

To: Los Angeles City Planning Dept.
MAYA E. ZAITZEVSKY
200 NORTH SPRING STREET
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: ENV-2002-2481-EIR; SCH#2002091012
CANYON HILLS PROJECT -
DEIR COMMENTS

RECEIVED
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEC 31 2003
CITY PLANNING DEPT.
ZONING ADMINISTRATION

Dear Ms. Zaitzevsky
→

12-28-03

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Response to the DEIR FOR THE PROPOSED CANYON HILLS PROJECT.

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IN READING OVER THE DEIR FOR CANYON HILLS - I SINCERELY BELIEVE THAT THIS DEIR IS NOT ACCURATE, AND IS UNDER RATING THE IMPACTS ON THE EXISTING NEARBY HOMES, ON THE SURROUNDING TOWN AND COMMUNITIES, AND ON THE ENVIRONMENT. THIS IS A HUGE PROJECT. THE DEIR, I FIRMLY BELIEVE SHOULD BE REDONE WITH TOTAL ACCURATE REPRESENTATIONS AND RELEASED AGAIN FOR ANALYSIS AND COMMENT.

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I ALSO WOULD FIRMLY INSIST THAT THE CITY REQUIRE THAT THE PROJECT BE HELD TO EXISTING RULES, ZONING LAWS AND ORDINANCES - E.G. THE CURRENT COMMUNITY PLAN, HILLSIDE ORDINANCE, SLOPE DENSITY ORDINANCE, AND A FINAL AND PROPER SCENIC PRESERVATION PLAN, ETC. PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW OUTSIDE DEVELOPERS TO COME IN AND HAVE EXISTING ORDINANCES CHANGED TO SUIT THEIR GOALS. IT IS NOT FAIR TO THE INTEGRITY OF OUR CITY AND COMMUNITY.

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AGAIN, THE DEIR DOES NOT ACCURATELY STATE THE TRUE DEGREE OF THE IMPACTS. TAKE THE YEARS OF CONSTRUCTION INTO SERIOUS CONSIDERATION. THE DEIR TAKES THIS AS A ROUTINE MATTER OF FACT PROCESS. MY HOME AND NUMEROUS OTHER HOMES ARE EXTREMELY CLOSE TO THE

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Project SITE. Just a few hundred feet away, the noise level would be at an extremely high level. GRADING, DYNAMITE BLASTING, Big equipment engine noise, AND all construction related noise.

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The air pollution from dust and debris, dynamite smoke and fumes, diesel fuel smoke and fumes, etc. etc. As I said, my home and many others are extremely close to the project site. Of course other homes in the neighborhood and community are not as close —

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But, I have lived here — 9347 Revere Rd. Tusunga, since April 1988 and this entire canyon almost always has a breeze flowing through it, which would carry the dust, debris, smoke, fumes, etc. also to all the neighborhood areas.

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This canyon also amplifies sounds. Even relatively low level sounds are amplified greatly. Construction noise would be horrendous. Very bad, terrible construction pollution would be

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terrible. Extremely unhealthy. I am also writing to the Health Dept. on this issue. We who live in proximity to the project site need to carry on daily lives, earn a living and support our families — not live in an

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environment which threatens our very health - mentally, emotionally and physically for years and years -

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Please be very aware of these factors when considering this project for approval/disapproval. We need a new DEIR which is realistic regarding the construction phase and after construction.

Now I would like to comment on other aspects of the Project DEIR - Proposed Emergency Access:

→ Woodward Ave to McGroarty Street.

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ON Woodward Ave. is a school. It is a literal traffic jam when children are brought to and picked up from school - also many buses. My office is on the corner of Woodward and McGroarty. I know the conditions well. There is also a school 3 blocks east of Woodward on McGroarty. Increased traffic in that area also.

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INSPIRATION Way to Hillhaven Foothill Blvd. Hillhaven is a steep road. It leads up to Alene Dr. which goes to INSPIRATION Way and Crestline Dr. - leading to the proposed access. INSPIRATION Way and Verd. Cr. Dr. are unimproved, substandard roads which cannot be adequately mitigated. Hillhaven and Alene Dr. are too narrow to allow for the 20 foot minimum.

