

North Westdale Neighborhood Association
Minutes for February 18, 2014
Special Meeting With Congresswoman Karen Bass
by Joan Winters - Secretary

Called to order: 7:05 PM

Attendance: more than 80

Introduction of our newly appointed Vice President Virginia Ernst.

Special Guest Speaker, Congresswoman Karen Bass spoke followed by active discussion of current topics; Santa Monica Airport, her work on the Judiciary Committee including immigration reform. She discussed issues with us for well over an hour.

Some highlights from 2-18-14 meeting:

Karen said she would approach Henry Waxman when she gets back to D.C. and suggest to him that Santa Monica Airport neighbors in both Los Angeles and Santa Monica would very much like him to do something significant before leaving office regarding the airport.

Joan mentioned that Jane Harman invited U.S.EPA Region 9 Administrator Jared Blumenfeld to meet locally with her, other elected officials including Ted Lieu, and representatives from CRAAP. We all visited the impacted neighborhood and the observation deck at SMO. Although the meeting was productive, nothing developed from it. Karen mentioned that she will be meeting with former Congresswoman Jane Harman next week, and that she would like to mention that meeting to her. Jared seemed very receptive to helping at the time.

Karen will consider legislative efforts including the establishment of a minimum distance between aircraft ground operations at an airport and residential communities.

It was requested by several in attendance to Karen that NWNA President and CRAAP Director Martin Rubin be included in the process. Karen agreed.

The idea of asking President Obama to issue an Executive order was brought up. Karen mentioned that the President basically opened the flood gates and was getting a lot of requests from Reps.

Health studies were mentioned; there have been several air quality monitoring studies, one health risk assessment, and one health impact assessment.

Karen did not have an opinion regarding the Santa Monica v. United States lawsuit, but in her letter to FAA Administrator Huerta, she urged that they allow the agreements to expire so the airport could close.

Adjournment: 8:30 PM