled 13 “displacement” events for the stadium this year. A displacement event is defined as an event likely to attract an audience of more than 20,000.

Depending on whether you’ll leave the area or shelter in place during the events, here’s what you have to look forward to after the 103rd Annual Rose Bowl Game on January 2, which was the first major event of the year:

- May 20-21: Concert to be announced

- June (2 days): First (to be annual) Arroyo Seco Music and Arts Festival. Event promoter, AEG, expects to announce the lineup and schedule soon
- July 23: CONCACAF Gold Cup soccer playoff match
- July 29: Concert to be announced
- August 5: Justin Bieber concert
- September – November : 6 regular UCLA Home Games

The RBOC has the unilateral authority to add up to two more major events, for a total of 15. If the RBOC wishes to add more, beyond the 15 events, it must return to the City Council for approval. – Bill Urban

The “Big Dig”

The current massive FCD plan would extract and ship out over local roads and freeways about 2.4 million cubic yards of sediment over four years and require 400 diesel-truck round trips be made each day.

Opponents insist this plan would degrade our air quality, raise noise levels for nearby schools and neighborhoods, choke traffic on the 210 freeway and other streets, cripple recreation in the Hahamongna watershed area, and permanently destroy important and rare riparian habitat behind the dam, which shelters sensitive and listed species.

City and others oppose FCD plan

The City of Pasadena also expressed its opposition to the FCD plan by establishing the Sediment Working Group (SDG), chaired

Correcting the record, thanking “missing” donors/members

In the Fall 2016 issue of this newsletter, we inadvertently omitted a group of Patron-level donors-members (A-F) from the list of supporters we recognize twice a year. If you were among those “missing” donors, please accept our apology and acknowledgement that we could not continue to meet our objectives without your continued support. Missing from the prior listing, for the period between August 1, 2015 and August 31, 2016, were:

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Lawanda Allee
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- Vice President: Sarah Gavit (gavit@wpra.net)
- Treasurer: Blaine Cavena (cavena@wpra.net)
- Secretary: Justin Chapman (chapman@wpra.net)

Mission: Founded in 1962, the West Pasadena Residents' Association is dedicated to maintaining the character of our community and enhancing the quality of life in west Pasadena.

Area: The WPRA service area is bounded on the north by Colorado Boulevard, on the east by Fair Oaks Avenue and on the south and west by the city limits.

Funding: All WPRA activities are funded through membership dues and contributions. The WPRA receives no public funding and has no paid employees. Since the WPRA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit public benefit corporation, contributions and donations are fully deductible to the extent permitted by law.

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The News is mailed each quarter to nearly 8,000 homes and businesses in the 91105 and 91103 ZIP codes and beyond.

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City considers regulating short-term rentals

BY DAN BEAL
DIRECTOR, WPRA

The City of Pasadena is now exploring the impact of residential short-term rentals in the city, a move that could lead to regulation of those activities. Based on the first public meetings in November and other input, strong feelings can be found on both sides of this issue. The WPRA has taken no formal position, but considers it an important issue for Pasadena's quality of life and will be engaging in the ongoing discussion.

Defining terms

Residential short-term rentals (STRs) are typically for fewer than 30 days and involve rental of all or a portion of a residential unit, which could be a single-family home, condo or apartment. STRs are often divided into three categories:

1. Hosted home-sharing – the unit is occupied by the owner or tenant during the stay and only a portion of the home is rented.
2. Unhosted, not owner-occupied – the unit is the primary residence of the owner or tenant, but they are not present during the stay, which can involve rental of a portion or the entire home.
3. Unhosted, vacation rental – the unit is not occupied by the owner or tenant, and the entire home is typically rented.

While the STR concept is not new, especially in tourist areas, the recent popularity of on-line "hosting platforms" such as Airbnb and VRBO has exponentially increased its visibility and accessibility. In fact, global listings of short-term rentals are estimated to have increased by 1,300% in the last five years.

Pasadena numbers

In Pasadena, according to City staff, known STRs have increased to 553 in mid-2016 from one or two in 2010. About one-third of the rentals are partial unit listings; two-thirds are for the entire unit.



La Loma Bridge road deck poured; new re-open date delayed until March — On December 12 the new La Loma Bridge roadbed, or deck, was poured, with well over 200 cubic yards of concrete, or more than 20 truckloads. Spectators watched as one large concrete pumping rig reached in from the west end, and then an even larger pumping rig reached up from the bottom of the Arroyo. With the deck in place the major structural elements of the bridge are now complete, but much work remains: sidewalks, curbs and railings, utility connections and reconnections, road approaches to the bridge at each end, and much more. The expected re-opening date of the bridge is now in March. Why has the re-opening slipped from December to March? According to staff, the project has been more difficult than the project team anticipated and, generally, included the challenges of working with old structures. More specifically, some tasks turned out to be more labor intensive than expected, such as the arch forms that had to be created by hand; and the team encountered unexpected conflicts with the utility infrastructure. The good news is that with the deck complete, the schedule is expected to have less uncertainty. However, re-opening the bridge to traffic and pedestrians will not mean the project is complete. At that time several months of work will still remain. Visitors to the Arroyo may have noticed markings on the arches. These indicate areas where the arch concrete is decaying or gone and will be replaced. The falsework that has supported the bridge during construction must be carefully taken down, and temporarily rerouted utilities must be moved back into the bridge structure. The final phases will include site cleanup and trail restoration. Until then the west side trail will remain closed, including access to the Arroyo from the west end of the bridge. There will be periods when the east side trail will be closed during working hours but otherwise it will remain open. For more information on the La Loma bridge project please see cityofpasadena.net/PublicWorks/La_Loma_Bridge_Project/

– Photo and article by Blaine Cavena, Treasurer, WPRA

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ArtCenter views south campus as expression of art

BY AVRAM GOLD

LAND USE AND PLANNING CHAIR, WPRA

Pasadena's ArtCenter College of Design was first established in Los Angeles in 1930. In 1974 it broke ground for the Linda Vista Hillside campus, which official opened for classes in 1976. In 2004 ArtCenter established a South campus on South Raymond Avenue near Glenarm Street. The South campus has since grown to include a former U.S. Postal Service property adjacent to the existing campus.

