

# Hillside Federation Newsletter April 2019



## California Legislature Creates Website for Comment Submissions

The California legislature recently introduced a “Position Letter Portal” for advocates to communicate with committees as bills move through the state legislative process (<https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/>). Comment letters submitted through the portal can be seen by the bill author’s staff and members of the committee hearing the bill. The Hillside Federation recommends all our member organizations register and use the portal system and encourage their own members to do the same.

Users submit a one-time registration, requiring name and email (address and phone are optional) to obtain a username and password. Registrants then must log in and change the temporary password they receive before the end of the day. The registration process takes only a few moments.

As a test of the portal, Federation members could submit comments in support of AB1788 (which bans second generation anti-rodenticides statewide, and first generation anti-rodenticides on state-owned lands), pending in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. See the fact sheet at Poison Free Malibu’s website: <https://tinyurl.com/yyfl2xll>. Note that organization comments must be submitted with a signature on organization letterhead.

## Agenda

April 16, 2019

7:00 pm

Unitarian Universalist Church of Studio City  
12355 Moorpark Street, Studio City

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Approval of minutes**
- III. Officers’ Reports**
  - A. President’s Report – Charley Mims
  - B. Treasurer’s Report – Don Andres
- IV. Old Business**
  - A. Report of Nominating Committee
  - B. Election of Officers**
  - C. Bel Air Country Club tree removal – Linda Whitford
  - D. Burbank flight path update – Suellen Wagner
- IV. New Business**
  - A. SB 50 – Steve Twining, Jay Weitzler
- VI. Adjournment**

Next meeting: May 21, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Studio City  
12355 Moorpark Street, 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.*

## LA's New Abnormal: Mega-Wildfires

by Lois Becker

“LA's New Abnormal: Mega-Wildfires” was an interactive panel discussion of California's recent fire events and what can be done to limit future devastation held February 6, 2019. The event was co-sponsored by UCLA and The Nature Conservancy and moderated by Peter Kareiva, Director, UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability [IoES]. The expert panel consisted of Edie Chang, Deputy Executive Director of the California Air Resources Board; Jon Keeley, Senior Scientist with the US Geological Survey and Western Ecological Research Center; and Daniel Swain, California Climate Fellow at The Nature Conservancy and UCLA Research Scientist.

Fifteen of the 20 largest wildfires in (recorded) California history have happened *since the year 2000*. In the past two years alone, more Californians have been killed by wildfires than have been killed by earthquakes in the past century. It's not that we're seeing more fires but that there has been a significant change in the *character* of the fires. Climate change acts as a wildfire magnifier. It's not the only factor, but it is pervasive. Severe drought since 2012 and invasive grasses replacing native chaparral (which was adapted to the Southern California "fire regime") provide increased fuel and, along with extreme wind events, contribute to rapid spread. Population growth and changing patterns of land development (where people live) exacerbate the problem: more people equals more fires and more fires put more people at risk. (Most fires west of the Sierras are started by “human ignitions,” with power lines being responsible for the vast majority.) And one of the most serious and still under-acknowledged risks from these massive fires is the effect on air quality, with smoke exposure affecting a much larger population over a much larger area than the burn itself.



Woolsey Fire (photo: US Forest Service)

Some fire is a necessary part of the natural cycle, but the environment is changing, the fires are changing, the cycle is changing. Scientists from the University of Vancouver are currently experimenting with transplanting native trees and shrubs from British Columbia to Sacramento, to give a time machine glimpse of how these species will be doing in Canada 20 years from now. If we want to know what will be left of our familiar LA native landscape, the audience was told—only half in jest—to look no further than Baja!

Even if the world were carbon neutral by 2040, there is no silver bullet to solve this complex problem. We need to pursue a range of solutions, including better land development decisions (stop building or rebuilding in urban wildlands areas—homes are “dead fuel”), prediction of extreme wind events, and better planning to protect people and property. One of the most effective steps California could take—and the panel's most concrete recommendation aside from not building in urban wildlands any more—is to put power lines underground, especially in wind corridors. This seemed like something to aim for, a demand that hillside residents could take to their representatives. But it is expensive and will not be an easy sell to government or utilities companies.

## LA Department of City Planning to Hold Planning 101 Training Sessions

The City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning recently announced a series of training sessions to be held around the City in May in collaboration with the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE). The trainings are entitled: *Planning 101: Planning for the Environment*.

