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Dec. 28, 2003

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DEC 31 2003

ENVIRONMENTAL
UNIT

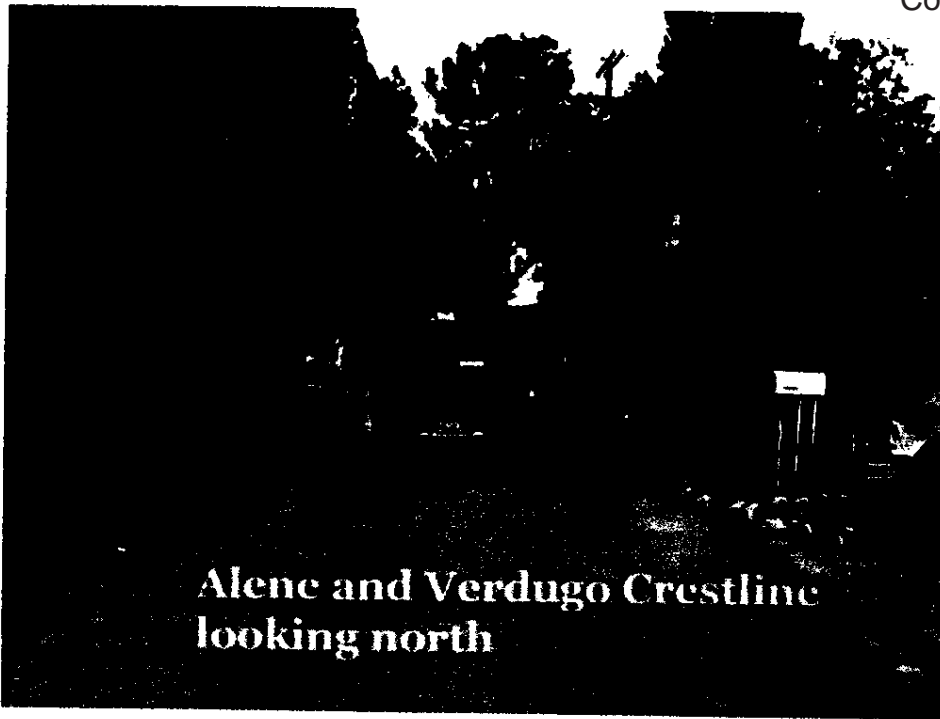
Subject : responding to the DEIR of the Canyon Hills Project
EIR Case no: ENV-2002-2481-EIR
Reference Nos: SCH # 20022091018

With the current wildfires that have occurred in Southern California and several wildfires that have affected the Verdugo mountains I believe it necessary to comment on this portion of the DEIR. One fire I can remember started just south of Verdugo Crestline Dr. burned towards the freeway , jumped the freeway to the main portion of the Verdugo mountains, burned up to the ridge and over to the Burbank side of the range. The fire was not stopped until it hit the Glendale line. Another, just a few years ago, started at the entrance to the 210 freeway at La Tuna and burn north towards the current community. I was there for this fire and saw just how much difficulty the fire department had negotiating the small and windey roads in the Hillaven area. While the fire department did an excellent job saving homes in a tight situation it was a tense and dangerous job. With the narrow country roads and tight turns it was near impossible to evacuate exiting humans and animals along with the large fire trucks trying to get in. I cannot begin to imagine trying to add an additional 280 homes and at least twice that many cars trying to get out and fire equipment trying to get in. It was a scary and dangerous fire.....
...and this was a dry day without the deadly Santana winds.

