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News, Information & Analysis on the City and the Issues

October 2009

Water Board Election November 3rd Dining & Drinking at Public Expense an Issue

Two seats are up for election to the La Habra Heights County Water District Board of Directors, November 3. Incumbent Brad Cooke, appointed member Jeffrey Heintz (also Improvement Association Treasurer) and Co-Founder of La Habra Heights Fire Watch, George Edwards, are candidates. Cooke and Heintz candidate

Candidate Edwards calls for transparency in Water District business, elimination of Board perks, installing disaster, and installation of more hydrants.

Fiscal restraint and Board perks are subjects of a recent investigation that uncovered Board wining and dining, some with spouses, at Water customer expense. Mrs. Heintz was noted present at the \$470 "meal" below. Charging alcohol consumption and spouse meals to the District are both violations of 2006 Board Policy.

A Public Records Request revealed that Board members partook in "Dinner Meetings" with tabs, including alcohol, of nearly \$500. Reimbursement receipts range from \$18.93 to Jeffrey Heintz for a lunch, to a hotel bill totaling \$623.25. (Continued next page)



555 EAST STEAKHOUSE LONG BEACH	
GL Tiefenbrunner P Grigio (2 @9.00)	18.00
GL Bennett Chardonnay (2 @9.50)	19.00
Rum (2 @7.50)	15.00
Ronrico	
Ronrico Mixed	
Tequila (2 @9.00)	18.00
Montezuma	
Montezuma Cadillac	
Tequila (2 @7.50)	15.00
Montezuma	
Montezuma Margarita	
Scotch (2 @8.50)	17.00
Chivas Regal	
Fillet Mignon 8 oz D (4 @51.95)	127.80
Chicken Grilled D	18.95
Swordfish Grilled D (2 @29.95)	59.90
Chocolate Souffle (3 @9.25)	27.75
Balance Due	471.80

Actual Water Board Dinner & Drinks Receipt (Excerpt) charged to Water District Customers

Briefs

Tower Stays



On June 22, 2009, the 25 story tall Broadcast Tower was to be removed per the 2004 Use Permit. At the August City Council meeting, residents unanimously called for the tower removal as agreed, citing blight and antennae alternatives. The tower owner previously indicated plans to expand the facility. The Council approved a

10 year permit keeping the Tower; Baroldi, Viperman, and Westerhoff in favor; Bergman and Carroll opposed.

Bikes Must Go

Bicycles were banned from the Park and City Hall sidewalks and parking areas at the August City Council meeting (Baroldi opposed), despite objection from residents that the ban was over-kill and mean spirited. A suggestion, limiting the restriction to when pedestrians are present was not accepted. The ban was prompted by a couple of incidents at Music in the Park.



Building Projects to Grow



Code changes, exempting parts of driveways, private roads, parking and pools from hardscape and/or grading limits passed the City Council in September.

Residents opposed the changes as violating the General Plan, and infringing on existing residents' rights. The Council said that changes were needed to allow people to build, yet could not cite an example of the Codes preventing building. The City Manager has reported a backlog of Planning Applications, and more staff was added to handle the workload with the existing Code. The actual effect of the changes will be to enable more grading, building and cement. Passed 4-1 Bergman opposed.

More details on all stories at www.LaHabraHeights.net

