

MINUTES
ALHAMBRA CITY COUNCIL
ALHAMBRA REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
Special Meeting
April 9, 2009
8:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL: At 8:15 a.m., on Thursday, April 9, 2009, the Alhambra City Council and the Alhambra Redevelopment Agency (ARA) met in Salon 2 at Almansor Court, 700 South Almansor Street, Alhambra, California.

CITY COUNCIL/ARA BOARD MEMBERS:

PRESENT: PLACIDO, AYALA, YAMAUCHI
ABSENT: SHAM, MESSINA

OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Los Angeles County:

5TH Supervisorial District: Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich; Ellen Sandt, Deputy Chief Executive Officer; Rita Hadjimanoukian, Field Deputy; Michael Cano, Transportation Deputy; Sussy Nemer, Senior Deputy; Dave Pilker, P.E., Head of City Services, Programs Development Division, Department of Public Works; Diego Cadena, P.E., Deputy Director, Public Works; Judith Fries, Principal Deputy County Counsel; Robert Moran, Office of Unincorporated Area Services and Special Projects; Sherlan Neblett, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer; Paul Novak, AICP, Planning Deputy; Anna Pembedjian, Justice Deputy; Mark Pestrella, P.E., Assistant Deputy Director, Watershed Management Division;

City of Alhambra: City Manager/ARA Executive Director Fuentes, City Attorney/Agency Counsel Montes, City Clerk/ARA Assistant Secretary Moore, Director of Development Services Martin, Director of Public Works Chavez, Director of Community Services Jarvis, Chief of Police Hudson, Fire Chief Stedman, Deputy City Manager Schultz, Assistant to the City Manager Hayashi, Deputy Director of Utilities Ray.

CITY CLERK REPORT - NOTICE NO. N2M9-40

City Clerk/ARA Assistant Secretary **MOORE** reported that she duly gave notice of the Special Meeting of the City Council and the Agency Board being held this morning pursuant to the order of the Mayor and ARA Chairman and in accordance with Section 54956 of the Government Code of the State of California.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None.

WORK SHOP: LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERVISOR ANTONOVICH - F2M9-16

The City Council/Agency Board moved into a workshop format for the purpose of discussing with our Los Angeles County Supervisor, Fifth District, Michael D. Antonovich, the following matters of mutual concern:

City Projects' Update: City Manager **FUENTES** updated the Supervisor and his staff on various City projects, including the Alhambra Park Veterans' Memorial Project. Director of Community Services **JARVIS** commented that the project was nearing completion and that the ribbon-cutting ceremony would be on June 6, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. which also happened to be the anniversary of "D-Day." She further stated that her department was continually looking for money, noting that the parks were always in need of equipment, lighting for ball parks, pool renovations, funding for aquatics, senior programs, and the like, adding that anything the County wished to throw the City's way they would take. Mr. **AYALA** asked why the City did not qualify for Mountain and Rivers Conservancy money for the landmark they wished to create at Valley Boulevard and Fremont? It was a green area, a passive park, where a large City monument, a City arch, was to be placed, with paths and trees. Assistant to the City Manager **HAYASHI** noted that the City was in the first year of an Agreement with the County of Los Angeles for coyote control services.

Federal Stimulus Package ("FES"): City Manger **FUENTES** asked Director of Public Works Chavez to speak about the FES money received for transportation purposes. Ms. **CHAVEZ** explained that the City received approximately \$3 million and that it was going to be used for projects; such as, the repaving of Alhambra Road from the eastern to western City limits and improvements on Poplar Boulevard. Mr. **AYALA** asked if Caltrans taking 20 percent of transportation stimulus dollars was proportional, to which Supervisor **ANTONOVICH** responded he did not want the State to "nickel and dime" the locals nor to pilfer the money as it passed through the State. L.A. County Transportation Deputy **CANO** stated he was not yet sure how such money would be distributed or whether it would go directly to localities, although the State is allowed to charge 6 percent right off the top for administration. Ms. **CHAVEZ** stated the City also needed Caltrans funding to complete the Valley Boulevard Median Project in order to build the remaining islands on Valley Boulevard from the 710 Freeway terminus to the existing medians west of Atlantic Boulevard. Approval in May meant the funds would probably come in July. County staff suggested the City speak to the MTA Board.

Water/Storm Drain Issues: Mr. **FUENTES** noted that stimulus money would also be used for storm drain purposes. Deputy Director of Utilities **RAY** discussed the problem of the storm drain connection to the L.A. County system at Campbell and Ross Avenues which intersection floods every time it rains, adding that the money would be used to replace the inadequate storm drain

with two storm drain openings. Ms, **CHAVEZ** also discussed the City's projects at Garfield and Grand Avenues as the same relate to Los Angeles County Sanitation District projects.