128-1

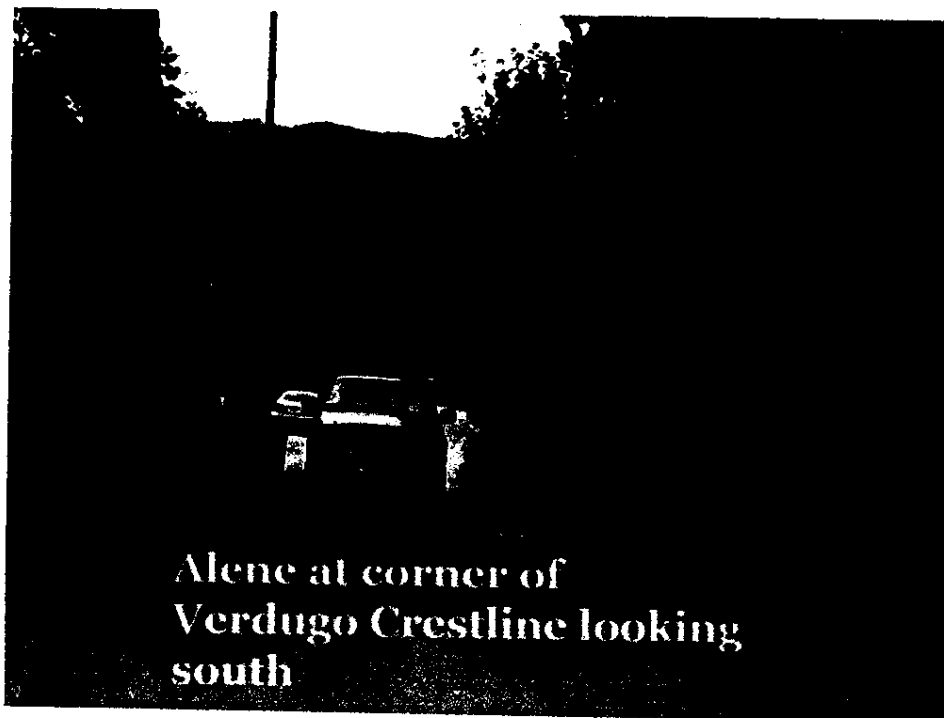
I would like to address the two following statements and show that the current DEIR is flawed and does not adequately reflect the reality of the neighboring communities. That the proposed secondary fire evacuation routes of Verdugo Crestline Dr. and or Inspiration Way are not well thought out and are irresponsible, not only to the proposed Canyon Hills Project, but also the current community in which these routes traverse. While the current proposal would lead one to believe that with an additional fire exit along one of these routes sufficient thought has been given to the fire escape. I have included several photos references that demonstrate just how dangerous and flawed this thinking is.

128-2



The same intersection from the opposite view. This is trash day cans are out sometimes for 3 days before taken in. As you can see this would be a very difficult passage for cars coming and going as well as fire equipment. Not acceptable as a fire exit for an additional 230 homes.

128-2



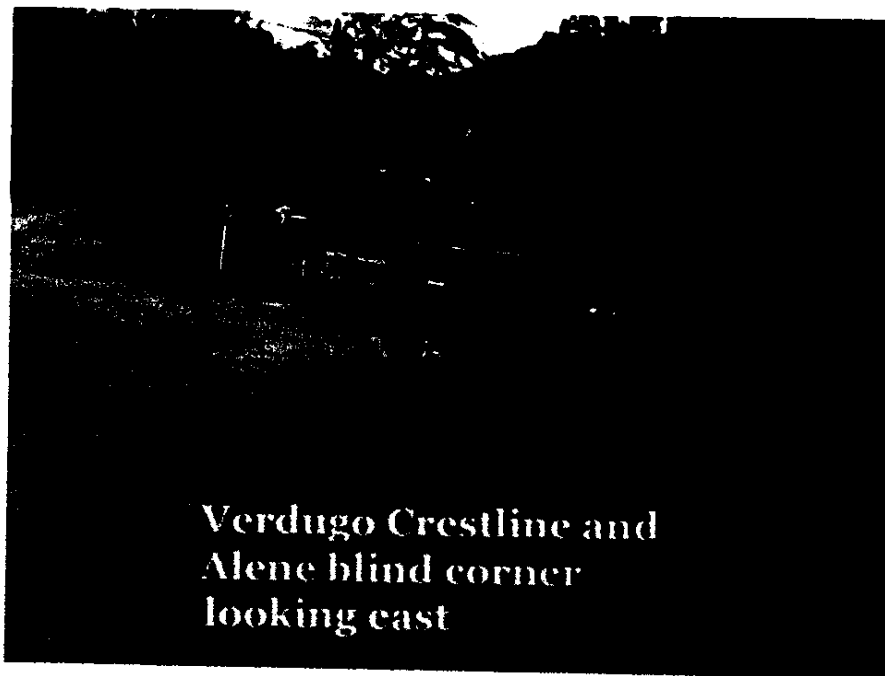
as stated by the DEIR IV. environmental impact analysis J. public services page IV.j-6

!. Fire protection :

“The proposed project would introduce an estimated 831 residents into previously uninhabited hillside areas considered to be subject to very high fire hazards by the LAFD. This new resident population would increase the potential for wildfire fire start in the area and, concomitantly, the need for fire protection and emergency services in the area. ”

