

PVP Watch Newsletter – January 16, 2013

To Our Friends and Supporters

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It's a new year and trust all had a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. The November election results were disappointing on many fronts and we will make some further comments later in this newsletter. The current situation in California is extremely onerous with the teachers and other public unions now in total control of Sacramento. Unfortunately voters reacted to Sacramento threats and approved Prop 30 which further increases taxes. Other tax increases are on the way...

One such tax is the proposed **L. A. County Clean Water, Clean Beaches Measure**. Late November, LA County sent a mailer to all property's in LA County describing the proposed "clean water" measure. Apparently many did not recognize the mailer to be a serious matter and discarded the mailer. Those seeking further information can go to www.lacountycleanwater.org. Minimum annual tax is \$54 with large property owners, including schools, paying a much greater fee.

The LA County Board of Supervisors met concerning this proposed tax on January 15th and as reported by the Daily Breeze and others the matter was deferred until March 12th or perhaps later. It seems some 200 or more protestors attended the Board meeting and so far, the county has received 96,349 written protests, about 4.3 percent; 50 percent or more is needed to stop the process. The supervisors voted 3-2 to redraft the measure to include a sunset clause, a list of projects and the possibility of placing it on a general ballot before the entire electorate, instead of only sending property owners a mail-in ballot.

Taxpayers can continue commenting on the proposed measure for another 60 days. Opposition letters should be sent to the Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors, PO Box 86606, Los Angeles, CA 90086.

Supervisor Don Knabe, who represents the beaches and southeast county, voted against the measure stating that too many property owners were not aware of the measure. He blamed a flawed, \$3 million county process that consisted of mailing a single notice to the owners of 2.2 million properties.

We urge ALL to pay attention to this matter. We wonder.... Could this eliminate the RPV Storm Drain User Fee?

RPV in Crisis..... The Continuing Saga

...The Good News is that the ACOE (Army Corp of Engineers) has, at last, approved the San Ramon project and RPV has reportedly issued bid packages to qualified construction firms. We do not have the exact dates but believe proposals are due later this month with awarding of a contract(s) by late February.

January 7th, 8th and 9th the RPV Council (Brooks, Campbell, Knight & Missetich) as well as City Manager Lehr made their annual excursion to Sacramento to visit with State Legislators and California League of Cities officials. Interesting are the Legislator meeting agendas and that there is no mention of the evening dinner functions. The topics listed for discussion with the legislators were:

- State Budget & Potential Threats to Local Revenues
- Protect Local Collection of Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT)
- Public Records Act Requests
- Oversight of Public Utilities Commission – SCE Reliability

It would have been interesting to be a “fly on the wall” listening to these discussions. In regards to the TOT funds (Terranea) some at City Hall are now whining that Terranea, like most other similar venues, discounts room rates to brokers for resale. The result, some potential loss (minimal) of TOT revenues to RPV. We wonder if anyone at City Hall has considered that no room rental means NO TOT which is the likely scenario if Terranea, (like other similar venues) did not utilize all possible room rental opportunities. How fast some forget....

It is no secret that City Manager Lehr detests the ability of the public (residents and others) to make public records requests and she has the support of Council members Brooks and Knight. Unknown is Missetich's position while Campbell and Duhovic solidly support the Public Records Request process. The ability to make Public Records Requests (PQR) is essential and critical to “open” government. As it is, too many situations occur without public oversight. However, the

law is clear concerning taxpayers prerogative to make Public Records Requests. Wondering if any of the legislators were sympathetic to the issue or instead wondered if this was the most important matter confronting RPV City Hall? We understand there are at least two pending Public Records Requests seeking data on City Hall salaries which by law is public information.

We have on past occasions reported on RPV's relationship with PV Net and questionable billing / payment practices. PV Net has been filing with the IRS as a "Not for Profit" 501c3 organization and not paying either payroll or other taxes claiming not to have any employees. Apparently the IRS has questioned PV Net's IRS filings as PV Net has two dockets now pending in the US Tax Court. Informed sources report that the typical reasoning for filing a petition in the US Tax Court is to dispute an IRS decision. The first docket was scheduled to go to trial on February 11th but has been continued at the petitioner's request. These dockets posted on the US Tax Court website are public documents for all to view.

One of the unreported items at RPV City Hall is the consultant's report for "Job Evaluation" analysis. As we understand the situation, the "scope" was to evaluate each job responsibility, match the job description for what the person was actually doing and determine how productive the person occupying each position. Does the person have the skills needed and assess the volume of work performed by this position. The consultant was engaged some months ago and there have been no reports that we are aware of. The only feedback we have heard is Mayor Brooks remarks that City Hall is understaffed. Hmmmmm.

Crime on the Peninsula

Following statistics are for RPV but we believe they are somewhat typical for our community.

