



Issam Najm, President; Susan Gorman-Chang, Vice President; Gabriel Khanlian, Secretary; Andrew Krowne, Treasurer; David Balen, Signer; Cheri Derohanian; Jason Hector; Alex Kim; Becky Leveque; Jennifer Milbauer, Asaad Alnajjar

**Porter Ranch Neighborhood Council (PRNC)
Sustainability Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 7, 2017
Porter Ranch Community School
Multi-purpose Room
12450 Mason Avenue
Porter Ranch, CA**

Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes

Item #1 --Meeting called to order by Co-Chair Susan Gorman-Chang at 7:05 pm.

Item #2 –Welcome & Introductions—Susan welcomed committee members, community members and stakeholders. Community members Mrin Moy Saha and his son Ayush from Lawrence Highly Gifted Middle School were in attendance. Asaad Y. Alnajjar, stakeholder was also in attendance. Asaad has been elected to the Board of the PRNC, so he is now a stakeholder and not a committee member because the PRNC Bylaws limit the number of Board members who can be committee members of any given committee to a maximum of three.

Item #3 --Roll Call—The current Committee consists of Co-Chair Susan Gorman-Chang, Co-Chair David Balen, Committee Member Jason Hector and Committee Member Lane Semper. Quorum is 3 out of 4. Susan called roll. We do not have quorum; we will table approval of December 2016 minutes until next meeting.

Here (3)	Susan Gorman-Chang-Board - Co-Chair & Committee Member, Lane Semper-stakeholder & Committee Member
Absent (2)	David Balen Co-Chair, Jason Hector-Board Member

Item #4 –Comments from the Chair- Susan welcomed the community members and explained we have our Sustainability Committee meetings the first Tuesday of each month, while the PRNC Board meets the second Wednesday of every month, in this same multi-purpose room, and she encouraged the community members to attend tomorrow night’s PRNC Board meeting as well.

Item #5 – Approval of Minutes- Tabled until we have quorum.

Item #6 - We discussed the LADWP presentation on energy efficiency that the LADWP representatives presented at our request at our last PRNC Board Meeting on February 7, 2017. This energy efficiency presentation was the first of many ideas generated at our December 6, 2016 Sustainability Committee Meeting where we brainstormed along with Kevin Taylor, West Valley Area Representative & Lauren Faber-O’Connor, Deputy Chief Sustainability Officer (both from Mayor Garcetti’s office) to come up with presentations, workshops and activities that could help our community move towards becoming a Net Zero Energy

Neighborhood. (In a Net Zero Energy Neighborhood the total amount of energy used by all the buildings on an annual basis is roughly equal to the amount of renewable energy created in that area.)

LADWP presenters probably felt a bit rushed that night because Mitch Englander, LA City Councilman, had stopped by unannounced to our meeting, and addressed the community for 30 or more minutes, which was nice, but which put us behind on our Agenda. We should consider putting guest speakers at the very beginning of our meetings from now on. Overall, we thought the LADWP Energy Efficiency presentation was very good.

Susan stated that she signed up for a LADWP Energy Audit, which was mentioned during LADWP's presentation. This is where an LADWP employee comes to your home and suggests ways to save energy at your house. You are left with written report consisting of suggested items, estimated cost of each items, and estimated energy savings. Susan submitted her application to LADWP but has not yet heard back yet. She enrolled in the Air Conditioning Optimization Program from LADWP last summer, where LADWP came out for free and did a maintenance on the home air conditioner and installed a "Nest" programmable thermostat to save energy.

Item # 7 - At our April PRNC Board Meeting we have invited LADWP to come back and explain solar net metering, so people understand how their electricity bill will decrease after installation of solar panels, and various options they have under that program. Asaad noted that PRNC may change the date of our April meeting to work around spring break, when this school where we meet will be closed and thus the multi-purpose room will be unavailable. We will post and change on website prnc.org.

Item #8 – LADWP Customer Bill of Rights Community Impact Statement (CIS)

Susan reviewed the CIS for PRNC that will be a motion at tomorrow night's PRNC Board Meeting and which we will vote on as a Board. The PRNC Board had voted on a motion to request an extension for comments to be able to be submitted from Neighborhood Councils on the LADWP Customer Bill of Rights, and that extension was granted. This CIS comments on the LADWP Customer Bill of Rights and makes some suggestions for improvement as stated below:

Thank you for formulating the LADWP Customer Bill of Rights and for extending the comment period an additional 90 days to enable you to hear from all interested Neighborhood Councils. We truly appreciate the hard work and collaboration it has taken to get to this point. We greatly appreciate that the LADWP Customer Bill of Rights is a living document, capable of being amended and improved over time.

