

# Hillside Federation Newsletter October 2017



## National Park Service Introduces Two Mountain Lion Kittens



Beth Pratt-Bergstrom, National Wildlife Federation's California Director, shared the news that two new mountain lion kittens have become part of the National Park Service's study of local mountain lion populations. P-59 and P-60 are thought to be the offspring of P-12. But if that is true, P-12 is also their grandfather, great-grandfather, and great-great-grandfather.

As explained by Jeff Sikich, a biologist with Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, a unit of the National Park Service: "Inbreeding to this degree really highlights the need for providing safe passage across the 101 freeway so new mountain lions can enter the population and breed." For more on the proposed Liberty Canyon wildlife crossing, see page 3.

### Agenda October 4, 2017 7:00 pm

Pinz Bowling Center, 2nd Floor  
12655 Ventura Blvd., Studio City

#### I. Call to Order

##### Guests:

MRCA - Walt Young

#### II. Approval of minutes

#### III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report - Charley Mims

B. Treasurer's Report - Don Andres

#### IV. Old Business

A. Harvard-Westlake Expansion - Suellen Wagner

B. 11580 Sunshine Terr. - Jamie Hall

#### IV. New Business

A. Alcohol Conditions Motion - Sarah Blanch & Wendy-Sue Rosen

B. Berggruen Project - Patricia Bell Hearst & Wendy-Sue Rosen

#### VI. Adjournment

Next meeting November 1, 2017  
7:00 p.m.

Pinz Bowling Center, 2nd Floor  
12655 Ventura Blvd., Studio City

**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.*

## Berggruen Institute Project Details Begin to Emerge

*Adapted from an email from Hillside Federation member organization Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners Assoc.*

Recently the words “Berggruen Project” and “Berggruen Institute” have been popping up in the *LA Times*, on *Curbed LA*, and even on the *NextDoor* site.

The brainchild of German billionaire Nicolas Berggruen, this high profile think tank to be located in the Santa Monica Mountains between Mountaingate and the Getty Center will attract dignitaries and scholars from all over the world. It will be prestigious for Los Angeles but it will also bring problematic impacts for our community, so we all need to be informed.

Preliminary architectural plans were made public the last week of August, and an application to start the EIR (Environmental Impact Report) process has been filed. A public meeting to learn about and discuss the project is supposed to be scheduled at the Skirball Cultural Center in the near future.

### Some Community Concerns:

**Traffic on Sepulveda.** Staff/employees/service vehicles and others commuting daily to and from the institute, as well as special events bringing hundreds of visitors at rush hour, will increase traffic on an already overburdened road and slow emergency response time in case of fire, earthquake, etc. A proposed access road to the institute will likely necessitate installation of another stoplight on Sepulveda, further complicating the traffic situation.

**Fire danger and evacuation logistics.** The project is located in a “high fire hazard severity zone.” Construction activities increase risk. (As do routine maintenance activities: the last two

fires in this area were sparked by the Getty Center doing brush clearance.) As the site is an old landfill, methane leaks could further exacerbate the danger. In case of an emergency, everyone from Mountaingate and the Institute will have to evacuate via Sepulveda, as may many others.

**Noise pollution from helicopters.** Plans call for a helipad, which will be used by the LAFD and for transporting visiting dignitaries. Helicopter traffic is not compatible with residential quality of life.

**Slope stability could be compromised** by the proposed grading, causing landslides and flooding during the rainy season.

**Encroachment on protected open space.** Siting of the buildings without respect to existing easements, as well as light and noise pollution which will accompany operations, will impact residential quality of life, recreational opportunities, and a precious wildlife corridor.

**Degradation or Expropriation of two public trails.** The property has trails held in trust for the public, in perpetuity, by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA). The Institute plans may limit public use, including possible closure due to security concerns.

The Environmental Assessment Form and related documents are available at:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0Bw2wptYjbQ0JeGF0VnBGUW82U0U> .

