

Lawndale Tribune

AND LAWNDALE NEWS

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Foster A Sense of Community



The Lawndale Community Center, first opened in 2012, located at 14700 Burin Avenue. Photo by Peter Thornton, jp.thornton58@gmail.com.

Lawndale City Council Chooses New Storm Water Management Program Consultant

By Nancy Peters

The Lawndale City Council met on Monday, July 20. An important contract decision to choose the consultant for the Storm Water Management Program and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, which requires compliance with certain standards set forth by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board), and the State, for protection of water quality. The NPDES MS4 permit compliance requires a city submit their individual plan to both boards for approval. This new contract is for three years, which began on July 1 and extends until June 30, 2018.

The two top bidding consultants—TECS Environmental (TECS), the incumbent, and CASC Engineering and Consulting (CASC)—submitted quotes nearly comparable in cost. The incumbent, in attendance to respond to any questions from the Council members, and a representative from CASC who had reported at the previous meeting, both presented. Questions were geared toward concern that the recent rejection by Regional Board of the Lawndale Individual Water Management Plan, recommended by TECS, could result in a costly fine for the city if a non-compliant plan is all the Board submits.

The Regional Board recommends an Enhanced Water Management Program (EWMP). This is a program in which a city can participate in order to be a member of the county group for a fee. TECS is of the opinion that an EWMP is overkill for a non-polluting city such as Lawndale. Since there is no current monitoring system, an EWMP is not a recommended option from TECS.

The current county participants in the EWMP are suing the Regional Board and because of the suit there is no monitoring of pollutants or compliance issues for those cities in the lawsuit. However, the cost over 17 years for Lawndale would be \$3.7 million to participate in the EWMP. Any future monitoring that could occur and may detect pollutants from Lawndale in the Dominguez Channel is

subject to correction by 2028. The standards of compliance are less stringent than the EWMP and are iterative for any city.

The author (Dr. Xavier Swamikannu) of the MS4 Permit Standards is now an employee of TECS and offered his opinion that the EWMP is an unnecessary option as there is no way to know if there are any issues with baseline standards. He also offered the Regional Board standards are based on insufficient data: rain produces storm waters; rain/storm waters are vastly different than ambient water in the storm drain or the channel; and there is nothing to compare between “standard” and “enhanced.”

Mayor Robert Pullen-Miles expressed concern that if Regional Board compliance is not met, the city of Lawndale will be at risk. Both vendors disagreed on the choice of options. TECS believes that the simpler, less costly, unmonitored Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) is all that is needed. CASC believes that the EWMP is the only way to gain approval from the Regional Board, although there will be substantial costs associated with implementation of the Minimum Compliance Measures (MCMs), despite no monitoring for many years, only after the lawsuit is concluded.

With no second to the motion to retain TECS as the consultant for the Storm Water Management Program, it automatically failed. The question was called for an approval of the staff recommendation to approve CASC as the consultant for the SWMP for the next three years. The motion passed by a vote of 3-1, with Councilman James Osborne casting the dissenting vote and Mayor Pro-Tem Larry Rudolph absent.

In other Council business, an ordinance amendment for the Recovery of Costs for Law Enforcement and Removal of Graffiti was rewritten and presented for a new first reading. An ordinance amendment read for the first time will, if approved by the City Council on August 3, redefine the time for safe and sane fireworks to be discharged, on any July 4th, from Noon to 11:59 p.m. Another ordinance introduced will adopt an expedited

permit process, superseding any other permits in the queue, to allow small residential rooftop solar energy systems to be installed on one and two-family residences.

Due to pending state legislation, the Deputy City Clerk advised the April election usually reserved for local elections in Lawndale, may be eliminated by 2018, as elections held in November (regular voting on first Tuesday) or June (voting on second Tuesday) will be the only state- and county-supported elections. A special April election may become cost-prohibitive for the city and potential candidates. Updates will be advised as soon as legislation outcomes and signing or veto by the governor or veto is known.

Two vacancies remain on the Youth Services Advisory and Senior Citizens Advisory Committees. Interested parties can contact the City Clerk’s office for applications and information.

A citizen challenged City Council approvals of destruction of records as being against a policy of transparency. Confirmed by the Deputy City Clerk and the City Attorney, destroying records complies with state law that records be kept for two years. All records’ destruction is approved by three signatures--City Clerk, City Attorney, and City Manager-- before request is made for City Council approval. Destruction of records usually includes duplications between various city departments and also accounts payable documents, always available online, with banks, and vendors. All records are open for public inspection, minus personal contact information, which is redacted.

Several citizens praised the hard work of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department on behalf of the citizens of Lawndale; the admirable jobs performed by the City Council and city staff; and thanked the City Council for helping on issues that may arise for various groups around the city. Another citizen asked that there be more positive comments at City Council meetings, with less complaining. The next meeting is Monday, August 3, at 6:30 p.m. •

Weekend Forecast

Friday

Partly
Cloudy
75°/66°



Saturday

Partly
Cloudy
79°/66°



Sunday

Partly
Cloudy
71°/65°



PETSPETS **Pets** PETSPETS

Purrrfect Companions



Arthur 'talks' to his human friends.

