



SANTA MONICA CANYON NEWS - SPRING 2014

CIRS / INCLINE TO IMPACT PCH

Here is the latest information on two projects that promise to snarl traffic on the coast highway and in our canyon.

Coastal Interceptor Relief Sewer (CIRS). In order to divert more Winter street runoff away from our beaches for treatment at the Hyperion Sewer Plant, the City of LA is installing an additional sewer line from Temescal Canyon Road to the Annenberg Beach House where it will be connected to an existing large capacity sewer. The final 900 feet of CIRS will complete the remaining gap between the Entrada Drive beach parking lot and the Beach House. The plan is to install this 48" diameter sewer line by tunneling. One lane of PCH will be closed for the duration of this 14-month project. The traffic plan is to convert one traffic lane to reversible status so the number of lanes needed for commuting traffic remain the same in the more heavily traveled direction. The contract for this project was awarded by the City in December. The contractor is finalizing insurance papers and is otherwise ready to go. Unfortunately, Caltrans is throwing some unanticipated obstacles into the mix by suddenly asking the City to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars for duplicate inspection services. This seems like a waste of taxpayer funds. We are monitoring.

California Incline. The much dreaded closure of the California Incline bridge for reconstruction is inching toward reality. If you attended our 2006 Annual Meeting you heard the first of several briefings we have received from the Santa Monica City Engineer. The project has been delayed as Santa Monica works its way through complex design, environmental and traffic issues. We have stressed that we do not want our canyon to bear the brunt of this 15-18 month project. We continue to discuss with Santa Monica its traffic management plan. Progress has been made with a commitment for sensors to monitor traffic and robust advance signage to deter discretionary commuters during construction. The latest estimated date for start of construction is September 2014.

Based on the latest timetable, there will be about seven months of simultaneous construction for these two projects. A web site, pchpartners.org, provides information on these and other projects which impact PCH. We have established an email list to provide the latest information; sign up using the enclosed reply envelope.

HOMELESS CAUSING FIRES?



We are fortunate to live in a verdant frost-free area near a beautiful beach. This attracts visitors from all over the world. Also, some homeless people who may "panhandle" at the traffic lights next to the highway and camp on our hillsides. It is believed that just such an encampment caused the recent brush fire adjacent to Potrero Canyon. We have received reports of residents walking to the beach being accosted by transients. Recently, a woman was punched while crossing the street in Pacific Palisades. While homelessness is not a crime, aggressive begging or solicitation in any public place is prohibited by the Los Angeles Municipal Code. If you fear harm to yourself or a person is behaving erratically, you should call 9-1-1 and request a "5150" intervention so the Police can provide a safe environment for them. SMCCA urges you to support the homeless by donating to food

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Homeless, continued

banks, The Giving Spirit, or social welfare charities.

If you observe what you believe to be an active transient or homeless encampment in a high fire risk brush area while out walking or hiking, take note of whether the location is out in the open or obscured. Were there people there? Did you observe cooking or smoking? If the location and activities appear to be a fire threat, contact the Los Angeles Fire Marshal. A Brush Inspector will be dispatched to investigate the site and determine if it poses a fire threat. If so, LAFD will coordinate resources to have the encampment removed. You can reach your Fire Marshal at 213-978-3570 or www.lafd.com.

MEET BOCA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

BOCA Neighborhood Association was founded in 1974. BOCA is derived from the historic Rancho Boca de Santa Monica of which the Canyon was a part. The association is centered in the area between Canyon School and the beach, east of West Channel Road and includes active members living on adjacent streets. BOCA is one of the most active neighborhood associations within Santa Monica and Rustic Canyons, including about 250 households. Doug Suisman is President.

Among its accomplishments in the past decade, BOCA has:

- landscaped several of the traffic triangles
- helped calm traffic and improve pedestrian crossing on West Channel by reducing travel lanes from 4 to 2
- secured speed humps on Mabery and Ocean
- removed advertising bus benches and replaced them with wood benches and trash receptacles
- developed cordial relations and welcomed local merchants into the community organization
- secured extensive landscaping during the Chevron station renovation
- spurred Caltrans to install a \$30,000 pump in the south "Little" beach tunnel to reduce winter flooding
- continued to have trash removed and both beach tunnels cleaned, repaired, and painted

BOCA's top priorities for 2014 include:

- improvements in the condition of the beach tunnels and overall coastal access
- additional landscaping in the public right-of-way
- improved lighting and safety
- close cooperation with SMCCA, Canyon School, and Rustic Canyon Park
- improved community outreach and communication through an upcoming new website
- a significant increase in membership, income from dues, and annual operating budget.

GROVE REDEDICATION ON JUNE 7

If you have been by the Rustic Canyon Eucalyptus grove lately, probably you have noticed a beehive of activity at this SMCCA signature project.. Two very dead and very large trees have been removed. Recreation and Parks foresters have given a "thumbs up" to the health of the remaining trees. Twenty-six new trees and shrubs have been planted and many are now sporting protective cages. A row of small boulders has been positioned along the edge of the parking lot to protect sprinklers and new plantings. The remaining large boulders have been seated in their final position.

We have finished preparing the cycad bed. Work is pending to provide proper irrigation to start the cycads in their new home (overhead watering can cause fungus so bubblers will be installed). When the irrigation work is complete, a dozen cycads of several varieties will be planted in pre-prepared planting holes to join the historic cycads near the parking lot. A mix of sand and soil will assure proper drainage.

Kudos to David Card, our brilliant designer and volunteer landscape worker, and to Randy Young and his friends Ed Lowe and Dale Skinner who have moved immense boulders and dug up the hardpan soil for the plantings.

A dedication is planned for June 7.

If you would like to adopt a tree or cycad, please send a check for \$200 (tax deductible) to SMCCA, PO Box 3441, Santa Monica, CA 90408-3441.



