



July-September 2014 SRNA Newsletter

Vol 3, Issue 3

Contact: info@srnapasadena.org
On the web at www.srnapasadena.org

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The beautiful artwork showcased in SRNA newsletters is that of SRNA member Wendi Moffly. SRNA is grateful for the warmth Wendi's artwork brings to our pages. In this edition of the newsletter, we are happy to share Wendi's latest work of the pristine San Gabriel Mountains.

SRNA 2014 Board

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SRNA Artist-Wendi Moffly

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

SRNA General Meetings

WHEN: FIRST WEDNESDAY EVERY MONTH

WHERE: CHURCH OF THE ANGELS
CHURCH HALL

1100 AVENUE 64
7 PM

Annual Meeting:

November 5th, 2014

SRNA GENERAL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

National Park Status for the Rose Bowl? Loss of Water Control for Local Jurisdictions?

Recent actions by Adam Schiff (Rim of the Valley expansion) and Judy Chu (San Gabriel Watershed and Mountains expansion) have blind-sided municipal and county leadership and could quickly pull Pasadena's San Rafael Hills, the Arroyo and the Verdugo Mountains into the National Park system. (see maps)

[Targeted Area Map 1](#)

[Targeted Area Map 2](#)

(To see the targeted area closer, go to:

http://www.nps.gov/pwro/rimofthevalley/Cities_11x17.pdf

Then, click on the + sign to zoom in to the San Rafael neighborhoods.)

Unable to succeed with legislation in congressional committee, Congresswoman Chu (with companion efforts by Congressman Schiff) has requested authorization by Executive Order to nationalize over 600,000 acres - from Santa Clarita, to Santa Monica, to San Bernardino - to include parts of the Santa Monica Mountains, the San Gabriel Mountains, the Verdugo Mountains and the San Rafael Hills.

Relying on tenuous rationale from the Antiquities Act (1906) to designate this encompassing area a "National Monument," such a federal land grab would include much of the San Gabriel River watershed, portions of the Los Angeles River, the Santa Clara River and the Antelope Valley watersheds. Presently, local cities rely on local control for water management and delivery from these sources.

With new National Monument status, oversight of the area is anticipated to be in the hands of a federally-appointed, yet-to-be-determined "Committee of 38." The plan to be administered by this Committee does not yet exist and is expected to be released approximately three years following authorization by Executive Order.

Ms. Chu is on record disclaiming any guarantee of funding. To date, there is no budget. Boundaries (maps) continue to shift and terms affecting local jurisdictions have not been deliberated.

Senator Dianne Feinstein reportedly has expressed reservations to the strained use of the Antiquities Act for this fast-paced, federal land grab.

As Pasadenans rip-out sod and conserve water to comply with local drought advisories, Congresswoman Chu will hold a press conference Monday, October 6th, (Pasadena District Office, 527 S. Lake Ave., Suite 106) to propose a new layer of yet-to-be-determined federal controls with undefined local implications.

If you are of similar mind in objecting to this federal intrusion, please attend Congresswoman Chu's press conference on Monday and/or say so in the following places:

Congressman Adam Schiff

<http://schiff.house.gov/contact-me>

202-225-4176

323-315-5555

Congresswoman Judy Chu

<http://chu.house.gov/connect-with-me/email-judy>

202-225-5464

626-304-0110

Senator Dianne Feinstein

<https://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/e-mail-me>

202-224-3841

310-914-7300

Assemblyman Chris Holden

<https://lcmspubcontact.lc.ca.gov/PublicLCMS/ContactPopup.php?district=AD41>

916-319-2041

626-351-1917

For more information go to:

<http://www.nps.gov/pwro/rimofthevalley/>

<http://www.nps.gov/pwro/sangabriel/>

Pasadena Board of Education News

Right-Sizing the PUSD

The closure of San Rafael Elementary School due to the presence of seismic faults is just one factor in the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) effort to right-size the district for quality learning environments and sustainable school size at each campus.

With a reported enrollment decline of 5,148 students district-wide over the past ten years and with four elementary schools having closed in 2006 and two in 2011, the PUSD Master Planning/Boundary Task Force met with the full Board of Education at a special meeting September 11th to present data and analyses (Davis Demographics, ESRI). Presentations and discussions covered birthrates, household size, school age population, retention-mobility rates, capture rates by attendance area, ethnic/racial composition and the significant finding that PUSD is using less than 60% of its classroom capacity.

