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October 2021

HILLSIDE NEWS

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AGENDA AND MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Agenda - November 16, 2021 at 7:00 pm

via Video Conference

1. Call to Order
 1. Wildlife Ordinance Update – Councilmember Paul Koretz
 2. Guest Series: Getting to Know Candidates
 1. Paul Koretz – Candidate, LA City Controller
 2. Mike Feuer – Candidate, LA City Mayor
 3. CD 5 Update - Daniel Skolnick/Ali Simard
 4. CD 4 Update - Mehmet Berker
2. Approval of minutes – Robin Greenberg
3. Officers' Reports
 1. President's Report – Charley Mims
 2. Treasurer's Report – Don Andres

4. Old Business
 1. Mount St. Mary's University Project - Wendy-Sue Rosen
 2. Curtis School Project - Mark Stratton
 3. Mulholland Design Review Board Memorandum update - Don Andres
 4. SB 9 & 10 update - Jamie Hall
5. New Business
6. Adjournment

No meeting in December 2021

Next meeting January 18, 2022

October 19, 2021 - Draft Minutes

NEWS

Caltrans Wildlife Bridge over 101 Freeway



From Los Angeles Times by [Laura Anaya-Morga](#)

Caltrans expects to break ground early next year for an \$87-million wildlife crossing on the 101 Freeway in Agoura Hills that experts say is **critical to help save an isolated population of mountain lions in the region from extinction.**

The bridge at Liberty Canyon, which has been a dream of conservationists for years, will allow mountain lions and other species to cross safely over a busy eight-lane stretch of the freeway used by an estimated 300,000 vehicles a day, officials said.

When completed, the 200-foot-long, 165-foot-wide wildlife bridge will be the largest of its kind in the world, officials said. The project is being backed by a number of public and private organizations including the California Department of Transportation and the National Wildlife Federation, officials said.

The project will likely go out to bid next month with construction set to begin in late January, said Sheik Moinuddin, a Caltrans project manager. The project will be divided into two phases, the first will cover the area across the 101 Freeway and the second will cover the two-lane stretch across Agoura Road.

Officials noted that it has taken years to raise awareness and the money to make the project a

reality.

“This is an unprecedented project that Los Angeles should be incredibly proud of,” said Beth Pratt, regional executive director in California for the National Wildlife Federation who has been working on the project for almost a decade. “Back then it was just an idea.”

The nonprofit federation has managed to raise more than \$72 million so far from more than 4,000 private, philanthropic and corporate donors around the world for their #SaveLACougars campaign. Those funds include a \$25-million challenge grant from Wallis Annenberg and the Annenberg Foundation. The federation hopes to raise \$6 million more by the end of the year to cover construction costs.

The bridge, which was recently renamed the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing, is set to be completed by October 2023, officials said. As envisioned, the bridge will be designed to look like part of the natural landscape with native vegetation and irrigation systems. It will shield animals from the commotion below with sound walls and light deflectors to dampen the effects of the noise and glare of headlights.

The project will set a worldwide model for what is possible in terms of coexistence in urban places between wildlife and humans, Pratt said. The purpose of the bridge is to reverse the effects that fragmented landscapes have had on wildlife, including low genetic diversity and roadkill.

Upon the opening of the bridge, Pratt said she is most excited to see photos of the first animals using it.

“That’s when we’ll know we’ve made the Santa Monica Mountains whole again,” she said.

Help Oppose LA Zoo's Plan to Alter Natural Habitat!



From Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife
November 1, 2021

The LA Times recently reported that the Los Angeles Zoo's 20-Year Vision Plan would alter 22 acres of natural habitat in Griffith Park and destroy 202 native, protected trees. You can read the article [here](#).

CLAW joins Friends of Griffith Park, California Native Plant Society, the City of Burbank, and others in asking the Los Angeles City Council to approve an "Environmentally Superior Alternative," presented in the Zoo's [Environmental Impact Report](#) as Alternative 1. You can read our letter [here](#).