Subsequently, the ArtCenter submitted a 15-year, two-phase master plan for both the Hillside campus and, where the most activity will occur, the South campus.

While some have raised concern about the massing and building heights of the proposed development at the South campus, others are persuaded that such a vision will add to Pasadena's prestige and prominence, as does Cal Tech, JPL and the Norton Simon Museum.

South campus expansion plans (Phase 1, 2017-2022; Phase 2, 2022- 2023) propose renovations of some existing buildings,



demolition of some existing buildings and surface parking to make space for the eventual construction of six eight-story, 100-foot high buildings for academics and student housing.

New construction would also include two quad areas. The main quad would bridge the Metro Gold Line light rail tracks. A subterranean tunnel under the Gold Line would also connect to parking areas. A new mobility hub, under the sloping raised main quad at 988 S. Raymond, would include pick-up/drop-off areas, bike parking and a car-sharing fleet.

A cycleway throughout the South Campus would serve as a campus circulation spine for pedestrians, cyclists and electric carts. It would link all school buildings along South Raymond Avenue.

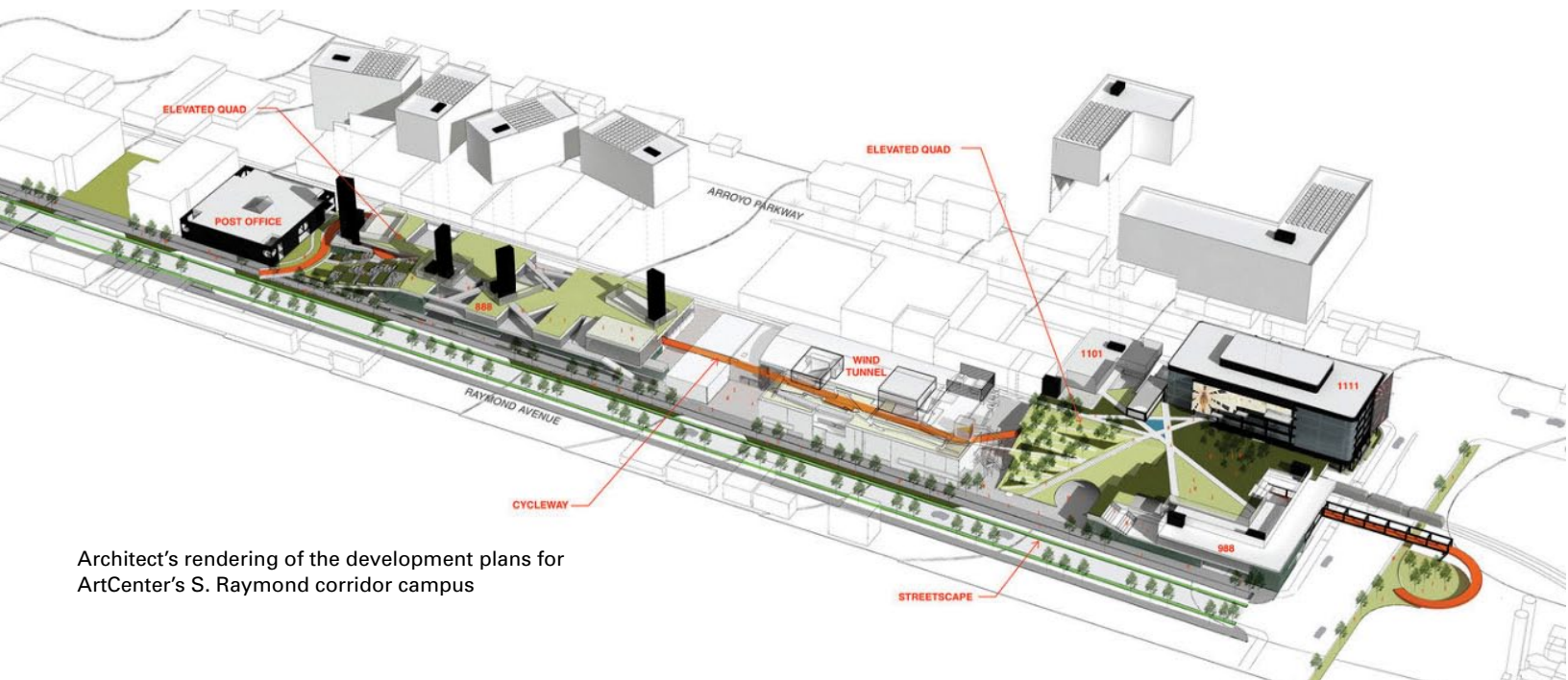
In early 2015, the City's Design Commission reviewed the application for preliminary consultation of the master plan. Commission comments included:

- "The South Campus is located in an area of Pasadena that can accept the kind of height and density proposed. Aggressively pushing for a dense and active use in the area of the City could help revitalize a lackluster place."
- "Consideration should be given as to what the campus can give back to the neighborhood. This urban campus could put 'tendrils' out to the surrounding area and the campus could act as a hub in activating the community as a whole."

The ArtCenter has set as its objective to become an experiential destination for everyone. Consequently, the ArtCenter and the Planning Department are encouraging community involvement in all stages of the design's evolution.

Today the internationally ranked art college provides graduate and undergraduate programs in design disciplines such as fine arts, film, entertainment, media, interaction, graphic, product, environmental, industrial and transportation.

For more information, visit the ArtCenter's website at artcenter.edu and the landing page on the City's website for the Community Development and Planning Department.



Architect's rendering of the development plans for ArtCenter's S. Raymond corridor campus

Cycle track's on track; Playhouse alliance forms

BY DAN BEAL
DIRECTOR, WPRA

As reported in the last newsletter, the City is developing a protected “cycle track” on Union Street between Hill Avenue and Arroyo Parkway as part of the City’s bicycle access and Complete Streets efforts.

The project will be installed in two phases, first from Arroyo Parkway to Wilson Avenue, and later from Wilson to Hill avenues, and will include curbs, signal upgrades, paint, signage and other improvements intended to provide safe separation between cyclists and motor vehicles.

