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# Westside PACNews



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## SCIG Seems Greener on BNSF Side of Tracks

As the Southern California International Gateway Project (SCIG) looms large on the horizon, Westsiders grow increasingly concerned about the impact this enterprise will impose on their businesses – and health. They're concerned that the construction of the rail yard and its operations will further sully air quality. They're concerned about the additional truck traffic the yard will inspire, something that is almost unthinkable for this already overly impacted area. Therefore, the neighborhood has taken the release of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) seriously, wanting to understand fully what the six-year study has to say and looking to the Port of Los Angeles to justify this projects viability, environmentally speaking. But deciphering such a document can be a daunting task. The

EIR for SCIG consists of over 4,000 pages. And once a project gets to the EIR phase, it is rarely dismantled. An EIR isn't designed to dismantle the project it examines; it's designed to mitigate the impact of the project.

Besides, according to Lou Baglietto, a consultant for the BNSF Railroad responsible for building the intermodal rail yard that is SCIG, the neighborhood doesn't need to be overly concerned. This project is being touted as creating the greenest intermodal facility in the United States, incorporating low-emission switching cars and rail yard equipment among other greenery such as electric cranes, dust controls, diesel-powered equipment, maintenance of emission control equipment and

more, all conspiring to ensure that air quality is not further debased. Traffic will not suffer increased congestion as trucks destined for the yard will be required to travel designated routes, and those truckers will be bound by law to follow those routes by means of mandatory GPS monitors. Those who don't will be fined. Those who break the law several times will have their licenses pulled. And the jobs the SCIG will create will be nothing but good for everyone.

...But folks are concerned.

There are some who believe this isn't a very green project at all. Neither trains nor trucks are required to be electric, trains and trucks being two of the biggest air quality offenders, and even though many trucks will be

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## Membership Voted In for 2012

By unanimous vote, WPAC members and alternates who's terms would've ended last month were re-elected at the November Meeting.

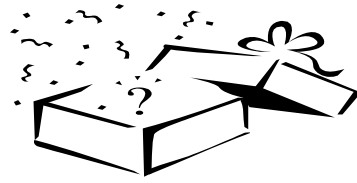


Newer members/alternates will be up for re-election November 2012. The roster of re-elected members and alternates is as follows: Tony Rivera, Jane

Kelleher, Pat Cullen, Nancy McCrabb, Paul Collins, Peter Van Tright, and Mike Leonard.

The election of WPAC officers will take place at the December General Meeting.

## The Heart Of The Matter



Charles Dickens wrote that charity begins at home, and justice begins next door. While that's droll - and debatable - one thing is for sure; there is plenty of need in this world, much in your own backyard. Fortunately, there are myriad ways of easing the situation a degree or two by offering a few hours of your time or skipping one double-whipped mocha latte with sprinkles. So if you find yourself struggling to find the perfect gift this holiday season, there's one that's always welcome and sometimes, when you least expect it, returned: charity.

Honorable Mayor Bob Foster and the Council Office have teamed with three great organizations this season: Food Finders, Friends of Long Beach Animals, and We Love Long Beach, for the 4th annual **Long Beach Community Food Drive**. Through December, you can donate items at any of the collection barrels located throughout the city. All of the food donated will benefit Long Beach residents and pets. Long Beach-based Food Finders will collect and distribute donated food to more than 100 organizations throughout the City. Check out [www.MayorBobFoster.com](http://www.MayorBobFoster.com) for a complete list of suggested items to donate as well as drop-off locations.

And **The Christmas Store** is gearing

up for the holidays. This annual event, sponsored by Better Balance for Long Beach, the Long Beach Rescue Mission, First Lady Nancy Foster and the 1st Congregational Church, is enjoying its fifth year of helping low income families celebrate the holidays in style. Gifts available at the store are all brand new items bought wholesale by the Christmas Store's professional shopper's team that parents can give to their children and children to their parents. Last year, 550 families "shopped" at no charge in a dignified setting at the 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church, and they are hoping to serve 600 families this year. The store will be open for one day only - December 17, and families that attend will be escorted home by a Long Beach Yellow Cab at no charge. Monetary donations are tax deductible and can be sent to BBLB/LBRM, P.O. Box 4564, Long Beach, CA 90804. And if you would like to volunteer to work the morning or evening shift, you can visit the website at [www.betterbalancelongbeach.org](http://www.betterbalancelongbeach.org). They are also seeking families in need. Families can participate by invitation only, so if you know of a family that could benefit, contact the 7<sup>th</sup> District Council Office at 570.7777. To see a video on this organization, visit [betterbalancelongbeach.org](http://betterbalancelongbeach.org) or email them at [bblb.christmasstore@gmail.com](mailto:bblb.christmasstore@gmail.com).