The irony of destroying native habitat (cutting a ridgeline down 60 feet to bedrock) to create a California Species Zone plastered with human entertainment attractions is difficult to fathom... let us showcase our city's progressive stance in environmental protection as opposed to building another amusement park.

-Tony Tucci, CLAW Chair

Take Action

Join in our position to oppose the Project as presented and request Alternative 1 as the environmentally superior alternative for the LA Zoo transformation. Here is a synopsis of

Alternative 1 from the Zoo's EIR:

“The Reduced Project Alternative (Alternative 1) would substantially avoid developed [sic] within the existing undeveloped areas of the Zoo property where protected trees, native habitats, and other special status plant species are present. Alternative 1 would also generate a smaller increase in visitation, thereby reducing projected vehicle miles traveled and reducing the size of the parking structure or eliminating the need for it entirely. Alternative 1 would reduce impacts to aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, urban forestry, noise, and transportation when compared to the Project. ”

Please direct your comments to members of LA City Council's Arts, Parks, Health, Education, and Neighborhoods Committee (Council File [21-0828](#)). You can upload your comments [here](#).

We also encourage constituents of District 4 to send comments to Councilmember Nithya Raman: contactCD4@lacity.org

Let your representatives know you oppose the Zoo's expansion and ask them to support Alternative 1 as the other project alternatives destroy protected trees and other native plants that are critical habitat for native wildlife such as mountain lion P-22.

Happy 125th Anniversary Griffith Park



On Saturday, November 13, volunteer educators from the L.A. Conservancy and 30 different partnering organizations were dispersed throughout Griffith Park to share the stories of specific sites to celebrate its 125th anniversary.

Griffith Park History

Originally a part of the Spanish land grant, Rancho Los Feliz, the park was named for its former owner, Colonel Griffith J. Griffith. Born in Glamorganshire, South Wales, Griffith emigrated to the United States in 1865, eventually, making a personal fortune in California gold mine speculation. In 1882, Griffith settled in Los Angeles, and purchased a 4,071 acre portion of the Rancho Los Feliz, which stretched northward from the northern boundaries of the Pueblo de Los Angeles. On December 16, 1896, the civic-minded Griffith bequeathed 3,015 acres of his Rancho Los Feliz estate as a Christmas gift to the people of Los Angeles to be used as parkland. The enormous gift, equal to five square miles, was to be given to the city unconditionally - or almost so.

"It must be made a place of recreation and rest for the masses, a resort for the rank and file, for the plain people," Griffith said on that occasion. "I consider it my obligation to make Los Angeles a happier, cleaner, and finer city. I wish to pay my debt of duty in this way to the community in which I have prospered."

Since Griffith's original gift, further donations of land, along with City purchases and the reversion of private land to public domain have expanded the Park to its present size. Col. Griffith died July 7, 1919, however, he had left a sizable trust fund to complete the dreams he had for the park; specifically designating funds for the construction of a Greek amphitheater (*the Greek Theatre, built 1930*) and an observatory and hall of science (*Griffith Observatory, built 1935*.)

