



# Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council

8250 Foothill Blvd., Suite A, Sunland, CA 91042 - (818) 951-7411 FAX (818) 951-7412

E-mail: [secretary@stnc.org](mailto:secretary@stnc.org)

## Special General Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, June 14, 2017 - 6:30 PM

North Valley City Hall

7747 Foothill Blvd, Tujunga, CA 91042

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance (2) Krystee Clark, President Announcements (7)
  - Looking for suggestions for local small asphalt repairs. The truck will be in our community on July 7, 2017. Please contact your Region Representatives with addresses and ideas: <http://www.stnc.org/board.php>
  - Budget Day is will be Saturday June 24<sup>th</sup>. Event is open to the public. Register here: <http://ncbala.com/585-2>
  - Housekeeping, Speaker Cards, and Timekeeper
2. Event Announcements - 1 minute per speaker (10)
3. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction (10)
4. Public Official and Community Representative Announcements (20)
  - Questions/Comments from the Public (10)
5. **PRESENTATION: City of Los Angeles Safe Sidewalks program presentation from Ramon Aguilar of Murakawa Communications. Some brief information on the program available here: <http://www.sidewalks.lacity.org> (15)**
  - **Question/Comments from the public (5)**
6. **PRESENTATION: John Monsen consultant from San Gabriel Mountains Forever will present ways we can help protect the San Gabriel Mountains and the species in them to provide families access to nature (5)**
  - **Question/Comments from the public (3)**
7. **PRESENTATION: Jina A. Nam and Tina Voskanian, co-founders of "steps to heaven" a local 501c(3) will present ways they can help serve our local seniors and their families (5)**
  - **Question/Comments from the public (3)**
8. DISCUSSION/ACTION: Approve minutes of the May 10, 2017 Meeting and May 24, 2017 Special Meeting
9. DISCUSSION/ACTION: Review and approve May 2017 and June 2017 Monthly Expenditure Report (MER)
10. DISCUSSION/ACTION: Motion to officially change posting address to the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council office at 7747 Foothill Blvd, Tujunga CA. 91042.
11. DISCUSSION/ACTION: Motion to appoint two Budget Representatives for the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council
12. DISCUSSION/ACTION: Letter of support for San Gabriel Mountains Forever's efforts to permanently protect the San Gabriel Mountains while enhancing Recreational Access for everyone.
13. DISCUSSION/ACTION: Motion to support letter drafted by Matt Kruse supported by the STNC Youth Council directed to Film LA and the City of Los Angeles DOT regarding the importance of green painted bike lanes in our City and a request for a meeting to discuss alternative measures.
14. DISCUSSION/ACTION: Motion for up to \$2,000 for refreshments and additional promotional materials for event to acknowledge contributions of the STNC and local community members to be held in June from the Outreach Committee, Youth Advisory Council and Women's Issues Committee
15. DISCUSSION/ACTION: Motion for up to \$400 for shipping the three chair carts approved at last meeting to store the 200 chairs and tables neatly owned by the STNC at North Valley City Hall.
16. Board and Committee Reports including Discussion/Possible Action
  - a. Safe Streets Committee
    - PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION: Final recommendations for the STNC from the committee.
  - b. Outreach
    - DISCUSSION: STNC involvement and volunteers for the Fourth of July parade including vehicle use and decoration crew. Volunteers and outreach for the Fireworks event at Verdugo Hills High School.
    - DISCUSSION: Information and date for proposed event for the STNC to acknowledge exceptional locals and committee members on their extraordinary work for our community.
  - c. Land Use Committee
    - DISCUSSION / ACTION: Motion to approve letter of support for signage plans for new medical office and pharmacy in the Target Area 3, Major Activity Area 3 of the Foothill Blvd. Corridor Specific Plan at 7314 Foothill Blvd.



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- DISCUSSION / ACTION: Motion to approve comments and support for new single family residence in the Scenic Corridor Specific Plan at 6443 Blanchard Canyon.
  - DISCUSSION/ACTION: Motion to approve Richard Marshalian, stakeholder to be appointed to the Land Use Committee as an alternate member
  - Please participate in the LA 2040 General Plan online survey regarding open space and our local vision <https://www.ourla2040.org/survey>
- d. Storage Inventory Committee
    - DISCUSSION: internet service at STNC office in NVCH and computer use
  - e. Report from Budget Advocates
  - f. Women Empowering Sunland-Tujunga (WEST) Committee
  - g. Region & Group Representatives
  - h. Animal Issues
  - i. Beautification
  - j. Budget
  - k. Arts, Recreation and Culture
  - l. Youth Advisory Council
  - m. Safety Committee
  - n. Bylaws Committee – Bylaws will be voted on at an upcoming meeting and submitted before the next deadline
17. Closing Comments by President, Acknowledgements, and Adjournment. (1)

Adjourn by 9:00 p.m.

Posted 6/12/17; Remove after 6/14/17

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**PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS** – The public is requested to fill out a “Speaker Card” to address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes an action on an item. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board’s jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board.