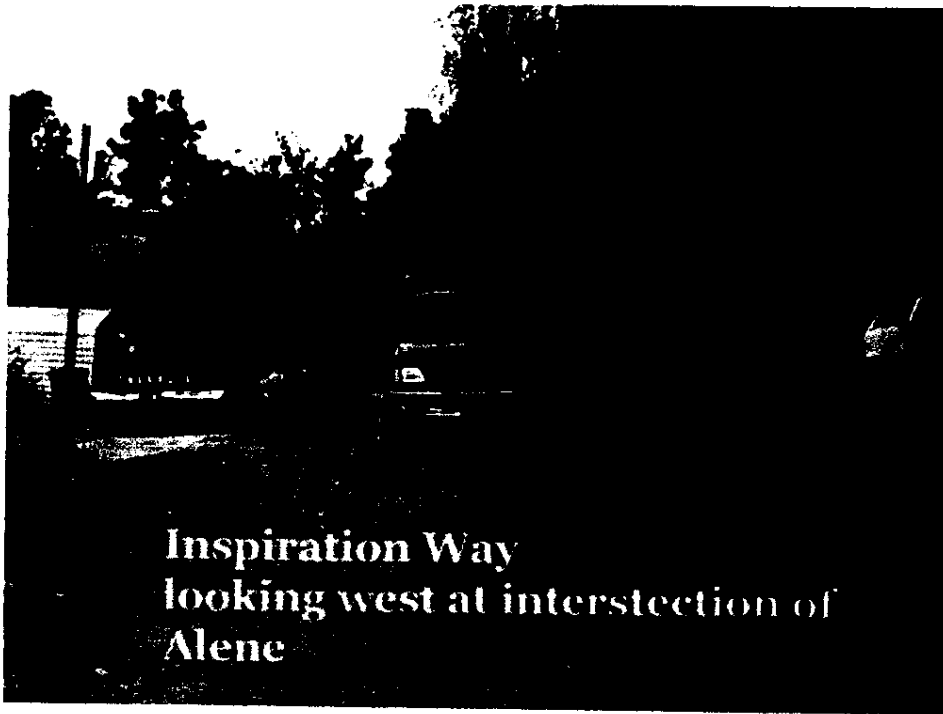
regarding construction

“while the proposed project’s construction_related activities would increase the potential for starting a wildfire, construction is not considered to be a high-risk activity and the LAFD is equipped and prepared to deal with such fire should they occur. Project construction would not be expected to tax fire fighting and emergency services to the extent that there would be a need for new or expand fire facilities, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objective of the LAFD. Therefore, construction_related impact to fire protection and medical emergency services would be less than significant.”



**Verdugo Crestline and
Alene blind corner
looking east**

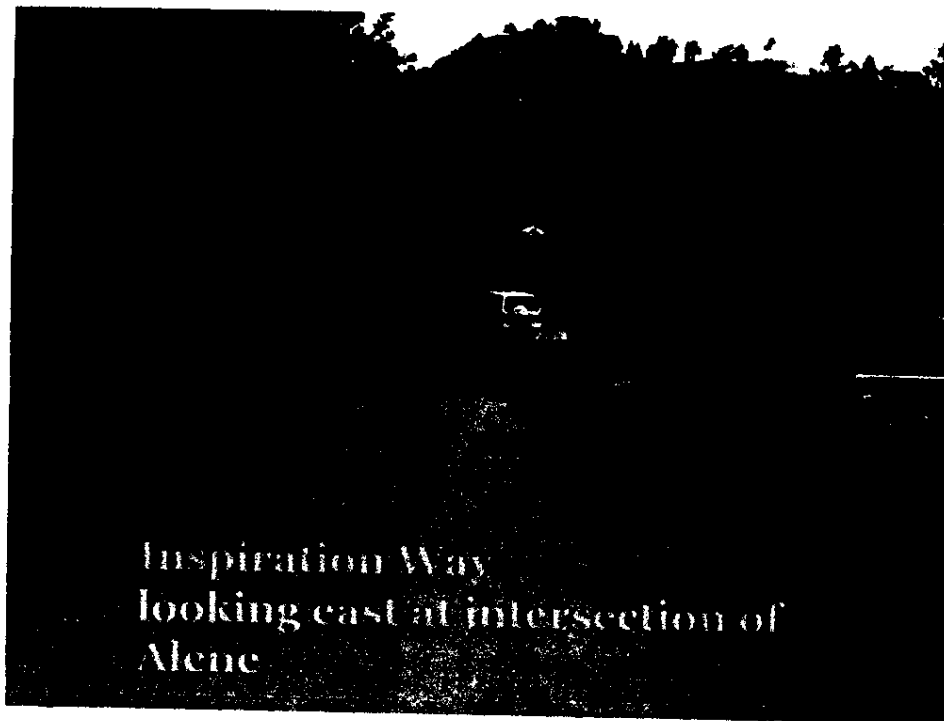
This is a major intersection in order to exit Verdugo Crestline and out Hillhaven. I will show that it is not a viable exit for the proposed Canyon Hills project.

