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Honorable Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Chair
Planning and Land Use Management Committee
City Hall, Room 1010
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

May 4, 2021

**Re: #18 Oppose Proposed Administrative Appeal Fee Increase
Council File 09-0969-S3**

Dear Chair Harris-Dawson and PLUM Committee Members:

The Hillside Federation, founded in 1952 and representing 46 resident and homeowner associations with 250,000 constituents spanning the Santa Monica Mountains, voted to oppose the proposed appeal filing fee increase at its March 16th meeting.

The proposal to increase the non-applicant filing fee for an appeal from \$89.00 to a jaw-dropping \$16,097 is unconscionable. This would mean that neighbors and neighborhood associations would likely not be able to afford to file an appeal thus effectively denying them their constitutional right to participate in the public process.

In light of all the recent corruption charges and indictments at City Hall, it is telling – it a very negative way – that Council now seems to be making efforts to assure that only developers – the only ones who can afford such onerous fees – can have a voice in the public process.

This year, in the midst of COVID-19 shutdowns and no in-person council meetings, the city tried to surreptitiously slip a large increase through the PLUM Committee. This tactic plays into two great threats currently facing our democracy: the fear of disenfranchisement and distrust of government.

The Federation urges you to abandon this ill-conceived proposal to increase non-applicant appeal filing fees in order to ensure the public our full and valued voice in the land use process.

Sincerely,

Charley Mims

Argyle Civic Assn.
Beachwood Canyon NA
Bel-Air Assn.
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
Crests Neighborhood Assn.
Dixie Canyon Assn.
Doheny-Sunset Plaza NA
Franklin Ave./Hollywood Bl. West
Franklin Hills Residents Assn.
Highlands Owners Assn.
Hollywood Dell Civic Assn.
Hollywood Heights Assn.
Hollywoodland HOA
Holmby Hills Homeowners Assn.
Kagel Canyon Civic Assn.
Lake Hollywood HOA
Laurel Canyon Assn.
LFIA (Los Feliz)
Mt. Olympus Property Owners
Mt. Washington Homeowners All.
Nichols Canyon NA
N. Beverly Dr./Franklin Canyon
Oak Forest Canyon HOA
Oaks Homeowners Assn.
Outpost Estates HOA
Pacific Palisades Res. Assn.
Residents of Beverly Glen
Save Coldwater Canyon!
Save Our Canyon
Shadow Hills POA
Sherman Oaks HOA
Silver Lake Heritage Trust
Studio City Residents Assn.
Sunset Hills HOA
Tarzana POA
Torreyson Flynn Assn.
Upper Mandeville Canyon Assn.
Upper Nichols Canyon NA
Whitley Heights Civic Assn.

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