

NOMA

North of Montana Association

WINTER 2019 BI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

North of Montana Neighborhood Association (NOMA) is a non-profit all-volunteer group of residents working to protect and enhance the quality of life in the North of Montana area of Santa Monica.

1112 Montana Ave. #516 Santa Monica, CA 90403

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Great Food, Great Conversation

**When: Thursday, January 10, 2019
7:00 – 8:45 P.M.**

NOMA Annual Meeting to elect the Board.

NOMA regular monthly meetings are the first Thursday of the month. There is an exception for January and July. Plan to attend the Annual Meeting January 10th at the Montana Ave. Library.

Where: Montana Branch Library 17th St. and Montana Ave.

NOMA'S ANNUAL COMMUNITY CELEBRATION AND PARTY!

Coming soon to the Aero Theatre!

**Watch for the date and
see you there!**

WATER SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM UPDATE

In January 2011 the City Council directed the city staff to prepare a water self sufficiency plan for the City of Santa Monica that would eliminate the need to buy water from the Metropolitan Water District. In October 2014 the Water Sustainability Master Plan (WSMP) was adopted which would meet that goal in 2020. Due to state water requirements adopted in 2018 requiring removal of additional chemicals from water sources the 2020 goal has been extended to 2023.

In its 2018 progress update for the WSMP the Water Department noted that in 2011, 48% of the water supply in Santa Monica was from imported sources and 51% from local groundwater. By 2017, 52% was from local groundwater, and 29% from imported water. The ability to reduce imported water was through conservation of about 18%.

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The goals of the WSMP for Santa Monica include additional water conservation, developing alternative water supplies and expansion of local groundwater services. By 2023 the WSMP anticipates that 1% of Santa Monica's water will be obtained from MWD, with sustainability being achieved through 25% from new local groundwater sources, 38% from conservation, and 35% from alternative water sources. These alternative sources include recycled water, treatment plant efficiency improvements, and improvements to wells including capacity expansion. New wells can be drilled in the coastal sub-basin if necessary.

The primary focus of water conservation will be in the downtown area. According to city staff, the population growth anticipated in the master plan for the downtown area is considered in meeting

the sustainability requirements by 2023. The city will continue to subsidize drought tolerant landscapes in the residential areas and retrofitting of internal plumbing.

Major projects to increase alternative water sources include the Olympic sub-basin and the Arcadia treatment plant. Restoration of the Olympic sub-basin will cost approximately \$40 million and will be funded from settlement payments made by contamination sources. The Arcadia treatment plant improvements are estimated to cost \$38 million. Increased production efficiency is estimated at \$30 million with \$8 million for a new groundwater well. This cost will be paid by a water revenue bond of \$34.75 million with the balance paid by the city's Water Fund. Debt service for the bond will be paid from water rates with a water rate study being conducted before the bond is issued.

City staff members have stated that implementation of the WSMP will result in more control of the Santa Monica water supply and lower water cost than continued import of MWD water.

NOMA BOARD MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL NIGHT OUT CELEBRATION AT THE SANTA MONICA CITY HALL

Photographed by: Evelyn Lauchenaaur



NOMA at National Night Out August 2018 with NOMA board members Evelyn Lauchenaaur and Sonya Sultan

OUR CURRENT GOALS

NOMA seeks to encourage participation in Santa Monica's civic life.

- Ask the City to pass an ordinance protecting trees on private land with consideration of water allocations.
- Participation in neighborhood planning efforts such as the interim zoning ordinances.
- Facilitate neighborhood watch and safety programs.
- Attendance at city meetings such as the City Council, Planning Commission, Housing Commission, and Landmarks Commission.

