

**Hillside Federation
Newsletter
September, 2013**



www.hillsidefederation.org

**New Group Supports
Wildlife**

by Alison Simard



Three Laurel Canyon neighbors familiar to the Hillside Federation have joined together to form a public benefit non-profit organization, Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife (CLAW). The purpose of CLAW is to act as an advocacy group to protect and restore the dwindling natural environments and open spaces of Los Angeles wildlife. Its mission is to promote, educate and protect the fundamental importance of wildlife, wildlife habitats and wildlife corridors everywhere.

One of the founding CLAW directors is Hillside Federation voting member Tony Tucci. Another founding CLAW director is Alison Simard, who took on the city and scofflaw developer with a lawsuit to save the Laurel Canyon wildlife corridor ([Newsletter Sept 2012](#)). The third founding director is Skip Haynes, who spent several months rehabilitating a sick coyote in his backyard ([Newsletter May 2012](#)).

“CLAW was sprung out of our frustration with the LA Department of City Planning's clear

Agenda

September 4, 2013

7:00 pm

- I. Call to Order
 - Guest Speakers: Shawn Bayliss CD 5
Victor Marmon, Attorney
Re: 360 N. Stone Canyon Road
 - II. Approval of July 10, 2013 minutes
 - III. Officers' Reports
 - A. President's Report
 - B. Treasurer's Report
 - IV. New Business
 - A. 360 N. Stone Canyon Road - Steve Twining
 - B. CEQA support - Wendy-Sue Rosen
 - C. Laurel Canyon landslide remediation - Carol Sidlow
 - D. LAX Sign District
 - E. Ban on Rodenticides
 - V. Old Business
 - A. Amicus Brief - Dan Wright
 - B. Curtis School - Mark Stratton
 - C. Millennium Hollywood update - George Abrahams
 - D. 8866-72 Wonderland - Steven Poster
 - VI. Adjournment
- Next meeting - Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2013

Pinz Bowling Center, next to Jerry's Deli
12655 Ventura Blvd., Studio City 91604
CA 101 between Coldwater Canyon exit
and Laurel Canyon exit

Hillside Federation mission: *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.*

preference for growth over preservation of environmental heritage. We pulled together as advocates for wildlife that is being irreversibly impacted.” said Tony Tucci. When wildlife corridors are blocked it has a very real effect – animal species are changing because their ancient mating, hunting and migratory pathways are being obstructed. For example, Laurel Klein, Ph.D., a wildlife biologist at UCLA, DNA tested mountain lion cubs in Griffith Park last year and discovered they were inbreeding due to the obstructions of migratory passageways.

CLAW has begun to work closely with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy to revitalize a wildlife corridor between the 405 and Griffith Park. SMMC Deputy Director Paul Edelman, an advisor to CLAW, calls the area “a regionally significant biological resource and a key element of the city’s public trust.” At this time, wildlife passage ways at Coldwater Canyon and Benedict Canyon are dangerously obstructed south of Mulholland to Beverly Hills. As the glut of thickly settled homes becomes sewn together lot by lot, the hillsides have reached a critical tipping point that must be reversed.

In February 2012, Edelman made a presentation to all of the LA City election candidates in a meeting hosted by the Laurel Canyon Association in which he said, “The time is now. The pendulum must swing to a point where no habitat connectivity is lost. I’m talking about a thriving wildlife corridor – not just stringing together bare minimum gaps between houses.” He went on to say, “City Planning must presume a property is part of a wildlife corridor until some basic written analysis indicates it is not.”

Bringing an Issue to the Federation

If your organization has an issue to bring to the Federation, please complete the Request for Action form (available on the website www.hillsidefederation.org) with documentation and send it to president@hillsidefederation.org no later than 7 days prior to the meeting. This will help you organize your presentation so that our meetings can flow efficiently.

