

Sun Valley Storm Drain Phase 1 and Rory M. Shaw Wetlands Park Update Community Meeting

Virtual Zoom Meeting
Thursday, April 29, 2021
6 PM to 7:30 PM

Summary

- 1) Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda
 - a) On April 29, 2021, Los Angeles County Public Works held a virtual community meeting for the Sun Valley Storm Drain Phase 1 Construction and Rory M. Shaw Wetlands Park Project Update. There were approximately 34 participants.
 - b) Samantha Salvia (facilitator) opened the meeting and instructions were provided for the two language (English and Spanish) audio channels on Zoom. Spanish interpretation was provided on the Spanish audio channel throughout the meeting.
 - c) Salvia went over the meeting agenda. Main topics included an update on the Rory M. Shaw Wetlands Park Project and an overview of the Sun Valley Upper Storm Drain Phase 1 construction.
 - d) Salvia informed all participants that the meeting was being recorded and meeting materials would be posted on the Sun Valley Watershed website (sunvalleywatershed.org). She encouraged all participants to type any questions or comments they may have during the meeting in the Q/A feature. All questions would be answered at the Q/A portion of the presentation.
 - e) The meetings' panelists were introduced. Opening remarks were given by Maria Chong-Castillo, Public Works Deputy for Los Angeles County 3rd Supervisorial District (Sheila Kuehl) and Marcos Sanchez, District Director for City of Los Angeles 6th Council District (Nury Martinez). Both Chong-Castillo and Sanchez noted the joint effort among LA County Public Works, City of Los Angeles, and the Sun Valley community in moving forward these projects.
- 2) Overview of Sun Valley Watershed
 - a) Kenneth Chow, Project Manager from LA County Public Works, provided an overview of the Sun Valley Watershed. The Sun Valley Watershed is 4.4 square miles in size and lacks a comprehensive drainage system. The Sun Valley Watershed Management Plan was created with collaboration from LA County, City of Los Angeles, and the Sun Valley community. The two projects discussed in this meeting come from the Sun Valley Watershed Management Plan.
- 3) Rory M. Shaw Wetlands Park Update
 - a) Chow also provided an update on the Rory M. Shaw Wetlands Park Project. This project works in conjunction with the Sun Valley Upper Storm Drain project as stormwater runoff collected in the storm drain network will be delivered to the Rory Shaw site's 21-acre detention pond. Stormwater from the detention pond

will be treated in the 10-acre wetlands and then pumped to the adjacent Sun Valley Park's existing underground infiltration basins. The park also consists of 15 acres of recreational and open space which includes basketball courts, tennis courts, and a playground.

- b) The project has three phases. The first phase - Site Investigations and Demolition was completed in 2017. The second phase – Rough Grading and Overexcavation is ongoing and is dedicated to the extensive earthwork and grading required to prepare the site. Construction of Phase 2 is anticipated to start in 2022 and end in 2026. Excess sediment will need to be hauled off-site. Prior to the start of construction, a community meeting will be held to go over construction details. This meeting is anticipated to be in February 2022. The third phase – Above-Ground Improvements consists of the construction of all the park amenities. Construction of Phase 3 is anticipated to start in 2026 and end in 2028.
 - c) Renderings of the project were shown and Chow noted that all the renderings are on the Sun Valley Watershed website (sunvalleywatershed.org).
- 4) Sun Valley Storm Drain Phase 1 Construction
- a) Precious Crosby, Project Manager from LA County Public Works, provided an overview of the project limits and description of work. The project involves installation of 4,300 feet of underground 96"-diameter reinforced concrete pipe (RCP), connector pipes, catch basins, and other drainage structures. Construction work also includes restoring asphalt pavement, sidewalks, driveways, and roadway striping. Contractor name, construction duration, and working hours were shared.
 - b) Crosby discussed each of the 6 stages of construction. Each stage follows the same sequence of work and each stage maintains pedestrian and driveway access throughout the work.
 - c) Crosby noted that because the storm drain system is connected to the Rory Shaw Park, the completed Phase 1 storm drain would not be operational until Phases 2-4 of the storm drain system and the Rory Shaw Park was completed. A schedule for all the projects was shown.
 - d) Chow discussed the costs and funding sources for the projects.
- 5) How to Stay Connected
- a) Salvia noted that questions and comments on the Rory M. Shaw Wetlands Park Project should be directed to Kenneth Chow at sunvalleywatershed@pw.lacounty.gov (626) 458-7163.
 - b) Questions and comments on Sun Valley Upper Storm Drain Phase 1 should be directed to Precious Crosby at pcrosby@pw.lacounty.gov (626) 458-3914. Spanish speakers can contact Art Correa at arcorrea@pw.lacounty.gov (626) 458-3948.
 - c) There is a dedicated website www.sunvalleywatershed.org with information about the two projects. People can also sign up to subscribe for the Sun Valley Watershed email blasts which can include quarterly updates and meeting

announcements. People can also click on the "Contact Us" to ask any questions or provide any feedback.

