

Comment Letter No. 172  
Attachment 172dd

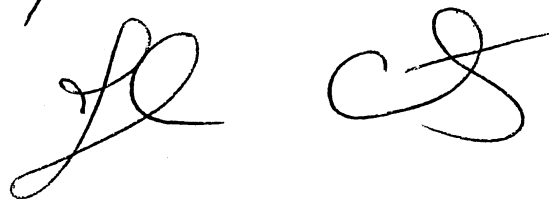
from JOHN CURRAN  
2539 Rockdell St.  
La Crescenta Ca.  
19 Dec 03

Ms Maya Zaitzeosky

I am writing you concerning the proposed "Canyon Hills Development" in the town of Tujunga. I do not think this project is in the best interests of the neighborhood or the Crescenta Valley. I am against granting any variances or exemptions concerning Hillside Grading Regulations or Zoning Ordinances. I am opposed to altering any existing protections given wildlife or habitat.

The construction of so many homes on that hillside is not practical, it will look like a landfill from below, a giant wall of dirt. Issues concerning drainage and runoff must be addressed. This development will also put a greater burden on Roads, Water and Power, Waste, Sewer, Schools, Police and Emergency Services. Please help me and the community by opposing any "Cut and Fill" projects in your district.

Sincerely



Barbara Howell  
10445 Fernglan Ave.  
Tujunga, CA 91042

*Here is my a  
copy of my  
letter re: the EIR*

Dear Sirs,

I am writing in response to the Draft EIR for the Canyon Hills project in the La Tuna area of Tujunga. My experience that qualifies me to comment on the EIR is twofold:

- I am a resident of Tujunga, and will be walking and driving close to the project on a continual basis.
- I am an avid hiker, and have hiked many times in and around Tujunga and the Verdugo mountains.

My main concern with this project is that in order to build it, the zoning for the area must be changed. Zoning is law, and is intended to provide proper planning for a city. I am appalled that the city is willing to change the law in order to allow the project to be built, in violation of the planning for the area. The quality of life in Tujunga will suffer from the loss of yet more rural acres. The qualities that make this town attractive will disappear if the city is willing to change zoning law to please developers.

I have the additional concerns with the EIR:

1. During the Northridge earthquake, the Los Angeles Times reported that the quake was caused by a hitherto-unknown fault, and that technology as it existed then could not adequately determine whether or a fault exists somewhere below the areas that can be measured. Has this technology been advanced, and what techniques were used to look for faults in the project area? I am not convinced that the area does NOT lie within an active fault zone, or that no active faults cross the site.
2. No mitigation was listed for handling construction emissions of NOx and PM10 on the peak day and peak quarter. Why are no mitigation measures contemplated, what effect will these emissions have on residents around the site, and for what distance?
3. What assurances are there that all construction workers will conform to all the mitigation measures listed on page 11 of the Summary, items B1 through B5?
4. What assurances do we have and what enforcement measures will be put in place to ensure that all homeowners will always comply with the mitigation measures listed on page 14 of the Summary, items C12, C13, and C15?
5. Has any study been done on the impact to the environment for any non-native species of plants used to cover slopes with protective vegetation?
6. Why is it legal to impact Venturan coastal sage scrub, Southern mixed riparian forest, and Southern willow scrub?

7. How extensive and long-term was the study that searched for the California gnatcatcher and Bell's vireo in the area, and was any search done to discover if these species are in adjoining areas; if so, was any study done to discover the impact on the birds?
8. Was any long-term study done to assure that the mitigation measures actually handle effects of the project on the San Diego coast horned lizard, the silvery legless lizard, the orange-throated whiptail, and any riparian species?
9. What guarantee is there that the project arborist will actually implement any of the mitigation measures to native trees, since final authority rests in him, and is not subject to any official control?
10. The replacement trees include trees planted in residential lots – what guarantee is there that future homeowners will not remove the trees, thereby reducing the mitigation measures?
11. There is significant short-term impact to cost live oaks – why is this legal?
12. The EIR lists several areas that will still be open to wildlife movement, but does not mention whether any study was done to ensure that, with any changes done to those areas or to nearby areas, that wildlife will still feel safe in those areas and will be willing to actually use the areas.
13. The impact of additional population to local parks was listed in the EIR as handled by the equestrian park, but this is not a suitable replacement, because an equestrian park will not necessarily appeal to or be useful to the rest of the population.
14. Why is it legal to create a substantially adverse effect on the two scenic highways, La Tuna Canyon and Interstate 210?