Appropriately, the Board is attempting to conform to Resolution 1962 (2008) establishing "model" school sizes allowing for the funding of full staffing/programs (librarians, counselors, nurses, science labs, art, music, etc.) at each school site.*

Data discovery by the Task Force revealed sobering facts: five elementary schools, all but one middle school and all but one high school now are below the recommended sizes adopted in 2008. Enrollment by 2020/21 is projected to dip by another 1,800 students.

Even as school consolidations appear inevitable, the Task Force emphasized commitment to signature programs favored by parents, sites already modernized through Measures Y and TT bond funds and equitable access for all students.

A Board decision on these matters is expected by October 23rd, prior to open enrollment.

Those SRNA representatives monitoring this difficult process are complimentary of the thoroughness and sensitivity of the Task Force.

***Model School Sizes**

K-5:	400-700 students
Middle:	700-1000 students
High School:	1500-2000 students



**National Night Out Fun
August 5th, 2014**



POLICE-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

**SRNA THANKS NEIGHBORS, PASADENA POLICE
AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS, CITY STAFF AND OFFICIALS WHO ATTENDED
THE SECOND SRNA NEIGHBORHOOD CELEBRATION OF
NATIONAL NIGHT OUT!**

Over 100 people - neighbors and children, police officers, air operations crew, fire fighters and paramedics - stopped by to get acquainted, chat and enjoy grilled hot dogs and lemonade. SRNA especially appreciates the presence of Police Chief Phillip Sanchez, PPD Lieutenants, the Air Operations Unit, the fire fighters and paramedics from Station 39 and City Manager Michael Beck.

Over 200 oak-fired hotdogs (courtesy of Robin's Wood Fire BBQ) were served during a special evening of friendship and partnership with police and fire departments.



To view the Pasadena Police - Air Operations Handout click:

[Police Air Ops Side 1](#)

[Police Air Ops Side 2](#)

See you next year at National Night Out 2015!
To join or get to know us: www.srnipasadena.org

710 Extension/Tunnel Update

Adding 100,000+ cars and trucks daily to the 210 Freeway reduces traffic?

The picture below was taken on a Wednesday at 2:45pm

According to CHP traffic incident reporting for 9/24/14, there were no accidents causing this volume Eastbound on the 210 Freeway. Just too many cars. *(Picture is looking East before the Lake Street overpass.)*



Photo by Stan Clark

Metro has delayed the release of the 710 extension Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to early 2015. The City of Pasadena has committed \$50,000 along with four other cities to form a multi-

city task force to study and evaluate the impacts of the report. City departments and independent groups will also review the report. The public will have multiple opportunities for public comment next year. SRNA will cover those meetings.

No 710 Action Committee Prepares to Respond to SR-710 Draft EIR/EIS.

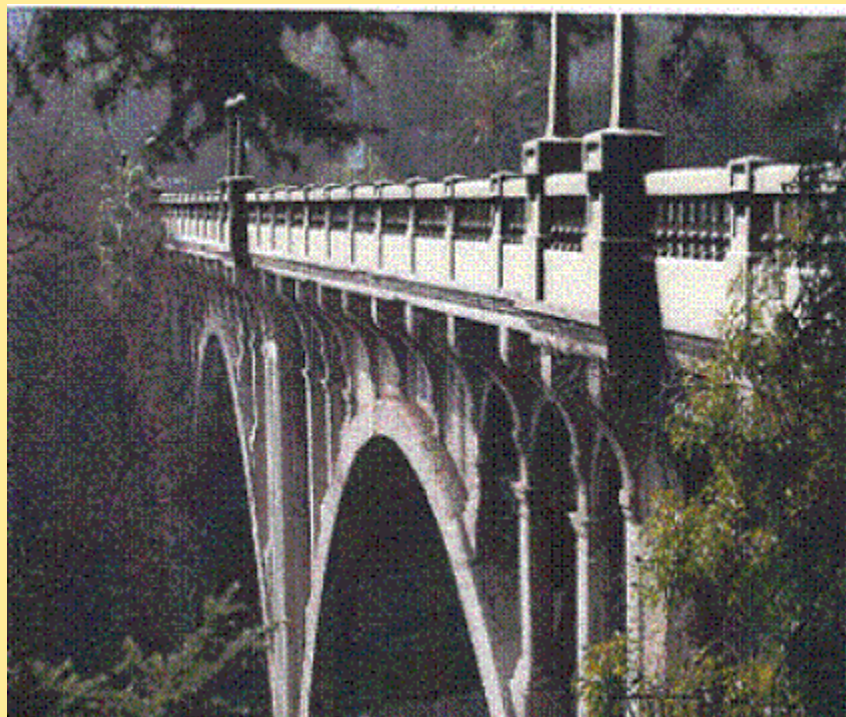
The No 710 Action Committee is gearing up for a response to the SR-710 draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement when it is released early next year. Knowledgeable volunteers are needed in the following areas: legal requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and/or the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); transportation and traffic engineering and planning; seismology, biology, air quality and health impacts; noise impacts and safety, construction impacts, hazardous materials; first-responder considerations and historic preservation. To volunteer your time and talents, please contact Jan SooHoo at jan@soohoos.org

