

Hillside Open Space Education Coalition
Steering Committee

MINUTES

Friday, August 4, 2006
2:00 p.m.

City of La Habra, Administrative Conference Room, 201 E. La Habra Blvd., La Habra, CA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Henderson called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

Committee Members Present

Bob Henderson, Council Member, Whittier
Steve Simonian, Council Member, La Habra
John Beauman, Council Member, Brea
Bruce Douglas, Council Member, La Habra Heights
Owen Newcomer, Mayor, Whittier (alternate)
Jeff Yann, Hacienda Heights Improvement Association

Committee Members Absent

Mike Hughes, Hacienda Heights Improvement Association (alternate)
Russ Bell, Rowland Heights Community Coordinating Council (alternate)
Mike Popovec, Rowland Heights Community Coordinating Council
Fred Kline, La Habra Heights Council Member (alternate)
Rose Espinoza, Council Member, La Habra (alternate)

Staff

Stephen W. Helvey, City Manager, Whittier
Ron Bates, City Manager, La Habra Heights
Tim O'Donnell, City Manager, Brea (via speaker phone)
Don Hannah, Acting City Manager, La Habra
Jennifer Cervantes, Assistant to the City Manager, La Habra
Eric Nicoll, Economic Development Director, Brea
Melinda Kwan, Senior Management Analyst, Brea

2. Matters From the Audience

None

3. Aera Project Update

Chairman Henderson opened the meeting by providing an update on Aera's project. He had heard that Aera was evaluating the option of proceeding with an annexation of the Los Angeles County portion of the project site to The City of Diamond Bar rather than proceeding with project entitlement actions through the County of Los Angeles. Ron Bates requested a brief explanation about annexation and what it involves.

Charlie View, Development Services Director for the City of Brea provided an overview of the process of annexation using the recently annexed Tonner Hills project in the City of Brea as an example. The discussion included the following information:

The Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) identifies the appropriate municipality or municipalities to provide services such as public safety, infrastructure, and recreation to an unincorporated area through establishment of a Sphere of Influence (SOI). The process of bringing unincorporated land under the jurisdiction of a municipality is known as annexation. In the case of the Aera site, both Orange and Los Angeles County LAFCO Boards have identified SOI's for the project site. An amendment to an SOI or establishment of a new SOI requires a public hearing and LAFCO Board approval. Annexation of property to a municipality does require environmental review and in this case, if Aera is considering accelerating the annexation process, this would likely be included in the pending Draft Environmental Impact Report. Because of the single entity ownership of the land involved in the possible annexation, the parties involved could be limited to the two County LAFCO Boards, the two County Board of Supervisors, the annexing city or cities and the property owner. The public and other interested parties can participate through the environmental review and public hearing process.

Chairman Henderson would like a clear understanding of how HOSEC could engage Los Angeles LAFCO in a discussion about the Aera property. He also requested staff to develop information on what we should expect if Aera proceeds with a request to annex their land into the City of Diamond Bar. He requested support from the Steering Committee to move forward and get legal council for this issue. Chair Henderson also asked staff to invite someone from LAFCO to attend the next HOSEC meeting. Ron Bates requested additional staff work to explain the environmental process and which government entities will be providing services if annexation occurs. Committee Member Beauman requested that staff contact the City of Diamond Bar about the annexation and to invite them to the next meeting.

Chairman Henderson made a motion to have the Executive Committee work on the above action plan, seconded by Committee Member Beauman.

4. Member Comments

None

5. Adjournment

Chair Henderson adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.