Sincerely,

Barbara Howell

9631 Crystal View Dr  
Tujunga CA 91042

December 12, 2003

Los Angeles City Planning Dept.  
Maya E. Zaitzevsky  
200 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: ENV-2002-2481-EIR  
SCH#2002091018  
Canyon Hills Project-  
DEIR Comments

I have been a resident of Tujunga for 11 years and live near the proposed Canyon Hills project. After reviewing the DEIR I have found many falsehoods.

According to the current laws the area is not zoned for 280 homes. The current laws do not allow grading ridgelines by as much as 80 feet and permanently altering 310 acres.

The DEIR underestimates the affect on wildlife. The plan says it would only affect up to 5 coyotes. That is incredibly understated. Living in this area for 11 years I am a citizen expert and I know that this development will affect many more coyotes, rabbits, deer, cougars, owls, and raccoons. This DEIR does not take into consideration the enormity of this projects development area or the fact that these animals food source will be removed when the mature trees, (Oaks, Sycamores, etc.) are destroyed.

There will be a significant loss of at least a few hundred mature trees. There is an Oak Tree Law that states that when Oak Trees are removed that they be replanted where wildlife has access to them to preserve and protect the wildlife. This plan is not following the Oak Tree Law. The plan is going to have a gated community which does not allow the wildlife to use the land and the Oak Trees are going to be planted near the streets and right of ways. This project will affect and kill off more wildlife than has been addressed in the plan. Also. the large oak trees should be protected not torn down for development.

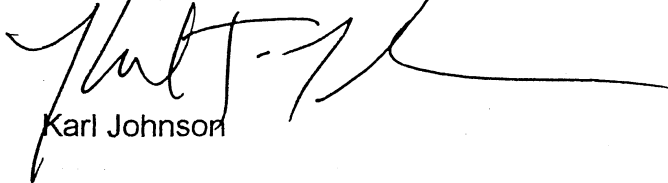
Public safety is another concern. We currently do not have proper police protection. Our response time in this area for police is double the standard time. This area does not have proper police coverage and with the number of homes proposed in the DEIR, which is not legal to build will make police coverage worse.

The DEIR does not accurately take into consideration the accumulative affect of all the development projects that have just recently been completed or that are in the works. Our streets cannot handle the additional traffic that this 280 development will bring. The DEIR does not adequately address how this development will affect Foothill Boulevard and the surrounding small streets.

Another concern is public works. Public works is lacking already in this area. Foothill is becoming a very dangerous street to drive. I know this because I have lived here for 11 years and have seen the enormous increase in traffic. For example: Haines Canyon and Foothill is a very dangerous intersection. The DEIR does not address how public works is going to handle the additional work from this project.

I urge Los Angeles City officials to disapprove any portion of the Canyon Hills project that requires changes to the current Los Angeles City General Plan, Los Angeles Municipal Code, local Community Plans, the Hillside Ordinance, the Slope Density Ordinance, the Oak Tree Ordinance and all current zoning and all current laws.

Sincerely,



Karl Johnson

9631 Crystal View Dr  
Tujunga CA 91042

December 12, 2003

Los Angeles City Planning Dept.  
Maya E. Zaitzevsky  
200 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: ENV-2002-2481-EIR  
SCH#2002091018  
Canyon Hills Project-  
DEIR Comments

I have lived in Tujunga for 11 years very close to the proposed Canyon Hills project. After reviewing the DEIR I have found many inaccuracies and omissions.

According to the current laws the area is not zoned for 280 homes. The current laws do not allow grading ridgelines by as much as 80 feet and permanently altering 310 acres.

Living in this area for 11 years I am a citizen expert and I know that this development will affect many more coyotes than the up to 5 that the plan states. The developments negative impact on roadrunners, birds, raccoons, owls and rabbits, plants and trees is understated. It does not take into consideration the enormity of this projects development area or the fact that these animals food source will be removed when the mature trees are destroyed and replaced by small trees and seedlings in the right of way where the wildlife will not be able to get to them. Also there was a Cougar sited on this property, which the DEIR does not mention.

Public safety is another concern. We currently do not have proper police protection. It takes over 14 minutes for police to respond in this area (if they respond at all), when it is only supposed to take 7 minutes. My neighbor has asked police to drive by her home because there are people loitering in cars outside her door. They dispose of their cigarettes in a non-smoking area (due to fire hazard) and liquor bottles on her property. We have not seen a police car yet. This area does not have proper police coverage and with the number of homes proposed in the DEIR, which is not legal to build will make police coverage worse.