In November, City Council approved agreements with LA Metro for grant funding to support the \$3.4 million cost of Phase 1 of the cycle track. Metro will provide about \$2.7 million, while the City would contribute about \$685,000.

City staff is developing a request for proposals for the design and environmental process, which will include a public outreach and education component. The work may begin as soon as late spring of 2017, but the second phase is currently unfunded. As a result, the entire project may not be completed for several years. Other cycle projects are also under development.

Alliance forms for Playhouse area

A new organization, the Playhouse Area Strategic Alliance (PASA) recently was formed to provide a wider and more comprehensive view of the Playhouse area and to bring a variety of experience and disciplines together.

The group’s purpose includes:

- Exploring what has and has not worked in Playhouse area planning
- Defining key objectives
- Developing a comprehensive new plan for the area’s economic and cultural revitalization for City Council
- Helping to provide a framework for the City’s new specific-plan process for the area
- Exploring linkages between the Playhouse area and other parts of the city.



An artist’s rendering of the cycle track installation on Union Street between Hill Avenue and Arroyo Parkway.

PASA believes that the Playhouse District could enhance its character and become more of a regional magnet by creating more open space and parks, providing additional support for the arts, developing distinctive design and signage and improving pedestrian access and parking availability.

The group initially focused on past studies and planning, the unique Playhouse “brand,”

and how it might evolve, and examples from other locales – such as Bergamont Station in Santa Monica and Playhouse Square in Cleveland – where a comprehensive approach and engagement of a wide community of interests have resulted in creation of appealing areas for the theater and the arts and for visitors and nearby residents that are valuable community assets.

Renters’ movement is forming in Pasadena

A new organization is said to be forming in Pasadena to represent the more than 52% of residents who are renters. That organization, the Pasadena Tenants Union (PTU), has as its mission to confront issues such as local rent control and to build a movement to promote tenant housing stability in the Pasadena.

The PTU held its launch meeting in early

December and participated in a Town Hall-style forum with U.S. Rep. Judy Chu. It has also launched a website and Facebook page. The theme of the group’s next meeting, in January, is: “What is rent control/rent stabilization and just cause?”

The PTU is also soliciting volunteers to interact with others in the Pasadena tenant community. *Source: Pasadena Now.*

Keeping up with City's current development pace is a challenge

BY SUE MOSSMAN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PASADENA HERITAGE

It feels like a race against time on a weekly basis to monitor, review, comment on and try to influence development projects as they come into the City's process one after another. We're told that this is a peak in a typical "development cycle," but the pace and sheer number of projects is daunting. (We often see our friends and colleagues from WPRA at hearings and meetings, and always appreciate the public participation from this well-organized and diligent neighborhood association!)

Among the many developments Pasadena Heritage is currently engaged in are:

■ **Thatcher Medical Center on Green Street** — The good news is that this project will likely be scaled back. That is, no new housing units will be included in the original Thatcher building, as was originally proposed. We also provided considerable input on the redesign of the courtyard between the historic buildings. The new residential buildings and recent drawings show a much more nuanced and historically referenced design.

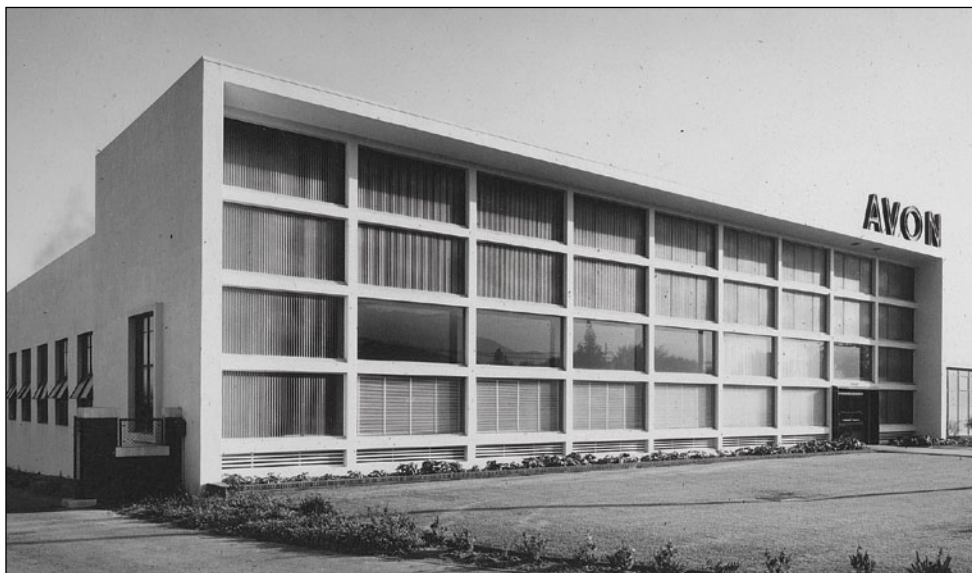


■ **Avon site on East Foothill** — Avon is leaving its large property of more than three acres in east Pasadena. The Avon building facing Foothill Boulevard is a good example of a mid-century industrial design with simple lines and extensive fenestration, which we believe is eligible for historic designation. A multitude of potential uses could replace Avon's operations, and we urge that an appropriate new use be found for the distinctive original building. The City is keenly interested in replacing significant sales-tax revenue, and Home Depot has been mentioned. At a recent meeting hosted by Councilmember Gene Masuda, nearly 200 residents came to protest the idea of big box retail and, in particular, a Home Depot. In the past, other big-box stores have been discouraged from proceeding in Pasadena in the past because of widespread community resistance. The site has complex zoning questions because current codes do not yet reflect the adopted General Plan.



Pasadena Heritage will convene its annual meeting on Tuesday, January 31, at historic Castle Green.

■ **Alexandria Headquarters** — On the southeast corner of North Euclid Avenue at Union, local company Alexandria Real Estate Equities is planning a new headquarters building on the site of the former Montana II project, which never materialized. This sensitive site is bordered on the north by the historic Maryland Arms and is diagonally across Union Street from City Hall. Design development is in full swing after preliminary consultation with the Design Commission in October. The development team plans to return to the Commission in late January for concept review. This new neighbor to the Civic Center will define a now vacant corner, and its design must respond to and complement its important setting.



