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**Robert Hertzberg**  
**Our State Senator**

**\*The California Water War**  
**\*2016 Politics in California and Beyond**  
**\*Exciting Events in Sacramento This Year**

COMMUNITY MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2016 - 7:15 PM  
NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL  
RIVERSIDE & WOODMAN, SHERMAN OAKS

Our State Senator Robert Hertzberg will be the featured speaker at our Meeting on Wednesday, September 21, 2016. He previously represented Sherman Oaks as our Assemblyman and during that time was the Speaker of the Assembly.

As indicated in the headlines above, he will be discussing how the water wars are affecting our water supply in Los Angeles, the current political season, and interesting and important new laws that were passed by the recently ended Legislative Session.

The Los Angeles Times described Bob Hertzberg as “a high-velocity wonk; he loves BIG ideas and will flesh out every one of them if you give him a chance.”

The Daily News has said Robert Hertzberg “has a relentless dedication and indefatigable energy – he has a reputation for integrity and perseverance.”

Attend our Wednesday Meeting to learn more from our State Senator, Robert Hertzberg.

Jules Feir is happy to announce that once again Oliva Trattoria will be our Restaurant of the Month. They are located at 4449 Van Nuys Boulevard, just north of Moorpark Street. For years, Oliva has been a Valley favorite for authentic and delicious Italian food served in a charming setting.

The owner Giorgio Pierangeli takes pride in offering wonderful menu items such as the very popular spaghetti with a 1.5 pound lobster and jumbo shrimp in a light spicy tomato sauce. The menu selection is creative and extensive. Visit them for lunch as well and enjoy their great lunch specials.

Enjoy a sampling of their delicious foods during our Social Hour that starts at 6:15 p.m.

Measure M Sales Tax Increase – A supermajority of the SOHA Board of Directors voted to oppose Metro’s transportation sales tax increase Measure M on the November 8, 2016 ballot. Measure M would increase our sales tax from 9% to 9 1/2%.

We studied Metro’s transportation improvement plan for more than a year, participated in planning and informational meetings, met with Metro officials, and listened to Metro CEO Phil Washington at our August SOHA meeting.

We explained that rapid transit improvements are critical to improving transportation and reducing automobile traffic across the County, and especially in the Valley and Sepulveda Pass. We emphasized that the Valley never received its fair share of rapid transit under Proposition A (1980), Proposition C (1990), and Measure R (2008) – today having only two Metro stops out of 88 and one very overcrowded Orange Line busway.

We asked for ironclad written guarantees in the ballot measure to ensure that the Valley received its promised projects. We noted that Metro needed improved management capabilities to ensure that projects get built on schedule and on budget, with minimal impacts to communities. We stressed that the ballot measure must include automobile parking at stations.

The 27-page ballot measure includes minimal guarantees, employs an “Independent” Oversight Committee whose members are hired and fired by Metro, and never mentions automobile parking.

We worry that the passage of the ballot measure means that residents end up paying a total of 2 percent in transportation sales tax with no end date – a “forever tax” – providing Metro \$860 million a year. The measure incorporates a large list of transit and highway projects including six major Valley projects. However, only one of these Valley projects might be a high-speed subway. Additionally, the measure does not include a process for determining future projects.

Metro needs to better understand the public’s concerns and use the next two years to iron out the kinks in their transportation improvement plan. SOHA looks forward to supporting an improved plan on a future ballot. In the interim, we urge a “No” vote on Measure M sales tax increase on November 8, 2016.