6) Questions/Answers

- a) Why has there been no work made on this project since its "Ground Breaking" in 2014? Was this in order to put Zev Yaroslavsky's name on it?
 - i) The Rory Shaw Park Project did have a groundbreaking in 2014. During investigation, there was discovery of organic landfill material (from the Newberry Landfill directly north of our site) that crossed into our project. This caused a project re-design as we had to ensure that water from our site would not come into contact with the landfill material. Another source of delay was the limited access to the project site. An existing concrete mixing company stayed onsite until 2017.
- b) Can we see a list of all the attendees who are on the call?
 - i) Public Works will look into this. We currently have 34 attendees (not counting the 8 panelists).
- c) How will dumping, homelessness and crime be handled? Once the project is completed, there's already a lot of dumping and abandoned vehicles on a weekly basis. Will there be a community safety partnership with law enforcement to prevent crime?
 - i) Existing dumped material on the project site would be removed prior to start of construction. Upon completion of the park, the park will be turned over to the City of Los Angeles for their operation and maintenance. City of LA mentioned that they are requesting in their budget to have a specific team to remove bulky items from parks and to have rangers to patrol the park. City of LA will discuss with Department of Recreation and Parks to ensure that the park is properly staffed and safe.
- d) Can you show the map?
 - i) A map was shown during the presentation. The presentation will be provided after the meeting.
- e) It looks like the storm water will run into the corner of the park. What is the plan to clean any garbage and industrial runoff?
 - i) When the park is complete, drainage issues would be addressed by the completed Sun Valley Upper Storm Drain system. The system would convey runoff into the park where it will be treated.
- f) When the project is completed, will there be security guards to keep people safe? Will there be park employees for maintenance?
 - i) See previous answer. City of LA will have conversations with Department of Recreation and Parks to ensure that the park is properly staffed and safe.
- g) Question to Marcos Sanchez from SVANC: Will the concrete demolition site across from Sun Valley Park vacate the area and the area will become part of the Wetlands project?

- i) That site had a hearing with the City of LA's attorney office. There was a settlement and resolution, Marcos will check with their attorney and will provide the update.
- h) Will the playground be accessible for the disabled?
 - i) Yes; ADA is part of the planning and design to ensure the park is accessible.
- i) When you create long term projects like this, do you consider the consequences of duration? The Rory Shaw Wetlands project benefits the contractor only who makes millions of dollars and will take as much time as they choose to. Have you ever considered the issue that we as Sun Valley residents will be suffering till the end of 2029 to be able to enjoy the park? My children will be adults by that time. What is the reason for these years of delay of something this? Why do these projects take much shorter time in other communities or cities like Burbank, North Hollywood, Glendale, etc.? Will some of us even be alive to see this park and use it? Do we have the option to oppose this at all?
 - i) Once the construction starts, the Contractor is obligated to follow the timeline set by the County and complete the project.
 - ii) As previously mentioned, there were two main reasons for the delay: discovery of organic material onsite which led to a re-design and limited access to the site until 2017 prevented the necessary investigations. Rory Shaw is a very special project as well and requires a long duration due to the extensive grading and excavation. The project will excavate 1.8 million cubic yards of material which will then need to be processed (sorted, crushed, screened, etc.). The project also requires filling and compacting about 1.4 million cubic yards of material. As a point of reference, the Rose Bowl in Pasadena is about 400,000 cubic yards in volume. Therefore the excavation of the Rory Shaw site is about 4 Rose Bowls! We have a lot of work and we need to do it in a safe way.
- j) How will construction affect the air quality in the area?
 - i) Contractor is required to adhere to air quality standards. The Sun Valley Watershed Management Plan has an environmental document which included mitigation measures. These mitigation measures address air quality, noise, etc.
- k) What is going to happen to the recycling plant right next to this long-desired and allegedly one day existent park? By the time you build this park we have long died of cancer because of the contaminated and poor quality air we breathe day in and day out. I just want to understand the reasoning behind these decisions. As residents are we even allowed to oppose these timeline decisions? If the city already has the budget why should it take close to 10 years to complete something like Rory Shaw park?
 - i) See previous answer. City of Los Angeles is checking with their attorney and will provide an update.
- l) Are there any plans to incorporate public sculptures within the Wetlands Park project? Or is this a purely nature/reserve green space? The reason I'm asking is that future apartment projects (nearby) show no public art as part of their overall design. Public art/sculpture would greatly improve the aesthetics of the

neighborhood. And it should be a requirement for large project developments of this kind.