**PUBLIC POSTING OF AGENDAS** - STNC agendas are posted for public review as follows:

- At Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council Office, 7747 Foothill Blvd #101, Tujunga, CA. 91042
- At [www.stnc.org](http://www.stnc.org)
- You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City’s Early Notification System at <https://www.lacity.org/subscriptions>

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**PUBLIC ACCESS OF RECORDS** – In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting may be viewed at our website: [encinonc.org](http://encinonc.org) or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact Krystee Clark, Board President, at (818) 566-0013 or email via [president@stnc.org](mailto:president@stnc.org).

**RECONSIDERATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS** – For information on the STNC’s process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the STNC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available on the STNC.org website or at [EmpowerLA.org](http://EmpowerLA.org).

**SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCION** – Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento. Por favor contacte, Presidente de la Krystee Clark, al (818) 566-0013 o por correo electrónico [stnc.org](mailto:stnc.org) para avisar al Concejo Vecinal."

STNC May Meeting Minutes  
May 10, 2017

Call to Order 6:44 pm

Board Members Present:

Krystee Clark	Jon von Gunten	Rick Ramirez Departed 9:26 pm
Charlie Bradley	Julie Cuddihy	Amelia Anderson Arrived 6:49 pm
Dana Stangel	Marlene Hitt	Hrant Vartzbedian Arrived 6:50 pm
Aris Hovasapian	Mark Siegel	Edwin Miranian Arrived 7:21 pm
Pati Potter	David Barron	Eve Sinclair Arrived 7:45 pm
John Candler	Ana Orudyan	

Pledge of Allegiance

Item 1: President's Announcements

One vacant alternate seat for Land Use Committee

Item 2: Event Announcements

Venessa Martinez - Love the Neighborhood initiative fundraiser on May 20 at 9 am, breakfast buffet, raffle, acoustic band, \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids

Dana Stangel - Tuesday 5/16/17, 7:30 pm Poison Free Malibu will present about rodenticide at Sunland Foursquare Church

Marlene Hitt - Only the Oaks Remain - story of Tuna Canyon detention station, July 9 to August 6 at Bolton Hall

Jon von Gunten - Officers Contreras and Caloca unable to attend tonight, will present at Neighborhood Watch meeting on Thursday 5/18/17 at NVCH

Susan Stewart - announced weekly ToastMasters meeting at Stewart residence every Monday evening

Regina Clark - Bolton Hall Museum - Saturday 1 pm program about LA River; June 2, Road to Rocky Past event, Caruso's fundraiser on Thursday May 18

Barbara Rowe - Pedestrian safety - blind intersection at Oro Vista and Foothill, has been struck by vehicles three times while riding bicycle, noted zebra crossings being used in other places

David Barron - Saturday food and wine tasting festival at Mission College campus; Mission College satellite classes have already started; Mission College first year tuition assistance

Mark Siegel - Congressman Schiff flyer about art event on Thursday May 11

Karen von Gunten - Cemetery tour October 14

Brian Cotton - code violations at his house, requesting assistance with cleaning home

Item 3: Public Comment

Amelia Anderson - registering a complaint, submitted application for STNC to provide water for WowJam, request was denied due to it being organized by churches

Item 4: Public Official Comments

Vanessa Serrano - DONE representative to STNC - September 9 Congress of Neighborhoods; June 24 Budget Day; Ethics training available online or in person (May 22 7-9 pm Encino Women's Club); DONE was trained about "Know Your Rights" regarding immigrants and their

rights if approached by ICE, available in English and Spanish; NC 101 training available to underrepresented groups

#### Item 5: Minutes

Krystee moves to approve 4/12/2017 meeting minutes, Charlie second

Cindy Cleghorn requested detail for agenda item 10 (CIS on online voting) and adjustment to minutes on agenda item 11

Krystee moves to approve with changes, John Candler second

15 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain

Krystee moves to approve 4/26/17 meeting minutes, Marlene second

15 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain

#### Item 6: MERs for March and April

Mark Siegel question that balances do not match between March and April MERs, disagrees with numbers, recommending that DONE review MERs

Cindy Cleghorn - MERs are inaccurate and should not be approved today

Sonia Tatulian - has been coming to these meetings for years, never had line-by-line financial discussions before

Pati Potter - report from DONE has a different remaining balance

Item is tabled for next meeting

#### Item 7: Fireworks funding request for up to \$10,000

Krystee moves, Pati second

Richard Stewart - Once a year we all come together to celebrate July 4; purpose of NC is to improve quality of life, and have to perform outreach, parade/fireworks help with outreach

Susan Stewart - NC has been a "co-producer" of fireworks; in 2015 and 2016 STNC provided \$7,000 and CD7 office provided \$10,000; costs of fireworks have gone up; always get sponsors from community; was asked who specifically was on the board, named community board members; another question was how much was given in grants - has not been able to do grants the last two years; from 2009 to 2013 had given about \$8,600 in matching grants to VHHS extracurricular activities or athletics, have not given any grants for last two years; ready to restart effort and to give matching grants to VHHS

