

# Hillside Federation Newsletter April, 2015



[www.hillsidefederation.org](http://www.hillsidefederation.org)

## Mountain Lion Exits Santa Monica Mountains by Crossing 101 Freeway



Photo by National Park Service

The National Park Service recently announced that P-33, a young female, left the Santa Monica Mountains by crossing the 101 Freeway. P-33 crossed somewhere along the Conejo Grade in the Camarillo area in the early hours of March 9. This is only the second documented successful crossing.

"It's remarkable that this lion made it across the 101 alive," said Linda Parks, Ventura County Supervisor and chair of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. "We are fortunate to have vast areas of undeveloped open space for these animals to roam, but we need safe crossing locations for them to keep motorists and animals safe from collisions." A recent crossing attempt resulted in a mountain lion's death. For more information visit: <http://tinyurl.com/phtvryk>.

### Agenda

April 1, 2015

7:00 pm

#### I. Call to Order

*Guest:* Janet Turner, for Congressman Lieu

#### II. Approval of Minutes

#### III. Officers' Reports

- A. President's Report
- B. Treasurer's Report

#### **Special Orders: Election of Officers** Nominating Committee

#### IV. New Business

- A. Walnut Canyon – Laura Gutierrez
- B. 2166-72 Stanley Hills Dr. – Tony Tucci
- C. Laurel Canyon Specific Plan/Overlay – Tony Tucci

#### V. Old Business

- A. Innsdale Vineyard update - David Benz
- B. Re:codeLA update - Carol Sidlow

#### VI. Adjournment

Next meeting - Wednesday, May 6, 2015

Pinz Bowling Center, next to Jerry's Deli  
12655 Ventura Blvd., Studio City 91604

**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.*

## Hillside Federation Officers Congratulate Congressman Ted Lieu and State Senator Ben Allen

Hillside Federation officers were on hand to congratulate and celebrate with two recent election winners. Federation President Marian Dodge congratulated Congressman Ted Lieu at his swearing in ceremony on March 1, 2015 at UCLA's Royce Hall. Congressman Lieu represents the 33rd Congressional District, which covers a broad swath of the Santa Monica Mountains, from Laurel Canyon all the way to Calabasa and Agoura Hills and south to Malibu.



Hillside Federation President Marian Dodge congratulates Congressman Ted Lieu at his swearing in ceremony, March 1.

Earlier this year, Marian and Federation Vice President Wendy Sue-Rosen congratulated State Senator Ben Allen at his own swearing in party. Senator Allen's district includes portions of the Hollywood Hills, Bel Air, Brentwood, Pacific Palisades and generally extends to the eastern side of Topanga Canyon.

To contact Congressman Lieu or Senator Allen, or to learn more about their respective districts, please visit their websites at:

Congressman Lieu: <https://lieu.house.gov>

Senator Allen: <http://sd26.senate.ca.gov>



Hillside Federation President Marian Dodge and Vice President Wendy-Sue Rosen with State Senator Ben Allen.

As two of the key legislators whose districts cover local hillside communities, the Hillside Federation looks forward to working closely with both Congressman Lieu and Senator Allen during their respective tenures in office.

## FAA's Helicopter Noise Complaint System Poised to Go Live Very Soon

Bob Anderson of the Los Angeles Area Helicopter Noise Coalition reports that the FAA Helicopter Noise Complaint System is scheduled to begin imminently. The system will be both telephone and web based. Complaints will be accepted from anywhere within Los Angeles County. The system will accept general complaints, but the web-based form will also be able to file a complaint based on specific helicopter tracking information. The Hillside Federation will publish more specifics as soon as they are received from Bob and/or the FAA.

# **LADBS, LADOT, and BOSS Begin Haul Route Monitoring Program**

The Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety, Department of Transportation, and the Department of Public Works Bureau of Street Services have created a joint Task Force that has implemented a Haul Route Monitoring Program for Council Districts 4 and 5. The Monitoring Program includes additional inspection and enforcement to ensure public safety and protect the quality of life of residents.

