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Board of Public Works
200 N. Spring Street, Room 361
Los Angeles, CA 90012

August 24, 2018

Re: August 31, 2018 Hearing
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 President James and Honorable Commissioners:

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.

Community members have identified numerous shortcomings in the proposal and project documents, including a Notice of Exemption that does not accurately describe the project. A Categorical Exemption is an inappropriate environmental document for a project with obvious significant impacts to 85 trees, including almost two dozen protected trees. In addition, the tree report concludes, without sufficient expert evidence, that mere PSHB symptoms necessitate tree removal without respect to the actual health of the tree, which fails to reflect the best practice in PSHB management.

We urge the Board of Public Works to reject the project until adequate consideration of its environmental impacts has been undertaken, including investigation of PSHB affected trees by a qualified expert.

Sincerely,

Charley Mims
Charley Mims

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