Jon von Gunten - asked if any other vendors have been asked about lower priced fireworks, answer: vendor gives 20 minutes of fireworks for the cost of 10 minutes; noted disparities in ticket sales numbers from document distributed this meeting against document from last meeting

Question about budget from audience, answer: there are other expenses on proposed budget

Question about sponsors, are they confirmed sponsors or previous sponsors? Answer: confirmed sponsors

Question on sponsorships from local elected officials

Question on transparency and accountability of funding request, Mark Siegel was asked to recuse himself from agenda item due to his membership of the board of the requesting organization

Mark Siegel recused himself from this agenda item

Pati has a feeling that fireworks may not receive funding from Council District office

Charlie asked about funding from CD7 that has been accounted for and is not confirmed, answer: will be very busy collecting funds for shortfall

Jon von Gunten - suggested hiring a fund-raiser on commission

Charlie - served country for over ten years, not about patriotism for him, proved his patriotism through service, takes offense to assertion that questioning fireworks funding request can lead to questioning anyone's patriotism, noting that organizers had not committed to doing additional work when they knew fireworks price had gone up, and had relied on STNC to provide additional funding, more work should be done to solicit funds from neighboring NCs, does not see that much effort has taken place to attract funding from outside STNC

Richard Stewart clarified earlier comments about patriotism of event, did not mean to connect success or failure of funding request to any board member's patriotism

Susan Stewart said that organization did rely on STNC funding as they have in past

Marlene Hitt asked about partnering with Hansen Dam

Pati Potter - thinks fireworks are important, should give \$10,000 or more, important to whole community

Amelia Anderson - Dan McManus travels for work and may not always be available; attended Elks Club Lodge dinner last week, read a quote in favor of fireworks, read a quote from Declaration of Independence

Richard Stewart - complementing board, noted many new members on board have not had the history with this event, understands that organization could have presented fireworks funding to board earlier and presented history of events earlier

Krystee provided different options: vote on 10,000, vote on lower amount, assign board member to be on organizing board

John Candler asked how much money is actually available

Eve asked if we paid for 2016 fireworks from 16-17 budget, could we pay for 2017 fireworks from 17-18 budget, answer: yes

Rick Ramirez, supportive of event, might favor giving a lower amount, possibly match

Aris spoke about difference between outreach and awareness

Hrant spoke in support of \$7,000, and offered to support with his small business

Ana spoke about asking other NCs about support

Gentleman from audience spoke that he has had business in town for 24 years and has never been approached about fireworks donation in past, had committed to a donation at last board meeting

Eve noted that NCs need to spend their funds by June 1 and roughly two-thirds of funds have not been spent yet city-wide

Krystee suggested amending motion to \$7,000

Julie volunteered to represent STNC on board

John Candler suggested approving \$3,500 for this fiscal year and \$3,500 for next fiscal year

Jon von Gunten suggested approving \$3,500 for current FY and determining remaining balance next fiscal year

Charlie suggested deferring action until next fiscal year

Charlie moves to approve \$7,000 to support fireworks for 4th of July and for \$7,000 to come from 2017-18 budget, John Candler second

Jon von Gunten - if funds are not spend this fiscal year, does it go back to city?

Funding passes with 14 yes, 1 no, 1 abstain, 1 recusal

#### Public Official Comments

Brian Gavidia, Mayor's Office - State of the City address from Mayor, Mayor also released 2017-18 budget, available as a resource, 213-713-0960

Question if Mayor's Office could help with sponsoring fireworks; answer, could be helpful with permit process

Item 23: Vision Zero Initiative Presentation from Nat Gale

Gave history of Vision Zero, focus is on vehicle speed

November 2016, received request to investigate bicycle fatality on Foothill, triggered investigation

Called attention to last two paragraphs of LADOT letter about maintaining dialog with community

Barbara Rowe asked if zebra crossings are possible on Foothill, answer: yes, need to know intersections

Liliana Sanchez asked who are the board members working with Vision Zero, unclear if there is a DOT board or Vision Zero board, based on statement of LADOT engineer at LUC meeting; Janelle Hussion provided clarification that engineer had made a suggestion to his bosses and was turned down; answer: will follow up and provide answer in writing to STNC

Jon von Gunten requested plainly worded communications back from LADOT

Rick Ramirez asked if speeding and lack of enforcement has been a cause of injuries/deaths, rather than design

Looking at signal timing currently, evaluating other options

Suggestion about painting green bike lanes, had been a challenge with film industry, question if film industry is more important than lives, why can't temporary paint be used, answer: currently in negotiations with film industry about this issue

Question about medians or devices that can act as medians, and using them to prevent illegal left turns or u-turns, answer: will investigate

Other questions about green paint, policy is not permanent, being worked through with FilmLA  
Comment about Link N Hops being hit by a vehicle twice recently, may need bollards or other protection from vehicle traffic

Comment about arrows at medians near Sunland Park and about a bike lane in the median

