



*Descanso Gardens*

December 2016

## Los Angeles County Ballot Measure M Passes

On November 8th a large majority of Los Angeles voters approved a permanent sales tax increase to fund a major expansion of the county's public transit system. The measure, which received 70 percent of the vote, gives the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, a funding stream of \$860 million every year, making the measure worth more than half of all the transit measures approved by voters across the country. "The Los Angeles County transportation revolution just took a great leap forward," announced Metro Chairman and Duarte City Councilman John Fasana. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, who led the campaign, said Los Angeles city and county is leading by example. But he didn't rule out working with Congress and Trump for matching federal dollars that could move up projects far down the list.

It is projected that the San Gabriel Valley (SGV) will see a large population growth over the next 30 years from 1,663,394 to 1,942,341. Therefore, traffic in the region is a major concern and Measure M will fund projects for the long term that will improve freeway traffic flow/safety; repair potholes; expand rail/subway/bus systems.

Key projects in the SGV funded by Measure M include: extending the

foothill Gold Line to Claremont, SR-57 and SR-60 Interchange Improvements, SR 60/I-605 Interchange HOV Connectors. SGV communities will immediately receive \$35 million in annual funding. Local transit operators like Arcadia Transit, Foothill Transit, Claremont Dial-a-Ride and Montebello Bus Lines will also receive annual funding.

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SGVCOG

Valley Voice

The Pulse of the  
San Gabriel Valley

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 10

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## Environment & Water Update

### The Watershed Conservation Authority Releases The DEIR For The Emerald Necklace

The Emerald Necklace is a 17-mile long network of existing and future parks, greenways, and trails located along the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel River between Peck Road Water Conservation Park to the north and Whittier Narrows Recreation Area to the south. The Emerald Necklace provides the region green infrastructure network of parks and trails throughout the Los Angeles Basin to connect the Mountains to the Sea, and in doing so, improve access to recreation and links Southern Californian communities to nature and each other.

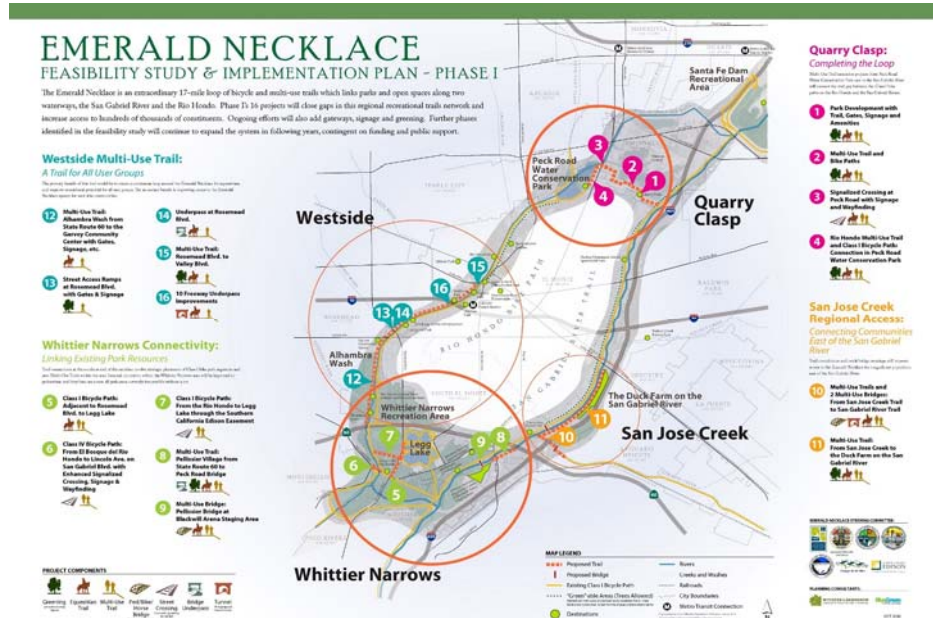
The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Emerald Necklace Implementation Plan – Phase I is a Program EIR, which evaluates at a program level the environmental effects that would result from the development of the sixteen (16) prioritized projects within the Emerald Necklace that would support the vision to connect communities to parks and trails. Since the Initial Study was completed, Project 4 - The Rio Hondo Multi-Use Trail and Class I Bicycle Path Connection in the Peck Road Water Conservation Park located in the Quarry Clasp area, was analyzed under a

separate CEQA document. As a result, the remaining fifteen (15) projects are being carried forward for analysis and collectively make up the Proposed Project.

