

**MINUTES**  
**ALHAMBRA CITY COUNCIL**  
**ALHAMBRA REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY**  
**Special Meeting**  
**August 17, 2011**  
**8:00 a.m.**

**ROLL CALL:** At 8:20 a.m., on Wednesday, August 17, 2011, the Alhambra City Council and the Alhambra Redevelopment Agency (ARA) met in Salon 4 at Almansor Court, 700 South Almansor Street, Alhambra, California.

**CITY COUNCIL/ARA BOARD MEMBERS:**

PRESENT: SHAM, MESSINA, PLACIDO, AYALA, YAMAUCHI  
ABSENT: NONE

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:**

**Los Angeles County:**

**5<sup>TH</sup> Supervisorial District:** Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich; Sussy Nemer, Senior Deputy (Pasadena Field Office); Rita Hadjimanoukian, Field Deputy (Pasadena Field Office); Edel Vizcarra, 5<sup>th</sup> District Planning Deputy; Michael Cano, 5<sup>th</sup> District Transportation Deputy; Phillip Chen, 5<sup>th</sup> District Health Deputy; Dr. Lori Glasgow, 5<sup>th</sup> District Assistant Chief Deputy; Bob Moran, Los Angeles County CEO's Office; David Pilker, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works; Jose Muñoz, Region 2 Chief EHS; and, Letaun Cotton, Environmental Health Services Manager

**City of Alhambra:** City Manager/ARA Executive Director Fuentes, City Attorney/Agency Counsel Montes, City Clerk/ARA Assistant Secretary Myles, Deputy City Manager/Interim Director of Development Services/Director of Utilities Swink, Assistant to the City Manager Hayashi, and Assistant to the City Manager Keating

**CITY CLERK REPORT - NOTICE NO. N2M11-109**

City Clerk/ARA Assistant Secretary **MYLES** 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 - F2M11-16**

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:

**County of Los Angeles Redistricting:** Councilmember **MESSINA** asked whether the San Gabriel Valley would remain in Supervisor Antonovich's 5<sup>th</sup> District once the County redistricting process had concluded. Mr. Antonovich replied that there were three plans being considered for adoption by the Board of Supervisors. Supervisors Molina, Knabe and Ridley-Thomas had submitted the three plans. He pointed out that according to the Census data for the County, his 5<sup>th</sup> District was over by 125,000 people while Supervisor Molina's 1<sup>st</sup> District was under the ideal District average by 75,000 people. City Manager **FUENTES** asked whether Mr. Antonovich needed anything from the City of Alhambra as far as the County's redistricting process was concerned. Dr. Lori **GLASGOW**, 5<sup>th</sup> District Assistant Chief Deputy, stated that the City of Alhambra should weigh in on the issue as it was important for the Board of Supervisors to know what the City's position was should there be a court challenge to the District boundaries that are eventually adopted. She pointed out that the Board of Supervisors had two upcoming meetings scheduled with respect to redistricting: the first was on September 6<sup>th</sup>, the second was on September 27<sup>th</sup> when the final vote will take place but this meeting would not be a public hearing. She added that it would be helpful to have the City of Alhambra on record.

Councilmember **PLACIDO** asked Supervisor Antonovich which meeting he would like to have the City Council attend to state its position. He also asked, out of the three plans submitted if, Mr. Antonovich preferred any particular plan over the others. Dr. **GLASGOW** responded that it would be ideal to have the City's opinion by the September 6<sup>th</sup> public hearing. She noted that elected officials were slated to speak first at this hearing. She also encouraged residents of Alhambra to attend the hearing as they would like input from the community as well as its elected officials. Mr. **ANTONOVICH** stated that a letter from the City Council asking to keep Alhambra in the 5<sup>th</sup> Supervisorial District along with as much of the San Gabriel Valley as possible would be helpful. City Manager **FUENTES** stated that the City would work on getting a letter to Mr. Antonovich in time for the September 6<sup>th</sup> public hearing.

