



The South Park Neighborhood Committee Newsletter

*January 2022
Volume 2, Issue 1*

The South Park Neighborhood Committee is a volunteer group of caring South Park residents that takes pride in our community. We wish to be part of a positive influence for all the residents of South Park.

Our mission is “to seek to utilize a united voice that has strength and influence for the mutual benefit of the South Park residents”.

This Newsletter is distributed electronically from many of the South Park residential buildings. If you would like a copy sent monthly to you directly, pls email us at Southparkneighborhoodcommittee@gmail.com.

In addition, if you live or work in the South Park Neighborhood, and you would like to know what local events are happening and to positively interact with your community, we invite you to join our Facebook Group, called “South Park Insider.”

South Park Committee Members:

Marty Goldberg, Board Member, Elleven
Kevin Sharkey, Board Member, EVO
Michael Ourieff, Board Member, Luma
John Nilsson, Board Member, Ten50
Chris Diaz, Manager, Aven
Candice Warren, Manager, 916 Georgia
Marcus Hamm, Property Manager, Axis on 12
Luke Banham, General Manager, Circa L.A.
Noah Vanaman, Business Manager, City Lights on Fig
Kitt Boodsayaskul, General Manager, Concerto Lofts
Niki Frazier, General Manager, Elleven
Luc Sasseville, General Manager, EVO
Priscilla Naiman, Manager, Flower Streets Lofts/Grand Lofts
Francis Langlois, General Manager, Luma
Tracy Robinson, General Manager, Market Lofts
Ariana Ojeda, Community Manager, Olive Lofts
Carrie Spain, General Manager, Ritz Carlton
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Project and Building Development

California Proposal Will Decimate Rooftop Solar Proposed decision abruptly slashes incentives for new rooftop solar and disrupts climate progress

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Contact:

Thomas Young, Sierra Club, thomas.young@sierraclub.org

Sacramento, CA — Yesterday, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) issued a proposed decision that will decimate the cost effectiveness of rooftop solar, and slow our progress on critical climate goals.

The proposed decision will:

Add a steep new monthly Grid Participation Charge on most rooftop solar customers equivalent to \$8/kW (meaning roughly \$48-56/month for average-sized solar systems); Slash compensation for exported energy bill credits by 64 to 88 percent immediately for new customers, and after 15 years for existing customers (rather than the current 20 year term) from the date their rooftop system came online; Provide a minimal Market Transition Credit that varies by utility and customer segment to new rooftop solar adopters that declines for each year. For a PG&E residential customer, the credit would be \$1.62/kW and would offset less than a quarter of the new \$8/kW Grid Participation Charge; and Exempt low-income customers from the Grid Participation Charge and offer a higher Market Transition Credit, but pay them the same low compensation for their excess energy.

Collectively, these changes will devastate California's rooftop solar market, which is essential for meeting our climate goals.

Rooftop solar provides multiple benefits to all ratepayers, including avoiding demand for more expensive transmission infrastructure, improving energy resiliency amid our increasingly extreme weather, limiting the disruption of undeveloped lands for new energy infrastructure, and decreasing demand for polluting fossil fuels. Rooftop solar can also serve as the gateway for households to electrify their gas-powered vehicles and gas-fired appliances, facilitating deeper reductions in climate and air pollution.

“California needs sustained growth of rooftop solar and home battery storage over the next two decades to meet our climate goals,” says Sierra Club Senior Attorney Katherine Ramsey. “Other states that slashed their rooftop solar programs, like California appears ready to do, have seen new installations decrease and thousands of jobs rapidly disappear. We can’t afford to make that same mistake.”

“Sierra Club’s proposal encourages existing customers to consume more of their own rooftop solar generation, and provides a longer, smoother decrease in compensation for new customers as rooftop solar becomes increasingly affordable on its own,” says Sierra Club Senior Associate Director Monica Embrey. “We proposed decreasing compensation only after each gigawatt of new rooftop solar is deployed. This proposed decision creates a cliff in compensation for new rooftop solar customers, and is clearly written to the benefit of the utilities, who want to maintain profits and control by building their own large-scale power plants.”

Written comments on this proposed decision are due to the CPUC by January 3rd, reply comments are due January 10th, and the final written order is expected on or after January 27, 2022.

Call Governor Newsom at 916-445-2841 and demand that he asks the CPUC to support an alternative decision that encourages the growth of rooftop solar!

