

PVP Watch Newsletter – May 14, 2016

To Our Friends and Supporters

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June 7th Primary Election

The Peninsula is included in the 33rd Congressional District and Democrat incumbent Ted Lieu, and Kenneth Wright MD are the two candidates. That this is the primary election and there is only one Republican and one Democrat candidate, the focus will be on the General Election in November.

Locally, the 66th California Assembly District is significant as that position represents the Peninsula in Sacramento and our current Assembly Member is David Hadley. Assembly Member Hadley, a Republican was elected two years ago and has an outstanding record of accomplishment in the Democratic controlled California State Government. Mr. Hadley is an ardent supporter of Prop 13 and is endorsed by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association. PVP Watch supports a vote FOR David Hadley for the 66th AD.

Retaining David Hadley as the Peninsula’s representative in the California Assembly is critical for many reasons one of which is stopping the Democrats from achieving a two thirds majority. A Democrat majority in the State Assembly would be a disaster for California residents with the locked in ability to repeal Prop 13 and the Property Tax protection provided by Prop 13. Assemblyman Hadley’s likely opponent is Democrat Al Muratsuchi who was defeated by Hadley two years ago. Another Democrat in the contest is Mike Madrigal. Muratsuchi’s supporters will be the labor unions who have much to gain with Muratsuchi’s election.

We encourage all to visit Hadley’s website - <https://ad66.asnrc.org/>. While you are there suggest you sign up for his newsletter for current information from Sacramento.

[Vote for David Hadley for 66th Assembly District on June 7th.](#)

RPV - Storm Drain User Fee: The RPV Storm Drain User fee will terminate June 30, 2016 despite the concerted effort by some to renew / place a new / similar tax on RPV residents.

The council at its meeting on May 3rd voted 5 / 0 to terminate any / all discussions relative to creating a new Storm Drain User Fee. While it is likely that there will always be a need for Storm Drain maintenance, RPV's finances are greatly improved from ten (10) years ago and there is no longer a need for a separate tax for Storm Drains. This result in terminating further discussion was a last November campaign commitment by now Mayor Ken Dyda and Jerry Duhovic! With the assistance of Brian Campbell the commitment was fulfilled. It should be noted that the other two Council persons, Brooks and Misetich were among those who before the last election were supporting a new Storm Drain tax but apparently seeing the taxpayer opposition, joined the majority and voted NO.

As of the March Cash Balance Report, RPV has over \$6 million in the "Water Quality Flood Protection" account which is the account used for holding / paying Storm Drain Maintenance costs. As we previously reported, Staff has identified approximately \$17 million in Storm Drain projects over the next ten (10) years. Currently there is approximately \$23 million in Capital project funds and with approximately \$5 million annually in TOT (Transit Occupancy Tax) receipts from Terranea; it should not difficult to maintain RPV's storm drain systems.

Good financial management not more taxes is the solution.

RPV – Council Responsibilities

Currently it is budget preparation time and one idea being proposed by City Manager Willmore is to "dust off" the previously discarded plans for building a new Civic Center at RPV's current City Hall site. Our understanding of the situation is that City Manager Willmore perceives the inclusion of a fire station, ambulance and a Sheriff's station and included in the proposed budget is \$250,000 for studying this concept. Apparently City Manager Willmore has been in contact with LA County Fire and Sheriffs as well as potential financing entities promoting his concepts for a new Civic Center. The idea of a new city hall has been "floated" on several previous occasions each time the concept has been quickly dismissed. A serious problem is that Willmore had not sought Council direction before contacting the other agencies.

PVP Watch believes that the Council should not provide any funds for another "exercise in futility." PVP Watch is NOT against making some reasonable upgrades in the City Hall complex, however there is no need to spend monies for such a study.

We believe few would disagree that there is need for greater availability of "emergency responders" on the South side (PV Dr. South). Currently Fire Station 53 is housed in an antiqued facility likely built in the WW II era. A new expanded station should be built in the same general area. This could be a LA County facility that included space for Paramedic's, Lifeguards and a small Sheriff's office. Rather than wasting time and precious funds on an "exercise in futility" let's focus on a real solution and move forward.

