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

To Whom it may Concern:

I have great concerns about the Canyon Hills Project that is being proposed. At recent meetings, the attorneys for the project ensured the community that the environmental impact on our community has been studied and would be considered throughout the process of the project. It was presented to us, for example, that that the coyote population has been studied and that the project would not interfere with their tracking and movement throughout our community based on the data they have collected. It was also presented that the sensitive ecology of our community would not be compromised based on recent data they collected as well. I do not think that Canyons Hills has taken into consideration what actually happens to our community when the natural ecology of our community is interrupted. For example: Recently, a property owner in the area that Canyon Hills is proposing to build, "clear cut" five acres of land expecting to build a small housing development. He did this under the guise of fire/brush clearance. The beautiful trails, oak trees, and other native foliage were completely destroyed. The daily hikes that we enjoyed with our dogs and son were not only compromised, they were eliminated. In response, the coyote population who had dens and territorial establishments in the area were absolutely displaced. We lost more cats and dogs in our area than we have in many years. This was a direct response to eliminating an established ecology on merely five acres. We, as neighbors, had to keep close watch on our children - as they were threatened as well. Imagine what could happen if 300 acres were involved. Certainly the city would not like to risk the extraordinary amount of lawsuits that will likely follow if the safety of our children and pets was consistently compromised. Ironically, when this developer realized that he could not build his proposed homes - due to restrictions regarding the support of hillside septic tanks - he immediately sold the property and was released from liability for all the natural flora and fauna that he decimated.

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After thoroughly reading the proposed DEIR, I'm confident that these concerns have already been addressed in letters opposing the Whitebird/Canyon Hills Project already, - that fact that the beauty and existing aesthetics of the neighborhood we all purposely purchased homes to live in will be severely compromised by a development the size that Whitebird is proposing. Therefore, I will express another one of my greatest concerns about the pending development. Canyon hills has proposed -that Hillhaven avenue will be utilized as an emergency access road providing response to the community that they intend to build. Although Hillhaven is an avenue, there is less than 16 feet of paved road in front of my home at 9618 Hillhaven. When neighbors drive through, we respectfully move to one side to let other "regular sized" vehicles pass by - as our access is compromised by the size of our neighborhood streets. When the occasional emergency vehicle attempts to access emergency response through our limited space, they have difficulty responding to the population that already exists. If Hillhaven is designated to accommodate emergency access to a proposed 300 more homes - possibly over 1000 new residents - the response time to these new neighbors will be greatly compromised. I can only imagine the amount of lawsuits that will be generated against the city if this new "proposed" neighborhood is allowed to be built.

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There is no possible way that emergency access can be provided adequately due to the nature of our existing roads - that we as residents already have a hard time driving through with "regular sized" vehicles. Canyon Hills is proposing an emergency response nightmare that *will* happen if the project is approved. Our roads can barely support the existing traffic in an adequate manner. To add 300 more residences above us - potentially 1000 more individuals, is a disaster in the making. I urge you to consider all of the impacts that a development like Canyon Hills will create. If you are prepared for more lawsuits, loss of life, loss of aesthetic beauty, loss of natural ecology, and the loss of a community that supports the city and all the services you provide, then I suppose the revenue of a new development is clearly more important than the quality of life that we all purchased our properties in this area for. I saddens me to think that my family may someday have to move because the power of "big business" outweighs the desires of a community of taxpayers that already exists. I certainly hope that you take into consideration the feelings of those of us who have established community and appropriate growth when you make you decision to approve or disapprove a development of this magnitude. I sincerely believe that the Canyon Hills project only cares about profit - profit that they will take out of state - and feels no commitment or concern about the lifestyle and community that we value as a small neighborhood - a neighborhood that supports local business and government.

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Again, I urge you to look at all the impacts that this project will create - a lack of safety, security, a deluge of traffic, and an absolute disregard for a community that those of us in the Verdugo Mountains have assiduously worked hard to create and maintain.

Sincerely,

Paul C. Armbruster