One of the ways that CLAW is working to make this change is through an awareness campaign designed to educate hillside residents about the benefits of volunteering wildlife corridor conservation easements on their properties. Such easements result in sizable tax benefits as well as permanent ecological preservation. However, since piecemeal project-to-project voluntary easements won’t be enough, CLAW is creating dialogue with city and state officials to change the "growth-over-preservation philosophy" and work to change the Los Angeles planning culture to consistently put more emphasis on habitat connectivity.

CLAW gets the word out through informational and investigative multimedia production, exposing environmental wrongdoings that threaten wildlife. Its programming platforms promote calls-to-action among concerned citizens. “We have had wonderful results with our “docuprotest” films exposing

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PRESIDENT
Marian Dodge
CHAIRMAN
Charley Mims
VICE PRESIDENTS
Mark Stratton
Wendy-Sue Rosen
SECRETARIES
Carol Sidlow
Donna Messinger
TREASURER
Don Andres

ORGANIZATIONS:

Beachwood Canyon
Bel Air Knolls Property Owners
Bel Air Ridge Association
Bel Air Skycrest POA
Benedict Canyon Association
Brentwood Hills Homeowners
Brentwood Residents Coalition
Cahuenga Pass Property Owner
Canyon Back Alliance
Crests Neighborhood Assn.
Franklin Ave./Hollywood Bl. W.
Franklin Hills Residents Assn.
Highlands Owners Assn.
Hollywood Dell Civic Assn.
Hollywood Heights Assn.
Hollywoodland Homeowners
Holmby Hills HOA
Kagel Canyon Civic Assn.

Lake Hollywood HOA
Laurel Canyon Assn.
Lookout Mountain Assn.
Los Feliz Improvement Assn.
Mt. Olympus Property Owners
Mt. Washington Homeowners
Nichols Canyon Assn.
N. Beverly Dr/Franklin Canyon
Oak Forest Canyon Assn.
Oaks Homeowners Assn.
Outpost Estates Homeowners
Pacific Palisades Residents
Residents of Beverly Glen
Roscomare Valley Assn.
Shadow Hills Property Owners
Sherman Oaks HOA
Studio City Residents Assn.
Sunset Hills HOA

Tarzana Property Owners Assn.
Torreyson Flynn Assn.
Upper Mandeville Canyon
Upper Nichols Canyon
Whitley Heights Civic Assn.

CHAIRPERSONS

EMERITUS
Shirley Cohen
Jerome C. Daniel
Patricia Bell Hearst
Alan Kishbaugh
Gordon Murley
Steve Twining
Polly Ward

CHAIRMAN IN MEMORIUM
Brian Moore

NO SMOKING IN THE CANYON

When homes and wildlife burn,
will it be **YOUR** cigarette?



IT'S THE LAW Min. Fine \$250.00

L.A.M.C. SEC. 57.25.14. SMOKING PROHIBITED. It shall be unlawful for any person to light, ignite or smoke any cigar, cigarette, tobacco in a pipe or any other form of smoldering substance within a Mountain Fire District.

Fire safety poster created by Skip Haynes for CLAW.

rogue developers. Our films have turned heads in neighborhoods, and press, alike. We've found it a powerful catalyst of awareness and education," said Alison Simard who is also a public relations and marketing professional. CLAW has begun to meet with neighborhood and community activists to offer these tools where current frustrations over environmental impact seem to be ignored by the city. CLAW also celebrates wildlife heroes who stand out as positive role models and will produce informative pieces to challenge and change negligent behaviors that negatively impact wildlife. For example, it is currently working on a short movie about how deer get impaled jumping over spiked fences and some innovative solutions that can avoid such tragedies.

As the heat of summer wanes on with no sight of rain, CLAW learned that the city was waiting for its 2014 budget to begin to consider new signs warning of fire danger that wouldn't be put in place until long after the high temperatures had past. Board member Skip Haynes, a graphic designer took matters into his own hands and designed a series of banners, house signs and bumper stickers that could be put up immediately on private property, "Our homes and wildlife can't wait for bureaucratic consensus in these dangerous fire areas. These are the kind of fast acting projects that CLAW will move on quickly," said Haynes. Immediately funded by individual donations, CLAW obtained permission to post fire

danger signs on private property (including Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy land). CLAW has already begun posting signs along Laurel Canyon Blvd and will shortly begin erecting more in Mount Olympus. CLAW would like to post banners and signs throughout all of the hillside and canyon neighborhoods and is actively seeking support.