SRNA will continue to review and monitor the status of this project.

To learn more on tunnel safety: <http://patch.com/california/montrose/sr710--what-could-happen-in-a-tunnel#.VA3y6o1OzIV>

Let us know what you think of the tunnel proposal by sending us an e-mail to: info@srnapasadena.org

La Loma Bridge Closure Update



Picture provided by the City of Pasadena

City officials have been busy getting approvals from Cal-Trans on reimbursements and construction-related issues for structural modernization of La Loma Bridge. SRNA met with city officials and the Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC) in May of 2014, presenting maps of traffic mitigation patterns suggested by neighbors to City staff and engineers during the February SRNA general meeting.

In a follow up meeting on September 30, 2014, SRNA confirmed with City officials further details for needed mitigation.

Here are plans for the closure, to date:

It is expected the bridge will close for re-construction in Spring 2015 (March or April) and re-open in Fall of 2016.

The bid package for construction will go out in November 2014. The City expects to have a contractor in place before the end of December. In late January/February the City, with the contractor, will hold information outreach meetings with residents and SRNA.

Sensitive to concerns voiced by neighbors, the City has minimized alternate traffic patterns on Laguna Road and San Rafael Avenue above La Loma Road during the closure. The City will employ its traffic control management systems to further mitigate traffic re-routing patterns. Electric signs will be deployed one to two weeks before construction begins so drivers become accustomed to new routes. *(These signs are similar to the signs used to alert drivers about the concerts in the Rose Bowl.)*

Construction times will be from 7am-4pm, Monday through Friday. Most of the staging will be underneath the bridge. There will be minimal staging at road level when the top portion of the bridge and roadway are removed.

At least one trail will remain open in the lower Arroyo during construction except when safety warrants closure, otherwise use of the trails will continue.

It has been a pleasure for SRNA to work with the City on this project. We look forward to continued collaboration in minimizing any future impacts arising from the project.

From The Pasadena Police Dept.

Holiday Safety Tips:

By Lt. Gourdikian, Field Operations Division.

The Holidays will soon be here. The Pasadena Police Department provides these helpful tips to protect your families and your property during the holiday season.

When withdrawing or depositing from an ATM machine:

- Choose a location where the ATM is located inside as a mall, business or a police station.
- Make sure to take your receipt, do not leave it in the machine or throw it in the trash or select not to receive a receipt.
- Always protect your pin from wandering eyes.

Shopping:

- When shopping be aware of your surroundings.
- Dress comfortably and be free of flashy jewelry.