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192-9 ACCORDING TO L.A. FIRE DEPT. THE RESPONSE TIME BETWEEN PROJECT SITE AND CURRENT FIRE STATION IS INADEQUATE. EVEN CURRENT CONDITIONS UP HILLHAVEN TO EXISTING NEIGHBORHOODS IS DIFFICULT ENOUGH. IT IS A LONG WAY UP HILLHAVEN TO ALL AREAS OF THE PROPOSED SITE. AND A LONG WAY UP WOODWARD UP INTO THE HILLS AND INTO THE SITE. THESE PROPOSED ACCESS LOCATIONS ARE BAD.

192-10 WORSE YET IF THEY ARE ALLOWED LATER FOR "NECESSARY CONSTRUCTION VEHICLES" AND EVEN WORSE IF LATER THE ACCESS LOCATION WAS OPENED UP FOR RESIDENT USE, AS WAS THE CASE IN THE CRYSTAL VIEW DEVELOPMENT IN TULUNGA. WHY TURN AN ALREADY DIFFICULT AND CHALLENGING SITUATION INTO A POTENTIAL HOLOCAUST. THE PROPOSED CANYON HILLS PROJECT DOES NOT IMPROVE OR HELP OUR COMMUNITY.

TRANSPORTATION / TRAFFIC:

192-11 AGAIN, I URGE THE CITY TO REQUIRE THE CANYON HILLS PROJECT TO STAY WITHIN ALL CURRENT EXISTING LAWS, CODES, AND ORDINANCE AS WELL AS WITHIN THE GUIDELINES OF THE SCENIC PRESERVATION PLAN AND THE COMMUNITY PLAN. UNDER THE CURRENT LAWS AND ZONING NO MORE THAN 87 HOMES ARE ALLOWED. EVEN 87 HOMES WOULD STILL HAVE SERIOUS EFFECTS ON THE AREA. 210 OR 280 HOMES WOULD BE BEYOND SERIOUS.

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THAT MANY WOULD BE EXTREMELY DISRUPTIVE AND DISTURBING TO ALL AREAS OF LIFE. IF THE PROJECT DOES GET APPROVED, PLEASE HOLD IT TO THE 87 HOMES.

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LA TUNA CANYON BLVD. DOES NOT ALLOW HEAVY TRUCKS. THE DEIR DOES NOT GO INTO THIS SPECIFICALLY, FOR GARBAGE TRUCKS AND CONSTRUCTION VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT.

TO GET FROM THE PROJECT SITE TO FOOTHILL BLVD, THE NEAREST ROUTE WOULD BE TUJUNGA CANYON BLVD OR LOWELL AVE. THESE ROUTES ARE VERY CROWDED, ESPECIALLY

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DURING THE MORNING AND LATE AFTERNOON COMMUTE TIMES. THE DEIR ESTIMATES 2700 VEHICLE TRIPS DAILY IN THESE AREAS. I BELIEVE THIS IS UNDER ESTIMATED, WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE NEW RESIDENTS, PLUS RESIDENTIAL SERVICE PEOPLE, GARDNERS, POOL SERVICE PEOPLE, DELIVERY TRUCKS, GUESTS, VISITORS, ETC. ETC. THE INCREASED TRAFFIC LOAD WOULD BE STAGGERING. THE DEIR

INADEQUATELY COVERS THE WIDENING OF TUJUNGA CANYON BLVD. FROM ONE LANE INTO TWO LANES - FROM LA TUNA CANYON RD. TO FOOTHILL BLVD. ANYONE INSPECTING

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THIS SECTION OF TUJUNGA CANYON BLVD. CAN SEE THAT THERE ARE STRUCTURES AND HOMES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE STREET. NO WAY TO WIDEN THE STREET, UNLESS THEY DEMOLISH

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The STRUCTURES AND homes, which is out of the question.

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Also consider the INCREASED TRAFFIC LOAD which will be added to the 210 FREEWAY. FROM MY HOME I LOOK DIRECTLY AT A SECTION OF THE 210 FWAY which is in the south end of the PROPOSED PROJECT. IN THE EARLY MORNING hours - 7 A.M. - 7:30 ~~EAST~~ I see this 210 FREEWAY SECTION BOUND VERY FULL OF VEHICLES AND MOVING VERY SLOW, AND THIS PROPOSED PROJECT DOESN'T EXIST. AGAIN, PLEASE REQUIRE A NEW DEIR which is VERY ACCURATE AND SPECIFIC. A DEIR which could TRULY SUPPORT the BUILDING OF 87 OR LESS homes - IF IT IS POSSIBLE TO SUBSTANTIATE THIS PROPOSED PROJECT. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY

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TO ADDRESS MY COMMENTS TO YOU AND THE PLANNING DEPT. MY NEIGHBORS, COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND MYSELF HOPE AND PRAY THAT THE CITY PLANNING DEPT. WILL CAREFULLY CONSIDER OUR COMMENTS. WE WHO LIVE IN THIS AREA NOT ONLY CHERISH AND LOVE ITS NATURAL BEAUTY, BUT ARE DEEPLY FAMILIAR WITH AND UNDERSTAND THE INTERRELATIONSHIP OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS THAT EITHER PRESERVE OR THREATEN ITS HARMONY AND UNIQUENESS.

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EQUESTRIAN RIGHTS - There is a BLATANT OMISSION in the DEIR TO FULLY ADDRESS the history and beauty of this area - the right and ability to have horses. The DEIR's Request for a zoning change gets around the minimum lot size for keeping horses, and undermines the community character and aesthetics. I urge the city not to approve zoning changes.

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CHEMICALS - The DEIR is not at all specific or clear on what would be used to de-foliate the site area before grading begins. This concerns me greatly for the health issue of the chemicals, brush killers, brush disintegrators or whatever they might use - the resulting air pollution and for me and all my neighbors who are close to the site - having to breathe the chemical vapors. This and all impacts must be closely scrutinized by the city.

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AGAIN, a new and accurate DEIR, and limiting the project to 87 or less houses, or no houses - if the overall impacts are too degrading. I firmly believe that the overall impacts are too degrading on the community, neighborhoods, people, animals, wildlife, flora and fauna, air and water.

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QUALITY, HYDROLOGY, ARTIFICIAL LIGHT AND GLARE, POPULATION, TRAFFIC, PUBLIC SERVICES, ENERGY CONSERVATION, SEWER SYSTEM OVERLOAD, RELEASE OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS, ELECTRO-MAGNETIC FIELD EMISSIONS AND AESTHETICS. THE PRESENT DEIR DOES NOT SUBSTANTIATE AND PROVE THAT THE OVERALL IMPACTS ARE NOT TOO DEGRADING TO JUSTIFY A PROJECT OF THIS MAGNITUDE. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF A NEW DEIR WILL SUBSTANTIATE AND JUSTIFY THIS PROPOSED PROJECT. I AM A GENERAL BUILDING CONTRACTOR - LIC. #687458, GOLDEN LION CONST. TRADES. I AM HAPPY TO SEE HOMES BUILT WHICH BLEND IN AND HARMONIZE WITH THE ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD, AND ENHANCE THE AREA. BUT WHEN BUILDERS AND DEVELOPERS HAVE EXTREME CONSTRUCTION GOALS LIKE THE CANYON HILLS PROJECT, IT SADDENS ME GREATLY AND GOES AGAINST ALL SENSE OF BEAUTY AND AESTHETICS. THE CANYON AREA OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS OF LA TUN CANYON AND THE VERDUFO HILLS ARE VERY BEAUTIFUL AND UNIQUE IN LOS ANGELES. THE HOMES ARE INDIVIDUALLY DIFFERENT AND IMPRESSIVE IN THEIR OWN UNIQUE WAYS.

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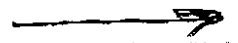
9) The Wildlife in these areas is numerous and varied. The DEIR greatly UNDERESTIMATES the wildlife populations. EVERYDAY I see coyotes - there are HUNDREDS OF THEM IN THE AREA OF CANYON HILLS. MY HOME HAS A LARGE POND - WHICH GETS VISITS FROM A HUGE BLUE HERON AND A KINGFISHER BIRD. THERE ARE MANY OWLS AROUND - DEER HAVE BEEN SEEN - RACCOONS, POSSUM, FROGS, TOADS, RABBITS, SNAKES, ALL TYPES OF BIRDS, ETC, ETC. WHAT OF THE IMPACTS ON THEM - FORCED INTO OTHER SECTORS AND NEIGHBORHOODS.

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I URGE THE CITY TO NOT TAKE THIS PROPOSED PROJECT LIGHTLY. PLEASE STUDY IT DEEPLY AND CAREFULLY.
AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR RECEIVING MY COMMENTS -

Ramona Zanatanga



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Thank you very much -

Sincerely -

Ramana Zaratanja

RAMANA ZARATANJA

9347 Reverie Rd.

TUSUNGA, CA 91040

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