

December 28, 2003

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Mayor James K. Hahn

Los Angeles City Council
Councilwoman Wendy Gruel

City Planner Dale Thrush

Los Angeles City Planning Department
Maya E. Zaitzevsky
200 North Spring Street, Room 763
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mayor Hahn, Councilwoman Gruel, Dale Thrush, and Maya Zaitzevsky,

During this last year, our involvement in our city government met with positive success fighting a very difficult uphill battle in eliminating a serious blight from our neighborhood. That battle was over the granting of a conditional use permit to allow AT&T to place a cellular facility directly behind our home, which would have resulted in catastrophic financial loss and seriously threatened the surrounding neighbors impacted by this proposal. The predatory and covert nature with which the AT&T application was filed, handled, and shared with those immediately impacted taught us a very hard lesson. If you aren't paying attention, you will become a quick victim of unthinking and uncaring businesses who are out to make a fast buck at others' expense. The many thousands of dollars which we had to dole out in fighting the CUP (which should never have been allowed to get to the stage it did), and the toll on our daily lives for the month we spent fighting it will not soon be forgotten.

We had an enormous burden placed upon us due to lack of due diligence by all parties involved – the Department of Water and Power, the City, and AT&T. We are really thankful that we happened to be home while the actual impact was being lied about and being raced to a permit – with potentially disastrous and litigious consequences for all involved. **That any citizen of Los Angeles should be subjected to such carelessness without thoroughly checking out ALL OF the impacts on the taxpayers involved appear to be more sinister to us than well intended.** Specifically, money is changing hands at the expense of those who bear an enormous burden as a consequence with NO BENEFIT. No due diligence was done in an adequate fashion to really check out the impact of placing such a facility in such a sensitive area, no conversations were held with the people impacted, no checking of actual property owner rights by those who even held the paperwork. The permit proposal was rife with lies and falsehoods. Finally, and with a tremendous neighborhood push, the City Council stepped up to the plate and came out and saw what the problem was. Dale Thrush is now our neighborhood hero – he did the right thing for the community and helped put his weight behind us and got it stopped. What an effort was made to get there – so unnecessary. What it demonstrated is that if you make enough noise and do your homework, you might have a chance with the City, and it might work better than money changing hands. It gave us some faith.

122-1

Here we go again. Has anyone really seriously looked at the extensively flawed proposal submitted by Whitebird for the Canyon Hills draft EIR? Is anyone really looking into what they submitted? It is rife with falsehoods. The plans to place high density neighborhoods in an area treasured for its scenic beauty, black starry skies, quiet, low density areas, sensitive wildlife area loaded with wild oaks and many species that thrive in a dwindling resource – we can't believe this is being considered. It appears to be a fait accompli. We understand that the new shopping center at Lowell and Foothill – hardly a high-end development with the inclusion of such low-end shops – may have some connection to this. We also