- Maintain control of your purse/wallet at all times. Do not leave your bag(s) unattended for any reason.
- Think about carrying your wallet in your front pocket.
- Keep a record of all of your credit cards in a safe place in the event your wallet is lost/stolen.
- Be aware that pick pockets tend to use distraction methods and often work in pairs.
- Do not leave packages in plain view inside your car, put your packages in the trunk or out of sight.
- When walking through the parking lot to your car, have your car keys in your hand. Do not hesitate to ask for mall security to walk you to your car.
- While at home: When you leave your house always activate your alarm system (if you have one).
- If you leave your home for an extended period of time, notify a neighbor or friend to pick mail/packages/newspapers.
- Always collect your mail daily from your box.
- Have a lockable mailbox so that no one may be able to gain access to your mail prior to your arrival home.
- When using a parcel service for deliveries, ask that they not drop the package if no one is home.
- Be aware of door to door charitable causes.
- Do not leave presents or large item visible from the outside.
- Phone Scams:
 - Be aware of phone scammers attempting to obtain sensitive information over the phone.
 - Phone scammers tend to identify themselves as city or county employees.
 - Phone scammers will ask for payment in the form of gift cards or will ask for cash to be mailed to an address. Do Not send cash to phone solicitors and refrain from sending cash via mail to anyone.
 - Always verify the source of the caller before you provide sensitive information.
 - The Pasadena Police Department Does Not engage in phone solicitations.

Children:

- Always leave small children with a trusted babysitter.
 - If your child/children go shopping with you, never let them go to the bathroom alone.
 - If your child becomes separated from you for any reason, they should know to seek out a store employee, security or police officers for help.
- Teach your child/children to tell you if someone is bothering them.

SRNA thanks Chief Sanchez and Lt. Gourdikian of the Pasadena Police Department for this information. For more tips and police information please go to:

www.ci.pasadena.ca.us/police/community_services/

Service Area

Service Area Representative

West Pasadena

Kitty Johnson, Police Specialist IV
kathleenjohnson@cityofpasadena.net
 (626) 744-7650_

Local Street History

San Rafael Library

The San Rafael Library has been an established feature in our neighborhood since 1957, but it had lengthy legal entanglements before getting built.

San Rafael acreage was originally part of a Land Permit for approximately 31,500 acres from the Mexican Government to Corporal Jose Maria Verdugo in 1784. Verdugo borrowed heavily and subsequently was forced to sell portions of the Land Permit to pay off debts. Prudent Beaudry, the 13th Mayor of Los Angeles was awarded the San Rafael Hills area as payment for debt in 1869 and the S.C. Campbell-Johnson family then purchased 2,000 acres from Beaudry in 1882, renaming the land San Rafael Ranch.

The S.C. Campbell-Johnson family, originally from England, had ten sons - three who remained to run the ranch while S.C. and his wife Ida returned to England. (It was Ida Campbell-Johnson's visionary tribute to her husband that created the historic legacy of the Church of the Angels, built on Avenue 64 in 1889.)

The San Rafael Ranch operated mostly for agricultural purposes for decades. The Colorado Street bridge opened in 1913, leading to the annexation of the area by the City of Pasadena in 1914.

By the 1940's new houses were springing up throughout the San Rafael area, some self-built by owners on week-ends and after work. In 1951, the City of Pasadena authorized three new library branches including one in the San Rafael area.

Residents who lived near the selected library site, Nithsdale Road and Rosita Lane, supported the library but strongly objected to the site location. Some 250 angry residents pressured the City to relocate the proposed library. The City refused.

Residents then formed the Committee of San Rafael Home Owners. Group spokesman, Dr. Joseph Stout, called the location a "death trap" due to the high level of traffic on Avenue 64. The group also cited poor parking for the proposed site.

By December 1951 several groups in the San Rafael area opposed the library at or near the corner of Nithsdale Road and Avenue 64. However, few could agree on an alternate location. By March 1952, 30 residents had pooled enough money to offer a price exceeding the \$6,700 land value.

In January 1952 the City, under direction of the City Directors (Council at the time), instructed the city attorney to begin condemnation proceedings against the property.

After months of no progress, in April 1952, 250 residents filed a lawsuit in Superior Court against the City.

Harold A. Ritchie, the group's attorney appeared before the City Directors and asked for a public hearing on the location, which was denied. In November 1952, the City received court approval by jury decision in the condemnation trial. The jury awarded the sum of \$6,750 as compensation for the land. However, the residents vowed to appeal the decision, which they lost in 1953. The lawsuit to block the site location then continued well into 1954.

Finally, in June 1954 the City prevailed. The group then asserted they would appeal. In July 1954 the appeal was dropped.

