

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

**RECEIVED**  
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

DEC 22 2003

ENVIRONMENTAL  
UNIT

**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**

80-1

**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.

80-2

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 incompatible to conclusions reached by other authoritative sources on this matter.

80-3

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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.

80-4

The impact to the Verdugo Mountains, San Gabriel mountains and Tujunga wash wildlife was overall represented in the DEIR as inconclusive, incomplete, 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.

80-5

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.

80-6

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.

80-7

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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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.

80-9

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.

80-10

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 it's conclusions. I strongly urge that the Canyon Hills Project comply to the currant laws and restrictions of these ordinances and are not allowed to present new laws to bypass what may have inconvenienced the Project.

80-11

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 surround-ing areas were not assessed accurately in the DEIR for the impact on the current community to the increased density of future development.

80-12

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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.

80-13

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.

80-14

**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

80-15

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Post-it* Fax Note	7671	Date	12/23	# of pages	2
To	Paulette	From	Darlene		
Co./Dept.		Co.			
Phone #		Phone #	(213) 978-1332		
Fax #	(310) 473-9336	Fax #			

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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.

80-15

SUB-SECTION: SOLID WASTE AND DISPOSAL:

It was announced just recently that the garbage dump, Bradly Pit, was slotted 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 apparantly examined or researched with any thoroughness.

80-16

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.

80-17

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.

80-18

Thank you for your attention to this matter