The Avon building, facing Foothill Boulevard, is a good example of a mid-century industrial design with simple lines and extensive fenestration.

Pasadena Heritage annual meeting kicks off 40th anniversary year

Pasadena Heritage turns 40 in 2017, and it plans to celebrate that milestone with a full year of activities that will entertain and educate our members, friends and the general public. The first event will be the organization's Annual Meeting, to be held on Tuesday, January 31, from 6–8 p.m. at the historic Castle Green. This is a wonderful chance to experience the gorgeous period interiors of this Historic Monument and also to celebrate 40 years of preservation with Pasadena Heritage. Free for members. Not a member yet? Join Pasadena Heritage today and be welcomed with open arms.

City proceeds with RB Loop enhancement, but wrestles with naming-signage rules

BY BILL URBAN
DIRECTOR, WPRA

Recreational Loop around Rose Bowl Area H

Planning for a perimeter jogging path with fitness stations around Rose Bowl Area H continues to move forward. The City hopes to complete the project by the start of the 2017 college football season, although the schedule is very tight.

Design specifics are now going through public review. The Recreation and Parks Commission reviewed and approved the concept in December, with the condition that the City re-evaluate having a separate path for pedestrians on the west side and re-evaluate materials for the path, specifically issues concerning possible use of concrete.

The next step is design review before the Design Commission. Then City staff will develop a detailed plan, select a contractor, and present the package to City Council for approval.

Signage for the loop is being coordinated separately by the Rose Bowl Operating Company, but the approval process will include review by the Design Commission. WPRA hopes the signage will be subject to the Arroyo Seco Design Guidelines.

Master signage plan for Arroyo Seco

As required by the Arroyo Seco Master Plan, the City is developing a master signage plan for the Arroyo. City staff solicited comments online from the public and received about 150 responses. Staff is now compiling a summary of the responses and developing a draft with guidelines and sample graphic styles. It expects to complete the draft in first quarter of 2017.

Although there is no set schedule, the Master Sign Plan is a high priority for City staff because it impacts signage for the archery range and Reese's Retreat playground.

City approves name "Honda Recreational Loop"

The name "Honda Recreational Loop" was approved by the City Council in October. That naming decision, however, raises serious concerns with some. Most of the project funding comes from donations to Rose Bowl Legacy Foundation, including a generous donation from Honda, a long-time Rose Bowl partner. While the WPRA agrees that major donors deserve to be recognized, it also believes that a major commercial donor's name should not be appended to the formal name of the public facility. For example, while "Honda Recreational Loop" would not be appropriate, "Rose Bowl Recreational Loop, sponsored by Honda" would.

In approving the name, the City Council ignored public concerns about commercialization of public spaces that were spelled out in a joint letter from all three of the neighborhood associations around the Rose Bowl: the Linda Vista~Annandale Association, the East Arroyo Residents Association and the West Pasadena Residents' Association.

City Council also ignored the policies and procedures specified in the City of Pasadena Public Park and Recreational Facility Naming Policy, which requires public hearings and presentation before the Recreation and Parks Commission prior to presentation to City Council. That Naming Policy also requires that facilities not be named after a corporation.



Community signs framing studs for luck and encouragement — With the framing up on the first four of nine Desiderio Homes under construction, the Pasadena community and those families chosen to purchase the units came out in early October to participate in a traditional "stud signing. The practice, which is customary whenever construction begins for Habitat for Humanity homes, permits future residents and community members to write words of love and encouragement on the exposed wooden studs. In this photo, one of the lucky families chosen to purchase a new home beams brightly after signing their home's studs. The Desiderio project is the San Gabriel Valley (SGV) Habitat for Humanity's first opportunity since 1992 to build affordable homes in Pasadena. Nine houses are being built by San Gabriel Valley Habitat through a collaboration involving the City of Pasadena, the U.S. Army and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which permits 1.3 acres of land to be developed for self-help housing. The Desiderio Homes are single-family homes with detached garages. San Gabriel Valley Habitat is committed to honoring the heroic military service exemplified by Reginald B. Desiderio for whom the Desiderio Army Reserve Center was named. In so honoring, three of the bungalow courtyard style homes are reserved for veterans. (Photo by Cathy Morrison)

What the SR710 Tunnel Proposal Really Means for Pasadena

Supporters of the SR 710 North Tunnel promise reduced traffic congestion on major streets if tunnels are constructed. However, this project has a larger impact on Pasadena traffic which is not being recognized, and which will actually make traffic worse.



If these tunnels are built, Pasadena citizens will see few improvements in the conditions on surface streets, as well as a large increase in the volume of freeway traffic.

Minimal Benefits for Large Traffic Increases

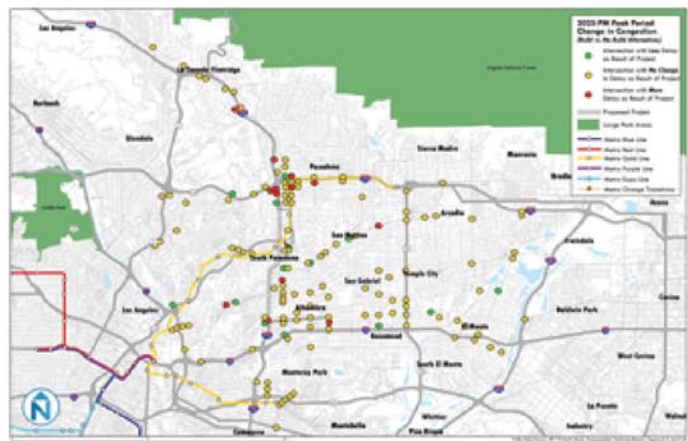
Currently, **13.7%** of Pasadena motorists use major streets to drive between adjacent cities at peak traffic times.

The tunnel alternative promises to reduce this share to between **7.3%** and **10.6%** by providing a new freeway link.

This small reduction in street traffic is at the expense of an expected increase of 8,000 to 14,000 vehicles per hour driving on the freeway through Old Pasadena. This more than doubles or triples the existing freeway volume and could easily create freeway congestion.

