

# Hillside Federation Newsletter November, 2014

## Vote on November 4, 2014

Although “only” a mid-term election, the election Tuesday is an important one for all of California, and for Hillside Federation members in particular. During our previous three meetings we have hosted informative candidate forums for the three races with a direct connection to the Santa Monica Mountains: State Senate District 26 between Ben Allen and Sandra Fluke, Congressional District 33 between State Senator Ted Lieu and Elan Carr, and most recently for LA County 3rd District Supervisor between Sheila Kuehl and Bobby Shriver.

In addition, there are several important ballot initiatives to consider. These include Proposition 1, the statewide water bond measure that, if approved, would authorize more than \$7.5B in general obligation bonds for state water supply infrastructure projects. Locally, Proposition P is a countywide proposition that, if approved, would continue the \$54M in funding from Proposition A (the Neighborhood Parks Tax Measure), which was passed in 1992 and sunsets at the end of the current fiscal year in June 2015. The Hillside Federation co-sponsored informational workshops on Proposition P in October. A flyer from one of the October 14 workshops is included in this newsletter.

Whichever candidates you support, and however you may choose to vote on the various ballot initiatives, we urge all to participate in the election by getting out and voting on Tuesday, November 4.



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

### Agenda November 5, 2014 7:00 pm

#### I. Call to Order

#### II. Approval of minutes

#### III. Officers' Reports

- A. President's Report
- B. Treasurer's Report

#### IV. New Business

- A. 10220 Scenario Ln.—Sue Campbell
- B. 7107 Hollywood Bl.—Helen Berman
- C. Severe Fire Areas—John Given
- D. Wildlife Crossing at Liberty Canyon  
—Wendy-Sue Rosen

#### V. Old Business

- A. Hollywood Sign Shuttles  
—Lucy Gonzalez
- B. 6459 Innsdale Dr. Update  
—David Benz
- C. 360 N. Stone Canyon Update  
—Steve Twining
- D. 8150 Sunset Bl.—Adara Salim

#### VI. Adjournment

Next meeting  
Thursday, December 11, 2014  
**Holiday Party**

**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.

## PROPOSITION

P

## SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS MEASURE

## Safe Neighborhood Parks, Gang Prevention, Youth/Senior Recreation, Beaches and Wildlife Protection Measure on the November Ballot

Every year, more than 70 million people visit LA County parks and their neighborhood parks and participate in park-sponsored recreational programs. Millions of children and youth use park facilities for after-school, weekend, and summer programs, and millions of seniors attend programs at nearby senior centers.

While city, state and federal funding for parks and recreation has been decreasing during the past 20 years, LA County voters approved the Safe Neighborhood Parks Measure in 1992, which generates about \$54 million a year for neighborhood and regional parks and recreation. *The previous measure is about to expire—Proposition P is designed to replace it.*

### Completed Projects

Since 1992, The County Department of Parks and Recreation and other grantees have completed almost 2,000 projects with funds from that measure and additional funding including:

- 328 new children's play areas
- 350 new and refurbished recreation centers, senior centers, community centers, nature centers
- 244 trails projects
- 50 new parks—almost 33,000 acres permanently converted to parks or open space
- 25 water quality improvement projects
- 20 water supply enhancement projects
- 175 tree planting projects (10,000 trees planted)
- 200 restrooms added or refurbished

Visit the County Regional Park and Open Space District website to see new and enhanced local parks in your area: [osd.lacounty.gov](#)

### Proposition P Continues Park Funding

The 1992 funding measure expires in June 2015 and that \$54 million a year will no longer be available for neighborhood and regional parks. Should Proposition P be approved, it would continue funding \$54 million a year through an annual \$23 per parcel special tax for 30 years. Every property in the County would pay that tax. Proposition P will be on the November 4, 2014 ballot. It requires a two-thirds majority vote to pass.

