

# Hillside Federation Newsletter January 2020



## A New Year Brings Old and New Challenges

As 2020 begins we prepare for a busy year, with the return of familiar challenges—the ever-increasing risks to hillside areas due to threat of wildfire, the unresolved Burbank Airport flight plan, the proposed major development of the Berggruen Institute on a prominent ridge west of the I-405 Freeway, and the return of SB50, to name just a few.

We also expect many new challenges with as yet unknown projects to review, new attacks on environmental law, and the like. With a presidential election looming, not to mention the just-begun Senate impeachment trial, there will be many distractions to pull the focus away from local, regional, and statewide issues. It will therefore be more necessary than ever to remain focused on our 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.”

Join us this month as we hear about the return of a revised SB50 (Wiener) and receive an update on the Burbank Flight Path issue. We hope you will join us.

### Agenda

January 21, 2020

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  
2019 Year-end Report  
2020 Budget

#### IV. Old Business

A. SB50 revision

B. Burbank Flight Path – Suellen Wagner

#### IV. New Business

#### VI. Adjournment

Next meeting:  
February 18, 2020, 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.*

## 2019 Hillside Federation Holiday Party

December 12, 2019

Thanks to all who joined us in December for our annual holiday party where we honored Los Angeles City Controller Ron Galperin and our beloved Chairperson Emeritus Jerry Daniel, who received the Hillside Federation's inaugural Protector of the Hillside award. Our special thanks go to Thomas Howard and Wendy-Sue Rosen for their wonderful photographs.





**Hillside Federation**  
**November 19, 2019**  
**Draft Minutes**

**I. Call to Order**

President Charley Mims called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

**Guest: Cindy Montanez** — CEO, Tree People

TreePeople is now the steward of the Mountains Restoration Trust with a new joint organization. They have added 3,000 acres of protected land in the Santa Monica Mountains. Private land can be donated to the Trust. Cold Creek Canyon Preserve near Calabasas features indian artifacts and endangered species. They are different from the MRCA in that they are a private entity, not governmental. The intention is to preserve and maintain the land as it is in perpetuity.

The new board will be 5 TreePeople and 4 MRT Board with 3 open seats. They will be adding some community members. Board members either need to raise money or donate \$12,500.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

The October minutes were approved.

**III. Officers' Reports**

**A. President's Report** — Charley Mims reported.

There was no president's report.

**B. Treasurer's Report** — Don Andres

Don updated the Federation finances. He urged people to purchase their tickets for the Holiday Party December 12<sup>th</sup>.

Steve Twining suggested that the Federation make a donation to Tree People.

**IV. Old Business**

**A. 901 Strada Vecchia** — Marian Dodge

Hadid's mega mansion was partially built and then was found to be structurally unsound with much unpermitted work.

**MOTION:** It was moved that the Federation write a letter supporting the City Attorney Office's recommendation that the unsafe house be demolished. The motion passed.

**B. Councilmember Bonin Fire Safety Event** — Mark Stratton

The workshop featured lots of fire personnel and a DWP representative to speak about the fire danger and the electrical wires that are still above ground in an area along Mulholland Dr. that is prone to fires. DWP said that both under grounding wires and insulating overhead wires are expensive. They educating communities on how they can raise money to have their wires buried. Experts are recommending that cities stop building in hillsides, no more density, no more large institutions. Jamie Hall commented that they are overdoing brush clearances and not following best practices.

**C. Berggruen Proposed Project** — Ileana Wachtel

This is an informational presentation as there is no project to comment on yet. If the Berggruen project gets built then it could be precedent setting and cause for concern. It is a commercial development, not residential. It is the wrong project, in the wrong place, with the wrong use. She distributed a packet. Mission Canyon and Mountain Gate are direct neighbors. There is potential for a devastating fire if they build a complex of this magnitude on this site.

**D. Burbank Flight Project** — Suellen Wagner

The new flight path has planes coming up and over the foothills and hillsides causing considerable noise, frustration and anger. The

**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.

FAA unilaterally changed the flight paths. The FAA has not budged on their stance and has not made any effort communicate with the constituents of the affected areas. The Los Angeles City Attorney has sent a cease and desist letter to the FAA and demanded that the flight paths be moved back to where they were in 2017.

**MOTION:** Suellen Wagner moved that the Federation support changing the flight paths to the pre-2017 paths. The motion passed.

**V. New Business**

**A. Dixie Canyon Membership**

Residents of Dixie Canyon visited several Federation meetings. They have worked with Jamie Hall on protecting trees and open space. They have created a 501(c)(3) and asked to join the Federation.

**MOTION:** Don Andres moved that the Federation accept Dixie Canyon as a member of the HF. The motion passed.

**B. 1830 Blue Heights Drive – Jamie Hall**

A 20,000 sq. ft. plus 9,000 sq. ft. of exempt basement, house has been proposed near Kirkwood Bowl. The basement didn't count because the project was initiated before the BHO. The developer filed for an extension late so it should not have been extended. The project exceeds the cubic yardage for excavation. It would require 7 retaining walls, and a soil nail wall. The Area Planning Commission decided not to deny the project.

**MOTION:** Jamie Hall moved that the Federation request that CM Ryu bring a motion to assert jurisdiction over the project pursuant to City Charter 245. The project does not comply with the HCR Ordinance and the MND is defective. The motion passed.

