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More Information on California State Budget

http://www.cbp.org/pdfs/2011/110225_Budget_Plans_Compare.pdf

More Information on Air Quality

<http://www.aqmd.gov/prdas/matesIII/matesIII.html>

More Information on Car Towing Policies

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-towing-20110314,0,1988864.story>

<http://www.mydesert.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011103050307>

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ICO Leaders Ask of the California State Budget: Fair to Whom?

This year's California state budget fight is very different from business as usual in Sacramento. Already \$12.5 billion in cuts have been made, primarily impacting the poor, the disabled, state employees and higher education. If additional revenues are not found, additional cuts will focus on K-12 education and prisons. The Governor has proposed closing redevelopment programs and extending temporary taxes. However he failed to get the four Republican votes needed to put the tax extension on the ballot.

Special Citywide ICO Meeting on the California State Budget

Saturday, April 9, 3:00pm

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

One question before us is, how do we get the state budget to reflect our values? One of the key values raised when talking about budgets is fairness. By cutting across the board and extending taxes, the governor is trying to appeal to the sense that everyone should have to share the burden. Is what is being proposed fair, or a reflection of varying levels of political clout? Probably some of each.

Another question is, if we stand on the sidelines watching the process instead of getting involved, do things get better or worse?

ICO leaders are meeting Saturday at 3:00 p.m. in the Guild Room at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, at 7th and Atlantic Avenues, to take a look at the budget removed from partisan rhetoric, and to think how we can help inform our communities and move this process forward in ways that reflect our fundamental values.

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Councilmember, Community Push Zero Emissions Standard for Goods Movement



Zero emissions has become the new rallying cry in West Long Beach as the community continues to confront threats to local air quality. At two recent community meetings, Long Beach 7th District Councilmember James Johnson stated his support for zero emissions alternatives to be included in the forthcoming environmental impact reports (EIRs) for the proposed rail transfer yard expansions on the West Side.

On February 24, 120 ICO leaders, community residents and a coalition of teachers, parents and students organized as Westside Schools for Clean Air met to craft strategies for the next phase of the continuing struggle against railyard expansion. On March 24, at

expressed interest in ICO's work. If you want to be removed from this list, please email us at:

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Silverado Park, more than 100 community residents attended a meeting hosted by the the West Long Beach Association where Councilmember Johnson restated his request for a zero emissions alternative be included in the Environmental Impact Report.

Also at the March meeting, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) delivered two presentations, on the health impacts of particulate matter in diesel exhaust, and on currently available zero emissions technology. After community members asked for more local data, AQMD Executive Officer Dr. Barry R. Wallerstein committed to a new Multiple Air Toxics Exposure Study (MATES) to provide more up-to-date information.

The Zero Emissions presentation focused on how municipalities and industries have used zero emissions methods to move people and goods for years. These include the Red Line here in Los Angeles and mass transit rail and bus systems all over the world that are electrical. They also focused on trucks used in mining that are all electrical and evolving technology such as maglev. The AQMD's position is that there is sufficient existing technology and electrical power to develop these systems here in Southern California. Their belief is that the region will not be able to meet future clean air standards without developing a zero emissions system for moving goods in the region.

As evident from these meetings, the local air quality conversation is shifting from a simple "yes" or "no" on railyard expansion to a broader discussion of how to work together to create momentum towards zero emissions goods movement in our communities. As important, the question is no longer what are the railroads willing to do, but what we all need to do to build a better future for all of us. ICO leaders and our allies will continue to push to frame these discussions with our elected leaders on building a clean future for our children rather than just reacting to railroad proposals.

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ICO Leaders Continue to Press Police Chief to Change Car Towing Policies

Pointing to examples from Los Angeles, Coachella and the Bay Area, ICO leaders and immigration reform advocates are urging Long Beach Police Chief Jim McDonnell to change the police department's car towing policy.

Currently, when police stop a vehicle a determine the driver does not have a license, the car is towed and the owner has to wait 30 days before being able to reclaim it, a significant hardship when the car is necessary for work. Immigrant rights advocates note that this is especially problematic for immigrants, who are stopped more often and therefore are more subject to having their cars towed.

ICO leaders note that in other communities, police give stopped unlicensed drivers a grace period of 20 minutes or more to find a licensed driver to take the car home, thereby avoiding the impound lot. They are asking Chief McDonnell for a similar policy change. In addition, they are seeking data on the city's car towing policies and practices.

ICO leaders and immigration reform allies first met with Chief McDonnell almost one year ago, where they raised the car towing issue.

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St. Mary's Medical Center Sponsors Diabetes Walkathon

St. Mary's Medical Center is inviting local congregations and community members to take part in its 1st Annual Diabetes Walkathon. The Walkathon will support St. Mary's Outpatient Diabetes Program, the only certified American Diabetes Association program in Long Beach.



The Walkathon will take place Saturday, April 30, on the Long Beach Polytechnic High School Track. It will be a fun community event that will also promote family physical activity. Please call (562) 491-9066 for more information.

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