

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: 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.

78-1

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.

78-2

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.

78-3

To be continued...

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FROM: CONNIE KELLY
8248 OSWEGO, SUNLAND

RE: BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES; FLORA AND FAUNA:

Of special interest to me is the lack of conclusive evidence of the sheer volume of wildlife we know to exist in this area. Coyotes abound, as does deer. We have families of racoons regularly passing through our yards and we see gray fox crossing the roads in the early morning. Hawks soar all around these hills and the abundance of songbirds delights every person who lives here. Birdseed sells at every hardware store and hummingbirds abound, due to the native flowering plants that residents purposely plant to encourage the tiny birds into our area. Owls come to visit occasionally and possums make their usual racket.

Where is this plethora of wildlife in the Verdugo Mountains and surrounding areas acknowledged or mentioned in the DEIR?? I feel the DEIR is entirely remiss in addressing the proposed preservation of such abundant wildlife. A study cannot be obtained in a short period of time. All residents of Sunland-Tujunga know that only time and patience and alertness brings the sightings of all the different types of animals which reside here. And let it not be understated that residents stay alert because they care and enjoy the proximatey of these wild creatures.

78-4

I feel that the Canyon Hills DEIR should be re-issued based on just this portion of the report alone. It is so obviously inadequate in its assessment of the amount of wildlife here but also inconclusive as to what it knows about the patterns of travel and habitat. Conflicting data is being offered by authorities in this area, which throw the DEIR into question as to its thoroughness of research and its conclusions. Upon which objectives were created which may not adequately address wildlife habitat destruction.

To be continued...

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FROM: CONNIE KELLY
8248 OSWEGO, SUNLAND

RE: NATIVE TREES:

That replacing the current oak population of the proposed site with plantings clearly slotted for by-ways and medians as the DEIR proposes, appears to violate the ordinances due to misplacement of trees which do NOT offer sanctuary to wildlife as the trees are now placed in traffic areas of the project. The DEIR is unclear whether it intends to enforce homeowners to plant trees on their properties and it's a question as to whether this request would be enforceable.

78-5

We have only to look at the hillside project above and to the NorthEast of Sunland-Tujunga, to see that without aggressive tree planting, a barren hillside remains barren indefinitely. The DEIR is inconclusive in its report about just how aggressive its tree replacement objectives are and what constitutes 'enough' tree replacement as pertains to the current level of vegetation in the communities of Sunland-Tujunga.

78-6

The Canyon Hills DEIR is also remiss and inadequate in its report concerning the relationship to the varied natural vegetation currently existing on this land to the abundant natural wildlife in the hills that this project intends to use. Removing the trees and vegetation may constitute undesirable removal of wildlife for this area. The DEIR is inconclusive in its findings as to the impact this would have on the surrounding communities, both human and natural.

78-7

I would ask the City Planning Department to have the Canyon Hills DEIR be re-issued. There are so many areas, which appear to be inadequately explained, or misrepresented, and perhaps even misleading. I can only comment upon the few items that personally touch me and have deep meaning to the value of life obtained by living in Sunland.

78-8

I urge the City to represent me in keeping the Canyon Hills Development Company in compliance to ALL laws, ordinances, and specifically comply with the Scenic Plan, which I personally support.

Thank you for your concern and support.