San Rafael Library opened its doors July 31, 1957. In 1967 a meeting room was added. Since that time the library has been renovated and modernized several times. Today the library remains an integral and important feature for our neighborhoods.

Sources:

Pasadena Library Archives

Pasadena Library Website

Pasadena Star News Archives:

"San Rafael Group Opens Library Fight", 2/15/1954

"Court Denies San Rafael Library Site, Court Rules" 11/11/1952

"City to Buy Library Site" 1/2/1952

Los Angeles Times:

"Court Battle Looms Over Library Site", 11/6/1952

Pasadena, California, Historical and Personal: "A Complete History of the Campbell-Johnson Family", by J.W. Wood, page 104-107

Church of the Angels:

Bob Taylor Properties Historical Garvanza Area

Good Neighbor Column

Ken Evans, Mount Wilson Observatory



Photo by Adele Levitt

San Rafael Neighborhoods Association is pleased to introduce neighbor, Ken Evans.

Ken lives on Malcolm Drive and worked 42 years at Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). Along with his brother Larry, Ken volunteers to provide restorative work at the Mount Wilson Observatory.

At an elevation of 5,700 feet the observatory was built in 1904 to be self-sufficient for water and power. Established by George Ellery Hale, an astronomer who was primarily interested in the sun, Hale also understood the importance of the study of planets and stars so in 1908 a 60-inch reflective telescope was added. In 1917 a 100-inch reflective telescope was installed. Hale went on to develop the 200-inch telescope at Mount Palomar near San Diego.

In 1999 Ken and Larry were called to assess repairs needed for the rotating dome that houses the 60-inch telescope shown in the above picture. The dome weighs 200 tons. It took a year of weekend work by a team of volunteers. Now the dome rotates as it should.

In the repair process Ken, Larry and Mike Jones also restored the 50HP 1911 Fairbanks Morse Type RE gasoline engine. The engine is huge. The flywheels are six feet in diameter and the cylinder heads and valves are at ceiling height! The engine directly connects to a DC generator used to charge batteries for early electrical needs. (The engine room is not open to the public.)

Ken now is working on an upgrade to the controls of the 100-inch telescope. Eventually the upgrade will make this telescope available to the general public on a reservation basis. (According to Ken, original glass film plates have been replaced with optics to allow direct viewing.)

The 60-inch telescope is available to the general public on a reservation basis. There is a public docent-led tour on weekends which costs \$10.00 and includes the 100-inch telescope (up close). As Ken says, "We see the mountains all the time, but I talk to many observatory visitors who had no idea what was there and were pleasantly surprised".

The Cosmic Café is open on weekends during the extended summer season.
For more information go to: www.mtwilson.edu

To see Ken at work, go to the site above and click on the Facebook link. Scroll down to where you see a guy on a tall ladder cleaning some gears.

Sources and for more information:

Ken Evans

Mount Wilson Observatory

"Mountaintop Treasure" by Larry Evans.

www.oldengine.org/members/levans/mtwilsonfm/MountaintopTreasure.pdf

[100 Inch Hooker Telescope Mt. Wilson](#)

New Board Member

SRNA welcomes our newest board member, Joanne Fletcher. Joanne is the Assistant General Manager of Customer Service and Marketing for Burbank Water and Power and holds a MA from USC, a BA from UCLA, and is a certified community mediator. Over the past decade, Joanne's team has won nine regional, state, national, and international awards for high performance.

Joanne is the recipient of the Tami Ginsburg Award from State Senator Carol Liu honoring women who have demonstrated exemplary skills and leadership in business. Joanne lives on Malcolm Drive and is a terrific addition to our Board.

SRNA Supports Pasadena Roving Archers (PRA)

The following correspondence was sent to City officials:

September 4, 2014

Via E-Mail and Hand Delivery
Mayor Bill Bogaard and Pasadena City Council

RE: SUPPORT - ROVING ARCHERS PROPOSAL

The Board of the San Rafael Neighborhoods Association (SRNA) voted unanimously last evening (September 3, 2014) in support of the city's proposed renegotiated license and operating agreement and updated deal points (February 4, 2014 - Recreation and Parks Commission) allowing for continued presence of the Pasadena Roving Archers (PRA) in the Lower Arroyo.

SRNA has a record of restraint and due diligence on this matter.

