



# Green Team Committee Minutes

Wednesday, March 6, 2013, 7:00pm

Hamilton Senior High School Cafeteria

ROOM 607, LAB BUILDING (BUILDING BEHIND ADMINISTRATION BLDG.)

2955 S. Robertson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90034

## I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00.

**Board Committee Members Present** Barry Levine, Paula Waxman

**Community Committee Members Present:** Saran Kirschbaum, Karen Smith-Laramay, Anne Geffner, Charmaine Colina

**Committee Members Absent:** Larry Hess, Elisa Leonelli, Martin Epstein, Anne Sutton

**Guest Speaker:** Kathy Seal, Beyond Coal Campaign, Sierra Club

## II. General Public Comment

1. Barry Levine announced that there will be a presentation on Proposition C on April 6<sup>th</sup> at 10 am at 6501 Fountain Ave., in Hollywood. "A **City of Los Angeles Limits to Campaign Spending and Rights of Corporations, Measure C** ballot question is on the [May 21, 2013 ballot](#) for voters in the [City of Los Angeles](#) in [Los Angeles County](#)."

If Measure C is approved, it adopts a resolution that:

- Imposes limits on political campaign spending
- Declares that corporations should not have the constitutional rights of human beings

. Instructs "Los Angeles elected officials and area legislative representatives to promote that policy through amendments to the United States Constitution". For more information please see: [www.ballotpedia.org](http://www.ballotpedia.org)

2. Saran Kirschbaum reported that the Sierra snow pack is at 60 to 70% of normal for this time of year and Los Angeles gets much of our water from it.

3. Barry Levine purchased a 1500 watt solar generator from Costco which can be used to recharge cell phones (etc.) or used in emergencies.

## III. New Business

1. Guest Speaker: Kathy Seal, of the Sierra Club's "Beyond Coal Campaign". Currently the DWP gets 39% of their electricity portfolio from coal-fired power plants. These plants emit mercury which gets into fish and therefore our food chain, they emit CO2 which contributes to climate change. Soon the DWP and the Mayor will announce that by 2025 Los Angeles will no longer get any of its energy from coal-fired power plants. This will be equivalent to taking 6 million cars off the road. The hope is that coal will be eliminated earlier than 2025 and be replaced by renewables, natural gas, and increased energy efficiency. Meanwhile coal power plant workers will be retrained for other jobs.

Kathy reported that the next phase of the campaign is titled the "My Generation Campaign". The objective of this campaign is to expand roof top solar and energy conservation.

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
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Vice-President

**Terrence Gomes**  
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**Beth Ryan**  
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## IV. Old Business

1. **Coalition Rally for Climate Change Awareness:** Karen Laramay showed pictures of Hami students at the downtown rally against Keystone XL pipeline. Over 2000 people attended.

2. **CLEAN WATER CLEAN BEACHES MEASURE** Paula Waxman reported on the LA Green Machine meeting at Tree People which meets quarterly to discuss and educate neighborhood councils on important environmental issues facing citizens of Los Angeles. The topic was The Clean Water Clean Beaches Measure. If passed by the LA electorate, this measure would appear as a tax on property bills and would pay for the clean up of LA County storm water run off that goes into the ocean. Almost all water bodies in Los Angeles County do not meet water quality standards and are listed as impaired under the federal Clean Water Act. In 1999 the Federal Government gave Los Angeles County a 13-year schedule for figuring out how to clean up our water. Currently LA still exceeds safe levels for more than 30 different pollutants such as trash, bacteria, metals, pesticides and fertilizers. Cities and the County could face a \$25,000 fine each day for each pollutant found to violate the clean water regulations. Furthermore, if we are out of compliance with federal laws, we can be open to law suits from environmental organizations.

This Measure will provide a dedicated funding source to cities to meet the regulations without having to take money from a city's general fund.

Ninety (90) percent of the funds collected will be distributed to the cities and unincorporated communities of the County for water cleaning projects that meet the criteria including but not limited to: (a) those providing and sustaining long-term water quality benefits; (b) those based on generally accepted scientific and engineering principles; (c) and projects designed and located to maximize the water quality benefits.

Ten (10) percent of the fees will go to the Flood Control District to provide water quality monitoring, research and development, technical assistance, planning, oversight and administration.

The fee will be determined by the amount of water runoff that properties generate, based on the size of each parcel and its land classification (e.g. residential, commercial, institutional, or undeveloped), and the corresponding percentage of hard impermeable surfaces and thus the proportion of runoff they contribute. (87% of homeowners would pay \$54 a year or less. Typical condos would pay \$20 or less. No single-family homeowner would pay more than \$82. 75% of commercial parcels would pay less than \$420 per year. A typical convenience store or fast food restaurant (10,000 sq. ft. parcel): \$250 per year • a typical "big box" or home improvement store (10 acres): \$11,000 per year. Currently school districts are not exempt but specifics on how they would be assessed are not clear. After capital improvements are made, it is also not clear if there is a partial sunset clause to the measure.

3. **Metro Field Trip:** is tentatively scheduled for March 27<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup>.

4. **Green Team Committee Budget Motion:** That the S. Robertson Neighborhoods Council spend the remaining \$75.00 in the committee's budget to purchase hand tools for the Hami Garden. Paula Waxman to determine tools which need replacing and augmenting. Vote: 6 for; 0 against, 0 abstained.

## V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.