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CITY OF LOS ANGELES

DEC 17 2003

ENVIRONMENTAL
UNIT

Barbara Howell
10445 Fernglen Ave.
Tujunga, CA 91042

Dear Sirs,

I am writing in response to the Draft EIR for the Canyon Hills project in the La Tuna area of Tujunga. My experience that qualifies me to comment on the EIR is twofold:

- I am a resident of Tujunga, and will be walking and driving close to the project on a continual basis.
- I am an avid hiker, and have hiked many times in and around Tujunga and the Verdugo mountains.

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My main concern with this project is that in order to build it, the zoning for the area must be changed. ~~Zoning is law, and is intended to provide proper planning for a city. I am~~ appalled that the city is willing to change the law in order to allow the project to be built, in violation of the planning for the area. The quality of life in Tujunga will suffer from the loss of yet more rural acres. The qualities that make this town attractive will disappear if the city is willing to change zoning law to please developers.

I have the additional concerns with the EIR:

1. During the Northridge earthquake, the Los Angeles Times reported that the quake was caused by a hitherto-unknown fault, and that technology as it existed then could not adequately determine whether or a fault exists somewhere below the areas that can be measured. Has this technology been advanced, and what techniques were used to look for faults in the project area? I am not convinced that the area does NOT lie within an active fault zone, or that no active faults cross the site.
2. No mitigation was listed for handling construction emissions of NOx and PM10 on the peak day and peak quarter. Why are no mitigation measures contemplated, what effect will these emissions have on residents around the site, and for what distance?
3. What assurances are there that all construction workers will conform to all the mitigation measures listed on page 11 of the Summary, items B1 through B5?
4. What assurances do we have and what enforcement measures will be put in place to ensure that all homeowners will always comply with the mitigation measures listed on page 14 of the Summary, items C12, C13, and C15?
5. Has any study been done on the impact to the environment for any non-native species of plants used to cover slopes with protective vegetation?
6. Why is it legal to impact Venturan coastal sage scrub, Southern mixed riparian forest, and Southern willow scrub?

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- 7. How extensive and long-term was the study that searched for the California gnatcatcher and Bell's vireo in the area, and was any search done to discover if these species are in adjoining areas; if so, was any study done to discover the impact on the birds? 39-8
- 8. Was any long-term study done to assure that the mitigation measures actually handle effects of the project on the San Diego coast horned lizard, the silvery legless lizard, the orange-throated whiptail, and any riparian species? 39-9
- 9. What guarantee is there that the project arborist will actually implement any of the mitigation measures to native trees, since final authority rests in him, and is not subject to any official control? 39-10

- 10. The replacement trees include trees planted in residential lots – what guarantee is there that future homeowners will not remove the trees, thereby reducing the mitigation measures? 39-11
- 11. There is significant short-term impact to cost live oaks – why is this legal? 39-12
- 12. The EIR lists several areas that will still be open to wildlife movement, but does not mention whether any study was done to ensure that, with any changes done to those areas or to nearby areas, that wildlife will still feel safe in those areas and will be willing to actually use the areas. 39-13
- 13. The impact of additional population to local parks was listed in the EIR as handled by the equestrian park, but this is not a suitable replacement, because an equestrian park will not necessarily appeal to or be useful to the rest of the population. 39-14
- 14. Why is it legal to create a substantially adverse effect on the two scenic highways, La Tuna Canyon and Interstate 210? 39-15

Sincerely,

Barbara Howell