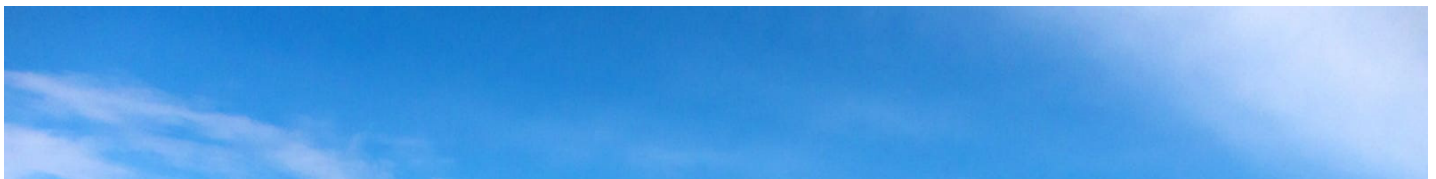


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June 2021
HILLSIDE NEWS

- [Meeting Agenda - June 15, 2021 at 7:00 pm](#)
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AGENDA AND MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Agenda - June 15, 2021 at 7:00 pm

via Video Conference

1. Call to Order
 1. Guest Series: Getting to Know Candidates
Kevin James – Candidate, LA City Attorney
2. Approval of minutes – Julie Kremkus
3. Officers' Reports
 1. President's Report – Charley Mims
 1. Membership Applications
 2. Treasurer's Report – Don Andres
 1. Legal Fund
4. Old Business
 1. Mulholland Design Review Board Memorandum
 2. SB 9 & 10 update
5. New Business
 1. None
6. Adjournment

