

SUNLAND-TUJUNGA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
LAND-USE COMMITTEE SPECIAL SITE VISIT
Proposed Recycling Buyback at 6360 Foothill Bl
Sunday, October 28, 2018 11:00am

C: = Comments

- I. Committee Members present
 - a. Cindy Cleghorn
 - b. Pati Potter
 - c. Elektra Kruger
 - d. Vartan Keshish
- II. Review by Pati P.:
 - a. In front of the store there will be a 48" sidewalk from the parking lot, past the market front, to the fence with a gated entrance to the recycling center. The opening will be seen from the street
- III. Applicant: The Planning Department recommended constructing a faux storefront instead of the vinyl fence. Whether the community prefers the faux storefront or the vinyl fence, it doesn't matter to us – we will go either way
 - a. It was our suggestion to build a fence to block view of the site from the Foothill traffic. All customers will be lining up behind the fence – it was the City that recommended the faux storefront. A faux storefront is an old-school mentality of re-planning
 - i. The City came up w/a drawing of a faux storefront (the applicant presented a rendering of a faux storefront) w/the City saying all recycling centers should look like this – 2 containers in the back w/a faux storefront to make them look good
 - 1. We suggested that because we are not “re-planning”, we will still have a container for storage, but let us put up a fence in front of the containers so none of the transactions will be seen whatsoever
 - 2. When customers come in, they will be behind the fence, will be able to separate their materials, be able to count their bottles, do whatever they need to do behind the fence
 - 3. Once done, they have 2 exits – one from the front and one from the rear (*Contradicts statement that customers will not have access to rear of the site Illbi*)
 - 4. C: That sounds good, but one thing I would like to suggest is that the vinyl fencing go all the way to the front of the store, the entire sidewalk will be fenced off so people see nothing from the street
 - 5. Applicant: We are ok with that
 - 6. C: A long pathway like that after hours – you don't know what can happen there
 - b. The collection container will be located behind the fence/faux store front. When it is filled, recyclables will be taken off-site in bags in the back. Collection containers will never be moved, there will be no noise
 - i. Employees will carry bags out to the collection truck which removes the material off-site. No one other than employees will access the rear of the site from the collection containers to the collection truck
 - 1. The collection truck will come by at a time frame determined by the amount of incoming material – it could be as little as once a month

- c. The # of employees on-site will be determined by the number of customers utilizing the facility at any given day/given time to avoid queuing outside the fence/faux storefront. The employees will separate your materials – it will be a “hands on” operation *(contradicts Illai2 which suggests customers do their own separating/counting)*
 - i. We want to be part of this community and a benefit to the community
- d. There will be a 173 sq ft triangular shape empty area to the front with a 235 sq ft cement slab where the customers will gather rather than queuing up on the sidewalk
- e. Q: What are the environmental impact studies that have been done – noise, insects, traffic, etc
 - i. Applicant: The application has been granted a CE because environmental impacts are minimal and because the State wants to meet a goal of Zero Waste in 10-15 years which recycling buyback locations support
- f. C: My concern is there should not be an access from the side of the building (the market). First of all people should not be seen carrying bags of recyclables in front of the market to the recycling center – the entrance should be from the rear parking lot area
 - i. Applicant: The issue is that the rear is a totally different parcel not belonging to the market – the property line is literally at the edge of the market bldg. The market is utilizing the parking belonging to Harbor Freight/Pet Smart as off-site parking
 - 1. The intent of the fence was for aesthetics, that the recycling center would be invisible to those driving along Foothill Bl
- g. Applicant: The Recycling Center will be a “members only” center for residents of Tujunga. There will be rules for the customers – only 50 bottles per visit and not over 50 lbs of plastic. It is designed to be for this market only
 - i. People using this market have no other place to go to recycle their materials. There used to be a place close by, but they built a drive-thru pharmacy which took away that recycling center so customers for this market have no place to recycle
 - ii. The market owners came to us “this is the issue we are having – we have customers that buy 2 or 3 sodas at a time, 50 bottles a month”, so we created a “members only” recycling center – customers from the Tujunga area only
 - 1. You have to have a proof of residence card, a California ID with a Tujunga address
 - 2. C: You can’t make that fly – there are lawsuits against
 - 3. Applicant: One can post a sign saying “we have the right to refuse service to anyone”
 - 4. This is a “members only” center – the first time one comes in as a customer, they will get a little flyer/brochure to fill out with their ID – the ID must have a Tujunga residence
 - 5. Once they have initially brought an ID and signed up, they will no longer need to bring ID – they will be in a computerized system that will recognize them by name/phone number
 - 6. It’s just the same as when one goes into a store and signs up as a “Loyalty Customer”
 - 7. The cool thing about this system is that it also keeps track of how many times one recycles – once a month goes out to “best customers”. We are not just a recycling center down the street that takes all customers

