The City of VERNON has applied to the California Energy Commission (Docket NO. 06-afc-4) to build a Combined Cycle Generating Facility. The Vernon Power Plant (VPP) Project is a proposed 943 megawatt combined-cycle generating facility configured using three natural gas fired combustion turbines and one steam turbine.

If approved, the project will be located on land at the southeast corner of Fruitland and Boyle Avenues. The City of Vernon has executed a purchase agreement for the 27-acre parcel. The seller conducted a public bid process for the sale of the site, and the city was the successful bidder. A group comprised of mostly Boyle Heights local activist have come together to advocate their disapproval and has created a website www.novernonpowerplant.com. They state the 943MW is way over the acceptable amount a power plant can generate; they must purchase emission reduction credits (ERCs) at over $98 Million dollars, these are pollution credits to offset cancer units at a higher rate than is required under federal law. They will be producing more than 1.8 million pounds per year total emissions, which is the biggest contribution to global warming. 25% of the power produced will be used by the city of Vernon, the rest will be sold for profit!

To operate the power plant a compound named Aqueous Ammonia will be used to control the oxides of Nitrogen being released in the air. (PM10 and PM2.5 will be produced from this process.) This Ammonia Compound is at 19% concentrate, at 20% the federal government considers it a hazardous material. It causes many respiratory conditions as well as cancer.

The VPP will be located on land at the southeast corner of Fruitland and Boyle Ave, just south of the Boyle Heights border, adjacent to the cities of Maywood and Huntington Park and is approximately 4 miles from downtown Los Angeles Civic Center, USC, Exposition Park, Staple Center and all the new lofts being built in downtown LA and within the 6 mile radius, which is the area of most concern.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
Continued From Page 1

THE Community for a Better Environment has investigated that there is specific data for this area, there is 1.5 million residents within this radius. De La Hoya enterprises has already shot at me twice, My partner and I looked back at the driver, the suspect had already shot me twice. My partner and I unloaded all the bullets in the gun and killed the suspect.

What I really want to share with you is all the emotion that hit me when I was being shot at. It turned an emotion in me that is very difficult to explain. I was really angry and disappointed at the same time. Angry that this guy had tried to take my life that I love and cherish, disappointed with myself for that split second mistake I made look at the passenger seat. We are asking everyone of our readers to close your eyes for a moment and imagine you are having an heated argument with a significant other, your kids, your parents or co-workers and I mean a HEATED ARGU- MENT. And a moment later (it can be seconds or minutes) you are asked to shut down that emotion IMMEDIATELY and return to your normal state of mind. How many of us can do it...It's not easy!

Well that's what Police officers have to do in seconds. Many times the media and the community are quick to criticize the Police for excessive "USE OF FORCE ISSUES". How many times have you heard "He did not have to shoot", "He could have had him with a baton", or "why did they Not Taser him"? Police officers are crime fighters, psychiatrist, and Social workers.

It's not an easy thing to do! They have families, friends just like we do and expect to come home to those loved ones just like all of us do. A Senior Lead Officer (or SLOs) job is a vital part of the relationship between Citizens and the Police Department. They know the com-Continued From Page 1

munities good, bad, and ugly! They are the community's eyes and ears in all crime in the area, they relay this info to their superiors and get the appropriate action needed. SLO Rufino Rodriguez recruited me to join this class. I am so grateful that he did. THANK YOU Rufino, Officer Baker and Officer Donna Cornejo for this unforgettable experience.

VERNON POWER “PLANTS BIG MONEY OVER COMMUNITY HEALTH”

PHOTOGRAPHERS

HOLLENBECK DIVISION, INC

323.342.9422

TASTE OF BRAZILIAN FOOT

THE VOICE is an independent news media monthly published based in El Sereno with a circulation of 20,000 impressions. It is delivered to residents in the El Sereno, Lincoln Heights, Boyle Heights and parts of Alhambra. It is also distributed to various business owners within the area in order to reach all interested parties.

Our growing network of community participation has made this publication the primary source for local information. It allows members of the community to make a public platform to communicate by reporting news that is seldom anywhere else in the media to inform, educate and entertain this community.

This is going to be our third community interest news, and press releases. 95.5% of all articles are written by community stakeholders. THE VOICE reserves the right to edit all materials due to space and time constraints.