Major street traffic congestion gets worse in Pasadena

One of the reasons why expanding freeway capacity is ineffective is that it increases congestion near on-ramps and off-ramps. Traffic near the SR-134/I-210/SR-710 interchange would increase by 5,000 vehicles per day in 2035 with the Dual-Bore tunnel as compared to the No Build alternative.





Intersection operations get worse in Pasadena

These tunnel alternatives would shift traffic toward the Walnut, Orange Grove, and Fair Oaks corridors near the I-210 and SR-134 freeway interchanges. This would cause enormous congestion in Northwest Pasadena intersections, while conditions in only one or two of the intersections in central Pasadena would improve.

Freeway Traffic Doesn't Get Better: It Shifts Around

The traffic analysis for the tunnel project suggests the following effects:

- By connecting the 710 to the 210, the tunnel options succeed in shifting a significant amount of traffic off the 605 and onto the 710 and 210, as well as inducing new north-south driving.
- The significant increase in congestion on the 210 means that many drivers would avoid using the Glendale Freeway, and instead stay on the 5, exacerbating existing traffic congestion on the 5.
- The tunnel project results in significant north-south travel demand, adding traffic to both the 5 and 210 freeways. Where those freeways join, in the bottleneck south of the Highway 14 split, there would likely be a significant increase in traffic congestion.



Increased VMT and CO2 emissions

All the proposed tunnel plans result in an increase in VMT (Vehicle Miles Traveled), directly contradicting state and regional efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The proposed tunnel project would attract long-distance traffic from throughout the region and funnel it through Pasadena. Not only would this impact traffic, this would result in higher CO2 emissions in Pasadena.

SR 710 FREEWAY TUNNEL

Increases Vehicle Miles Traveled and Greenhouse Gas Emissions



Vehicle Miles Traveled

The SR 710 Freeway Tunnel would increase vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and greenhouse gas emissions, going against state and regional efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions. Regional per capita vehicle miles travel would increase 5% above state targets, including a 2% increase in per capita vehicle miles traveled within the project vicinity.

NO TUNNEL

Stays on Target for Vehicle Miles Traveled and Greenhouse Gas Emissions



Vehicle Miles Traveled

The Southern California Associate of Governments' Sustainable Communities Strategy targets an approximately 11% decrease in per capita vehicle miles traveled across the LA-area by 2035 without construction of the freeway tunnel.

Sources

Information and graphics from Analysis of SR 710 N Extension Project prepared for the Cities of South Pasadena, La Canada Flintridge, Glendale, Pasadena, and Sierra Madre by Nelson\Nygaard, June 24, 2015.

Statistics derived from Transportation Technical Report, SR 710 North Study prepared for Caltrans and Metro by CH2M Hill, RSG and AECOM, November 2014.

Cultivating our neighborhood arboreal canopies

By JOHN FAUVRE

City Council in early September voted to sustain Pasadena's venerable public canopies and to continue to cooperate with the Pasadena Beautiful Foundation to expand them through tax-deductible contributions for approved donor-selected sites.

As noted in past articles, Pasadena has grown great neighborhood canopies for over a century. These have graced and marked our many neighborhoods and are newly valued for increasing property values, their help removing air pollutants, increasing water infiltration and, thanks to the shade they provide, saving energy and water costs.

Pasadena's Forestry Superintendent, Kenneth Graham, recently explained that the tree-planting program became more efficient in 2016. The number of dead trees to be removed from our streets and parks per year remains at 600, but the number to be planted will be reduced from 800 to 600. In prior years, many newly planted trees did not survive. Now, however, the City-retained contractor will guarantee that all 600 will survive or be replaced at its own expense.

While the City's program sustains existing canopies by replacing dead trees, new trees can be added by individuals and neighborhoods through the City and the Pasadena Beautiful Foundation, a non-profit founded in 1960. The City must approve the location of new trees to assure compatibility with existing canopies, and in some cases it will accept private funds for new trees. Pasadena Beautiful has recently provided new trees at the Hill Avenue Library Landscaping Project. Pasadena Beautiful also provided new camphor trees and rose bushes at Singer Park and the three thriving young Oaks on the north side of Bellefontaine just west of St. John. Last year it planted over 100 trees.

Emina Darakjy, long-time Pasadena Beautiful board member and former president, heads the Tree Fund operations, personally selecting the specimens to be planted. For a \$400 tax-deductible donation, the Foundation will arrange for the planting of a 24-inch box tree.

Graham also explained that the City is improving its street tree data base. The intention is to identify all available street tree vacancies and then first plant in the oldest

available sites and the locations with the highest chance of success.

In these times of strained City finances, the cost for new public trees is largely paid from outside sources. Planting costs are covered entirely by grants from the California Environmental Enhancement Mitigation Program, designed to offset adverse impacts of transportation projects, and, according to Graham, Pasadena expects to have reliable access to these funds for the foreseeable future. In addition to support from Pasadena Beautiful, developers of new projects are required to fill all available tree sites next to their projects.

While promoters of Pasadena's tree-planting program strive to continue working toward a comprehensive compendium of policies, procedures, and practices, the efforts are still works in progress. With earlier drafts of a previously commissioned "Urban Forest Management Plan" rejected by the Urban Forest Advisory Committee and the Planning Commission, the effort continues to complete a comprehensive source of guidance for the Pasadena urban forest.



A magical evening in Arlington Garden

Arlington Garden board members hosted a magical evening under a canopy of olive trees at the garden on Thursday, October 6 to honor volunteers and Garden Angels and to introduce the newly formed Friends of Arlington Garden.

A gathering of 70 fans and would-be-fans of the garden shared dinner and lively conversation followed by a presentation by Arlington Garden Executive Director and founder, Betty McKenney, who spoke about the garden's history and future plans.

Along with honoring volunteers and Garden Angels, the board recognized Mayita Dinos for her years of service to the garden both as a designer of the garden and as a board member.

A plaque on display from the Garden Club of America recognized Betty as a founder of the garden and for her decade-long commitment to the garden. Guests new to the garden were delighted to spend an evening in this oasis on Arlington ("who knew?") along with those who were reminded to continue their support of Arlington Garden.

The Board encourages all to visit Arlington Garden for a Mediterranean experience right on your doorstep. Or, for a special tour, call Betty McKenney at (626) 441-4478. She's the expert who, along with her late husband, Charlie, turned acres of neglect into a community-supported, water-wise urban garden.