Readers are invited to learn more about these projects at www.clawonline.org. CLAW is currently building its list of advisors and volunteers and would love any support or insight from members of the Hillside Federation. Finally, CLAW board members would love to hear about any wildlife or wildlife habitat issues where CLAW might be of service (info@clawonline.org, 805-225-4766.)

Welcome New Member
Organization!
Upper Nichols Canyon Neighborhood
Association

Another Skyscraper for Hollywood

After opponents to the Millennium Hollywood project, stopthemillennium.org, exposed the earthquake fault running through Hollywood, the Los Angeles Times has followed up with several articles about other projects near the Millennium. None of them has had appropriate analysis of the fault under their property. Even the Times editorial August 19 urged the city to require developers to do trenching to determine the location of earthquake faults *before* a project is approved, as opposed to what happened with the Millennium project.

Here is the story of yet another high rise project in Hollywood.

Two new towers proposed in Hollywood

from the Park La Brea News/Beverly Press
by Edwin Folven, 7/25/2013

Consultant says project differs greatly from Millennium

While a lot of attention has been centered lately on the Millennium project in Hollywood, another project has been proposed that would dramatically alter the Hollywood skyline near the iconic Hollywood Palladium.

The project is known as the Palladium Residences and is proposed by the Miami and New York-based developer Crescent Heights LLC. It would incorporate two towers — each 28 stories tall — that would be constructed over retail space in the parking lots that currently surround the Palladium. The Palladium would be preserved, and the developer plans to have the venue designated as a historic structure if the project is approved, according to Steven Afriat, of Afriat Consulting group, which is representing the developer.

He said there are major differences between the proposed Palladium project and the Millennium project, which was approved



Wednesday by the Los Angeles City Council. The Palladium project will be largely residential and located near public transportation hubs, potentially reducing traffic problems in the surrounding area. The retail space will also be “community serving” uses such as restaurants and markets where residents of the towers could shop without having to drive vehicles to an off-site location.

“An important distinction is that it is not destination retail,” Afriat said. “Neighborhood serving retail actually reduces car trips. If I am living at the Palladium Residences and work [nearby], I don’t have to get in my car to get my prescription filled and get my dry cleaning. I don’t have to get in my car.”

Aaron Green, vice president of Afriat Consulting Group, stated that the specific retail uses had not yet been established. The plan is in the early stages, and the developer has not finalized whether the project would be exclusively retail with 731 residential units — or a mix of retail and hotel space — which would likely result in 598 residential units and up to 250 hotel rooms. Approximately 13,000 square feet of retail space is planned. The towers would be slightly taller than the nearby House of Blues

building, which is 22 stories, and the Sunset Vine Tower, which is 20 stories tall.

Afriat stressed that the Palladium, built in 1940, is an important part of the local community, and there are no plans to demolish or alter the venue. Concert promoter Live Nation currently manages and operates the Palladium, and has a long-term lease for the venue.

Tony Arranaga, a spokesman for City Councilman Mitch O'Farrell, 13th District, said the councilman had no comment on the project because it is in the early stages and he is still getting up to speed on the plan. He said O'Farrell would continue to monitor the project it as it moves forward.

However, some Hollywood residents, such as Emma Riordan, expressed opposition to the plan. "What we really need are more ugly oversized buildings near the Palladium ... adding to the traffic and chaos here?" she said. "Do people here really want another Manhattan?"

Resident Bill Miller added that new developments, such as the Palladium Residences, will have long-term negative impacts on the community.

"It's another developer nightmare," Miller said. "[By] allowing developers to do what they want ... no communities will be able to protect their neighborhoods."

