

PVP Watch Newsletter – September 11, 2010

To Our Friends & Supporters

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The Annenberg Project.

Comments to the DEIR (Draft Environmental Impact Report) must be received by City Hall no later than this Tuesday, September 15th and should be sent to Planner Ara Mihranian / aram@rpv.com. Some may want to include the Council / cc@rpv.com with their comments as well. We hear comments from many residents with their dissatisfaction with the Annenberg project and now is the time to make your opinions known. Annenberg Executive Director Leonard Aube has been hosting free luncheon meetings at Terranea as well as appearing at the Peninsula Board of Realtors and Chamber of Commerce among others and he can be quite convincing. All should recognize that a majority of the RPV Council have expressed their support for the Annenberg project while continuing to hide what the relationship is between RPV City Hall and Annenberg. The City Council's cronies claim that RPV is not for sale however the opposite appears to be true for this Annenberg sponsored project. PVP Watch opposes the Annenberg project at Lower Point Vicente as the wrong project at the wrong place. Do not delay in sending comments to RPV Planner Ara Mihranian. The Planning Commission will hear comments on the DEIR at it's September 14th meeting. Those interested may want to attend.

RPV Council – Charter City

The RPV Council is making a "full court" press to change RPV from a "General Law City " government to a "Charter City." Item 17 on last Tuesday's (September 7th) Council agenda was "Adopting the City Charter" and the staff report and draft Charter City "Constitution" is posted at www.pvpwatch.com / Current Issues page and labeled Adopting The City Charter – 9-7-2010. During Council discussions the proposed Charter City "Constitution" was amended and is to be brought back to the Council at it's October 5th meeting. Apparently the Council needs to finalize by the end of October in order to place on the March 2011 ballot.

It seems that Council and their hand picked cronies will decide what the Charter will be and the public will have little or no input and we have but another example that City Hall knows best and that residents / taxpayers are unqualified to participate in these complex decisions. One glaring omission, so far, is any wording on what changes in the Charter City "Constitution" that present or future Council's may make or what changes may require resident / voter approval. Having no wording in this regard, we can preclude that a Council majority of three (3) can make all future decisions including voting and certainly omitting the people's rights for Initiatives and other similar measures. The catch all phrase now being espoused by the Council and their cronies is "Local Control." We will have to wait until October 7th for the revised version but we doubt that there will be appropriate safeguards to protect resident interests.

Another concern is who is paying for the "Charter City" election ballot and ancillary developments necessary to support the election process? We question the legitimacy of the Council using RPV funds for this course of action? Stay tuned.

We have posted a comparison of the two types of City government provided by the League of California Cities at www.pvpwatch.com. Go to the Current Issues page.

RPV – Marymount, The Continuing Saga

As many are aware, Wednesday, September 8th Superior Court Judge David P. Yaffe ruled against Marymount and in favor of the Measure P opponents relative to certain wording in Ballot Statement Arguments. While initially it was certainly a surprise & disappointment to Marymount and supporters, the entire Marymount Plan effort does not reside on a disagreement over ballot statements. According to Melissa Pamer's article in the September 9th issue of the Daily Breeze, Judge Yaffe said, *"You can't really use these arguments that a ballot argument is false as a means of trying to censor political speech."* Judge Yaffe continued on *"I don't think these issues are the kind that objectively are verifiably false and misleading. I think that I should follow the advise of Thomas Jefferson and say that the cure for... political speech is more political speech."* The Judge has decided and it is time to move on and PVP Watch will take Judge Yaffe's advice and continue reporting our opinions on the issues.

In case it is not apparent as to PVP Watch's position on the Marymount Plan and Measure P, let us be clear, PVP Watch has and will continue it's unwavering support of Marymount and Measure P. Why, because it is the right thing to do. That some claim the approval of Measure P *"will jeopardize our way of life in RPV"* is nonsense. A link to the "Initiative" is posted on the PVP Watch website. Go to the bottom of the Current issues page and there are three Marymount items posted. We urge ALL to be informed on the issues.

The material is there for you to read and we believe you will find that the hysteria "*the sky is falling*" if Measure P is approved is but another misguided effort by the anti Marymount crowd and their allies to obstruct Marymount's efforts to modernize its campus into a world class facility that will be a tremendous asset to RPV and the entire community.

