

7233 Lonzo Street
Tujunga, CA 91042-1421

December 23, 2003

L. A. City Planning Dept.
Maya D. Zaitzevsky
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RECEIVED
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

DEC 26 2003

ENVIRONMENTAL
UNIT

Re: Canyon Hills Project-DEIR Comments
ENV-2002-2481-EIR; SCH#2002091018

Dear Ms. Zaitzevsky,

This DEIR as issued is so full of errors and omissions as to be laughable to anyone who lives here or walks these hills. I have lived next to the Verdugo Mountains and Angeles National Forest since the early 1960's and know this specific area intimately.

90-1

There is wildlife here that the developers expert obviously never saw. Dozens (not 5) coyotes inhabit these hills and canyons.

Listen on any summer evening and you can hear separate packs "talking" back and forth to one another. There are also LOTS of racoons, opossum, foxes, bobcat, hawks, owls, deer, etc. I am aware that none of these animals nor the smaller species necessary for them to survive, are protected or endangered. But what about the mountain lions who have this area as part of their home-range? The pug marks of these magnificent cats are found regularly in the mud alongside those nearly year-round streams that the developers want to bulldoze as part of a cut-&-fill earth moving plan - 125 million cubic yards! If this land is developed under the present plan, the only viable remaining wildlife corridor between Angeles National Forest and the Verdugo Mountains would be severed. Animals use this passageway, culverts and underpasses to cross to the Big Tujunga Canyon Wash and beyond.

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90-3

Also, peregrin falcons hunt in this area. They are definately endangered. Please verify the sightings of my husband and myself with the records kept by birding enthusiasts of the Audabon Society. Apparently this unexpected species comes into these canyons because they are relatively undisturbed and usually have water. Also because of the rich and mature plant life afforded here. These beautiful birds of prey would not nest anywhere near 15-gal. trees planted on lighted city streets.

90-4

That brings me to another important point - recreation in open space. People come here from all over because they are drawn to our rural surroundings and many opportunities for non-commercial family fun. I have met hikers and horseback riders from the Santa Monica Mountains to other National Forests, U.S. states,

90-5

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Europe, Asia and even Israel. All are AMAZED that we have such a natural wonderland within the City of Los Angeles. This is especially true when the profuse, spring wildflowers carpet the steep hillsides and wooded valleys. I'd hate to see these streams, canyons and mountaintops dynamited, flattened and buried to make yet another cookie-cutter, gated, housing mega-development.

90-5

I vehemently urge you to reject this DEIR and proposed land use as it is presently written. The cumulative effect would be disastrous to this entire range of hills. I do believe that each individual is entitled to build on their own private property. All I am asking is that the intent of our many existing multiple Plans be preserved. Please review the Scenic, Master, Community, Ridgeline Preservation, General, Density, Slope, Fish & Wildlife/Game Dept., etc. legislation before making your decision. As homeowner-residents, we have worked very hard to help the Council see our uniqueness. You obviously agreed or you would not have approved these many protective measures. Please do not compromise the character of this "special corner of the City of L.A." by granting wholesale variances to out-of-state developers. Is Whitebird even licensed to do business in our fair California?

90-6

In closing, I would like to reiterate a few points. These canyons and hills are zoned for less than 70 homes because that is the maximum number that can be accommodated without destroying the very quality of life that prospective neighbors are seeking here. We have a definite sense of small-town "community" and would make newcomers as welcome as our free-roaming wildlife. Once this unique landscape is destroyed, no amount of good intentions or "mitigation" will replace what has been created by God for ALL to enjoy.

90-7

Thank you for your time. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Donald V. (SueEllen) Hussung
(818) 353-3066 ans-screen-FAX

cc: Julianne Maurseth