

Robert Blue  
Los Angeles Resident  
Email: [bob.b.blue@gmail.com](mailto:bob.b.blue@gmail.com)  
Phone: 310-420-4918

January 18, 2011

Los Angeles City Council  
Los Angeles City Clerk  
John Ferraro Council Chamber, Room 340, City Hall  
200 N Main Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
**Sent via email**

**Subject:** Los Angeles City Council Supplemental Agenda for  
January 18, 2011, Item No. 38, Council File No. 11-0086

**Honorable Council Members:**

Please accept my formal objections to Supplemental Agenda Item No. 38, LA City Council File No. 11-0086. This supplements my objections which were submitted for the record to the CRA/LA Commissioners and the City Attorney via email on January 14, 2011 (prior to the start of the CRA/LA meeting) and on January 15, 2011 (which referred to changes of the meeting notice AFTER the start of the meeting).

The item before you today is based on actions taken by the CRA/LA on Friday, January 14, 2011, just one working day before the scheduled date for this item which is Tuesday, January 18, 2011 (Monday was a City Holiday for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.).

**1. CRA/LA Action Report Based on Meeting Held that was in Violation of the Brown Act**

The meeting of the CRA/LA on January 14, 2011 was in violation of the Brown Act and therefore the action taken by the CRA on that date should be invalidated and not considered today under supplemental Agenda Item 38. During the CRA/LA meeting the CRA Commissioners and others discussed business that was not agendized on its official notice. Items related to salary and benefits of current CRA/LA employees was also discussed, but not noticed. Furthermore the amount of funds to be discussed was substantially changed from \$855,000,000 to \$930,000,000. The on-line notice was revised AFTER the 24-hour notice period expired. I transmitted my objections via email to the CRA/LA Commissioners and the City Attorney.

**2. Insufficient Time/Significant Amount of Funds**

Not enough time has been allowed for the City Attorney, the CAO, the CLA, the Treasurer, the Controller, and other responsible parties of the City to fully understand this proposal for the City Council to make a decision that is in the best interests of the City.

Surely there is not enough time for members of the public to fully understand the reasons and choices made in this proposal and properly address their concerns to the City.

With such a fast-track timetable, neither the City Officials, nor the public can adequately analyze the financial, environmental, and legal/risk exposure impacts to the City of Los Angeles.

This is not only irresponsible, it is a dereliction of duty of all those responsible for moving this item forward in such a manner. The amount of funds involved in this proposal is close to \$1 Billion (\$930,000,000).

**3. No Explanation for Extreme Rush and Bypass of Normal, Orderly, Procedures**

Neither the CRA/LA nor the City of Los Angeles has adequately explained the need to fast track this item.

- The report and plan for this proposal was prepared in a matter of days.

- The meeting of the CRA/LA was declared a Special Meeting giving members of public up to one-day notice (if that).

***Why didn't the CRA/LA originally agendize this item for its next regular meeting of January 20, 2011? (No Explanation was given).***

- Committee Bypassed: The Housing and Economic Development Committee was bypassed although the City Clerk shows this item as "Pending" under Housing and Economic Development Committee.

***Why was this item planned to be sent to the Housing and Economic Development Committee, but instead sent directly to City Council, one working day after it was acted on by the CRA/LA?***

**4. State and City Ethics Laws**

CRA/LA Staff members, Management, the CEO and other personnel were involved in preparing and presenting this proposal to the CRA/LA Board of Commissioners. These persons all have financial conflicts of interest in this matter and should not have participated in the preparation of material or the presentation of that material to the CRA/LA Board of Commissioners.

**5. My Original Objections Emailed Prior to the CRA/LA Board Meeting**

Because of the short-notice and unusual fast-tracked nature of this meeting, I am submitting by reference all objections to the CRA/LA Agenda Item 2 discussed and acted on during its January 14, 2011 Special Meeting.

Sincerely,

*Robert Blue*

Robert Blue  
Attachments

**THE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES, CA**

**SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**

**CRA/LA AGENDA FOR JANUARY 14, 2011**

This Agenda was posted on or before Thursday, January 13, 2010 at 8:30 am at 1200 West Seventh Street in the Main Lobby, as well as the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Lobby. Copies of this Agenda will be available at the CRA/LA Records Department on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor.