The DEIR does not accurately take into consideration the accumulative affect of all the development projects that have just recently been completed or that are in the works. For example, the development at Wentworth and the development planned on the hillsides above Day St. in Tujunga. The traffic on Foothill has increased tremendously over the last 11 years. Our streets cannot handle the additional traffic that this 280 development will bring. The DEIR does not address how this development will affect Foothill Boulevard, where all locals do their shopping.

Another concern is public works. Public works is lacking already in this area. I am a citizen expert on this issue. I have asked the city for years to repair our torn up road and all I get is a work order number and told that it is on the list. The DEIR does not address how public works is going to handle the additional work from this project.

The DEIR does not adequately address the affect that this project will have on air pollution during the construction and after the construction with the additional 280 homes and at least 2,700 extra trips per day on La Tuna Canyon and surrounding streets. This area used to be where kids with asthma could come to breathe better. South Coast Air Quality Management should do a study on how this project will affect the air pollution in the area. This area is a commuting workforce because there is no industry close by so all of these new homes will require a significant commute time that will make the air quality worse.

I urge Los Angeles City officials to disapprove any portion of the Canyon Hills project that requires changes to the current Los Angeles City General Plan, Los Angeles Municipal Code, local Community Plans, the Hillside Ordinance, the Slope Density Ordinance, the Oak Tree Ordinance and all current zoning and all current laws.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yvonne Johnson', written in a cursive style.

Yvonne Johnson

Lisa Keene  
7314 Verdugo Crestline Dr.  
Tujunga Ca, 91042

Dec. 28, 2003

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.

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.



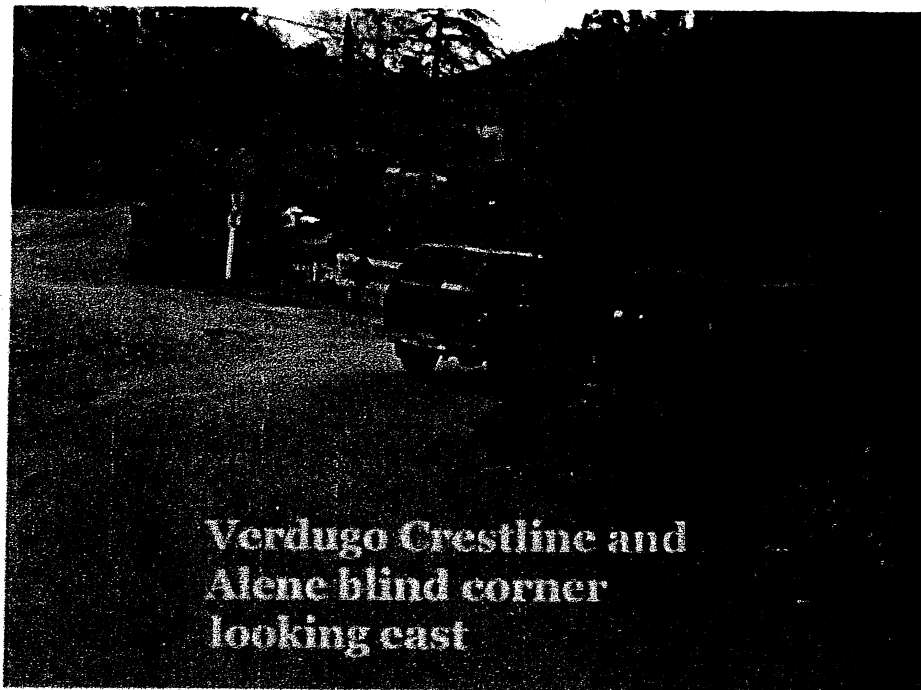
as stated by the DEIR IV. environmental impact analysis J. public services  
page IV.j-6

!. Fire protection :