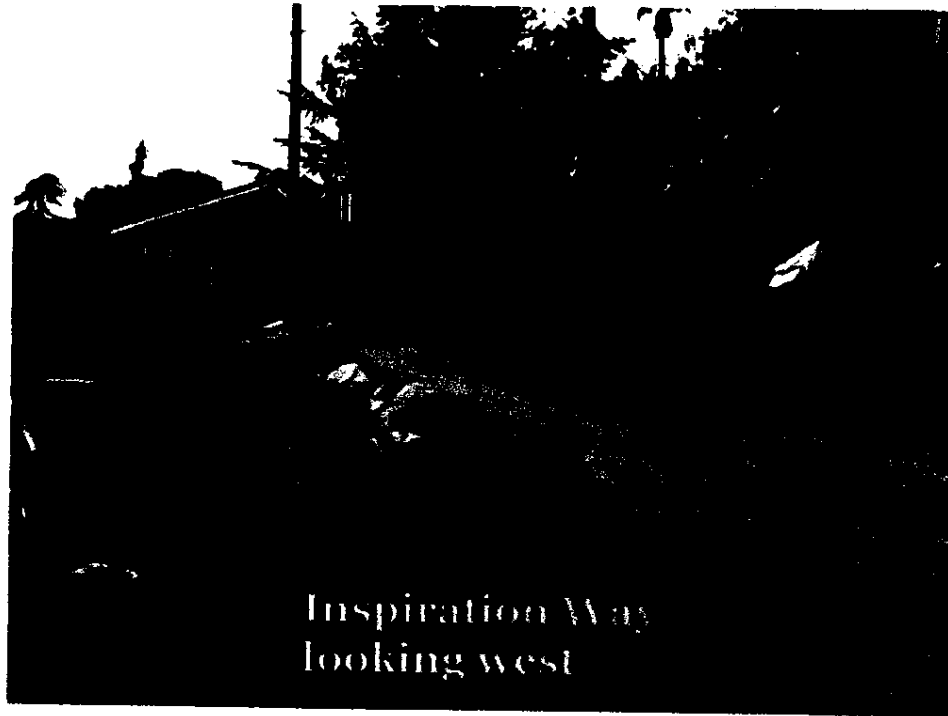


another proposed exit

another intersection at Inspiration Way and Alene shows just how narrow these roads are. Even paved and improved using this street as a fire exit for the proposed Canyon Hills project is just unrealistic. Two cars can not pass without one pulling over.

128-2





128-2

another view of Inspiration Way about 30 feet from last image no wider than the last, imagine cars trying to come and go along with fire equipment.

This covers why I believe the DEIR is flawed. It's seems reasonable that I would not have to explain why I believe ,in addition ,that these reasons are the same for Paragraph 2 of the DEIR that I have included. Construction workers need to have fire escapes as well. When a developer is building as many homes as indicated here in this report it is unconscionable to believe that there is "no significant impact". to the workers and especially to the surrounding homes.

One could argue that with enough expansion of existing roads and improvements that they could be made acceptable. How much impact does this have to existing homes and property? How much esthetic loss of small country roads to existing home owners? The DEIR does not cover any of this. Many of these roads were laid out during a time when actual view of the lay of land was not done and do not take into account slope and natural contour. While looking good on paper does not reflect the actual lay of the roads.

128-3

in conclusion this is one of many areas that I believe to have omitted very important information and reasonable solutions. Putting a whole community at danger. We have all seen the devastation that the fires in Southern California can do. I grew up here in California and quite frankly have seen more than my share of these fires. Some friends in Malibu, most in my own back yard going back to the fire in 1976 where the entire foothill range from Sylmar to Altadena burned. I have first hand experience in evacuation and the chaos that occurs. Paniced people trying to save homes. family and pets. I live and travel these roads everyday and saw the danger then and more than ever now.

128-4

Making any of the two roads a fire exit for this proposed development would be putting all of us a risk for property and life.

This DEIR is Flawed

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Keene". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Lisa Keene
7314 Verdugo Crestline Dr.
Tujunga, Ca 91042