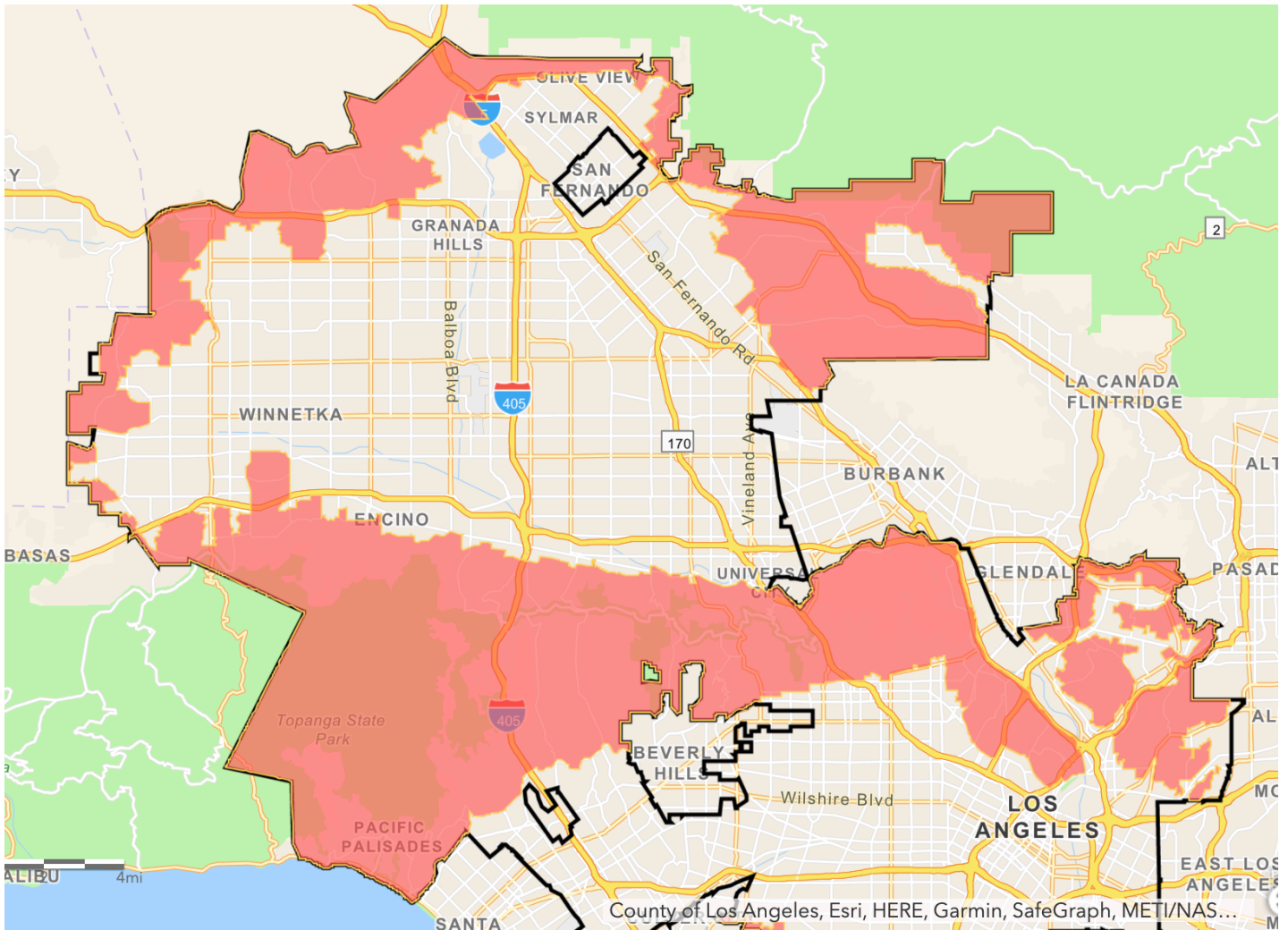
Griffith Park stands today a monument to the dedicated vision of one man--Griffith Jenkins Griffith, Park Commission, civic philanthropist, advocate of parklands, and fervent speaker of recreation for the health of Los Angeles.

About the Park

With over 4,210 acres of both natural chaparral-covered terrain and landscaped parkland and picnic areas, Griffith Park is one of the largest municipal parks with urban wilderness areas in the United States. Situated in the eastern Santa Monica Mountain range, the Park's elevations range from 384 to 1,625 feet above sea level. With an arid climate, the Park's plant communities vary from coastal sage scrub, oak and walnut woodlands to riparian vegetation with trees in the Park's deep canyons. The California native plants represented in Griffith Park include the California species of oak, walnut, lilac, mountain mahogany, sages, toyon, and sumac. Present, in small quantities, are the threatened species of manzanita and berberis.