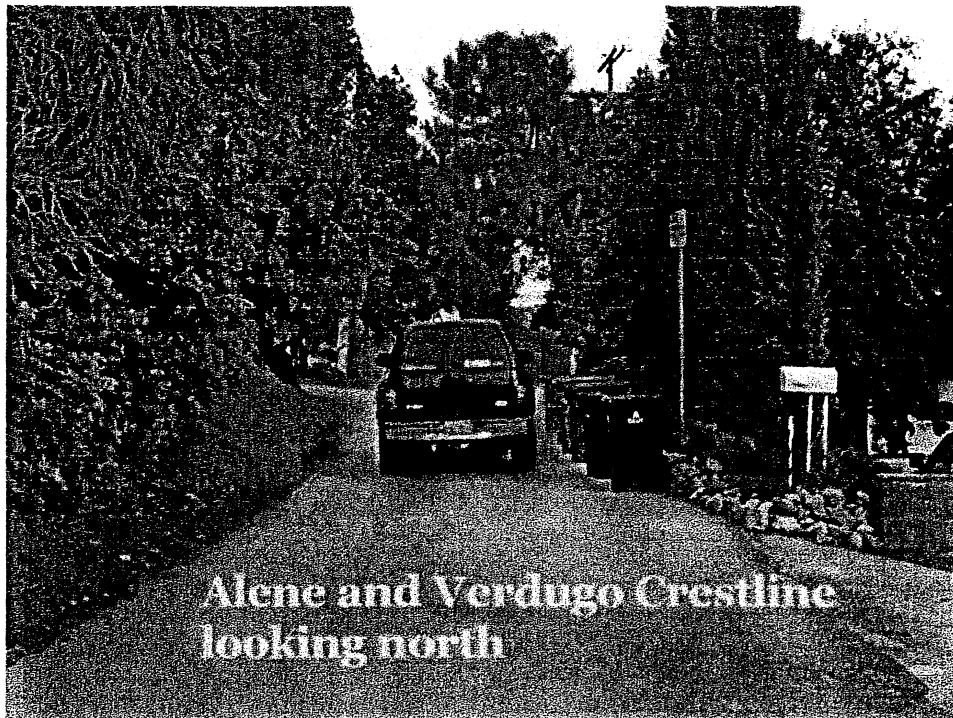
“The proposed project would introduce an estimated 831 residents into previously uninhabited hillside areas considered to be subject to very high fire hazards by the LAFD. This new resident population would increase the potential for wildfire fire start in the area and, concomitantly, the need for fire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



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.



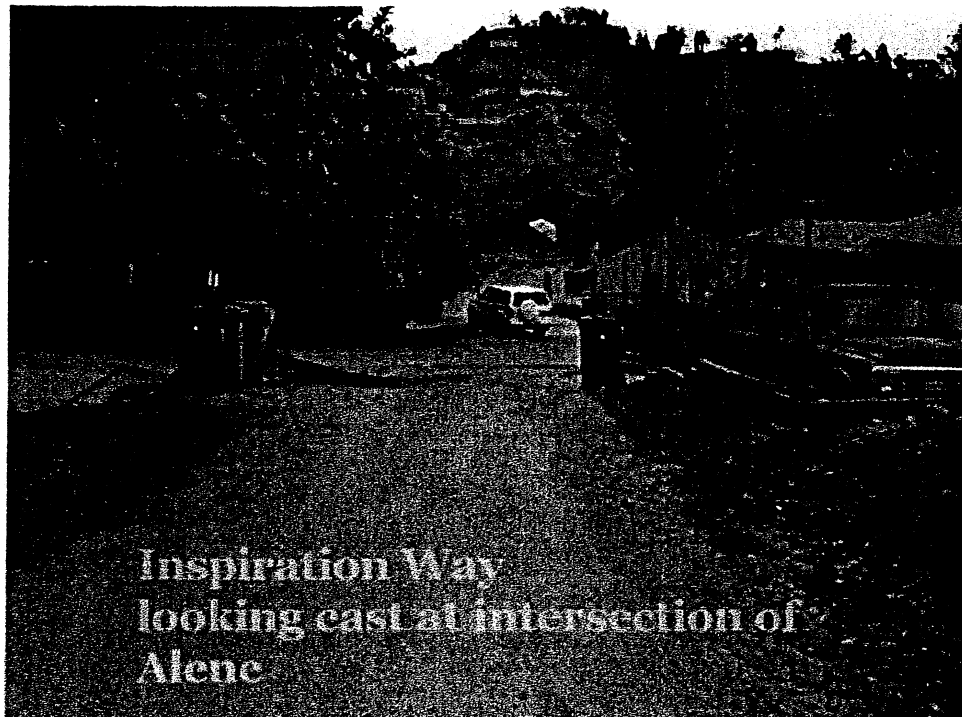
The same intersection from the opposite view. This is trash day cans are out sometimes for 3 days before taken in. As you can see this would be a very difficult passage for cars coming and going as well as fire equipment. Not acceptable as a fire exit for an additional 230 homes.