Question about outreach or lack of outreach from Vision Zero and reliance on an STNC committee for outreach

Amelia Anderson - suggested advertising in local newspapers

Jon von Gunten asked about moving bike lanes to a side street rather than main thoroughfare

Item 11: Vinyl wraps and top coat for DOT boxes - \$600 request

Passes with 16 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain

Item 10: Motion for permanent personalized nameplates

Dana has suggested to amend amount from \$800 to \$400, was able to find a better price

Dana has moved, Ana second

Passes with 15 yes, 1 no, 0 abstain

Item 14: \$500 for arts and crafts for summer camp at Sunland parks

Dana moves, Amelia second

Question if STNC will be acknowledged at summer camp as sponsor

John Candler volunteered to do outreach at summer camp

Passes with 16 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain

Item 13: NPG for Operation Blankets of Love

Dana Stangel recused herself

Krystee moved, Aris second

Aris provided a summary of the narrative from the application

Fails with 0 yes, 15 no, 0 abstain, 1 recusal

Item 24.d: LUC motion to add alternate member Vartan Keshish

Has been living in Sunland since 2004, has engineering and contracting background, wants to volunteer in LUC

Krystee moves

Passes with 15 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain

Item 24.d LUC CIS against affordable housing project

Passes with 11 yes, 0 no, 4 abstain

New information has come forward on car wash project on Foothill, may request special meeting

Item 12: \$600 for chair/table carts at NVCH

Krystee moves, Amelia second

Passes with 12 yes, 2 no, 1 abstain

Item 17: \$200 for EZ-Up tent repairs

Charlie moved, Amelia second

Jon von Gunten asked if new canvas cases are included, answer: yes

Passes with 15 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain

Item 21: Reimbursements for Marlene Hitt and Shooshig Avakian

Krystee moved, Mark second

Aris asked about how much was approved for candidate forum

Suggestion to separate motions for reimbursement

Krystee moved Marlene Hitt reimbursement, Ana second

Passes with 14 yes, 1 recuse

Krystee moved Shooshig reimbursement, John Candler second

Item 15: \$400 for T-shirts

Krystee suggested raising amount to \$500 after receiving quotes

Comment from DONE that amounts cannot be adjusted up in a meeting

Krystee moves, Ana second

Aris spoke against T-shirts

Cindy spoke in support of T-shirts

Charlie recommended a color other than white for a t-shirt

Jon von Gunten asked if we can specify not to have v-necks

Passes with 13 yes, 2 no

Item 16: \$500 for STNC Youth Advisory Council T-shirts

Krystee moves, John Candler second

Cindy suggested that STNC needs to see design

Motion amended that STNC board needs to see design before purchased

Motion passes with 12 yes, 2 no, 0 abstain

Item 18: Motion for up to \$400 to repair STNC video camera

Krystee moves, Mark second

Motion passes 14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain

Item 9: Pathways to a Better Future NPG for \$1600

Organization provides band/entertainment for nursing homes

Cindy suggested reconsidering item in a future meeting so band could have time to decide which locations they perform at

Question on why corporations that own nursing homes don't provide live entertainment

Give 120 performances a year in LA County, performed in Tujunga twice in last eight months

NCs that show support for organization are likely to be supported more by organization

Board members expressed concern that NPG request may be paying more for outreach than for the performance or entertainment

Motion fails with 2 yes, 7 no, 5 abstain

Item 24.b: Women's Committee name change

Motion to change committee name to Women Empowering Sunland-Tujunga (WEST)

Passes with 14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain

Item 20: CIS for Budget Advocates White Paper

Krystee moved, Charlie second

Passes with 13 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain

Adjourned 10:26 pm

DRAFT



**Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council**  
**Special General Meeting Minutes – (DRAFT done 5-27-17)**

**Meeting date: May 24, 2017**

**Meeting Location: NVCH = 7747 Foothill Blvd, Tujunga, CA 91042**

1. **Called to Order:** 6:35pm by Krystee Clark, STNC President

**Board member in Attendance:**

Krystee Clark, Charlie Bradly, Dana Stangel, Shooshig Avakian, Marlene Hitt, Hrant Vartzbedian, Julie Cuddihy, Jon VonGunten, Mark Seigel, John Candler, Pat Kramer, Linda Adran, David Barron, Pati Potter

2. **Public Comments:**

- a. Memorial Day Ceremony = join the American Legion at Sunland Park 11:00am to approx. 12:00pm, then there will be a BBQ at the American Legion on Pinewood.
- b. 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade and Fireworks: sign-up sheet will be available at the June STNC General meeting.
- c. Love the Neighbor Imitative Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- d. Senator Portantino office is moving to 110 E Broadway Glendale: his school Start Time Bill is still in the works: finalizing Budget on Education to include increase funds: I.E.P for kids having trouble: Any suggestions for bills to be introduced send email to his District Rep = [vickere.murphy@sen.ca.gov](mailto:vickere.murphy@sen.ca.gov)
- e. Mission Collage is sending out 16,000 mailers. The hope is the classes being held at the Town Center will be well attended and eventually Mission Collage Satellite classes will move into the K-Mart property.
- f. CD 7 final official count not yet finished: staff at the three CD7 offices are not necessary in place yet.
- g. Mr. Mooradian has been ping-ponged from one department to another by the city for 2 years regarding the carwash at 7101 Foothill Blvd, Cindy went to Council Weston's office to arrange a meeting with all the department in the same place, Owner, LUC, LA Planner and B&S, to get this matter resolved to the interest of all. Because of that, we have the letter of support to approve so this project can move forward. Lot of people in the community say the LUC hates development, this is not true, the LUC looks at projects from all sides to make sure it fits into our community appropriately. Attend the LUC so you can see for yourselves.