THE VOICE is not responsible nor liable for any claims or offerings, nor responsible for products availability that may be advertised. Opinions expressed in these columns may not necessarily reflect those of the editor or publisher.

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TASTE OF BRAZILIAN FOOT

COMMENTS

In the past couple weeks, this publication has received a lot of attention from various community interest groups, and press releases.95.5% of all articles are written by community stakeholders. THE VOICE reserves the right to edit all materials due to space and time constraints.

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Volunteers needed for Back to School clothing collection, see page 2.

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The Redondo Beach police sting operation pulls in Web predators. Any on given day, the office's hotline has registered as a 13-year-old girl. Within minutes, the line is often dead-ended in talking with her. Dave Acosta from Boyle Heights. The 26-year-old Acosta met his potential victim via the Internet. He'd even chatted with her on the telephone and told her that he will be there in about 10 minutes. It was completely as the 13-year-old girl was on her way to the Redondo Beach police station. She had been talking for an hour or more. The girl had been contacted by Acosta as a 13-year-old girl. He had been talking to her on the telephone and had been asking her for various personal information. The girl had been given Acosta's cell phone number and had been asked to meet him at a specified location. The subsequent conversation was recorded and would serve as evidence in any potential future legal proceedings.

A special event was held at the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Center. The event was attended by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and other city officials. The purpose of the event was to announce the launch of a new initiative focused on improving the safety and quality of life in the Boyle Heights neighborhood. The initiative, known as the Boyle Heights Safety and Security Plan, would involve collaboration between the city, the community, and various local organizations to address issues such as crime, drug use, and traffic congestion. Attendees were encouraged to participate in the initiative and to share their ideas and concerns. The event also included a presentation by the police department on new technology and strategies being used to improve public safety. The initiative was seen as a critical step in the ongoing efforts to strengthen the Boyle Heights community and make it a safer and more vibrant place for all residents.
Board members of the AQMD voting in favor of the credits sale agreed with Escutia, that new plants would help prevent electricity shortages and might replace older, dirtier power plants.

The non-profit California Independent System Operator (CAISO) in Alhambra, CA has indicated that about 10,000 megawatts are needed in the Los Angeles Basin and that about 12,000 megawatts are currently available. The California Energy Commission found that about 400 additional megawatts will be needed annually in coming years.

Dennis Yates who is the City of Chino Mayor and also an AQMD board member told Vernon officials, “I think you’re trying to create a “CASH COW” for your city that will impact the health of your neighbors downwind!”

The CEC has the responsibility for licensing power plants 50 megawatts and larger as well as the related facilities such as transmission lines, fuel supply lines, water pipelines, etc. The CEC’s permitting process includes many opportunities for public participation. The Energy Commission coordinates its review of the facility with state, local, regional and federal agencies to ensure that the Energy Commission certifi-
cation incorporates conditions of certification that would be required by the various agencies. More information about the California Energy Commission is available on the CEC web site (www.energy.ca.gov) and specifies on the City of Vernon’s Power Plant Application can be found at (http://www.energy.ca.gov/ov/air/gises/cityofvernon/index.html).

Political Power brokers are at center of push for Vernon electric plant Environmental activist Angela Logan once viewed former state Sen. Martha Escutia as an advocate for community health issues, but now Logan and Escutia are on opposite sides of a clean-air fight, both lobbying over the $450-million power plant.

Besides Escutia, there are at least two other former elected officials who have represented communities near Vernon - former Assemblyman Tom Calderon of Montebello and former Los Angeles City Councilman Richard Alatorre.

That political firepower indicates just how high the stakes are, not just for Vernon but also for a handful of other power plants in the planning stages across the region. This political clout has discouraged many environmental groups who are waging their own fight against the plant. “They can pick up a phone and they make a call, and can get a lunch with just about anyone. That power doesn’t fade away,” said Logan, executive director of East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice.

“The Vernon power plant can begin operating by the end of 2009. THE COMMUNITY MUST GET INVOLVED TO STOP THIS FROM HAPPENING” stated Logan.

Senator Ron Calderon proposed Resolution 69, which would eliminate the EIR Environmental Impact Review/Report for the proposed plant. That will make it much easier for an application to quickly pass for power plants. Senator Ron Calderon who by coincidence has a brother that is a development for the City of Huntington Park stated in a letter addressed to SCAQMD “Locating new electrical generating facilities in our area contributes to environmental injustice.”