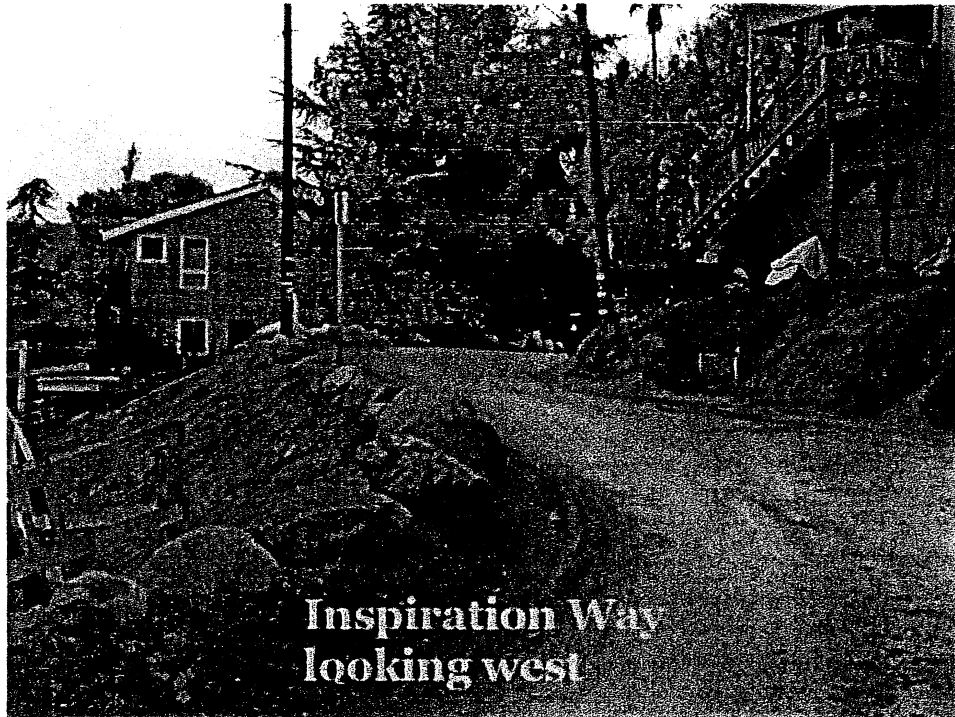




### **another proposed exit**

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.





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.

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.

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, appearing to read "Lisa Keene".

Lisa Keene  
7314 Verdugo Crestline Dr.  
Tujunga, Ca 91042

LOS ANGELES CITY PLANNING DEPT.  
MAYA E. ZAITZEVSKY  
200 NORTH SPRING STR.  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

Comment Letter No. 172  
Attachment 172ii

**RE: ENV-2002-2481-EIR ;  
SCH #2002091018  
CANYON HILLS PROJECT- DEIR COMMENTS**

FROM: CONNIE KELLY  
8248 OSWEGO, SUNLAND

DEAR MAYA ZAITZEVSKY:

My husband and I have lived in Sunland for 35 years. I consider myself to be an experienced citizen expert for this area. I have been deeply involved in this community for many years and have involved myself with projects concerning this area and these mountains repeatedly. I am familiar and conversant in the regulations and laws governing building and /or developing.

Which raises the question of the Canyon Hills Project DEIR proposing (in circular language) violations of the regulations specifically enacted to protect this special part of Los Angeles. The 'objectives' outlined in the DEIR are inconclusive in their content. I strongly suspect the 'objectives' obscure the true aims of the project. Those aims may be that the project be developed outside current laws and regulations and perhaps in direct violation of the Scenic Plan and the Community Plan.

There is also insufficient information about how the project would actually meet its objectives and when. I see that the DEIR has given imprecise information on the impact to the community of approving the project that would irreparably alter protective and restrictive outlines of the District Plan. As a citizen, I feel strongly that all laws, limitations, regulations and ordinances be applied to all persons and owners of property. It is especially important for such a large-scale project to follow and comply with current laws, regulations and ordinances. The DEIR demonstrates defective response to current ordinance compliance, current land use laws, Plans, etc.

The most important omission or obscurity is the very real fact of cumulative environmental impact(s) on the surrounding communities. With other communities affected by development, such as Glendale, Hollywood, Porter Ranch...as an example, the DEIR is unsound in its findings on liquidfaction introduced to disturbed and graded land. Which would be radically necessary due to the sheer slopes the project intends to build upon.

To be continued...