Training participants will learn about the role the City and its residents have in planning for the environment and the regulations that guide environmental analysis, including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The events include a presentation, interactive scenario activity, and question and answer session. The final event on May 29 will be an online webinar.

For more information, see the City's flyer at: <https://tinyurl.com/y2pxq25l>. To RSVP, visit <https://tinyurl.com/yyeh3x86>. The dates and locations follow (all trainings, including the webinar, will be held from 6-8:00p.m.):

May 2nd (Thursday)  
Los Angeles City College,  
Student Union Multipurpose Room B  
855 N. Vermont Avenue

May 6th (Monday)  
Department of Water & Power Crenshaw  
Customer Service Center  
4030 Crenshaw Boulevard

### 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 to [RFA@hillsidefederation.org](mailto: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.

May 7th (Tuesday)  
Canoga Park Senior Citizens Center  
7326 Jordan Avenue

May 13th (Monday)  
Ramona Hall Community Center  
4580 N. Figueroa Street

May 20th (Monday)  
Henry Medina Parking Enforcement  
Facility  
11214 W. Exposition Boulevard

May 22nd (Wednesday)  
Pacoima City Hall  
13520 Van Nuys Boulevard

May 23rd (Thursday)  
Banning Landings Community Center  
100 E. Water Street

May 29th (Wednesday)  
Webinar

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## Hillside Federation March 19, 2019 Draft Minutes

### I. Call to Order

President Charley Mims called the meeting to order in our new location at 7:19 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

**Guest: Cindy Villegas – for ASM Nazarian**  
Ms. Villegas was ill and could not attend.

### II. Approval of minutes

The February minutes were approved as corrected.

### III. Officers' Reports

#### A. President's Report – Charley Mims

Jay Weitzler alerted the Federation to Scott Weiner's new bill, SB 50, which is similar to last year's SB 827. There are numerous bills coming that increase zoning near transit and in "job-rich

areas.” AB 587 (Friedman) would allow certain affordable housing groups to sell an ADU separately.

B. Treasurer’s Report – Don Andres

We have 40 paid members with two more checks expected. All bills are paid.

**IV. Old Business**

A. Bel Air Country Club tree removal – Linda Whitford

Linda Whitford was absent and the item was continued to the next meeting.

B. Burbank flight path update – Suellen Wagner

Suellen was absent and the item will be continued to the next meeting.

C. Mega-wildfire Discussion report – Lois Becker

Lois Becker reporter on her attendance at a panel discussion co-sponsored by UCLA and the Nature Conservancy. The increase in the number and severity of fires is caused by many factors. Many of the recent fires have been caused by sparking power lines. Utility lines should be put underground; however that is very costly.

**V. New Business**

A. SB 50 – Steve Twining

Steve Twining was absent and the item was continued to the next meeting.

B. Council Motion (Blumenfield) to ban mobile digital ads on cars – Marian Dodge

Mobile digital ads, called Dynamic Message Signs (DMS), are mini digital billboards 55” x 17” mounted on the roofs of ride sharing vehicles. The message changes every eight seconds. They are illegal per the state Vehicle Code because they are brighter than permitted. CM Blumenfield’s motion would instruct LAPD to enforce the code and delete a provision from taxi regulations authorizing rooftop advertising signage so as to clarify that the Los Angeles municipal code is consistent with state law.

**MOTION:** Marian Dodge moved that the Federation support CM Blumenfield’s motion CF 19-0104 to have DOT and LAPD enforce vehicle code regulation prohibiting Dynamic Message Signs (DMS) on vehicles. The motion passed.

C. 2070 Nichols Canyon Road – Justine Schmidt, attorney Robert Silverstein

Information pages regarding the project were handed out. The property owner is proposing a 6-story structure, which was later inexplicably called a 3-story structure, an elevated driveway over 250 feet long, two retaining walls over 10 feet high, rooftop deck w/swimming pool and spa. Much of the property is vertical or nearly vertical in nature with a history of landslides. There are habitat and wildlife corridor issues. It is adjacent to the Trebec Open Space. Nichols Canyon Rd. is a substandard street less than 20 feet wide in numerous places so there is no place to stage equipment.