To learn more about Arlington Garden, visit its website at arlington-garden.org



One of artist Pete Morris' watercolor images reflected the atmosphere in the garden that evening.



Members of the Arlington Garden Board, who hosted the evening soiree, are (from the left) Nancy and Don McIntyre, Betty McKenney, Cheryl Bode and George Brumder.



Tables were set and appetites satisfied during a magical evening in Arlington Garden, hosted especially to honor volunteers and Garden Angels.

A letter from San Rafael Elementary



SAN RAFAEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Editor's note: The WPRA has "adopted" San Rafael Elementary School, 1090 Nithsdale Rd., which is the last public elementary school in west Pasadena, through the WPRA-sponsored Student Enrichment Program.

BY RUDY RAMIREZ
PRINCIPAL,
SAN RAFAEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

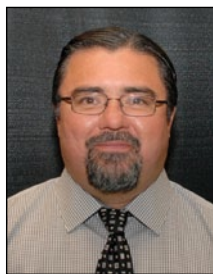
Now that the 2016 calendar year has come to an end, the San Rafael Elementary School community would like to wish all of our friends in the community a Happy New Year!

At San Rafael, our Parent-Teacher Association embraced the holiday season by hosting our very first Christmas tree lot. Our parent volunteers, staff and yours truly delivered 120 Christmas trees to homes all over the Pasadena area, but a majority within the west Pasadena community. This event provided our school community a great opportunity to spread holiday cheer, but more importantly, meet more neighbors and begin new relationships. If you weren't lucky

enough to purchase your Christmas tree through San Rafael Elementary School, don't worry; you'll have the chance next year.

This past week, the Fourth and Fifth grade students in our music program performed for our parent community and student body. These concerts provided our band and strings students an opportunity to shine and show off the skill and talents they've developed throughout the school year.

Also, a few of our students amazed the audience with solo performances on the guitar, cello, piano and violin. San Rafael has been able to build our instrument inventory because of the generous and continuous support of the members of the West Pasadena Residents' Association. I can attest that some of our students would not have had the



Rudy Ramirez

privilege of receiving music instruction in elementary school without your support.

On December 16, our entire school attended the world-renowned holiday production of the *Hot Chocolate Nutcracker* at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. Thanks to the financial support of our amazing Parent Teacher Association, many students were able to experience their first live performance. To make this day even more special, while 500 San Rafael students sat in the audience, one of our very own pandas, Ms. Ixchel Brainin, was on stage. I told you that Pandas Rock!

When classes resumed this year, San Rafael continued to implement all elements of balanced literacy. The goal is to have our students read, be read to, or read to somebody every day. As members of the West Pasadena Residents' Association, I invite you to visit San Rafael and lend a helping hand as we develop the literacy skills of all of our students in two languages. All you need to do is pick up your favorite book and share it with our students. Remember, "Our casa is your casa."



Making beautiful music — San Rafael Elementary fourth and fifth grade students perform during a holiday concert for their families and peers. The WPRA has approved a \$2,500 grant to purchase musical instruments to expand the orchestra program at San Rafael to permit an orchestra opportunity for every student who wants to participate. Students in the program receive twice-weekly lessons from a District instructor, who is also a professional musician.

Home burglaries up, theft and car burglaries down; Police don cameras

BY NANCY WALKER
DIRECTOR, WPRA
CHAIR, NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

Home burglaries in Council District 6, year to date through November, are up by 10%. Across the city, however, they are down by 33%, according to the Pasadena Police Department (PPD). “Typically,” says PPD Lt. Vasken Gourdikian, “Residential burglaries throughout the city are door-knock type burglaries. The burglars work in pairs and first knock to ensure no one’s home before going to the back yard to force open a slider or window.”

Theft is down in Council District 6, year to date through November. Citywide it’s down by 37%. Car burglaries are down 22% in Council District 6, while auto theft citywide is down 47%. Police note that car burglaries are particularly likely in the early morning hours while walkers and joggers are exercising.

Category definitions

- **Homicide:** Murder and non-negligent manslaughter
- **Rape:** Rape including attempts (not including statutory offenses)
- **Robbery:** Theft or attempted theft by force or fear
- **ADW:** Assault by a deadly weapon
- **Assault:** Aggravated and simple assaults including attempt homicide (excluding domestic violence)
- **Assault DV:** Any assault or attempt homicide where domestic violence is involved (spouse, live-in domestic partner, co-parent of child)
- **Burglary commercial/other/residential:** Unlawful entry and attempted unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft including locked vehicles
- **Theft:** Theft or attempted theft of property that does not fall into the burglary category including unlocked vehicles; identity theft, embezzlement, forgery and fraud are not included
- **Stolen vehicle:** Grand theft auto; vehicles stolen from Pasadena

Police now wearing body cameras

The Pasadena Police Department’s \$1.5 million body camera program got underway in November. The program, which is supported by the police unions, is expected to reduce both use of force by police and false complaints of police use of force. When introducing the program, Police Chief Phillip Sanchez reported that the department had tested and evaluated the program over the past two years. However, at least one City Councilmember and a local civil rights attorney complained that the department’s related policies and procedures were adopted without adequate public comment. In early January, the

Department responded to criticism by revising key provisions of the policy. The Pasadena branch of the NAACP, which had filed a lawsuit, is deciding how to proceed, since the revised policy provisions satisfy two of the four concerns that prompted the NAACP to file the lawsuit.

