

**Hillside Federation
Newsletter
April, 2014**



www.hillsidefederation.org

**Mountain Lion
Update**

Julie Newsome



PHOTO: P34 at 3 weeks of age

"Our" mountain lions here in the Santa Monica Mountains have sure been in the news: some reports have been exciting, some have been tragic.

There was the ahhh with announcements of new kittens; the unbelievable photos taken by Irv Nilsen riding his motorcycle and coming upon P23 with her first deer kill; the gasp when yet another lion was killed attempting to cross a freeway; and the arrival of the spectacular article in National Geographic Magazine; with Steve Winter's iconic photos showing P22 under the Hollywood sign in Griffith Park. It would seem that this elusive cat, rarely seen in the wild, is attempting to make a Hollywood debut.

**Agenda
April 2, 2014
7:00 pm**

- I. Call to Order
Guest : Seth Riley - Wildlife Update
- II. Approval of minutes
- III. Officers' Reports
 - A. President's Report
Nominating Committee
Election of Officers
 - B. Treasurer's Report
- IV. New Business
 - A. Selling Surplus City Property - Tony Tucci
 - B. Local Coastal Program - Kim Lamorie
 - C. 11767 Bellagio Rd., Small Lot Subdivision - Bruce Kuyper
- V. Old Business
 - A. Curtis School - Mark Stratton
 - B. Hollywood Sign traffic - Lucy Gonzalez
- VI. Adjournment
Next meeting - Wednesday, May 7, 2014

Pinz Bowling Center, next to Jerry's Deli
12655 Ventura Blvd., Studio City 91604
CA 101 between Coldwater Canyon exit
and Laurel Canyon exit

Hillside Federation mission: To protect the property and the quality of life of the residents of the Santa Monica Mountains and other hillside areas of Los Angeles and its environs, and to encourage and promote those policies and programs which will best preserve the natural topography and wildlife of the mountains and hillsides for the benefit of all the people of Los Angeles.

Unfortunately, a reach for stardom is not the case. These mountain lions, and other wildlife of the Santa Monica Mountains, are viewed more frequently than others, because they are boxed in by freeways, an ocean, and residential and agricultural areas. It has become necessary for them to cross busy roads, even freeways, in their attempt to survive. Often, the result of their attempted migration is death.

Caltrans has applied for a \$10 million federal grant to build a wildlife corridor tunnel in Agoura Hills under the 101 Freeway at Liberty Canyon Road. The grant has yet to be approved and the animals remain trapped. There are efforts to turn this wildlife crossing into a reality, but it just hasn't happened.

How can we help? We can prove our concern by raising our voices, expanding awareness and contributing funds. Join me: every person and every dollar helps!

Please visit the new Santa Monica Mountains Fund website to learn how you can get involved and make a difference.

<http://www.samofund.org>

NEWS AND PHOTO LINKS:

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2013/12/cougars/chadwick-text> -

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2013/12/cougars/field-video> (2 minute video)

<http://www.lamag.com/features/2013/11/19/ghost-cat>
<http://www.nps.gov/samo/parknews/dna-results-show-further-signs-of-inbreeding.htm>

<http://www.nps.gov/samo/parknews/3-mountain-lion-kittens-struck.htm>



<http://blog.nwf.org/2013/08/cyclist-has-amazing-encounter-with-a-mountain-lion-in-los-angeles/comment-page-1/>

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10151996560523660.1073741853.80124818659&type=1>

Bringing an Issue to the Federation

If your organization has an issue to bring to the Federation, please complete the Request for Action form (available on the website www.hillsidefederation.org) with documentation and send it to president@hillsidefederation.org no later than 7 days prior to the meeting. This will help you organize your presentation so that our meetings can flow efficiently.

