

Hillside Federation Newsletter July 2018



“Love Street” Signage Raises Concerns for Laurel Canyon Assoc.

Hillside Federation Member Laurel Canyon Association submitted a letter to Councilmember David Ryu (CD4) on July 12, expressing their concern and frustration over the renaming of Rothdell Trail to Love Street. Councilmember Ryu’s June 19 motion (CF 18-0581, available at: <https://tinyurl.com/yavj25gw>) was adopted by the City Council after the Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee waived consideration. The motion was adopted on July 3, the last day before the council’s summer recess, only two weeks after first submitted by Councilmember Ryu.

According to LCA, the Public Works Committee waived consideration without adequate notice to either LCA or the Bel Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council. The neighborhood council unanimously voted to support a study of public safety and other impacts before the motion was adopted. The request was apparently ignored. Stakeholders are concerned the change will draw tourists to a dangerous congested hillside intersection along one of the busiest hillside streets in Los Angeles, creating hazardous conditions similar to CD 4’s Beachwood Canyon.

We hope you will join us this month as we discuss the above and other hillside issues.

**Agenda
July 18, 2018
7:00 pm**

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

I. Call to Order

Introductions

Guest: CD 4 Planning Deputy Emma Howard

II. Approval of minutes

III. Officers’ Reports

A. President’s Report – Charley Mims

B. Treasurer’s Report – Don Andres

IV. Old Business

A. Accessory Dwelling Unit – Charley Mims

B. Hadid hearing - Maureen Levinson

IV. New Business

A. Mission Canyon Park – Mark Stratton

B. Bellagio Road Protected Tree Removal –
Linda Whitford

C. “Love Street” signs in Laurel Canyon –
Jamie Hall

VI. Adjournment

Next meeting

September 5, 2018
7:00 p.m.

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.*

MRCA Community Facilities District Fees

Marian Dodge, Hillside Federation Chair

If you live in a Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) Community Facilities District, you may wonder how the annual \$24 fee is used. You get quite a lot of bang for those bucks in Community Facilities District 1.

District 1 is located east of the I-405 freeway and goes all the way to Griffith Park, roughly north of Sunset Boulevard, Hollywood Boulevard and Franklin Avenue and south of Valley Vista Boulevard in the area generally known as the Hollywood Hills. Measure HH, which established District 1, received an extraordinary 76.18% support of registered voters during the November 6, 2012 election.

MRCA maintains over 1,600 acres of local open space, parkland, and wildlife corridors in District 1. MRCA's primary role is to provide open space protection and fire prevention. Its services also include the protection of water quality, reduction of wildfire risk, park ranger safety and security services, and to maintain a reserve. In 2016, MRCA spent \$239,722 on rangers and fire staff and \$110,717 on maintenance and supplies. It provides 24/7 ranger patrols along Mulholland Drive during Red Flag days when fire danger is extreme. But the majority of funding goes toward open space acquisition.