You can say:

“My name is _____. I am a resident of California and I am very concerned that the proposed decision before the CPUC will destroy the growth of rooftop solar, and make it far harder for us to meet our state’s climate goals. I’m counting on Governor Newsom to urge the CPUC to reject this decision and develop an alternative proposed decision that encourages the growth of rooftop solar.

Rooftop solar has many benefits for ratepayers and the environment. It can make our grid more resilient to extreme weather, help cut fossil fuel pollution, and use our already developed areas to produce as much of our clean energy as possible.

Please urge the CPUC to protect rooftop solar.”

If you do not get an answer, please leave a message. Every call counts!

Thanks for your help!

Editor’s Note: The above article is a reprint of an e-mail sent out to Sierra Club Members by Monica Mariko Embrey, Senior Associate Director (California), National Energy Campaigns, Monica.embrey@sierraclub.org.

A Modest Proposal

By John Nilsson

I think everyone who has walked on South Park's sidewalks will agree that the many landscaped areas found are a great idea but one that has not been fully thought out and developed to its potential. These welcome patches of greenery along the streetscape were intended to provide a little natural break from the tedium of concrete. They are also very attractive to our local dog population. After all, a dog has to go...somewhere. These planters provide a natural depository for our four-legged friends but, unfortunately, dogs and landscaping do not necessarily mix.

In order to provide for healthier greenery that is untrampled and not suffering from the effects of maybe too much urine, I suggest it's up to us two-legged members of the local population to provide a solution so that dogs and plants can better co-exist.

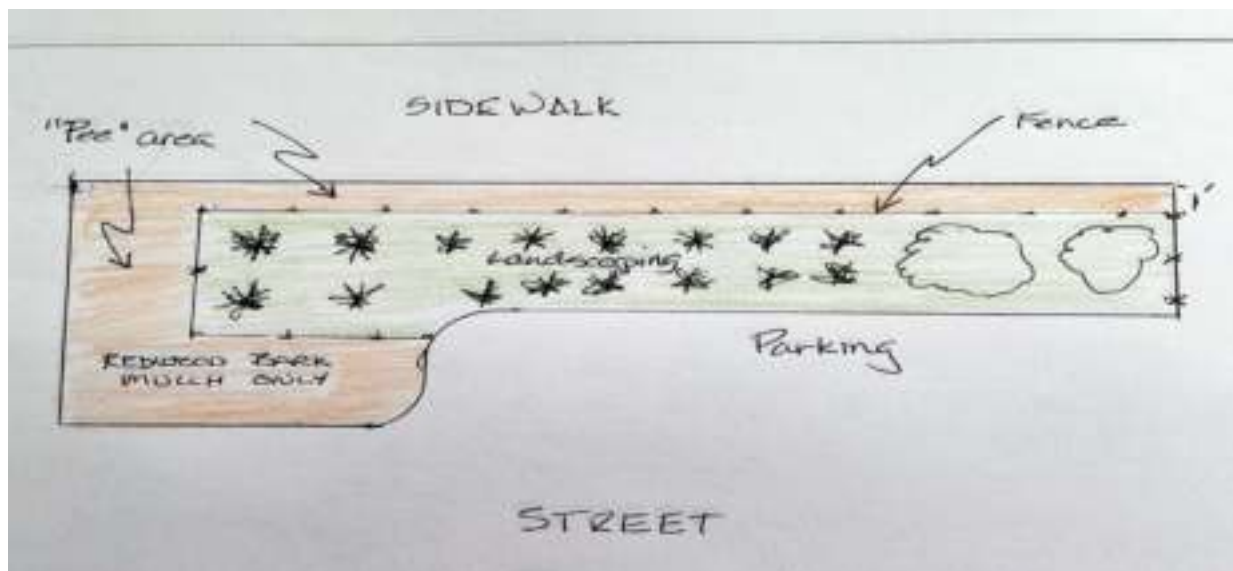


Fig.1

Figure 1 above provides a simple design that can provide both an area for Fido to do his/her duty as well as an area protected from four-legged foot traffic and watering by the wrong kind of liquid. In this example, ample "Pee Area" is provided that has only bark mulch or round rock surfacing. The landscaped areas are defined by a two foot (or so) high wrought iron fence. The fence is set back approximately one foot from the sidewalk to provide an easy access for pets along the sidewalk but prevents access to the landscaped area. Female pets have no issue and male pets will "lift a leg" on the fence but will not be able to trample the greenery. Presto: Dogs can pee and plants can thrive! Note that there is no fence along the street side parking area so that drivers can open their door unimpeded by the fence. Anyone allowing their dog to enter the planted area from the street can be arrested and shot at sunrise.

