

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

**RECEIVED**  
CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEC 29 2003  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
UNIT

Re: CANYON HILLS PROJECT, EIR Case no: ENV-2002-2481-EIR and Reference Nos: SCH # 2002091018

I am writing to voice my opposition to the Whitebird Development Group's proposal to build 294 homes near the 210 freeway and La Tuna Canyon Road. This project is opposed by the Sierra Club and me for the following reasons.

Sincerely,

Philip Spradling, PhD  
Altadena, CA

164-1

Preliminarily, I believe the EIR is inadequate and the consultant must redo the EIR and have the City of Los Angeles re-release the EIR for additional comments when the deficiencies are corrected. I believe the EIR is inadequate and should be redone because it seriously understates the impact of this development on the community.

This project--Canyon Hills--will have significant, negative impacts on schools, traffic, noise, air quality, visual quality, and recreation.

164-2

Last November, the Sierra Club took a formal position against the Canyon Hills Development. This development would impact our local Sierra Club members in the San Fernando, Crescenta Valley, and Verdugo Hills Groups. We value the rural areas of Sunland, Tujunga, La Tuna Canyon and surrounding communities. This development would very negatively impact that rural character.

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\*The Development threatens the quality of life we have come to know and love in our community.

\*Profit from this development goes to out of state investors located in Nevada and Texas.

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\*Whitebird, the developer, is not legally entitled to do business in California or Los Angeles County.

\*Worsen area traffic-EIR indicates an additional 2,700 daily vehicle trips on La Tuna Canyon and surrounding streets. The number of trips may be understated.

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\*5 years of Construction Noise including blasting from dynamite to build the roads and lots.

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\*An additional 15 years to build all the homes (20 years of total construction). (Oakmont IV, a smaller development, was finished in 1988. Even today homes are still being built on its vacant lots)

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\*Scarring from Grading visible from the 210 and La Tuna Canyon for about 20 years.

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\*Light Pollution from miles of new street light forever.

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*Elimination of areas and access to areas used by Equestrians, Hikers, and Mountain Bikers.	164-10
*Grade ridgelines by as much as 80 feet and permanently alter 310 acres.	164-11
*No guarantee that almost 700 acres in the Verdugo Mountains will be preserved from development because the developer does not own most of that land and is under no obligation to purchase or preserve it.	164-12
*Grade about 125,000,000 Cubic Feet of land, filling canyons and cutting ridges for this project.	164-13
*Increase air pollution and dust during and after construction.	164-14
*Amend land use designations and zoning to allow for a greater density than is currently allowed. The property is currently designated for horse-keeping and livestock use.	164-15
*Significant loss of at least a few hundred mature trees and other habitat replaced by small trees.	164-16
*Loss of rare habitat and significant impact to other area plants and animals.	164-17
*Substantially impact the rural nature of La Tuna Canyon and adjacent areas.	164-18
*The EIR indicates a small impact on schools, but if each new house had 1 1/2 children of school age, it would add 420 children to our local area schools.	164-19
*Substantial loss of life or property during a wildfire as the Northern portion of the development would effectively have only one way to escape the fire.	164-20
*Numerous trash truck trips to haul out the estimated 5,000,000 lbs of trash generated during construction.	164-21
*This development does not improve or help our community.	164-22

Philip V. Spradling, PhD, MSG  
 Educational Psychologist - Gerontologist  
 English Language Specialist (ESL)  
 University of Southern California      Fuller Theological Seminary  
 Glendale College  
 California State University-Fullerton