**CRA/LA'S AGENDA AVAILABLE ON LA CITYLINK COMPUTER BULLETIN BOARD SYSTEM (TEL: 213-237-0974) AND THE CRA/LA'S WEB SITE ON THE CITY'S WORLD WIDE WEB HOME PAGE SITE ON THE INTERNET AT <http://www.cralac.org>**

**(PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN TIME AND DATE)**

**8:30 A.M.**

**THE GARLAND CENTER  
1200 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Auditorium  
Los Angeles, California 90017**

**Board meeting to consider Agenda Items**

**Board of Commissioners  
Kenneth H. Fearn, Chair  
Madeline Janis, Vice Chair  
Joan Ling, Treasurer  
Dr. Lula Ballton  
Dwayne A. Gathers  
Alejandro Ortiz**

**Christine Essel, Chief Executive Officer**

**Accommodations such as sign language interpretation and translation services can be provided upon notice. Contact Sharron Hasley @ (213) 977-1758.**

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT THE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY BOARD MEETING**

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REQUESTS**

- a. Public Publication – Members of the public are invited to address the Board on any item of interest on the printed Agenda, including Public Hearings, before or during consideration by the Board of that specific item unless the opportunity for public testimony on the item was previously provided at a Committee meeting of the Board. (This is in addition to any other hearing requirement specifically imposed by law.)
- b. Public Comment – Members of the public may address the Board on any item of interest within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. Such comments will be entertained by the Board during open Forum.
- c. Speaker Forms – Each member of the public wishing to address the Board must fill out a speaker’s form and present it to the Board Secretary before the item is called for consideration.
- d. Speaker Time – Public testimony will be limited to two (2) minutes per individual for each item addressed, unless this limitation is changed by the Board. The Chairperson, with the consensus of the Board, may (i) increase this limitation by up to two (2) additional minutes, or (ii) otherwise limit the time for testimony based on the number of speakers or other circumstances.
- e. Ralph M. Brown Act – These rules shall be interpreted consistent with the Ralph M. Brown Act, as amended.

### **STANDARDS OF CONDUCT**

- a. Speakers are expected to act in an orderly manner and to refrain from personal attacks, the use of invective or profanity, or any language exhibiting bias on account of race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, sex, profession or occupation.
- b. Persons present at a Board meeting are expected to behave in an orderly manner and to refrain from disrupting the meeting, interfering with other persons’ right to address the Board and interfering with other persons’ right to address the Board and interfering with the conduct of business by the Board.
- c. In the event that any speaker or audience member does not comply with the foregoing requirements, or if a speaker does not address the specific item under consideration by the Board, he/she will be ruled out of order, his/her speaking time forfeited, and the Chairperson will call upon the next speaker.
- d. Any speaker determined to be out of order shall forfeit his or her remaining speaking time. The Board may, by majority of vote, order the removal from the meeting of any speaker or audience member determined to be out of order. Section 403 of the California Penal Code states as follows: “Every person who, without authority of law, willfully disturbs or breaks up any assembly or meeting, not unlawful in its character, other than such as is mentioned in Section 302 of the Penal Code and Section 29440 of the Elections Code, is guilty of misdemeanor.”

Revised rules adopted 3/21/96

I. ROLL CALL

II. GENERAL

AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE A COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF LOS ANGELES FOR PAYMENT OF APPROXIMATELY \$885 MILLION FOR COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH CERTAIN REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY FUNDED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT, PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECTS LOCATED WITHIN THE CURRENTLY DESIGNATED 31 REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT AREAS.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Speaker's form must be filled out and submitted to the Secretary prior to the beginning of Public Comment. Each speaker is limited to 2 minutes unless a time extension is allowed. Members of the public may address any item of interest within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board.

ADJOURNMENT



Bob Blue <bob.b.blue@gmail.com>

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## Formal Submittal for Objections for Agenda Item 2, CRA/LA Special Meeting of January 14, 2011

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Bob Blue <bob.b.blue@gmail.com>

Fri, Jan 14, 2011 at 8:19 AM

To: shasley@cra.lacity.org, tchung@cra.lacity.org, cessel@cra.lacity.org, amorris@cra.lacity.org, "Young, Ed" <eyoung@cra.lacity.org>, CTrutanich@lacity.org, Jane Usher <jane.usher@lacity.org>

January 14, 2011

Board of Commissioners  
Christine Essel, CEO  
Ed Young, Esq.  
Community Redevelopment Agency  
of the City of Los Angeles  
1200 West Seventh Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
*Sent Via Email*

**Subject:** Objections to Special Meeting Called for July 14, 2011; Agenda Item 2

Please accept two attached documents as my formal submission to the administrative record, my objections to the above referenced Agenda Item.

Please note that the time is approximately 8:20 AM prior to the meeting.

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2 attachments

 Blue Objections to CRA-LA Special Mtg 01-14-2011.pdf  
17K

 TaxReliefandLocalGovernment.pdf  
468K

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Robert Blue  
bob.b.blue@gmail.com

**January 14, 2011**

Board of Commissioners  
Christine Essel, CEO  
Ed Young, Esq.  
Community Redevelopment Agency  
of the City of Los Angeles  
1200 West Seventh Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
***Sent Via Email***

**Subject: Objections to Special Meeting Called for July 14, 2011; Agenda Item 2:**

AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE A COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF LOS ANGELES FOR PAYMENT OF APPROXIMATELY \$885 MILLION FOR COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH CERTAIN REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY FUNDED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT, PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECTS LOCATED WITHIN THE CURRENTLY DESIGNATED 31 REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT AREAS.

**Dear Commissioners:**

I object to the above referenced Agenda Item for the Special CRA/LA meeting scheduled for January 14, 2011. I urge that you reject this proposal.

**1. Brown Act Violations:**

The reasons for calling a Special meeting are not adequately explained.

Insufficient and inadequate information was provided for the public to understand the purpose of the meeting and what is proposed.

This short notice does not give adequate time for members of the public to properly understand and address the impacts of such a proposal.

**2.** The amount of public funds being considered, \$0.885 Billion is substantial.

**3.** Not enough information was provided to determine the financial and environmental impacts of this proposal.



Robert Blue  
bob.b.blue@gmail.com

4. The legality and form of this proposal was not analyzed based on CRA/LA rules and guidelines (for the CRA/LA) and under the Laws and Charter of the City of Los Angeles.

5. **Conflict of Interest/Improper Legal Representation:** The City Attorney represents both parties of the agreement proposed - He represents both the City of Los Angeles and the CRA/LA.

6. **CEQA Violations:** From the agenda description, this proposal affects "PROJECTS LOCATED WITHIN THE CURRENTLY DESIGNATED 31 REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT AREAS."

The cumulative affects to the City are not adequately addressed - Remember both the City of Los Angeles and the CRA/LA are parties to this proposed agreement.

What are the affects to historical resources?

What are the affects to traffic and air pollution including green house gasses to such a proposal.

7. Interference with State Budget Process:

<http://www.ebudget.ca.gov/pdf/BudgetSummary/TaxReliefandLocalGovernment.pdf>

What are the Legal Precedents that allow the City of Los Angeles attempt to preemptively "lock" state property tax increment funds in reaction to a published budget proposal from the Governor of California by establishing a legal contract between the City of Los Angeles and the CRA/LA with the Board of Commissioners appointed by the Mayor of Los Angeles and the City Council of Los Angeles having oversight and control of the CRA/LA?

Does this constitute fraud?

