

December 29, 2003

To: Los Angeles City Planning Department
Maya E. Zaltzevsky
200 North Spring Street, Room 763
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Regarding: Canyon Hills Project, EIR
Case No. ENV-2002-2481-EIR

Dear Ms. Zaltzevsky:

We believe that the Canyon Hills Project, Draft EIR, Reference Nos: SCH #2002091018, is seriously flawed and does not accurately reflect the tremendous impact this project would have on our community.

We feel that this project is not only in conflict with the Sunland/Tujunga Community Plan that requests that every effort should be made to retain the rural character and equestrian lifestyle in our neighborhood, but also seeks changes to existing zoning.

162-1

Project Description Page III-5, Table III-3 illustrates that the RE9 estates will be 9,000 square feet and the RE11 estates will be 11,000 square feet, meaning that the lots will be too small to allow equestrian usage according to existing Los Angeles Municipal Code.

We are also concerned that the impact and status of new emergency access roads accessible from Verdugo Crestline Drive and Ariene Drive are not completely clear. "The access to this portion of the of the project would be controlled such that it could only be utilized on a emergency basis (i.e. not available for day-to-day use by the project residents or visitors," states the Draft EIR on Page IV, I-15. Who, specifically, will be in control of this access and what will prevent the control of this access being changed in the future?

162-2

We take issue with the following conclusions in the Draft EIR on the impact of the project on native wildlife:

On Page IV, D-60 the Draft EIR states: "There will be no significant impacts to regional or local wildlife movement associated with the proposed project." During the past year, a small clear-cutting on Verdugo Crestline Drive above our property has resulted in the destruction of habitat for ground and tree foraging birds including the brown towhee, junco, acorn woodpecker, visiting rare species as well as an increase in coyote activity in our backyard.

162-3

The falsely optimistic assessment of the damage to wildlife habitat is characterized by this absurd statement: "Generalist animals such as coyotes, opossums, skunks, raccoons, ravens, and starlings can benefit from human settlement..." states the Draft EIR on Page IV, D-62. I can assure you that coyotes, skunks, raccoons, ravens and starlings have not benefitted from contact with our property and our human settlement over the past 45 years that we have lived in our home. Adapting to living with housing is not a benefit to nature but a disruption of native nesting and feeding habits of wildlife.

Finally, in Aesthetics, the Draft EIR on Page IV, N-27 states: "Nevertheless, the vast majority of the public who may view Development Area A would do so from Interstate 210. For those individuals, this area is almost invisible (see Photo Simulations 3, 4, 5)." I am a photographer and graphic arts specialist. I saw the the Photo Simulations 3, 4 and 5 at the Sunland/Tujunga Neighborhood Council meeting and they show tiny images of homes pasted into existing landscapes. These "invisible" estates are "invisible" only because the images have been manipulated. They are inaccurate visual demonstrations of the effect of millions of cubic feet of grading.

162-4

Please demand a redraft of this flawed EIR.

Sincerely,

Allen Petrinka
9923 Hirondelle Lane
Tujunga, CA 91042

Jessica Stephens
9923 Hirondelle Lane
Tujunga, CA 91042

Helen Petrinka
9923 Hirondelle Lane
Tujunga, CA 91042