

**RE: ENV-2002-2481-EIR ;
SCH #2002091018
CANYON HILLS PROJECT- DEIR COMMENTS**

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.

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...

**RE: ENV-2002-2481-EIR;
SCH #2002091018
CANYON HILLS PROJECT- DEIR COMMENTS**

FROM: CONNIE KELLY
8248 OSWEGO, SUNLAND

RE: SOIL STABILITY/EROSION:

The cumulative effects of cutting hillsides, grading and filling current deep culverts, is not adequately addressed by the DEIR. We currently do not have a single scarred hillside. Aesthetically, such hillside destruction is undesirable. Environmentally, it is unsound. With the levels of dryness, roots cannot establish. With the sudden rainfall, everything washes away.

The DEIR fails to present believable examinations of the necessary destruction of the current vegetation to accommodate its building. The natural vegetation is established and withstands all weather changes and/or seismic activity, which proves its importance.

Another discrepancy in the DEIR is that as La Tuna Canyon road is the major water runoff for the hills surrounding and meeting up with it at the 210 freeway. The DEIR is unclear as to the flooding impact to La Tuna Canyon road, as the project will remove all that which now currently absorbs and naturally directs runoff.

RE: NATIVE TREES:

We have only Santa Clarita to see what developers have done to the native trees. We have oak trees aged by experienced tree specialists to be upwards of 400-700 years old.

That the DEIR places a 'fair market value' on the ancient trees located in the proposed building area; demonstrates ignorance of heritage, community concern or environmental values, which no Real Estate company would pretend to have the authority to ascertain.

I find that the DEIR is insufficient in its research or objectives on replacement of the oak trees and / or sycamore trees in this area. Acorn planting does NOT constitute 15 gallon plantings. That the Oak Tree Ordinance is clearly being violated by the project requires that this area be re-examined by Canyon Hills Development.

To be continued...

**RE: ENV-2002-2481-EIR ;
SCH #2002091018
CANYON HILLS PROJECT- DEIR COMMENTS**

Comment Letter No. 172
Attachment 172ii

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Connie Kelly

LOS ANGELES CITY PLANNING DEPT.
MAYA E. ZAITZEVSKY
200 NORTH SPRING STR.
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

**RE: ENV-2002-2481-EIR ;
SCH #2002091018
CANYON HILLS PROJECT- DEIR COMMENTS**

**FROM: KEVIN KELLY
8248 OSWEGO, SUNLAND**

FOR MS. ZAITZEVSKY:

I have resided in Sunland for over 54 years. I have family located in and around Sunland. Having worked, and lived here for numerous years, I feel I can bring a sincere and believable outlook as a 'citizen expert' to that which is presented by the Canyon Hills Whitebird DEIR.

Having grown up here, I feel I have especially valuable viewpoints to offer. I have seen the impact of additional people coming to live here. People come here for the same reasons I love living here. We're surrounded by magnificent mountains, un-damaged ridgelines and a panorama which gives this community the value it has. I see the DEIR fails to analyze effectively the cumulative effects the Whitebird Project may have on this community as a whole. The DEIR is deficient in its assessments of how the project may negatively impact the value of life people currently possess in living in Sunland-Tujunga.

IN RESPONSE TO THE DEIR; ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS:

SUBJECT: UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS:

Of special interest to me is the lack of conclusive evidence pertaining to the impact on the existing services we now have. We all understand that California is suffering an economic crisis, which affects our public services. What we have is all we have and for an indefinite period, will be all we have. In light of this, the DEIR is completely defective in its findings on the impact to these services. There is insufficient reporting in the DEIR on the impact on already overextended public services.

Not to mention the taxing on our garbage services, which cannot improve due to statewide monetary restrictions.

----continue please----

FROM: KEVIN KELLY
8248 OSWEGO, SUNLAND

SUBJECT: WATER AND ELECTRICITY:

We are aware that the power grid is taxed, especially in summer. And with every home going in at Whitebird, each home could have 2 - 4 air conditioning systems per home. The result of this extra pull on the power grid and its affects to the community is inconclusively realized in the DEIR. If there are blackouts, who gets priority on re-establishing service?? The power companies are currently encouraging us to restrict our usage of electricity and we have power outages due to the excessive load on the power supply companies currently; I propose that the Canyon Hills DEIR is insufficient in its reporting of its impact on the power grid.

In relationship to the vague conclusions reached in the DEIR, there is the related light pollution directly related to energy consumption. Currently the community of Sunland-Tujunga utilizes the minumum of street lighting. The residents so enjoy the privilage of seeing the night sky clearly; the impact of the light pollution the project will introduce is not fully addressed in the DEIR.

There is a conflict on water usage and the DEIR is unclear about its proposed usage and whether it can even accurately present useable data since every household presents varying needs and requirements. The impact on the surrounding communities is inconclusive. What if the introduction of this project and its requirements actually adversely affect us? The current company (DWP) may restrict our water usage or increase our water charges which now stand at almost an intolarable levels of cost? The DEIR clearly presents incomplete analysis on the impact of extra water, electricity and garbage needs to the project.

SUBJECT: TRANSPORTATION:

Anyone who has lived here over ten years all comment on the incredible increase of traffic. Since Foothill Blvd. is the main and ONLY major thoroughfare of Sunland-Tujunga, it has becoming increasingly evident that there is overcrowding going on. The DEIR does not present conclusive traffic observation results. The traffic accidents have increased to such levels that residents can observe an accident a week, sometime two or three accidents a week. The increased traffic load of the Whitebird Project on Foothill blvd. and all surrounding streets is completely misrepresented in the DEIR.

The DEIR also does not mention the impact on this community's byways of the thousands of heavy loaded vehicles which will utilyze the strategicly located Foothill Blvd. Foothill blvd. is not close to the project, but some residential streets lead right up to its proposed location. The DEIR gives evasive results on the impact of the project related traffic on these streets.

And since traffic requires roads, what about the priority placed on paving roads leading up to the project or around the project? Some residents have been waiting years and years for repaving of badly maintained roads and of roads which need first time paving. The DEIR does not give attention to this aspect of community useage or maintainance.

FROM: KEVIN KELLY
8248 OSWEGO, SUNLAND

SUBJECT: LAND USE:

Probably the most glaring example of misused land acquisition and development is the project scarring the Tujung wash hillside, NorthEast of our community. It has become a permanent eyesore. Though this could be under the heading of Aesthetics, it is ultimately about land use and how developers use the land they purchase. We ask that the Project adhere to slope density ordinances; abide the Scenic Preservation Plan, the Community plan and all governmental/city codes and restrictions.

As a resident, I can look at the mountains in question, slotted for development and logically understand that the Canyon Hills Project may be inticed to change laws for their benefit. As every community knows, by hard experience that once an area is opened for development, more developers want to take adjoining parcels and develop those for profit. I have no objections to a company making a profit. If the DEIR represents Whitebird Project's objectives, than the DEIR appears to be purposely misleading. The way the DEIR is currently structured it is a forgone conclusion that the profits made may cost the the surrounding community in untold, irreversible or irreparable ways.

SUBJECT: POLICE PROTECTION:

This portion of the DEIR shows numerous flaws in reasoning. Our local law enforcement division is already so overly taxed it takes longer than normal for a response to a call. There are traffic accidents which have increased over the years, where the wait time for a traffic officer is longer than most anywhere in the valley.

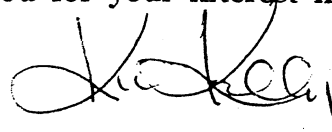
The DEIR gives no conclusive information on how having hundreds of new households will impact the surrounding communities to qualities of life issues, such as harassment, petty crimes, delinquency of minors, traffic accidents, and domestic disturbance. The DEIR cannot base its report on its lack of 'murders' or other more serious crimes. It is the less serious disturbances which are not properly responded to currently. The Project's disturbances could tax our current law enforcement agencies to the point of adversely affecting all.

SUBJECT: FIRE PROTECTION:

Of the DEIR report on fire, there is a complete lack of attention to paramedic response time or availability. And the DEIR is remiss in revealing plans associated with fire access roads? Whose land are they on? Or are they wide enough? In even of a major fire, how will all the residents escape on one road? All issues not addressed in the DEIR.

I strongly recommend the City Planning Office to review all community letters and encourage the Canyon Hills DEIR be re-issued. Please honor and uphold the Scenic Plan, the Community Plan and all ordinances applicable.

Thank you for your interest in this letter.