Please act responsibly and in the best financial, legal, and ethical interests of the City of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

*Robert Blue.*

Robert Blue



Bob Blue <bob.b.blue@gmail.com>

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## CRA/LA Special Meeting of January 14, 2011 (Posting Changes After the 24-hour Notice Period)

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Bob Blue <bob.b.blue@gmail.com>

Sat, Jan 15, 2011 at 8:53 AM

To: shasley@cra.lacity.org, tchung@cra.lacity.org, cessel@cra.lacity.org, amorris@cra.lacity.org, "Young, Ed" <eyoung@cra.lacity.org>, CTrutanich@lacity.org, Jane Usher <jane.usher@lacity.org>

**January 15, 2011**

Board of Commissioners  
Christine Essel, CEO  
Ed Young, Esq.  
Community Redevelopment Agency  
of the City of Los Angeles  
1200 West Seventh Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

***Sent Via Email***

**Subject:** CRA/LA Special Meeting of January 14, 2011 (Posting Changes After the 24-hour Notice Period)

Please note for the record that the hyperlink on the January 14, 2011 CRA/LA Special Meeting Agenda was not available and the report that was connected to it was not available on-line or in print form 24-hours before the meeting and was posted after that period.

Thank you,

Robert Blue

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## Council File

**Council File: 11-0086****Title**

Cooperation Agreement / Community Redevelopment Agency / Funded Capital Improvement / Public Improvement / Affordable Housing Projects

**Date Received / Introduced**

01/14/2011

**Last Change Date**

01/14/2011

**Expiration Date**

01/14/2013

**Reference Numbers**

Community Redevelopment Agency 9312

**Pending in Committee**

Housing, Community and Economic Development Committee

**Initiated by**

Community Redevelopment Agency

**File Activities**

Date	Activity	
01/14/2011	Community Redevelopment Agency document(s) referred to Housing, Community and Economic Development Committee.	
01/14/2011	Document(s) submitted by Community Redevelopment Agency, as follows:  Community Redevelopment Agency report 9312, dated January 14, 2011, relative to a Cooperation Agreement with City of Los Angeles for cost associated with certain CRA/LA funded Capital Improvement, Public Improvement and Affordable Housing Projects, etc.	

**Title**

Report fr  
Redevelo

# The Mercury News

MercuryNews.com

## LA redevelopment agency allocates \$930 million

By **JACOB ADELMAN** Associated Press

Posted: 01/14/2011 01:17:57 PM PST

Updated: 01/15/2011 10:08:59 PM PST

LOS ANGELES—The city redevelopment agency voted Friday to allocate \$930 million for hundreds of projects before it is possibly dissolved under an austerity budget proposed by Gov. Jerry Brown.

The funding for infrastructure, affordable housing and cultural facilities was expected to be generated by taxes from agency projects through the fiscal year ending in 2016.

Community Redevelopment Agency board chairman Kenneth Fearn said the hastily called vote was necessary after Brown proposed eliminating local redevelopment agencies and diverting the tax money to other uses.

Brown spokeswoman Elizabeth Ashford said

in a statement that the governor's office hoped the agency was "going to spend this money now to create jobs for Californians during this difficult recession and they are not squirreling money away for an indefinite future when our schools, police and firefighters are in need of this funding."

The move by the redevelopment agency requires the approval of the Los Angeles City Council, since the city would receive the funds and complete the projects on behalf of the agency.

Ed Johnson, a spokesman for Councilman Herb Wesson, who chairs the council committee that would likely consider the proposal, had no immediate comment. Wesson and five other council members signed a resolution earlier this week in support of the redevelopment agency.

Redevelopment agency budgets come from retaining a portion of taxes generated by improvements

within project areas. That money is then reinvested in other projects as long as officials can demonstrate the work is needed to counter blight.

Fearn said the Los Angeles agency needed to keep improving neighborhoods and

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# The Mercury News

MercuryNews.com

boosting employment but feared the state would redirect the tax money to other parts of California.

"There's no means of assuring that the money gets returned to the city of Los Angeles" under Brown's proposal, Fearn said.

Brown has recommended using the tax money for police, fire, schools and other county and local services.

Agency staff had originally recommended that the board allocate \$885 million at Friday's hearing, but commissioners added an additional \$45 million during the meeting.

Tom Dresslar, a spokesman for California State Treasurer Bill Lockyer, condemned the agency's actions in a statement as "needlessly provocative acts of gamesmanship that warp the status quo."

"Apparently, they don't think they have a case to make, so they decided to try and create facts on the ground. The Governor's proposal warrants a serious, thoughtful discussion," he said.