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### Gordon Murley Honored

Hillside Federation Chair Emeritus Gordon Murley, who passed in March this year, was among those honored at the recent Congress of Neighborhoods, held on September 9. Murley was a founding member of the Woodland Hills Neighborhood Council, and was included in a memorial tribute prepared by Suzanne Lewis of Neighborhood Council Valley Village.

### SAVE THE DATE!

The Hillside Federation’s Annual Holiday Party will be held Thursday, December 14 at the Mulholland Tennis Club.

## LA Party House Ordinance Released

Nicholas Greif, Councilmember David Ryu's Director of Policy and Legislation, recently announced that the City Attorney released a draft ordinance to address nuisance party properties. The proposed Party House Ordinance is a response to Councilmember Ryu's motion (Council File 12-1824-S1, June 2016) calling for preparation of an ordinance to strengthen the City's ability to address the runaway problem, which is particularly challenging in many hillside neighborhoods in the Hollywood Hills and other areas. CM Ryu's motion notes that in some communities homes are being built specifically for the purpose of hosting weekly parties.

Mr. Greif reports, the ordinance will:

- Substantially increase the types of activities that could allow enforcement against a party house.
- Allow for fines, or misdemeanors, to be brought not only against party organizers, but also the person in charge of the house (the owner or leaseholder).
- Result in the location cited under the ordinance to be tagged with a public notice of the Loud and Unruly Gathering; the notice must remain posted for 30 days or further penalties may be incurred.
- Provide for escalating penalties up to \$4,000, or for misdemeanors where monetary fines are not persuasive to ending the illegal activity.

The ordinance is now pending in the City Council's Planning and Land Use Management and Public Safety Committees. To review the draft ordinance, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/ych5zb3d>.

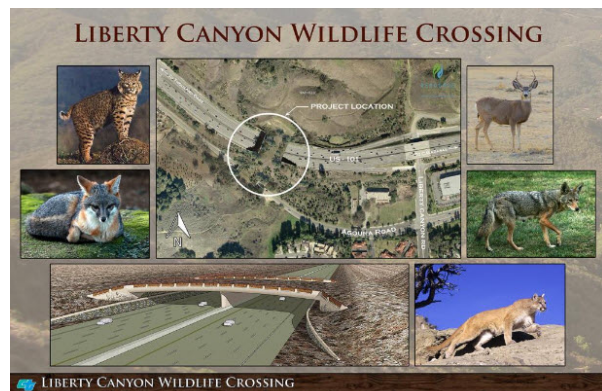
## Bringing an Issue to the Federation

If your organization would like to bring an issue to the attention of the Federation, please complete a Request for Action form (available at [www.hillsidefederation.org](http://www.hillsidefederation.org)) and send it, along with supporting documents, to [RFA@hillsidefederation.org](mailto:RFA@hillsidefederation.org) no later than 10 days prior to the meeting. This will help you organize your presentation so that our meetings can flow efficiently, while providing the necessary information to allow the Federation to consider your organization's request.

## Caltrans Releases Environmental Assessment for Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing

Caltrans (California Department of Transportation) is the lead agency for federal and state environmental review of the proposed Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing, which will construct a vegetated bridge across the 101-Freeway in Agoura Hills to allow for safer movement of wildlife.

The initial study and draft mitigated negative declaration were recently released to the public and will be discussed at a public hearing on October 12, from 6 to 8 p.m. at King Gillette Ranch Auditorium, 26800 Mulholland Highway in Calabasas. as the project moves forward. To review the initial study and MND, please visit: <http://tinyurl.com/y8a4kemy>.



**Hillside Federation**  
**Draft Minutes**  
**September 6, 2017**

**I. Call to Order**

President Charley Mims called the meeting to order at 7:22 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

**Guest: Fernando Morales**—Senior Field Deputy, Supervisor Kuehl’s office.

Fernando works in the West/Metro LA region with Stephanie Cohen. Supervisor Kuehl is working on a motion to move away from Polystyrene and is looking for alternatives. John Anson Ford Amphitheatre has reopened with community oriented programming. Sup. Kuehl has a motion on recapturing water. She also has an Accessory Dwelling Unit motion for unincorporated areas which would allow a property owner to bring a unit up to code if it is for low income renters.

