

Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution

C.R.A.A.P. Report November, 2004

Issue #9

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1. Congresswoman Maxine Waters' TOWN HALL ON LAX.

In preparation for the October 19th Los Angeles City Council hearing on the "LAX Modernization Plan", U.S. Congresswoman, Maxine Waters, hosted this Town Hall and heard input from the communities opposing Mayor Hahn's and Councilwoman Miscikowski's expansion plans for LAX. There were speakers from Westchester, West L. A., Venice, and other areas. Also, L.A. City Council District 11 candidates, Angela Reddock and Flora Gill Kristolof, spoke in opposition to the plan. Congresswoman Waters strenuously objects to the airport expansion plans that are to go before the City Council.

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2. **State Assembly and Congressional District Candidates Debate.**

The South Bay League of Women Voters hosted a two-part debate Sunday, October 17th, at the Ken Miller Recreation Center Auditorium in the Torrance Civic Center. California State Assembly - District 53 candidates:

Mike Gordon (Democrat), Greg Hill (Republican), Jim Smith (Peace and Freedom), and Ethan M. Boivie (Libertarian) took the stage for the first hour. Mike Gordon strongly addressed the negative campaign that Greg Hill ran against him. Other than the issues themselves, we were all left with the choice of who we could trust between Mike and Greg regarding Greg's accusations against Mike. Given Mike Gordon's excellent track record over the years, it was not a difficult decision. Mike went on to win the election on November 2nd. Congratulations Mike!

The second hour was for the United States Congress – District 36. Jane Harman (Democrat), Paul Whitehead (Republican), Mike Binkley (Libertarian), and Alice Stek (Peace and Freedom), all took the stage to make statements and answer audience questions. I asked the candidates how they would address the fact that the federal government does not allow the state and local governments to regulate emissions from aircraft, and I mentioned our Santa Monica Airport situation regarding fumes from idling commuter jets blowing into our living quarters. I am pleased to report that our incumbent Congresswoman, Jane Harman, pledged to help us with this issue.

Congratulations Mike Gordon and Jane Harman!



Photo by Martin Rubin

Newly elected State Assembly member Mike Gordon and reelected Congresswoman Jane Harman at a victory party for Mike Gordon.

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3. **SM Task Force on the Environment Meeting.**

At the October 18th meeting, the item regarding the communication between the Environmental Task Force and the Santa Monica City Council was again put off to a future City Council meeting agenda. It was not clear when the exact meeting date would be. I'll keep you posted when I know an exact date. I believe that at this month's **November 15th meeting**, a clearly worded motion about doing a health risk assessment for the planned Airport Park at Bundy and Airport Avenue will be presented by Task Force member, Susan Mearns.

4. **SM Airport Commission Meeting.**

The Santa Monica College Bundy Campus issue was not on the agenda. A number of residents attended the meeting to speak on this item. Because of problems with the audio tapes, airport staff had to rely on their meeting notes as to what happened at the September meeting. Ofer Grossman, Airport Commission Chair, also believed that this item was supposed to come back on the agenda. Commissioner Grossman moved to bring public comment forward so that those who came to speak about the Bundy Campus could do so.

The discussion of future agenda items did not include anything dealing with our problem with the emissions from idling jets at SMO. However, I and another member of CRAAP lobbied Commissioner Grossman after the meeting to place one or two specific items on this month's agenda, under Commissioner Items, for consideration as future agenda items. I stressed the importance that this issue be addressed NOW.

Next meeting: Monday, November 22nd, 2004

5. **LAX Update.**

On October 19th, the Los Angeles City Council held its first hearing on the plans for LAX. The chambers were packed with both proponents and opponents and time was allotted for speakers from both sides. On the opponents' side, were, among others, all three Los Angeles City Council candidates for District 11. This is the district that encompasses the LAX area and is now Cindy Miscikowski's. Congresswoman Jane Harmon was in Washington D. C., however she was represented by her Chief of Staff, John Hess. The case against the LAX plans was most eloquently and strongly stated by 35th District Congresswoman Maxine Waters. Included in her statement she listed how many were opposed to the plans, and she mentioned our group in the list. The proponents were made up primarily of union workers, who stood to gain financially. It has been said that the unions are putting a lot of pressure on the City Council to pass the plan as it is. Twelve of the fifteen Council Members passed the plan with Councilmen Bernard Parks, Antonio Villaraigosa, and Jack Weiss voting against the plan. The matter will come before the City Council again for a second vote, scheduled for December 7th. With the real possibility of lawsuits, there is a good chance that the matter will be drawn out further.

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6. **Santa Monica City Council election results.**

Elected to the four open seats were three of the four incumbents, Richard Bloom, Ken Genser and Herb Katz. Replacing incumbent Michael Feinstein is Bobby Shriver who garnered the most votes of any candidate. Congratulations to the victors, and we look forward to working with all of the Santa Monica City Council members to address our concerns.

7. **CRAAP member elected to Hasbrouck Heights, NJ City Council.**

Carol Skiba, an early member of Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution, was elected to the City Council of Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey.

Carol has been very involved as a community activist fighting the growth of the Teterboro Airport, which like Santa Monica Airport, is in close proximity to residential neighborhoods.

It is the first time since 1986 that Democrats have been elected. She defeated a three-term incumbent and received more than 50% of the vote. The voters can trust that Carol will fight for their environmental, safety and other quality of life issues that matter to them.

Personally, I know from my conversations with Carol, that she is a strong willed, dedicated representative of the peoples' concerns. I wish her success in her term of office. **Congratulations Councilwoman Skiba!**