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Dr. Akif Eskalen
267 Hutchison Hall
1 Shields Avenue
University of California Davis
Davis, CA 95616

August 13, 2018

Re: Invitation to Provide Expert Testimony
BPW-2018-0475 (ENV-2017-3314-CE)
Protected Tree Removal, 10768 West Bellagio Road

Beachwood Canyon Neighborhood
Bel-Air Association.
Bel-Air Hills Assn.
Bel Air Knolls Property Owners
Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners
Benedict Canyon Association
Brentwood Hills Homeowners
Brentwood Residents Coalition
Cahuenga Pass Property Owners
Canyon Back Alliance
CASM-SFV
Crests Neighborhood Assn.
Doheny-Sunset Plaza NA
Franklin Ave./Hollywood Bl. West
Franklin Hills Residents Assn.
Highlands Owners Assn.
Hollywood Dell Civic Assn.
Hollywood Heights Assn.
Holmby Hills Homeowners Assn.
Kagel Canyon Civic Assn.
Lake Hollywood HOA
Laurel Canyon Assn.
Los Feliz Improvement Assn.
Mt. Olympus Property Owners
Mt. Washington Homeowners All.
Nichols Canyon Assn.
N. Beverly Dr./Franklin Canyon
Oak Forest Canyon Assn.
Oaks Homeowners Assn.
Outpost Estates Homeowners
Residents of Beverly Glen
Save Coldwater Canyon!
Shadow Hills Property Owners
Sherman Oaks HO Assn.
Silver Lake Heritage Trust
Studio City Residents Assn.
Sunset Hills Homeowners Assn.
Tarzana Property Owners Assn.
Torreyson Flynn Assn.
Upper Mandeville Canyon
Upper Nichols Canyon NA
Whitley Heights Civic Assn.

Dear Dr. Eskalen:

The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Inc., founded in 1952, represents 42 homeowner and resident associations with approximately 250,000 constituents spanning the Santa Monica Mountains. At its meeting of July 18, 2018, the Hillside Federation voted to urge the Board of Public Works to consider requiring the analysis of a polyphagous shot hole borer (“PSHB”) expert within the context of an adequate environmental analysis before approving the proposed extensive tree removal at 10768 West Bellagio Road. The project would remove 85 trees, including 22 western sycamores and one coast live oak, in significant part on the basis of alleged PSHB infection.

A hearing in the matter is now scheduled before the Los Angeles Board of Public Works at 10am, Friday, August 31, 2018, in Room 350 of Los Angeles City Hall. Dr. Linda Whitford, a local community advocate informs the Federation’s Executive Committee that you are a well-qualified expert whose testimony would greatly assist the Board of Public Works in making a more informed decision on the proposed tree removal.

On behalf of our members, constituents, and other interested community members, we invite you to review the tree removal proposal associated with the project and attend the hearing to provide expert testimony if you are available to do so. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Charley Mims
Charley Mims

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