

Patricia Murphy-Pattenson
9581 Hillhaven Ave
Tujunga, CA 91042

December 26, 2003

LA City Planning Department
Attn: Maya Zaltzevsky
200 N. Spring Street -- Room 763
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEC 30 2003
ENVIRONMENTAL
UNIT

RE: Whitebird Canyon Hills Development

Dear Maya,

I am writing to ask that you not allow the building of 280 homes off of La tuna Canyon Road and the 210 (Foothill) Freeway. There are many reasons why this project is wrong but here are just a few of them.

110-1

1. **Traffic** – with the addition of these new homes, the volume of additional cars using the freeway, Foothill Blvd., and other neighborhood streets (Tujunga Canyon Blvd., Sunland Blvd.) will be staggering. Current traffic between the hours of 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. using the freeway is stop and go at best with ‘stop’ being the operative word. This development does not take into account any additional street improvements.

110-2

- The main thoroughfare between foothill communities (Sunland, Tujunga, La Crescenta, La Canada) is using Foothill Blvd. This is only a four-lane road (2 per side) and travel during peak hours is very slow already.

2. **Current Animal Inhabitants** – one of the best things about living in the foothills is the ability to be with nature. That is why the majority of us live ‘in the country’. It is very nice to look out your windows and see rabbits, squirrels, quail and even, coyotes. Disrupting this natural habitat should not be done. We currently live peacefully with our animal neighbors but adding 280 new homes will destroy their homes and displace them.

110-3

3. **Sewer System** - these new homes if developed, would come with sewer hookups. How will this effect current homeowners in the area? The neighbors of Hillhaven Avenue, Verdugo Crestline and Inspiration Way have septic systems. Will we be given the option of moving to a sewer system? I’m sure we would all like to move to a sewer system if this development is approved. But again, putting the sewer lines in will change the environment here.

110-4

4. **Street Lighting** – the additional street lighting, even if it is a lower voltage than first envisioned, will take away the atmosphere of what the neighbors have fought to keep. We currently have very few street lights in this area and it is nice to be able to see stars at night.

110-5

5. **Brush Fires** – after what happened in the San Bernardino mountains and Simi Valley hills this October, it scares me to death to think of more houses in a canyon. We take extreme care to keep our properties brush free to help avoid brush fires year around.

110-6

Adding 280 new homes in a brush area (where many insurance carriers will not write business and we can only get state coverage), is not a safe or sane decision.

110-6

If you or members of the Planning department would like to see what it is like to live here, I open my house to you. See why we don't want these houses built.

110-7

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Patti Murphy-Patterson