

ACONA May 23, 2023 Meeting Notes

After introductions, the following topics were presented.

The "new" trash service and Altadena's organic waste

Speakers:

Clark Ajwani, Senior Civil Engineer, Los Angeles County Public Works

Matt Blackburn, Universal Waste Systems

John Gasparian Jr., American Reclamation

SB 1383: Short-Lived Climate Pollutants: Organic Waste Reductions targets methane pollutants resulting from: Food, food-soiled paper, landscaping and green waste, wood, manure, organic textiles (e.g., cotton). The first three are what are being recycled by the trash companies.

Waste is turned into compost or renewable energy. Manual and mechanical sorting of the material in the blue bins at a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). High Diversion MRF sorts organic waste out from trash. In LA County, 3 million tons were processed in 2021.

Nuccio property acquisition by Polytechnic School

Speakers:

John Bracker, Head of Polytechnic School

Lisa Wu, Assistant Head of School, Enrollment & Strategic Initiatives

Holly Williams, Land Use Consultant

Michael Bicay, President of AltadenaWILD

Poly has only one on-campus field. Have been looking for adequate space for their athletic programs. Have been renting space off-campus. Looking for space for athletics, outdoor learning opportunities, environmental science. Proposed use of Nuccio's: baseball field, seven tennis courts, multipurpose field with running track. Use between 3:45-6:00 during weekdays; weekend events only rarely. Usually have 25-50 spectators for their on-campus games. Schedule 5-6 home games in the Fall. Want to work with partners in the community to extend use of the facility to the community. Anticipating building a ~400-seat spectator area.

Haven't filed for a permit yet; doing community input first.

AltadenaWILD

Nuccio property is in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. The proposed uses for the site are not congruent with the location. Noise, traffic, and lighting pollution will be disruptive of the Wildlife-Urban Interface. There are 10 schools with sports complexes closer to Poly than the Nuccio site. Community is largely opposed to the proposed use.

The topics you want in future ACONA meetings

Speaker: Nicholaus Arnzen, Altadena Town Council and ACONA Planning

Responses to previous questions:

- Why not have light-up 4-way stop signs on Mendocino & Allen?

Response: County is doing a case-by-case consideration of lighted stop signs. While they have resulted in more cars coming to a complete stop, they have not reduced approach speeds or traffic collisions. The Mendocino/Allen intersection is not optimal for lighted stop signs. The county is exploring other options.

- How can we get more info on LA County's Climate Action Plan - Chief Sustainability Office and Community Wildfire Protection Ordinance - Regional Planning?

Response: See two links under the ACONAOnline Resources tab.

- How does the Altadena Chamber of Commerce encourage new and different restaurants and businesses to come into town?

Response: ACOC provides access to resources and can place potential businesses in contact with resources that will help navigate the permit process.

Q&A

Q: What has the least environmental impact? Green waste or garbage disposal?

A: No specific correct answer. Sanitation district suggests not increasing what you put down your garbage disposal; use the green waste bins instead.

Q: Traffic: Chaney Trail is narrow; parking will be a problem.

A: Don't have data on traffic. There are consultants that have been brought on to study traffic issues.

Q: Are you familiar with the Dear Poly Instagram page? Do you have anything to say about it?

A: It was set up after George Floyd's murder. Poly hosted nine reconciliation meetings.

Q: Why not in Pasadena? Ed Center, closed PUSD campuses?

A: We have considered these, and the ability to find consistent availability is an issue.

Q: We heard there's a small amount that attend the games. Aren't you going to have bigger crowds if you expand the program?

A: We aren't expanding our teams. They now have to compete for time on our single field.

Q: Will you commit in writing to not expanding into the undeveloped part of the Nuccio property?

A: Yes, we have a concern about conserving the additional acres.

Q: Will there be access by LA County summer programs?

A: If it's something the community wants.

Q: How can we be assured that you will walk the talk?

A: We are being observed by our students and they hold us accountable.

Comment from Diane Marcussen: There is no current plan. At present it's all unofficial. Once plans have been filed, the Town Council Land Use Committee will review the plans and provide input.

Q: Two floors of underground parking: Could cause soil contamination. Heat pollution as well.

A: These are items for further study. We are interested in making the site as sustainable as possible.

Q: You're hearing about how Altadena doesn't want you. Why even continue pursuing this if you're not wanted here?

A: We believe at the end of the day that this is something that will be beneficial to the community.

Q: Wouldn't you agree that negatively impacting the natural environment is an example of not being a responsible steward of your neighborhood and the land?

A: I don't agree.

Q: Can you repeat why you aren't calling the multipurpose field a stadium?

A: Some of the language we're hearing is purposely inflammatory. We don't want to play rhetorical games. We believe we can do this well. We believe we can be a community asset. We believe we can follow all the rules and be good stewards of the land.

Q: What measures will be taken to be sure that the kids will be kept in line?

A: We will apply the same standards that we apply on campus. Part of what we can do is improve the safety of Chaney Trail.

Q: Do you have plans to expand Chaney Trail? Is that a possibility?

A: The Environmental Impact process will help us figure that out.

Q: You don't have plans to amplify sound, is that correct?

A: There will be some amplification, to announce players, for example, but not for tennis matches, for example.

Q: Do you have your eyes on any other property, perhaps for egress?

A: That's part of the planning process