Fernando can be reached at 213-379-2807 or [FMorales@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:FMorales@bos.lacounty.gov).

**II. Approval of Minutes**

The July minutes were approved as written.

**III. Officers’ Reports**

A. President’s Report—Charley Mims

The Federation sent letters: 1) opposing the Innsdale Dr. project; 2) to Gov. Brown to support AB 25, which allows cities to regulate modified tour buses; 3) to strengthen brush clearance fire regulations in hillside areas.

B. Treasurer’s Report—Charley Mims for Don Andres

The Federation has 42 paid members; 3 have not renewed. There are no outstanding bills.

**IV. Old Business**

A. Harvard-Westlake School Expansion—Suellen Wagner

The Planning Department held a hearing on August 8. The Van Nuys Council Chamber was full with approximately equal numbers of pro and con speakers. Marian spoke on behalf of the Hillside Federation. Save Coldwater Canyon! has a meeting with Councilmember Krekorian tomorrow. The September 28th CPC hearing has been indefinitely postponed because they are in

discussions on the project.

B. 6459 Innsdale, York Vineyards—David Benz

The planning committee of the Hollywood United Neighborhood Council (HUNC) met a month ago with little notice to the public. York is asking for many “adjustments” to the BHO. The applicant proposes to dump 38,000 cubic yards of earth into a ravine with no retaining wall. He is only allowed to grade 3,300 cubic yards. HUNC was given misinformation by York’s representative, who says there is no stream. The representative also denies that mountain lion P-22 has ever been on property. The HUNC planning committee voted to approve the project. Gerry Hans found a mapped blue-line stream on the property. Because of the stream, Fish & Wildlife has jurisdiction. The project will be on HUNC’s PLUM agenda again tomorrow night. Lake Hollywood HOA wants to require the applicant to do a full Environmental Impact Report.

**IV. New Business**

A. AB 1000 California Desert Protection Act

**MOTION:** Arnie Newman moved to confirm the Executive Committee’s decision to write letter of support for AB 1000 (Friedman). The motion passed.

Since that time, AB 1000 has not been brought to the floor for a vote.

B. Proposed Increase in Appeals Fees—Marian Dodge

Charley described City Council’s efforts to have all fees provide cost recovery for the city. The proposed increase to file an appeal of a Planning decision to \$13,538 would mean that only developers could afford to file appeals and concerned neighbors and HOAs could not. Jamie Hall said that appeals are beneficial in that they result in better projects.

**MOTION:** Jamie Hall moved that the Hillside Federation oppose an appeal fee increase for non applicants. The motion passed.

C. 11580 Sunshine Terrace—Diana Zogran

Diana organized Neighborhood Tree Watch. The applicant is proposing to excavate 2,000 cubic yards of earth and remove 21 protected trees. Ten mature trees have already been cut to stumps. A hearing is scheduled for September 18. The applicant needs to evaluate alternatives to cutting down the trees. He could alter the project by moving the house slightly and save many trees.

The mitigation plan is horticulturally unsound. Gerry Hans suggested that some trees could go to a nearby park. The neighbors have hired Jamie Hall.

**MOTION:** Claudia Freedle moved that the Hillside Federation oppose the removal of the protected trees at 11580 Sunshine Terrace. The motion passed.

D. 3915 Hollyline Ave.–Neil Newman

A 2.5-acre lot with one house was recently purchased. The owner wants to split the lot to build two houses. The property borders SMMC’s Fossil Ridge Park. The City claims the lot is unstable, and requires the removal of trees by clear cutting. There has been no seismic movement however. The proposal calls for excavating 50,000 cubic yards of earth. Why does the city Department of Building & Safety think removing the ancient trees will help stabilize slope? The neighbors hired Jamie Hall. Jamie noted that alternatives would be to change the placement of the houses, or use pylons or earth nails instead of a retaining wall. The developer has a self-inflicted hardship because of the placement of the houses.

**MOTION:** Arnie Newman moved that the Hillside Federation support an alternative development that would preclude the removal of protected trees on the property at 3915 Hollyline Avenue and mitigate impacts on the wildlife corridor. The motion passed.