**State and federal budget impacts on Los Angeles County:** City Manger **FUENTES** stated that it appeared that the biggest impact from the recent budget passed by the State would be the realignment of services that will be passed along from the state onto counties and cities. Dr. **GLASGOW** replied that the State did in fact push service mandates onto the County and noted that by January, 2012, Los Angeles County will have thousands of new prisoners/parolees to handle. She added that as far as the federal budget was concerned, the biggest impact for the County will be the Health Care reform package. Mr. **FUENTES** stated that staff has noticed a greater number of homeless people in the City of Alhambra and asked perhaps the County could work with the City to find them assistance. Assistant to the City Manager **KEATING** added that the City's ARRA-funded Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) had helped 98 individuals in 38 households in Alhambra. It was a program that the City would love to continue, but the funding was not reallocated. She pointed out that the City's partnership with the Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority (LAHSA) was very fruitful and she

hoped the program could continue. Mr. Philip **CHEN**, 5<sup>th</sup> District Health Deputy, stated that he would love to work with Ms. Keating on the program and asked for the City to provide him with a copy of its budget and its basic statistics such as the number of people in the program etc. Dr. **GLASGOW** added that the number of homeless individuals should decrease if the economy continues to improve as the issue was linked to the mortgage crisis.

***Amendments/Extensions to the Industrial Added Area “A” and Commercial Business District Redevelopment Project Plans:*** City Manager **FUENTES** noted that the City was working to extend certain redevelopment project areas in the City. However this process was currently on hold due to the possible elimination of local redevelopment agencies as part of the State’s budget and the subsequent lawsuit filed by the California Redevelopment Agency (CRA) to keep local redevelopment agencies operational. He stated that the City would like to continue the discussion of extensions to the Industrial Added Area “A” and Commercial Business District project areas in Alhambra with the County should the CRA prevail in its lawsuit or redevelopment agencies are preserved by other means. Supervisor **ANTONOVICH** noted that Bob Moran of the Los Angeles County CEO’s Office would be the best representative to assist the City with this matter. Mr. **MORAN** stated that he would be happy to schedule a meeting with Interim Director of Development Services Swink to discuss the issue.

***The Gateway at Alhambra Project - Los Angeles County Community Development Commission Headquarters at Atlantic Boulevard and Main Street:*** Mr. **FUENTES** noted that the City was looking forward to having the LACDC in Alhambra and conveyed to Supervisor Antonovich that if the County needed anything from the City to help move the process along, staff would be happy to help. Councilmember **SHAM** expressed some concern about parking structure usage on the weekends. He hoped that a portion of the of the parking structure would remain available for the public to use on the weekends because other parties such as the First Baptist Church had used it for parking in the past. Councilmember **PLACIDO** hoped that the County employees working at the new headquarters would venture into the Downtown area of Alhambra for lunch as it would be a great boost to the City’s local economy. Mr. **MORAN** noted that the lease agreements for the first floor of the LACDC headquarters were intended for a very small establishment to provide beverages and snacks.

***Los Angeles County Health Department Services:*** Councilmember **AYALA** asked about the privatization of County clinics which could add new clinics in addition to those currently operational and help reduce the costs of primary care visits. He asked how the County handled those patients that were unable to afford a primary care visit, which averaged approximately \$197. Supervisor **ANTONOVICH** replied that the County absorbed those costs which unfortunately had trickle down impacts on the overall County Health Department system. Phillip **CHEN**, 5<sup>th</sup> District Health Deputy, reported that the County was seeing many more patients coming to the ER for care. He added that the County’s focus was on treating people physically and mentally and was working to establish more psychiatric care in ER centers. City Manager **FUENTES** asked for information on what County health services were available if Alhambra residents turn to the City for assistance. Mr. **CHEN** stated that the County’s primary care health plan services were expanding and that City staff could always contact his office for information or referrals for residents in need.

***Citizen Input:*** Owen **GUENTHARD**, Alhambra Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, spoke about his concern with the substantial change in the manner in which County Health Department inspections take place at events such as the Taste of Alhambra. He noted that since Alhambra had moved from the West Covina to the East Los Angeles office,

inspectors were more focused on filling out forms and moving on rather than working with City businesses and/or the vendors at City events to help them correct the situation. He hoped that in the future County health inspectors would exercise a more practical application of the rules and regulations for City businesses and vendors. He acknowledged that County health inspections were necessary, but wished to see inspectors work with businesses/vendors to correct any issues so that they may thrive.