There already exists a fine example of the fencing idea proposed here (albeit sans the “Pee Area” concept) located caddy-corner from the South Park Business Improvement District offices on the southwest corner of 12th and Hope (pictured below). Note the healthy greenery.



Contact me at
dltanow@gmail.com

for information on sourcing this wrought-iron fencing material. I’m not certain who or what entity is responsible for planting and maintaining these green spots, but I am certain this fencing will save a lot of replanting dollars, and there is a bonus to all in being able to enjoy flourishing, mature landscaping in the neighborhood.



Transportation

The CoMotion Conference: Transportation's Future?

By Virginia Wexman

The future of transportation was the topic of a mid-November conclave in Little Tokyo. CoMotion LA (a global platform for innovative transportation and technology) featured panels of transit innovators touting their wares to potential investors. To hear them tell it, we are looking at a rosy future that will feature air taxis on our roofs, drones dropping packages via parachutes, and robots delivering our groceries. According to the panelists, all these changes will happen within the next few years—and all the new vehicles they are developing will be powered by clean technology.



Government representatives from Canada, the Netherlands, Italy, France, and the UK made strong cases for their countries' leadership in developing infrastructure to support such innovations. Here in South Park, our density, flat terrain, and the helipads on many of our roofs mark our neighborhood as a place where transit entrepreneurs are likely to mount pilot projects.



The highlight of the conference was a debate about transit featuring some of LA's mayoral candidates. Front runners Kevin De-Leon and Karen Bass skipped this event, but other candidates held forth, including City Attorney Mike Feuer, Central City Association leader Jessica Lall, realtor Mel Wilson, and businessman Ramit Varma. Feuer reminded the audience that during his term as a State Assemblyman he had sponsored 2008's Measure R, which funded improvements in California's transportation. Wilson, a former member of the LA Metro Board, promised to ensure that all future members of the Board would be required to ride public transit from time to time. Lall, for her part, touted her achievements as head of the South Park BID, when she fixed (some of) our sidewalks and created a parklet on Hope.



The big picture painted at the CoMotion conference concerned the way we will think about transit in the years to come: as a service rather than as a commodity. Instead of owning cars, the speakers claimed, we will hail driverless electric vehicles to get around. Of course, as we all know, similar predictions about the imminent arrival of driverless cars have failed to materialize. However, if the vision of the future transportation landscape posed at the CoMotion conference indeed comes to pass, what will it imply? What will happen to our garages and gas stations? Will we repurpose them as community gardens? Housing for the homeless? Dog parks? We will wait and see.



Transit Updates as of January, 2022

By Virginia Wexman

Bus Fares: Metro will resume charging fares for buses on January 10.

Transit Policing: For the past year, Metro has been planning to reform its transit policing policy. In 2020 the Metro Board approved the formation of a public safety advisory committee (PSAC) charged with developing a community-based approach to public safety on the transit system, including shifting resources away from armed law enforcement toward alternatives like a transit ambassador program and outreach to the unhoused. The Board expects to finalize a new program by mid-2022. At a press conference Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva called to denounce the Board's proposal. He described the PSAC as "a woke advisory group" and predicted that their plan would result in "carnage on the trains."

Sidewalk Repair: More than half of LA's sidewalks are in poor condition, including most of those in South Park. In 2016 Mayor Eric Garcetti and the City Council committed to spending \$1.4 billion over the following 30 years on sidewalk repairs. But after 5 years, the city has repaired only 1% of all damaged sidewalks. During the same period, more than 1,700 claims and 1,020 lawsuits for sidewalk injuries have been filed, and the city has paid out over \$35 million in settlements.

Speed Limit Reduction: AB43, which takes effect January 1, makes it easier for cities to lower speed limits in areas where there are safety concerns. The law goes into effect in 2022, but cities can't start enforce-

ing lower speed limits until June 30, 2024, or whenever the state creates an online portal to adjudicate the new infractions – whichever comes sooner. The long-term effect of this law on South Park is unclear.