The program is outlined on LADBS’s website, at: <http://ladbs.org/LADBSWeb/haul-route.jsf>. Residents can visit the site to find active and updated Google maps of proposed and active projects showing the last date monitored, the status of project activity, and whether any violations have been reported. In addition to the Google maps links for CD 4 and CD 5, each district also has its own spreadsheet matrix of projects with haul routes. Complaints may be made via the online form or by calling 3-1-1.

In addition to the Haul Route Monitoring Program, LADBS is now enforcing its “*Good Neighbor*” *Construction Practices*. These are practices that are required by the LA Municipal Code and are to be enforced *in addition to* any conditions of approval associated with a particular project. Examples of “*Good Neighbor*” practices are for construction vehicle parking on site when possible, to use flag persons when temporarily blocking streets for delivery of construction materials, keeping project noise

to the minimum necessary in consideration of neighboring properties, maintaining the street and sidewalk in the vicinity of the construction site from dirt and debris, and so forth. (The entire pdf notice is available at the previously cited link.).

Complaints regarding the “*Good Neighbor*” *Construction Practices* program are made in the same manner as Haul Route Complaints, by using the online haul route complaint form or calling 3-1-1. Our thanks to Steven Poster for keeping the Hillside Federation apprised of these very positive developments.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE  
Proposed Slate of Officers**

**President:  
Marian Dodge**

**Chairman:  
Charley Mims**

**Vice President:  
Mark Stratton**

**Vice President:  
Wendy-Sue Rosen**

**Secretary:  
Carol Sidlow**

**Treasurer:  
Don Andres**

**Exec. Secretary:  
John Given**

**Hillside Federation**  
**Draft Minutes**  
**March 4, 2015**

I. **Call to Order.** President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

**Presentation: Drought & Water Use**

*Speakers:* Andy Shrader—Director, Environmental Affairs, Water Policy & Sustainability CD 5, Kristen Holdsworth—California Center for Sustainable Communities at UCLA, Melanie Winter—Water LA, Jevon Lam—Department of Water and Power.

Andy Shrader spoke about the severe drought conditions and the need for all communities to step up regarding water conservation as the City has gone thru 2/3 of its reserves in 1 year. With the lack of snowpack in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, the situation is severe; Kristen Holdsworth presented the UCLA study regarding water usage in Los Angeles and their conclusions about water usage and provided some solutions; Melanie Winter informed the Federation about on-going local water conservation efforts; and Jevon Lam from the Department of Water and Power spoke about the various residential rebate programs offered by DWP including appliance rebates, rain barrel equipment, and turf removal program which all focus on water conservation.

There was a lively discussion with questions from Federation members regarding: the disconnect between water supply assessments and water conservation with respect to new development in the City of Los Angeles; use of “greywater” as a condition for new development due to the water crisis; need for watering in our hillside

areas for fire protection; water run-off from our streets and what can be done to capture it; overdevelopment and the increase in the demand for water; an ordinance to require new apartments to have individual water meters; rainwater harvesting systems; and lack of engagement by the Department of Building and Safety.

II. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes were approved as amended.

**III. Officers’ Reports**

A. President’s Report: Marian Dodge

Marian introduced Felicia Park-Rogers, Westside Senior Field Deputy for Supervisor Sheila Kuehl. Supervisor Kuehl is very interested in children and family issues and environmental issues among others. There are 3 District offices located in Van Nuys, Calabasas and Metro/Westside Los Angeles.

Marian thanked Lois and Mark for providing coffee and cookies; Steven Poster for the use of the Cinematographers Guild for the Hillside Federation’s CD 4 Candidate Forum, and Don and John for their assistance during the forum.

An update regarding the March 3, 2015 Citywide election was given. The election had a poor turnout. As an example, the race for the CD 4 Council seat drew about 8% of the eligible voters to the polls. The final results regarding the CD 4 election are still undetermined but the 2 candidates that are currently in the lead are Carolyn Ramsay and David Ryu with Tomás O’Grady in third place. The run-off election is scheduled for May 19, 2015. Both City Charter amendments passed.

