

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA
Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council
General Board Meeting
Minutes

March 11, 2026, 7pm
In Person & Virtual (Hybrid)

Elk's Lodge, 10137 Commerce Ave, Tujunga, Ca. 91042

IN CONFORMITY WITH THE JANUARY 1, 2025 ENACTMENT OF CALIFORNIA SENATE BILL 707 (PORTANTINO) AND LA CITY COUNCIL FILE 23-1114, THE SUNLAND-TUJUNGA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED IN PERSON AND VIRTUALLY.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - Lydia Grant, President, 7:11pm.
2. **ANNOUNCEMENTS – Lydia:**
 - a) The STNC is looking for people to fill the roles of Education Representative, Region 1, 2 and Representative. Please send interest letter to president@stnc.org to apply. Board members are also welcome to apply.
- STNC Committees require at least one board member. We need a Board-member for the Beautification Committee and STRC (STNC Arts, Recreation and Culture). If you have an interest, please email president@stnc.org.
3. **DETERMINATION OF QUORUM/ROLL CALL** - Determination of Quorum /Roll Call, Report on Voting Eligibility - Karen Moran

Board Member	Roll Call	Funding Voting Eligibility	Board Appointment
Lydia Grant	Present	Yes	President
Armen Mardirousi	Absent	Yes	1st VP
Melissa Sagastume	Present (via zoom)	Yes	2nd VP
Barry Glover	Present	Yes	Treasurer (left 7:20pm)

Board Member	Roll Call	Funding Voting Eligibility	Board Appointment
Cindy Cleghorn	Present	Yes	Correspondence Sec
Karen Moran	Present	Yes	Recording Sec
Leny Freeman	Present	Yes	Region 1 Rep (left 7:15pm)
VACANT			Region 1 Rep
Sherry McCoy	Present	Yes	Region 2 Rep.
Mikal McEnany	Absent	Yes	Region 3 Rep
Dillon Dorothy	Present	Yes	Region 3 Rep
Jon von Gunten	Present	Yes	Region 3 Rep.
Vicky Cerpa	Absent	No	Region 4 Rep.
Dante Jose Calvo	Present	Yes	Region 4 Rep
Mark Seigel	Present	Yes	Region 4 Rep
VACANT			Region 4 Rep
Cheryl Schmidt	Absent	Yes	Public Safety Rep
Nina Royal	Present (via zoom)	Yes	Senior Rep
Vartan Keshish	Present	Yes	Community Interest Rep
Members of the Community with information as identified. Note: About 10 people were present at the in-person meeting but names unknown.			
Mihran K	Via zoom		Member of the Community (MC)
Ofor Godoy	Via zoom		Member of the Community (MC)
Doug Chapin	Via zoom		Member of the Community (MC)
Felicia Bushwitz	Via zoom		VP, Sylmar NC
13 present; 4 absent (17 total)			

4. **PRESENTATION: [LA County] Department of Public Works Big Tujunga Dam releases /December storm season recap with Alex Ho and Eric Batman**

- ERIC Batman, Civil Engineer, LA Public Works, provided a history of LA Flood Control District. The two main focuses are water conservation (replenishing local ground water aquifers) and reducing flood risk. There are 14 dams, most almost 100 years old. Eric described the Big Tujunga Dam, providing pictures from his powerpoint presentation, including size, capacity, etc. Eric described the scenario where, on Christmas Eve (2025), the rain was much worse than forecasted and in two hours the flow went from 0 to 7,000 sq ft/second. Valves were opened to release the water and the dam worked as expected with no water kept off the spillway. (Note: STNC had a concern about the water release because there was no notice and there was a potential safety concern for the community impacted and anyone in the path.)
- **Alex Ho**, L.A. Country Public Works, Sediment Management, (reservoircleanouts@pw.lacounty.gov) discussed how the dams were cleared when debris enters and slows capacity. Alex provided an overview of historical events in past years. Alex discussed where the debris goes when the dams are drawn down. Alex discussed the forthcoming project plans (Pacoima Reservoir Restoration Project) with 3 Phases to get rid of debris. The first Phase starts in 2028 (site prep, sediment removal); the second in 2034(construction); the third will be long-term maintenance. Members of the Community and members of the board asked about trucks and impact on the community. After the Altadena fires, debris basins were cleared in Altadena with debris being dumped in the local Tujunga landfill on Seven Hills Drive, causing residents concern over dust, noise, and potential contamination. Further, continual traffic of trucks caused road damage and was a major concern for residents. There was also a question from a member of the community about hauling in front of the dam. Alex said that they are receptive to concerns from the community and open to questions, noting that the Altadena basin dumping was not under his purview but resided in another County department.
- Cindy asked about the types of trucks that would come in which Alex said would be on-road, and about testing for toxicity of the debris. Alex said that soil sampling is done and noted that the facilities are upstream of residences which will minimize impact.
- Lydia detailed concerns about how the Seven Hills landfill dumping was handled, that testing was not done adequately to assess toxins, and that dumping on a flat area in a high wind zone with adjacent neighbors impacted with smells and exposure has been a great frustration. Lydia also noted that our community was not notified and that news media was told there was no concern.
- Lydia also expressed concerns about the plans to drain two dams at the same time, potentially impacting the ability to draw water if there is a fire in the high fire zone area. Lydia said that we need to ensure water is available and that the soil is not toxic to our residents and wild-life. Alex said that they plan to work with the community to minimize impacts and are sensitive to wild life issues, working with the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife on an impact plan. The concern about drawing down on two dams is recognized and