*Announcements:*

Jamie Hall–We are shining a light on alternatives to save mature trees.

Mark Stratton–MRCA had a meeting about the proposed Berggruen project near the Skirball Center. MRCA owns open space and trail easements at the property where the proposed project is located.

**VI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Marian Dodge  
Acting Secretary

**Members Present:**

Bel Air Hills Assn.	Robin Greenberg
Bel Air Skycrest POA	Mark Stratton
Canyon Back Alliance	Lois Becker
Franklin Hills Res.	Charley Mims
Hollywood Dell Civic	Mary Ledding
Hollywoodland HA	George Abrahams
Kagel Canyon Civic	Kit Paull
Lake Hollywood	David Benz
Laurel Canyon Assn.	Jamie Hall
Los Feliz Impvmt.	Marian Dodge
Oak Forest Canyon	Arnold Newman
Oaks HOA	Gerry Hans
Save Coldwater Cyn!	Suellen Wagner
	Heidi Mackay
	Claudia Freedle
Studio City Res.	

**Guests Present:**

Office of Sup. Kuehl	Fernando Morales
Neighborhood Tree Watch	Diana Zoran
	Pam Pierson
Friends & Neighbors of Hollyline Avenue	Neil Newman
Bel Air resident	Linda Whitford

<p>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></p> <p><b>PRESIDENT</b> Charley Mims</p> <p><b>CHAIRMAN</b> Marian Dodge</p> <p><b>VICE PRESIDENTS</b> Mark Stratton John Given</p> <p><b>TREASURER</b> Don Andres</p> <p><b>SECRETARY</b> Stephen Benson</p>	<p><b>ORGANIZATIONS</b></p> <p>Beachwood Canyon</p> <p>Bel-Air Hills Association</p> <p>Bel Air Knolls Property Owners</p> <p>Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners</p> <p>Benedict Canyon Association</p> <p>Brentwood Hills Homeowners</p> <p>Brentwood Residents Coalition</p> <p>Cahuenga Pass Property Owners</p> <p>Canyon Back Alliance</p> <p>CASM-SFV</p> <p>Crests Neighborhood Assn.</p> <p>Doheny-Sunset Plaza NA</p> <p>Franklin Ave./Hollywood Bl. W.</p> <p>Franklin Hills Residents Assn.</p> <p>Highlands Owners Assn.</p> <p>Hollywood Dell Civic Assn.</p> <p>Hollywood Heights Assn.</p> <p>Hollywoodland Homeowners</p>	<p>Holmby Hills HOA</p> <p>Kagel Canyon Civic Assn.</p> <p>Lake Hollywood HOA</p> <p>Laurel Canyon Assn.</p> <p>Los Feliz Improvement Assn.</p> <p>Mt. Olympus Property Owners</p> <p>Mt. Washington Homeowners</p> <p>Nichols Canyon Assn.</p> <p>N. Beverly Dr/Franklin Canyon</p> <p>Oak Forest Canyon Assn.</p> <p>Oaks Homeowners Assn.</p> <p>Outpost Estates Homeowners</p> <p>Residents of Beverly Glen</p> <p>Save Coldwater Canyon!</p> <p>Shadow Hills Property Owners</p> <p>Sherman Oaks HO Assn.</p> <p>Silver Lake Heritage Trust</p> <p>Studio City Residents Assn.</p>	<p>Sunset Hills HOA</p> <p>Tarzana Property Owners Assn.</p> <p>Torreyson Flynn Assn.</p> <p>Upper Mandeville Canyon</p> <p>Upper Nichols Canyon</p> <p>Whitley Heights Civic Assn.</p> <p><b>CHAIRPERSONS EMERITUS</b></p> <p>Shirley Cohen</p> <p>Jerome C. Daniel</p> <p>Patricia Bell Hearst</p> <p>Alan Kishbaugh</p> <p>Steve Twining</p> <p><b>CHAIRPERSONS IN MEMORIAM</b></p> <p>Brian Moore</p> <p>Gordon Murley</p> <p>Polly Ward</p>
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