



THE FEDERATION

OF HILLSIDE AND CANYON ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

POST OFFICE BOX 1673
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JULY 2009

NEWS

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email: president@hillsidefederation.org

website: www.hillsidefederation.org

FOUNDED IN 1952

PRESIDENT

Joan Luchs

CHAIRMAN

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BelAir Skycrest Property

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Crests Neighborhood Association

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Franklin Hills Residents

Glenridge Homeowners

Highland Owners Association

Hollywood Dell Civic

Hollywood Heights Association

Hollywoodland Homeowners

Holmby Hills Homeowners

La Tuna Canyon Community

Laurel Canyon Association

Los Feliz Improvement

Mt. Olympus Property Owners

Mount Washington Association

Mt. Wash. Homeowners Alliance

Nichols Canyon Association

No.Beverly Dr./Franklin Canyon

Oak Forest Canyon Association

Outpost Estates Homeowners

Pacific Palisades Residents

Residents of Beverly Glen

Roscomare Valley Association

Shadow Hills Property Owners

Sherman Oaks Home Owners

Studio City Residents Association

Tarzana Property Owners

Torreyson-Flynn Association

Upper Mandeville Canyon

Whitley Heights Civic

CHAIRMEN EMERITUS

Jerome C. Daniel

Patricia Bell Hearst

Gordon Murley

Polly Ward

CHAIRMAN IN MEMORIUM

Brian Moore

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

More open space taken for homes: "Golf Course proposed for 229 SFR"

With Los Angeles being one of the worst cities in the country with the least amount of open space it comes as no surprise that another hillside area is proposed to being converted from a golf course to a large residential development.

The **Verdugo Hills Golf Course** which consists of 18 holes all of which are par 3's plus the adjacent hills are currently planned to be developed into 229 homes. The property consists of about 58 acres, approximately 25 acres of which have a greater than 15% slope and designated to remain as open space.

Although this may seem that a lot of undeveloped land is being maintained there are numerous areas of controversy including, but not limited to, water usage in a drought environment and traffic in an area of substandard streets. There are interesting slope density issues as well given that the golf course was originally carved out of a mountain which may mean that the slope density formula will apply to that portion of the project too.

Continued on page 2...



Important Information Enclosed

ALERT

July 1, 2009 meeting has been canceled. Historically we do not have a meeting in August so our next meeting will be September 2, 2009

at

UNIVERSAL CITY NISSAN

3550 Cahuenga Blvd. West

between Lankershim-Universal Drive bridge off ramps; park underground garage/street; take elevator to 2nd floor conference room

In the meantime if there are any issues, updates or hearings that come up in your area please notify me right away and an alert will be emailed to our Board of Directors

Have a great summer and thank you for supporting the Hillside Federation....

Joan Luchs

President

president@hillsidefederation.org

The mission of the Hillside Federation shall be: 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.

... Continued from page 1

The streets in the area appear substandard for that much additional traffic. The DEIR and Appendices are over 4 inches thick and the neighborhood is very concerned that the project is too big and can not be mitigated. The community will carefully review this proposal and welcomes support from other hillside communities who are experiencing the same ravage. **The comments to the Draft Environmental Impact Report are due on or before August 19, 2009.**

If you want more information the DEIR can be downloaded from the City of Los Angeles. The case numbers are as follows: CPC 2007-3082; ENV 2007-3038-EIR; and SCHN 2007 121012. **The project address is 6433 La Tuna Canyon Road, Tujunga, California.** Updates will be provided upon request.

Bill Eick

Shadow Hills Property Owners Association

NOTICES AND UPDATES:

Mulholland Design Guidelines:

Notice of public hearing for the **City Planning Commission** meeting regarding the Sustainable Building practices to the Mulholland Design Guideline's Amendment has been continued from the June 25, 2009 agenda to the July 23, 2009 meeting: Case No. CPC-2002-6583-SP

Hillside Redefinition Mapping originally scheduled to be heard at the June 16th PLUM hearing was continued by the PLUM Chair, Councilman Ed Reyes for 30 days to July 21, 2009 meeting: Case No. CPC-2008-4683-CA.

Metro Board Defers Adoption of Long Range Transportation Plan to July 23, 2009 meeting...

Although a Long Range Transportation Plan may not seem to impact the hills, until freeways are prioritized to provide more capacity, local streets will remain clogged denying safe access in and out of hillside communities.

