

Questionnaire for Richard Alarcón

Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council

The citizens of Los Angeles have become skeptical concerning the current abuse of their adopted Community Plans, through exemptions and changes ordered by Zoning or Council.

• When a zoning change is requested, would you favor notification of all residents in the Community Plan area and have all the hearings held in that area? Yes No

• Should Neighborhood Councils be given land use powers? Yes No

• The City, at one time, adopted "K" overlays to protect horse-keeping and open space in the City. Since the City falls far short in meeting its open space requirement and the overlays are now being abandoned as "conceptual only", would you move to give these maps a greater level of enforcement? Yes No

• Traffic is a major concern in our Council area. The first exit from areas to the north, including Palmdale, Lancaster, Santa Clarita, Castaic, etc. from the I-5, is Balboa Blvd. This street is completely congested with cars, morning and evening, as commuters from the north converge at this point. There are a tremendous number of new developments planned to the north, which will exacerbate the situation. We have thought of several partial solutions. Which of these will you support? *perhaps, but need more information*

1. Prohibit left turns 3 to 7 PM, from N/B Balboa Blvd. to Balboa Road and also to Foothill Blvd, Mondays through Fridays and right turns from San Fernando Road to Balboa Road and left turns from Sierra Hwy to Foothill Blvd, 6 to 10AM on the same days? Yes No

2. Permit turns at those same hours to high occupancy vehicles? (more than 80% now have a single occupant) Yes No

3. Charge a toll? Yes No

4. Will you propose offering financial incentives to businesses that allow a substantial portion of their work to be done electronically by employees working from their homes? Yes No

5. In order to expedite traffic from the northern Los Angeles County areas including Santa Clarita, Palmdale, Lancaster and the new Fort Tejon project to the west San Fernando Valley, would you support the extension of any of the major arteries, such as De Soto or Topanga Canyon over the hill? This would alleviate traffic on the 5 Freeway, 118 Freeway and Balboa Blvd. *Need more information* Yes No

If a situation arose that the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy blocked construction through their areas, would you support tunneling? Yes No

Would you support funding for this project through a toll system? Yes No

The public has grown to believe that commission appointments have become a reward for contributors and the well connected. Would you support any of the following:

1. Direct election by the electorate of commissioners?

Yes ___ No

2. Positions set aside for Neighborhood Councils and the grass roots representatives of the community?

Yes No ___

3. Prohibition of any financial connection between the Commissioner, his/her family, subcontractors, etc. and projects that might come before the Commission?

Yes No ___

Should Council members be asked to abstain from voting on any issue upon which they have accepted money or favors from the proponent?

Yes No ___

Council members and City staff are allowed to return as lobbyists after only one year. This practice allows unrestricted and unfair access to City officials. Would you be willing to increase the time period to:

- Four years?
- Five years?
- Seven years?
- Ten years?

Sunshine Canyon will, with the phasing out of Puente Hills, become the largest dump in the U.S. The impacts on the surrounding community will be enormous. To handle trash more responsibly will you commit to the following?

1. Will you renew the BFI contract for residential trash in 2006?

Yes ___ No

2. If no to the above question, and it reaches your desk will you veto it?

Yes No ___

3. When the city contract expires in 2006, arrange to have trash taken to destinations away from populated areas and sensitive water facilities?

Yes No ___

4. Set a goal of price leveling so that Material Recovery Facility (MRF) can compete economically with lower landfill costs?

Yes No ___

5. The city franchise fee on only the tonnage that has not been MRF'd, recycled, or converted?

Yes No ___

6. Construct at least one conversion facility in each of the of the City's five waste sheds?

Yes No ___

7. The Bureau of Sanitation was ordered, in 1999, to implement a recycling program for apartments and multi-family facilities. This has still not been completed. Would you commit to its full and timely implementation?

Yes No ___

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• The EIRs for the City are prepared by the proponent and are invariably biased as a result. Would you be in favor of having them financed (as they are now) by the proponent, but be contracted out to an independent contractor chosen by the city?

Yes No

• Neighborhood Councils receive "early notification" of a project only after the application is deemed complete by the Planning Dept.. Unfortunately, the environmental documents have already been prepared, the maps adopted, etc., by this time in the process. Would you support giving notice to the Neighborhood Councils when the first applications are filed and the first meetings are held between the proponent and staff?

Yes No

We are grateful that you have responded to our questions and we will make every effort to put any detailed responses on our website. We also invite you to include your website if it contains discussions of any plan or vision you have for the City,

Your website alarconforla.com

Please return no later than January 20, 2005 to:

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Any questions, call Michael Greenwald 818 368-0096