8. All customer operations have big roll-off trucks picking up containers, blocking traffic, making a lot of noise. You guys are comparing apples to a totally different thing – we will be a very small operation
 9. The market became interested in it so we just kind of started working together and got to this point.
 10. We will be a small operation serving only this market and the residents of Tujunga
 11. At the next Hearing you will have a more-or-less rendering of how it will be landscaped, etc. Is the fence acceptable to the NC instead of the faux storefront?
- h. C: This should not be the site to build it here – it should be put somewhere else. What made you choose this particular site?
- i. Maria _?: I have family that lives in Tujunga and that shops at this market I got to meet the property owner because they know each other and the subject just came up in conversation. It is something I do as an occupation
 - i. Cindy C.: We'll meet on November 19 for an LUC presentation. Requested the applicants to provide renderings of the Project at that presentation. Explained the function of/purpose of the LUC with respect to the application
 - j. Elektra K.: Is there an option of doing an off-site recycling facility to the rear of the proposed site given that it is a different parcel to the rear, but that would situate the facility away from Foothill Bl
 - i. Applicant: The City will not allow it
 1. Elektra K.: Because?
 2. Applicant: Because it is another lot. The proposed center is by-right
 3. Elektra K.: The City would not allow it even if Harbor Freight were to say it is ok?
 4. Applicant: Maybe the inspector, after being permitted, may say it is ok – it is up to his discretion to allow it later on, but what has to be originally is here
 5. Elektra K.: A recycling Center has to be within ½ mile of a market – it does not have to be on the same parcel.
 6. Pati P.: There is 1 already w/in ½ mi – the 1 by the Chevron station. I checked this w/the State. As long as that 1 is there, this market does not have to have its own – can have one if it wants, but is not required to
 7. If however the Recycling Center by the Chevron were to go away – that is a whole different story
 8. Applicant: That is true, it is not required. It is just that it is a convenience for its customers. The customers are having issues with the closest Recycling Center there
 9. Customers have come to the owner asking whether he could please give them something here where they can recycle b/c, by law, the market has to take recyclables back or figure something out – that's the problem they are having
 10. C: I am glad that the Recycling Center by the Chevron was brought up. It is not adjacent to a residential area – there is space for people to park and walk to the Center. Here you have to park somewhere on the lot

11. Applicant: If you are concerned about 2 or 3 people seen in front of this Recycling Center – by the Chevron Center there often are 10-15 lined up by the Center with its open doors which is not aesthetically nice
 12. C: I am just saying if this Project goes ahead, it should have a fence all the way around the front of the store – at least no one sees people entering with their bags of recyclables – they have their privacy
 13. At least then the location would look decent and hopefully you would more-or-less keep up with the cleanliness
 14. Q: Even if picking up collected materials periodically by truck, access is already from the Harbor Freight property?
 15. Applicant: Again, the main plan is to just load up the collection truck at the rear. We don't want any customers walking through the back
 16. Q: Is there a possibility of creating an easement along the rear (Harbor Freight parcel)
 17. Applicant: This permit was submitted over 6 months ago so anything that needs to be done takes a very long time. We are trying to convince you guys to put the recycling center back there
 18. Let's try to get this – all these concerns – the major one maybe having the fence going all the way around – I am totally ok with that if Maria ___ is ok with that. The gate is not an issue
 19. The City Council says to put some landscaping in front of the fence – eg greenery, flowers, etc so the fence blends in – we are totally fine with that too, so let's not try to rearrange what the City is telling us to do
 20. To put the recycling center back there – the City knows their job – so let's try to work with them
 21. Applicant: We want our members to park in front of the store – go inside the store – buy their groceries – if they don't choose to buy groceries go straight to the recycling center – bring their bags of recyclables
 22. Applicant: These are not transients – these are not people who do this for a living – these are people who have stuff that was purchased at the market that they are allowed to bring to the recycling center
- k. Q: There will be no broken glass?
 - i. Applicant: No, there will be no on-site crushing
 - l. Q: I am wondering about the sidewalk you want to put along the front – you already have a “drain thing” crossing along out there – there is water there, so how are you going to fix that to avoid slips/falls?
 - i. Applicant: We can re-route the downspout under the slab so that it drains without making a puddle
 - m. Q/C: How are you going to keep it clean? Going by other recycling centers – they are a mess
 - i. Applicant: I am the site manager. I am here all the time. I am going to be cleaning up – I am going to be sure this site will look very professional – very clean
 - ii. Applicant: Our employees don't just stand there and worry about their customers. We take care of the whole area around us. We have sanitational cleaning once a month and sanitational bug spraying every 6 months

- iii. We want to make sure we are part of Tujunga. The representative's family lives in Tujunga, the family comes to this store – the representative's uncle and property owner discussed having a recycling center which got the applicant (for whom the representative – a niece - works)
- n. Pati P.: I have all your E-Mails. The LUC meeting will be Nov. 19. I will remind you