Next meeting July 20, 2021

May 19, 2021 - Draft Minutes

NEWS

Ridgeline Protection Ordinance

Ridgeline Protection Ordinance



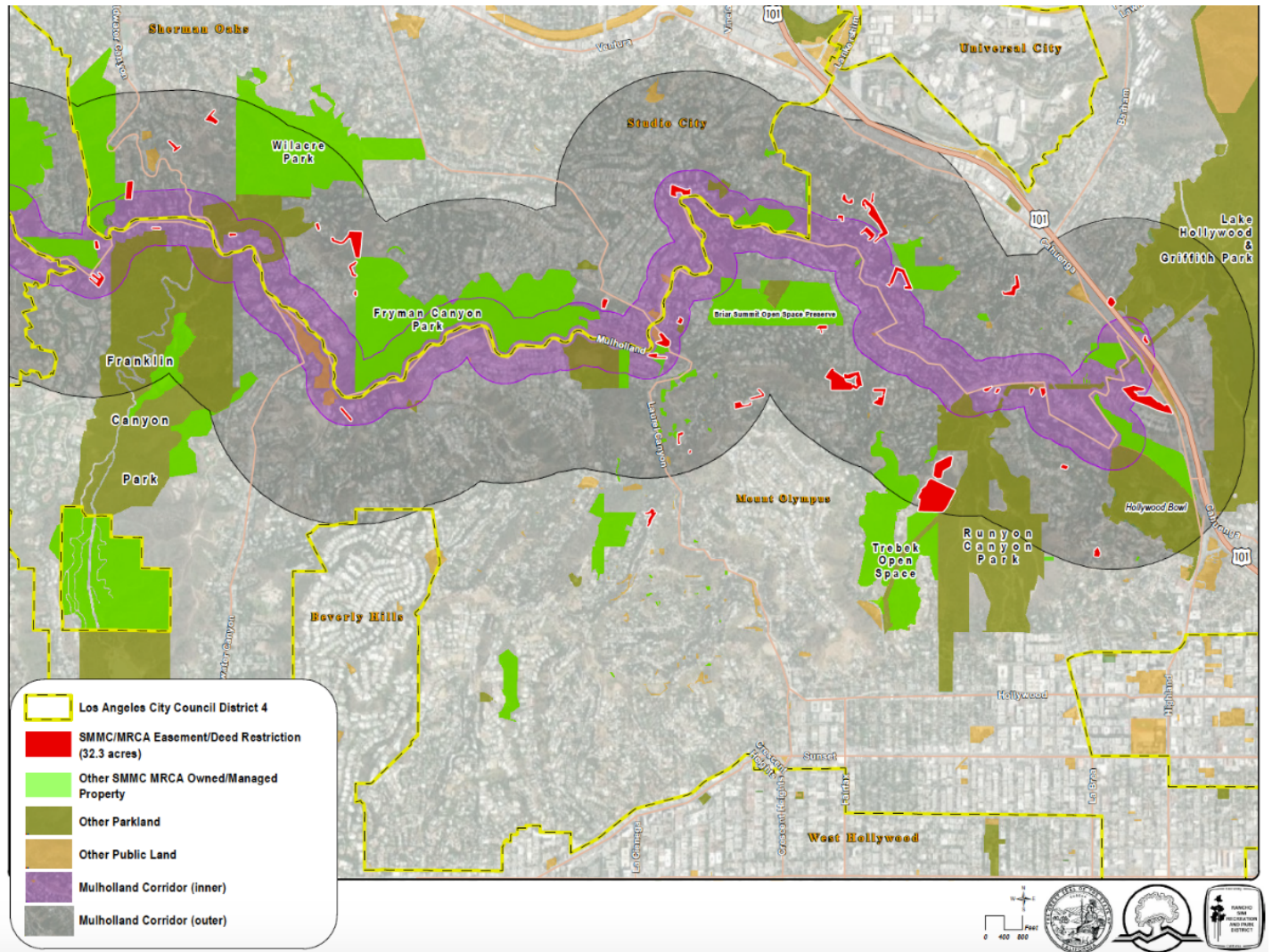
From Los Angeles City Planning

In response to an adopted City Council Motion ([Council File # 11-1441-S1](#)), Los Angeles City Planning has prepared and released the Ridgeline Protection Ordinance (CPC-2021-3001-CA), which establishes a new Ridgeline Protection Supplemental Use District (SUD) in the Los Angeles Municipal Code. The Ridgeline Protection SUD will contain development regulations to preserve and protect the natural crests of the mountains that surround and bisect the City of Los Angeles.

Application of the proposed Ridgeline Protection Ordinance will occur through a separate Zone Change Ordinance ([CPC-2021-3059-ZC](#)), which will apply the SUD to a Pilot Area in Bel Air - Beverly Crest, as well as a portion of Hollywood. City Planning is holding a combined virtual Staff Public Hearing for both the [Ridgeline Protection Ordinance](#), which was released on April 19, 2021, and the related Zone Change Ordinance. Prior to the start of the Public Hearing, staff will provide an overview presentation of the proposed ordinance and its application in a pilot area. Attendees will then have an opportunity to ask clarifying questions to staff prior to the start of the actual Public Hearing, at which point attendees are encouraged to provide comments and testimony for the public record. The [hearing notice](#) includes all the details on how to access the public hearing, which is scheduled for **June 17, 2021**, starting at 1 p.m.

Members of the public may also submit written comments to Patrick Whalen at Patrick.Whalen@lacity.org. For questions or comments specific to the Zone Change Ordinance and pilot area application, please contact Susan Wong at Susan.S.Wong@lacity.org. To receive future updates on this proposed ordinance, including notification of the City Planning Commission hearing date, please sign up to join the Ridgeline Ordinance interested parties [list](#).

LA City's Planning Director Weakens the Mulholland Design Review Board



From Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife

This map shows a portion of the Mulholland Scenic Corridor, which extends from the Hollywood Hills to Encino. Under LA City Planning Director Vince Bertoni's recent memo, the area in gray has lost a crucial public process for review and conservation.

"The Mulholland Design Review Board and the Mulholland Ordinance have really been singularly responsible for the fact that we have preserved wildlife corridors. When the Mulholland Ordinance was first adopted, it was assumed that there wasn't any large megafauna, especially of the mountain lion variety...of course the mountain lions were there...so this Ordinance has in fact

preserved wildlife corridors before there was even a wildlife corridor concept in the City Council. And it's really the only effective tool that we have. The wildlife corridor approach of the City Council is not sufficiently robust to give us the results that we need. The Mulholland Ordinance is pretty robust, but if we lose that capacity, I think we've also lost a fundamental approach to protecting the wildlife corridors as well."

