

# Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council Mayoral Questionnaire

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 X No

*(I would support holding hearings close to the project site except in circumstances when trying to do so might lead to a delay that could put the City at risk of violating permit processing deadlines. This probably would only be an issue with appeals to a body such as the Planning Commission, whose agendas cover the whole city and holding items until they could be heard in a certain location might lead to such delays. Failure to process a permit within deadline constraints generally leads to an automatic approval for the applicant, which I believe would be counter to your desires.)*

- Should Neighborhood Councils be given land-use powers? Yes     No X

*(However, I favor making NCs a formal part of the process by giving them first review of projects before any decision-makers and having NC recommendations be a part of the official record as the case goes forward.)*

- 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 X 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?

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 X No     

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

3. Charge a toll? Yes      No X

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 X No     

*(A more accurate term would be "consider," as opposed to "propose." The details of such incentives need to be worked out before I could commit to proposing them, but I have cited telecommuting as a part of my congestion relief platform, so I would definitely pursue the idea.)*

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 and Topanga Canyon over the hill? This would alleviate traffic on the 5 Freeway, 118 Freeway and Balboa Blvd. Yes      No X

*(At this point I am not prepared to assume that all these "sprawl projects" should or will be built. Committing to building new traffic lanes of any sort in advance of those decisions just guarantees that we will have that many more jammed lanes of traffic. I would prefer that long distance commuters from exurban areas use Metrolink or future High Speed Rail.)*

• If a situation arose that the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy blocked construction through their areas, would you support tunneling?

Yes      No X

• Would you support funding for this project through a toll system?

Yes      No X

• 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: (Yes or No answers to each please)

1. Direct election of commissioners? Yes      No X

2. Positions set aside for Neighborhood Councils and the grass roots representatives of the community?      Yes\_\_\_ No X

*(I believe that neighborhood and grassroots representatives should be candidates for appointments if they bring relevant experience and knowledge to the position. I am committed to opening up the appointment process to a wide range of participation, as I did while Speaker of the Assembly. However I don't feel it's any more appropriate to guarantee grassroots reps a position than it would be to guarantee, for example, industry representatives a position on a commission that deals with their area of expertise.)*

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

• 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?      no

Five years?      no

Seven years?      no

Ten years?      no

*(How about two years? I don't believe it's fair to deny people a chance to use their experience and expertise to make a living for such an extended period of time as this question proposes.)*

• 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. How can we handle trash more responsibly?

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

Yes\_\_\_ No X

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

Yes X      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 X    No**

4. Set a goal of price leveling so that MRFs (Material Recovery Facilities) can compete economically with lower landfill costs?                      **Yes X    No**

5. Base the city franchise fee on only the tonnage that has not been MRF'd, recycled, or converted?                      **Yes X    No**

6. Construct at least one conversion facility in each of the of the City's five waste sheds?                      **Yes X    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 X    No**

- 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 X    No**

*(I proposed this in 2001 and I still support it.)*

- Neighborhood Councils receive "early notification " of a project only after the application is deemed complete. 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 X    No**

*(This fits well with my earlier comment on bringing NCs formally into the loop at an early stage in the process.)*

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   [www.antonio2005.com](http://www.antonio2005.com)  

**Please return no later than January 20, 2005 to:**

**Kim Thompson**