

Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council
 Special Board Meeting Minutes
 Wednesday, May 21, 2008
 Lake Balboa Studios
 7412 Balboa Blvd.
 Lake Balboa, CA 91406

Evan Doxsee	Youth Representative	P
Dave Bernardoni	President	P
Sylvia Silva		P
Teresa Pollock ^a		A
Linda Pruett ^b	Second Vice-President	A
Steve Leffert	Secretary	P
Bill McRae ^c		P
Clay McFarland	Treasurer	P
Elmer Jespersen		A
Ivan Tjoe	First Vice-President	P
Lisa Reveen		P
Joyce MacKinnon		P
Shawn Moradian		A
Amber Savastio	Communications Officer	P

- a Excused
- b Excused
- c Arrived at 7:50 PM

The meeting began at 7:39 PM when a quorum was obtained

1. Roll Call was completed with 9 Board members present (see above)
2. Boardmember Ivan Tjoe was sworn in by Board President Dave Bernardoni
3. Discussion of the proposed construction of I-405/U.S. 101 Improvement Project with Board comments. Public comments included a letter written by Todd Royal and read into the record at the written request of Board member Linda Pruett. Text of the letter is attached to these minutes.

Motion: Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council is to draft a letter to Caltrans, signed by the President, stating that the neighborhood council is in support of Alternative 1 and strongly against Alternatives 2 and 3. McFarland -Tjoe

Amendment to the motion: Add "or no build" after Alternative 1. McRae-Reveen
 Amendment Passed 6-0

As the Main Motion: Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council is to draft a letter to Caltrans, signed by the President, stating that the Neighborhood Council is in support of Alternative 1 or no build and strongly against Alternatives 2 and 3. Passed 8-0

4. Adjournment
 Meeting is adjourned at 8:37 p.m. McFarland-Doxsee

Minutes submitted by Secretary Steven Leffert

Letter from Todd Royal that was read into the record:

Dear Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council,

Thank you for letting me put my brief thoughts into your minutes and public record at this important special meeting. Although some of you know that I am a board member of the Studio City Neighborhood Council, let me make it clear that I am speaking to you today as a stakeholder within the community and not on behalf of the SCNC.

Your Emeritus President, Linda Pruett, heard me speak against the 405/101 expansion into the Sepulveda Basin last Wednesday evening. I respectfully request your board vote against any freeway expansion into the basin for one simple reason - it's a land grab. One more reason for a government agency to take land. Some would call this Eminent Domain; I call it a land grab.

As others testified it would disturb this unique environmental treasure to the valley forever. Once a freeway is built it can and most likely will be expanded. Can Cal Trans make this freeway expansion where it's not noticeable? If they can then I'd like to be at that hearing.

But I have other reasons for being against any expansion that uses the Sepulveda Basin's land. As I mentioned before, I am a resident of Studio City, where we are having a land grab development project shoved down our throats.

The MTA in conjunction with Universal Studios is proposing two, twenty-four story office towers at the Universal City Metro stop. When did the MTA become a land developer? That is the question thousands of Studio City stakeholders have been asking. On its website, the MTA describes itself as follows, and I quote:

"The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) is unique among the nation's transportation agencies. It serves as transportation planner and coordinator, designer, builder and operator for one of the country's largest, most populous counties. More than 9.6 million people - nearly one-third of California's residents - live, work, and play within its 1,433-square-mile service area.

Metro is responsible for the continuous improvement of an efficient and effective transportation system for Los Angeles County".

Nowhere does it say in its definition or mission statement that it is a developer of office buildings, condominiums, mixed-use developments, shopping centers or other LA County developments. All of these are being proposed on the Metro stop at Universal City. (This for the record is part of Studio City, not Universal City.)

Yet that is exactly what the MTA is doing from North Hollywood and throughout LA County wherever Metro stops are being planned. More and more development without any thought to traffic mitigation or keeping with the MTA's stated purpose and mission.

Why is this important or even concern you? At the public hearing for the 405/101 expansion I publicly asked the representatives from Cal Trans if they could promise the public they would not sell land in or around their proposed freeways for any type of development. The question was never answered. No one from Cal Trans would tell me no. They wouldn't even speak to me.

If government takes land it can never be taken back. We saw the plans that were shot down for the 405/101 expansion that included taking thousands of homes. If the Sepulveda Basin is encroached upon by even one inch, then ultimately it can be taken away for other freeways, subways and possible luxury apartments, condos and town homes.

The MTA was never meant to be a developer and that's one of the reasons the Studio City stakeholders said yes to the Metro 10 years ago. We wanted mass transit. We wanted more visitors to Studio City. Now we rue the day we ever gave our blessing.

Don't let this happen to your community. From Lake Balboa to the Sepulveda Basin, stakeholders from Studio City, Toluca Lake, Sherman Oaks and other valley neighborhoods are counting on you to keep up the good fight for these precious natural resources. Build freeways for the public's safety and to cut down on commutes and congestion, not to further development, which is precisely what I believe will happen.

Thank you for your time and if I can do anything to help, please let me know.

All my best.

Todd Royal

Studio City Resident