

# Hillside Federation Newsletter April, 2011



[www.hillsidefederation.org](http://www.hillsidefederation.org)

## 85,000 Square feet Next Door?! Nickie Miner



*Grading for top of Benedict Canyon*

Benedict Canyon faces an enormous challenge for which the assistance and support of all hillside residents is requested. Your voice is vital.

Briefly, an 85,000-square foot project is proposed for Benedict Canyon, on a 5-acre parcel with a slope, accessed only by one long narrow, winding residential street. The size of the project has been compared to Hearst Castle. The application filed for a granted lot line adjustment for the project had misrepresentations. Benedict Canyon Association filed an appeal to reverse the lot line adjustment and to require a full

## Agenda April 6, 2011 7:00 pm

### New Location!

#### Pinz Bowling Center, next to Jerry's Deli

12655 Ventura Blvd., Studio City 91604  
101 between Coldwater Canyon exit and Laurel Canyon exit

#### I. Introductions

##### Guest Speakers:

- A. ACE Administrative Citation Enforcement  
Tina Hess, Supervising Asst. City Attorney

#### II. Approval of March 2, 2011 minutes

#### III. President's Report

- A. Treasurer's Report

#### B. Election of officers

#### IV. Old Business

- A. Save Benedict Canyon - Nickie Miner

#### V. New Business

#### VI. Adjournment

Next meeting - Wednesday, May 4, 2011

*The mission of the Hillside Federation shall be: To protect the property and the quality of life of the residents of the Santa Monica Mountains and other hillside areas of Los Angeles and its environs, and to encourage and promote those policies and programs which will best preserve the natural topography and wildlife of the mountains and hillsides for the benefit of all the people of Los Angeles.*

environmental review. The hearing on these issues will be held before the

**LA Planning Commission**

**April 14,  
8:30 am.**

**An out-of-scale home could be built next door to you. Benedict Canyon needs your support to require a full EIR for this project. Please attend this hearing. Bring a group of neighbors. Show the Planning Commission how important the preservation of our hillside open space is to us.**

Please go to the website, <http://www.savebenedictcanyon.com/> for a more detailed explanation and photos, a link to the letter from the Benedict Canyon Association, a link to a letter you may want to send to Councilman Paul Koretz, and an important link for you to a sign a petition supporting the Benedict Canyon position.

Your presence at the Hillside Federation meeting is valuable. Bring your questions, concerns and ideas to the next meeting, this coming Wednesday, April 6, 7 pm. We're meeting now at Pinz, a fancy bowling alley, - - Ventura Blvd, upstairs, elevator access. Parking lot and entrance are on the east side of the building which also houses Jerry's Deli. See you there!



*Councilmember Tom LaBonge, Bob Anderson, Mark Stratton, Wendy-Sue Rosen, Councilmember Bill Rosendahl, Lois Becker, Don Keller, Marian Dodge, and Councilmember Paul Koretz, celebrate the adoption of the Baseline Hillside Ordinance.*

**BASELINE HILLSIDE ORDINANCE  
ALMOST HOME**

On June 6, 2006 Councilmember Tom LaBonge introduced a motion calling for a comprehensive, citywide ordinance “to establish the appropriate size of single-family homes in flat and hillside areas.” Baseline size (floor area and height limits) and configuration were to be determined in relation to individual lot size and slope as well as the character and scale of the

P.O. Box 27404 Los Angeles, CA 90027 323-663-1031 <a href="mailto:president@hillsidefederation.org">president@hillsidefederation.org</a> <a href="http://www.hillsidefederation.org">www.hillsidefederation.org</a>	<b>ORGANIZATIONS:</b> Bel Air Knolls Property Owners Bel Air Skycrest POA Bel Air Ridge Association Benedict Canyon Association Cahuenga Pass Neighborhood Crests Neighborhood Assn. Encino Property Owners Assn. Forrest Hills Homeowners Assn. Franklin Ave./Hollywood Bl. West Franklin Hills Residents Assn. Highlands Owners Assn. Hollywood Dell Civic Assn. Hollywood Heights Assn. Hollywoodland Homeowners Holmby Hills HOA Kagel Canyon Civic Assn. La Tuna Canyon Community	Laurel Canyon Assn. Los Feliz Improvement Assn. Mt. Olympus Property Owners Mt. Washington Homeowners Nichols Canyon Assn. N. Beverly Dr./Franklin Canyon Oak Forest Canyon Assn. Outpost Estates Homeowners Residents of Beverly Glen Roscomare Valley Assn. Shadow Hills Property Owners Sherman Oaks HOA Studio City Residents Assn. Tarzana Property Owners Assn. Torreyson Flynn Assn. Upper Mandeville Canyon Whitley Heights Civic Assn.	<b>CHAIRPERSONS EMERITUS</b> Shirley Cohen Jerome C. Daniel Patricia Bell Hearst Gordon Murley Polly Ward  <b>CHAIRMAN IN MEMORIUM</b> Brian Moore
<b>PRESIDENT</b> Marian Dodge <b>CHAIRMAN</b> Joan Luchs <b>VICE PRESIDENT</b> Charley Mims Cassandra Barrère <b>SECRETARY</b> Donna Messinger <b>TREASURER</b> Dan Palmer			

neighborhood. Out of this motion grew two separate ordinances – the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance (for the flats), which became law on June 29, 2008, and the Baseline Hillside Ordinance (BHO), which was adopted by City Council on March, 18, 2011.