SRNA met with the PRA nearly one year ago (September 11, 2013) during a publicly noticed general meeting. We inspected the site on numerous occasions, spoke with neighbors, archers on the range and families pleased to have access to Pasadena's unique environs. We also heard testimony from opponents appearing before council and debated arguments presented on blogs and websites.

We conclude those minor impacts to the Lower Arroyo and neighbors (already scrutinized during the carefully deliberated Lower Arroyo Master Plan process) are of slim significance when compared to unique benefits accruing to the city in continuing to provide a home in the Lower Arroyo to the world's oldest field archery range.

We endorse council action to this effect.

For more information on this issue, please see the following links:

PRA Response and Documents:

http://www.rovingarchers.com/media/PRA_Response_5_20_2013.pdf

Pasadena Star News: <http://www.pasadenastarnews.com/sports/20131202/new-proposal-for-pasadena-archery-range-to-go-to-parks-and-recreation-commission>

Rose Bowl: Sticker Shock Should Not Give Us Culture Shock

As City leadership continues to examine revenue sources for relief of debt and maintenance loads at the Rose Bowl, impacts measured during recent music concerts have prompted a much-needed independent environmental study prior to obligating the Rose Bowl (and the community) to any large-scale, multi-day music festival.

Revving up for revenue over recent summer months, the City contracted for back-to-back concerts, calling the adventure a necessary "learning experience" before plunging into long-term obligations with music promoters.

In hindsight, this was wise. A lot was learned, and some of the learning will be memorialized in the coming environmental impact sessions. Some will not, due to restrictions set by the EIR process.

A few things to consider, beyond the scope of the EIR:

1) RBOC President and City Councilman Victor Gordo repeatedly assured the public any Pasadena Music Festival will be a "family" event, yet no equivalent has been identified for local modeling. Recent summer concerts, with drug hazes, obscenity-laced lyrics and hooker-style dress preferences, certainly failed to make the "family" event category.

2) Both the City and festival promoters need to provide local newspapers and residents candor on coverage by law enforcement and medical teams and the specifics of costs and revenue.

A fine (and fun) example of transparency detailing costs and expenses of the 1965 Beatles concert at Balboa Stadium in San Diego is on view here:

[Beatles Concert Costs San Diego](#)

A contemporary example, less rich in detail, was reported by the Los Angeles Times just prior to the recent Made in America Festival promoted by L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti.

<http://www.latimes.com/entertainment/music/la-et-ms-made-in-america-los-angeles-20140829-story.html#page=1>

3) Rose Bowl vendors should be expected to make some money for all the effort of set-up, tear-down, staffing and product costs - and, after the 50% cut to the Rose Bowl, tent rent and taxes. Concerts without intermissions make this difficult, as does the large presence of illegal merchandise vendors and unlicensed hot dog carts.

4) Proposals for "in-kind" festival appearances at Pasadena's public schools by well-meaning Pasadenans must be rejected. These distractions jerk teachers and instruction off-center every time; the PUSD Board should identify a worthy music instruction program and secure a commitment of festival funding to sustain the program over time.

5) Councilmembers who gift "comped" concert tickets to juveniles in the local schools need to examine the appropriateness of the gift. Exposing a young person to the activities on parade at recent Rose Bowl concerts, at times, might invite charges of "contributing to the delinquency of a minor."

NOTE: SRNA attended EIR scoping sessions in June and will do the same as the new "independent" festival EIR process develops.

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP WITH SRNA

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:	
Member	\$ 20.00
Household	\$ 35.00
Sustaining	\$ 100.00
Patron	\$ 250.00
Benefactor	\$ 500.00

Please send check by mail to:

San Rafael Neighborhoods Association (SRNA)
PO Box 92617
Pasadena, CA 91109

OR

Join us at our website at
www.srnapasadena.org and click the tab "Join Us"

Debit and credit cards accepted.

Sign up for our News and Notices:

<http://srnapasadena.org/join-us/>



The mission of the San Rafael Neighborhoods Association (SRNA) is to enhance and maintain the character and quality of all San Rafael neighborhoods through advocacy and an activated community.

SRNA is a California non-profit corporation and registered with the City of Pasadena/Neighborhood Connections office.

Membership dues/Donations are Not Tax Deductible.