-Joseph T. Edmiston, SMMC Executive Director

To the SMMC & Advisory Committee (April 19, 2021)

"These changes by the Director...eliminate in-depth reviews of impacts to parkland, scenic overlooks, scenic road corridors, wildlife corridors, riparian corridors, and the urban forest."

-Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority's Appeal

Take Action!

Please send an email to Mayor Garcetti and the City Councilmembers that represent the affected Santa Monica Mountains, and voice your opposition to the implementation of this memo.

Send your email to:

mayor.helpdesk@lacity.org

mayor.garcetti@lacity.org

councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org

councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org

contactCD4@lacity.org

paul.koretz@lacity.org

councilmember.bonin@lacity.org

and please CC: info@clawonline.org

**Subject: March 30, 2021 Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan
Implementation Guidance Memorandum – OPPOSED!**

Dear Mayor Garcetti and Councilmembers Krekorian, Blumenfield, Raman, Koretz, and Bonin:

I am a stakeholder of LA's Santa Monica Mountains, and I am vehemently opposed to Director of Planning Vincent Bertoni's March 30, 2021 Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan Implementation Guidance Memorandum. The memorandum, issued unilaterally by Director Bertoni with no prior notice or opportunity for public comment, purports to limit the oversight of the Specific Plan's Design Review Board (DRB) by declaring that projects not visible from the Mulholland Drive right of way are exempt from review by the DRB. The Director's action is in direct conflict with the express language of the Specific Plan, exceeds his authority under the City Charter, and usurps the legislative function of the City Council which signed the Specific Plan into

law in 1992.

The Director's decision removes the code-mandated expert and professional advice of the Mulholland DRB from decision-making for most of the Specific Plan area. This decision also reduces public oversight of many projects with potentially significant adverse environmental impacts to parkland, scenic overlooks, scenic corridors, wildlife corridors, riparian areas, and the urban forest, dramatically altering a legislative action of the City Council.

As the elected officials who represent Mulholland Scenic Parkway constituents, and who are responsible for appointing the Mulholland Design Review Board members, we ask that you collectively urge Director Bertoni to immediately rescind and withdraw his illegal memorandum.

You can read more about Director Bertoni's memo in [our previous alert](#).

It would only take one ill-planned project to completely cut off wildlife movement between the 405 and 101 Freeways. Therefore it is important that the five hillside councilmembers who represent the area and appoint the Mulholland Design Review Board (MDRB) hear from the public.

Please contact your council office and encourage your representative to **rescind the MDRB**

Decision by Director Bertoni:

Councilmember Paul Krekorian, CD 2

Email: councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org

(213) 473-7002

Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, CD 3

Email: councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org

(213) 473-7003

Councilmember Nithya Raman, CD4

Email: contactCD4@lacity.org

(213) 473-7004

Councilmember Paul Koretz, CD 5

Email: paul.koretz@lacity.org

(213) 473-7005

Councilmember Mike Bonin, CD 11

Email: councilmember.bonin@lacity.org

(213) 473-7011

Key points you can include are:

- The Director's decision will result in the degradation of the ecological and watershed health of the eastern Santa Monica Mountains.
- The Director's reduction of MDRB public review will have adverse environmental impacts.
- The MDRB brings professional expertise at no public cost, and the Director's decision removes their oversight.
- The MDRB oversight and public review must not be reduced until other environmental analysis and protective ordinances have been put in place.
- The Director should not take oversight away from the MDRB, but instead redirect his planning staff to perform environmental review to protect the region's large mountain lion habitat and comply with state law.

Thank you for taking action for LA's wildlife!

Legal Donation Request

From Charley Mims, President

As many of you already know, we have very serious concerns with the LA City Director of Planning's recently stated policy of exempting Non-Visible projects in the [Mulholland Scenic Parkway](#) from the standard Design Review Procedure and hearings before the Mulholland Design Review Board. The policy change subverts the purpose and intent of the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan (MSPSP) as envisioned when the City Council adopted the Specific Plan in 1992, and the City Planning Commission's adoption of the Design and Preservation Guidelines in 2003. This change in policy will impair public notice and public participation rights in the vast majority of MSPSP cases. It will result in the immediate degradation of the scenic qualities, ecological capacity, wildlife corridors, and watershed health of the Santa Monica Mountains. Furthermore, it sets a dangerous precedent for the City of LA to unilaterally change its policies without regard for public opinion -- our quality of life is in jeopardy!