Gray asked the district to broaden the proposed area where new power plants would be prohibited to include Vernon and bordering communities, such as Huntington Park and Maywood.

According to Gray, Vernon’s proposed plant will increase pollution in Huntington Park. The city lies along the heavily trafficked corridor between the region’s sprawling ports and major rail yards where shipping containers are packed on trains. Vernon, which has few residents but a large concentration of industry.

In response to the environmental justice pleas, Laki Tisopulos, SCAQMD assistant deputy executive officer, acknowledged that the agency’s staff may broaden the restrictions before presenting its air credit proposal to the agency’s governing board. Air district officials have been struggling on how to amend their New Source Review rules in the face of both an air credit shortage and a looming power supply crisis.

The SCAQMD have a difficult task ahead of them, we have power grids that have collapsed when the mercury in a thermometer reaches 97 degrees or higher for a couple of consecuitive days and Southern California keeps getting more density projects approved.

Counselman Jose Huizar responded to THE VOICE in a statement “I have concerns about possible impacts the proposed Vernon Power Plant could have on the quality of air for Council District 14 con-
itinents. It is my understanding that construction and operation of the power plant would produce particulate matter, which could be carried to the southeast making Boyle Heights communi-
ty. This area, as you know, is already exposed to high concentrations of both mobile and stationary sources of pollution”.

Power Plant

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Boyle Heights Residents joined Huntington Park residents to protest Vernon Power Plant

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SEPTEMBER 2007
THE VOICE
Page 4
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CRIME UPDATE

COUNCILMEMBER JOSE HUIZAR, THE LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND FAMILIES OF THREE MURDER VICTIMS ANNOUNCE $50,000 REWARDS

On Monday, August 27 - Councilmember José Huizar, Deputy Chief Sergio Diaz, and the families of three murder victims announced $50,000 rewards for each individual case.

On March 24, 2007, 16-year old Michael Flores was fatally shot while standing on the sidewalk in front of the 200 block of South Chicago Street.

On June 16th, 2007, 26-year old Augusto Zapata was fatally shot while standing on the street in front of 1019 South Spence Street.

On July 1st, 2007, 19-year old George Rodriguez was fatally shot while standing in the street in front of 1132 Camulos Street. There is no known motive for any of the three shootings.

The person or persons responsible for these crimes represent an ongoing threat to the safety of the people of Los Angeles, and the LAPD is asking for the public and the media's help to apprehend and convict those responsible for the murder of these three young men.

LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL SCHEDULES

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YOU ARE AIMING FOR! OUR COMMUNITIES READ THE VOICE

THE CHOICE IS AS CLEAR AS BLACK AND WHITE!
Historic Southwest Museum's Past and Future

By Ann Walnum

On October 1, 2007 comments on Jackie Autry's dream buildings in Griffith Park are due. Her plan of absorbing Northeast Los Angeles world famous Southwest Museum's American Indian and Hispanic treasures is almost complete.

Through the May 2003 Merger everything was transferred FREE, at no cost to Autry National Center, but the Autry's 143,000 square foot building isn't big enough to hold it all. So Autry National Center wants to add 129,000 square feet to its $1.4 year lease hold on 12.8 acres by the LA Zoo. This will cut through hiking, equestrian and bicycle trails as well as further congesting the traffic that uses Zoo Drive as an alternate for congestion on the 5 and 13 freeways.

Meanwhile in the Northeast Los Angeles a vocal and persistent group, Friends of the Southwest Museum Coalition has changed Autry's timetable, but not its final goal. After four years of fruitless negotiations, undelivered reports, and public meetings.

WHAT HAPPENED IN VEGAS DID NOT STAY IN VEGAS, IT CAME TO EL SERENO

You all have heard the slogan what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas... Well a lot of people wished that would be the case this time as well. Las Vegas police detectives raided the El Sereno home of memorabilia dealer and auctioneer Tom Riccio in connection with the O.J. Simpson robbery case in Las Vegas. The detectives have confiscated hours of audio recordings made during a meeting arranged by Riccio.

"Tom Riccio is one of the owners of an Sports Memorabilia business and is now a key witness in the case of stolen sports memorabilia" stated his attorney Ryan Okabe. Riccio had previously leaked audio recording of O.J. Simpson's alleged memorabilia robbery to internet celebrity web site TMZ, and has made special arrangements to be interviewed by investigator Gerardo Rivera.