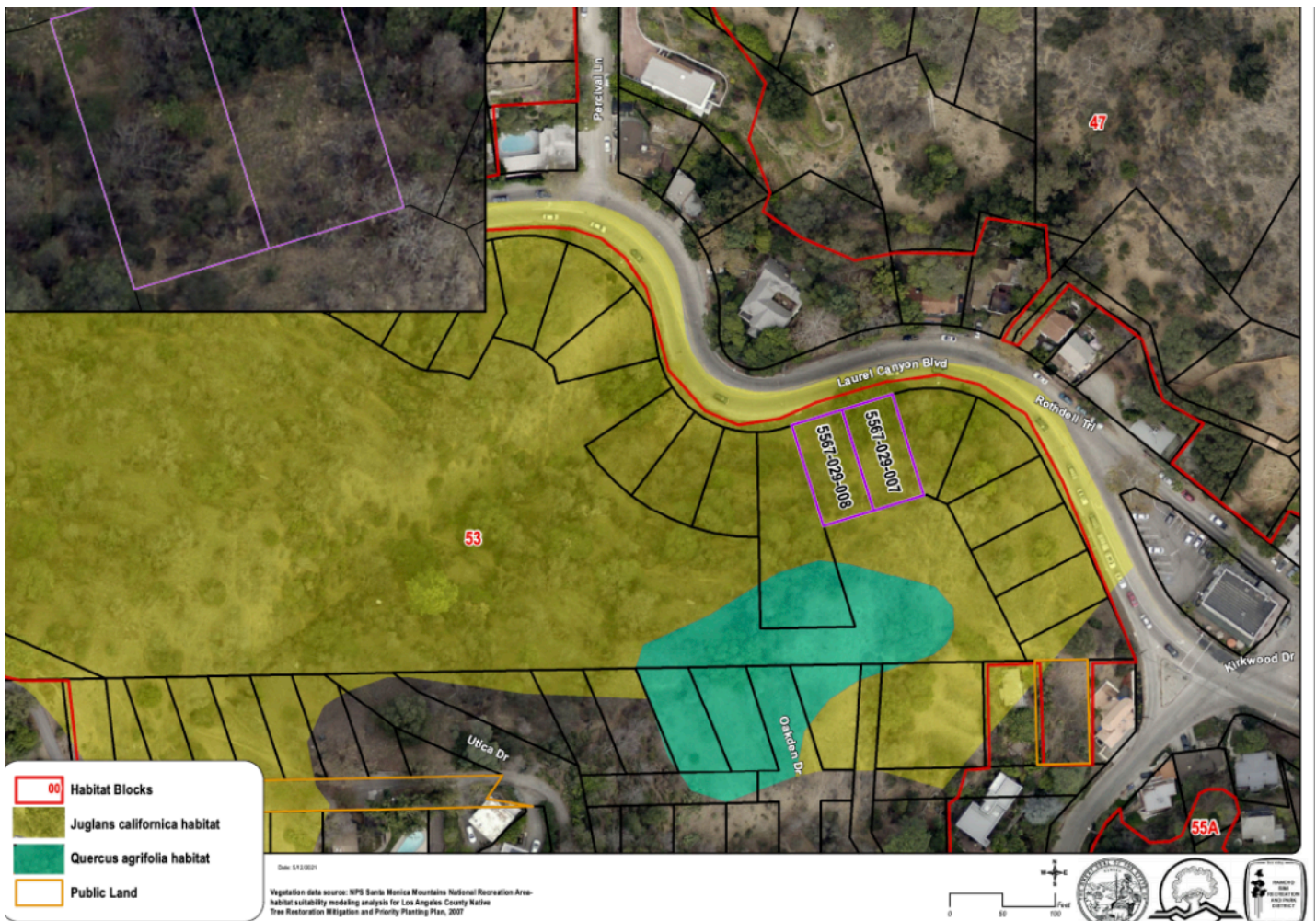
Happy 125th Griffith Park! Visit the [parks website](#) to find out more.