Several organizations including the Hillside Federation have appealed this policy change. The LA City has refused to acknowledge those Appeals which left us no recourse but to retain counsel, John P. Given, Esq., to legally oppose this policy change. This opportunity to reestablish the proper public comment and review process is a significant legal undertaking. We are, therefore, asking each of our Hillside Federation Member Associations to donate a minimum of \$500 at this time and hopefully more to successfully correct this injustice. Please contact your respective Organization's Board at your earliest convenience to support this important effort. The timing is

important -- we have an anonymous donor that is **matching the first \$5,000 of donations** received for the Legal Fund!

Donations

The Hillside Federation is a **tax-exempt non-profit 501(c)3 organization** - donations may be tax deductible and contributors should consult with their tax advisor. Making a donation can be made in three ways:

1. Writing a **check made payable** to the **Hillside Federation** and designating in the memo area: **Legal Fund**. Checks should be mailed to our Federation Treasurer at the following address:

Don Andres, HF Treasurer
P. O. Box 27404
Los Angeles, CA 90027

2. Making a donation with a **credit card** via our website – www.hillsidefederation.org Simply click on the **Donate Button** at the bottom of the home page under **Donation Options**, and follow the instructions. Please indicate that the **Legal Fund** should receive your donation.
3. Making a donation from your **Donor Advised Fund** via our website if you already have such a fund.

Please share this email with the individual members of your association.

ABOUT THE HILLSIDE FEDERATION

The Hillside Federation is a public benefit non-profit 501(c)(3) organization *founded in 1952*. Our mission is 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.

Organizations

Argyle Civic Association
Beachwood Canyon NA
Bel Air Association
Bel Air Hills Association

Lake Hollywood Homeowners
Laurel Canyon Association
Los Feliz Improvement Association
Mt. Olympus Property Owners
Mt. Washington Homeowners Alliance

Bel Air Knolls Property Owners
Bel Air Skycrest POA
Benedict Canyon Association
Brentwood Hills HOA
Brentwood Residents Coalition
Cahuenga Pass POA
Canyon Back Alliance
Crests Neighborhood
Dixie Canyon Association
Doheny/Sunset Plaza NA
Franklin Hills Residents Association
Franklin/Hollywood West Residents Assn
Highlands Owners Assn
Hollywood Dell Civic Association
Hollywood Heights Association
Hollywoodland Homeowners
Holmby Hills HOA
Kagel Canyon Civic

Nichols Canyon NA
North Beverly Drive/Franklin Canyon
Oak Forest Canyon Homeowners
Oaks Homeowners
Outpost Estates Homeowners
Pacific Palisades Residents Assn
Residents of Beverly Glen
Save Coldwater Canyon!
Save Our Canyon
Shadow Hills Property Owners
Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association
Silver Lake Heritage Trust
Studio City Residents Association
Sunset Hills Homeowners
Tarzana Property Owners
Torreyson-Flynn Association
Upper Mandeville Canyon Association
Upper Nichols Canyon NA
Whitley Heights Civic Association

Bring 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](#) 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.

SUPPORT US

We're fighting to protect the Santa Monica Mountains, hillside areas of Los Angeles and its environs and we can't do it without you. In order to do the important work we do, we rely entirely on support from people like you!



Jerry Daniel Memorial Fund

In honor of his great achievements, the Hillside Federation has established the Jerry Daniel Memorial Fund to provide resources to help maintain and improve the Jerry Daniel Overlook on Mulholland Drive above the Hollywood Bowl, as well as resources for other environmentally sensitive efforts in his memory.

Please support the Hillside Federation's mission and DONATE today!

[DONATE](#)

Our mailing address is:

Hillside Federation
P.O. Box 27404
Los Angeles, CA 90027

HillsideFederation.org

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