In the Rivera interview Riccio, said "I tipped Simpson off and arranged for him to meet with sports memorabilia collector Alfred Beardsley. In a meeting at the Casino swimming pool deck, Simpson found out that Beardsley also had a collection of his pics, Simpson "got all worked up". I got worries that Simpson would draw attention during his outburst and would spoil the meeting at the hotel room.

Riccio is no saint, The associated press has reported that Riccio has a criminal record, including grand larceny in Florida in 1984, when he received three years of probation; and convicted of a felony for arson in California in 1995 for which he was sentenced to prison for two years. He was also sentenced for selling stolen property and escaping from a minimum security prison.

Media outlets were waiting at the El Sereno home when Las Vegas Detectives arrived they recorded the detectives leaving Riccio's home carrying evidence in black plastic bags. Vegas detectives did not speak with any media regarding this case, the reasons for the raid or their findings.

Riccio has reportedly struck an immunity deal with authorities in exchange for his cooperation in the case. "Whatever Mr. Riccio has, the police have," Okabe said. "He's cooperating fully and completely with the Las Vegas police department and the district attorney's office."

Riccio planted a recording device in the hotel room where Simpson and a group of associates allegedly held up two memorabilia dealers at gunpoint on Aug. 13. He then leaked audio of the incident to the celebrity gossip Web site, TMZ.com. The recording and the leak led many to accuse Riccio of "setting up" Simpson. Riccio's attorney said Saturday his client recorded the meeting because he didn't trust one of the memorabilia dealers involved, Alfred Beardsley, CONTINUED ON PAGE 7
the items. Simpson has said he believes "lecturer," without letting on that the collector was currently trying to sort out who owned the items. Two of the men had handbags and were some ex-cons and golfing buddies to Vegas for a wedding in which he was asked to Vegas. The bride stated "we worked hard to plan our wedding that Simpson and various other people including the groom were wanted for questioning regarding the robbery that took place that day. The groom stated he knew O.J., but had nothing to do with the incident, during the wedding he could not enjoy it because he did not know if the police were going to barge in on his wedding and arrest him and Simpson". The bride stated "we worked hard to plan the perfect wedding - it was ruined".

VEGAS TO EL SERENO
Continued From Page 6 and frequently recorded his dealings with "Providing health care for five mil- lion uninsured children is one of my main priorities, the children and sen- sors of North East Los Angeles should not be left behind, our Congress understands the need to improve Medicare and to provide better constituent services for their taxpayer dollar." 

Community health centers like Arroyo Vista are the best care investment America can make, medical expenses for a community health center can be percent lower when compared to patients seen elsewhere" stated Becerra.

Arroyo Vista Family Health Center

Each year in August Health Clinics across the country are recog- nized for the Service and Contributions of Community Wellness each clinic makes in their neighborhoods. In the spirit of "Community Well-Being" Arroyo Vista Family Health Center provided free childhood immunizations, pup Imams, Breast Exams, Dental checkups, Blood Pressure Monitoring, Hearing Test, Vision test, Podiatry checkups last month.

Arroyo Vista Family Health Center celebrated “National Community Health Center Week” on August 23rd by honoring US Representative and Assistant to the Speaker, Ed Becerra, 31st Congressional District for his continued leadership efforts towards improving health care reform. Executive Director was mem California Supreme Court Justice and board of Directors Member, Gerardo Rivera. THE VOICE spoke with Congressman Becerra and he stated. "Providing health care for five mil- lion uninsured children is one of my main priorities, the children and sen- sors of North East Los Angeles should not be left behind, our Congress understands the need to improve Medicare and to provide better constituent services for their taxpayer dollar." Community health centers like Arroyo Vista are the best care investment America can make, medical expenses for a community health center can be percent lower when compared to patients seen elsewhere" stated Becerra.

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Time Warner Cable executive leads the drive to deliver technology to North East Los Angeles youths

Jeffrey A. Hirsch, President of Time Warner Cable’s Metropolitan Los Angeles Division received the prestigious “Amigo de los Niños” Award from the Hollenbeck Youth Center/Inner City Games for his commitment to youth through the creation of the Time Warner Cable Technology Center at Hollenbeck. Hirsch received the award at the 26th Annual Hollenbeck Youth Center/Inner City Games Salute to the Dodgers Luncheon on September 14, 2007 at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel.