Last week, the Metro Board of Directors met to discuss the Draft Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) for Los Angeles County. At that meeting, they decided to wait until their regularly scheduled meeting on July 23 to consider adoption of the Draft LRTP. A copy of the Board report is available at: metro.net/board/Items/2009/06June/20090611SBMItem1.pdf

The LRTP will determine the major commitments for transportation projects and programs through 2040. This plan will incorporate projects identified in the Measure R Expenditure Plan to order to facilitate commercial truck traffic.

Please note that new projects or programs can only be added into the LRTP if funds can be identified to both build and operate them. While inclusion in the LRTP is a funding commitment, the project details are worked out through the environmental analysis process. **You may also find information about any of the Metro projects currently going through environmental analysis at:** metro.net/projects_studies/default.htm.

The Metro Board of Directors meeting is scheduled to consider adoption of the Draft LRTP on **Thursday, July 23, 2009** at 9:30am Metro Board Room, One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

Ann Kerman, Constituent Program Manager

Tel: 213 922-7671 Fax 213 922-8868

Email: KermanA@metro.net

VIEW FEDERATION WEBSITE at www.hillsidefederation.org

Latest Newsletters, News and Update Links are available

If there is something else you'd like to see, or if you want to send an article for the newsletter, let us hear from you. Call Joan Luchs at (213) 368-6120 with your suggestions.

JUNE MINUTES

DRAFT MINUTES HILLSIDE FEDERATION

General Membership Meeting June 3, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Joan Luchs at 7:25 p.m. at Universal City Nissan. Twenty voting board members and President Emeritus Gordon Murley were present. Minutes were approved as corrected – corrections were made to two incorrect spellings of Mike Taheripour's name.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

After the judge had ruled in our favor in the density bonus ordinance lawsuit, the city filed an appeal, to be heard June 5. Also, because the judge's ruling was retroactive, developer Fred Gain filed as interpleader to exempt his project.

New City Attorney-Elect Trutanich has talked to outgoing City Attorney Delgadillo and council members. A news conference regarding proposed billboard regulations was held on City Hall steps. Councilmen LaBonge and Rosendahl are opposed to additional sign districts.

CITY ELECTIONS

Dan Wright (Mount Washington Homeowners Alliance) discussed the city elections as "hard-fought, bitter and a lot of money spent." The election for city attorney was the big one with an 11% percentage gap between the winner and loser. The results showed the growing influence from neighborhood councils and the smart use of the Internet.

CITY BUDGET CRISIS

As a candidate for Council District 5, Ron Galperin stressed improving city services and becoming more responsive to the public, without cutting service to save money. He applauds the roles of neighborhood councils, Hillside Federation, and individuals in the analysis of the seven billion dollar budget presented June 2.

He stressed utilizing Laura Chick's audits, cutting down on mileage reimbursements, and overtime improving on the collection of "all the money we're entitled to." He recommends changes to budget rules so that a department that has saved money one year should be allowed to retain 50% of the funds and send only 50% to the general fund. Also departments should not be required to spend an entire year's budget by the end of the fiscal year in order to retain their budget level for the subsequent year. This rule has led to hasty and unnecessary spending. Charley Mims commented on the soundness of the City's pension system.

MOUNTAIN BIKES HAZARDOUS ON BIKE TRAILS

Marian Dodge (Los Feliz Improvement Association) spoke about the current push to amend the existing city ordinance prohibiting wheeled vehicles off road in all city parks. The ordinance is especially needed in regional and open space parks to maintain the integrity of hiking trails and the safety of hikers and equestrians. A consultant hired by the City and working through the Department of Transportation is conducting hearings where the public is not allowed to speak. The following motion was moved by Marian Dodge, seconded by Charly Mims, and passed unanimously: "We strongly reaffirm and urge the Federation and its affiliate groups to support the existing city ordinance (MC Sec. 63.44b16) prohibiting off-road wheeled vehicles in city parks.

GUEST OF HONOR – Jane Ellison Usher

Usher began service with the city in 1989-93 working with Mayor Tom Bradley. Four years ago she had campaigned for Mayor Villaraigosa and was his choice for President of the Planning Commission but her time in this office has yielded many disappointments. Incoming Director Gail Goldberg provided the slogan, "Do Real Planning," but the department approved almost every discretionary request applied for without doing 'real planning'. "The application process has become eroded and is nothing more than a rubber stamp for developers."