Afriat said the developer has previously met with neighborhood council representatives, the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce and other local entities to notify them about the plans, and has received positive feedback. He said the developer plans to continue the meetings throughout the approval process. A public scoping meeting, environmental impact report and public comment period will be held prior to an evaluation by the city's planning commission, and later the city council.

"We began the process early on. Our intent was not to surprise people," Afriat said. "We are reaching out now in anticipation of a scoping meeting, and will continue to. We will talk to anyone. We don't want to shy away from talking about this project."

Web Site

The Hillside Federation has a new web site, www.hillsidefederation.org.

One of the things we want to do is have live links to the web sites of all our member organizations. Please send us the link to your association's web site. In return, we ask that you post a link to the Hillside Federation web site on your web site.

You may also visit the web site for letters on positions taken by the Federation and past newsletters and minutes.

Helicopter Noise



You can now follow the helicopter noise issue online at the website of the LA Area Helicopter Noise Coalition. <http://lahelicopternoise.org>. The site contains information about the hearings, media coverage, legislation, how to identify helicopters, and even how to track them.

**Hillside Federation
Draft Minutes
July 10, 2013**

I. Call to Order

President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Guest Speaker: Tim Pershing, Field Representative for Assemblymember Richard Bloom (AD 50)

Tim Pershing introduced himself. He previously worked as a Field Deputy to Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky representing the Topanga Canyon area. His policy areas for Assemblymember Bloom include Animal Welfare, Arts & Entertainment, Energy, Environmental Safety & Toxic Materials, Judiciary, Utilities, Natural Resources, Telecommunications, and Water. As a Field Representative, Tim represents Assemblymember Bloom at assigned meetings and community events throughout the district and also assists constituents and community groups with projects that have a community benefit or impact. He reported on Assemblymember Bloom's legislation since he has been in office, including a Family Law bill and a Bobcat Trapping bill, which will establish protected zones against trapping outside parkland areas which are currently covered. Hillside Federation members let Tim know of their concerns regarding pending CEQA legislation that removes aesthetics and changes the thresholds for projects that would eliminate review of important aspects of projects in our communities; fracking that may eventually impact the Santa Monica Mountains and the water table due to new technologies for slant drilling; Owens Lake dust mitigation needed by DWP; legislation for billboard exemptions along freeways and off-ramps and exemptions for advertising outside of large stadiums, which would override local zoning regulations put in place to regulate signage; the need to ban rodenticides that continue to kill wildlife from rats to mountain lions. Tim asked that the Hillside Federation send him an e-mail highlighting these important issues and said he would keep an eye on them and stay in touch. He can be reached at: tim.pershing@asm.ca.gov.

Save these dates for Hillside
Federation meetings

October 2
November 6
December 12 Holiday Party
2014
January 8
February 5
March 5

II. Approval of the Minutes - The June 5, 2013 minutes were approved as written.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report - Marian Dodge

The LA Area Helicopter Noise Coalition has set up a website for those concerned about helicopter noise with information about the recent hearing and other information regarding this issue: www.LAhelicopternoise.org. George Abrahams mentioned that there is an opportunity for each member organization to link its own organization through this web site.

There have been staff changes in the City: Jeanne Min has moved from Councilmember LaBonge's office (CD 4) to a new position with Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell (CD 13). David Giron has moved from Councilmember Koretz's office (CD 5) to a new position with Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell's office as Policy Director. Sheila Irani has left Councilmember LaBonge's office (CD 4) to work in the private sector. Jane Usher has left the City Attorney's Office. She sent a nice letter to the community to say goodbye.

Hillside Federation members are invited to the inauguration of City Attorney Mike Feuer. President Dodge will email the information. If anyone is interested in attending, contact Nicole Carcel, the City Attorney's Deputy for Community Engagement and Outreach.

Secretary Carol Sidlow announced that she attended the June 25, 2013 Terrorism Symposium. She said there was a great turnout of community and thanked Captain Beatrice Girmala and the Hollywood Division for the outstanding outreach and presentation by panelists. Very informative information was provided “If you see something: Say something” is the motto.