3. **Discussion/Action: LUC letter of support for 7101 Foothill Blvd – Carwash**

Krystee motioned that we support/approve the LUC letter as originally written/submitted. Original letter has been modified to add and omit wording.

- Original (blue) and Modified (pink) letters were handed out and discussed.
  - Point 1) added "...and ADA (Americans with (Disabilities Act) compliant.
  - Point 5) omitted "...or sound reduction materials and landscaping"

Krystee motioned to amend her original motion to accept/support the Modified letter. Mark 2<sup>nd</sup>.

- Motion Passed = 14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain

Next Meeting: June 13, 2017

Adjourn 7:09pm

# Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN SUNLAND TUJUNGA

7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga, CA 91042 • www.stnc.org • 818-951-7411 • FAX 818-951-7412



**APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE  
SUNLAND-TUJUNGA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL BOARD ON 10-14-15**

October 14, 2015

**RE: Permanently Protecting the San Gabriel Mountains and Enhancing Recreational Opportunities for Kids, Families and Everyone**

Dear San Gabriel Mountains Forever:

The Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council recognizes that the San Gabriel Mountains are an irreplaceable natural resource and the iconic backdrop to our foothill communities. Our National Forest lands supply us with drinking water, support our outdoor-oriented lifestyles and enhance our property values. They provide habitat for numerous plant and animals and a place for families and kids – all of us -- to connect with nature.

We understand that the new San Gabriel Mountains National Monument has already generated improvements within the National Monument. Chronic problems are beginning to be addressed by the Forest Service as it hires more staff, re-opens visitor centers, improves trash pickup and gets more rangers in the field. National recognition of our local mountains has moved them up as a funding priority and has attracted millions of dollar in private funding to do more. We believe that the National Monument and its benefits should be extended to the National Forest land above Sunland, Tujunga and La Crescenta and throughout the San Gabriel Mountain range. Over the next few years a management plan for our new National Monument is being written with public input. We are hopeful that the plan will address the potential environmental damage of three proposed high speed rail routes through our mountains and oppose their construction.

We join you in supporting the establishment of additional Wilderness Areas in the Angeles National Forest and San Gabriel Mountains National Monument to better protect our pristine, totally undeveloped National Forest backcountry and Wild & Scenic Rivers to protect our watersheds. No one can make new wilderness and open space; we can only better protect what we have. Wilderness Areas are managed to preserve their natural character forever, preserving habitat for wildlife and wild nature for human being to enjoy. Wilderness Areas allow for no infrastructure, prohibiting everything from roads to high speed rail.

We join San Gabriel Mountains Forever in asking Congress to take the appropriate actions to better protect the San Gabriel Mountains and to enhance recreational opportunities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Seigel", written in a cursive style.

Mark Seigel  
President  
Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council

# Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN SUNLAND TUJUNGA

7747 Foothill Blvd #101 Sunland, California 91042 phone: 818 951 7411 www.STNC.org email: President@stnc.org



Dear San Gabriel Mountains Forever:

The Gabriel Mountains are an irreplaceable natural resource, providing 70% of Los Angeles County's open space and is our community backyard. The federal public lands in the San Gabriel Mountains are a major source of our drinking water and habitat for numerous plant and animal species, some of which are threatened and endangered. Our iconic mountain range is visited by three million Angelenos a year offering outdoor recreation and a connection with nature for everyone. Everyone needs access to nature to be healthy. No one can make new wilderness and open space; we can only better protect what we have.

The establishment of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument in 2014 was an important step forward in protecting our local mountains and bringing in more resources to improve the visitor experience. Pilot transit to trail programs has begun to link historically underserved communities with the mountains. Planning is underway to dramatically upgrade facilities and better protect endangered fish habitat along a heavily visited 2.5-mile stretch of the East Fork of the San Gabriel River. But there is more that needs to be done that requires federal action.

The Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council urges Congress to:

- Expand the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument to include all of the San Gabriel Mountains in the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests.
- Establish a National Recreation Area along the San Gabriel River administered by the National Park Service.
- Establish and expand Wilderness protections in the Angeles National Forest and the Gabriel Mountains National Monument to better protect our pristine, undeveloped National Forest backcountry.
- Establish Wild & Scenic Rivers to protect our watersheds and sources of drinking water.