122-2

understand the new intersection at Verdugo Hills Golf Course may have some connection. Apparently there are others in the works.	122-2
If the horrific wildfires we just suffered aren't enough incentive to take a look at what is currently on the planning table, and pay attention to the paperwork submitted in the proposal, what is? What will it take to stop such irresponsible and irreversible development, which will have devastating results on this area?	122-3
Here is what we can look forward to if it passes:	122-4
1. Loss of our scenic and peaceful way of life, increased threat of hazards and pollution	122-5
2. Loss of night blackness to view stars from light and dust pollution.	122-6
3. Seriously impacted wildlife area, loss of PROTECTED oaks and wildlife habitat, loss of wildlife	122-7
4. Ugly scarring of scenic vistas along the 210 and La Tuna, treasured for their beauty	122-8
5. 20 years of continuous construction nuisance, noise pollution, air pollution, dust, turmoil, traffic at a large scale beyond what the sensitive area can bear.	122-9
6. More cars than La Tuna Canyon can bear -- nearly 3,000 daily trips total added to a low current volume	122-10
7. Congestion on the 210 heavily increased by this development, already getting worse.	122-11
8. Significantly increased fire risk in a VERY HIGH FIRE ZONE -- already in an area recently vandalized by fire. Just add more potential fire starters.	122-12
9. Water usage in their proposal is based on the total acreage, not the developed acreage.	122-13
10. Permanent damage to the hillsides and canyons caused by cut and fill method of construction.	122-14
11. High density zoning which will invite more of the same, turning the area into another Santa Clarita overdeveloped area, increasingly damaging the life we treasure here.	122-15
12. Air pollution from construction and hundreds of added cars in a fragile canyon area.	122-16
13. Increased trash and construction trash.	122-17
14. Impassable roads when we are trying to get to work due to construction.	122-18
15. La Tuna Canyon road is already known to be dangerous, increased risks to all coming and going, especially during the heavy rain storms we are known to have -- SUCH AS LANDSLIDES.	122-19
It isn't hard to imagine how the peace and scenic beauty we moved here for will soon be a dream of the past. Some facts about this area:	122-20
1. The zoning is low density -- they have permits for only about 90 homes. That is far more reasonable, but they haven't proven trustworthy with their current plans, and should not be allowed to build at all.	122-21
2. The area is known for a century as having some of the cleanest air in Los Angeles -- that will change	122-22
3. The area is known for being able to see stars -- less light pollution -- that will change with the development and the lighting required for nearly 300 homes and the construction.	122-23
4. The low density zoning was put in place to preserve the area -- it is this very quality that we cherish, and which makes it an attractive area to buy real estate.	122-24
5. The high wind, high fire danger in the area is real and quantified by many years of evidence. You are now going to increase danger to a new group of nearly 300 families. Haven't we learned that lesson well enough yet? Is the City ready for another disaster and more financial and human loss?	122-25
6. Access to roads for fire fighting is very limited, and INADEQUATE in their planning. We are really lucky that the fire which started in the VERY AREA they are planning to use about 3 years ago didn't burn down this neighborhood. The winds were low. They put it out very fast. It could have been very different.	122-26
7. This is a quiet cul-de-sac area, the traffic pattern will change that quickly for everyone.	122-27
8. The water tanks they are planning to piggyback onto will place a new burden on surrounding residents at existing DWP facilities.	122-28
9. When someone actually does the math, you will see that their plans to piggyback onto sewage facilities in La Tuna will be woefully inadequate. This will require more ripping up of La Tuna.	122-29
10. The hiking enjoyed in this area is enjoyed for a reason -- no houses and few cars. That will be gone.	122-30
11. The schools aren't prepared to deal with a new influx of students.	122-31

Where is the benefit to us for this blight? The money goes to developers who aren't even from California.

At some point, someone needs to really decide if we will just continue to rip up our beautiful and dwindling open space for money or take a stand for re-developing the blighted areas we have left behind in the wake of development in Los Angeles. We live here because it is NOT Orange County.

122-28

Mayor Hahn, I met you at a fundraiser at mutual friend Patty Glaser's home this year. You mentioned that your biggest challenge is keeping crime down, getting more police on the streets, and continuing to make Los Angeles a better place to live. I contributed to your campaign because of the increased access we have to our City Government, through the local councils, and applaud your efforts to make Los Angeles remain one city. That undivided city has to pay attention to the taxpayers which live here, not outside interests from other states who would gladly rape the land to line their pockets while the citizens of Los Angeles just "deal with it". They have no interest in preserving anything but their wallets. It is time to take a stand to preserve the beauty we have here, and pay attention to the truth.

We strongly recommend that they re-submit their proposal, and this time, tell the truth.

We also strongly recommend that the City take a more discerning look at what is really in the proposal, and what the burden on the neighborhood is vs. the benefits to those who must bear it.

122-29

The extremes which my husband, an architect, has been through in simply placing ATM machines for Washington Mutual throughout the Southland to distribute welfare checks should be the same planning criteria that Whitebird has to meet. If what he had to do for installing an ATM into an existing bank building was any indication, this project will never pass. Where is the fairness?

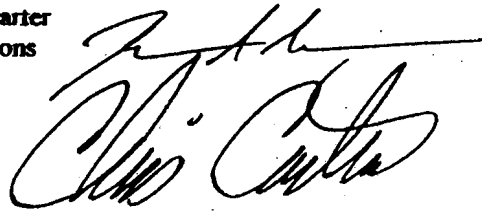
122-30

Thank you for your time, please keep La Tuna Canyon a beautiful and unspoiled nature preserve that it currently is. Just say NO TO LIES AND FALSE PROPOSALS.

Sincerely,

Barbara Anderson Carter
Executive Presentations
Legal Presentations

Christopher Carter
Architect



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