ICTF Joint Powers Authority to Discuss Railyard Expansion Project at Wednesday Meeting at Silverado Park

The Intermodal Container Transfer Facility Joint Powers Authority Governing Board is holding a special meeting this Wednesday, Oct. 21, at 6:00pm in the Silverado Park Community Center. On the agenda for the meeting is a progress/status report on the preparation of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed ICTF expansion project.

This meeting comes one year after more than 100 neighborhood residents filled the Silverado Park Community Center to protest the planned expansion of the Union Pacific ICTF railyard and the construction of a new railyard by Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad. Speakers asked for existing yards to be cleaned up and on-dock and other goods movement alternatives to be explored before any near-neighborhood railyard expansion is even considered.

The Silverado Park Community Center is located at 1545 W. 31st Street in Long Beach. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6:00pm. Those wishing to speak during the public comment period must complete a speaker card and submit it to the Governing Board Secretary before the start of the meeting.

City Announces Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program

The City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services, Homeless Services Division has announced the availability of a new resource to present and end Homelessness for Long Beach residents.

The federal “Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program”
(HPRP), authorized under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, provides homelessness prevention assistance to households who would otherwise become homeless and assistance to rapidly re-house persons who are homeless during this economically challenging times.

The City's homelessness prevention resources are being coordinated through Catholic Charities, at 123 E. 14th Street, (562) 591-1351. Rapid Re-Housing programming is being coordinated through Beyond Shelter, 1301 W. 12th Street, (562) 733-1147. To be eligible, program participants must be Long Beach residents, have a household income of less than 50 percent of Area Median Income, and must be homeless or at risk of losing housing with no alternatives identified and no financial resources or support networks.

Potentially eligible participants must complete and submit a Risk Assessment Form to the Multi-Service Center, 1301 W. 12th Street, (562) 733-1147, ext. 104.

St. Lucy’s Leaders Join South Bay Residents for Community Action Day at LA City Hall

Two leaders from St. Lucy’s Catholic Church traveled to Los Angeles on Friday, Oct. 9, to take part in a Community Action Day sponsored by the Green LA Port Working Group. Thirty-eight South Bay residents joined in the effort, visiting seven Los Angeles City Council offices and stressing the message that the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach need to grow pollution free.

St. Lucy’s parishioners Jose Samson and Rolando Carpentero joined Greater Long Beach ICO Executive Director Pat Kennedy for the day-long visit. The council staff who met with participants accepted the invitation to come to the Harbor to participate in a community-led Port tour and briefing. Many staff remarked that they were very appreciative of the presentation of the health and pollution impacts at the Port and concerns about the SCIG and ICTF projects.

St. Athanasius Offers ESL and Citizenship Classes

ICO and St. Athanasius Church are offering a variety of English-as-a-second language and citizenship classes at the St. Athanasius Church School building, 5390 Linden Avenue, Long Beach. Beginner and Intermediate English classes are available Tuesday and Thursday evenings, from 6:00-8:00pm. Citizenship classes are Friday evenings,
from 7:00-8:30pm.

The classes cost $1 each session. ICO and St. Athanasius are also looking for volunteers to teach the classes. Even if you can only teach one class per month, that would be greatly appreciated. For more information or to volunteer, please contact the ICO offices by email (click here) or at (562) 984-2727.