2012 3rd QTR RPV Crime Report

	2012	2011	Change	% Change
Homicide	0	1	-1	-100%
Rape	0	0	0	0%
Robbery	1	6	-5	-83%
Aggravated Assault	8	4	4	100%
Burglary, Residence	20	16	4	25%
Burglary, Other	10	13	-3	- 23%

Vehicle Burglary	14	17	-3	-18%
Theft from Vehicle	11	14	-3	-21%
Other Larceny / Theft	29	35	-6	-17%
Grand Theft Auto	6	3	3	100%
Arson	0	1	-1	-10%
Total	99	110	-11	

It is not unusual that during any given time period some crimes increase while others decrease. What seems to be the most frequent during the reporting period were Aggravated Assault, Residential Burglary and Identity Theft. Much of this can be reduced if residents would take some precautions to remove valuables from sight in vehicles as well as lingering newspapers and mail which usually signifies that no one is home. Putting papers with ID data in the recycle bins without shredding is another method for the “bad guys” to get personal data.

A recent comment from a PVP Watch subscriber. *“Just want you to tell our neighbors to make sure they lock their cars especially at night. One night last week I forgot to lock my car and during the night someone went through it. Not much was in there but they took my backpack and my work id.”* Lesson... Don't leave autos unlocked and / or valuables in plain sight.

There are some who perceive that Governor Brown's early release program will likely increase crime on the Peninsula. So far, we have not seen any evidence to support these assumptions.

Kudos to Lomita Sheriff's office for arresting the person believed to be the “San Pedro Grinch” Michael Wiczorek. Mr. Wiczorek is scheduled for his initial Court appearance on January 25th. Our understanding is that evidence is overwhelming with the finding of various stolen items as well as capabilities for making false identity materials. More to follow...

Gun Control

Recent mass shooting of innocent children and adults by deranged people has made a media frenzy opportunity for greater gun control. While a good debate concerning automatic weapons and supersized ammunition magazines is undoubtedly a good discussion to have, the discussion must be limited and not overzealous as some politicians are trying to do. One must remember, the “bad guys” do not have licensed guns or permits; guns laws only restrict the good guys and not the bad guys.

We all deplore what happened in Connecticut and other places as well, but we cannot put aside that proper use of guns saves lives. An event in San Antonio, Texas on December 17, 2012 wherein an individual, with a gun, went to a restaurant looking for his ex-girlfriend. Fortunately all of his shots were “wild” and an armed off duty Sheriff’s Sergeant shot the gunman. Presumably, that there was no mass killing, this event did not make national news coverage and they seem remiss in NOT reporting incidents where someone trained in the use of a gun was there, and responded favorably, saving lives.

To read the entire story - <http://www.snopes.com/politics/guns/sanantonio.asp>

We will welcome your opinions on *gun control*. Please send comments to info@pvpwatch.com

Election Highlights

First of all, congratulations to all Peninsula residents as your overall voting approached 80%.

The numbers below are for the 66th California Assembly District and the two candidates were Craig Huey (R) and Al Muratsuchi (D) and are presented as indicative of election results.

	Huey	Muratsuchi
PV Estates	61%	39%
RPV	55%	45%
Rolling Hills	74%	26%
Rolling Hills Estates	61%	39%
Total Votes	84,372	102,136

Although Huey won “the Hill” Muratsuchi prevailed in Torrance and other areas in the 66th AD.

The California Secretary of State reports as of Nov. 20th that Muratsuchi had raised \$1,719,385.84 and Huey reported total receipts of \$1,047,776.80.

Thanks to California unions Muratsuchi was able to raise almost twice as much as Huey which he used to run an effective SMEAR campaign. Unfortunately, in this editor’s opinion, the best man DID NOT win this campaign. The Republicans, which are the majority on the hill, had some very qualified candidates running in the recent election that were overwhelmed by union funding of Democratic candidates and issues.

Those that thought voting YES on the Prop 30 sales tax increase would increase PVPUSD school funding should be bracing themselves for a rude awakening as Governor Brown has now announced that funds will go to those schools who have the greater number of “learning disadvantaged” students. Those who perceive that PVPUSD is sitting on a mound of cash need to check reality more closely.

The California Teachers Association and their other public service union friends in cooperation with their “Best Bud” Governor Brown wanted desperately to win with YES on Prop 30 and NO on Prop 32. The Unions now have a “lock” on the California Legislature. When the Unions say “jump” Muratsuchi and his friend’s only response will be “How High”?

Campaign Contributions

Craig Huey

California Taxpayer Assoc.	\$40,500.
Torrance Police Officer Assoc. PAC	\$27,116.
California Republican Committees	\$666,000.

Al Muratsuchi

Californians for Fiscal Accountability, Dentists, Doctors and School Employees - - - \$508,274
California Teachers Assoc. - - \$184,545.
Professional Engineers in Calif. Gov’t (PECG PC) - - -\$40,090.
Peace Officers Research Assoc. of Calif. PAC - - - \$15,070
Planned Parenthood - - - - - \$16,927. (est.)
SEIU (union) Primary & General Election - - \$\$55,700.
California Democratic Committees - - - -\$1,149, 260.

In so far as the RPV Council junket to Sacramento (Brooks, Campbell, Knight, Missetich and City Manager Lehr) last week to meet with Muratsuchi, Ted Lieu etc. we the taxpayers would like to know what that junket cost and can they define any clear outcomes that might benefit us in RPV? What is interesting is that few other Peninsula Councilmembers participate in this questionable exercise.

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