Oh, and have you observed the NO on P signs which state: *Rancho Palos Verdes is NOT for sale*. How interesting... the SOC III gang needs to get their projects straight as that statement should be on the proposed Annenberg Dog & Cat Castle project not related to Marymount and Measure P.

RPV - San Ramon Stabilization Project

As subscribers will recall, the last Newsletter (August 6th) provided some insights into how RPV could divert some \$6,000,000 to the San Ramon / Tarapaca Stabilization Project. Subscribers may also recall that the project team led by RPV Senior Engineer Rod Drago had reported at the July 21st meeting at Miraleste Intermediate School that project costs are now being estimated at ~\$10,000,000. Initially, before the engineering phase began, costs were estimated at \$19,500,000 or so.

Latest is that August 17th meeting RPV Council decided to retain a Washington DC based federal advocacy firm at \$4,000 per month to seek \$19,000,000 in federal funds for this project. In view of the current uncertainties in Obamaland now and in the future, getting some bureaucrat to dispense any funds to RPV seems improbable at best and in all probability another waste of taxpayer funds. The San Ramon / Tarapaca Stabilization Project is a critical problem because of the potential safety issues that can be caused by significant rainfall. The next project report is scheduled for October and it will then be time for the RPV Council to "Get Real" and address their responsibilities.

Schools

Public employee pensions including schoolteachers has long been a point of contention with public employee / teachers union vigorously fighting to retain the status quo. An interesting Op-Ed piece in the September 7th edition of the Wall Street Journal commented about the unintended consequences of current retirement plans. Because teacher pensions are not portable, a recent study found that "too many veteran teachers who are burned out stay because they do not want to walk away from the benefits and service time they have accrued." Although teachers can change school districts in California without losing pension benefits,

changing vocations does present problems. The entire article is posted at www.pvpwatch.com.
Go to the PVP schools page / Pensions- WSJ 9-7-2010

Permanent Absentee Ballot

For those who might prefer to vote and mail in their ballot, the Permanent Absentee Voter application is also posted at www.pvpwatch.com. For those that might have difficulties getting to the polls on Election Day, an absentee ballot does simplify the process.

Newsletter Responses

Reader comments are welcomed and should be sent to info@pvpwatch.com. Newsletter responses are posted with names removed and no editing other than obvious grammatical changes. These are subscriber thoughts and opinions and PVP Watch does not vouch for those opinions. That so many have sent their comments has made the Newsletter more interesting and we appreciate the input.

We have been reminded that not ALL subscribers are aware of the PVP Watch website; www.pvpwatch.com. Lots of good info posted here.

Responses to August 6th Newsletter

Saw a yard sign today about Measure P which reads "RPV is not for sale". I thought Measure P was about Marymount, not Annenberg's shameful coastal land grab of prime publicly owned land. Message being sent is clear, here in RPV everything, and everyone, has their price.

Annenberg

I live in the Ocean Front development and would wholeheartedly support an open vote for the project!

Yes on a public vote on the Annenberg project...and the stupid Nature / Learning center at Abalone Cove..... Keep up the good work.

By all means let the residents of RPV vote on this project. I received the brochure on what I feel is one of the most unneeded buildings and wasted projects I have ever read about. After reading all about the "Dog and Cat" hotel I was left with one question of why do we need this building? I truly do not understand why the Interpretive Center can't incorporate an Outpost,

Education Center, Outdoor Exhibits and Open Trails? Add in another unneeded education building at Shoreline Park so all we can look forward to when driving along the coast are buildings? These two projects are truly disgusting to me. Oh, forgive me, it's not about the needs of the city, it's about what Tom Long and his cronies who refuse to listen to the residents who voted them in want and obviously they love to look at buildings rather than the beautiful open view we now enjoy. Anyone ready for a recall?

I think RPV should definitely hold a vote on the Annenberg pet project. It is a horrible misuse of public land, and I would wager that a large majority of our city's residents are opposed to it. I can't think of a single reason why this type of "educational facility" needs to be located on scarce ocean-bluff property. Come on RPV City Council, listen to your constituents!

Again our unstable council has shown they are not with the wishes of our wonderful city. The Annenberg project is huge. Our coastline can be better enjoyed without it. I hope this can be voted on by the majority and not decided by this group on the council.