The Hillside Federation, along with an overwhelming number of representatives from hillside communities, has been an active and enthusiastic participant throughout the lengthy BHO process. This process included five kick-off meetings, six citywide workshops, two Planning Commission hearings, two PLUM hearings, and three City Council hearings.

In spite of the overwhelming support, some of the original City Planning staff recommendations were scaled back, and some of the grading protections were removed. At the first City Council hearing, Councilmember Koretz made amending motions to include additional protections for 100% slopes. After final passage of the Ordinance in front of City Council on March 18th, it was signed by Mayor Villaraigosa on March 25 and will go into effect on May 9, 2011.

Thanks go to Councilmembers Tom LaBonge and Paul Koretz, and to City Planners Vince Bertoni, Charlie Rausch, Erick Lopez, and Jennifer Driver (who were

honored at the Federation’s holiday party).

Although the Baseline Hillside Ordinance is a great start, there’s still more work to be done: a Retaining Wall Ordinance, a View/Ridgeline Ordinance, and a Stream Ordinance would provide much-needed additional protections for hillside areas. The Federation looks forward to continuing with this important collaborative effort.

For a copy of the adopted Ordinance and other information, please go to: <http://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=10-1001>.

**Motions:**

If you are planning on making a motion at the meeting, please prepare your motion ahead of time and bring enough copies for all member associations. This will make it easier for the directors to consider the merits of the motion and easier for the secretary to record it.

<b>PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS</b>		
Election April 6, 2011		
President	Marian Dodge	Los Feliz Improvement Assn.
Chairman	Charley Mims	Franklin Hills Residents Assn.
1st Vice President	Mark Stratton	Bel Air Skycrest POA
2nd Vice President	Wendy-Sue Rosen	Upper Mandeville Canyon POA
Recording Secretary	Donna Messinger	Hollywood Heights Assn.
Treasurer	Don Andres	Franklin/Hollywood Blvd. West
Executive Secretary	Donna Messinger	Hollywood Heights Assn.

## **Federation Victory for the Mulholland Bridge**



In a stunning victory for the Mulholland Design Review Board (MDRB) and for the Hillside Federation, Caltrans withdrew its plan to realign the historic Mulholland Bridge across the 405 freeway. The process actually works!

Numerous community groups wrote to the MDRB to express their opposition to Metro's unilateral decision to move the bridge with no public input and no new EIR. The Hillside Federation, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners Association, Brentwood Residents Coalition and Canyon Back Alliance were among those who weighed in on the change.

The Mulholland Design Review Board, charged with protecting the scenic rural aesthetic of Mulholland Drive, established a list of conditions that Caltrans and Metro had to meet before they would approve their plan to move the bridge. One of those conditions was the requirement that they hire a world-class architect to design the new bridge. That condition would have been more costly and would have set the project back a year. Ultimately Metro decided to stick to the project that had already been presented to the public and reviewed.

Congratulations to the Mulholland Design Review Board and all who supported them for making the system work.

## **Your ACE in the Hole Meaningful Code Enforcement**

Have you ever been frustrated because you saw a code violation, reported it and nothing happened? Building and Safety issued a citation to the property owner, but nothing happened. The scofflaw got off scott free.

The problem is that under current law, the violator has to be prosecuted in the court system, a costly and time-consuming process. The City Attorney's Office, under the direction of Jane Usher, has been developing a new way to enforce the code that will not involve the court system. Supervising Assistant City Attorney Tina Hess will explain the new system, known as Administrative Citation Enforcement (ACE) to the Federation at Wednesday's meeting. The City Attorney's Office is seeking community support for ACE when it goes to City Council. Learn what it's all about and tell the City Attorney your opinion.

### **Mulholland Scenic Parkway Design Review Board**

Meets 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month,  
6:30 pm

Marvin Braude Constituents Service Center  
6262 Van Nuys Blvd. Van Nuys, CA  
1st floor conference room

**Draft Minutes  
March 2, 2011**

**I. Call to Order:** President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

**Guest Speakers:**

**A. LA Clean Sweep - Ron Kaye**

Ron Kaye declared that City Hall has failed the citizens of Los Angeles and urged us to challenge incumbents. In the CD 14 race LA Clean Sweep is starting ads for Ramirez tomorrow. In CD 4 they have endorsed Stephen Box and have a media blitz this weekend. Ron is amazed that newspapers have endorsed several newcomers.