Bus Service Cutbacks affecting South Park

- The #28 bus, which formerly connected north and east to Glassell Park, now only goes as far as Union Station.
- The #2 bus (connecting to West LA), #79 bus (connecting to the San Gabriel Valley), and the #96 bus (connecting to Burbank) no longer serve South Park.
- When the Proper Hotel renovation began, the bus stop at 11th and Broadway was removed. It has not (yet?) been put back. Thus, the D Dash bus now goes from Pico almost to 9th without stopping, and the #4, #30 go from 12th almost to 9th without stopping.





South Park Scene

Hygge Bakery and Café - Now Hope Street Café, Features French Croissants and Macarons

By Marty Goldberg



If you have been to Hygge Bakery (now Hope Street Café) at 1106 South Hope Street, you probably have met Mike Ji, the owner, manning the pastries and the cash register while his long-time trusted employee, Sara, is making breakfast burritos and sandwiches.

Mike beamed about making their authentic French croissants. He relayed to me how difficult it is to make them. They only use 100% butter, no margarine, or other substitutes. He shared the secret ingredient is marzipan. He also boasted that they are now making their own macarons that he says people are claiming they are better than Bottega Louie's. They are available in 12 different flavors. I tried the strawberry and pistachio; I am hooked!

When I asked Mike what his hours are, he laughed and said, "I live here." He arrives early, early when it is dark and most of us are comfortably in bed to begin the baking of French croissants, international pastries, bagels, and baguettes. He stays late into the evening giving personal attention to each customer, and he does this 6 days a week. Mike gleefully said, "we are not perfect, but we do our best. We really do appreciate our customers and the business. We do not take anything for granted and are truly appreciative." I believe it when he said, "I get satisfaction with talking to the customers and that they treat me like family." He is proud of his business and thrives in taking care of his customers. Just so you know – the Hope Street Café is open from 7 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday, and 8 am – 5 pm on Saturday.

Mike truly cares about the neighborhood. That is one of the reasons they are changing its name. He felt many people did not know what Hygge meant (coziness, comfortable, wellness, contentment), or how to pronounce it (in Danish – he gee). Mike feels Hope Street Café is much more local in name and description. Mike added, he “loves to hear comments and feedback from the community. I always strive to make my business better.”

How fortunate we are to have a local bakery in our South Park Neighborhood that brings such care and sweetness to us with Mike’s good nature as well as the care and sweetness he brings to his pastries and baguettes for us to enjoy. Stop in and try the new macarons!



Pizza Sociale: Delicious, Friendly, Steps Away, and a Discount

By Marty Goldberg



I have had the pleasure of eating pizza and salads from Pizza Sociale located on Olympic, one door east of Grand Avenue since they opened in 2019. This is the first time I caught up with its owner, the gregarious and energetic Carmela Fuccio Aksalic, for a meaningful dialogue.



Carmela, who is originally from New York, moved to DTLA about 11 years ago. She and her husband since have moved to Sherman Oaks with their 2 children, but she has always had a special place in her heart for DTLA. With her Italian roots and her love of our diverse community, she decided on opening up shop in South Park. She admits, “It feels very much like home.” She loves the strong sense of community of South Park and despite the challenges of the pandemic, homelessness, and safety issues, she loves the support, concern, and commitment from so many residents.

I asked Carmela what her favorite dishes are, “meatballs, truffle pizza, and the classic margherita.” She also is loving the highly rated, gluten-free whole pie. She touts that the place is designed so that the whole family feels comfortable, and patrons enjoy celebrating any occasion there. Carmela adds, “The place feels like home. We have sports on TV, and it exudes a relaxed, happy vibe.”

Whether you eat in, eat on the outside patio, takeout, or get it delivered, you will enjoy the wonderful flavors and smells of Pizza Sociale. To show her love, appreciation, and support to the local South Park residents, Carmela said, when you place your order let them know that you are a South Park resident, and they will give you a 10% discount on your order. What can be better than excellent food, supporting local, plus a discount. Enjoy!



Community Happenings



SIPS & SPARKLERS WINE TASTING

Coming to South Park in February 2022. Details to follow.

Event sponsored by **South Park Neighborhood Committee**

The tasting will last one hour

Please TEXT your Name and Email Address to 310-880-2442 for updates and reservations.

ABOUT THE EVENT

**You Will Be Treated to a Sampling of 3
Different Sparkling Wines
and a Snack**

Cost \$10 pp to Venmo or Cash at Door

**Enjoy some wonderful wine and meet some of your
neighbors in a fun, comfortable, safe setting.
Limited to 20 South Park residents.**