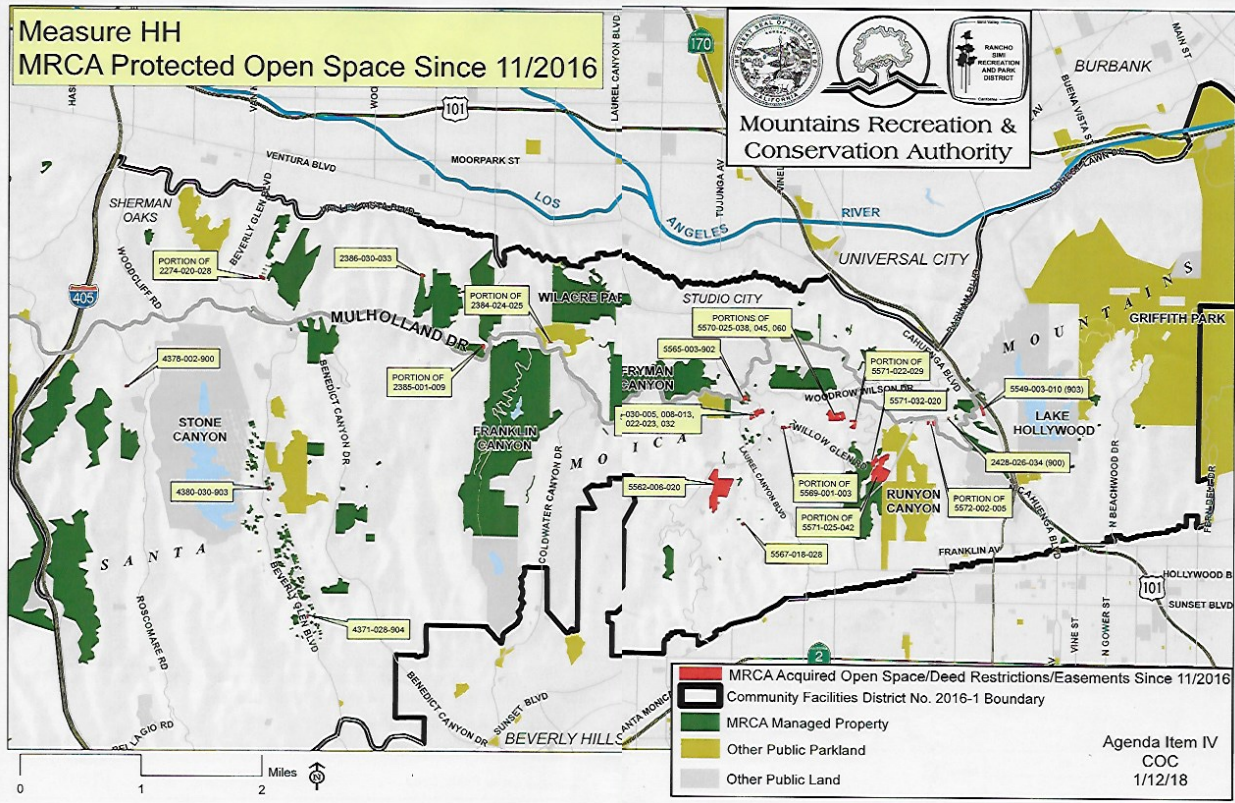
Land acquisitions since Nov. 2016 (see map, next page):

APN	Address
2385-001-009	12945 Mulholland Dr.
2274-020-028	3565 Camino de la Cumbre
2384-024-025	12471 Mulholland Dr.
2386-030-033	Dixie Canyon Park on Newcombe Dr.
2428-026-034	Sunnydell trail east of Macapa Dr.
4371-028-904	1160 N. Fernbush Ln (east of Beverly Glen Blvd.)
4378-002-012	2471 Nalin Dr. (Hoag Canyon)
4380-030-903	2219 N. Latimer Lane (east of Beverly Glen)
5549-003-010	Cahuenga Blvd. south of Mulholland Dr.
5562-006-020	between Lookout Mt. & Stanley Hills Dr. (<i>Let's Buy a Mountain</i>)
5565-003-039	Laurel/Mulholland – <i>under option to MRCA</i>
5565-003-040	Laurel/Mulholland
5565-003-041	Laurel/Mulholland
5567-018-028	west of Kirkwood
5569-001-003	7681 Willow Glen Rd.
5571-022-029	2675 Astral Dr. near Nichols Canyon
5571-025-042	Solar Dr. near Trebek Open Space – <i>easement on TPL property</i>
5571-032-020	2394 N. Astral Dr. <i>pending acquisition</i>
5570-025-038	2715 N. Jalmia Dr. (Nichols Canyon)
5570-025-060	“ “ (Nichols Canyon)
5570-025-045	“ “ (Nichols Canyon)

Some of the properties are large (e.g., the parcels at Laurel Cyn. and Mulholland Dr., the 17.3 acres “Let's Buy a Mountain” acquisition). Others are small or land-locked. Each adds significant connectivity, allowing wildlife to thrive and maintain genetic diversity.

Funding from these special districts assures hillsides will have viable habitat. The program closely aligns with the Hillside Federation mission to 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.

Your Community Facilities District 1 fee is money well spent.



[The central seam in the above is due to a scanning issue. If we can, we will share a link to the original pdf in the next newsletter.]

City of LA CEQA Appeal Fee Moves Forward to Planning Commission

The City of Los Angeles has proposed a new California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) appeal ordinance that would permit challenges to environmental approvals to cost up to \$500 per appeal. The ordinance is tentatively scheduled for hearing by the City Planning Commission on August 23.

As described in the June minutes, the Federation objects to the proposal, preferring the City instead adopt its currently uncodified practice of hearing environmental appeals along with other entitlements, in order to ensure such a major change does not limit public participation in land use approvals.

The brief draft ordinance is available at: <https://tinyurl.com/ycq877ad>. Comments may be submitted to azeen.khanmalek@lacity.org until August 10, though they may not be incorporated into the staff report. After

August 10, comments may be sent directly to the City Planning Commission office at cpc@lacity.org.