they are working with the LAFD to develop a plan. Sherry and Jon also expressed concerns. Alex said that they go to the Board of Supervisors for approvals including environmental impact statements. Felicia (Sylmar NC) invited STNC to attend meetings when this topic is discussed.

5. **DISCUSSION//Updates/Q&A: LAPD, LAFD, Elected Officials/Representatives (Mayor, CD7, State Assembly, LAUSD School Board), DONE, NC Budget Advocates, City Departments (2 min per Representative Including Q&A)**

- Ofcr. Caloca, LAPD SLO Foothill Division, gave a status of crimes and events going forward. Two dates are Tacos with A Cop (the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10:30am) and March 18th at 11am there is Tip A Cop with tips going to the Special Olympics (<https://sosc.org/letr/tipacop/>). Both events are at Joselito's Restaurant. Lydia identified another homeless encampment; Ofcr. Caloca will look into it.
- Ricardo Flores, Senior Area Representative, CD7, provided a status of upcoming events. Including clean ups (Tujunga Canyong) and workshops planned.
- Scott Hilton, Batallion Chief, LAFD, identified himself if anyone had any questions for him; Lydia invited him to stay for the presentation on the Tujunga dam.
- Andres, District Rep with California State Senator Caroline Menjivar 's Office. Andres discussed bill status including SB 991 and SB 1198. A member of the community asked about licensing for housing/facilities which Andres will check on.
- Diana Oganessian, L.A. County Board of Supervisors (Barger's Office) provided updates from the Office and discussed upcoming events.

6. **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM STNC COMMITTEES:** Land Use, Beautification, STARC, STAT, Ad-Hoc Bylaws. None.

7. **DISCUSSION: TREASURER'S REPORT** Current fiscal year balance; remaining financial obligations; - potential rollover considerations for next fiscal year. Not discussed.

8. **DISCUSSION/ACTION: Motion to approve Consent Calendar - MOTION: The STNC Board approves the consent calendar:**

- a) **DISCUSSION/ACTION:** Motion to approve outstanding Monthly Expenditure Report for January 2026 and February 2026.
- b) **DISCUSSION/ACTION:** To approve outstanding General Board Meeting minutes for February 2026.
- c) **DISCUSSION/ACTION:** Continue holding STNC General Board meetings at the Elks Lodge through the end of the fiscal year, estimated cost up to \$350 per meeting for up to five meetings, total \$1,750.00.
- d) **DISCUSSION/ACTION:** Approve up to \$500 for Earth Day outreach materials, seed packets or similar items.
- e) **DISCUSSION/ACTION:** Approve up to \$500 for decorating STNC float in the Fourth of July Parade.
- f) **DISCUSSION/ACTION:** Approve up to \$3,000 for sponsorship of the Sunland-Tujunga Shadow Hills Rotary Club Fourth of July Parade and related events.

- g) **DISCUSSION/ACTION: Approve** Support Letter regarding Traffic Signal Upgrades presented by Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez.
- h) **DISCUSSION/ACTION: Approve** Support Letter regarding Tujunga Canyon Boulevard and Marcus Avenue Sewer Project presented by Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez.
- i) **DISCUSSION/ACTION: Approve** Community Impact Statement CF 26-0277, AB630/Abandoned Recreational Vehicles/Lack of Legal Authority and Support Letter regarding private property access in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.
- j) **DISCUSSION/ACTION: Approve** Community Impact Statement regarding SB79 implementation and City of Los Angeles zoning response.
- k) **DISCUSSION/ACTION: Approve** Letter regarding 6161 Sister Elsie ZAD application.
- l) **DISCUSSION/ACTION: Approve** Letter regarding 10016 Commerce Avenue change of use to restaurant.
- m) **DISCUSSION/ACTION:** – STNC Event Participation in the following community events and authorize submission of event forms to the City Clerk as required: 1) April 18 Earth Day Event and 2) May Craft and Art Fair Event.
- n) **DISCUSSION/ACTION:** Support for Council File 21-1469-S1 - Pilot Pedestrian Facility Inventory and Assessment Program / Scope and Methodology

Lydia read through each item for approval as a group. Cindy requested that items k and n be withdrawn. Lydia voiced concerns about being able to get table and chairs out of storage for a meeting; Melissa felt that pre-planning could take care of that concern if they were taken out ahead of the need.