On November 17, 2016, the SGVCOG Governing Board voted to support the fifteen (15) remaining projects outlined in the DEIR which will provide an improved regional network of greenways, parks,

and a multi-use trail.

The comment period for the DEIR ended on December 2nd, and WCA staff is preparing the Final Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). All comments that were received during the comment period and responses by the WCA to those comments will be compiled into a final PEIR. Finally, on March 16, 2017, a certification hearing for the Final PEIR is tentatively scheduled.



### The San Gabriel Valley COG Adopts It's Stormwater Policy

the SGVCOG on November 17<sup>th</sup>, adopted its Stormwater Policy. The policy is the result of many months of contemplation by the Water Policy Committee and is intended to guide the actions of the COG as it seeks to assist member cities in their efforts to comply with water quality standards. The committee first acknowledged the challenges impeding compliance and then identified proactive legislative, engagement, and educational approaches to overcoming those challenges.

The policy objectives will assist member cities in their efforts to comply with water quality standards by coordinating efforts and supporting relevant programs and legislation. Specifically, the SGVCOG will

pursue strategies that include, but are not limited to:

- Advocate for regulatory and legislative changes
- Regularly engage with Regional and State Boards to ensure they are aware of local concerns
- Coordinate and disseminate information among member cities and other regional COGs
- Continually educate local elected officials and residents regarding efforts to meet water quality standards and the challenges thereof

This policy allows the COG to be proactive in opening dialogue with state legislators,

as well as the Regional Water Quality Control Board. It also seeks to have constructive dialogue on issues that could impeded compliance and potentially bring about liabilities.





## Los Angeles County Ballot Measure M Passes (continued)

With the approval of Measure M local agencies as well as the COG will work with Metro to develop the guidelines for sub regional programs. This is an opportunity for policy innovation around performance measures, project selection, and project delivery. In addition Metro will update its Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) a key policy document that has far-reaching implications for how our transportation dollars are spent. The LRTP will be developed through a regional submissions process with participation from COGs including the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments. The LRTP is a technical document with profound impacts on the San Gabriel Valley region. Finally, Both an Independent Tax Payer Committee and an Advisory Council will be created by June 2017 to oversee the development of the implementation guidelines for the sub regional programs.

Each city within the SGV will need to make decisions on how to properly use local return money. As long as projects fall within eligibility guidelines, cities are free to spend the funding on anything from filling potholes, to building and repairing sidewalks, improving crosswalks and bus stops, adding bike lanes to operating local shuttles, and building walkable trails

Additionally, economic forecasts by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) estimates that more than 465,000 jobs and \$79.3 billion in economic output would result from infrastructure projects funded by Measure M. Work on these projects will create over \$17.5 billion in labor income as well.



Azusa Goldline Station

Measure M Results	% Voted Yes
City	
Alhambra	71.47%
Arcadia	59.48%
Azusa	70.39%
Baldwin Park	77.40%
Bradbury	55.92%
Claremont	67.16%
Covina	63.47%
Diamond Bar	60.00%
Duarte	67.36%
El Monte	75.83%
Glendora	55.03%
Industry	31.25%
Irwindale	75.14%
La Canada Flintridge	55.85%
La Puente	74.14%
La Verne	55.58%
Monrovia	63.86%
Montebello	74.35%
Monterey Park	68.60%
Pasadena	71.95%
Pomona	72.04%
Rosemead	72.68%
San Dimas	55.33%
San Gabriel	67.30%
San Marino	54.44%
Sierra Madre	60.79%
South El Monte	75.46%
South Pasadena	71.44%
Temple City	59.96%
Walnut	59.97%
West Covina	67.02%

## The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments General Assembly Takes Center Stage.

The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments hosted a successful General Assembly, on October 26th this Assembly focused on regional transportation challenges and opportunities along the most vital goods movement corridor in the United States. This Assembly came at a time when lawmakers from Southern California have been pushing to fund highway and freight infrastructure. The COG recognized an urgent need to host such an event especially when County voters were considering the passage of Measure M, a Measure that would help fund transportation projects in the San Gabriel Valley for the coming decades.

