

December 15, 2003

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ENVIRONMENTAL
UNIT

Los Angeles City Planning Department
Maya E. Zaitzevsky
200 No. Spring St., Room 763
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: CANYON HILLS PROJECT, EIR Case No. ENV-2002-2481-EIR
Reference Nos: SCH # 2002091018

Dear Planning Department:

As a resident of Tujunga, I have several serious concerns about the accuracy of the above captioned EIR, as follow.

1. California Live Oaks to be removed.

Biological Resources - Native Trees (p.IV.D-122) states that a 234.32 acre area will be graded or significantly disturbed. In this same section, experts determined that there are 3.75 Live Oaks per acre. This would cause the removal of 879 protected California Live Oaks. However, two pages later (p.IV.D-123) the EIR reduces the removal to the "area of occupation" which is 69 acres, and states that 259 trees will be removed.

Concern: How many trees will actually be removed? If 234 acres will be graded or significantly disturbed, the removal will extend far beyond the "area of occupation." The EIR significantly understates by over 70% the number of trees that will be removed.

35-1

2. Sunland-Tujunga Community Plan

The Community Plan was in place when the developer purchased the property. The Plan is designed to protect the rural character of the area. La Tuna Canyon is one of the six remaining areas identified as a "Designated Scenic Highway and Scenic Highway Corridor." The Community Plan (1-3.3) requires preservation of existing views of hillside and mountainous areas and (5-1.5) Protect Scenic Corridors by establishing development controls in harmony with each corridor's individual scenic character. (Table IV.G-4, Land Use, p.IVG.20)

Concern: The "cut and fill" process (Project Description, p. 111-6) involves removing the tops of natural peaks to fill natural hillside depressions, thereby removing the existing hillside views in direct violation of Community Plan (1-3.3). The "cut and fill" process will also be applied to the area south of Interstate 210, which is La Tuna Canyon, a Protected Scenic Corridor. (5-1.5) Portions of La Tuna Canyon are protected areas because of the natural beauty of the Canyon, which would be adversely affected by the proposed development.

35-2

3. Public Safety and Security

The Foothill area is served by Fire Department #74, located 2.8 miles from the proposed development.

35-3

Concern: In a serious omission, the EIR does not address paramedic response time nor does it deal with the fact that the proposed development is a gated community, creating barriers for paramedic services.

I also found serious problems with the Biology and Wild Life portions of the EIR, in which animals common to La Tuna Canyon simply were not found. They found only five coyotes, **no deer, no bobcats, no Peregrin Falcon.** Other problems such as loss of stream canyons and habitat were not addressed.

35-4

I think that the EIR is seriously flawed. I request that another EIR be required to insure a fair and realistic appraisal of the effects of the proposed development.

35-5

Thank you for addressing my concerns.

Yours truly,


Barbara E. Trees