Cell Tower Ordinance - The City Attorney’s Office recently released a new draft Above Ground Facilities Ordinance (AGF Ordinance) for the regulation of cell towers and other above ground facilities. The new draft ordinance will be considered by the newly-constituted Planning and Land Use Management Committee of the City Council (Huizar (Chair), Englander and Cedillo).

The Pacific Palisades Community Council has explained in a position paper that the new draft contains important restrictions on wireless facilities, but fails to include several critical conditions that are needed, including the following:

- (1) the draft would provide notice only to owners and residents within 250 feet of the proposed cell tower site, but notice should extend at least 500 feet;
- (2) the proposed exemption for “small” antennae improperly fails to define small in a manner sufficient to avoid ambiguity;
- (3) the ordinance should contain a provision requiring the City to give notice and take input from affected communities regarding the design of pole structures and requiring the City to apply a “least intrusive design” standard in considering proposed pole designs;
- (4) the ordinance should make explicit that structures being proposed for protected zones such as Scenic Corridors and Coastal Areas cannot be installed without a permit establishing compliance with the protected zone’s regulations; and
- (5) the draft should be amended to require that, for towers purportedly needed to remedy a “significant coverage gap,” specific evidence must be provided to demonstrate such a gap and the Bureau of Engineering should explicitly be granted authority to hire an expert engineer to review and evaluate any asserted “significant coverage gap” and related technical issues.

Motion: Moved, seconded, passed. Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Federation support the proposed AGF Ordinance subject to the revisions requested by the Pacific Palisades Community Council and an additional condition requiring that

for any approved above ground facility, if less intrusive technology is later developed after permitting and installation, the installed facility must be replaced with the less intrusive technology.

Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) Sign District -Vice President Wendy-Sue Rosen announced an open house/public hearing regarding the proposed LAX Sign District. Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) is proposing 371,000 square feet of signage, including digital billboards. This amount of signage is the equivalent of 550 full sized billboards, although some of the signage will be smaller wraps on columns, regular and digital signs. The concern is how this Sign District may set precedent for future Sign Districts in the City. The hearing will take place Tuesday, July 16, 2013 at the Flight Path Learning Center, 6661 W. Imperial Highway. The Open House will begin at 5:30 PM and the Public Hearing will begin at 6:00 PM.

B. Treasurer’s Report

Marian Dodge gave the Treasurer’s report in Treasurer Andres’ absence. All membership dues are paid and there are no outstanding bills.

IV. New Business

A. Harvard-Westlake School Expansion

Sarah Boyd and Jennifer Rothman, representing Save Coldwater Canyon, made a presentation in opposition to the Harvard-Westlake Project. John Amato, Vice President, Harvard-Westlake and Edgar Khalatian, Attorney, Paul Hastings representing Harvard-Westlake, spoke in support of the Project.

The Project involves the construction of a new 3-story, 750-space parking structure, with an illuminated and fenced athletic field on top, within a residential (RE-40, RE-15) zone at 3701 N. Coldwater Canyon Avenue, within an area designated as “Desirable Open Space.” The parking structure/athletic field would be an accessory use to the existing Harvard-Westlake School Campus located across the street in the RE-15 and R-1 Zones at 3700 Coldwater Canyon Avenue in Studio City. A pedestrian skybridge would cross over Coldwater Canyon Avenue, connecting the parking/athletic field structure to the main campus on the east. The Project would also include roadway improvements on Coldwater Canyon Avenue that would allegedly improve the flow of traffic and pedestrian and vehicle safety.

Proponents of the Project stated that it is needed to alleviate traffic congestion on

Coldwater and the school's parking shortage. Opponents counter that the Project will have an adverse impact on both open space and wildlife. Proponents also asserted that they do not need a variance for the Project because the school use within the residential area is "grandfathered" and the school use is subject to a Conditional Use Permit. Opponents contend that the Project constitutes a significant intensification of the grandfathered use because the proposed three-story, 750-car parking structure with an illuminated and fenced-in athletic field on what is currently designated "Desirable Open Space" is grossly out of character with the natural hillside environment. And the proposed bridge spanning Coldwater Canyon Avenue would impair the character of the hillside environment and set adverse precedent for all canyon roads within the Santa Monica Mountains. Opponents contend that any grandfathered rights would not extend to the proposed intensification of use. Opponents further contend that a variance is required by City Charter and cannot be circumvented through the conditional use permitting process.