GET IN CONTACT WITH US

NOMA is the City-recognized organization that represents the interest of our neighborhood. NOMA's monthly meetings seek to inform the residents about city-wide issues as well as what might be happening in the area. **We value your input. Take time to connect with us!**

Visit us at www.smnoma.org

✉ Email us at NOMABoard@gmail.com

HEDGES, FENCES, AND WALLS

- **Maximum heights in front yard area:** Hedges, fences and walls shall not exceed forty-two inches in height.
- **Maximum heights in side and rear yards:** A hedge shall not exceed twelve feet in height, except that there shall be no height limit for hedges adjacent to and located within ten feet of an alley. Fences and walls shall not exceed eight feet in height.
- **Height Modifications – Administrative Process:** A property owner may request that the Zoning administrator administratively grant a modification to the height limit of a proposed side or rear fence, wall, or hedge provided the height modification does not extend more than four feet above the height limit. The Zoning Administrator may grant this modification or grant a height modification if the subject fence, wall request if the adjacent property owner(s) that share a common property line nearest the fence, wall or hedge have agreed to the propose increase in height.
- **Height Modification – Discretionary Process:** If an adjacent affected owner does not agree to a proposed fence, wall, or hedge height modification, or if a property owner requests a height modification in excess of four feet in the side or rear yards or any modification to the height limits in the front yard area, the owner may request that the Zoning Administrator grant a height modification in the subject fence, wall, or hedge will be compatible with other similar structures in the neighborhood.

OUR DISAPPEARING TREE CANOPY

Residential neighborhoods in Santa Monica are losing their tree cover. NOMA has seen a decline in its urban tree canopy of 33% between 2005 and 2014, according to the most recent SM Urban Forest Task Force report. Suggested causes are disease, drought, and removal of trees on private lots for new single-family construction. Should the City enact protections for mature trees on private property? Should builders be required to replace mature trees removed by construction? Let us know your thoughts. The report and proposals can be accessed at smnoma.org.

MAKE MUSIC DAY JUNE 2018

Photographed by: Evelyn Lauchenaue



Musicians and children enjoy Make Music Day 2018 with NOMA

CURRENT NOMA BOARD:

NORTH OF MONTANA ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

Nancy Coleman, *Chair*

Danilo Bach, *Vice-Chair*

Jeff Brecht, *Secretary* Victor Fresco, *Treasurer*

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:

Phillis Dudick, Jeff Gordon, Todd James, Evelyn Lauchenaue,
Steven Lissik, Sonya Sultan, Jim Williams

Two of our longtime board members: Caryn Marshall and Jane Koehler have chosen not to stand for reelection. We will miss their enthusiasm. Caryn has been our membership chair keeping track of our members, welcoming new members and greeting everyone to our monthly meetings. Jane has represented NOMA at the neighborhood council (all of the Santa Monica neighborhood organizations) for many years. Jane has served as our liaison with the library to make sure that our meetings are booked. Their efforts will be missed. After the annual meeting NOMA will have two new board members: Derek Devermont and Ann Greenspun.

NO BURN DAYS!

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is the government agency responsible for protecting our public health by regulating toxic emissions from stationary sources in Southern California. From November 1 to February 28 each year SCAQMD requires that people NOT burn wood in their fireplaces, wood stoves or fire pits on days where there is high air pollution. These are designated "NO BURN" days, as wood smoke contributes to the poor air quality in our area. Why does our government consider wood smoke to be bad? Because it contains very small particles of burned material, generally less than 2.5 microns in diameter (1/30th the diameter of a human hair) that lodge in our lungs and evade the body's natural defenses. Wood smoke contains other toxic compounds as well and is associated with reduced lung function, and increased incidence of bronchitis, asthma, lung cancer, and heart attacks. To learn more and to sign up for AIR ALERTS, visit www.aqmd.gov. As you may know, the air in Santa Monica is not great even on a "good" day. Don't fool yourself that it is! Our air for the past 15 years has averaged out annually to be only of "moderate" quality (not "good" quality). So please consider your own health, that of your neighbors, and of the general public health before you burn on ANY day, not just on SCAQMD "No Burn" days.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

My Concerns _____

I would like to be INVOLVED!

Annual Dues

Thank you for your support. Join or renew your membership today on our web-site www.smnoma.org or by check.

\$50 Business Please make checks payable to NOMA and mail to: *

\$30 Household
NOMA
1112 Montana Ave., #516
Santa Monica CA 90403

\$_____ Additional Contribution

New _____ or Renewed _____
Membership

NOMA is a 501(c)(4) organization;
dues and contributions are not
tax-deductible