The move was also denounced in a joint statement by teachers' and firefighters' unions, who accused the city agency of

attempting to thwart needed budget reforms.

"The Redevelopment Agency is basically saying that developer profits are more important than schools, public safety, libraries and other core services," California Professional Firefighters president Lou Paulson said.

California Redevelopment Association director John Shirey said he did not know of any other agencies in the state that were rushing to allocate money ahead of a new state budget.

He also said he was not recommending that other agencies follow the lead of Los Angeles, which has the most revenue of the roughly 400 redevelopment agencies in the state.

"I don't think it's a wise course," he said, explaining the focus should be on defeating the budget proposal.

The association and other groups helped persuade voters last year to pass a ballot measure that banned the state from tapping redevelopment agency money and other local funds to balance the California budget.

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Los Angeles Tuesday, January 18, 2011

## Someone Missed the Open Government Memo

### CRA \$885 MILLION SHUFFLE

*Greg Nelson*

When District Attorney Steve Cooley ordered the arrest of several Bell city officials last September, he said that one that allowed corruption to flourish in that city was a lack of participation by residents.

The problem is not entirely that residents don't care, it's that too many governments don't want the public to know doing, and they make it difficult for public participation.

The First Amendment Coalition's website [X] includes ordinances from seven California municipalities that decided to meet the requirements of the state's Ralph M. Brown Act, and swing wide open the doors to their city halls.

For easier reading, the FAC highlighted the portions of each ordinance that differ substantially from the Brown Act.

Rather than continue to do barely more than the minimum, Los Angeles should follow these best practices.

There was a troubling example last week.

The Community Redevelopment Agency scheduled a special meeting for the early morning of Friday, January 14 to discuss a unclear proposal involving \$885 million of its assets.

The CRA claimed that it met the posting requirements of the Brown Act by slapping up an agenda in its lobby 24 hours before the start of the meeting.

(Editor's note: the City Council will take up the Mayor's/CRA's million dollar shuffle today ... Tuesday, January 18 at 10 AM. See [this](#) has that story.) [X]

Therefore, interested parties would have to camp out in the CRA lobby to ensure they get a full 24 hours notice of special items (those not held at the regular time.)

To make matters worse, there were no staff reports or any supporting documents available online.

The antiquated Brown Act does not even require that agendas be posted on the city's website. Friday's agenda was :

online about 22 hours before the meeting's starting time.

Years ago, a working group of neighborhood council members and city staff met and recommended upgrades to the City Council and commissions. The package died after two years of inaction by the Rules and Elections Committee.

Here is a brief summary of some of the changes adopted by other cities and recommended by neighborhood councils.

- Create an 11-member public task force that includes journalists to monitor the new laws.
- Agendas for special meetings must be posted 72 hours in advance, both physically and on the Internet.
- The description of agenda items must be sufficiently clear and specific enough to alert a person of average intelligence.
- If a closed session is for reasons of anticipated litigation, the recordings shall be made public after two years if no filed; when the statute of limitations passes; or when the controversy is concluded.
- Before the policy body agrees to a settlement it shall be made public at least 10 calendar days before the meeting, for a collective bargaining agreement.
- Minutes shall include a brief summary of each person's statement during the public comment period for each item. comments of up to 150 words shall be included in the minutes.
- Draft minutes shall be available no later than 10 working days after the meeting.
- All preliminary drafts and department memoranda are public information.
- Requests for non-exempt public information shall be delivered by the end of the next working day.
- Department heads and elected officials shall keep a public daily calendar of every meeting and event attended, including a general statement of issues discussed.
- No decisions can be made unless there is a written report.
- After closed door sessions, the body shall publicly announce which items were discussed that weren't confidential.
- Policy bodies, such as the ad hoc committees of the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, that are not subject to the Brown Act shall not be allowed to meet in closed session.
- Every member's vote on a final action must be disclosed at the end of a closed session.
- Motions and agendas regarding special meetings to be held with less than the normal 72 hours notice shall include a statement as to why an urgency exists.
- And from Vallejo, if an elected official is found guilty of violation of such misconduct (s)he shall be removed from office. General managers would be subject to disciplinary actions including termination.

