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ENVIRONMENTAL
UNIT

Re: ENV-2002-2481-EIR
SCH No. 2002091018

Maya Zaitzevsky
Project Coordinator
Department of Planning
200 North Spring Street, Room 763
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Ms. Zaitzevsky,

As a concerned citizen, I am writing in response to the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Canyon Hills Project. I have read the Land Use Analysis and the Biological Resources/ Flora and Fauna Report and have some concerns.

-The Oak Tree ordinance -Section 46.00 et seq of the LAMC states that oak trees must be protected. The Canyon Hills project will be removing over 100 trees. These trees are too old to be moved and are irreplaceable. The project states that there will be replacement of some of the trees with 15 gallon trees as well as with seedlings and saplings but this is hardly a replacement for trees that could be 250 years old. The DEIR does state that the southern coast live oak would be significantly impacted in this project. This is in conflict with the conservation plan and should be carefully considered at this time.

100-1

-The density of this project is deceiving because of the terrain. The lot sizes may be up to 39,000sqft but that lot may have a hillside that is inappropriate in which to build. This project is buliding homes of 4,000sqft on a small percentage of the project land. Too much of this area would be graded and filled and would be unable to maintain the integrity of the landscape. Large, two story homes would not be compatible with the low-profile homes in the area west of the project. The homes east of the project may be of a higher density, but it does not mean that this is the model that the community wants to see followed.

100-2

-The Biological Resources Analysis of the flora and fauna states that in Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, "discharge and/ or fill materials" cannot adversely impact endangered or threatened species. The proposed project would be filling the riparian area on the eastern section and destroy the flora and fauna that supports many of the species listed in the report.

100-3

-Much of the documentation of the Biological Resources Analysis was made through research and not direct long term observation. There was no documentation of the nesting areas of the raptors and there is the potential to destroy their habitat which would be a direct violation of the California Fish and Game Code Section 3505.5. The areas of oak woodland and oak riparian foest will be directly affected by the Canyon Hills Project and directly affect many of the species that were observed in the DEIR report.

100-4

These are just some of the concerns that I have with this project. There are major ramifications with this project that are in direct violation of the Sunland-Tujunga Community Plan and the Scenic Preservation Specific Plan. Please be very cautious when you look at this project and think of the future rather than the immediate and limited financial gains for the community with this project.

100-5

Thank you for your consideration of this important subject.

John Crother
2539 Rockdell Street
La Crescenta, CA 91214