### How Funds from Proposition P Would Be Spent

Proposition P allocates funds across the County, with increased emphasis on projects that enhance water quality in the LA River, San Gabriel River, creeks, lakes and beaches; projects that protect water supply sources; projects in park-poor areas; and projects that employ local youth (Proposition A employed over 25,000 youths).

- **Parks in Disadvantaged Communities** – 10% of all funds are dedicated specifically for projects that increase parks, open space and recreational opportunities in underserved communities that have fewer parks and playgrounds.
- **Neighborhood Parks** – 20% of all funds will go directly to cities and unincorporated communities for local neighborhood parks and arts projects to repair and upgrade fields, gymnasiums and playgrounds; repair and upgrade restrooms; upgrade security lighting; install water-efficient irrigation; and increase accessibility.
- **Clean Beaches, Clean Water** – 15% of funds will go toward County beach, park and clean water projects.
- **Regional Open Space** – 30% of funds will be used to develop and maintain County trails, and fund mountain, river, wetlands and stream projects that protect natural resources and enhance visitor experiences.
- **Nonprofit and Public Agency Projects** – 5% will be made available as grants to organizations engaged in senior/youth facilities, urban tree planting, graffiti prevention, public access to rivers and streams, and natural lands restoration. Priority for projects that employ youth and for groups involved in gang prevention and training programs for at-risk youth.
- **Maintained Parks** – 15% of funds will be used to upgrade and maintain facilities to improve the usability of these community assets, so that past and future park investments are not degraded or lost.

### Accountability

The measure requires annual, independent financial audits of all revenue and expenditures and open, public review to ensure funds are used efficiently, and as voters intend.

All funds must remain local within LA County and can only be used for parks, recreation, and open space projects.



## **Trial Set for Bel Air 50-Foot Height Variance Case**

A trial date has been set to determine whether to overturn the 50-foot height variance granted for a house at 360 N. Stone Canyon Road in Bel Air. The hearing will be December 10, 2014, at 9:30 a.m. in Department 86 of the Los Angeles Superior Court (111 N. Hill Street in downtown L.A.).

The variance was denied by the Zoning Administrator because **none** of the five required findings could be made. The applicant appealed, and the West Los Angeles Area Planning Commission unanimously upheld the Zoning Administrator's denial. Then, at the request of Councilmember Koretz, the City Council took jurisdiction over the variance under Charter Section 245 and sent it back to the APC for a second hearing. After the APC unanimously denied the appeal again, Councilmember Koretz and the Council took jurisdiction a second time under Section 245.

The Federation voted unanimously to oppose the variance and the Council's taking jurisdiction from the APC. (See our [September 2013 Minutes](#) for details about the case.) The variance was opposed by neighbors as well as by other community groups. Despite this opposition, the Council granted the variance.

If this variance is not voided by the Superior Court, developers will undoubtedly attempt to use it as a precedent to undermine the Baseline Hillside Ordinance and allow other over-height homes in our hillside neighborhoods.

Federation members are encouraged to attend the trial on December 10 to show the community's strong concern about this illegal height variance.

## **Hillside Federation Draft Minutes October 1, 2014**

### **I. Call to Order**

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

### **Candidate Forum LA County 3rd Supervisory District**

**Shelia Kuehl** was introduced by President Marian Dodge. Ms. Kuehl gave introductory comments on her background and political experience emphasizing her work in the California State Assembly and Senate. She also noted her three priorities once elected as a County Supervisor: (1) foster kids—improved care, education, etc.; (2) health care—improved county facilities, etc.; (3) transportation—focus on getting people out of their cars, and using public transportation. She highlighted the train route from the Valley south to the airport area.

### **Questions from the Audience**

#### **1. How can the County help with City issues?**

Ms. Kuehl: The County can help negotiate on issues such as earthquake faults, wildlife corridors, rodenticides, etc. because these are not just City issues. She emphasized the need to bring jurisdictions together to solve issues which included several cities and the county. She also recommended setting up a task force specifically to work broad issues involving the multiple cities within the County.

#### **2. Is the County in better fiscal shape than LA City?**

Ms. Kuehl: Yes, definitely. The longevity of County officials versus City officials has helped—there is much more turnover in City government. The County has issued bonds for pensions and has been good at working with the unions.

#### **3. What is the state of CEQA?**

Ms. Kuehl: She stated that she is a strong supporter of CEQA and that it should not be weakened in any way. She suggested to shorten the time to adjudicate CEQA issues. She also noted the use of special masters like other

counties have done to help resolve CEQA-related issues.

**4. Why is there little community involvement in the Ford Theater modifications? They did an EIR that no one knew about and it affects wildlife corridors and trails.**

Ms. Kuehl: She thinks that “plans” are not completely done. She noted that there will be amendments and thus, an opportunity for more comment periods. She believed there is still ample time for real opportunity for community comments.

**5. What is the County’s relationship with the City Council?**

Ms. Kuehl: It is dismal right now. She stated that she knows a number of the City Council people and she wants a new day of collaboration. There are several opportunities for collaboration including child services, health care, etc.

**6. Do you have any comment on the excessive number of LAPD/LAFD Officers on sick leave.**

Ms. Kuehl: The County Supervisor has a Justice Deputy that will look into this situation.

**7. What is your position regarding Zev’s emphasis on Open Space?**

Ms. Kuehl: She noted that she has work experience to get more Open Space in parts of the Santa Monica Mountains, and is going to keep it up.

**8. What is your position regarding the build out/up near transit lines? Do you support increased density now or later?**

Ms. Kuehl: People can afford to live in smaller units. She stated that the transportation needs to be “nearly in place” before increased housing. The future of LA will be more urban, but with less traffic. California could benefit a lot from the Fast Train concept.

**9. What is the difference between Sheila Keuhl and Bobby Shriver?**

Ms. Kuehl: She believes that she has more experience and has represented this district for years. The elected candidate will have to “hit the ground running” to deal with health care, transportation, pensions, etc.

**10. Can you comment on the projected turnout for the election?**

Ms. Keuhl: The turnout will be low—the election of Governor is predetermined and there are not big initiative issues.

**11. Do you have any comments on SCAG (Southern California Association of Governments)?**

Ms. Keuhl: The 88 cities don’t want to work together. These cities should work together to be more effective in getting federal grants, etc.

**Bobby Shriver** was represented by **John Duran**, who was introduced by President Marian Dodge. Bobby Shriver had a prior commitment and could not attend. Mr. Duran is a member of the West Hollywood City Council.

**Questions from the Audience**

**1. What is Bobby’s view on CEQA?**

Mr. Duran: There is a special magistrate and there is a need for affordable housing.

**2. The Governor tried to gut CEQA for the 8150 Sunset Project—do you have any comment?**

Mr. Duran: He stated that expediting the CEQA process is good.

**3. What is your opinion on the several projects on Sunset Blvd in LA City?**

Mr. Duran: He declined to comment stating that he had no knowledge of these projects.

**4. Isn’t there a need for a more balanced development?**

Mr. Duran: He stated that Bobby Shriver supports the CEQA concept.

**Helicopter Noise Relief—Bob Anderson**

Bob Anderson provided a presentation that is available on the Hillside Federation website. He noted that the next 3 months are critical in moving things forward. The FAA is generally not that interested and LA is the most complex airspace in the US. There are no helicopter flight paths, no complaint system, no environmental studies, and no database of the pilots and the owners. The goal is to have a tri-party agreement on noise reduction among the FAA, pilots, and residents, with enforcement and commitment to collaborate. Best Practices Working Group, Pilot Outreach Working Group, Cahuenga Pass/Griffith Park Working Group, South Bay Routes Working Group, and

# *The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations*

## *2014 Holiday Party*



*Mulholland Tennis Club  
2555 Crest View Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90046*



*Thursday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
6:30 – 9:30 pm*

Come join us for  
Fun and Friendship

*Gourmet & Vegetarian Buffet  
Parking Included  
Wine & Music Provided  
No Host Bar*

