

**Toni T. Bird**  
**432 Georgian Road**  
**La Canada, CA 91011**

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

Dear Ms. Zaitzevsky:

Please stop the Whitebird Development from building on the land adjacent to the 210 freeway 9 (canyon Hills Project, EIR Case no: ENV-2002-2481-EIR and Reference Nos: SCH#2002091018

We can not handle the extra density. The roads and the rest of the infrastructure can not take any more major developments such as is planned. We need as much green area as we have now. There is a problem with the pollution in this area already.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Toni T. Bird

December 20, 2003

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

Re: Canyon Hills Project  
ENV-2002-24-EIR  
SCH#2002091018

Dear Ms. Zaitzevsky:

There appear to be some questionable assumptions and conclusions in the school segment of the DEIR. First of all, the conclusion that the impact of this project will not significantly impact the school system is flawed inasmuch as it assumes that a new high school will be constructed by the year 2005 even though, apparently, the location of this school has not as yet been chosen. There is also the question of financing it with the budget crunch all cities are presently facing. Secondly, the number of children this project will create, per the DEIR, is most conservative, to say the least, The figure of 122 new students is unrealistic.

The birth rate in this nation is about 2.5 children per family. The proposed cost of the residences in this project will eliminate the elderly, the young and the singles leaving only the married's with children or those planning to have children free to occupy the homes! The projects 280 homes may create 700 children and even allowing 50 homes to be childless only brings the total down to 575 kids. That's a far cry from the 122 in the DEIR!

The third point is that if the new high school is not constructed, that means both high schools now in existence will be much more over their maximum as will the elementary and middle schools. That means crowded classrooms, overstressed teachers and, most importantly, a decline in learning not to mention the need to hire more teachers, do more maintenance, etc. So the impact will be SIGNIFICANT If the high school is built, it may lessen the student impact but increase the traffic congestion through taking children to and from school five days a week!

This school traffic coupled with about 3000 additional daily vehicle trips on La Tuna Canyon and surrounding streets spells traffic congestion and something on which the writers of the DEIR either avoided or did not care to comment??

Lastly, the impact on the school system and the increase in traffic congestion from this project is something the EIR writers should have studied further and more completely. But just studying the school impact problem and the other problems and negatives of this proposed development is really just "window dressing." The real disaster here is that this project is just the beginning. If it is approved, with its bridges and roads, more

development will occur with hundreds of acres turned into residential enclaves, strip malls and parking lots.  
Accordingly, this development should be most carefully studied and considered and then, disapproved. Thank you.

Paul Brunton  
Mary Ann Brunton  
3916 El Caminito  
La Crescenta, CA 91214-1026

*Mary Ann Brunton*  
*Paul T. Brunton*

December 28, 2003

Barbara and Christopher Carter  
9522 Cordero Avenue  
Tujunga, CA 91042  
818-353-0606

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.

**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

understand the new intersection at Verdugo Hills Golf Course may have some connection. Apparently there are others in the works.

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?

Here is what we can look forward to if it passes:

1. Loss of our scenic and peaceful way of life, increased threat of hazards and pollution
2. Loss of night blackness to view stars from light and dust pollution.
3. Seriously impacted wildlife area, loss of PROTECTED oaks and wildlife habitat, loss of wildlife
4. Ugly scarring of scenic vistas along the 210 and La Tuna, treasured for their beauty
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.
6. More cars than La Tuna Canyon can bear – nearly 3,000 daily trips total added to a low current volume
7. Congestion on the 210 heavily increased by this development, already getting worse.
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.
9. Water usage in their proposal is based on the total acreage, not the developed acreage.
10. Permanent damage to the hillsides and canyons caused by cut and fill method of construction.
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.
12. Air pollution from construction and hundreds of added cars in a fragile canyon area.
13. Increased trash and construction trash.
14. Impassable roads when we are trying to get to work due to construction.
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.