LOS ANGELES CITY PLANNING DEPT.
MAYA E. ZAITZEVSKY
200 NORTH SPRING STR.
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

**RE: ENV-2002-2481-EIR ; SCH #2002091018
CANYON HILLS PROJECT- DEIR COMMENTS**

**FROM: TANYA KNIGHT
8243 OSWEGO, SUNLAND**

DEAR MS. ZAITZEVSKY:

When my family moved to this area, it was because of its utter rural appeal. Our home faces the mountains upon which this above mentioned project proposes to build it's homes. I have examined the DEIR and have discovered many inaccuracies and deficiencies. As a 'citizen expert', I have included below that which what is most glaringly insufficient in the DEIR report.

PERTAINING TO IV: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

SUB-SECTION: GEOLOGY AND SOILS:

In examining the DEIR, it becomes obvious that an impassioned demand be made to insist that the project must comply with slope density regulations and laws. Even a layman observer of nature has seen and witnessed the tremendous problems that which arise from disruption of the existing, wild vegetation. I see very little examination or viable conclusions reached on the increased possibility of landslides.

SUB-SECTION: FLORA AND FAUNA:

Another area of discernably inaccurate and undeveloped data. A limited proclaimed observation time would appear grossly insufficient in which to observe the natural wildlife of our area and of this area in particular, which is well known to be a wildlife corridor for many species of animals. This report shows flaws in it's conclusions. Based on resident observations and my own observations, there are families of hawks, racoons, grey fox, lizards, butterflies and other assorted 'shy' creatures who use this natural area to nest, eat and live unmolested.

Anyone who lives in this area has heard the dozens of coyote calls and communication at twilight and late evening. The flora and fauna section of the DEIR is one of the most blatantly misrepresented portions of the report. That the so-called 'alternative' proposals were presented as 'superior' make the report incompatable to conclusions reached by other authoritative sources on this matter.

Continued next page.

**-RE: ENV-2002-2481-EIR ; SCH #2002091018
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**FROM: TANYA KNIGHT
8243 OSWEGO, SUNLAND**

**PERTAINING TO IV: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

CONTINUED:

SUB-SECTION: FLORA AND FAUNA:

The impact on this community of the loss of our wildlife due to constriction of their living areas, or being made to travel through areas with the potential of death by automobile (to name a few problems) would be devastating and demoralizing and wasn't addressed in the DEIR report adequately.

The impact to the Verdugo Mountains, San Gabriel mountains and Tujunga wash wildlife was overall represented in the DEIR as inconclusive, imcomplete, and inexact in it's findings. Since these very areas surround the community of Sunland-Tujunga, they would significantly impact the quality of life of those who live here and relish the natural life we take joy in observing.

As the study was conducted during a time of dryness of the area, it appears to be sketchy and imprecise as to the abundant wildflower blooming which took place after the rains. Or the increased butterfly population in response to this brilliant display of color.

That this section of the DEIR makes illogical assumptions, is flawed in it's conclusions is based on citizen observation and professional involvement. The Canyon Hills DEIR is untenable and defective in it's presentation.

SUB-SECTION: ARTIFICIAL LIGHT AND GLARE.

This portion of the DEIR also contains obvious inconsistencies with resident observations and preferences. There is a questionable mentioning of 'wattage' as a measure of luminance. Wattage does NOT measure luminance. There are low wattage bulbs produced commercially (to be used in street lighting) which are there for energy efficiency, NOT levels of light. If it were, then the other drawback to wattage is that: if it is 'low', than more lights may be installed to compensate.

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RE: ENV-2002-2481-EIR ; SCH #2002091018
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FROM: TANYA KNIGHT
8243 OSWEGO, SUNLAND

PERTAINING TO IV: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

SUB-SECTION: ARTIFICIAL LIGHT AND GLARE.

CONTINUED:

Currently, the residents of Sunland-Tujunga, including myself, enjoy the rare privilege of low light pollution, enabling this community the opportunity to see more starlight than is normally available to other residents of the Los Angeles community. What is left unclear and inconclusive is the amount of light pollution introduced by this project, assuming every street would have multiple light posts, and every residence have their own lighting for security or visibility of premises.

What is also deficient, is the visual impact of the community proposed to those who relish and take relief in the open spaces and 'cleanliness' of the mountains on either side of the freeway 210 between Sunland Blvd and Lowell Blvd. Exit. The increased light pollution in this area would impact visual serenity and turn the Sunland-Tujunga into yet another overcrowded, claustrophobic community.