**MOTION:** John Given moved that the Hillside Federation communicate to the City that the proposed project at 2070 Nichols Canyon Road, in view of its mass and scale, location, geologic concerns, traffic and safety impacts, and overall land use incompatibility, including with regard to habitat and wildfire corridor areas, require appropriate environmental review and a public hearing before any discretionary action is taken by the City. The motion passed.

D. Lake Hollywood Tourism Management Plan – Sheila Irani

Tourist traffic to view the Hollywood sign is blocking residential streets around Lake Hollywood. All parking spaces are filled on weekends, and streets have become a parking lot. There have been several accidents and fires. Lake Hollywood HOA proposes a Preferential Parking District (PPD) for their neighborhood. They also propose a reservation system with an \$8 fee for street parking around the lake with a reduced \$2 fee for Los Angeles residents and those with a California drivers license.

**MOTION:** Sheila Irani moved and Charley Mims amended that the Hillside Federation support study of Lake Hollywood Estates HOA’s three-part plan regarding a reservation parking system for Arrowhead Drive at Lake Hollywood Park, establishment of a preferred parking district in the Lake Hollywood Estates HOA on other neighborhood streets and white glove enforcement to enhance the safety and protect the homes and property of residents of Lake Hollywood Estates, as well as review the overall impact on this area and neighboring hillside

communities with regard to traffic and public safety. The amended motion passed.

**Guest: Ali Simard, CD5 (Koretz)  
Communication Deputy Re: SB 50 (Wiener)**

Councilmember Koretz is pushing awareness for two Scott Wiener bills that have potential for sweeping zoning changes. Density bills are proposed for transit rich area where developers can build up to 5 stories where there was Single Family Residence. SB 50 would override local planning jurisdiction. CM Koretz has initiated CF 19-0002-S38 to oppose SB 50.

**Guest: Ami Field-Meyer, Office of Mayor Garcetti West LA Representative**

Ami introduced himself and distributed his contact information:

Telephone: (323)552-6730  
Email: [ami.fields-meyer@lacity.org](mailto:ami.fields-meyer@lacity.org).

**Announcements:**

Thomas Ferguson, a resident of Glassell Park, is seeking information on the Walnut Park Abode development that has been in the works for several years. He found a Hillside Federation letter in the file and came to ask for assistance.

**VI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Benson, Secretary

**Members in Attendance:**

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|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Argyle Civic Assn.       | Cheryl Gaskill       |
| Beachwood Cyn NA         | Isabelle Megginson   |
| Bel Air Hills Assn.      | Robin Greenberg      |
| Bel Air Skycrest POA     | Mark Stratton        |
| Benedict Cyn Assn.       | Nickie Miner         |
| Brentwood Hills HOA      | John Given           |
| Canyon Back Alliance     | Lois Becker          |
| Doheny-Sunset Plaza      | Ellen Evans          |
| Franklin/Hlwd Bl West    | Don Andres           |
| Franklin Hills Res Assn. | Charley Mims         |
| Kagel Cyn Civic Assn.    | Kit Paull            |
| Lake Hollywood HOA       | Kristina O'Neil      |
|                          | Sheila Irani         |
| LFIA                     | Marian Dodge         |
| Nichols Cyn NA           | Justine Schmidt      |
| Oaks HOA                 | Linda Othenin-Girard |
| Res. of Beverly Glen     | Stephen Benson       |
| Sherman Oaks HA          | Jay Weitzler         |
| Studio City Res. Assn    | Joann Deutch         |
| Upper Nichols Cyn        | Joan Cashel          |

**GUESTS:**

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|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Mayor Garcetti's office | Ami Fields-Meyer    |
| Council District 5      | Ali Semard          |
| Silverstein Law Firm    | Robert Silverstein  |
| Nichols Canyon          | Shari S. Sakhetkhoo |
|                         | Mary Michiels       |
| Glassell Park resident  | Thomas Ferguson     |
| Self                    | Frank Shotwell      |

<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>Argyle Civic Assn.</p> <p>Beachwood Canyon</p> <p>Bel Air Association</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>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>Holmby Hills HOA</p> <p>Kagel Canyon Civic Assn.</p> <p>Lake Hollywood HOA</p> <p>Laurel Canyon Assn.</p> <p>LFIA (Los Feliz)</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 HOA</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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