Our comments are presented with references to the appropriate section of the January 3, 2017 LADWP Customer Bill of Rights.

Page 2, Section 1, Our Service Level Commitments

"Solar Interconnections for residential projects 10KV or less shall be within 10 business days after approved final inspection is received by LADWP or the customer will receive a one-time \$25 credit."

In cases where it takes more than 10 business days to hook up, we suggest the credit to homeowner's bill be the *actual cost* of their electricity, charged by LADWP in the period of time after the 10 business days has elapsed and before solar hook up. This amount of credit would more accurately reflect the cost to the customer of the solar hook up delay and this method is fair to both parties.

Page 2, Section 2, Reliable, Safe and Sustainable Power

"Customers should receive reliable power, meeting or exceeding the reliability of comparable utilities. Ratepayer money will support substantial investments to operate and maintain, upgrade or replace power infrastructure to ensure continued reliability, cost effectiveness and environmental performance."

We kindly request that the LADWP Customer Bill of Rights include a commitment and a timeline with milestone dates for LADWP to conduct a feasibility study and then conduct a pilot program allowing residential homeowners with solar panels to install and use battery backup systems after sundown, instead of drawing electricity from the LADWP grid as is currently mandated. Currently, residential homeowners can only use these battery backup systems when there is an LADWP electricity failure. Today's battery backup technology is sophisticated enough to enable homeowner to pre-select devices such as certain lights, a flat screen television, computers and a refrigerator to operate on the battery backup system. A feasibility study and information gleaned from a pilot program would be a positive step forward for residential customers who wish to use 100% renewable energy for electricity, and would also serve to take some stress off the electric grid at night.

We would like a statement included in the LADWP Customer Bill of Rights of LADWP's commitment to switch to 100% clean energy by 2030. This is the best way to secure sustainable power for us and our descendants. Customers of LADWP have the right to and deserve the cleanest air and water possible, and our energy generation choices should reflect that commitment.

Page 3: Section 3, Reliable and High Quality Water

"Customers should receive safe and reliable water that meets or exceeds mandated water quality levels."

According to the San Fernando Groundwater Basin Remediation Program brochure, page 2, *"The City plans to obtain 50% of water locally by 2015. The primary source of local water is groundwater, and the primary source of local groundwater is the SFB." (San Fernando Basin.)* Thus, we recommend that the LADWP Customer Bill of rights include a statement that LADWP supports a total ban on fracking and waste water injection for the entire state of California, or at a minimum within the LADWP service area, to protect the ground water and aquifers from further contamination. It makes little sense to allow our water to be further contaminated and then pay hundreds of millions of dollars for remediation.

We kindly request a statement of LADWP continued commitment to long term investments in equipment to remediate existing contamination in the San Fernando Valley ground water basin. Thank you for considering our suggestions.

Asaad stated the city of Los Angeles going 100% renewable by 2030 may be very difficult. It may be easier to get certain sectors, such as schools, to go 100% renewable by 2030.

Item #9 –General Public Comments

Ayush asked many intelligent questions regarding local government, pollution, and sustainability. We brought up my311la which is an app where you can report and take a picture of any damaged sidewalk or pothole that needs repair in the city of Los Angeles. We discussed solar power, and Asaad mentioned that we have 785 solar panels powering street lights in the city of Los Angeles, and 200 of these are in Porter Ranch. We discussed the amount of electricity generation we have in Los Angeles as well as the problem with radioactive waste generated by nuclear power. We discussed how if more people get solar panels on their houses, that will take some stress off the electric grid during the peak hours of the day, which will help greatly.



Asaad mentioned a new firm called Fisker from Finland that will be producing electric cars in Irvine, California and these cars can go 400 miles on a charge, and sell for \$135,000 for a new one or \$40,000 for a used one.

Lane brought up that 311 app can also be used to report people using gas powered blowers, which are illegal in the city of Los Angeles. Lane also mentioned if/when you smell something such as the odorant added to methane (aka “natural” gas), call 1-800-CUT-SMOG and report it so AQMD has a record of it.

Item # 10- Susan encouraged community members to attend tomorrow night’s PRNC Board Meeting. Lane mentioned Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 22, 2017. We’ll have a Community Clean Up from 9:00 to 12:00 and then 12:00 – 4:00 lunch (Subway sandwiches), games, activities at Holleigh Bernson Memorial Park in Porter Ranch.

Item #11- Susan made a motion to adjourn.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm