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Anne Dove, Project Manager
National Park Service
Rim of the Valley Corridor Special Resource Study
570 W. Avenue 26, Suite 175
Los Angeles, CA 90065

June 10, 2015

Re: **Rim of the Valley Corridor Special Resource Study and Environmental Assessment Comments**

Dear Ms. Dove:

The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Inc. is a group of 44 resident and homeowner associations representing approximately 200,000 residents within the city of Los Angeles spanning the Santa Monica Mountains. Part of the Federation's mission is 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. At its June meeting the Federation unanimously voted to support Alternative D.

Alternative D now includes all of the vital urban recreational opportunities of Alternative C. The expansion of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA) to include more urban areas will provide additional protection for our remaining open spaces and more recreational opportunities for our under-served urban population which needs the benefits of getting back to nature.

The inclusion of the Los Angeles River in the plan dovetails perfectly with Alternative 20 of the Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan recently adopted by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Alternative D recognizes the importance of preserving habitat and wildlife connectivity by nearly doubling the SMMNRA. Connectivity is essential in preserving and enhancing biodiversity. Increasing urban intrusion on habitat has already impacted the ability of wildlife to move into other territories to maintain genetic diversity. Alternative D would establish linkages from the Santa Susana Mountains to the Los Padres National Forest with Cooperative Conservation Areas to provide technical assistance to private landowners to enhance habitat connectivity.

We support the goals of the Rim of the Valley Corridor Study to preserve the natural, cultural, and historic riches in our surrounding mountains and applaud Congressman Schiff for initiating this important study. Protection of our natural resources, enhancement of wildlife connectivity to ensure biodiversity, and expansion of outdoor recreational opportunities are extremely important to us. The Federation therefore urges the National Park Service to select the optimal plan for conservation and recreation, Alternative D.

Sincerely,

Marian Dodge
Marian Dodge

Beachwood Canyon Neighborhood
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
CASM-SFV
Crests Neighborhood 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.
Kagel Canyon Civic Assn.
Lake Hollywood HOA
Laurel Canyon Assn.
Lookout Mountain Alliance
Los Feliz Improvement Assn.
Mt. Olympus Property Owners
Mt. Washington Homeowners All.
Nichols Canyon Assn.
N. Beverly Dr./Franklin Canyon
Oak Forest Canyon Assn.
Oaks Homeowners Assn.
Outpost Estates Homeowners
Rancho Verdugo Estates
Residents of Beverly Glen
Roscomare Valley Assn.
Save Coldwater Canyon!
Save Sunset Blvd.
Shadow Hills Property Owners
Sherman Oaks HO Assn.
Silver Lake Heritage Trust
Studio City Residents Assn.
Sunset Hills Homeowners Assn.
Tarzana Property Owners Assn.
Torreyson Flynn Assn.
Upper Mandeville Canyon
Upper Nichols Canyon NA
Whitley Heights Civic Assn.

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