We also join you in urging that the Department of the Interior, which is reviewing National Monuments to potentially downsize or eliminate them, to make NO changes to the scope of the existing San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.

Sincerely,

Krystee Clark  
President  
Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council

Cc: Department of Interior at <https://www.regulations.gov/comment?D=DOI-2017-0002-0001>  
Cc: Congressman Adam B. Schiff

Voted on June 14, 2017 with the following tally:



**What is more important to the city of Los Angeles, the movie industry or someone's life?**

May 30, 2017

To whom it may concern,

This should be an easy question to answer for most. This isn't the case for city employees which is unacceptable. I was told by a DOT engineer that they are not allowed to paint the bike lanes in the City of Los Angeles green because the movie industry doesn't allow it. Last time I checked, the movie industry doesn't make laws for the City Of Los Angeles. Does this mean that city officials place a greater value on the money from the movie industry than that of someone's life. I don't think the families of bicyclists killed in the City of Los Angeles would feel the same.

The way that the bike lanes are marked makes it hard to distinguish between bike lanes and traffic lanes. If the City of Los Angeles would choose to make all of their bike lanes green, it would make it easier to distinguish the bike lane, as well as increase the visibility of bikers.

I understand the value of your time and appreciate you reading this letter, but I feel that this issue is best addressed with a face to face meeting. Doing so would allow me to present more information, in addition to sharing my plan of action with you.

Sincerely,

Matthew Kruse  
Jr. STNC president  
(818)326-1937

[Krusematthew26@gmail.com](mailto:Krusematthew26@gmail.com)

June 13, 2017

Since it was formed in August, 2016, the Safe Streets Committee has held monthly public meetings where public input was encouraged. The purpose of the STNC Safe Streets Committee will be to study transportation issues within the STNC boundaries on Foothill Boulevard and report its findings to the Board. The committee will focus its efforts on identifying improvements that can be made on Foothill Blvd regarding (1) slow traffic, (2) reduction of accidents, (3) improvement in the safety of both pedestrians and motorists using Foothill Boulevard, and (4) any other significant findings resulting from the committee's work. This ad-hoc committee will prepare its recommendations in a final report to be submitted to the Board on June 15, 2017. This ad-hoc committee on transportation will be dissolved effective June 30, 2017.

The following list is a combination of suggestions taken from ongoing monthly public meetings of the Safe Streets Committee, from the recent town hall and from community events, from members of the Land Use committee after meeting with Tim Fremaux from LADOT on May 1, and from stakeholders from the Sunland-Tujunga community. The following are some key points taken from these ongoing meetings. We believe the following list should be a priority for the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council to agendaize, review and support for submission to the LADOT and CD7. We are requesting that our newly elected CD7 councilmember, Monica Rodriguez, work together with the LADOT to implement these safety improvements ASAP.

## **IMMEDIATE, SHORT TERM IMPLEMENTATION**

- 1. Find funding to install left turn lights at Oro Vista and Mt. Gleason on Foothill.** The need for turn signals at these dangerous intersections has been previously identified and studied by DOT. They have both been approved and await funding. Other NCs have used funds from City Planning fees or from the Council District funds. We need to find funds to move these projects forward ASAP.
- 2. Solar electronic speed signs** (showing how fast each car is moving) should be installed on both sides of Foothill in Sunland-Tujunga where excessive speeds are a major issue.
- 3. The installation of a "Bike Route" with green signs and sharrows** (bike symbols painted on street) **on Estaban and Big Tujunga Canyon Road between Hillhaven and Haines Canyon.** These two streets parallel the section of Foothill where the existing bike lanes on Foothill "disappear" because the street becomes too narrow. The creation of a "Bike Route" on these streets provides a viable alternative for cyclists on Foothill. Funding for this project has already been approved by DOT and is currently waiting for implementation. Encourage cyclists to use alternate routes to riding on Foothill, which is dangerous because of high speeds.
- 4. CONTINENTAL CROSSWALKS ARE NEEDED AT ALL INTERSECTIONS ON FOOTHILL WITH STOPLIGHTS.** Below is a list of intersections on Foothill Blvd. where continental, wide-striped pedestrian crosswalks are currently needed. At the

present time, there are only three continental crosswalks on the entire stretch of Foothill in Sunland-Tujunga. **Repainting these crosswalks with wide, vertical stripes** is the most efficient, cost-effective method to significantly increase pedestrian safety and make motorists more aware of pedestrians at these dangerous intersections. All of these crosswalks are located at intersections with existing stoplights:'

**MARCUS, PINWOOD. COMMERCE, HILLHAVEN, PLAINVIEW. APPERSON, MT. GLEASON. WOODWARD, McVINE, SHERMAN GROVE**

5. The stop lights along the entire Foothill corridor in Sunland-Tujunga should be **better synchronized to encourage 35 mph driving**. Pedestrian crossing times at major intersections should be lengthened wherever feasible.

6. **Flashing yellow lights** should be installed in front of the **Fire Department Station** on Foothill east of Mt. Gleason.