Please count me in as a resident who is totally in favor of the Annenberg gift to our city. It would be another jewel in our crown and give wonderful access to the cliffs. I have visited other Annenberg projects, namely the photography museum in Century City and the Santa Monica project on at the old Hearst Beach House. Both were done with great taste and are assets to their respective cities.

Charter City

I recently heard on the news that "Bell" California is a charter city. That is why the city officials were able to attain these exorbitant salaries for their compensations.

I have not researched this subject, but it will be worthwhile considering before the change to charter city takes place!

I too feel the situation in the city of Bell opened the eyes of many of our residents. I'm not sure that we have complete confidence in our council to really evaluate the subject in question rationally. This of course would have to be voted on and getting some of these guys out of there would also a GREAT thing to do. More power CANNOT be given to this council.

RPV Trash Hauling

I've now complained twice to the city about how EDCO leaves the garbage cans randomly strewn in the street.

About a year ago when I first read about new trash service coming, I e-mailed Tom Long about the problem of steep driveways and the difficulty that seniors could have with the larger trash cans. I was surprised that he actually read my e-mail, but the respond was all about the test done on his street without any problems, etc. I could see a new vendor coming without any public hearings as his mind was already made up.

Well now that we have EDCO, I have tried to adapt. Being a senior I have taken advantage of the discount then applied that discount to the cost of having side yard pick up. I could not handle the large container down my steep driveway. So that is working okay so far.....but, what a mess our street has turned out to be. Our trash day is Tuesday. We now have people putting out containers on Sunday as before and leave them out until Wednesday. Gardeners that come on Wednesday leave the containers on the street and the residents just leave them there. Most people on my street hate the new service.

An FYI for my trashed friends and neighbors. I have a small paved area in my parkway where I had always left my trash cans for pickup. Very handy for me and the picker upper! I was not thrilled with the idea of now having to put them in the gutter and drag same out after pickup. The first week of EDCO service I saw their service truck going up my street surveying the situation. I hailed the driver and he was the field supervisor for EDCO. He said it was just fine to have my cans up on the parkway, and they did not have to be in the gutter as long as there were no obstructions. And I now do so and have had no threats of cutting off my service because I didn't toe the party line. Let's be sure EDCO tells the same story to all customers.

P.S. This doesn't mean I like EDCO service!

Peninsula High Football Lights

Absolutely **yes** on Friday Night Lights. This is long overdue and the steering committee has done an outstanding job. I attended the school board meeting in late July and was very impressed. I live in the neighborhood and will be impacted. I also have two young daughters and can't wait to take them to the games.

It seems a bit too selfish to object to an actual enhancement to the high school of adding lights to the stadium. Friday night events could well collect additional funds through ticket sales and thereby support one of our great schools (academically speaking of course). So long as there is a net financial benefit such as someone paying for it with private funds, it makes sense to allow for the support of the school, the student's and student life. Lest we forget, the school is a major draw to the community that enhances property values. I don't see any reasonable objections.

Friday night lights (only 5} would be a wonderful addition to our community. I am all for it and have not children in the program but my wife and I would be there for the games. Thank you

I think it's a great idea to have lights:

- Extends the time fields can be used. Fields for kids, and adults, are in very short supply...
- Parents who work past 3:00pm can see a game or two.
- Night games will have a significant increase in attendance, generating more revenue for the school, athletic programs, etc.
- A lot more fun to watch, and play, with bigger crowds.

If I lived by a school I probably would try to prevent lights as well due to the noise, parking issues, trash, etc. I suggest using some of the extra funds noted above to increase police patrol and clean up the neighborhood after games. Creating some "permit parking only" zones allowing residents to park is a good idea (suggest one side of the street for public parking between the hours of 7:00am and 11:00pm, the other for residents).

PVP Watch – Newsletter List

A reminder to ALL PVP Watch supporters, should you change your e-mail address don't forget to advise PVP Watch of your new address. We suggest that pvpwatch.com be added to your computer address book to assure delivery of PVP Watch Newsletters.

PVP Watch – Contributions

PVP Watch thanks the many subscribers who have contributed to PVP Watch. Those desiring to make a modest contribution, please send checks to PVP Watch PO Box 7000-22 Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

Subscribers

The PVP Watch e-mail list continues to grow. For those who wish their addresses removed, please send notice to info@pvpwatch.com. Those who have topics of community interest are encouraged to bring those issues to PVP Watch.

The Editorial Committee