*Entire Club is Reserved for Us!*

**\$45/person**

### Honorees

*George Abrahams  
Robert Silverstein*

*Renee Weitzer,  
CD4 Chief of Land Use Planning*

**RSVP by November 28<sup>th</sup>**  
[andres2007@sbcglobal.net](mailto:andres2007@sbcglobal.net)

*Make check payable to:  
Hillside Federation*

*Mail to: Don Andres  
7470 Franklin Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90046*

*Questions: 323-333-7445*

**Thank you for your support!**



Long Beach Working Group have all been established. See [LAHelicopterNoise.org](http://LAHelicopterNoise.org).

October and November at various locations in the Valley.

### **II. Approval of Minutes**

There were two corrections offered for the Minutes. The correct adjournment time was 9:55pm. Alan Dymond offered a correction on his report on the Studio City Senior Living Center development. The Minutes were approved as corrected.

Assemblymember Mike Gatto's "Legislative Year in Review" Town Hall Meeting will be on October 9, 2014 from 7pm to 8pm at the Crescenta-Canada YNCA, 1930 Foothill Blvd., La Canada Flintridge, CA 91011.

AB 2222, an amendment to SB 1818 reported in last month's minutes, was signed by Governor Brown.

### **III. Officer's Reports**

#### **A. President's Report—Marian Dodge**

The SAMO Fund (Santa Monica Mountains Fund) held an event yesterday in Malibu and National Geographic photographer Steve Winter showed pictures of P-22. Proceeds from the event are going to mountain lion research.

There are a number of free women's self-defense workshops hosted by Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian, LAPD, Bright Star ATA Martial Arts, and the North Hollywood Recreation Center. These workshops will occur during the month of

In the upcoming election, there will be two ballot initiatives of importance to our hillside environment: Proposition P would extend Proposition A funding for parks, and Proposition 1 to establish a statewide Water Bond. There will be community workshops to educate the public on these initiatives and the Hillside Federation has been asked to co-sponsor a workshop.

**MOTION:** Charley Mims moved that the Hillside Federation co-sponsor a workshop so long as there is no financial commitment. The motion passed unanimously.

## **B. Treasurer's Report—Don Andres**

All expenses have been paid and there is one outstanding homeowners association still owing dues.

The Hillside Federation Holiday Party is Thursday, December 11th at the Mulholland Tennis Club. It is time to get the word out to your Neighborhood Associations. The Executive Committee will be meeting soon to discuss the honorees for this year.

## **IV. New Business**

### **A. Baseline Hillside Ordinance Amendments.**

Council Motion 14-1059 was approved, which requires the Department of Building & Safety and the Bureau of Street Services to report their recommendations to PLUM in 90 days.

### **B. CEQA Guidelines & SB 743.**

There is an effort underway to change the focus of transportation impact studies based on vehicle-miles-of-travel (VMT) as opposed to the current level of service (LOS). The new model analyzes street segment impacts instead of how many cars get through an intersection. It is supposed to be a more accurate way of analyzing traffic impacts. Comment period ends October 10, 2014.

## **V. Old Business**

### **A. 6459 Innsdale Drive—Sheila Irani**

Zoning Administrator Charlie Rausch has denied several of the applicant's request for deviations from the LA Municipal Code and the applicant has appealed his decisions. It was requested that the Hillside Federation provide a letter of support.

**MOTION:** Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Hillside Federation provide a letter supporting the decisions by the Zoning Administrator, Charlie Rausch. The motion passed unanimously.

### **B. 8150 Sunset Blvd—Marian Dodge**

There will be a fundraiser on November 11, 2014, at Chateau Marmont to raise money to help fund opposition to the size and scale of the 8150 Sunset Blvd. project. It was also noted that the website [www.WEHOHeights.com](http://www.WEHOHeights.com) has information on developments in West Hollywood.