Mr. Jose **MUÑOZ**, Chief EHS for County Health Department Region 2, explained that all County inspectors are trained the same. He noted that recent changes to the law may be a factor in the perception that Mr. Guenthard had described as far as inspections were concerned. He remarked that the County requires permit applications to be submitted well in advance for events such as the Taste of Alhambra to allow for the proper amount of time to review the application. He suggested that applications be submitted early so that County inspectors will have time to conduct their review and explain any issues. This will also limit any misinterpretations of what the County requirements and expectations are for businesses and/or vendors. Councilmember **PLACIDO** pointed out that often it appears that a County inspector has complete control and the final word on any matter with no oversight and they have the power to shut something down instantly while the vendor/business has no option to appeal the inspector's decision to a manager or individual higher up to try to remain open. This ability to appeal or seek a quick remedy to correct the problem and remain open is especially important for one-day events such as the Taste of Alhambra or the City's Fourth of July event. He felt that Alhambra children selling hotdogs at the Fourth of July fireworks event to raise money for their school seemed like a simple, easy, and safe thing to do without having to risk being shut down by a County health inspector. Mr. **MUÑOZ** stated that while Dr. Placido's viewpoint was understandable, children cooking hotdogs without being certified food handlers was a breach of legal requirements and it was the County's responsibility to protect the public's health.

Deputy **CHEN** explained that the County did not want to be over-demanding and the goal was to be user-friendly. He noted that the County had been meeting with cities that hold short-term events such as the Taste of Alhambra to provide information and have questions answered. He suggested that such a meeting be scheduled for Alhambra. Mayor **YAMAUCHI** suggested that the new certified food handler training be offered online to make it more accessible to those that may need it since it was a legal requirement. Supervisor **ANTONOVICH** suggested that perhaps there should be a separate permitting category created for short-term events.

***Transportation issues including the 710 freeway tunnel and California High-Speed Rail Project:***

Councilmember **PLACIDO** asked Supervisor Antonovich for a status update on the I-710 freeway and High-Speed Rail (HSR) projects. Mr. **ANTONOVICH** explained that progress was being made on the completion of the 710 freeway, but it was moving slowly. He pointed to the fact that the traditional opposition to the completion of the freeway had been able to expand and mobilize opposition in other communities as a potential factor for the slow progress.

With respect to the HSR project, Supervisor **ANTONOVICH** noted that the current plan appears infeasible. This was due to the fact that the costs of the project were underreported because the federal contribution was expected to be more than \$19 billion in a time of federal austerity. He also pointed out that the full build-out of HSR at 200 mph has created major friction with communities adjacent to the proposed routes along with potential right-of-way property acquisitions and proposed structures elevated at 60 feet. In addition, he pointed out that the maximum speed required alignments straighter than current transportation corridors (i.e. the I-10 freeway). He believed that rather than building a brand new system, an upgrade to commuter

rail should be considered instead. He stated that he has proposed the first-ever infrastructure upgrade study for a whole Metrolink line, the Antelope Valley Line (from Los Angeles to Lancaster) to review system improvements to safety, speed and capacity. The focus will be on cost-benefit value for each project. He explained that his proposal supports similar studies along all other Metrolink corridors after the Antelope Valley Line study. He noted that the San Bernardino line through the San Gabriel Valley was a prime target for upgrades as it has the highest ridership in the system. He believed the study could provide a blueprint to support an alternate HSR plan through the San Gabriel Valley with minimal impact to communities with faster service. In addition, higher-speed (90 mph) trains between San Bernardino and Los Angeles would relieve long-distance commuter travel on the I-10, I-210 and SR-60 corridors. Metrolink would simply need to make track improvements, grade crossing upgrades and Positive Train Control system to operate trains at the 90 mph or higher to make them a feasible alternate to the HSR.

Mr. Michael **CANO**, 5<sup>th</sup> District Transportation Deputy, added that he had brought copies of Supervisor Antonovich's *Alternate Plan for High-Speed Rail* presentation to the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments Transportation Committee on August 4, 2011 which outlined more details of the Supervisor's proposal. A copy of this presentation is also on file in the City Clerk's Office. Mr. **CANO** remarked that the hope for this proposal is that once MTA has conducted a study on all of the lines, it will provide a menu of options that can create an alternate plan that can be used and proposed to amend the current legislation. It will be a concrete alternative to HSR. Councilmember **PLACIDO** asked if the Metrolink alternative will connect Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) to Ontario Airport. Mr. **CANO** explained that LAX would be connected from Ontario via Metrolink to Union Station and from Union Station via the light-rail Green Line. Councilmember **AYALA** asked where potential stops would be located and how Metrolink might decide where to place stops along the routes. Mr. **CANO** stated that there were many options for station locations and agreements for them would be the city and Metrolink. It was possible to have a station in Alhambra somewhere near the I-10 freeway. A skip-stop service was also being discussed using a lowered track system.

**ADJOURNMENT:** At 9:20 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.

LAUREN MYLES, CMC  
CITY CLERK & ARA ASSISTANT SECRETARY