City Attorney **MONTES** asked that the City be kept in the loop regarding the lawsuit filed by Heal the Bay against the Los Angeles Flood Control District and the subsequent letter, which included a claim and tolling agreement, sent by the County to all the cities seeking indemnification. He stated that the City does not require a signed claim; consequently, the City does not need to sign the tolling agreement. He also stated that the City has not seen the complaint and, therefore, is unable to provide input as to strategy in the case. Principal Deputy County Counsel **FRIES** stated her office would certainly provide input to all cities involved in the matter as the case proceeds; however, it was the County's intent to carve out of the lawsuit those cities which are not upstream and/or within the watershed area of the Santa Monica Bay.

Regarding the initiative for storm drains, Assistant Deputy Director, Watershed Management Division, **PESTRELLA** commented that 35 percent of the fees collected by the County for use of the NPDES permits would go to the cities, subject to the State passing the required enabling legislation to collect. This legislation is contained in Assembly Bill 139, which allows flood control districts to collect and distribute the fees in compliance with Prop. 218. Senior Deputy **PILKER**, P.E., Head of City Services, Programs Development Division, announced a Water Summit on June 3, 2009, at the Queen Mary in Long Beach.

Homeless Project/Budget Concerns: Los Angeles County Deputy CEO **SHANDT** expressed a desire to coordinate with the City on the City's homeless project. She further reported that the County was applying for FES monies for several other County-wide programs including a low-interest program for low cost energy efficiency upgrades for homes and businesses. She stated County staff would contact the City regarding the details of financing.

Responding to Mr. **AYALA**'s question regarding County services, Ms. **SHANDT** remarked that they were in the budget process and trying to maintain as many County services as possible. They were also trying to set up a "rainy day" fund in anticipation of the ballot measures, such as Proposition 1A, not passing. Mr. **FUENTES** worried about the State dipping into local money to which Mr. **ANTONOVICH** stated the State would continue to dip because they have not addressed the budgetary reforms necessary to stop them from dipping into local cities' money. Why is the State bureaucracy so big? They pay commissioners six figures to meet twelve times a year and they were not yet discussing these structural reforms.

Public Safety: Chief of Police **HUDSON** expressed concern regarding police funds, especially JAG funds, as the City of Los Angeles has designated itself as the pass-through agency for these funds, noting that of the \$45 million the City of Los Angeles will receive as the pass-through agency, they are taking \$750,000 right off the top before Los Angeles distributes the funds to the qualifying cities. He felt this was not correct nor fair—the funds should go directly to the cities and not first through a pass-through agency. He also stated that he sits on the JPA and has met with resistance from the County concerning the LARICS concept. Alhambra is very concerned about the cost of the project and the fact that our City has invested over \$1 million in computer upgrades and communications equipment upon joining Verdugo and that this should be folded into the LARICS project. Justice Deputy **PEMBEDJIAN** remarked that

although ISIS has done a very good job at the technical level, it is a shame that the JPA has gotten off to such a rocky start, commenting that this unfortunate situation should improve.

City Manager **FUENTES** remarked that on the April 13 agenda, the City Council would be asked to approve an application for funding under the United States Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Recovery Program Grant for funding for 3 police officer positions, rather than for the 5 currently frozen unfilled positions, since there is a stipulation that the City must also provide funds for these positions for an additional 12 months.

Redevelopment: Mr. **FUENTES** stated the City's Industrial Redevelopment Project and Central Business District Redevelopment Project will sunset in 2013 and 2012, respectively. The City was looking at redefining the boundaries of the Industrial Redevelopment Project Area with the intent of removing those areas that have been successfully redeveloped and adding adjacent areas which are "blighted." Director of Development Services **MARTIN** remarked the "redefined" project would be on either side of Fremont Avenue, north of Mission Street. Mr. **ANTONOVICH** asked if the City was getting any redress or perhaps an extension to which Mr. **FUENTES** stated staff was pursuing those avenues, commenting that in these hard economic times, it seemed illogical to him that the State would not do all that it could to encourage economic development. Principal Deputy County Counsel **MORAN** added that he was involved in the removal of blighted areas from the already developed parts of the County's redevelopment plan and asked Mr. Fuentes to give him a call.

Citizen Input: With respect to the present impact of the economy on Alhambra, Owen **GUENTHARD**, Alhambra Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, reported on business conditions, stating that Alhambra businesses were maintaining pretty well in this economy. He noted that Mervyns had closed, but Alhambra Foundation, which supports our School District, has successfully raised \$500,000, which was very good.

Transportation: Mr. **CANO** commented that cities must watch out that our 710 funds are not used as a stop gap for other projects; such as, subways or the Gold Line. Mr. **FUENTES** asked if the City would be penalized for using cars; should we think about re-connecting into our lowered railroad? Mr. **ANTONOVICH** felt the City could place emphasis on planning around commuter rail line stations where the development focus was on area subway stops, suggesting the City consider getting a feeder line hooked into the system as the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) would have control over some decisions and distribution of funds.

ADJOURNMENT: At 9:35 a.m., there being no further business for the City Council or the Agency Board to transact, with the unanimous consent of the City Council and the Agency Board, the Mayor and the ARA Chairman adjourned their respective meetings.

FRANCES A. MOORE, CMC
CITY CLERK & ARA ASSISTANT SECRETARY

**AND
CRAIG ROGERS, CMC
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK**