

MINUTES

WRAC Meeting of the Board of Directors

July 20, 2026 – 6:30pm

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84095705158?pwd=JGw2s8bM4JsNzlaaLacZJuAMaxt0Md.1#success>

Or Dial (669) 900 9128 **Meeting ID** 872 7511 1207

ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE AT:

<https://tinyurl.com/bdf6pxpy> and <https://westsidecouncils.com/meetings/>

Items on the Agenda may be taken in any order at the discretion of the Chair – Attendees who do not identify themselves upon request of the Chair will be removed (see Item 5 below).

1. Welcome/Introductions

a. Call to Order and Certification of Quorum Chair Greenberg (BABCNC) called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. WRAC Secretary/Treasurer Tyler Laferriere called the roll. Eight councils were present at the outset, satisfying quorum. Additional members joined during the meeting: Nico Ruderman (VNC) arrived at 6:34 p.m., Carolyn LoBuglio (BCC) at 6:35 p.m., Jay Handal (WLASNC) joined at 6:37 p.m., and Connor Webb (NWNC) at 6:40 p.m., bringing the total to 12 councils.

Board Members Present

BABCNC Bel Air-Beverly Crest NC: Robin Greenberg, Chair

BCC Brentwood CC: Carolyn LoBuglio (joined during meeting)

DRNC Del Rey NC: Ravi Sankaran

MVCC Mar Vista CC: Andrew Marton (alternate)

NWNC North Westwood NC: Connor Webb (joined during meeting)

PPCC Pacific Palisades CC: Chris Spitz, Vice-Chair

SORONC South Robertson NC: Michael Lynn

VNC Venice NC: Nico Ruderman (arrived at 6:35 p.m.)

WCC Westwood CC: Steve Sann

WLASNC West LA-Sawtelle NC: Jay Handal (joined at 6:35 p.m.)

WNC Westside NC: Terri Tippit; Barbara Broide (alternate)

WWNC Westwood NC: Connie Boukidis; Marcy Agmon (2nd alternate)

Also Present:

- Janet Turner – Office of Congressman Ted Lieu (CA-36)

- Sophia Liebman – Office of State Senator Ben Allen (24th SD)

- Mandy Laflen – Office of LA County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath
- Leah McKenzie, Sr. Public Relations Specialist – LADWP
- Santos Sanchez, City Planning Associate – Department of City Planning
- WRAC Secretary/Treasurer Tyler Laferriere
- Sarah Mahir (VNC, non-voting public attendee)

Note: The Mayor's Office (Jennifer Hull), Council District 5 (Cairo Rodriguez), and Council District 11 (Michael Amster) were called but did not respond and did not provide reports. Representatives of Congressmembers Brad Sherman and Sydney Kamlager-Dove; Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas; Assemblymembers Isaac Bryan, Jacqui Irwin, Rick Chavez Zbur, and Tina McKinnor; Supervisor Holly Mitchell; Council Districts 4 and 10; LAPD; and Metro were not present.

b. Chair Updates –

(1) **New WWNC Alternate WRAC Representatives.** Chair Greenberg announced that Steve Resnick has been designated as WWNC's 1st alternate WRAC representative, and Marcy Agmon (present at this meeting) as 2nd alternate. Connie Boukidis remains as WWNC's primary representative.

(2) **New PPCC Alternate WRAC Representative.** Chair Greenberg announced that Reza Akef, the new PPCC Vice President, has been designated as PPCC's alternate WRAC representative. Chris Spitz remains as primary representative. A 2nd alternate for PPCC has not yet been appointed.

2. Government Reports/Speakers

a. Mayor's Office – Jennifer Hull, Westside Representative

Jennifer Hull was called but was not present and did not provide a report.

b. Council Reports –

(1) Cairo Rodriguez, Sr. Field Deputy – Council District 5/Yaroslavsky

Cairo Rodriguez was called but was not present and did not provide a report.

(2) Michael Amster, Field Deputy – Council District 11/Park

Michael Amster was called but was not present and did not provide a report.

c. Additional Government Reports – At the discretion of the Chair

Janet Turner – Office of Congressman Ted Lieu (CA-36)

America 250 Veterans Commemoration – Follow-Up: Turner reported that the July 4th social media project requesting constituent photos honoring veterans was a success. Among the submissions was one from Sandy Brown, honoring her late husband Jerry Brown. The photos remain posted on the Congressman's website. The office plans to repeat the project for Veterans Day, with more advance notice.

H.R. – 21st Century Federal Writers Project: Introduced June 30, the bill proposes a coordinated national effort to chronicle American life across all 50 states and 6 territories, modeled after the Federal Writers Project of 1935–1943. The Congressman views it as a way to support writers and document contemporary American life.

World Refugee Day Resolution: The Congressman introduced a resolution to restore recognition of World Refugee Day, which the current administration had discontinued. He views refugees as a source of national pride and economic strength.

Fentanyl Testing in Hospitals (co-sponsored with Rep. Kamlager-Dove): A bill that would direct HHS to study hospital procedures for fentanyl testing in overdose cases, noting that many community hospitals do not currently test for fentanyl when treating overdose patients.

Sophia Liebman – Office of State Senator Ben Allen (24th SD)

Liebman reported that the state legislature is in recess; the Senator has been in the district for meetings. She highlighted the following:

Bills in Assembly Appropriations: All of the Senator’s bills have passed Assembly policy committees and are currently in appropriations. These include: a low-interest loan program for home hardening; a CDI enforcement bill; and SB 1301, the non-renewal transparency bill.

SB 1301 – Insurance Non-Renewal Transparency: Liebman identified this as the Senator’s most significant target of insurance industry opposition and called for additional letters of support from neighborhood councils. The bill would require insurers to provide homeowners with 6 months’ notice before a non-renewal, along with disclosure of specific risk factors and an opportunity to mitigate. She thanked the Palisades community, BABCNC, and other councils that have already submitted letters.

State Budget: The state budget was passed earlier in July. Key provisions include: a balanced budget with no projected deficit; tax relief for small businesses; continuation of universal school meals, transitional kindergarten, expanded childcare, and free summer school; healthcare affordability protections; housing reform that reduces red tape; renewal of homelessness and housing prevention funds; and investment in disaster recovery, wildfire resilience, infrastructure, workforce development, and public safety. Final details will come through trailer bills in August.

New Staff Member: The Senator’s office has added a new staff member, Henry, who will cover Westwood, North Westwood, and assist with Bel Air. Liebman and Henry will alternate coverage at WRAC meetings.

In response to comments:

Member Broide (WNC alternate) asked Liebman to relay to Senator Allen that housing advocates and media are continuing to misrepresent the relationship between CEQA and housing construction – most housing legislation is already CEQA-exempt, yet a recent PPIC poll found that Californians support relaxing CEQA due to the housing crisis. Broide asked the Senator to use his remaining term to correct the public record on this point. Liebman committed to relaying the message.

Vice-Chair Spitz (PPCC) expressed appreciation to Senator Allen and his office for support of bills affecting the Palisades, including toxic remediation legislation, mobile home park protections, and insurance matters, and for Liebman’s participation in weekly Palisades advocacy task force meetings.

Mandy Laflen – Office of LA County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath

Paramount/Warner Brothers Merger – State Challenge: The Supervisor introduced a motion supporting California’s challenge to the proposed Paramount-Warner Brothers merger, building on her March 2026 initiative directing the LA County Department of Economic Opportunity to assess the

merger's economic impacts. The county's analysis found the merger could put nearly 2,500 jobs in the greater Los Angeles area at risk while weakening one of the county's core industries.

Entertainment Union Coalition: A few weeks earlier, the Supervisor convened the Entertainment Union Coalition, meeting with 7 entertainment industry unions – led by the Teamsters' Large Vice President and Motion Picture Division Director – to advance solutions for Hollywood. Topics included expanding production incentives, streamlining permitting, protecting entertainment workers, and strengthening LA County's long-term competitiveness. The Supervisor reaffirmed support for California's expanded film and television tax credit program and proposed extending credits to post-production and commercial production.

Mission Canyon Park – Community Zoom (July 28): The Supervisor's office is hosting a virtual town hall on Wednesday, July 28 regarding the proposed Mission Canyon Park project – a collaboration between MRCA, LA County, and LA Sanitation to open a park on a former decommissioned landfill from the 1960s, located between Mountain Gate and Skirball (near the LA County Fire helicopter filling station). A flyer was shared in the Zoom chat.

Leah McKenzie, Sr. Public Relations Specialist – LADWP

Brentwood Pole-Top Transformers: The project was planned to begin in July but a start date has not yet been finalized. When confirmed, it will be published on LADWP's webpage and on Nextdoor. McKenzie noted that LADWP is currently stretched thin dealing with a water main break in West Hollywood.

In response to questions and comments:

Member Sann (WCC) expressed concern about aging water infrastructure citywide following the West Hollywood break. He noted a similar break on Sunset Boulevard had flooded UCLA's Pauley Pavilion – shutting it down just months after a \$120+ million renovation – and that an ongoing break near Westwood Boulevard has narrowed that street to one lane for four or five months. He asked about LADWP's proactive plan for aging pipes, many of which are approaching or past 100 years of service, and noted that the broken West Hollywood pipe had been scheduled for replacement approximately four years from now (around 2030). McKenzie acknowledged the concern, noted she is not a subject matter expert on infrastructure planning, and committed to relaying the question to LADWP executives and providing written materials on proactive pipe replacement planning to Chair Greenberg before the August meeting.

Marcy Agmon (WWNC 2nd alternate) raised the issue of approximately one-year repair timelines for streetlights in Westwood, describing vandalized metal streetlight poles on Glendon Avenue that have been out for an extended period and expressing concern about neighborhood security. McKenzie noted that metal-pole streetlights (non-wood-pole) fall under the Bureau of Street Services (BSS) rather than LADWP.

Jay Handal (WLASNC) explained the broader context: the Bureau of Street Lighting's recent assessment increase ballot measure failed 81–19, reflecting public frustration with being taxed without adequate service delivery. As a result, the city faces a backlog of 160,000–200,000 streetlights in need of repair citywide, with no near-term funding solution. He noted that CD 5 and CD 11 have each committed discretionary funds to a shared repair crew, which is showing results, but this is not available citywide. He attributed decades of neglected assessment increases by successive city councils as the root cause and directed members to the NC Budget Advocates White Paper (BudgetAdvocates.org) for a detailed analysis of the Bureau of Street Lighting's challenges.

Member Broide (WNC alternate) noted that the copper wire theft deterrent being employed by the shared repair crew – laying gravel and sealing lighting boxes with cement – is not theft-proof (thieves can dig up the concrete box), and urged all community leaders to actively deputize residents to report suspicious activity around lighting poles and boxes, since city workers alone cannot catch thieves.

Vice-Chair Spitz (PPCC) noted that the Palisades remains without hundreds of streetlights, creating dangerous conditions for residents attempting to return to rebuild.

Member Sann noted that Bureau of Street Lighting is the appropriate agency to agendaize for a future meeting (rather than LADWP) and suggested inviting a BSL representative to the August meeting.

Santos Sanchez, City Planning Associate – Department of City Planning

SB 79 Resources: The City Planning Department’s website features a newsletter with a full update on SB 79 implementation, including links to the phased implementation ordinance and related resources. Sanchez noted that implementation is proceeding through a phased ordinance affecting development near major transit stations and offered to post the link in the Zoom chat. The department’s monthly liaison update is also available on its website.

Planning 101 Brown Bag – NC Open Office Hours: The Department of City Planning, in coordination with DONE, is hosting a “Planning 101” brown bag session on Thursday, July 23 from 12:00–1:00 p.m., targeted at neighborhood council members. The session will include a PowerPoint presentation on how planning works, how to get involved, and available resources, followed by a Q&A. The link was shared in the Zoom chat; an email from DONE was also distributed. Sanchez offered his contact information for any planning questions or assistance navigating the department.

3. Board Member Updates – Limited to 5 minutes total

No board member updates were offered.