Metro Sepulveda Pass Transit Corridor Feasibility Study

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) has begun its feasibility study for a range of high-capacity rail transit alternatives between the San Fernando Valley and LAX. The project is funded as part of Measure M, passed by LA County voters in November 2016.

Metro has held a series of community input meetings, at which a number of basic alternatives were presented. More information is available online at: <https://www.metro.net/projects/sepulvedacorridor/>. Stakeholders are encouraged to participate in a project survey, at: <https://sur-vey.typeform.com/to/bQV8eD>.

Hillside Federation

June 6, 2018

Draft Minutes

I. Call to Order

Chairman Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Guest: Paul Edelman, SMMC

Paul explained that the MRCA only does brush clearance on properties controlled by the MRCA in the Community Facilities Districts. The Mission Canyon Park belongs to LA County Bureau of Sanitation. They pay the MRCA to operate the park; however LA County is responsible for brush clearance. Wendy-Sue Rosen noted that the SMMC saved the land from going to a developer.

Prop 68 will allow them to make more acquisitions. The MRCA has first right of refusal to surplus land owned by public agencies in the Santa Monica Mountains. Property near the Ford Theatre would be great for a wildlife corridor. They participate in county land auctions and try to get easements at the Mulholland Design Review Board.

SMMC filed an appeal with the Board of Public Works regarding the approval of protected tree removal at 2251 Nichols Canyon Rd. The Federation has supported their appeal.

A man has been illegally dumping across a SMMC easement in Chatsworth for three years. Eric Edmunds is the SMMC attorney on that case. The dumper has counter-sued the SMMC.

There will be another bond measure on the ballot in November.

Richard Klug commented that the SMMC has helped Torreyson Flynn Association a lot.

Guest: Walt Young, MRCA – Tour bus permits

Approximately 15% of the tour vans operating along Mulholland Drive do not have correct permits. Vans are required to obtain a no-fee permit to assure that they are insured and operating legally with a city business license. The permit is free to keep vans from parking on the dirt along the street instead of in the paved overlook parking lots. MRCA will cite companies without a permit. Because vans at the Jerry Daniel Overlook above the Hollywood Bowl are out of control, they are charging \$10/visit. Equipment will automatically log when the vans enter the

UPCOMING MEETINGS

August - NO MEETING

September 5

October 3

November 7

parking lot. The program starts July 1. The fee is expected to generate \$100,000–150,000 per year. They are installing a portable toilet. The city needs better signage to enforce the no parking along Mulholland Drive; we should talk to CM Ryu about it.

II. Approval of minutes

The May minutes were approved as written.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report – Marian Dodge

Dr. Niles Chapman, the long-time HF representative from Sherman Oaks died. The Federation sent a condolence card.

Developer Arman Gabay was charged in a federal bribery case. (The Federation unsuccessfully opposed his request for a height variance at 10550 Bellagio Road.)

Steve Twining announced a hearing on Hadid's violations at 901 Strada Vecchia.

Don Andres announced that the comment period for the Hollywood Center project (aka Hollywood Millennium project) has been extended to June 30. It is applying as an Environmental Leadership Development Project (ELDP) for fast tracking. All are urged to submit comments.

B. Treasurer's Report – Don Andres

We have 40 paid member associations with two still outstanding. All expenses are paid.

The money from the City was received and forwarded to the Sunset Traffic Study contractor. The study needs a more in depth study to include the Mount Saint Mary's expansion. Don Keller is donating \$5,000 to cover the extra expenses.

MOTION: To pay the Sunset Traffic consultant to included the proposed expansion of the Mount Saint Mary's school in the traffic study. The motion passed.

IV. Old Business

A. Accessory Dwelling Unit Ordinance – Marian Dodge

Charley attended PLUM committee meeting on ADU. It has to go back to the City Planning Commission, probably in a few months, then to PLUM, then to the full Council. ADUs are banned in Very High Fire Severity Zones per state law (Sen. Ben Allen). [Ed. Note: This turned out to be incorrect.] In the current version of the ordinance a separate ADU structure or add on to the existing structure cannot be built in the hillsides.

B. Retreat at Benedict Canyon – Nickie Miner

The developer cancelled a meeting with the community. Koretz has not taken a position; he wants the developer to go through the process.