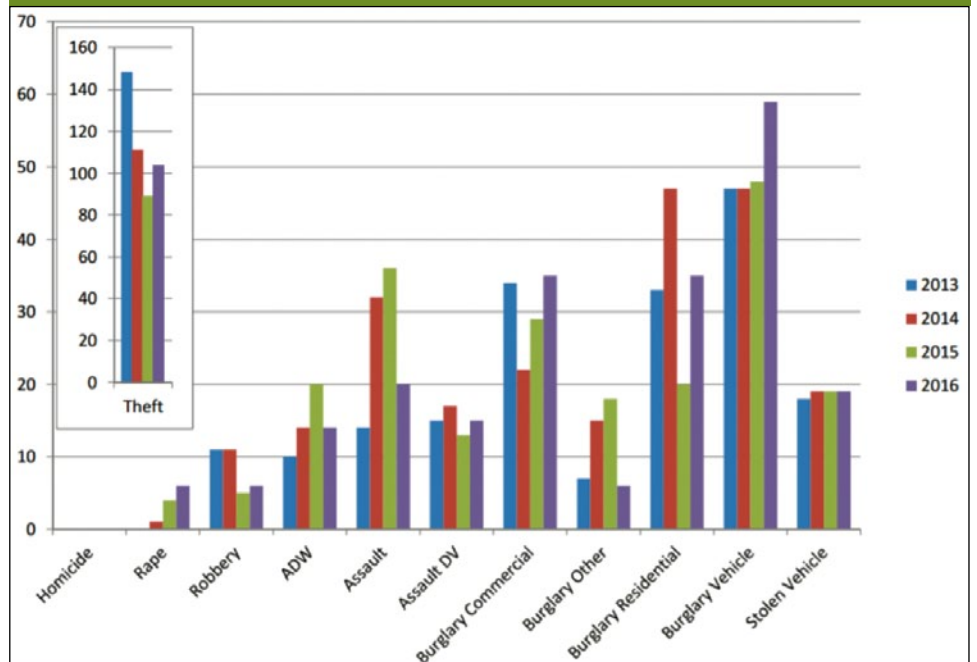
The West Pasadena Residents’ Association publishes these and other crime statistics on its website:

- Go to wpra.net
- Scroll to the bottom of the page
- Click on Local Area Crime Statistics

Council District 6 crime statistics

	November 2016		Year to date 2016	
	Council District 6	City	Council District 6	City
Homicide	0	0	0	1
Rape	3	6	5	28
Robbery	3	6	14	139
Assault by deadly weapon	2	14	18	161
Assault	3	20	30	257
Assault domestic violence	1	15	6	163
Burglary commercial	3	35	46	362
Burglary other	1	6	19	133
Burglary residential	8	35	66	384
Burglary vehicle	10	59	56	501
Theft	21	104	187	1,396
Stolen vehicle	5	19	29	275
TOTAL	60	351	476	3,800

Citywide crime trends: through November 2016



FCD, environmentalists face off over “Big Dig”

Continued from page 1

by Dr. Seema Shah-Fairbank of Cal Poly Pomona, to review the County’s plan and its effects. The SDG recommended a smaller, slower and more careful approach. For example, instead of more than 400 truck trips per day, the SDG recommended only 120. The SDG also recommended reducing the size of the County’s permanent footprint in the basin and including a seasonal lake. City Council unanimously endorsed the SDG recommendations. And despite timely entreaties by the City, the FCD has to-date ignored Pasadena’s proposal.



The WPRA has also twice expressed opposition to the current FCD plan, firm in its belief that the Arroyo Seco and the Hahamongna watershed areas are Pasadena treasures — irreplaceable players in the continual recharging of our aquifers.

For more information about the alternative sediment removal plan, visit the City’s and the Arroyo Seco Foundation’s website.

L.A. efforts to roll back ‘mansionization’ mirror Pasadena’s challenge

The Los Angeles City Council recently directed the City Attorney to rewrite sections of two city ordinances that regulate the size of new homes in single-family neighborhoods and in hillside areas. At issue is what is known as “mansionization,” the practice of constructing houses that are far larger than those nearby, according to the LA Times. City lawmakers first approved a package of mansionization rules in 2008, but critics concluded that the ordinance was riddled with loopholes. The City of Pasadena is currently wrestling with this same issue.

PEF donates nearly \$200,000 in grants

The Pasadena Educational Foundation recently presented \$184,000 in grants to 160 Pasadena Unified Schools District teachers and principals at the annual PEF Teacher Grants reception. The grants will benefit thousands of students in Altadena, Pasadena, and Sierra Madre. *Source: Pasadena Now*

City considers regulating short-term rentals

Continued from page 3

The City estimates gross STR revenue (paid to hosts) in Pasadena over the past 12 months at more than \$250,000 for Council District 6 alone. Across the city the gross is estimated at \$745,000. Based on these unofficial revenue projections, the City could have realized new tax revenue of at least \$90,000 if the 12.11% Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) applied to STRs. Currently, the City requires only hotels, motels and bed-and-breakfasts to collect and remit this tax.

The City to weigh in

The City Council’s Economic Development and Technology Committee recently directed the Planning and Community Development Department to draft an ordinance that would regulate STRs; recent community information and input meetings were an early step in this process.

The Department was instructed to consider STR regulation, which could include:

- Requiring hosts to register with the City
- Requiring inspection of STR properties
- Limiting STR rentals to a specific number of days per year
- Determining whether hosts should be required to reside at the unit for a certain period per year
- Prohibiting non-licensed STRs and banning them from advertising
- Requiring hosting platforms to provide the City with rental data, which could include the name of the host, the location of the unit, the number of days (over a period of time) the unit was rented and the rental price paid
- Requiring hosts or the hosting platform collect and remit the TOT for rentals of fewer than 30 days
- Determining whether hosted home-sharers should be distinguished from unhosted
- Defining how violations would be reported and enforced

Fortunately, Pasadena has the luxury of examining how other cities around the country have responded to this new social phenomenon. Those responses vary greatly from declining to regulate them at all to banning them outright.

For more information contact Guille Nuñez in the Planning and Community Department, (626) 744-7634 or gnunez@cityofpasadena.net. If you have a viewpoint on this topic, we encourage you to send an email to editor@wptra.net.

Short-term rental benefits vs. concerns

Benefits

- Hosts earn supplemental income.
- STRs to be more affordable and flexible than traditional hotels or motels.
- STRs generate new local spending, which can benefit businesses, employment and, through additional sales tax revenue and collection of transient occupancy tax, the City.