Los Angeles is the only large city in the United States with no design guidelines. The Community Plans as passed should have the force of law, as does a "constitution." But for developers every case seeks to "change the constitution." Our process is now designed to facilitate approvals without adhering to the City's

Zoning Codes. "You don't spot zone every day.... Each councilman is the king of his district. We are a city of fiefdoms."

Jane Usher has read every book on planning she can find. She believes residential neighborhoods are our greatest asset. We must keep them livable and not wait for a public hearing to comment or lobby. By that time decisions will have already been made "behind closed doors." We need an early notification system not only for neighborhood councils, but also for all interested persons. "Our job is to preserve and protect neighborhoods, not to serve people who live in Chicago and want to make a big profit."

Marcia Sells, organizer of a coalition of eighty residential associations, and Gordon Murley, Hillside Federation President Emeritus, added their own comments about effective organizing and lobbying techniques, especially letter-writing and telephoning.

Meeting adjourned 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ann Walnum, Recording Secretary

FEDERATION OFFICERS PRESENT

President	Joan Luchs, Cahuenga Pass
Vice President	Charley Mims, Franklin Hills
Vice President	Lannette Pabon, Hollywood Hts.
Treasurer	Dan Palmer, Residents Bev Glen
Exec. Sec.	Laura Gutierrez, Sherman Oaks
Rec. Sec.	Ann Walnum, Mount Wash. Alli.

FEDERATION DIRECTORS PRESENT

Mark Stratton	Bel-Air Skycrest
Alan Fine	Benedict Canyon
Ron Galperin	Crest Neighborhood
Yvonne Hessler	FranklinAve/Holly/West
Patti Negri	Hollywood Dell Civic
Jim Cairns	Hollywoodland
Marcia Selz	Hombly Hills
Cassandra Barrere	Laurel Canyon
Marian Dodge	Los Feliz Improvement
Donald Seligman	Los Feliz Improvement
Daniel Wright	Mt. Wash. Home. Alliance
Madeline O'Connell	Nichols Canyon
Robert Levy	No. Beverly/Franklin Cyn.
Bill Eick	Shadow Hills Property
Niles Chapman, M.D.	Sherman Oaks Homeowners
Alan Dymond	Studio City Residents

GUESTS PRESENT

Gordon Murley	Chairman Emeritus
Jane Usher	Past Pres./CityPlanningCom
Colleen Hanlon	Bel-Air Association
Lois Becker	Bel Air Skycrest
Connie Levy	No. Beverly/Franklin Cyn
Beth Dymond	Studio City Residents
Laura Smith	Hollywood Dell
Tom Meredith	Hollywood Dell

**MULHOLLAND SCENIC
PARKWAY DESIGN
REVIEW BOARD**

**Meets the first and third
Thursday of the month at
6:30 PM**

**MARVIN BRAUDE
CONSTITUENTS SERVICE
CENTER**

**6262 Van Nuys Blvd.,
Van Nuys, CA
First Floor Conference Room**

**Free parking under the building:
Entrance just east of Van Nuys Blvd.
on Sylvan Street**

Study extending 710 causes concerns:

In June 2008, Caltrans began a quiet process of studying the feasibility of creating a tunnel to extend I-710. The intent of the study, according to Caltrans, is “to examine the possibility of extending the SR-710 using a tunnel. The study is being conducted in a “route neutral” manner so that all reasonable and practicable alternatives will be considered within the Study area.”

Over the course of the last year, soil samples have been taken through boring. Geophysical line testing has been undertaken to provide an image of soil conditions. Presentations and briefings have been conducted to alert the communities involved.

As a result of Congressman Adam Schiff’s efforts, more than \$6 million was acquired for the study. In the meantime, State Senator Gil Cedillo introduced legislation requiring any extension of the Long Beach (710) Freeway to be completed underground. This legislation has already been approved by the State Senate and is currently in the Assembly’s Transportation Committee for review.

Caltrans indicates that the study will be performed in a “route neutral” manner which means that the southern portal of any tunnel will be located with certainty at the current northern end of the Long Beach Freeway in Alhambra around the location of the northern tunnel portal, which could lay in any of five zones. Zone 1 would connect near the current I-5/CA-2 interchange; Zone 2 along CA-2 between the Verdugo and York exits; Zone 3 would follow the long-planned route for 710 gap closure; Zone 4 would connect to I-210 in the vicinity of Rosemead; and Zone 5 would connect to I-605 in Irwindale.

