



The Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters

10 February 2005

Members, Monterey Park City Council
320 W. Newmark Ave.
Monterey Park, CA 91754

Los Angeles League
of Conservation Voters
Board of Directors

To the Honorable Members of the Monterey Park City Council:

Andi Liebenbaum
President
Susana Reyes
Vice President
David Allgood
Secretary
Moe Stavnezer
Treasurer

On behalf of the Board of The Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters, I am writing to support the creation of a Monterey Park Environmental Commission to address issues relating to the environmental awareness, education, and preservation of the City's natural resources. The Commission will be able to address issues relating to recycling and waste reduction, sustainable practices for construction, water and energy conservation, storm drain issues, including the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, and most importantly, outreach to and education of the public, including residences, commercial enterprises and industrial businesses within the City.

Maria Armoudian
Bob Blumenfield
Janine Hamner
Adi Liberman
Don May
Leslie Mintz
Denise Ng
Melvin L. Nutter
Anthony Rendon
Joan Satt
Ericka Smith
Marc Stürdivant
Effie Turnbull
Cara Vallier
Lee Wallach
Donna Wells

An environmental commission that includes representatives of the public to serve as advisors will protect public health and wellbeing, will ensure that the City considers sound scientific and health-related concerns for new programs, projects and licenses, and can serve as a model of how small cities throughout the San Gabriel Valley can incorporate a strong environmental ethic into their deliberations and city governance. As the proposal for the creation of the Commission rightly states, issues of the environment are rarely undertaken by cities due to limited funding or wrongly perceived anti-business impacts they might have on economic plans. Communities are typically forced to react when crises unfold. These reactions typically include a great deal of frustration, and they usually cost more than a thoughtful environmental policy would have. By adopting a comprehensive plan to address environmental concerns, the City of Monterey Park has the opportunity to assist residents and businesses in understanding their role in and the benefits for *everyone* of decisions that consider issues such as clean air, reduced pollution, greater recycling, fewer discharges and other environmentally focused issues.

Some people believe that environmental concerns are heavily scientific, making them confusing and intimidating. This is not necessarily the case. Much of the science of environmental issues is easy to research, and easy to understand. Many people believe that environmentalism is costly – that it will drain local economic resources as well as intimidate or retard economic growth. This is not true. Sound environmental policies made in concert with other city plans and activities keep costs low, support reasonable growth, and encourage businesses to stay/relocate within the City because of the emphasis on a the improved quality of life. Businesses want to locate into communities where their employees can live and work safely. Families want to live in communities where their children can play, enjoy the outdoors, and not suffer from acute respiratory or other problems. Our health care, auto insurance, housing, energy and water costs go down when people understand and embrace sound conservation methods and health based environmental standards.

The Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters commends the Monterey Park City Council for considering this bold step, and we urge you to support and fully implement an Environmental Commission as soon as possible for the City of Monterey Park.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Andi Liebenbaum'.

President

The Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters is the
Political Action Arm of Los Angeles County's Environmental Community
PO Box 6218 • Altadena, California • 91003 • www.lalcv.org