Federation Board members expressed concern about many aspects of the Project, especially the plan to develop property to the west of Coldwater Canyon Avenue.

MOTION: Moved, seconded, passed. Wendy-Sue Rosen moved to request that the Department of City Planning, in preparing the project's Draft EIR, consider only alternatives that would confine any development to the east side of Coldwater Canyon, leaving intact the designated Open Space and low-density residentially-zoned property to the west of Coldwater.

B. 360 N. Stone Canyon - Steve Twining

The applicant requested a variance to allow a 50-foot high single family dwelling, which would be 14 feet higher than allowed by code. The Zoning Administrator and the West LA Area Planning Commission (APC) both determined that the mandated findings for the variance could not be made. Councilmember Koretz successfully moved the City Council to veto the APC decision and send the matter back to the APC for further review. The board asked Marian to invite a representative of the opponents and staff representing Councilmember Koretz's office to address the matter at the next Hillside Federation meeting.

C. Mural Ordinance – Wendy-Sue Rosen

The proposed Mural Ordinance has been referred back to PLUM. The Board is concerned

that the current draft of the proposed Ordinance fails to provide sufficient protection against the commercial use of murals, particularly in hillside areas where such commercialization would degrade the natural character of the hillsides.

MOTION: Moved, seconded, passed. Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Federation request that the City revise the proposed definition of "commercial message" to assure that murals permitted under the proposed ordinance do not function as or otherwise contain commercial advertising.

V. Old Business

A. Millennium Hollywood Project - George Abrahams

The Millennium Project will go back to PLUM on July 24. The groups and individuals opposing the Project have asked for stakeholders to show up at the hearing and express their strong opposition to the Project. Dan Wright, as counsel for opponents of the Millennium Project, stated that they have uncovered evidence that the applicant's geologist may have falsified documents to conceal that the project may be within an active earthquake fault. They have asked for an investigation into potential wrongdoing and the State may investigate. Marian Dodge will send the original Hillside Federation letter with a cover letter asking Councilmember O'Farrell to meet with representatives of the opponents.

B. Curtis School update - Mark Stratton

The City Planning Commission hearing has been postponed until the end of September while the Applicant recirculates a more thorough MND as required by City Staff.

C. Amicus Brief - Dan Wright gave an update on the Brown Act/Rec and Parks case and will give another update to the Hillside Federation in September.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm. There will be no meeting in August. The next meeting will be on September 4, 2013.

Carol Sidlow,
Recording Secretary

Members Present:

Beachwood Canyon	George Abrahams
Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
Benedict Canyon	Mindy Mann
Brentwood Hills HA	John Given
Brentwood Res. Coal.	Lois Becker
Cahuenga Pass POA	Patricia Weber
Canyon Back Allian.	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Laurel Canyon Assn.	Tony Tucci
Lookout Mountain	Steven Poster
	Carol Sidlow
Los Feliz Impvmt.	Marian Dodge
Mt. Washington HO All	Dan Wright
Resid. of Beverly Glen	Stephen Benson
Roscomare Valley	Steve Twining
Sherman Oaks HOA	Niles Chapman
Studio City	Claudia Freedle
Upper Mandeville	Elodie Lorenz

Guests Present:

Assembly Dist. 50	Timothy Pershing
Harvard-Westlake	John Amato
School	Renee Schillaci
	(Greer Dailey)
	Edgar Khalatian
	(Paul Hastings)
Save Coldwater	Jennifer Rothman
Canyon	Sarah Boyd
	Alex Izbicki
	Jim Johnson
Resid. of Beverly Glen	Kira Palmer
Resident	Pat Seal

**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
1st floor conference room