SUB-SECTION: LAND USE:

Of this section, 1) the interaction with the Hillside Ordinance and Slope Density Ordinance which control development in hillside areas is left undefined and vague in its conclusions. I strongly urge that the Canyon Hills Project comply to the current laws and restrictions of these ordinances and are not allowed to present new laws to bypass what may have inconvenienced the Project.

2) The cumulative effect on the existing Sunland-Tujunga community is that once a project is allowed to destroy what is cherished land, then more developers bid for the remaining parcels to make their profits. The surrounding areas were not assessed accurately in the DEIR for the impact on the current community to the increased density of future development.

Continued next page.

**RE: ENV-2002-2481-EIR ; SCH #2002091018
CANYON HILLS PROJECT- DEIR COMMENTS**

**FROM: TANYA KNIGHT
8243 OSWEGO, SUNLAND**

**PERTAINING TO IV: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

SUB-SECTION: LAND USE:

CONTINUED:

3) Insufficient information and vague conclusions are given on the impact to the community of Tujunga on the back side of this proposed project. Also, inconclusive results are given on the compliance with grading and construction on ridgelines. The report appears to be evasive in addressing future 'justification' for subdividing and crowding of hillside 'buffer' zones, many of which were created by homeowners to preserve a natural area near their homes.

4) Most importantly, in light of the latest fire disasters in Simi Valley, Redlands area and Porter Ranch, the report is inconclusive, insufficient and imprecise on the impact to this area. The above-mentioned areas are all residential areas. There is not any discernable assessment made on the impact this project may contribute to fire hazards to it's surrounding areas; ie: the Verdugo Mtns, the San Gabriel mtns, and La Tuna Canyon mountains, all within fire hazard range of this proposed project. The disasterous fires of the recent past give evidence that housing may actually contribute to the possibility of out-of-control; property damage / land / preserved wildlife area fires.

SUB-SECTION: TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC:

The DEIR study reaches inconclusive evaluations, and insufficient information is provided on how the extra household members present in this proposed project will affect the all-ready overcrowded schools, the excessive traffic on Foothill blvd. (which has significantly increased in the last few years just with the few houses that have been built within the Sunland-Tujunga community.), the loss of bike trails, hiking trails, horse riding; and the increased traffic on La Tuna Canyon rd. Not to mention the restricted weight load limits for La Tuna Canyon rd. that would be clearly violated with huge trucks hauling away tons and tons of dirt that exceed La Tuna Canyon road's specified weight limitations...plus all the traffic generated

Continued next page.

RE: ENV-2002-2481-EIR ; SCH #2002091018
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FROM: TANYA KNIGHT
8243 OSWEGO, SUNLAND

PERTAINING TO IV: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

SUB-SECTION: TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC:
CONTINUED:

by the project residents, with commuting, garbage hauling, gardeners, and for years and years of construction, all the contractors utilizing this road to and from the site, making the DEIR report an un-researched and incoherent package.

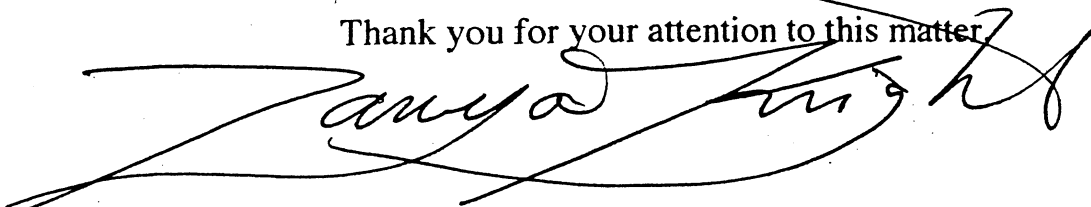
SUB-SECTION: SOLID WASTE AND DISPOSAL:

It was announced just recently that the garbage dump, Bradly Pit, was slated for closure due to the overwhelming increase of garbage being placed here. The DEIR presented incomplete and inexact observations and results. The report was inconclusive and evasive on the impact this project would have which might hasten the closure of the only dump site now available to the surrounding community. The cumulative effects of millions of lbs. of increased trash dumping to the current dump site and the planning of future dump sites was not ascertained, nor apparently examined or researched with any thoroughness.

