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Comment Letter No. 147

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

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CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEC 31 2003
ENVIRONMENTAL
UNIT

Re: Case No. ENV-2002-2481-EIR

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with grave concern for the wildlife, health and safety of current inhabitants, aesthetics, and quality of life that I am writing to the planning commission regarding the proposed Canyon Hills project in Tujunga.

147-1

Geology and Soils:

With the recent devastation in Southern California due to recent wildfires and now the deadly outcome of mudslides in the fire ravaged communities, it causes concern for our hillsides during the construction process. Will the hillsides be protected during the 5 years it will require to grade the area from mudslides during excessive rain? How will the habitat beneath the grading be protected? Will the project developer guarantee there will be no loss to existing structures?

147-2

Air Quality:

The DEIR states "The result of the calculations indicate that construction emissions of NOx and PM10 would be significant on the peak day and the peak quarter without mitigation." And further states "Emissions of NOx and PM10 would remain significant after mitigation." The term "sensitive receptors" is referred to in this context. What are the criteria in determining what qualifies as a sensitive receptor? On a purely human basis, I consider anyone with an upper respiratory weakness to be at risk during a 5 year grading process.

147-3

Flora and Fauna:

There will be 304.77 acres of vegetation impacted by this project. Of the 304.77 acres 9.55 acres will be negatively impacted by what the CDFG considers "a rare natural community." This is a significant loss to this beautiful natural environment. This loss will permanently affect our ecosystem. Another 3.15 acres will be negatively impacted with the promise that the acreage will be "revegetated after remedial grading." However there is no guarantee that this acreage will flourish with the same vegetation after the trauma of grading.

147-4

Native Trees:

18% of the coast live oak trees would be removed from the project site. The remaining 1,015 coast live oak trees that would remain on site may suffer permanent damage and/or trauma therein rendering the trees not viable.

147-5

Noise:

99.9% of all existing homes surrounding the proposed project site DO NOT experience any noise of any decibel other than the occasional automobile passing by, the weekly trash pickup, or the sound of a horses trotting along. For these residents, any noise whether between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. is a 100% increase in noise levels! This cannot be justified by containing the hours the noise will impact our daily lives.

147-6

Traffic:

The Safety Review section of the summary DEIR document states "Based on traffic accident data from 1990 through 2000 the section rate from La Tuna Canyon Road between Sunland Boulevard and Interstate 210 Westbound ramps is estimated to be 0.769 accidents per vehicle-million miles of travel." The statement goes on to compare this statistic to the average L.A. Public Works statistic of 1.82 accidents per million vehicle-miles of travel. The faulty comparison in this analysis is that it is comparing the strip of La Tuna Canyon Road to other mountain roads with a design of 35 M.P.H. or greater. I travel on La Tuna Canyon Road multiple times per day and have witnessed speeds in excess of the posted 50 M.P.H. speed limit. I have witnessed and been involved in near head-on collisions due to excessive speed on a windy, downhill incline, two lane strip of La Tuna Canyon Road. This strip of roadway is very dangerous and is in need to further analysis with an emphasis on safety. A study should take place for possible safety measures such as a center dividing.

147-7

Fire Protection and Police:

What impact on the increased number of residents does the DEIR show to impact emergency personnel? I do not find mention of the impact this development will pose to the Los Angeles Fire Department for emergency services. What impact will this have on the LAFD or LAPD response time?

147-8

Thank you for your time in addressing these concerns. I look forward to a response.

Sincerely,



Julie Davis