

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
SUSTAINABILITY
ALLIANCE

Friend—

So, we had a lot of rain in February. It wasn't fun for everyone, and in fact caused a lot of damage (although no lives were lost), but we needed it, right? Well, yes, but, most of it was very efficiently swept right out to the ocean, which is *not* where we need it. To learn more, check out latimes.com/environment/story/2024-02-08/lives-saved-and-water-lost-the-los-angele-river-dilemma.

It turns out, flood-risk mitigation and stormwater capture are directly related to a lot of what we happen to be working on, including our **demonstration lawn conversion**, **artificial turf**, the **Sepulveda Basin**, and **bioswales**. Read on to learn more!

Demonstration lawn conversion March 9 and 10

Join us Saturday or Sunday (or both!) for a one-of-a-kind, hands-on event. We will be transforming a water-hungry, monoculture grass lawn on a **multifamily property** into a biodiverse **habitat** zone that **captures rainwater**, reintroduces threatened **native plants** to the neighborhood, and supports **pollinators** and the web of life in our local **ecosystem** over the course of two days. There will be all sorts of ways to learn and contribute. Learn more and get the link to RSVP at ncsa.la/lawn_conversion_2024_03-09_10.

At our February meeting, we voted to support a ban or moratorium on new installations of **artificial turf**, which [contributes to stormwater runoff](#). We also voted in support of **Councilmember Raman's motion on gas-powered leaf**

[blowers](#). Finally, we hosted a forum for CD 14 candidates. You can check out the video of the meeting on our YouTube channel [here](#).

More on the Sepulveda Basin

The [Climate Reality Project–San Fernando Valley Chapter](#) is hosting a sort of “sneak peek” into the next version of the **Sepulveda Basin vision plan** March 12, at which time some of us will have the opportunity to pose questions based on the letters we submitted about the draft plan, which we have concerns about. (Visit [ncsa.la/sepulveda_basin](#) to learn more and to see our letter.) You can register at [sfvclimatereality.org/event-details/upcoming-chapter-meetings-2024-03-12-19-00](#).

Good news on the bioswales!

Baby steps, folks! We have a long way to go, but we did have a lot of fun planting **native plants** with **Councilmember Hernandez** in these once-abandoned (and unidentifiable!) parkway swales. Thank you to her office, **LASAN**, so many others in the City, and mostly, **Aurora Corona** of the **Pico Union NC** for getting us this far. And check out our [Instagram post!](#)

Climate Emergency Mobilization Office’s Community Assembly Thursday, March 14

Please join the **Climate Emergency Mobilization Office** (CEMO) for this important **Community Assembly** Thursday, March 14, from 9 to 3. Their goal is to **align frontline community climate justice priorities** with the City’s climate policies and plans by creating **participatory experiences** and **dialogues** that will then inform and be shared with various City Departments and the Office of the Mayor through CEMO. You can register at [climate4la.org/stand-up-for-climate-equity-la/](#).

City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto and CD 14 candidate forum (take 2)

Our conversation with **City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto** will be **Sunday, April 14 at 6:30**. Learn more and RSVP at [ncsa.la/city_atty_4_14_2024](#).

Plastics sham

If you still feel good about using **plastic** because you recycle, read this article:

theguardian.com/us-news/2024/feb/15/recycling-plastics-producers-report. And here is the report the article is based on: climateintegrity.org/plastics-fraud.

Bad news on the gondola

So, we lost this round. The Metro Board (including chair **Mayor Bass, Council President Krekorian**, and **Councilmember Yaroslavsky**) voted to certify the **Dodger stadium gondola** EIR. The next local step is at City Council, which must approve the project, and where **Councilmember Hernandez** introduced a [motion](#) asking them to put a pause on the project until other options have been adequately studied. You can learn more at ncsa.la/dodger_stadium_gondola. Please **submit your community impact statements ASAP**, NCs!

We support Measure HLA

The [United Firefighters of Los Angeles](#) have come out against [Measure HLA](#), which shows us how much we are talking past each other. They are missing, in our view, the city for the cars. They appear not be using systems thinking. Fire fighters are focused on getting to accidents as quickly as possible, while part of **the point of Measure HLA is to prevent those very accidents in the first place**. We also want to emphasize that **bus lanes** and **center turn lanes** (part of the mobility plan that Measure HLA would implement) can be used for emergency vehicles, and that there *is* flexibility built into the plan: latimes.com/california/newsletter/2024-02-28/hla-street-safety-advocates-vs-firefighters-essential-california. Also, the folks behind Measure HLA counter the City's Chief Administrative Officer's cost estimates, and the LA Times agrees: latimes.com/opinion/story/2024-02-21/fear-mongering-measure-hla-firefighters-budget. Get the facts before you vote.

More information to help you vote, and more on charter reform

Want to learn more about some of the **city council candidates** on the ballot from a “**good governance**” perspective? Check out how candidates answered this questionnaire from Unrig LA: unrigla.org/survey24. Also, this might be a fun way to approach a charter reform commission: zocalopublicsquare.org/2024/02/27/los-angeles-city-charter-constitution-diy-project/ideas/connecting-california/.

The last day to vote is Tuesday (tomorrow!), March 5. Your opinion doesn't get counted if you don't voice it when and where it matters.

the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance (NCSA)

<https://www.ncsa.la/>