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

RECEIVED
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEC 22 2003
ENVIRONMENTAL
UNIT

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

FROM: SHARON AND EDWARD EMERY
8225 OSWEGO, SUNLAND

DEAR MAYA:

We have lived in Sunland for almost 40 years. We raised our children here and our son owns his home a few miles away. As inhabitants of Sunland-Tujunga for so many years, we feel qualified to present 'citizen expert' comments which are based on our experiences here as a family and as homeowners.

We are deeply concerned over the impact the Canyon Hills Whitebird Project will have on our community. We feel that the DEIR issued was misleading and undeveloped as a guide in which the community and the project can participate in such a weighty decision. The bigger picture of the Project's impact cumulatively is vague and/or non-existant. 77-1

The DEIR should reflect accurate statements, comprehensive field studies, well-intregated findings and believable analysis. None of these elements are present in the current DEIR, regrettably.
There are areas of the DEIR that present information as fact, when as citizens who have lived here for so many years, can easily detect the misrepresentation of these facts. We love our community and this lends us to be especially aware of the changes and/or environmental happenings of this area.

Addressing the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Since we own a large area of land we are delightfully visited by many species of animals and insects. We get racoon, possom, hawks nesting in our oak tree, squirrels and butterflies. We feel especially sensitive to the flora / fauna section of the DEIR. In all the years we have lived here we have seen cougar, coyote, foxes, and mature white owls. The DEIR presents inconclusive evidence of preservation or concern for wildlife habitat. And what is presented appears obfiscated, and woefully understudied. And perhaps even misleading in conclusions since our observation of 40 years doesn't match up with the DEIR's results. Though we are not official environmentalists, we are residents who share their land with the natural inhabitants. 77-2

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Addressing the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Continued...

The DEIR is confusing in its approach to the wildlife corridor we know to exist right across the project sight. The DEIR states it has a solution, but other authorities are stating that the solution is not workable. The DEIR is inadequate in its results if its studies were not made over years of observation. The wildlife hereabouts is notoriously reticent on appearing to people. The DEIR does not address the treatment of this wildlife corridor with enough expert analysis or consultation. We feel it is deliberately misleading as to what THEY think will suffice for corridor preservation, or habitat preservation. The DEIR is remiss in its content on the cumulative effects of blocking the corridor to the surrounding preserves, mountains or cooperative human habitat. 77-3

Addressing the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS
TRAFFIC

In the years we have lived in Sunland and in Tujunga, we have seen such an increase of traffic on foothill blvd, we have noticed that all the side streets are backed up as well. In just the last five years, the traffic has become so congested; it can take twenty minutes to travel four blocks.

We understand that when the new shopping center went in at Foothill and Tujunga Canyon road, this would probably be the shopping center most frequented by new residents of Whitehill project. As it is now, driving around this new project is exceedingly tricky, with sheer number of cars coming up Tujunga onto Foothill and all the other smaller residential streets opening onto Foothill. I have seen near misses with delivery trucks, school buses, passenger cars and pedestrians. 77-4

We feel the DEIR has mitigated the impact of the extra passenger /resdent traffic, gardner traffic, service persons traffic, and there is inconclusive information on the widening of roads, the paving of roads, the tearing up trees to widen roads, the restrictions already on roads such as La Tuna Canyon road. The impact on restriced equestrian areas or the added danger to animals/small children with excessive traffic is not mentioned in the DEIR. The DEIR is remiss in addressing these aspects. 77-5

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Addressing the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

ARTIFICIAL LIGHT AND GLARE

We live here because we love it here. It's quiet. It's dark enough to see the stars and its peace is something we cherish. We can't imagine the unsightleness of the GLOW, which would wipe out our southern sky, over the McGroarty ridgeline.

There are numerous astronomy enthusiasts in this area. Each of our neighbors has a telescope! The purity of our night skies is very important to us.

The DEIR does not give any information on the impact the extra hundreds of streetlamps and houselights would do to this area and what is important about this area, namely its low impact on the environment. That the Whitebird Project would be a very high impact on light pollution is given very little credence or serious attention. That this light pollution is avoided as a subject and portrayed inadequately, we can only assume the research was insufficient. 77-6

The DEIR does not address the cumulative effects of years of environmental impact. The Canyon Hills DEIR report should be <u>re-issued,</u> as it appears insufficient, misleading, defective in its conclusions, shortsighted, and insensitive to a community. 77-7

Sincerely, we encourage the City Planning Office to require the Canyon Hills development to adhere and comply with all current laws, restrictions, codes; to abide the guidelines of the Scenic Preservation Plan and the Community Plan. 77-8

Please listen to our voices at your City Planning Department.

Thank you.

Sharon L. Emery

Edward L. Emery