Concerns

- Some STRs can disrupt the character of residential neighborhoods. This could range from nominal to extensive, with maximum disruption coming from pseudo-hotels or even party houses, which are typically un-hosted vacation rentals.
- Some homes used for STRs may violate current residential occupancy zoning.
- STRs directly, and unfairly say some, compete with hotels, motels and bed-and-breakfasts, at least partly because STR hosts in Pasadena currently have no regulatory or tax collection responsibilities.
- STRs could negatively impact the inventory of available and affordable rental housing because STRs can typically command higher per-day rental fees. Also, in some instances, houses and condos are being built or purchased specifically to operate as an STR unit.
- STR hosts may believe they are exempt from rental laws and regulations.

Early Pasadena: an astonishing garden of flowers

BY KIRK MYERS
ASSISTANT ARCHIVIST
PASADENA MUSEUM OF HISTORY

Early Pasadena was often described by visitors as a paradise. Webster defined paradise as “any place ... of blissful delights,” and one of the delights of early Pasadena was an array of floral beauty that dazzled many.

A 1911 article in *Sunset* magazine titled “Pasadena – Paradise Regained” noted that “Everyone concedes that there is a sound reason for referring to Pasadena as another Paradise. Wide celebrity has been given it because of the great number and variety of its ... flowers.”

“Flowers in Pasadena? They meet the eye whichever way you turn – in hedges, in plots, in long winding borders, in masses against house walls. If you don’t like flowers it would be advisable to keep away from Pasadena. For they won’t let you alone.”

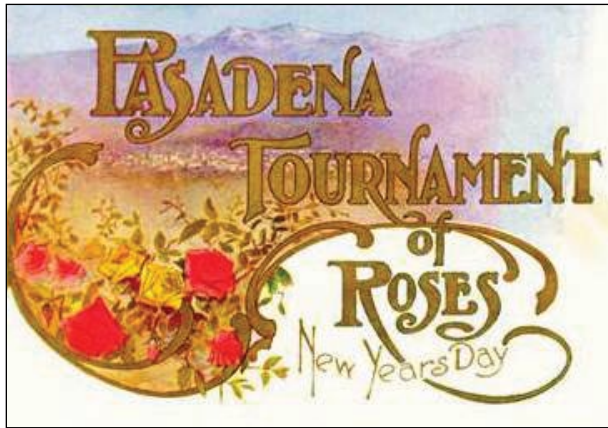
In 1914 Elbert Hubbard wrote that “Pasadena is a delightful and astonishing garden of flowers. It is smothered in sweet-smelling, gorgeous garlands of roses, passion-vines, heliotropes and geraniums.”

“Every fruit, flower, ornamental tree or shrub known to California is represented in this ideal spot – this modern Garden of Eden.”

“Heliotropes and fuchsias are everywhere – pendent from porches or smothering some building blooms and foliage.”

“The humblest cottage is a blaze of beauty, a cabaret of color. In the yard you will see huge beds of the mammoth California violet, of calla-lilies and begonias.”

After a visit in the spring of 1886, an Illinois man sent a letter to the Rushville Citizen praising Pasadena as “the little city whose growing fame as a health resort and wonder of beauty is spreading the world around. ... From every nook flowers of infinite variety smile up at the passer-by. The air is loaded with fragrance and fans the cheek of beauty with a soft touch. At every turn nature, under the guiding hand of man, affords new surprises, and one may wander and admire, and never grow weary.”



“‘Tournament of Roses’ is a name well adapted to convey to the blizzard-bound sons and daughters of the East, one of the sources of enjoyment which we, of the land of perennial sunshine, boast.” *The Pasadena Star*, December 18, 1889



A hedge of Cherokee roses on Arlington Drive was a notable feature of the gardens in front of the Durand home.

“That beautiful bungalow yonder is buried in a bower of flowers and fruit. There is a rose-vine climbing all over it ...”
Elbert Hubbard

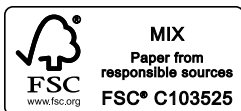
The Pasadena Museum of History is located at the corner of Orange Grove Boulevard and Walnut Street (470 W. Walnut, Pasadena 91103); free parking in the Museum lot. The Research Library & Archives are open to the public free of charge Thursdays-Sundays from 1-4 pm. For additional information, please visit the Museum’s website, pasadenahistory.org, or call (626) 577-1660, ext. 10.





**WEST PASADENA
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**
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Pasadena, CA 91115-0252
Visit our website @ wpra.net

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Pasadena: city on call

Police Department

Emergency..... 9-1-1
Pasadena Crime Stoppers (800) 222-8477
Non-Emergency (626) 744-4241

Services

Bulky trash items (626) 744-4158
Missed trash pickup..... (626) 744-4087
Missed residential recycling pickup (626) 744-4087
New trash container..... (626) 744-4087
New street light (626) 744-4770
Pothole (626) 744-4158
Recycling..... (626) 744-4087
Sewer problem (626) 744-4158
Shopping cart pickup (626) 744-8227
Street light not working (626) 744-4158
Storm drain blockage (626) 744-4158
Traffic signal malfunction..... (626) 744-4158
Traffic signal timing problems (626) 744-4191

Frequently called numbers

City information operator (626) 744-4000
Abandoned vehicles (626) 744-7627
Alarm permits (626) 744-4166
Animal control (626) 792-7151
Code enforcement (626) 744-4633
Dog licenses (626) 792-7151
Graffiti (626) 744-7622
Historic preservation (626) 744-4009
Neighborhood Watch (626) 744-4550
Park/picnic reservations (626) 744-7275
Parking permits/exemptions (626) 744-6440
Parking tickets (626) 744-4360
Pasadena Transit..... (626) 744-4055
Street tree maintenance (626) 744-4321
Trash pick-up (626) 744-4087
Water/power billing inquiries (626) 744-4005
Yard sale permits (626) 744-4200

**The West Pasadena Residents' Association is a
501(c)(3) non-profit public benefit corporation.**

Make your own motion!

Our representatives need to hear from you. Take a few minutes to make your voice heard, and make your own motion.

Pasadena

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Steve Mermell, interim City Manager

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Tyron Hampton, Council District 1

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Andy Wilson, Council District 7

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California

Senator Anthony Portantino (D-25) (818) 409-0400

Assemblymember Chris Holden (D-41) (626) 351-1917

United States

Representative Judy Chu (D-27) (626) 304-0110

Representative Adam Schiff (D-28) (818) 450-2900

Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA) TBD

Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) (202) 224-3841