Gene Murabito, Mayor of Glendora and President of the SGVCOG, stated that "There is no more critical issue for the San Gabriel Valley and for Southern California than the quality of our transportation infrastructure. It will determine where we go as a region, literally and figuratively,"

The program was highlighted with speeches by:

- **Eric Garcetti**, Mayor for the City of Los Angeles
- **Grace Napolitano**, Congresswoman for California's 32nd Congressional District
- **Hilda Solis**, LA County Supervisor District 1
- **Bob Huff**, State Senator for the 29th District

Additionally, transportation policy experts also participated in the event, including:

- **Phillip A. Washington**, Chief Executive Officer for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (METRO).
- **John Fasana**, METRO's Board Chair and a City Council member from Duarte.
- **Mark Christoffels**, Chief Executive Officer of the Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority (ACE).
- **Habib Balian**, Chief Executive Officer of the Foothill Gold Line.

The San Gabriel Valley's highways and rail lines are among the busiest in the nation, and are critical to the efficient movement of people and goods throughout Southern California. According to SCAG, freight and related industries represent one-third of all jobs and economic activity in the region. With that, however, comes added congestion, traffic safety issues and air quality concerns.

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*Congresswoman Grace Napolitano*



*Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti*



*Judy Wright Award Recipient Mary Cammarano*



*Supervisor Hilda Solis*

The major transportation-related projects discussed at this event included interchange improvements at the confluence of the 57 and 60 Freeways, grade separations and other freight-related mobility and safety improvements under the authority of ACE, as well as expansion of commuter rail service all of which will have a significant impact on commuters in the San Gabriel Valley.

The General Assembly pressed home how vital transportation and freight infrastructure is in the San Gabriel Valley at a time of growing awareness in Sacramento and Washington of the importance of transportation and goods movement to economic growth, job creation and quality of life. With congestion growing and population growth in the region rising this event helped to highlight not only transportation concerns but also solutions to implement in the coming years to allow the San Gabriel Valley to thrive as a leader in transportation policy. A key highlight of the event was the discussion on investment in commuter service and active transportation system such as bikeways and walking trails that provide healthy, and environmentally friendly, transportation alternatives – in many cases, providing first-mile/last-mile connections to transit stations.

Additionally, the SGVCOG also hosted its 12th annual Leadership Awards where Community leaders from across the San Gabriel Valley, along with the City of Claremont, were honored.

The awardees included:

- **Kim Raney**, newly retired Police Chief for the City of Covina – the Jack Phillips Award.
- **Mary Cammarano**, former Mayor of San Gabriel – the Judy Wright Award.
- **Chris Jeffers**, City Manager of Glendora – Consensus-Building Award.
- **City of Claremont** – the Sustainability Award.

- **Larry Stevens**, Assistant City Manager and Director of Planning for the City of San Dimas – the Spirit of Service Award.

These awards recognized individuals whose efforts have promoted the interests of and significantly enhanced the quality of life for the more than two million residents of the San Gabriel Valley.





## SGVCOG and Metrolink Host Joint Meeting On Safety and Corridor Quiet Zones

Metrolink and the SGVCOG, on December 12<sup>th</sup>, jointly hosted a Rail Safety and Corridor Quiet Zone meeting in order to begin discussing how to take a regional approach to improving at-grade rail crossing safety with the possibility of making those crossings quiet zones. Federal law allows for the establishment of a quiet zone at road/rail crossings where sufficient safety improvements have been made to offset the absence of a train horn being sounded. There are specific requirements to establish new quiet zones for example a new quiet zone must be at least ½ mile in length along the railroad tracks; have, at a minimum, flashing lights and gates in place at each public crossing; and gates must be equipped with constant warning time devices with power out indicators.