Riverside said it best: "Our values lie not in hiding embarrassment and unpleasant occurrences."

Neighborhood councils could lead the way by revisiting this issue.

## Related

- [Mailander on the CRA](#)
- [Butka on the CRA Friday meeting](#)

*(Greg Nelson participated in the birth and development of the LA Neighborhood Council system and served as the General Manager of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment. He also served as Chief of Staff for former City Councilman Joel Nelson now provides news and issues analysis to CityWatch. He can be reached at: [gregn213@cox.net](mailto:gregn213@cox.net). ) -cw*

CityWatch

Vol 9 Issue 5

Pub: Jan 18, 2011

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## The CRA/LA City Council Swap – \$1Billion Dollars in Under One Hour

January 14th, 2011 | [Add a Comment](#)



Friday Morning, after minimally posting a Notice of Special Meeting the day before at their offices, the CRA/LA quietly slipped through a single agenda item:

“AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE A COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF LOS ANGELES FOR PAYMENT OF APPROXIMATELY \$885 MILLION FOR COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH CERTAIN REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY FUNDED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT, PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECTS LOCATED WITHIN THE CURRENTLY DESIGNATED 31 REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT AREAS.”

Don't you just love it when I wax bureaucratic?

There were a total of five public comments on this action, and I am proud to say that three of the five were from Northeast LA; yours truly, Alex Ventura, and Ginger Damon (the last two from Atwater Village). And of course the ubiquitous Ron Kaye, armed with a Flip video recorder.

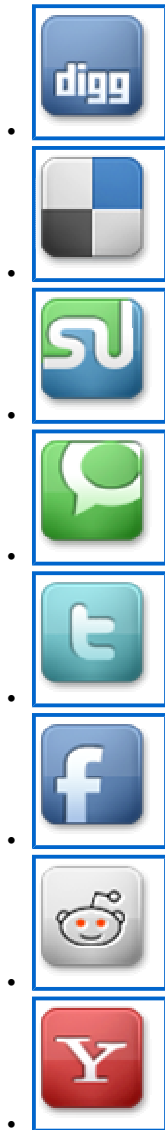
The short version is that, after about 45 minutes, the Chair of the CRA/LA magically put forth a compound motion (I don't have the exact language because the Board was not interested in repeating it back) to the effect of: (1) Increase the dollar amount of the item from \$885 Million to \$930 million, and (2) make the CRA/LA's own CEO Christine Essel their designated agent, with direction to negotiate a deal with the City Council to create a new shell corporation to oversee these assets – with the requirement that Ms. Essel be the head of the new entity.

Moved, seconded, carried, adjourned. Bam. Under an hour, start to finish.

I know that the Chair was trying not to wince or refute my comments about a Billion Dollars, but you know, \$885 million before, \$930 million now, and according to staff there are a number of other unlisted projects out there, so I think rounding to One Billion Taxpayer Dollars has a certain ring of authenticity to it.

And the scary thing was that everyone in that room, including the Board members, the City Attorney, Ms. Essel and staff, all knew and publically admitted that this entire shell game is to evade and thwart Governor Brown's recently announced

proposal to do away with CRA's in California. One Billion Dollars, just waiting for Council President Eric Garcetti (CD13) to figure out how to slide this item through on a Council Agenda next week. Public democracy and transparency. Think about it.



Written by [tonybutka](#)

[Visit tonybutka's Website](#)

Filed under: [Featured](#), [Housing, Com. & Ec. Devel.](#), [Planning & Land Use](#), [Renew L.A.](#)

### Leave a Reply

You must be [logged in](#) to post a comment.

[REGISTER TO COMMENT](#) | [SUBSCRIBE](#) | [CONTACT](#) If you want to live in a Northeast L.A. community where potholes are fixed, our young people have jobs, and our seniors have freedom from fear, then you need to get involved.