P.O. Box 27404
 Los Angeles, CA 90027
president@hillsidefederation.org
www.hillsidefederation.org

PRESIDENT
 Marian Dodge
CHAIRMAN
 Charley Mims
VICE PRESIDENTS
 Mark Stratton
 Wendy-Sue Rosen
SECRETARY
 Carol Sidlow
TREASURER
 Don Andres

ORGANIZATIONS:

Beachwood Canyon
 Bel Air Knolls Property Owners
 Bel Air Ridge Association
 Bel Air Skycrest POA
 Benedict Canyon Association
 Brentwood Hills Homeowners
 Brentwood Residents Coalition
 Cahuenga Pass Property Owner
 Canyon Back Alliance
 CASM-SFV
 Crests Neighborhood Assn.
 Franklin Ave./Hollywood Bl. W.
 Franklin Hills Residents Assn.
 Highlands Owners Assn.
 Hollywood Dell Civic Assn.
 Hollywood Heights Assn.
 Hollywoodland Homeowners
 Holmby Hills HOA
 Kagel Canyon Civic Assn.
 Lake Hollywood HOA
 Laurel Canyon Assn.
 Lookout Mountain Assn.
 Los Feliz Improvement Assn.
 Mt. Olympus Property Owners
 Mt. Washington Homeowners
 Nichols Canyon Assn.
 N. Beverly Dr./Franklin Canyon
 Oak Forest Canyon Assn.
 Oaks Homeowners Assn.
 Outpost Estates Homeowners
 Pacific Palisades Residents
 Residents of Beverly Glen
 Roscomare Valley Assn.
 Save Sunset Blvd.
 Shadow Hills Property Owners
 Sherman Oaks HOA
 Studio City Residents Assn.
 Sunset Hills HOA

Tarzana Property Owners Assn.
 Torreyson Flynn Assn.
 Upper Mandeville Canyon
 Upper Nichols Canyon
 Upper Riviera HOA
 Whitley Heights Civic Assn.

CHAIRPERSONS
EMERITUS
 Shirley Cohen
 Jerome C. Daniel
 Patricia Bell Hearst
 Alan Kishbaugh
 Gordon Murley
 Steve Twining
 Polly Ward
CHAIRMAN IN MEMORIUM
 Brian Moore

Welcome to LA's Open Budget Portal

"You deserve to know how your tax dollars are being spent."

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti

START EXPLORING →



MAYOR GARCETTI LAUNCHES INTERACTIVE BUDGET WEBSITE

Eric Garcetti

New site www.lamayor.org/openbudget makes it easier for residents to see how their tax dollars are spent

Mayor Eric Garcetti today launched a new website that makes it easier for people to review the city's finances by offering interactive graphs of the current and past budget, including multi-year trends and departmental revenue and expenditure details.

Mayor Garcetti's budget website is at www.lamayor.org/openbudget and uses the cloud-based OpenGov Platform. It is being launched as Mayor Garcetti prepares to release his first budget as Mayor next month.

"My new budget website gives residents a better way to see how their tax dollars are being collected and spent, making LA city government more transparent and accountable," said Mayor Garcetti.

Mayor Garcetti's back to basics agenda is focused on making city government more efficient, responsive, transparent and accountable, and he has used technology as a key way to achieve this. The new budget information site compliments ControlPanelLA, the web tool launched late last year by Controller Ron Galperin. ControlPanelLA is a searchable database of actual expenses and revenues since the city installed its current financial software system in July 2011. Open Budget is a searchable database of budgeted expenses and revenues going back five years to July 1, 2009. ControlPanel LA is best for looking for specific financial information -- Open Budget is best for analyzing budgeting information and trends. Together, they provide an unprecedented interactive window into the details of the budget and finances of the City of Los Angeles for citizens and researchers.

In addition to the new budget website, Mayor Garcetti's performance metrics website -- www.lamayor.org/performance -- allows residents to monitor how effective city departments are in providing services. Mayor Garcetti also recently appointed the city's first Chief Information Technology Officer, Peter Marx http://www.lamayor.org/mayor_garcetti_appoints_peter_marx_as_chief_innovation_technology_officer, who helped launch this site.