This year’s honorees also included Dodger Hall of Fame Manager and Special Advisor to the Chairman Tommy Lasorda as recipient of the “Legacy Award.” Hirsch and Lasorda joined an honored roll of past recipients that include Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

“Time Warner Cable understands that access to technology is a key component in developing a healthy, informed and connected society,” said Hirsch. “The Time Warner Cable Technology Center at Hollenbeck is the first of many centers across the Southland that will bring the latest technology and resources directly into the communities we serve.”

Arriving in Los Angeles in 2005, Hirsch quickly recognized that access to technology was one of the great barriers to success for the Los Angeles communities and neighborhoods he now calls home. Hirsch set about to change that. Under his leadership and vision, Time Warner Cable, the nation’s second largest cable operator and the largest cable company in Southern California, began plans to launch Time Warner Cable Technology Centers across the Southland, with Hollenbeck as the first of six.

Time Warner Cable has engineered the center to include digital and high-definition television, digital video recorders, high-speed online connections, a smart meeting room with video production capabilities, a new computer lab with 13 computers, and furnishings. The technology center will give students access to academic tutoring, computer literacy, and video production tools, enabling them to document their experience at Hollenbeck.

The Inner City Games Los Angeles (ICGLA) and the Hollenbeck Youth Center have provided safe and quality after-school, recreational, educational, and entrepreneurial programs for the past 15 and 35 years respectively. Throughout their histories, the ICGLA and Hollenbeck Youth Center have raised millions of dollars to support the daily operation of both organizations. The partnership forged between Hollenbeck and ICGLA have given thousands of disadvantaged and at-risk youth a second opportunity to become productive members of society as well as great Dodger fans.

Time Warner Cable LA Region serves approximately 1.9 million customers in the five counties of southern California. Leveraging its leadership in innovation and quality customer care, Time Warner Cable delivers advanced products and services such as digital cable, video on demand, high-definition television, digital video recorders, high-speed data and digital phone.

For more information, please visit www.timewarnercable.com/vccal.

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**Jefrey A. Hirsch Receives Hollenbeck Youth Center/Inner City Games “Amigo de los Niños” Award**

**Are You Ready to Pay More $$$ for Water and Power? You Will If DWP Gets There Way**

**DWP Rate Hike**

By Soledad Garcia

Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council

The Utility Rate Payers of Los Angeles will be putting out more money to switch on the lights and turn on the water faucets.

On September 3, 2007, The Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council Memorandum of Understanding Oversight Committee wrote the Department of Water and Power its Letter of Resolution which did not recommend the increase of utility rates for 2008 to 2010. Some of the reasons are listed below:

DWP denied the Neighborhood Councils ample time to respond to DWP’s rate increases. According to the NC/DWP agreement, 120 days would be allowed on multi year rate increases. The Neighborhood Councils requested that there be no rate increase until the Auditors shared their findings. The City Council File Number 905-0545 states that an independent auditor would do a financial review and analysis and that the NCs shall have ample time opportunity to review the independent reports and submit their comments before going to the Council.

DWP presented the initial budget increase to NCs on May 29, 2007. DWP presented the Proposed Rate Increases before the DWP Board of Commissioners on June 5th. The NCs waited three months for the independent auditor’s assessment which took place on August 18, 2007.

The Oversight Committee prepared its Response on September 3rd. Thirty-five days were left to ask 73 NCs to review the Auditor’s Report, to substantiate DWP’s proposal, to respond and to agenda the OSC Letter of Resolution. Thirty-five days did not meet the criteria or spirit of the above provision for budget transparency or justification. Neighborhood Councils saw Management’s delays, stone walling and curtailing of NC response time as a means of fast tracking the approval of rate increases. The above is but one justification for not recommending DWP rate increases. Read the Letter of Resolution that the NC/DWP Oversight Committee wrote. Tell your Neighborhood Council that you recommend it support the Letter of Not increasing the rates. Call your Councilman!

**Additional Listings**

6738 Winter Night Court Fontana, CA sqft 2758 4bd/3th $600,000

1070 S. West Blvd. West LA 2 Units 2bd/18th ea. Total Bldg sqft 3,158 $949,900

IN ELA HILLS of LINCOLN HEIGHTS 90031 Lot 3 Block R Lot Size 7,884 $60,000

**Time Warner Cable executive leads the drive to deliver technology to North East Los Angeles youths**