Looking for your purr-fect match? Kitties of all colors and sizes are ready for the forever home with you.

In addition to purring loudly for the pets and cuddles that he loves, **Arthur** can be very entertaining! He sometimes gets "shocked" by a sound and will bounce straight into the air before galloping off with his brother Rizzo. Currently, Arthur has become our house greeter and is eager to meet new people. He's a big cuddle bug who likes to be picked up and carried, pet and snuggled with. Arthur can also be quite a talker. Usually though it's to let you know that he would like some more cuddles, please! We are not exaggerating here...he loves affection! He and his brother Rizzo are never far apart and spend hours and hours chasing and wrestling each other. They would like very much to be adopted together. Arthur faithfully uses the litter box and hasn't shown much interest in furniture destruction.

Phoenix is a very handsome orange tabby and white kitty who was rescued in Istanbul, Turkey. He has a wonderful personality... playful, loving, affectionate, easy-going and super-sweet. This short-haired tabby loves being petted and purrs loudly when you pet him. Taking naps on your lap, being groomed and snuggling with his kitty friends. I am good both with boy kitties and girl kitties. I have a lot of fun playing with my kitty friends and toys. If you want a good looking boy who is ready to give you lots of affection and entertain you with his playful tricks, come and meet Phoenix!

Maddie is so sweet and loves attention! She is also a little zany and will provide hours of entertainment. Maddie loves everyone! She is good with cats, kids and dogs. This young kitten needs to be adopted to a home with another cat or kitten or with one of her



Phoenix has a wonderful personality.

sisters, Cedar or Cerise.

Babbage is oh so special! This boy loves to hang out with his humans, helping them edit at the computer, sleep on their shoulder or just hanging out and making the place look good by striking a dramatic pose. Babbage would love to have a home with a loving human to sleep on and hang out with, and outgoing, confident kitty to have mutual grooming sessions and snuggle time with would be a bonus! He is very comfortable with dogs. Babbage loves to be pet and to get attention. Although he is deaf (which is not unusual with pure white kitties), he has no problems with confidence. Babbage is looking for a special person who can give him a life time of devotion and love.

Rizzo can be just a little shy at first, but



Maddie needs a home with a kitty friend.



Rizzo is easygoing and sweet.

once he settles in he doesn't hesitate to cuddle on anyone's lap. He is a dear, sweet, easy-going, gentle boy, who mostly wants to be lying next to or on the humans. When he's not sleeping with you, he prefers the company of his brother Arthur who is never far away. He is usually quiet, however, when the mood strikes, Rizzo can belt out a loud meow! Such as at food times. He and his brother Arthur love each other's company and would like very much to be adopted together. Like his brother, Rizzo faithfully uses the litter box and hasn't shown much interest in furniture destruction.

Cedar has beautiful markings that make her almost look like fine wood grain. She is a petite kitten who just wants to be loved and played with. She is super sweet and we think of her as the "baby" of the litter. But make no mistake there is a quiet fierceness to her that gives her confidence. Cedar needs

to be adopted to a home with another cat or kitten or with one of her siblings, Cerise or Maddie. She is good with cats, but dogs tend to scare her if they get to close.

Cerise is as smart as she is cute! She is also full of energy and spunk, but she also craves cuddle time and soft petting on your lap. Cerise likes to talk and let you know what she is feeling. Don't worry she will be patient with you. Cerise is good with cats and does ok with calm dogs. Because of her young age, she needs a home with at least one other cat or kitten.

These kitties are available for adoption through Kitten Rescue, one of the largest cat rescue groups in Southern California. All of our kitties are spayed/neutered, microchipped, tested for FeLV and FIV, dewormed and current on their vaccinations. For additional information and to see these or our other kittens and cats, please check our website www.kittenrescue.org or email us at mail@kittenrescue.org. Your tax deductible donations for the rescue and care of our cats and kittens can be made through our website or by sending a check payable to Kitten Rescue, 914 Westwood Blvd. #583, Los Angeles, CA 90024.

On Saturdays, we have adoptions from noon to 3:30 p.m. in Westchester at 8655 Lincoln Blvd. just south of Manchester Ave. and also in Mar Vista at 3860 Centinela Ave, just south of Venice Boulevard. Our website lists additional adoption sites and directions to each location. •



Cerise is smart and cute.

*Be kind. Save a life.
Support animal rescue.*



Babbage is deaf but is also outgoing and loves to hang out.

THE YELLOW DOG PROJECT.com

If you see a dog with a **YELLOW RIBBON** or something yellow on the leash, **this is a dog who needs some space.** Please do not approach this dog with your dog. Please maintain distance or give this dog and his/her person time to move out of your way.

There are many reasons why a dog may need space:

- HEALTH ISSUES
- IN TRAINING
- BEING REHABILITATED
- SCARED OR REACTIVE AROUND OTHER DOGS

THANK YOU!
Those of us who own these dogs appreciate your help and respect!
illustrated by Lili Chin www.doggydrawings.net