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**Marshall Long who chairs our Development Review Committee reports:**

**Have you heard about the proposed 8.3 acre development located at Riverside Drive and Hazeltine Avenue which is known as the Sunkist Project? It would have 298 apartment units, 39,241 square foot retail commercial, 1345 parking spaces in addition to the existing 120,000 square foot of office building. The total square footage of the development would be 359,241!!**

**Follow the link <http://planning.lacity.org/eir/ICONshermanOaks/DEIR/index.html> to view the current draft of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for this proposed mixed-use commercial/residential development.**

**The draft EIR indicates tremendous additional traffic congestion at three locations: Hazeltine Avenue and Riverside Drive, Woodman Avenue and Riverside Drive, and Ventura Freeway and Woodman Avenue.**

**In addition to traffic, a major objection to the project is the design which creates a penitentiary feel on the two streets. The apartments would surround and block views of the iconic Sunkist building.**

**The Report lists as an alternative a slightly reduced project.**

**Maybe with enough pressure from the public, the developer will realize that if they want exemptions from the City Regulations their project must mitigate the problems it creates and enhance the community. There must be setbacks from Riverside Drive and Hazeltine Avenue to create a project that is compatible with the neighborhood.**

\* \* \*

**The Chase Knolls (Riverside Drive west of Fulton Avenue) tenant organization has been struggling with their relations with their management over proposed changes to the property. Plans were submitted and permits issued in 2006 for a six building development with an additional 141 units on the property. The plans were put on hold during the 2008 recession. Thereafter the owners were granted several extensions by the City. The current situation is that the owners are starting to demolish garage units and dig underground trenches for services for the new development. They have encountered asbestos and lead paint and are attempting to deal with the situation. They are also proposing to remove a number of trees to facilitate the development. The Association is working with the tenants to try to mitigate new issues that have arisen.**

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**Due to changes in state law, the Los Angeles City Council prepared to take a vote recently to repeal local standards on granny flats and defer to less restrictive State law. Councilman David Ryu believed this would lead to loopholes for developers to build out of scale secondary units on single family home lots and he successfully pushed to stop the repeal. The City will write new code to protect single family neighborhoods while complying with State law. Additionally, a number of families were caught in the lurch in this debate and were in the middle of building predominantly reasonable secondary units and will now be grandfathered in so that they can finish their projects.**

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**A new traffic management pilot program began in August in Sherman Oaks. Over the last several months, SOHA Board of Director Jay Weitzler worked with Councilman David Ryu to identify creative solutions to address increasing traffic congestion and public safety concerns. "White glove" traffic control officers have been placed at the intersections of Ventura and Sepulveda Boulevards and Ventura and Beverly Glen Boulevards to alleviate peak hour traffic on select days and weekends over the course of the next three months. These efforts are important, particularly as the school year begins, and this pilot program will support the development of a much larger and more comprehensive traffic mitigation plan for Sherman Oaks and its surrounding neighborhoods.**

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**The 26th Annual Sherman Oaks Street Fair will take place on Sunday, October 16, 2016 between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. The Fair will be held on Ventura Boulevard between Van Nuys Boulevard and Kester Avenue. There will be over 200 vendors, food trucks, a classic car show, a carnival, a Pet Zone with pet adoptions and everything pet related, a community stage with over 16 local school performances and a Main Stage featuring The Empty Hearts with band members from Blondie, The Romantics, The Cars and Chesterfield Kings, Paperback Writer covering the Beatles, Pleasant Valley Sunday celebrating 50 years of The Monkees and John Blair & The Trespassers with Classic Surf music.**

**The Association will have a booth at the event. We hope you drop by and say Hello.**


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**A recent data analysis shows that America's worst Freeway commute is in Los Angeles. Surprisingly, Los Angeles' "Most Packed Roadway" is not the 405 in West Los Angeles or the 10 Freeway from Downtown to Santa Monica. In fact, it is a stretch of the 101 that passes through Sherman Oaks! Read more here: [www.laweekly.com/news/heres-the-worst-freeway-commute-in-america-7170290](http://www.laweekly.com/news/heres-the-worst-freeway-commute-in-america-7170290).**

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**Do you have a Facebook account? If you do, you need to "like" the Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association page. Our Facebook account provides updates on local news and provides information about events happening in Sherman Oaks. Go to [www.facebook.com/soha914](http://www.facebook.com/soha914) and get instant information from your Association.**

**Do you receive our email updates? If not, we do not have your email address. Email your address to us at [soha914@gmail.com](mailto:soha914@gmail.com).**

Very truly yours,  
  
Richard H. Close, President