

Antonia Carrasco11014 Scoville Ave
Sunland, CA 91040

Home Phone (818) 353-3506

Email Apiscitelli@gusd.net

December 22, 2003

Maya Zaitzevsky
Project Coordinator, City of Los Angeles
Department of City Planning
200 North Spring St. Room 763
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Fax (213) 978-1343

Dear Maya,

I am a life long resident of the Verdugo Hills area. I was born and raised in Tujunga, and have recently bought my first home in Sunland. I am dismayed after reading the EIR for the Canyon Hills Project. I feel that some of the information presented in the EIR is inaccurate at best. I consider myself to be a Resident Expert of the Sunland-Tujunga area after having lived here nearly thirty years. Offered on the EIR were alternatives to the proposed 280 home development. I strongly feel that Alternative A is the best alternative for the area and for the future generations of Angelenos to come. There should be NO development on this land.

73-1

There are many inaccuracies stated in the EIR. The first lies in the Impact of Geology and Soils section of the report. Massive amounts of soil will have to be moved to accommodate the slopes of the terrain. The report found that there would be no threat to future homes in this area due to seismic activity. I would like to point out that the house I lived in during the 1994 Northridge earthquake suffered over \$18,000 in damages is less than two miles away from the proposed development site.

73-2

The second error is in the Flora and Fauna section, page 16, paragraph 2. This paragraph makes the destruction of possibly hundreds of protected trees insignificant. As a young girl scout about 8 years old, I walked through those hills and learned how to identify the indigenous vegetation so seldom seen in the metropolis we call Los Angeles. As a teacher for Glendale Unified School District, I can not tell you how disheartening it is to hear that some students have not been to their local mountains. I believe this land would be better used to educate our children about nature. If we rid ourselves of open space now our children and their children may never know the pure serenity of being in nature. They may never know the sound of wind rustling through the leaves of a great oak tree, or what an oak tree is.

73-3

The impact on animals has been understated. The threat to the animals that live in these hills is immense. The author of the report stated that he did not notice any tracts of mountain lion or bobcat. Could it possible be that he did not know where to look? Anyone who has lives in this area for a time can tell you that there is an actual corridor leading to the Tujunga Wash, and the animals have learned to travel in the early hours of the morning. We have not had the problems

73-4

that other communities have had with wild cats. Perhaps this is because of the open space that currently exists. Develop houses on this area and trouble will be around the corner.

73-4

A few more matters close to my heart are those of the impact of artificial light and police protection. Many of the residents of Los Angeles have not had the luxury of seeing a star filled night by simply looking out of their own back door. Adding 280 houses with some 70 odd street lights to the development will take away that luxury from current residents, not to mention the traffic and population pollution that will come as well. The city prides itself on a 7 second response time for police calls. Except in the Foothill Division there is only one patrol car in this area at a time, and the response time average is about 14 seconds. That is twice of what it is suppose to be currently. Add another thousand people (not to mention any visitors) to the mix, and response time will take even longer. Do our tax paying citizens need to put their lives at risk so some out-of-state developer can get rich?

73-5

73-6

Last, I just wanted to say that I have a 15 month old daughter. I bought my house in Sunland because I wanted her to have as high a quality of life as I had growing up in Tujunga. I wanted her to know open space with trees and creatures, not just concrete and buildings. There is no place else like La Tuna Canyon in Los Angeles and if you take it away there never will be again.

73-7

Sincerely,

Antonia B. Piscitelli-Carrasco