- i) Since this park will be handed over to City of Los Angeles at its completion, City of Los Angeles will handle the art at the park.
- m) Will there be a no overnight parking, to prevent RV's from parking?
 - i) Currently, the surrounding streets do have parking restrictions. City of LA will explore more options. The completed park will have two parking lots (the north lot is planned to have 127 stalls and the east lot is planned to have 33 stalls).
- n) Will the northern end of the new storm drain connect up with storm drains at and north of San Fernando Road?
 - i) Yes, Phase 2 and 3 of the Sun Valley Upper Storm Drain system will connect to the already functioning Tuxford Drain and will then connect to Phase 1.
- o) What's the timeline for completion? We have been waiting for this area to be developed for 30 years.
 - i) The schedule was shown in the presentation. The presentation will be shared after the meeting (posted on the website).
- p) Will the AMH recycling plant also leave the area due to this projects?
 - i) See previous response. City of Los Angeles is checking with their attorney and will provide an update.
- q) Do any of the developers of these projects have any connection with the developers who are building the condos/apartment buildings that will be built across the street?
 - i) No connection.
- r) Could it happen faster than planned?
 - i) LA County Public Works is looking for various ways to speed up the process, but this is the most realistic schedule right now.
- s) For the Rory M. Shaw project, are the project schedule dates confirmed or tentative? Last time we met in person we already were given the new designs because of the organic material found. We then were given a start of construction date of early 2020. Seems like every time we meet it gets pushed back a year.
 - i) LA County is committed to moving this project move forward. The dates in the schedule provided are firm.
- t) From the time that it took from the groundbreaking in 2014 to the current construction now, can you chronicle exactly how the redesign of this project happened?
 - i) In 2014, organic landfill material was discovered on site. Geotechnical testing was performed to ascertain the full extents of the organic landfill. In parallel, this information was being analyzed and used to redesign the project features. However, the existing concrete mixing company remained on-site until 2017 which limited our ability to do all the testing we needed. More testing was done after the company had vacated the site, and we continued

to refine the design plans. LA County Public Works will post this information on the website regarding the delays from 2014 until now.

- u) Is it possible to shrink this completion timeline at least in half to make it realistic or beneficial to any of us?
 - i) Schedule shown is most realistic. LA County Public Works will continue to look into this.
 - v) Given the lack of green space along Strathern and the overall neighborhood, are there any plans to convert some of the empty lots along the same street into small playgrounds and parklets? Is the city even aware of these empty lots?
 - i) Please send Council District 6 these addresses/locations and they will look into it.
 - w) Is there any plan for the old Roscoe hardware site to be redeveloped?
 - i) City of Los Angeles currently has no plan.
 - x) Are the homes that are across the street from the Rory Shaw project going to be vulnerable to a breach of the bigger basin?
 - i) No, LA County Public Works has done extensive investigation to ensure the safety of the site.
- 7) Community Comments:
- a) Thanks Marcos for the summary of all the projects in Sun Valley!
 - b) Please complete as shown in the project forecast. If the project would start on 2014, we would have been in the last year of completing that. Please don't leave unfinished.
 - c) Just an FYI, if that concrete demolition site remains next to the new Wetlands Park, it will definitely disrupt any quality family park life that you all may be aiming for with this magnificent project. I ask Councilmember Office to please continue to look into vacating the demolition site adjacent to the Wetlands.
 - d) The Sun Valley Watershed has been important to TreePeople since the Sun Valley Watershed Management Plan was developed in 2004 (Andy Lipkis as our founder provided leadership on that and I happened to represent the area as the Assemblymember in those years). Please let us know how we can help with additional community engagement, especially with the actual tree planting/care and environmental education on the multi-benefit stormwater benefits.
 - e) Yes please get rid of the concrete plant.
 - f) As President of the Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council I ask that you please reach out to us for any assistance or outreach to the community you may need. I thank you for bringing this much needed project to our City of Sun Valley.
 - g) Old roscoe hardware is an eye sore.
- 8) Conclusion
- a) Thank you to all the attendees for their participation in tonight's meeting.
 - b) Participants were thanked for their patience with the fruition of these projects. Both LA County Supervisorial District 3 and LA City Council District 6 invited attendees to send any other questions or comments to their office. City Council District 6 provided the phone number for their Sun Valley office 818-771-0236.

- c) Reminder that meeting materials (including presentation and recording of the presentation) will be posted on the website (sunvalleywatershed.org).