presentations relating to their expertise. After providing a history of Quiet Zones and the steps required to establish them, Metrolink discussed their experiences partnering with the Orange County Transportation Authority on a corridor approach. The challenges included identifying funding which came from a county tax measure and the cities involved. The process took over five years to complete and required constant outreach to the effected communities. Upon completion of the safety improvements, cities assumed the cost of annual maintenance of the upgraded safety equipment, as well as increased liability insurance for the crossings. Nonetheless, there has not been a single crossing accident since the safety improvements were made.

there are 52 crossings on just the Union Pacific line and each crossing can cost as much as \$1 million for safety upgrades. Moreover, many SGV at-grade crossings have already been upgraded as part of the ACE grade separation project. Metro is currently working on a double-track project from Lone Hill Ave. (San Dimas) to White Ave. (La Verne) that will include substantial safety upgrades. It will require tenacity and thoughtfulness to complete but a San Gabriel Valley rail safety and corridor quiet zone effort will ultimately save lives and continue making our valley the envy of LA County.

Metrolink, Metro, staff from the Senate Committee on Commerce, Finance, and Transportation, the SGVCOG, and ACE Construction Authority each gave

Moving forward, the COG will facilitate a similar effort in the San Gabriel Valley on both the Metrolink and Union Pacific rail lines. To be sure, this is a large project;



Montebello Rail Crossing

## Cal Fire & The California Natural Resources Agency Grant Programs

### Cal Fire Urban & Community Forestry Program

**Eligibility:** cities, counties, districts, and 501(c)(3)'s

**Deadline:** December 30th

**Total Grant Funds:** \$ 15 Million

**Contact:** David Haas, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, at (213) 200-7115 or

[David.Haas@fire.ca.gov](mailto:David.Haas@fire.ca.gov)

**Website:** [http://calfire.ca.gov/resource\\_mgt/resource\\_mgt\\_urbanforestry\\_grants#](http://calfire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/resource_mgt_urbanforestry_grants#)

The CAL FIRE Urban & Community Forestry Program works to optimize the benefits of trees and related vegetation through multiple-objective projects. These projects further the goals of the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, result in a net greenhouse gas (GHG) benefit, and provide environmental services and cost-effective solutions to the needs of urban communities and local agencies.

CAL FIRE has prepared a guide to assist eligible local government and non-profit entities in applying for and administering grants from the CAL FIRE Urban & Community Forestry Program. Eligible projects must sequester significant amounts of GHG; avoid significant amounts of GHG's over a 40 year period; Projects must consider the drought in the project designs; projects must comply with all applicable local and county ordinances; and a project match 25% is required.

Additionally, The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) will release their grant program application for Urban Greening projects in the Spring of 2017. This grant will have approximately \$80 million available for projects. Also, projects do not require a local match and there will be no amount maximum or minimum for proposed projects.

Eligible projects are those that acquire, create, enhance, or expand community green spaces. All projects must provide

multiple benefits such as reducing air pollution, reducing water pollution, and reducing consumption of natural resources. Finally, eligible entities for this grant are public agencies, non-profits, special districts, and JPA's.

The Urban Greening Program, funded by the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, will fund projects that transform the built environment into places that are more sustainable, enjoyable, and effective in creating healthy and vibrant communities.

### CNRA Urban Greening Program

**Eligibility:** Public Agencies, Non-Profits, Special Districts and JPA

**Application opens:** Spring 2017

**Total Grant Funds:** \$ 80 Million

**Contact:** Carol Carter, at

(916) 651-7588 or

[Carol.Carter@Resources.ca.gov](mailto:Carol.Carter@Resources.ca.gov)

**Website:** <http://resources.ca.gov/grants/>

## The LA Homeless Services Authority Count is set for late January 2017

The 2017 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count is right around the corner! Last year the largest homeless census in the nation was conducted -- 7500+ volunteers who counted 100 percent of the Los Angeles Continuum of Care's census tracts, and completion of 5000+ demographic surveys. This coming year it is expected that there will be another strong showing of community engagement. Because of the volunteers and community partners, critical issue of homelessness in the region, gleaned valuable data to support programs and funding and created new pathways for collaboration and involvement.