7. **Paint the bike lanes green** with newly-approved Endurablend green paint to provide better visibility of cyclists and bicycle lanes.

8. **Paint speed-limit number** at intervals along street.

9. **Add bollards to specified areas to prevent dangerous driving behavior**, such as just past stoplights on Foothill (where there is no upcoming bus stop) to prevent people passing and driving through intersections in rt turn/parking lane, outline center turn lanes with openings to turn on streets and into driveways to prevent 5-lane u-turns and passing in center lanes, and use to set off bike lanes wherever necessary.

10. **Add a barrier or bollards to prevent illegal turns next to Rattler** – turning eastbound onto Foothill despite 'no turn' sign.

## **MEDIUM-TERM PLANNING (requires additional study, planning, and/or funding)**

1. **Extend the existing bike lanes on Foothill from where they currently terminate at Wheatland west to Osborn (Hansen Dam Park)**. This stretch of Foothill is a popular (and very dangerous) route for cyclists who are riding to and from the existing bike path through Hansen Dam Park. There are currently no bike lanes on this stretch of Foothill with motorists traveling at high speeds (50-60 mph). The need for this **"missing link"** to the existing bike path through the park and across Hansen Dam is obvious. This project should include adding continental crosswalks at major intersections on this stretch of Foothill as well as the installation of a **flashing yellow light for equestrians at Christy St. in Lake View Terrace**.
2. There are also several street **intersections on Foothill with no stoplights or pedestrian crosswalks of any kind**. Continental crosswalks with

flashing yellow lights should be installed at these intersections. These lights can only be activated by pedestrians on either side of the street. Following is a list of intersections with no existing pedestrian crosswalks and relatively long distances (several blocks) to the nearest stoplight: **FLORALITA, HAINES CANYON, MOUNTAIR, WYNGATE**. Possible new locations for crosswalks across Foothill: at Foothill and Floralita (from north side to B of A parking lot), at Foothill/Eldora (to Back Door Bakery parking lot), signalized crossing from park to condos (west of Sherman Grove, at Wyngate), pedestrian crossing from Sunland Park (at preschool building) to stores across street, at Foothill and Nassau, at Foothill and Mt Gleason, flashing pedestrian crossing at McDonald's in Tujunga, at Foothill and Haines Canyon, at Foothill and Mountair

3. **Develop an alternative "bike route" (with green bike route signs and sharrows) to the existing bike lanes on Foothill.** One alternative previously suggested would begin at Sunland Park and continue north on Sherman Grove for one block, then east (right) on Hillrose all the way to Big Tujunga Canyon Rd, then right on Big Tujunga to the intersection of Big T and Foothill. This is a much safer, saner route than the bike lanes on Foothill. It passes directly in front of Sunland Elementary School, VHHS, and is already used as an alternative by experienced, local cyclists. All that is needed to create this alternative would be the installation of green "Bike Route" signs and to paint bike sharrow signs on the street at appropriate intervals. Ask LADOT to study this and other alternatives to improve bicycle safety and accessibility in our community.

## LONG-TERM PLANNING

Explore the addition of **nice, landscaped center medians with openings for turns into driveways**, in coordination with the STNC Beautification Committee, Land Use, Outreach, Safe Streets Committee.

## ENFORCEMENT

1. LAPD Valley Traffic officers need to be significantly increased so they can patrol and enforce. Increase LAPD local traffic enforcement for excessive speeds, illegal U-turns, blowing through stop signs, cars using bike lanes, etc.
2. Sunland-Tujunga needs better turnaround response from DOT.
3. Big rig parking on Foothill currently blocks bicycle lanes with their vehicles jutting out into the bicycle lanes--very unsafe and illegal. These rigs also need to be ticketed on a regular basis.
4. Submit strong letter supporting **no raise in speed limit** that keeps being forced upon the community and city as a State law. Overturn this law.

## EDUCATION / COMMUNICATION

1. City needs to continue to reach out to the broad community. Projects like the recent changes to Foothill & Sunland should have someone on City staff in

- charge of anticipating unforeseen consequences of the proposed design, BEFORE it is built, especially to increase public safety. For example, will street sweepers still be able to access the curbs and gutters? Will drivers understand the changes intuitively, or is extra signage needed?
2. Hold Town Hall to discuss the relationship and need for cars in the Sunland-Tujunga community. Improve local public transportation within and throughout the community (more frequent MTA and LADOT bus service).
  3. There needs to be more bicyclist and driver education, starting with high school students. Local driving schools should be contacted to encourage more emphasis on educating young drivers and bicyclists on safety issues.



Following are the recommendations from the STNC Land Use Committee for board approval:

1. 7314 Foothill Blvd. DIR-2017-1987-SPP / ENV-2017-1988-CE - support signage plans for new medical office and pharmacy in the Target Area 3, Major Activity Area 3 of the Foothill Blvd. Corridor Specific Plan.
2. 6443 Blanchard Canyon – Comments and Support for new Single Family Residence in the Scenic Corridor Specific Plan.
3. LUC recommends Richard Marshalian, stakeholder, to join the Land Use Committee as an alternate.