"The City of Los Angeles is setting a new standard for public reporting and transparency. By transforming their data into meaningful, actionable information, the city brings its immense data to life," says Zachary Bookman, CEO and co-founder of OpenGov. "This is a wonderful opportunity to create engagement and strengthen the relationship between the City and the community."

The Open Budget splash page on Mayor Garcetti's website was designed by Signature Creative. "Signature Creative was thrilled to work with Mayor Garcetti's office to help make the City's Open Budget a user-friendly experience," said John Gheur, Founder of Signature Creative. "This cutting-edge website helps our city government better reflect LA's reputation as one of the most creative and innovative cities in the world."

In addition, Mayor Garcetti is using a new "Performance-Based" budgeting model this year. City budgets are usually created by taking the previous year's budget and simply adding to it or reducing it. Performance based budgeting starts with identifying the desired results, and then spending decisions are made based on how to best achieve those results.

Rodenticides to Be Removed From Store Shelves

Sen. Fran Pavley's newsletter



This month, the state's Department of Pesticide Regulation announced it would ban the sale of dangerous rodent poisons in California retail stores. These poisons are harmful to the native food chain in the Santa Monica Mountains when they are passed on to rodents' natural predators such as coyotes, bobcats, mountain lions, owls and hawks.

Beginning July 1, second generation anticoagulant rodenticides will be banned from retail store shelves and restricted to use only by trained professionals in and around buildings.

There are many safer alternatives to these poisons, including common wooden snap traps or inexpensive live traps. Removing thick vegetation and brush piles, sealing all openings to your home and removing outdoor food sources such as dog food, fallen tree fruit or open trash containers can also help keep rodents away. An owl box can also help reduce rodent populations by attracting a natural predator.

Welcome New Member
Organizations!

Save Sunset Blvd.
CASM-SFV

PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	MARIAN DODGE
CHAIRMAN	CHARLEY MIMS
VICE PRESIDENTS	MARK STRATTON WENDY-SUE ROSEN
RECORDING SECRETARY	CAROL SIDLOW
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY	JOHN GIVEN
TREASURER	DON ANDRES

County Supervisor Race



Marian Dodge and Wendy-Sue Rosen attended a meet 'n greet for candidate Bobby Shriver to hear the candidate's positions. The event was hosted by Kim Lamorie of the Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation.

**Hillside Federation
Draft Minutes
March 5, 2014**

I. Call to order:

President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:20. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Guest speakers:

Eric Menjivar from Assemblymember Mike Gatto's office reported that Assemblyman Gatto is hosting an environmental forum Saturday March 29 at the Griffith Park Visitors Center from 10-11:30 am. It will cover how the environment has changed within the district. George Abrahams inquired about additional funding to complete the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Maps. Wendy-Sue Rosen reminded him not to weaken CEQA and to support a ban on rodenticides.

Daniel Tamm from Mayor Garcetti's office: The new head for DWP is Marcie Edwards. Her first task is to unravel the disastrous new billing system. The Mayor's mandate: Fix the problem now. Wendy-Sue Rosen thanked the Mayor for reappointing Tom Donovan to the West Area Planning Commission. Members commented on approving every variance requested, bringing back runaway production, giving away surplus property, and vague budgets.

II. Approval of Minutes: The February minutes were approved as submitted

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report - Marian Dodge

Marian welcomed new member organizations, CASM-SFV and Save Sunset Boulevard. The Federation now represents 44 organizations.

The Planning Department will host 7 community meetings for Re:code LA, the Mobility Plan, and Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles.

The segment of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail that runs through Griffith Park has been certified by the National Park Service.

The LA Fire Department wants to have an all day expo on brush clearance.

Nominating Committee - Steve Twining

The committee has proposed the following slate: President - Marian Dodge; Chairman - Charley Mims; 1st Vice President, Mark Stratton; 2nd Vice President, Wendy-Sue Rosen; Treasurer,

Don Andres; Recording Secretary, Carol Sidlow; Executive Secretary, John Given. The election of officers will take place on April 2, 2014.