A motion was made by Lydia and seconded by Cindy to approve items a through n, excepting k and n, a vote was taken and the motion approved.

Item 8 - a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, l, m Motion to approve all items in 8 with the exception of k and n (i.e. items a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, l, m)

Motion: Grant Second: Cleghorn

Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, Sagastume, Cleghorn, Moran, McCoy, Dorothy, Von Gunten, Calvo, Seigel, Royal, Keshish 11 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 ineligible, 6 absent, 17 total					Mardirousi, McEnany, Schmidt, Cerpa, Freeman, Glover

9. **DISCUSSION/UPDATE:** regarding possible relocation of STNC storage materials including: Moving tables and chairs to North Valley City Hall (Council District 7 office) in unused space; Evaluation of whether the current storage unit remains necessary; Distribution of emergency supply containers to local businesses for accessibility during emergencies. *Cindy highlighted this topic but no discussions took place or any vote taken.*
10. **DISCUSSION / POSSIBLE ACTION:** – STNC Bylaws Updates. Deadline to submit updates to DONE: April 1. Topics may include: STARC Committee structure, Region Representative vacancies (Regions 1, 2, and 4); Clarification of Education Representative role. Ability to conduct selection-style elections if City elections are postponed. Possible special meeting to review and vote bylaws changes prior to the deadline. *This item was not discussed in any detail.*
11. **DISCUSSION/ACTION:** Approve STNC Outreach Committee draft survey: Board approval needed for: **Community survey** to be distributed (details to be presented).

Dante provided an overview of the community survey that he and Melissa worked on jointly. The survey is intended to solicit comments from the community about what direction(s) they would like to see STNC go and if they have any interest in joining STNC. A motion was made by Cindy, seconded by Vartan, a vote taken and the motion passed.

Item 11. Motion to approve STNC Outreach Committee draft survey. Motion: Cleghorn Second: Keshish					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, Sagastume, Glover, Cleghorn, Moran, Freeman, McCoy, Dorothy, Von Gunten, Calvo, Royal, Keshish 12 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain, 0 ineligible, 4 absent, 17 total		Seigel			Mardirousi, McEnany, Schmidt, Cerpa

12. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS** – None.
13. **DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION:** Committee & Liaison Reports and Confirm Assignments – by liaison chairs present. *This item was not discussed.*
- **Homeless**
 - **Citywide Budget / Budget Advocates**
 - **LADWP MOU**
 - **LADWP Committee**
 - **LANCC**

- **VANC**
- **PlanCheckNC**
- **Emergency Preparedness**
- **Sustainability**

14. **PRESENTATION & TRAINING** on the Neighborhood Council (NC) System. *This item was not discussed.*

- Bylaws, Standing Rules, BONC Policies, Brown Act (Meeting Agenda Posting, ENS)
- NC Meetings: Agenda Items, Presenters, Meeting Agendas, Making Motions, Community Impact Statements
- NC Alliances (Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils - VANC meets 2nd Thursday on Zoom; LANCC meets 1st Saturday at 10am; PlanCheckNC meets 2nd Saturday at 10am, STNC Community Events/Meetings, Other Training Opportunities

15. **FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS** - Upcoming events. Cindy outlined the following with no discussion.

- Earth Day cleanup and resource fair (April 18).
- Community Market / Arts & Crafts event proposal (May).
- Traffic Town Hall proposal - TBA
- Verdugo Hills Pool Movie Night (June 6).
- Fourth of July parade planning.
- April 8 next Board meeting @ Elks
- Valerie Weston, Member of the Community. Valerie talked about the Howard Finn Community Garden in Tujunga (7747 Foothill Blvd) and wanted to make the community aware of the garden which is open to residents and organization of Sunland-Tujunga. There are plots available for planting and sponsors are encouraged to sponsor a plot of a gardener. The garden (located behind NVCH) brings together members of the community and encourages connection with nature and provides a healthy food source.

16. **ADJOURN, 8:46 pm**