

ITEM #8
WESTSIDE/CENTRAL GOVERNANCE COUNCIL
August 5, 2004

SUBJECT: GOVERNANCE COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

ACTION: CONSIDER CHANGES TO GOVERNANCE COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE

RECOMMENDATION

Consider the alternatives outlined in this report and either:

- a) reconfirm the current schedule; or
- b) adopt a new meeting schedule.

ISSUE

The Westside/Central Governance Council adopted its current meeting schedule during Council orientation in December 2003. It began operating under this schedule at its first meeting in January 2004. Generally, the current schedule was adopted to provide a balance between daytime and evening meetings, and to meet the schedules of the Council members.

At the July 2004 Governance Council meeting, Councilmember Peter Capone-Newton suggested that the Council reconsider its meeting schedule. Following brief discussion, it was requested that this issue be placed on the agenda of the next Council meeting to allow for more thorough discussion and consideration.

DISCUSSION

The current meeting schedule for the Westside/Central Governance Council has a quarterly pattern with meetings being held as follows:

- During the first month of the quarter, a meeting is held at 3:00 PM on the first Thursday of the month.
- During the second month of the quarter, two meetings are held. One meeting is at 3:00 PM on the first Thursday of the month and one meeting is at 7:00 PM on the 4th Thursday of the month.
- During the third month of the quarter, no meeting is held.

This schedule was chosen by the Council to provide a balance between daytime and evening meetings, and in consideration of the schedules of Council members. Some people have requested that the Council change its schedule so that meetings are always held on the same day, at the same time of each month. It has been argued

that this will be simpler and easier for the public to understand and will allow for easier promotion of the Governance Council meeting schedules. Staff further notes that with the current schedule, there is often insufficient time following the first meeting in the second month of the quarter to adequately prepare a response in time for the second meeting that month.

The other four Governance Councils all meet at the same day and time every month as follows:

San Fernando Valley – First Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM

Gateway Cities – Second Thursday of the month at 2:00 PM

South Bay – Second Friday of the month at 9:30 AM

San Gabriel Valley – Second Tuesday of the month at 5:00 PM

Alternative meeting schedules are discussed below along with their possible advantages and disadvantages.

Alternative #1: Same Day, Same Time

The Council could reschedule its meetings to always be held at the same day and time. This would have the advantage of providing greater predictability for the public and for promotional purposes. This would serve the needs of the public who are available at the designated time but does not provide the flexibility for those with different schedules.

If this meeting were set during the daytime, Councilmember Robinson has suggested that every effort be made to hold all public hearings in the evening.

Alternative #2: Same Day, Different Time

The Council could reschedule its meetings to be held on the same day of each month but alternate between daytime and evening for every second or third meeting. This would provide greater predictability for the public as they would know the day of the month that the meetings are being held. The public would have to check to see on any particular month as to whether the meeting were scheduled for daytime or evening. By alternating times, it is possible that more people will be able to attend at least some of the Council meetings.

Selecting either Alternative #1 or #2 eliminates the staff difficulty currently experienced with the limited time during the month when 2 meetings are held.

Staff has surveyed the Governance Council members regarding their regular standing meetings and is prepared to discuss this at the Council meeting.

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