### **Announcements & Upcoming Events:**

1. 6617 Day Street - proposal for second residence in the hillside within Scenic Corridor Specific Plan area - tentatively scheduled for June 19.
2. Community Health Center at Foothill & Scoville is open –presenter tentatively scheduled for June 19.
3. 6477 Foothill - proposal for drive-thru car wash, application expected to be filed.
  - PlanCheckNC meeting 6/10 - Presentation: reCode Update   New Zoning Code expected to go public in late August.
  - Reminder to participate in LA 2040 General Plan and online survey regarding open space vision:  
<https://www.facebook.com/ourla2040/posts/456545254715100>
  - Free Workshop by Land Use Attorney Mitch Tsai, Saturday, June 17 1:30-3:30 pm – West Los Angeles Stoner Park Gym –RSVP to [Neighborhoodintergrity@gmail.com](mailto:Neighborhoodintergrity@gmail.com)
  - Congress of Neighborhoods, Saturday, September 9, 2017 at L.A. City Hall 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. – Info: [nccongressla.com](http://nccongressla.com)

Membership Guidelines and Application  
for the Land Use Committee of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council

Committee Membership Guidelines

A person who would like to be considered for Land Use Committee membership should meet the following guidelines:

1. Is a stakeholder of Sunland-Tujunga.
2. Has a sincere desire to improve the community's appearance and livability.
3. Is willing to read the Foothill Boulevard Corridor Specific Plan and help with enforcement of it.
4. Is willing to read the Community Plan and to help with enforcement of it.
5. Is also willing to become familiar with other appropriate aspects of land use and planning.
6. Does not have a conflict of interest with the activities of the committee.
7. Understands that he or she represents the community and not just himself or herself.
8. Is willing to commit to attending both regularly-scheduled and special LUC meetings, and to assist in writing letters or documents, and/or attending City Council, Planning Commission, or other meetings from time to time.
9. As a demonstration of their commitment in being a committee member, is willing, after having read the Specific Plan and the Community Plan, to attend three consecutive regularly-scheduled meetings of the LUC before being considered for committee membership. During at least the second and third of these meetings, he or she agrees to participate from the audience by either asking questions and/or making comments regarding at least one presentation or other item on the agenda of those meetings. At least some of these questions or comments should show his or her understanding of the Specific Plan and/or other concerns of the community at large.

I attest that I meet the qualifications for Land Use Committee membership as stated above and agree to follow the above guidelines. I have filled out the Application for LUC Membership and herewith submit it for consideration.

Signed: Richard Marshallian Dated: 5/8/17

Please print name: Richard Marshallian

Application for Land Use Committee Membership

Name: Richard Marshalian Phone: 310 470

Address: 99' Email Address: RMarshalian@tj.com

City & Zip: Tujunga, 91042

Please answer the following questions.

1. How did you find out about the Land Use Committee?

Neighbor on Next Door. (Social Media)

2. What would you like to accomplish by being part of the Land Use Committee (LUC)?

I wanted to focus on economic development and working on our design guidelines. I think Sunland-Tujunga has so much untapped potential, and I would love to see the commercial areas revitalized while protecting the residential character and beautiful natural resources of our neighborhoods.

3. Stakeholder Status:

Do you live in Sunland or Tujunga? Yes If so, for how long? Grew up here until college, then came back a year ago.

Do you own property in Sunland or Tujunga? No

Do you work in Sunland or Tujunga? No

Do you belong to any service organizations and/or other groups that are based in Sunland or Tujunga? If Yes, please list here: No

Do you own a business located in Sunland or Tujunga? No

4. Please describe any formal education, career background and/or life experience that you believe would enhance your contribution to the LUC:

I was born and raised in Tujunga and my parents have lived here for over 30 years. I left to go to college and graduate school, but came back after I started my family to make Tujunga my home. I have a Masters in Planning from USC, with a concentration in Economic Development, and currently work for the County of Los Angeles Regional Planning Department. I also have past experience working and interning for the City of Los Angeles.

5. Do you foresee that you and/or any of your family members or business associates would have a business or construction project that would be likely to come before the LUC? Examples of this would include a plan to build (or remodel or expand) apartments or condominiums, or an office building or shopping center in Sunland or Tujunga, or to open a business in an existing building in our business district (usually on or near Foothill Boulevard or Commerce Avenue)? Yes No No

If yes, please explain:

6. I have attended and participated in the following DAC meetings:

a. Date: 4/3/17

As an audience member, I participated in the discussion on these subjects:

b. Date: 4/17/17

As an audience member, I participated in the discussion on these subjects: Redevelopment Agency cleanup memo from City Planning.

c. Date: 5/1/17

As an audience member, I participated in the discussion on these subjects: 2nd Story addition on Commerce and parking requirements. Proposed 5 unit Multi-family housing project in residential zone.

7. I would like to request that the DAC consider me for membership.

Signed: Richard Marshalian Dated: 5/8/17

Please print name: Richard Marshalian