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The Honorable Barry Sanders  
President  
Board of Recreation and Parks Commission  
221 N. Figueroa St., Suite 1510  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

May 17, 2010

Dear Commissioner Sanders:

The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, representing 33 associations from the Ventura County line to Mt. Washington, strongly supports the presence of Park Rangers in the city's regional parks. Park Rangers have traditionally had a broad range of duties from putting out fires to finding lost children. Their intimate knowledge of the parks' terrain and issues has made them ideally suited to protect both parks and park visitors.

With the loss of the Office of Public Safety officers patrolling the parks, it is essential for public safety that the seven vacant Ranger positions in the 2010-2011 budget be filled immediately with Rangers who have peace officer status.

The Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) chain of command with a Chief should be restored to be in compliance with state requirements.

Furthermore the ten non-peace officer Park Rangers who were recently reassigned to only interpretative duties should be restored to the duties stated in the Delineation of Park Ranger Duties of May 24, 2002 and the MOU with the SEIU dated Feb. 28, 2002. In the current financial crisis, the city can ill afford to have a ranger with solely interpretative duties.

In May, 2009, a Park Ranger Five-Year Strategic Action Plan, which defines goals and objectives to meet visitor, public safety, and interpretive needs, was prepared. The city should adopt that plan and begin to implement it immediately.

Without the insightful supervision provided by Park Rangers, our regional parks will rapidly deteriorate. Instead of being a peaceful place where people can escape from the stress of the city, they will become a place where the criminal element can operate undisturbed. Instead of a beautiful place to learn about and enjoy nature, they will become a place full of litter and graffiti. This is not what anyone wants to see in our parks. We urge you to support our Park Rangers.

Sincerely yours,

Marian Dodge

Bel Air Knolls Property Owners  
Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners  
Bel Air Ridge Association  
Benedict Canyon Association  
Cahuenga Pass Neighborhood  
Crests Neighborhood Assn.  
Encino Property Owners Assn.  
Forrest Hills Homeowners Assn.  
Franklin Ave./Hollywood Bl. West  
Franklin Hills Residents Assn.  
Highlands Owners Assn.  
Hollywood Dell Civic Assn.  
Hollywood Heights Assn.  
Hollywoodland Homeowners  
Holmby Hills Homeowners Assn.  
La Tuna Canyon Community Assn.  
Laurel Canyon Assn.  
Los Feliz Improvement Assn.  
Mt. Olympus Property Owners  
Mt. Washington Homeowners All.  
Nichols Canyon Assn.  
N. Beverly Dr./Franklin Canyon  
Oak Forest Canyon Assn.  
Outpost Estates Homeowners  
Residents of Beverly Glen  
Roscomare Valley Assn.  
Shadow Hills Property Owners  
Sherman Oaks Home Owners  
Assn.  
Studio City Residents Assn.  
Tarzana Property Owners Assn.  
Torreyson Flynn Assn.  
Upper Mandeville Canyon  
Whitley Heights Civic Assn.