## **C. Studio City Senior Living Center—Alan Dymond**

Marian attended a meeting hosted by the Studio City Neighborhood Council (SCNC). There is opposition to this project since it would destroy part of the LA River Natural Park plan for the Weddington Golf and Tennis Courts, which has been used for public recreation since 1974. The park plan is part of the LA River Revitalization Plan. The SCNC is 100% opposed to the project, as are Senator Fran Pavley, The Trust for Public Land, Save Coldwater Canyon, and many others. Currently the community is collecting postcards to send to Councilmember Krekorian. Two thousand postcards have been collected so far. The Draft EIR deadline has just passed. The Studio City Residents Association submitted a 69-page comment letter, which can be accessed at [www.studiocityresidents.org](http://www.studiocityresidents.org).

### **D. 10220 Scenario Lane—Katherine Bard**

The Residents of Beverly Glen are concerned with density, slope stability, lack of access for emergency vehicles, and other negative impacts as a result of this proposed project. They are meeting with Councilmember Koretz to discuss problems with the project and will keep us informed.

### **E. 11767 Bellagio Drive—Bruce Kuyper**

The approval of five units versus the six originally proposed by the developer in this Small Lot Subdivision project is being appealed by local resident Bruce Kuyper. An appeal will be heard by the Area Planning Commission on October 15.

**MOTION:** Wendy-Sue Rosen/Charley Mims moved that the Federation support Mr. Kuyper's appeal based on the concern that the Community Plan must be upheld. The motion passed unanimously.

The next Hillside Federation meeting will be November 5, 2014 at the PINZ Bowling Center.

## **VI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25pm.

Don Andres  
Acting Recording Secretary

*Members Present:*

Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
Brentwood Hills	Lois Becker
Brentwood Residents	John Given
Cahuenga Pass POA	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Canyon Back Alliance	Steven Kates
Franklin Av/Hlwd Blvd	Tom Freeman
Kagel Canyon	Don Andres
Lake Hollywood	Yvonne Hessler
Laurel Canyon	Kit Paull
Los Feliz Impvmt.	Sheila Irani
Oaks Homeowners	Tony Tucci
Resid. Beverly Glen	Marian Dodge
Roscomare Valley	Gerry Hans
Sherman Oaks	Stephen Benson
Studio City Res. Assn	Katherine Bard
	Steve Twining
	Elke Heitmeyer
	Alan Dymond
	Claudia Freedle

*Guests Present:*

3rd Supervisorial Dist forum	Sheila Kuehl
candidate	Madeleine Moore
candidate rep	John Duran-WH Council
Beverly Glen/Basil Ln	Ruth Sahean
Sherman Oaks	Cynthia Ford
West Hollywood Heights Assn	Bob Anderson
Holmby/W'wood POA	Elyse Eisenberg
Las Virgenes Fed	Joan Marcy
CA Women's Law Ctr.	Kim Lamorie
Bellagio/Moraga	Betsy Butler
	Bruce Kuyper

## LA City Parks Discontinue Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides

The Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation told City Councilmembers on October 20 that they phased out second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides months ago, according to a story at KPCC's website (*see <http://www.scpr.org/news/2014/10/21/47557/la-city-parks-no-longer-use-most-toxic-rat-poisons/>*).

Second-generation anticoagulant poisons had been banned for consumer use since July, but are permitted by exterminators and local governments. The Cities of Calabasas and Malibu have discontinued use of *all* anticoagulants, including first-generation. First-generation anticoagulants, were found in blood samples taken from mountain lion P-22.

Los Angeles has not discontinued first-generation anticoagulants, but Parks officials assured the City Council that they would only be used as a last resort, "when other methods are either inappropriate or unsuccessful." Wildlife advocates are pleased with the news but will continue to push for banning all anticoagulant poisons.

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VICE PRESIDENTS  
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John Given

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  
CASM-SFV  
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.  
Save Sunset Blvd.  
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  
Upper Riviera HOA  
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