**Announcements:**

Joann Deutch suggested the use of the private Attorney General statute when appropriate.

Charley Mims asked if any members have media skills.

**VI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Next meeting: Holiday Party, December 12, 2019. at Mulholland Tennis Club.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Benson  
Recording Secretary

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

- |                         |                                 |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bel Air Hills Assn      | Robin Greenberg                 |
|                         | Steve Twining                   |
| Bel Air Skycrest POA    | Mark Stratton                   |
| Benedict Canyon Assn    | Nickie Miner                    |
| Brentwood Res Coalition | Wendy-Sue Rosen                 |
| Cahuenga Pass POA       | Krista Michaels                 |
| Canyon Back Alliance    | Lois Becker                     |
| Doheny-Sunset Plaza NA  | Ellen Evans                     |
| Franklin/Hlywd Bl W     | Don Andres                      |
| Franklin Hills Res Assn | Charley Mims                    |
| Hollywood Dell Civ Assn | Mary Ledding                    |
| Kagel Cyn Civic Assn    | Kit Paul                        |
| Laurel Canyon Assn      | Jamie Hall                      |
|                         | Cathy Wayne                     |
| LFIA (Los Feliz)        | Marian Dodge                    |
| Nichols Cyn Neig Assn   | Julie Kremkus                   |
| Res of Beverly Glen     | Stephen Benson                  |
| Save Coldwater Cyn      | Heidi MacKay,<br>Suellen Wagner |
| Studio City Res Assn    | Joann Deutch                    |
| Upper Mandeville Cyn    | John Binder                     |
| Upper Nichols Cyn       | Joan Cashel                     |

**GUESTS:**

- |                |                              |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| TreePeople     | Cindy Montanez,<br>CEO       |
| Mountaingate   | Kay George<br>Ileana Wachtel |
| Nichols Canyon | Pam Wick                     |



## City Sues FAA Over Hollywood Burbank Airport Flightpath Noise

The City of Los Angeles filed a lawsuit against the FAA in early December seeking relief from noise impacts due to recently changed flightpaths. The FAA has allowed the airport to change its departure procedures from the established 2017 to the so called NextGen procedures, which the City and local advocates argue were not properly vetted before being implemented.

City, state, and federal officials note that despite receiving thousands of complaints from local citizens and requests for information from officials, the FAA has been completely unresponsive to local concerns. An LA Times report regarding the lawsuit states that the FAA claims to be working on a solution. (See <https://tinyurl.com/wcb3a37>).

## Land on Crescent Drive Donated to Laurel Canyon Land Trust

Jamie Hall, President of Hillside Federation member Laurel Canyon Association announced that the Laurel Canyon Land Trust recently received a donation of land from Mr. McCloud, the owner of vacant land at 8938 Crescent Drive. As Jamie shared in the email announcement, “What a fantastic way to end 2019!”

## City Controller Ron Galperin Publishes Wildfire Report

City Controller Ron Galperin, honored by the Hillside Federation at our annual Holiday Party in December, recently published a report and accompanying material entitled “It Only Takes a Spark: Enhancing DWP’s Wildfire Prevention Strategy,” available at <https://tinyurl.com/rthpy38>.

The report notes that “ten of the twenty most destructive wildfires in State history have occurred since 2015. Of the ten wildfires, six were caused by overhead power lines.” Controller Galperin’s report makes a dozen recommendations for LADWP, including:

- Assessing legal and financial feasibility of establishing a wildfire insurance fund for publicly-owned utilities
- Eliminating maintenance backlogs
- Enhancing maintenance inspections by making them more frequent and utilizing new technologies such as drones
- Integrating dedicated wildfire prevention and safety staff to identify emerging hardware risks and analyze under grounding of power lines in high risk areas
- Deploy remote monitoring tools

The entire list of recommendations is available at: <https://tinyurl.com/yx25kg7r>.

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>	<b>ORGANIZATIONS</b> Argyle Civic Assn. 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 Crests Neighborhood Assn. Dixie Canyon Association Doheny-Sunset Plaza NA Franklin Ave./Hollywood Bl. W. Franklin Hills Residents Assn. Highlands Owners Assn. Hollywood Dell Civic Assn.	Hollywood Heights Assn. Holmby Hills HOA Kagel Canyon Civic Assn. Lake Hollywood HOA Laurel Canyon Assn. LFIA (Los Feliz) 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 HOA Silver Lake Heritage Trust	Studio City Residents Assn. Sunset Hills HOA Tarzana Property Owners Assn. Torreyson Flynn Assn. Upper Mandeville Canyon Upper Nichols Canyon Whitley Heights Civic Assn. <b>CHAIRPERSONS EMERITUS</b> Shirley Cohen Jerome C. Daniel Patricia Bell Hearst Alan Kishbaugh Steve Twining <b>CHAIRPERSONS IN MEMORIAM</b> Brian Moore • Gordon Murley Polly Ward
<b>PRESIDENT</b> Charley Mims <b>CHAIRMAN</b> Marian Dodge <b>VICE PRESIDENTS</b> Mark Stratton John Given <b>TREASURER</b> Don Andres <b>SECRETARY</b> Stephen Benson			