## BNSF Side of Tracks

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of the low-emission variety by the time the yard is operational, the additional 2 million annual truck trips SCIG will inspire will bear nothing short of blunt force trauma to the Westside and surrounding communities. **FYI: 2 million truck trips a year equals nearly 5,500 truck trips a day.**

If you want your position on SCIG to be reviewed by the Port of L A Harbor

Commission, you must submit them prior to the close of the public comment period, which is December 22, 2011. Written comments on the EIR should be sent to Chris Cannon, Director of Environmental Management, Port of Los Angeles, 425 South Palos Verdes Street, San Pedro, CA 90731, or email comments to: [ceqacomment@portla.org](mailto:ceqacomment@portla.org). Comments sent via email should include

When the holidays are behind us, the **Marian Outreach Center**, helmed by the venerable and ever-charitable Sister Francis Sullivan, is a full-service program that operates throughout the year, serving the less-fortunate hot meals, distributing donated clothes, providing burial assistance, child care, job counseling and so much more. The Center assists more than 20,000 children and adults each year, and each week, 70 to 90 families' lives are touched by the assistance provided by both staff and volunteers. That's where you come in. Your help is needed to ensure that the Marion Outreach Center remains open and effective, and donating dollars and/or time are super ways to do that. You can call Sister Fran at 562.989.1954, email her at [fransullic@aol.com](mailto:fransullic@aol.com), or drop by the rectory at Saint Lucy's and see for yourself what this stalwart Westside institution is doing to better the community it serves. Saint Lucy's is located at 2344 Cota Ave., 90810.

**The EIR on the Southern California International Gateway Project is available at [http://www.portoflosangeles.org/EIR/SCIG/DEIR/deir\\_scig.asp](http://www.portoflosangeles.org/EIR/SCIG/DEIR/deir_scig.asp).**

the project title in the subject line and a mailing address within the email. For more info, please contact the Port of Los Angeles Environmental Management Division at (310) 732-3675.

# You Are Cordially Invited

The WPAC December meeting will take place Wednesday, December 14 at 5:00 P.M. We will, once again, be enjoying the relaxed yet elegant environment that is CMAC Construction. WPAC Secretary/Treasurer and owner of CMAC Mike McFadden has invited us back and we have fallen over our collective self to accept. Mr. McFadden has also offered to donate the wine and coffee. Your deeds do not go without notice, Mr. McFadden. We trust that Santa will be very generous with you this year.

Following a brief meeting whereat we will vote on the officers for the upcoming term, we will enjoy a holiday feast of scrumptious Italian fare from our good friends at Buono's Pizzeria.

Frank Buono and family have been good neighbors for many years, and as is our great fortune, he owns a restaurant, makes a mean eggplant parmesan, and delivers.

So, come one, come all to help us celebrate the end of another year and toast the beginning of the next. It truly won't be the same without you.



**CHANUKAH—DEC. 21**

**CHRISTMAS—DEC 25**

**KWANZAA—DEC 26**

MAY THE SEASON FIND YOU  
HEALTHY, HAPPY, AND  
FILLED WITH HOPE FOR A  
BRILLIANT 2012.

YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS,  
~ WPAC

# The Return of the Billboard Ordinance

The billboard ordinance, shelved since 2007, has been reworked and is slated to go before Council on December 6, though it may be held over due to the holidays. The goal of the city in re-examining this ordinance is to eliminate dilapidated billboards and allow companies to put up electronic billboards on which several ad campaigns can run simultaneously. Electronic billboards are revenue-friendly, so it isn't any wonder, nor is it a surprise, that this item has once again found its way to City Hall for another look-see. But the last time the ordinance was being discussed, the neighborhood was not so eager to embrace the idea.

Many believe electronic billboards to be an disturbing eye sore as well as a safety risk, as statistics point to a rise in accidents on roadways where these billboards have been erected with drivers being diverted by the flashing displays.

The new ordinance was unavailable to this office as of the printing of the December newsletter. We will keep tabs on the evolution and adaptation of the freshly worded ordinance and keep you informed on the issue.



## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

**Amy Bodek, Dir. Development Services**  
570-6428

**Robert Zur Schmiede, Dir. RDA**  
570-6479

**Seyed Jalali, RDA Project Officer**  
570-6172

**Robert Garcia, 1st District Council**  
570-6919

**James Johnson, 7th District Council**  
570-6139

**Planning Department**  
570-6607

**Port**  
590-4121

**Police**  
570-3462

**Parking**  
570-2866

**Graffiti Hotline**  
570-2773

**Illegal Dumping**  
570-2881

**Code Enforcement**  
570-2633



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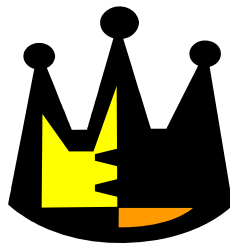
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Business Is King On The Westside

The strength of your business is vital to the Westside. When you succeed, the neighborhood succeeds, becoming an ever more attractive place to work. So, if your company is celebrating an anniversary, promoting a new product, or about to expand, we want to hear about it.

Email the Westside office with your company's profile and news-of-the-moment, and space permitting, we'll run it in the newsletter. That's good for you, good for the neighborhood, and just plain good for business.



Photos welcome!  
Send copy to:  
[westpac@westsidepac.com](mailto:westpac@westsidepac.com)

### What Is The Westside PAC?

A project Area Committee, or PAC, provides private citizens the means to give support and advice to the Long Beach Redevelopment Agency (RDA) on matters pertaining to Redevelopment projects as well as general living conditions within the Westside Project Area.

To accomplish this, the committee gathers information, mediates issues, and assists the RDA in carrying out projects in accordance with California Law.

WPAC Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 5 P.M., at the West Division Police Substation located at 1835 Santa Fe Ave. All are encouraged to attend. Let your voice be heard.