As part of this feasibility study, Caltrans also used pre-existing soil testing which already has revealed the presence of Superfund sites that cross the paths of Zones 1, 4 and 5. At a recent meeting on June 16, 2009 in Highland Park, Caltrans repeatedly said, that this study is not only meant to determine the feasibility of constructing a tunnel, but also to find out if “there are no geotechnical findings that in and of themselves would prevent tunneling.”

Cost analysis is also an issue that has not yet been addressed. Caltrans District 7 Director Doug Failing has repeatedly asserted that this study is only meant to deter-

mine the geotechnical feasibility of creating a tunnel to extend the 710 and not meant to determine where a tunnel would be constructed, or indeed if one will be constructed. When asked specifics of the nature of any possible tunnel, Failing repeatedly asserts “That is something that will be addressed at the EIR stage.”

With this phase of the study winding down, Doug Failing states it is important to note that there are no studies currently on record that take into account all means of transportation in Southern California. Caltrans has indicated that their primary concern is the overall benefit to both transportation and air quality in the region. Without a complete, current study of regional transportation, the multi-billion dollar expense to construct a tunnel to extend I-710 does not seem to be economically feasible at this time. Glendale Councilman Ara Najarian and Assemblymember Anthony Portantino have already publicly declared their opposition to a tunnel.

Scott Piotrowski
Glassell Park Improvement

**REMINDERS:
ISSUES & MOTIONS**



Federation meetings are scheduled to start at 7:30 PM and end by 9:30 PM. In order to end on time, issues to be brought to the Board require a complete outline and a background, including what is being requested, then emailed to president@hillsidefederation.org at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting along with a direct phone and fax number or phone and email address if available.

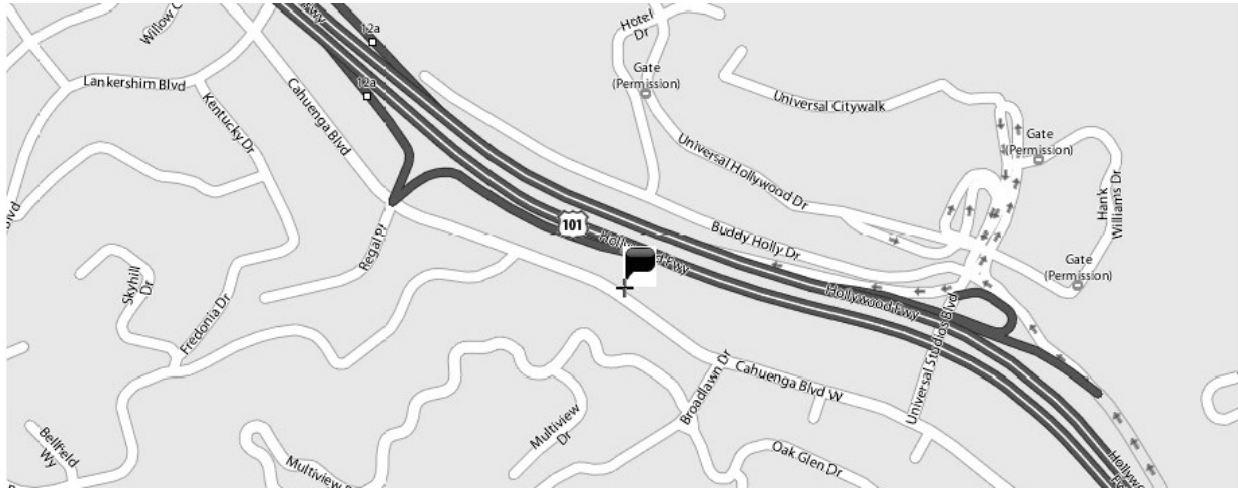
MOTIONS to be made at the meeting should be well thought out and printed so that they are clear and concise, with enough copies for all member associations. Each presenter will be given 5 minutes to make a presentation so that meetings can be kept on time. All requests to agendize an issue **MUST** be approved in writing by the President before the item will be placed on the Agenda.

**NEXT MEETING SEPTEMBER 2, 2009
ALERT NEW STARTING TIME
PROMPTLY AT 7 PM**

UNIVERSAL CITY NISSAN

3550 Cahuenga Blvd. West
Los Angeles, CA 90068

Between Lankershim and Universal Drive bridge off ramps:
Park on street or in underground garage; take elevator to "S" street level or enter
through showroom, turn left, follow signs to 2nd floor conference room



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*Important Information
Enclosed*