Fire Department Services in RPV.

We presume everyone is aware, fire department services on the Peninsula are provided by the LA County Fire Department. Recently City Manager Willmore submitted a memo to the RPV City Council that his research had revealed that RPV residents were paying some \$20 million annually to LA County Fire services which he apparently believes a shocking amount. There are approximately 14,500 residences in RPV as well as some commercial enterprises i.e. Terranea, Trump National, Marymount California University (MCU) etc. Taking a very rough cut on Willmore's annual cost estimate (\$20,000,000 / ~14,500) equates to about \$1,380 per residence annually. That number, being an average, seems inaccurate and we suggest better research before getting too excited that RPV residents are getting "ripped" by LA County Fire.

Mr. Willmore also reported that only two fire stations (presumably stations 53 & 83) are located in RPV apparently overlooking Fire Station 56 on Crest Road and Fire Station 106 on Indian Peak. Willmore is correct that these two fire stations are technically located in Rolling Hills and Rolling Hills Estates. However these two stations are integral to fire / rescue protection for RPV as well as other Peninsula cities and would have to be included in any analysis of RPV emergency services. Hopefully the Council will quickly recognize that data, so far, is questionable and not commit to waste of taxpayer funds chasing another staff initiated "*exercise in futility.*"

If it is not broken, don't waste time trying to fix it.....

RPV – "0" Tolerance on Switchbacks

As many Peninsula residents are aware, the "Switchbacks" (the section of PV Drive East connecting PV Drive South to Crest Road) has become very dangerous because of uncontrolled motorcycle and other dangerous traffic.

Editor: Quoting from others "*This stretch of roadway has become increasingly popular with motorcyclists and sports car enthusiasts from all over the region, drawing complaints of speeding, unsafe passing, reckless driving, and excessive engine noise. The noise generated by illegally-modified motorcycle exhaust systems is a major quality of life concern and infringes on the peace and tranquility of nearby residential neighborhoods.*"

At its May 3rd meeting the RPV Council unanimously directed the Sheriff to end the hazardous use of PV Drive East in the "Switchback" area. Lomita Sheriff Captain Dan Beringer has since announced that Deputies from Lomita Station are stepping up traffic enforcement on Palos Verdes Drive East, particularly between Crest Road and Palos Verdes Drive South in Rancho Palos Verdes.

Captain Beringer has directed his deputies to take a "ZERO TOLERANCE" approach to violations of this nature. The goal is to protect users of this roadway and to preserve peace in this community. Motorists should be mindful of the safety issues on this narrow stretch of road, which is used by bicyclists and pedestrians as well.

South Bay Beaches

In case you missed it, The April 24th Daily Breeze included a front page article written by Sandy Mazza reporting on a bill in Congress (HR 48710) to expand the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation area to include the Southern Los Angeles County coastline which includes South Bay Beaches from Santa Monica to San Pedro.

No surprise that this ill-conceived legislation was introduced by South Bay Democratic Reps. Ted Lieu and Maxine Waters.

Question; are there any benefits to taxpayers to have our beaches / coastline included in the Federal National Park system? We see none. It has been reported that our national park system is underfunded and parks are in serious disrepair.

The California Coastal Commission currently has coastal oversight and is there anything missing that could be solved by the Federal National Park system? Probably not. If one perceives that obtaining approval for Coastal projects is now exhausting, adding the “Feds” in Washington DC will not bring any tranquility to that process.

As reported in the Breeze article “*this proposal has broad support from environmental coalitions.*” It would seem South Bay Democratic Reps. Ted Lieu and Maxine Waters are again displaying their disregard for taxpayer rights with the Progressives agenda of the Federal Government’s Western states land grab.

PVPUSD – Parcel Tax Exemptions

PVP School District Parcel Tax exemptions for Seniors must be filed with school district headquarters no later than May 31st. For more information go to - <http://www.pvpusd.net/>

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