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**Ad Hoc Committee Meeting Agenda  
HARVARD WESTLAKE RIVER-PARK PROJECT**

**Thursday, December 8, 2022 at 7:00 PM**

**Zoom Meeting Online or By Telephone**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84242117247>

**Meeting ID: 842 4211 7247**

**Or dial 669-900-6833 to Join the Meeting**

**Then Enter This Webinar ID: 842 4211 7247 and Press#**

**Zoom Meeting Online or By Telephone**

Committee Members: Chip Meehan (Board Member - Chair), Teri Austin (Stakeholder), Alexander Black (Stakeholder), Peter Cole (Stakeholder), Stephen Jones (Stakeholder), Tony Knight (Stakeholder), Michael Kopulsky (Stakeholder), Joe Laskin (Stakeholder), Melanie Winter (Stakeholder), Scott Mandell (Board Member & President, ex-officio)

1. Call to Order & Roll Call (1 min)
  2. Comments from committee chair (10 mins)
  3. Committee members introduce themselves (10 mins extendable by chair) 4.
- Public Comment on Non-Agenda items** within the Committees jurisdiction (one minute per speaker extendable by chair)
5. Announcements by Government Representatives (10 mins extendable by chair)
  6. This ad hoc committee was formed to investigate outstanding community concerns about the proposed Harvard Westlake project. We have researched the issues enough to potentially present a finding to the full SCNC board for vote and further instruction. The following is a synopsis of key findings:

1. **Artificial Turf:** The proposal is for two fields of artificial turf to replace the existing natural turf. This installation would have significant negative effects on the neighborhood in terms of:
  - a. Creating a heat island effect that would raise the temperature of the neighborhood
  - b. Negatively impact the soil column underneath the fields that would have negative impacts on:
    - i. Carbon sequestration
    - ii. Ground water
    - iii. Health of surrounding vegetation
  - c. Artificial turf is only semipermeable which creates unknown flood risks for the neighborhood
  - d. PFA/PFO/microplastic leach and off gas into the:
    - i. Atmosphere
    - ii. Soil
    - iii. Water
  - e. At the end of its life cycle, artificial turf creates literally acres of plastic waste that cannot be recycled

Artificial Turf is a hotly debated topic. The current research has environmental and consumer advocates touting studies that show the danger of this product, and in opposition, industry figures who attempt to prove the product is safe.

Intuitively, covering the earth with acres of plastic, exposed to the elements, that demonstrably deteriorates in a short period of time, seems inappropriate in a residential setting.

We request an independent laboratory test samples of the proposed turf. We also await the decision by the state of California to declare artificial turf a carcinogen as ordered by Proposition 65.

The preferred path for Harvard Westlake would be installation of natural turf in light of environmental factors irregardless of the toxicity study findings.

2. **Greenhouse Gas production:** The DEIR projects a three fold increase in the production of greenhouse gasses from the proposed facility. That is unacceptable in a time when we need to limit and even reverse carbon emissions and is contrary to the policy goals of the Los Angeles Green New Deal. The surrounding neighborhood would bear a disproportionate share of the increased emissions but the entire community would be negatively impacted. This objective metric supports the characterization of the project as being “too big for the neighborhood”.

The committee proposes Harvard Westlake submit a plan that combines carbon offsets within Studio City and reductions in the scope of the construction of the project and its operations to be carbon neutral relative to

existing facilities and operations.

3. **Community Issues: Light, Noise, Traffic**

These issues are best handled within the jurisdiction of a Steering Committee that involves Harvard Westlake and community stakeholders, as suggested by Harvard Westlake. There are two phases that need to be considered and that likely have different mitigation strategies. But the construction period and operational phases need to be well managed. The composition, rules of governance and enforcement capabilities of the Steering Committee need to be established by the end of the first quarter of 2023 to be prepared for early stages of construction.

Of particular concern are the potential combined impacts of several development projects being under construction simultaneously. Anecdotally, we have seen the operations of the retail center at Coldwater and Ventura impede traffic to an unforeseen degree. Surface streets in the community have limited capacity, and are currently stressed. Keeping Studio City navigable for residents and other Angelenos who travel through Studio City will be a complicated endeavor.

All projects must be evaluated in a manner that considers the cumulative impacts of multiple development projects.

4. **Other Issues**

The list above is not comprehensive of the concerns members of the Ad Hoc committee hold about the project, but largely covers the specific issues the Ad Hoc was formed to review. As the HW River Park project moves further through the approval process there will need to be additional opportunities to seek amendments from the developer. Satisfaction of the concerns above does not guarantee support for the project absent consideration of other topics.

7. Adjournment

Draft EIR

1. <https://planning.lacity.org/development-services/eir/harvard-westlake-river-park-project-0> LA City Planning Docs 3/5/2020
2. <https://planning.lacity.org/pdiscaseinfo/search/encoded/MjM2MzAz0>
3. SCNC Land Use Committee meeting 4/13/2022 public input
4. <https://youtu.be/mlIGqf15yd4>

SCNC Ad Hoc assigned to review the draft EIR. Their report of 5/7/22

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xZVvH8ioMTF0ksup71SiSGL4nJRQwC5x/edit>

Harvard Westlake River Park

<http://www.hwriverpark.com>

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**VIRTUAL MEETING TELECONFERENCING NUMBER FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** In conformity with the September 16, 2021 enactment of California Assembly Bill 361 (Rivas) and due to the concerns over Covid-19, the Studio City Neighborhood Council meeting will be conducted entirely with a call-in option or internet based service option. Every person wishing to address the Neighborhood Council must dial 669-900-6833, and enter the meeting ID, followed by pressing # to join the meeting. Instructions on how to sign up for public comment will be given to listeners at the start of the meeting

**AB 361 UPDATES** – Public comment cannot be required to be submitted in advance of the meeting, only real-time public comment is required. If there are any broadcasting interruptions that prevent the public from observing or hearing the meeting, the meeting must be recessed or adjourned. If members of the public are unable to provide public comment or be heard due to issues within the Neighborhood Council's control, the meeting must be recessed or adjourned.

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**NOTICE TO PAID REPRESENTATIVES** – If you are compensated to monitor, attend or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 48.01 et seq. More information is available at [ethics.lacity.org/lobbying](http://ethics.lacity.org/lobbying) . For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or [ethics.commission@lacity.org](mailto:ethics.commission@lacity.org)

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