B. Treasurer's Report - Don Andres

35 of the 44 member associations have paid their dues. The large CD has been renewed for another 9 months. The four annual filings to the IRS and to the state of California were completed in February.

Upcoming elections for the Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council are on March 30, 2014 at the Durant Library, 7140 Sunset Blvd from 2m to 8pm. Voter turnout is important.

Web Site

The Hillside Federation has a new web site, www.hillsidefederation.org.

One of the things we want to do is have live links to the web sites of all our member organizations. Please send us the link to your association's web site. In return, we ask that you post a link to the Hillside Federation web site on your web site.

You may also visit the web site for letters on positions taken by the Federation and past newsletters and minutes.

IV. New Business

A. 3164 Abington Dr. - Marti Ornest was not present.

B. Tree Trimming - Tony Tucci

Trees are being lost because of DWP's aggressive tree trimming. The city's tree trimming policy is being revamped. Councilman Mike Bonin has a motion CF #14-0019 to assure that city licensed contractors comply with city guidelines.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Federation support Councilmember Bonin's motion CF #14-0019 and prohibit the topping of trees, require a certified arborist on site, and outreach to the community prior to scheduled tree trimming. The motion passed. Tony and Wendy-Sue will draft a letter.

V. Old Business

A. Re:code LA - Carol Sidlow is absent. Marian will send the dates of the community forums.

B. 10550 N. Bellagio Road - Steve Twining

The West Area Planning Commission rejected the variance to allow a 50' high house where only a 36' high house is allowed by the Baseline Hillside Ordinance. Then on March 4 PLUM approved the height variance after CM Huizar said action has already been taken but they are allowing people to make public comment. It was approved by Council on consent on March 5.

Two brothers own several lots and the LA times published an article on how LA Council members have gotten donations and voted to overturn the APC decisions. The neighbors are putting a lawsuit together.

C. Curtis School - Mark Stratton

The project was heard by the Mulholland Design Review Board on February 20. The City Planner gave the board wrong information. The applicant made no presentation but gave some materials to the board that the public had not seen. The MDRB did not approve the access road but approved the design. Any permit must come back to the MDRB. The City Planning Commission will hear the project on March 27.

D. 1400 Linda Flora - Steve Twining

There was a mud slide after the recent rains.

Acting Recording Secretary,
Lucy Gonzalez

What's happening in your neighborhood?
Please send the Federation news of your activities with photos so we can share them with all our members.

Save these dates for Hillside Federation meetings
May 7
June 4
July 9
August - no meeting
September 3
October 1

Members Present:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Beachwood Canyon | George Abrahams |
| Bel Air Skycrest | Mark Stratton |
| | Lois Becker |
| Brentwood Res. Coal. | Wendy-Sue Rosen |
| Canyon Back Allian. | Tom Freeman |
| CASM-SFV | Dan Feinberg |
| Franklin Av/Hlwd Bl. | Don Andres |
| | Yvonne Hessler |
| Hollywoodland | Lucy Gonzalez |
| Kagel Canyon | Kit Paull |
| Laurel Canyon | Tony Tucci |
| Lookout Mountain | Patricia Bell Hearst |
| Los Feliz Impvmt. | Marian Dodge |
| Mt. Washington All. | Dan Wright |
| N. Beverly/Franklin Can | Robert Levy |
| Oaks HOA | Bob Young |
| Roscomare Valley | Steve Twining |
| | Shirley Cohen |
| Sherman Oaks HOA | Elke Heitmeyer |
| Studio City Res. | Alan Dymond |
| Upper Mandeville | James Provenzano |
| Upper Nichols Canyon | Cyd Zeigler |
| Upper Riviera HOA | Stacia Thompson |
| | Nina Rosenfield |

Guests Present:

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| AD 43 Gatto | Eric Menjivar |
| Mayor's Office | Daniel Tamm |