In January, the Hillside Federation sent a letter to the Fish and Game Commission

supporting a ban on bobcat trapping. The Federation also sent a letter supporting the appeal of the Scenario Lane Lot Line Adjustment. A letter of thanks was received from the Wildlife Conservation Board for the Hillside Federation's support of the wildlife crossing at Liberty Canyon.

Marian announced the Nominating Committee for the slate of Hillside Federation officers for the April 1, 2015 election. Barbara Dohrmann, Steven Poster and Yvonne Hessler will present the slate of officers in the next newsletter.

**B. Treasurer's Report:** Don Andres

Don reported on bank balances, information about liability and D&O insurance, that all tax filings for the year have been completed, and on the addition of 2 new member organizations: *Save Coldwater Canyon!* and *Rancho Verdugo Estates HOA*.

Don also announced he will be participating in a Runyon Canyon hike with State Senator Ben Allen and State Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian.

**IV. New Business**

**A. Barham Ramp Closure** – John Strozdas

John Strozdas from Keep the Barham Ramp Association gave a short history about the proposed closing of the Barham ramp off the 101 Freeway in Universal City and the Keep the Barham Ramp Association's position. He said a case can be made that the ramp closure was never properly disclosed or vetted to the community during the public meetings or hearings of the Universal Evolution development project. Under CEQA, developers are mandated and required to disclose known impacts of their development. The Keep the Barham Ramp Association has filed a lawsuit against

Universal, Caltrans, the City, and the County of Los Angeles. As its name implies, the intention of the Keep the Barham Ramp Association is to keep the Barham ramp open. This is a very complicated project without any clear answers. Interested members were encouraged to sign the petition to keep the ramp open at:

[www.keepthebarhamramp.com](http://www.keepthebarhamramp.com).

**V. Old Business**

**A. Curtis School Update:** Mark Stratton

The City is waiting for Curtis to come back with an updated traffic study.

**B.10220 Scenario Lane:** Katherine Bard

Katherine Bard thanked the Hillside Federation for the letter of support of their Appeal of the approved Lot Line Adjustment regarding the Scenario Lane development. A hearing date for the appeal before the West Los Angeles Area Planning Commission has not been scheduled yet but they were encouraged to list all deviations of code and gather letters of support for the appeal from their Councilmember and others as soon as possible.



Save these dates for future  
Hillside Federation meetings

May 6  
June 3  
July 1  
August - No Meeting  
September 2  
October 7

C. Recode LA: Carol Sidlow

Carol gave an update on the meeting of Recode LA where the Neighborhood Conservation Initiative was robustly discussed. The Initiative would put an Interim Control Ordinance (ICO) in place for some areas but not others. The Planning and Land Use Committee of the City Council agendized the issue but did not take a vote due to the absence of the Chair Jose Huizar. The item will be re-scheduled at a date to be determined. The two hillside communities covered under this ICO and Initiative are The Oaks in Los Feliz and Bel Air. For purposes of the ordinance, Bel Air is broadly defined by a map of the area to include the 405 Freeway to the west, Coldwater Canyon to the east, Mulholland Drive to the north, and Sunset Blvd. to the south. Members were encouraged to read the Neighborhood Conservation Initiative previously distributed via email. The Neighborhood Conservation Initiative and the need for the closing of the loopholes of the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance were discussed.

**Motion:** Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Hillside Federation support the closing of the loopholes and exemptions in the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance and the Baseline Hillside Ordinance. The motion passed.

D. Pacoima Dam Project: Dan Feinberg

Dan updated the members regarding the proposed Pacoima Dam Sediment Removal Project by the County Department of Public Works. The County proposes removal of approximately 5.4 million cubic yards of sediment from Pacoima Dam. Sediment has not been removed from the dam since 1983, which accounts for the large amount of accumulated sediment over the past 33 years. The County Board of Supervisors has

jurisdiction over the issue. There is concern that sediment is being treated as a ‘waste product’ and then dumped into the canyon areas in the San Gabriel Mountains. County Department of Public Works will be holding various community scoping meetings at the following dates and times:

–March 25, 2015, Los Angeles Mission College, 6:30pm – 8:30pm

–March 26, 2015, Santa Clarita Senior Center, 6:30pm – 8:30pm

–March 28, 2015, Mission College, 10:00am – 12:00 noon

The Federation will assist in setting a meeting with Supervisor Kuehl about this important issue that affects many of our hillside communities in and around the area.