LAFD Fire Zone Map



More information can be found on the [Los Angeles Fire Department](#) website

2135 and 2141 Laurel Canyon Boulevard



From Laurel Canyon Land Trust
November 3, 2021

Ever wondered what kind of environmental impacts an average oak tree provides on an annual basis? Here are a few fun facts:

- Stormwater and Runoff Avoided Benefits: 62.22 gallons of stormwater runoff avoided, 487.64 gallons of rainfall intercepted, 2.87 gallons of runoff avoided
- Carbon Stored: 1250.93 pounds of stored CO₂
- Air Quality Benefits: 10.54 Ozone, 1.41 Nitrogen Dioxide, 0.34 Sulfur Dioxide, 0.35 Particulate Matter

The Land Trust has secured a \$125,000 contribution from the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to acquire the parcels using Community Facilities District Funding. This will be the twelfth acquisition project of the Land Trust since it was founded in 2017.

Additional Details Regarding the Acquisition Project

The Laurel Canyon Land Trust has entered into a purchase and sale agreement to acquire and

permanently preserve two more parcels in Laurel Canyon. The two lots are located at 2135 and 2141 Laurel Canyon Boulevard (APN 5567-029-007 and 5567-029-008). The land is home to several mature, native trees - including a large California Live Oak that can be seen as you drive along the iconic Boulevard - which is a locally designated scenic highway. The purchase price is \$150,000.

We need your help to complete our fundraising goal and close escrow on these two parcels. **We need to raise another \$26,000 before November 22, 2021**. We've never missed a fundraising goal before and with your help we will achieve this goal!

[**DONATE HERE - Thank you!**](#)

Your donations are tax deductible and have a direct, real and concrete impact on the environment right here in Laurel Canyon.

4 Acres of Open Space in Benedict Canyon Donated to MRCA



From Jamie Hall
November 7, 2021

Over 4 acres of open space in Benedict Canyon was donated to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority. Escrow closed yesterday.

Laurel Canyon Land Trust gets contacted by people outside Laurel Canyon and we try to be a helpful resource. Thank you to Robert Schlesinger at Benedict Canyon Association for contacting me about the potential donation (the donor first contacted him). BCA had an article about open space donations in their last newsletter and it has yielded some results. Many people don't even know there are tax advantages for donating land.

We can make real change!

Preserve and Protect Our Hillsides



As we approach year-end, it is good opportunity to provide a tax-deductible donation to non-profit organization.

We hope that you will consider the Hillside Federation in our efforts to help preserve and protect the environment of our hillside communities with a donation to our ***General Use Fund***.

[DONATE](#)

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	Lake Hollywood Homeowners
Beachwood Canyon NA	Laurel Canyon Association
Bel Air Association	LFIA (Los Feliz Improvement Association)
Bel Air Hills Association	Mountaingate
Bel Air Knolls Property Owners	Mt. Olympus Property Owners
Bel Air Skycrest POA	Mt. Washington Homeowners Alliance
Benedict Canyon Association	Nichols Canyon NA
Brentwood Hills HOA	Oak Forest Canyon Homeowners
Brentwood Residents Coalition	Oaks Homeowners
Bundy Canyon Association	Outpost Estates Homeowners
Cahuenga Pass POA	Pacific Palisades Residents Assn
Canyon Back Alliance	Residents of Beverly Glen
Crests Neighborhood	Save Coldwater Canyon!
Dixie Canyon Association	Save Our Canyon
Doheny/Sunset Plaza NA	Shadow Hills Property Owners
Franklin Hills Residents Association	Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association
Franklin/Hollywood West Residents Assn	Silver Lake Heritage Trust
Highlands Owners Assn	Studio City Residents Association
Hollywood Dell Civic Association	Sunset Hills Homeowners
Hollywood Heights Association	Tarzana Property Owners
Hollywoodland Homeowners	Upper Mandeville Canyon Association
Holmby Hills HOA	Upper Nichols Canyon NA
Kagel Canyon Civic	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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