C. Sunset Traffic Study – Don Andres (See Treasurer's Report.)

D. 2251 Nichols Canyon Rd. – Linda Whitford There is no appeal date yet.

IV. New Business

A. CEQA appeal fee increase – Marian Dodge

The City is planning to drastically increase the fee to appeal a CEQA decision. This would seriously restrict the ability of HOAs to file appeals. You must file a CEQA appeal before you can file a lawsuit.

MOTION: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Hillside Federation object to the CEQA appeal ordinance proposal as currently drafted and request that the City codify the process that is currently in place while considering substantial changes to ensure that it does not have the effect of limiting public participation in the planning and land use process. The motion passed.

Announcements:

Wendy-Sue Rosen – Brentwood Residents Coalition and Sunset Coalition filed a lawsuit against Elon Musk's company (TBC – The Boring Company) project to tunnel under Sepulveda Blvd. from West LA to Culver City, which did not go through the normal City approval process. Councilmembers Koretz and Bonin ushered it through. TBC filed a Categorical Exemption. The Mayor supports Musk's project, which may interfere with Metro's plan to have high speed rail along I-405.

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) and send it to RFA@hillsidefederation.org along with supporting documents no later than 10 days prior to the meeting. This will help you organize your presentation while providing the necessary information to allow the Federation to consider your organization's request.

Don Andres thanked Don Keller for his donation to complete the Sunset Traffic Study.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:49.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Benson, Secretary

Next meeting July 18, 2017

Members in Attendance:

Bel-Air Assn	Maureen Levinson
	Linda Whitford
Bel Air Hills Assn	Steve Twining
Benedict Canyon	Nickie Miner
Benedict Cyn Assn.	Nickie Miner
Brentwood Hills	Eric Edmunds
Brentwood Residents	Don Keller
Canyon Back Allian.	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Franklin/Hlywd Bl W	Don Andres
	Yvonne Hessler
Kagel Canyon Civic	Kit Paull
Los Feliz Impvmt	Marian Dodge
Oaks HOA	Gerry Hans
Oak Forest	Bruce Hollihan
Res of Beverly Glen	Stephen Benson
Sherman Oaks HO	Jay Weitzler
Studio City Res Assn	Alan Dymond
	Beth Dymond
Torreyson Flynn	Richard Klug
Upper Nichols Cyn	Joan Cashel

Guests:

SMMC	Paul Edelman
MRCA	Walt Young



Peter Strauss Ranch
30000 Mulholland Hwy.
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Music By
Kiki Ebsen & Julie Newsome, vocals
Josh Nelson, keyboard
Jeff Falkner, bass
Danny Janklow, saxophone
Dick Weller, drums

Wildlife Updates from NPS Biologists
Jeff Sikich
Joanne Moriarty
Justin Brown

Delicious Desserts & Wonderful Wines

Tickets: \$100.00 per person

Online: www.samofund.org/concertforthecats/

By Mail: Santa Monica Mountains Fund
401 West Hillcrest Drive
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Please RSVP by August 1st

Hosted by Julie Newsome
818-292-5920, julienewsome1@gmail.com

Tickets and donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law through the Santa Monica Mountains Fund

<p>The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Inc. P.O. Box 27404 Los Angeles, CA 90027 president@hillsidefederation.org www.hillsidefederation.org</p> <p>PRESIDENT Charley Mims</p> <p>CHAIRMAN Marian Dodge</p> <p>VICE PRESIDENTS Mark Stratton John Given</p> <p>TREASURER Don Andres</p> <p>SECRETARY Stephen Benson</p>	<p>ORGANIZATIONS</p> <p>Beachwood Canyon Bel Air Association Bel-Air Hills Association 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. W. Franklin Hills Residents Assn. Highlands Owners Assn. Hollywood Dell Civic Assn. Hollywood Heights Assn.</p>	<p>Holmby Hills HOA Kagel Canyon Civic Assn. Lake Hollywood HOA Laurel Canyon 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 Residents of Beverly Glen Save Coldwater Canyon! Shadow Hills Property Owners Sherman Oaks HO Assn. Silver Lake Heritage Trust Studio City Residents Assn.</p>	<p>Sunset Hills HOA Tarzana Property Owners Assn. Torreyson Flynn Assn. Upper Mandeville Canyon Upper Nichols Canyon Whitley Heights Civic Assn.</p> <p>CHAIRPERSONS EMERITUS Shirley Cohen Jerome C. Daniel Patricia Bell Hearst Alan Kishbaugh Steve Twining</p> <p>CHAIRPERSONS IN MEMORIAM Brian Moore Gordon Murley Polly Ward</p>
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