Sydney invites you to join her by sponsoring a tree in our historic eucalyptus grove.

MARILYN WEXLER TAKES REIGNS

Veteran SMCCA Board member Marilyn Wexler has been elected President of your association. Marilyn has served as board secretary for many years and led the association's participation in reviewing the City's new hillside mansionization ordinance and leads the board's traffic committee.

HEAD'S UP ON LAWS OF INTEREST

Youth under 18 must wear a helmet when riding or skating. Per CA Vehicle Code, Sec. 21212.(a) A person under 18 years of age shall not operate a bicycle, a nonmotorized scooter, or a skateboard, nor shall they wear in-line or roller skates, nor ride upon a bicycle, a nonmotorized scooter, or a skateboard as a passenger, upon a street, bikeway, as defined in Section 890.4 of the Streets and Highways Code, or any other public bicycle path or trail unless that person is wearing a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet that meets the standards of either the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) or the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), or standards subsequently established by those entities. This requirement also applies to a person riding in a restraining seat attached to the bicycle or in a trailer towed by the bicycle.

School Zone Speed Limit of 25 mph applies any time a child is present, not just during school hours. According to the DMV: When driving within 500 to 1,000 feet of a school while children are outside or crossing the street, the speed limit is 25 mph unless otherwise posted.

Refuse Container Issues. Containers must be placed at the curb no earlier than 6:00 PM on the day before collection, and removed no later than 8:00 PM. on the day of collection. If you have questions concerning your City issued containers call 1.800.773.2489. On collection day, all containers should be placed with handles facing the house, with at least three feet separating the bins and any other object at the curb.

PARK IT!

You certainly don't need us to tell you how much Rustic Canyon Park means to the Canyon community. It's a place to hang out, picnic, play with our kids or friends. For some, it's a vista to view or a greenbelt to drive or walk past. For us all it is a place that needs extra love and care. Resources at the Recreation and Parks Department are slim and maintenance support is inadequate. So, it's up to us to step up and provide a little people-power to keep the park clean and tended to.

SMCCA continues to sponsor periodic Park it! clean-up days where volunteers can contribute their time to help with needed maintenance and/or clean-up of the grounds. Led by Bob Bronstein, Board members participate and work with community volunteers. We sincerely hope you will join us. The Park deserves this attention and the Park-it! program is a great way we can all help out. Please check the box on the reply envelope or email Bob at parkit@smcca.org.

CANYON 4TH GRADE RANCHO TOUR

Canyon School "Rancho Boca de Santa Monica" 4th grade field trip is scheduled this year on Wednesday May 7th at 10 AM. Students will begin their tour at La Senora Research Institute. At this historic hacienda, they will get a first hand history lesson from historian Ernest Marquez and Patricia Nettleship. The children will hear about the hardships and pleasures of life on the Rancho during the 1800's, and see historic photos of the Canyon area during this era. The children will then be escorted to the historic Pascual Marquez family cemetery for a guided tour of the site.



By attending this presentation, students will gain an appreciation for, and knowledge of, local California [history](#). This educational tour was the recipient of the Governor's Historic Preservation Award in 2009. To volunteer for future school tours, please contact Sharon.Kilbride@yahoo.com.

TUNNEL CLEANUP ORGANIZED

In mid January, SMCCA and BOCA volunteers teamed up to keep our two beach tunnels clean for our community. A committee was formed to spearhead this project. The "Little Tunnel", captained by volunteer Judi Jensen, is located at the bottom of the stairs at Ocean Ave. to PCH. The Roosevelt Tunnel (Big Tunnel), captained by Sharon Kilbride, is located at West Channel and PCH.. The captains seek community volunteers to sweep the tunnels on a weekly basis and report any issues to the captains. Positive results have been noted; many folks going through the tunnel have stopped and helped out. If you are interested in maintaining clean tunnels, contact one of the captains listed below. Lead by example to keep our beach access clean for everyone!

E-mail Little Tunnel to: jjjinthesky@yahoo.com

E-mail Roosevelt Tunnel to: Sharon.kilbride@yahoo.com

Report damages and graffiti at: 3-1-1

To current resident, or

Santa Monica Canyon Civic Association
P.O. Box 3441
Santa Monica, CA 90408-3441

2014 Dues Now Payable

The SMCCA is a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization. Your dues and contributions help keep your association strong. Yearly membership is only \$10 per person, a modest price for supporting your community. Please send payment to SMCCA at PO Box 3441, Santa Monica, CA 90408-3441, **or pay through our web site www.smcca.org**. Additional contributions for maintenance of our historic eucalyptus grove or for general purposes are welcome and greatly appreciated.

If you would like to participate on the board or in any other capacity or have areas of interest, please let us know in your reply. Please include your email address so we can send you important notices. Let us know if you aren't receiving weekly LAPD crime alerts so we can add you to our email list.

We invite you to attend a Board meeting. They are held on the second Tuesday of most months. Agendas are posted at www.smcca.org. Our annual meeting is May 13 at 7 PM featuring Councilman Mike Bonin. Please save the date.

We do not share or sell our email or mailing lists.

Important Phone Numbers---

Graffiti Report	3-1-1
Illegal Leaf Blowers	1.800.996.2489 x-1
Illegally Parked Vehicles	1.213.485.4184
Pothole Repair	1.800.996.2489 x-1
West LA Police Station	1.310.444.0702

Newsletter Staff--

Sara Jane Boyers	Bob Bronstein
Dawn Forrester	Sharon Kilbride
Doug Suisman	Marilyn Wexler
George Wolfberg	



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Santa Monica Canyon Civic Association

Founded 1947

P.O. Box 3441 Santa Monica, CA 90408-3441
info@smcca.org www.smcca.org