**Bob Blue <bob.b.blue@gmail.com> Mon, Jan 17, 2011 at 10:24 PM**

To: councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org, Councilmember.LaBonge@lacity.org, councilmember.cardenas@lacity.org, Bernard.Parks.Jr@lacity.org, councilmember.wesson@lacity.org, councilmember.smith@lacity.org, councilmember.huizar@lacity.org, councilmember.reyes@lacity.org, councilmember.zine@lacity.org, paul.koretz@lacity.org, councilmember.alarcon@lacity.org, Jan.Perry@lacity.org, Councilman.Rosendahl@lacity.org, councilmember.garcetti@lacity.org, councilmember.hahn@lacity.org

Cc: Jane Usher <jane.usher@lacity.org>, CTrutanich@lacity.org, Controller Wendy Greuel <controller.greuel@lacity.org>

***Emailed directly to recipients***

Honorable Council Members:

Subject: Supplemental Agenda Item 38 for the Jan. 18, 2011 Meeting of the LA City Council

[http://ens.lacity.org/clk/councilagendas/clkcouncilagendas369877\\_01182011.pdf](http://ens.lacity.org/clk/councilagendas/clkcouncilagendas369877_01182011.pdf)

All constituents deserve the answer to one very simple question from ALL Los Angeles City Council members:

## Why the rush?

### SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF TAXPAYER'S FUNDS - \$1 Billion

We are talking about the transfer of \$1 Billion dollars (actually \$930,000,000, but who's counting?) of State Property tax funds.

If you cannot adequately answer that question, I would suggest that you reconfigure the automatic voting machine to a default "NO" vote.

### HASTILY PREPARED AND RUSHED PLAN IS IRRESPONSIBLE

The CRA/LA spent a few days to prepare its plan and report to present to the CRA Commissioners on its Special Meeting of Jan. 14, 2011. And it wasn't really completed because the staff was still bringing in revised papers.

### WHY NOT A NORMAL, ORDERLY, AND PRUDENT PROCESS?

What harm would come to the City and its residents if the CRA/LA properly agendized this item for its next regular meeting on Jan. 20, 2011 and properly and thoughtfully analyzed the plan?

Then this matter could be schedule for the Housing and Economic Development Committee before being scheduled for your review.

### COMMITTEE WAS BYPASSED

Why is this matter shown as "pending" for the Housing and Economic Development Committee when it is scheduled for City Council on Jan. 18, 2011 - Isn't that putting the cart before the horse?

### NOT ENOUGH TIME FOR OTHER'S TO WEIGH IN

And what about the City Controller, the CAO, and the CLA – What do they have

to say?

#### BROWN ACT VIOLATIONS ON JAN. 14, 2011 CRA/LA BOARD MEETING

And in its rush, the CRA/LA violated the Special Meeting provision of the Brown Act by conducting business that wasn't on the meeting agenda. The CRA/LA also revised its original on-line posting to include a link to a REVISED report AFTER the meeting was held.

The original notice stated that \$885,000,000 of tax funds were under consideration. The revised report stated that \$930,000,000 of tax funds were planned for transfer to a non-profit company - A substantial difference.

#### CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY OTHERS:

*From the Mercury News:* [http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci\\_17097231?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_17097231?nclick_check=1)

The move [by the CRA/LA] was also denounced in a joint statement by teachers' and firefighters' unions, who accused the city agency of attempting to thwart needed budget reforms.

"The Redevelopment Agency is basically saying that developer profits are more important than schools, public safety, libraries and other core services," California Professional Firefighters president Lou Paulson said.

Tom Dresslar, a spokesman for California State Treasurer Bill Lockyer, condemned the agency's actions in a statement as "needlessly provocative acts of gamesmanship that warp the status quo."

"Apparently, they don't think they have a case to make, so they decided to try and create facts on the ground. The Governor's proposal warrants a serious, thoughtful discussion," he said.

#### FINANCIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

And did you realize that those preparing and presenting the report may have a financial conflict of interest because their salaries, benefits, and State CALPERS pensions are on the line.

Shouldn't a qualified independent entity review this plan – someone with no financial conflicts of interests ?

What are your legal, ethical, and fiduciary responsibilities to the people of Los Angeles?

I know that I have asked more than one question, but they all lead back to the original question:

## Why the Rush?

Thank you, Bob Blue