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:

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.
2. The area is known for a century as having some of the cleanest air in Los Angeles – that will change
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.
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.
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?
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.
7. This is a quiet cul-de-sac area, the traffic pattern will change that quickly for everyone.
8. The water tanks they are planning to piggyback onto will place a new burden on surrounding residents at existing DWP facilities.
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.
10. The hiking enjoyed in this area is enjoyed for a reason – no houses and few cars. That will be gone.
11. The schools aren't prepared to deal with a new influx of students.

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.

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.

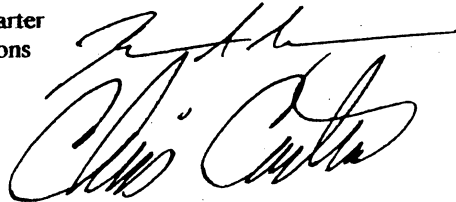
The extremes which my husband, an architect, has been through in simply placing ATM machines for Washington Mutual throughout the Southland to distribute welfare checks should be the same planning criteria that Whitebird has to meet. If what he had to do for installing an ATM into an existing bank building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

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



Los Angeles City Planning Dept  
Maya Zaitzevsky  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Re: ENV 2002-2481-eir; sch#2002091018  
Canyon Hills Project- Deir Comments

Dear Ms Zaitzevsky

I am a home owner in Tujunga and appreciate this community for the availability of untouched nature. The natural slopes with the trees and native plants and the wildlife that they support are an important factor in my decision to live here.

I believe that the referenced DEIR is diffident in regards to the proposed removal of trees. It is estimated that over 300 oaks and sycamores will be cut or moved. The DEIR proposes to mitigate this loss by replacing them with trees they will move in. This mitigation is not acceptable in that their plan will replace the trees in the areas of the proposed homes. Along walkways and roads leaving the wildlife areas empty of their original trees. The California State Environmental Agency that regulates there issues has guidelines and laws that state that trees must be replaced in the areas that are used by the wildlife that originally depended on them. ( Planting acorns is not acceptable as germination is far from guaranteed.)

I therefore urge that the draft environmental impact report be rejected due to this deficiency.

Edward Condit  
7080 Flora Morgan Tr  
Tujunga, Ca 91042

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

29 December 2003

Regarding: CANYON HILLS PROJECT,  
EIR Case no: ENV-2002-2481-EIR  
Reference #: SCH # 2002091018

Dear Ms Zaitzevsky:

I have had the opportunity to review section the DEIR for the above-mentioned project and have some serious concerns with regard to the biological section. The survey has neglected to consider several highly sensitive species and there are numerous errors that indicate that there is a lack of knowledge and/or careless use of existing literature and range maps resulting in some inadequately based and biologically irresponsible conclusions.

Several species and subspecies are confused and are cited as occurring in the Study Area when in fact the area is out of their range such as Gilbert's Skink (*Eumeces gilberti*); Speckled Rattlesnake, (*Crotalus mitchellii*); Red Diamond Rattlesnake (*Crotalus ruber*); Orange-throated Whiptail (*Cnemidophorus hyperythrus beldingi*). Common names are either misspelled or out of date: "Logger-Head Shrike" is correctly indicated as Loggerhead Shrike, Plain Titmouse (*Parus inornatus*) has been changed to Oak Titmouse (*Baeolophus inornatus*). This is troubling as it indicates that the surveys appear to have been conducted in a rushed manner with inexperienced personnel working under constraining time budgets.

The survey reports only one sighting of the Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria Virens*) north east of area B (proposed development south of the 210 freeway on La Tuna road) (page IV.D44). Such a single reported sighting is surprising, as I have observed this species to be fairly evenly distributed over both area A and B (proposed development north of the 210 freeway) and in the surrounding area of the Verdugo mountains south of La Tuna Canyon Road.

Similarly, the Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) is mentioned as having been observed only once (page IV.D44)(not shown on Fig IVD2). However, this species is also fairly uniformly distributed over the Study Area and proposed development area.