4. Committee Reports – Limited to 5 minutes total

a. WRAC Transportation & Mobility Committee (MTC) – July meeting cancelled; next mtg 8/19/26

Chair Greenberg noted that the July MTC meeting was cancelled and the next meeting is scheduled for August 19. No further report.

b. WRAC Homelessness Committee (HOC) – next mtg TBA

Vice-Chair Spitz noted the HOC continues to meet only when member councils submit agenda items. No items have been submitted; no meeting has been scheduled.

c. WRAC 2026 Election Candidate Forum Committee – Status Update

Member Ruderman (VNC), chair of the ad hoc Candidates’ Forum Committee, reported that the committee held a meeting earlier that morning. Key status items:

Candidate Commitments: Tentative commitments or expressions of interest have been received from the following candidates:

City Attorney: Both candidates (Nithya Raman and John McKinney) have indicated interest in attending.

Mayor: Marissa Roy has indicated interest (confirmation pending). Campaign Manager Julia Chavez Rodriguez was contacted regarding Mayor Bass; she responded positively and understands the importance of WRAC, but stated she needs to consult with the full campaign team. No final answer yet.

SD 24 Senate Race: Both candidates (John Erickson and Brian Goldsmith) have indicated interest.

Proposed Dates: The committee sent candidate campaigns the following tentative dates to identify conflicts: September 8, September 22, September 30, October 3, and October 6. The committee hopes to lock down a date within the week.

Moderator: Josh Haskell of ABC7 – who moderated the CD 11 forum to wide acclaim – has agreed to moderate, contingent on no media partner being secured. ABC7 has declined to broadcast the event. The committee continues to seek a media partner.

Venue: No venue has been locked down yet. The committee has inquiries out to the Hammer Museum and several other locations. Other venues under consideration include First Lutheran Church of Venice, Westwood United Methodist Church, the Westchester Methodist Church, and LMU (for those with contacts there). Member Sann invited anyone with contacts at LMU or Skirball Cultural Center to reach out to the committee.

Format: The committee is considering a back-to-back format – City Attorney forum followed by the Mayoral forum – similar to a prior WRAC model at the Hammer Museum. The SD 24 race may also be incorporated. Scheduling feasibility will determine the final format.

Vice-Chair Spitz confirmed the committee's outreach status: both city attorney candidates are essentially confirmed subject to date; Raman's campaign has expressed agreement; McKinney's camp is on board. The mayor's participation remains the open question. She thanked Ruderman and Sann for their extensive outreach efforts.

Member Ruderman also raised the idea of WRAC establishing a social media and streaming presence, both to broaden the forum's reach and to build WRAC's visibility more broadly. He noted that the CD 11 forum venue had streaming capability, and that platforms such as YouTube and Instagram Live are free to use. He suggested that a VNC communications officer, Soraya, might be interested in assisting. Vice-Chair Spitz noted the concept is appealing but questions of consistent management, appropriate content oversight, and bandwidth need to be resolved offline. Carolyn LoBuglio (BCC) suggested YouTube as the preferred platform and noted a motivated high school student might help; Spitz cautioned that consistent, knowledgeable oversight is essential. The discussion was noted as an item for further offline exploration.

5. Public Comment: There was none from non-member attendees on items NOT on the agenda.

6. Approval of Minutes

a. Note: Item 6 was taken up in its regular order at this meeting. The June 15, 2026 meeting minutes were approved by 12-0-0, with 12 councils present and no opposition or abstentions, as moved by Chair Greenberg and seconded by Andrew Marton (MVCC alternate). No discussion.

7. New Business – None.

8. Old Business – None (no motions pending).

Chair Greenberg confirmed there are no pending motions. No action required.

9. Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Before adjournment, Vice-Chair Spitz reminded all member councils to bring forward any recently passed motions they believe have regional significance, so they can be considered for agendaing at a future WRAC board meeting. She reiterated the absence of an active Land Use Committee and the importance of surfacing land use matters that may warrant a WRAC position.

Member Ruderman asked that any unidentified Zoom participants identify themselves per WRAC's bylaws. An attendee identified as "Zoom user" identified herself as Sarah Mahir of Venice Neighborhood Council.

Member Broide committed to sending Chair Greenberg and Vice-Chair Spitz a written report on key state housing legislative updates and related LA City Council matters, for distribution to the board. She encouraged member councils and community groups to consider taking positions on state bills that significantly affect local land use.

Chair Greenberg announced that BABCNC is holding an in-person meeting on Wednesday, July 22 from 7:00–9:00 p.m., featuring the three candidates in the CD 5 runoff election. The event is open to the public and free.

Next meeting to be held on **August 17, 2026**.