**VI. Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Carol Sidlow  
Recording Secretary

*Members Present:*

- |                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Beachwood Canyon      | George Abrahams |
| Bel Air Skycrest      | Mark Stratton   |
| Brentwood Hills       | John Given      |
| Brentwood Residents   | Wendy-Sue Rosen |
| Cahuenga Pass POA     | Steven Kates    |
| Canyon Back Alliance  | Lois Becker     |
| CASM-SFV              | Dan Feinberg    |
| Franklin Av/Hlwd Blvd | Don Andres      |
|                       | Yvonne Hessler  |
| Franklin Hills Res    | Charley Mims    |
| Hollywoodland         | Lucy Gonzalez   |
| Kagel Canyon          | Kit Paull       |
| Laurel Canyon         | Tony Tucci      |
| Lookout Mt.           | Steven Poster   |
|                       | Carol Sidlow    |
| Los Feliz Impvmt.     | Marian Dodge    |

*Members Present cont.*

Oaks Homeowners	Wayne Schlock
Roscomare Valley	Steve Twining
Sherman Oaks	Elke Heitmeyer
Studio City Res.	Claudia Freedle

*Guests Present:*

For Supervisor Kuehl	Felicia Park-Rogers
For CM Koretz	Andy Shrader
DWP	Stephanie Spicer
UCLA	Kristen Holdsworth
Water LA	Melanie Winter
Keep the Barham Ramp Assn.	John Strozdas
Scenario Ln Residents	Sue Ling Campbell
	Katherine Bard

## Los Angeles Council Motions Related to Water

Following on the excellent drought and water policy presentation and discussion at the March 4, 2015 Hillside Federation meeting, Andy Shrader, Councilmember

Koretz’s Director of Environmental Affairs, Water Policy & Sustainability, forwarded the following list of water-related motions currently pending at council. Note that each motion number is a hyperlink to the Council File Management System info for its respective motion.

Grey Water systems (Koretz) [14-1291](#)

Prop 1 water bond funds for San Fernando Valley aquifer clean up (Koretz) [14-1718-S1](#)

In-Pipe Hydropower (Bonin) [15-0229](#)

Tiered Water Pricing/Outdoor Water Metering per UCLA rpt (Bonin/Fuentes) [14-0078-S2](#)

Dead lawn rebates (Bonin/Fuentes) [14-1400](#)

Ratepayer Advocate include externalities in water/power rate accounting(Koretz) [14-0516](#)

Restoration of Public Drinking Fountains (LaBonge) [13-1234](#)

InterDepartmental Collaboration on Water Conservation (Blumenfield) [13-0908](#)

The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Inc. P.O. Box 27404 Los Angeles, CA 90027 <a href="mailto:president@hillsidefederation.org">president@hillsidefederation.org</a> <a href="http://www.hillsidefederation.org">www.hillsidefederation.org</a>	<b>ORGANIZATIONS</b> 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 Rancho Verdugo Estates HOA Residents of Beverly Glen Roscomare Valley Assn. Save Coldwater Canyon! 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 Whitley Heights Civic Assn.  <b>CHAIRPERSONS EMERITUS</b> Shirley Cohen Jerome C. Daniel Patricia Bell Hearst Alan Kishbaugh Gordon Murley Steve Twining  <b>CHAIRPERSONS IN MEMORIAM</b> Brian Moore Polly Ward
<b>PRESIDENT</b> Marian Dodge			
<b>CHAIRMAN</b> Charley Mims			
<b>VICE PRESIDENTS</b> Mark Stratton Wendy-Sue Rosen			
<b>SECRETARY</b> Carol Sidlow			
<b>TREASURER</b> Don Andres			
<b>EXECUTIVE SECRETARY</b> John Given			