The real battle will be in 2013 with six council seats open. They need to recruit qualified candidates. The Mayor's race will be a free-for-all.

**B. Ads in Parks - Dennis Hathaway, Ban Billboard Blight**

Dennis Hathaway asked how many had seen the So Cal Connected series on city parks. A link is posted on the RonKayeLA web site. The program described the Parks Commission plan to allow the LA Parks Foundation to place ads for the new Yogi Bear movie in three city parks last October. Councilmember Koretz moved to veto the recommendation because it violated the city's billboard ordinance. Barry Sanders, who is President of the Parks Commission and President of LA Parks Foundation and a retired attorney from Latham & Watkins, maintained that it wasn't an ad if it thanked a corporation for its sponsorship. After the So Cal Connected piece aired, the LA Parks Foundation removed the marketing materials from their web site. Marian referred people to the articles in the February Hillside

Federation newsletter and in the Friends of Griffith Park newsletter.

Hathaway said communities need to have a voice in how their parks operate. There needs to be a public discussion.

LaMar Advertising gave free billboard space to Councilmember Jose Huizar. LaMar has been working behind the scenes to get the city to allow them to remove small billboards and put up 150 new ones, 50 of which will be digital.

Hathaway urged everyone to let your councilmember know how you feel about advertising in parks and billboards in general. He would like the city to ban ads for alcohol and depictions of violence on street furniture and on any public property like they did in San Francisco. He has had no luck reaching Tom LaBonge who chairs the Parks Committee.

**C. Save Franklin Canyon - Ellen Scott**

Hastain Trail is a popular hiking trail in Franklin Canyon near Coldwater and Mulholland where the old Doheny Ranch was. Everyone thought it was Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy land until a bulldozer showed up. Ellen didn't know what to do so she sat in front of the bulldozer with a sign. Councilmember Paul Koretz got a stop work order when he discovered the owner's permits had expired. Save Franklin Canyon wants to become a 501(c)(3) to collect enough donations to purchase the property. They are researching wildlife and endangered species. They are doing a full title search. SMMC mentioned eminent domain. Wendy-Sue Rosen volunteered to work with them to partner with an existing nonprofit to raise funds and awareness.

Shawn Bayliss from Koretz' office said the 4200-foot long wall 23 feet high doesn't meet standards. The Baseline Hillside Ordinance (BHO) will go into effect in about

45 days. The owner will have to deal with today's rules. Nickie Miner urged them to attend the City Council meeting Friday to show support for the BHO.

## **II. Approval of February 2, 2011 minutes:**

The minutes were approved as written.

## **III. President's Report**

Marian announced that Gillian Calof, the rep from Residents of Beverly Glen, had a baby.

AEG will try again to get the EIR for the stadium in LA waived by the new legislature. The Federation has resubmitted its signature to a petition to oppose the waiver. State Senator Pavley sent a note stating that she agreed with our position.

Marian would like to add a section on the web site with a history of the Federation and a list of past presidents. She needs help getting the information. Wendy-Sue Rosen said Alan Kishbaugh wrote an article on the accomplishments of the Federation. Marian would also like to post official letters so that people can read about the positions the Federation has taken. Everyone liked these proposals.

There was a discussion over the placement of Federation contact information, officers, and members in the newsletter. It was decided that it was important to include that information and it should be placed on one of the inside pages.

Charley Mims moved that a link to the Friends of Griffith Park web site be added to the Federation web site. The motion passed.

Marian announced that KCET's *So Cal Connected* is airing another episode of "Show Me the Money" on police and fire pensions tomorrow night. Charley Mims asked people to listen carefully to which pensions they are

referring to because the city has many different plans for its public employees.

Marian asked if members are interested in receiving e-mails about articles on open space and parks. Yes.

### A. Nominating Committee

Marian appointed Dr. Niles Chapman, Don Andres, and Wendy-Sue Rosen to the Nominating Committee. They will produce a slate of officers for the elections in April. The slate will be e-mailed to members in advance.

### B. Treasurer's Report

Since Treasurer Dan Palmer was not able to make it, Marian made the report.

Membership renewal checks have not yet been deposited.

## **IV. Old Business**

### A. Mulholland Bridge realignment update -

Mark Stratton

The Federation voted unanimously to demand a new EIR for the realignment of the Mulholland Bridge and wrote a letter to the Planning Department. The bridge is going to remain where it is; it won't be realigned. The Mulholland Design Review Board was really angry with Metro for changing the plans which wasted a lot of tax dollars and split the community. Charley Mims commented that the MDRB's requirement that they hire a world-class architect to design the new bridge was too hard to meet. Wendy-Sue Rosen thanked Marian for writing the first letter on the project; it started the process that led to Metro dropping their plans.

### B. Baseline Hillside Ordinance update

Everyone was urged to attend the City Council meeting on Friday for the approval of the BHO.



Pinz Bowling Center  
[www.pinzbowlingcenter.com](http://www.pinzbowlingcenter.com)