The count will take place over three days starting January 24th, volunteers will fan out across Los Angeles County to count the homeless population. Data collected from this count will not only help city and county officials prioritize and allocate

resources to assist the homeless, it will also serve as an important tool in potentially acquiring new funding and support as organizations around the community work to serve the homeless population.

SPA regional coordinators have spearheaded engagement with their local communities over the last several months and encouraged SGVCOG member cities to participate. In this coming years count. Currently, 28 of the 31 SGV Cities have opted in to participate in the count offering resources such as a deployment site, site coordinator, volunteers, security at the site, and snacks.

Volunteers will work in teams to tally homeless people in designated sections of the neighborhood around the designated meeting site, collecting "point-in-Time"(PiT), or a snapshot, of data

about the number of homeless individuals living on the streets.

This year a new partnership with the University of Southern California has been established and will bring a wealth of resources from across the University, extensive local knowledge and valuable partnerships.

**Date:** January 24-26, 2017

**Location:** LA County

**SPA 3- San Gabriel Valley Contact:**  
Daniella Alcedo: dalcedo@lahsa.org  
(213) 225-8462

**Website:** theycountwillyou.org

## LA County Homeless Sales Tax Measure Is Placed on the March Ballot

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, on December 6th, unanimously voted to include a quarter-cent tax measure on the March 2017 ballot. In order for this Measure to pass Two-thirds of the county's voters would have to say yes. The severity of Homelessness in Los Angeles County came into focus early this year when the annual Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) count of people living on the streets found a 20 percent annual increase in the "visible homeless," including people living in encampments, tents and vehicles. Supervisors Janice Hahn and Mark Ridley-Thomas proposed the tax measure for the March election and it was approved by the Board unanimously.

This Measure is expected to raise about \$355 million a year over the next 10-years and is intended to provide the funding for a countywide plan for addressing homelessness and to develop thousands of units of housing designed to provide chronically homeless people permanent shelter backed up by services that County and L.A. city officials say is needed to address the homeless encampments. A study conducted with the Los Angeles

Homeless Services Authority had identified a gap of \$450 million a year needed to provide programs for the 47,000 people estimated to be homeless in the county and this Measure will help close this significant funding gap. Additionally, this measure would fund rental assistance programs, health care, mental health counseling and substance abuse treatment programs — services not necessarily covered by Proposition HHH.

This Measure is supported by 75 organizations including labor unions,

veterans groups, churches and synagogues, business organizations and dozens of nonprofit groups.

Other backers include the United Way of Greater Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and the California Community Foundation, all of which supported the successful campaign for Proposition HHH, the housing bond measure approved in November.



*Pasadena Supportive Housing Development*

## Upcoming Meetings

**Monday January 4, 12:00 p.m.**  
City Managers Steering Committee  
100 S. Vincent Ave., West Covina

**Tuesday, January 5, 12:30 p.m.**  
Homelessness Committee  
602 E. Huntington Dr., Monrovia

**Monday, January 9, 11:00 a.m.**  
ACE Ad-Hoc Committee  
1600 Huntington Dr., Duarte

**Thursday, January 18, 10:00 a.m.**  
Water Committee  
602 E. Huntington Dr., Monrovia

**Wednesday, January 18, 12:30 p.m.**  
EENR  
602 E. Huntington Dr., Monrovia

**Thursday, January 19, 4:00 p.m.**  
Transportation Committee  
602 E. Huntington Dr., Monrovia

**Thursday, January 19, 6:00 p.m.**  
Governing Board  
602 E. Huntington Dr., Monrovia

**Thursday, January 26, 12 noon**  
Planning Committee  
119 W. Palm Ave., Monrovia



*Christmas Tree Lane*



**Valley  
Voice**  
*The Pulse of the  
San Gabriel Valley*

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Save the Date | January 24, 2017

**EVERYONE COUNTS.  
NO MATTER WHERE  
THEY LIVE.**



Sign up today for the  
2017 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count

**THEYCOUNTWILLYOU.ORG**