Probably the most horrendous impact of this project on the surrounding communities of Sunland, Tujunga, La Crescenta, La Tuna canyon, is the loss of our current ridgelines and the value of our homes due to the purity of these ridgelines being a part of our surrounding view. The DEIR does not address the destructive impact on the rest of the community's value with the loss of these ridgelines. There are impaired conclusions reached on how dynamiting these mountains will psychologically affect citizens of Sunlan-Tujunga and the children. Nor is there any conclusions reached on the extended amount of years of noise accompanying building, bulldozing and other construction activities.

I strongly urge the City have the Canyon Hills DEIR be re-issued and hold the project to comply all current laws and adhere to the Scenic Plan.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tanya Knight", is written over the typed name and extends across the bottom of the page.

COPY

Heiko Krippendorf
9755 Hillhaven Ave.
Tujunga, CA 91042 tel. (818) 951-1479

December 19, 2003

Los Angeles City Planning Dept.
Maya E. Zaitzevsky
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, Ca 90012

**RE: ENV-2002-2481-EIR; SCH#2002091018
Canyon Hills Project - DEIR Comments**

Dear Ms. Zaitzevsky:

I have lived and worked in Tujunga for over 12 years, and my home is located on the emergency access road proposed from Area leading to the Canyon Hills Project. I have studied portions of the DEIR, and find that there are many inaccuracies and omissions in regards to the environmental impacts, and I would like to address a few impacts:

The Canyon Hills Project being a Gated Community:

The equestrians and hikers will no longer be able to access this area, which has always been an open community. And the aesthetics of a gated community doesn't fit the character of Tujunga.

Emergency Access Proposed from Area A:

Access from Inspiration and Verdugo Crestline Drive doesn't conform to road width standards. Hillhaven is too steep for heavy trucks. There are no sidewalks, which could be potentially dangerous for walkers, cyclist, and the children I see playing in the currently non-trafficked streets that will be sharing the roads with large and heavy trucks.

Zoning Change:

Tujunga has beauty and aesthetic appeal because of the rural character. Changing the zoning from horse property lots to smaller non-horse property lots changes the appealing community character. **I urge the City not to approve this zoning change.**

We want to keep our mountains. The DEIR did not disclosed how open space will be preserved. I urge the City to have the consultant redo the EIR so that it is corrected to adequately addresses issues that have be inaccurate, vague or not addressed in the DEIR, and then have the City re-release the EIR for additional comments. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,


Heiko Krippendorf

Copy

Tina Krippendorf
9755 Hillhaven Ave.
Tujunga, CA 91042
(818) 951-1479

December 20, 2003

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

**RE: ENV-2002-2481-EIR
SCH#2002091018
Canyon Hills Project -
DEIR Comments**

Dear Ms. Zaitzevsky:

I have lived in Tujunga for 9 years, and take walks in the Verdugo Mountains at least 5 times a week. I have intimate knowledge of the area, it's roads, animals and traffic patterns. I have read sections of the DEIR that interest me, and after doing so, I feel the DEIR is inaccurate in many areas, and neglects to be specific about the negative environmental impacts on our community. I feel the DEIR should be redone. Below I have listed some areas I feel the DEIR is inaccurate or vague in:

1. WILDLIFE:

Coyotes

I feel I am a citizen expert in the area of wildlife in the Verdugo's, and as a citizen expert I have observed the wildlife in the Verdugo's for 9 years. I have seen many coyotes in the Verdugo's when I've been hiking. We have 7 coyote' two houses away from us, and another pack across the street. And a friend of mine that lives up the hill from me (about 2 blocks) has told me that she has a pack of coyote near her. The DEIR states only 5 coyotee are living in the Canyon Hills Project area. After my observations, I feel that is inaccurate and definitely an understatement. With so many packs of coyote in such a small area near my home, and with the coyote I've seen in the Verdugos, I am confident that the DEIR is incorrect in it's statement of 5 coyote in the project area.

Mountain Lions

Page IV.D-139 of the DEIR states, "Mountain lions are not found in the study area or any portion of the Verdugo Mountains, therefore regional movement by the mountain lions with or through the study area does not occur." I have seen one mountain lion in the Verdugos, and I know there have been many sightings of the mountain lion by other people, so the DEIR is inaccurate in stating that there are no mountain lions in the Verdugos.