

# Hillside Federation Newsletter April, 2016



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

## Runyon Canyon Closes for Four Months for Improvements



Runyon Canyon Park closed for four months on April 1, as reported by Friends of Runyon Canyon (FORC) in an email to members Friday. The Department of Water and Power is replacing approximately one mile of 6-inch pipe that runs through the park as part of its Runyon Canyon Water System Improvement Project. The project will improve the area's fire protection system and local water quality. All trails will be locked and closed to the public during the park closure. The yoga field will remain open and accessible via the Fuller Gate. The park will reopen as soon as the work is completed.

The local neighborhood council is holding a special meeting on FORC's Vision Plan on Monday, April 4, at 6:30 pm, at the Will & Ariel Durant Library (7140 W. Sunset Blvd.). Participants will include Councilmember David Ryu, LA Dept. of Recreation and Parks, and FORC representatives.

### Agenda

April 6, 2016

7:00 pm

Pinz Bowling Center, 2nd Floor  
12655 Ventura Blvd., Studio City

#### I. Call to Order

Guests:

Janet Turner – Cong. Lieu's office

#### II. Approval of minutes

#### III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report

**Election of Officers:** Barbara Dohrmann  
Nominating Committee report

B. Treasurer's Report

#### IV. Old Business

A. High-Speed Rail – Kit Paull

B. 10101 Angelo View – Aaron Green

C. LA-RICS Telecommunications Towers –  
John Given

D. Harvard-Westlake – Heidi Mackay

E. Re:Code LA update – Carol Sidlow

#### V. Adjournment

Next meeting – May 4, 2016

**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.*

## **LA Area Helicopter Noise Coalition Update**

The Los Angeles Area Helicopter Noise Coalition's March eNewsletter reports that local cities have begun to pass resolutions in support of new helicopter flight regulations. The regulation is made at the federal level by the FAA, so LAAHNC is asking community members to contact their local Congressional members to request their support.

L A A H N C ' s excellent website makes it very easy to support their efforts, and at the site, you can join their email lists, read and comment on their petitions, learn about the helicopter noise complaint system, and find email links and telephone numbers for your Congressional representatives.

See <http://lahelicopternoise.org/mobilize/> for more information.

## **Sunset Plaza Emergency Closure Due to Unpermitted Grading**

Following an unexpected emergency road closure of Sunset Plaza Drive in early March, Council District 4 Senior Deputy Catherine Landers emailed community members to let them know that the closure occurred because "a private party without proper permits illegally excavated into the hillside, causing a section of Sunset Plaza Drive to become a public safety hazard."

Ms. Landers' email also noted that "the City Attorney is seeking any legal remedies available for the persons responsible."



## **Re:Code LA—Community Meetings Continue, Project Files Available**

The Department of Planning continues its community outreach meetings regarding the Re:Code LA process this month, with public forums scheduled for April 6, 9, 16, and 20 at locations around the City. For more details visit: <http://recode.la/updates/events>.

If you would like to review project team materials or public comments, Planning has created a webpage that provides virtually all of the materials related to the re:Code LA project online at: <http://recode.la/about/project-files>. Public comments submitted regarding the Re:Code project can be found at the City Clerk's Council File Management System page (for Council File number 12-0460): <http://tinyurl.com/zo64s2b>.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE Proposed Slate of Officers**

**President:**  
Charley Mims

**Chairman:**  
Marian Dodge

**1st Vice President:**  
Mark Stratton

**2nd Vice President:**  
John Given

**Recording Secretary:**  
Carol Sidlow

**Treasurer:**  
Don Andres

**Executive Secretary:**  
John Given

**Hillside Federation**  
**Draft minutes**  
**March 2, 2016**

**I. Call to Order**

President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

**Guest speakers:**

Neighborhood Integrity Initiative

Opponents:

Mark Edwards, Coalition to Protect  
Los Angeles Neighborhoods and Job

Alan Bell, former Deputy Planning  
Director, City of Los Angeles

Kevin Keller, AICP, LA Mayor's Office

Mark Edwards of the Coalition to Protect Los Angeles Neighborhoods and Jobs, spoke about the complexities in the City of Los Angeles and the challenges in the City such as the balance of housing; the high cost of rental housing; population growth; the inability of people to purchase homes. LA has a tremendous housing demand. The Coalition opposes the Initiative as they feel that it is written in such a way that there will be unintended impacts such as more development in R-3 and R-4 neighborhoods or other areas that have not maxed out their density. The proposed initiative contains ambiguous language; inability of communities to change such. On the plus side, more people are getting involved to come together to find solutions. NII may put the brakes on development, but it won't stop the city from growing. He shares the frustration of communities, but NII is not the best response. A council motion directs certain city departments to start on the

analysis on the issues raised by NII.

Alan Bell, retired Deputy Director of City Planning, talked about his time working on code amendments. This Initiative would change the rules for how City Planning does its job. There has been a growth spurt in LA since 2009. With respect to the major mega projects, the developers may be able to ride out the 2-year moratorium but they would be able to go through plan check during the moratorium, and after the moratorium ends, those projects would go forward. The projects that wouldn't be built would be smaller projects that may not be able to survive and may not be built. Many areas zoned R-3 and R-4 have room for more FAR. It doesn't change the SB 1818 density bonuses. He spoke about the impacts on community-based planning and how this initiative would take away communities' ability to plan their own future. NII would tie the city's hands. Communities would not have access to the new zones and may not be able to downzone neighborhoods. The main concern is the prevailing conditions principle that future rezoning and plan amendments have to match what is on the ground at the time the initiative passes. NII was specifically written to address the Palladium project. The system is not necessarily broken but it has not been prioritized. NII is not the solution; giving Planning the resources to do the job is the solution.

Kevin Keller is the Mayor's Director of Planning and Housing Policy and a former City Planner. The Mayor has not yet taken a position on the initiative. The Mayor is reviewing the initiatives (there is a second initiative). They could be adopted by the City, but if not would go to voters. There is a severe housing crisis in the City, so the key to evaluating the Neighborhood Integrity Initiative is how it will impact housing and

jobs. There is a need for pro-active community planning but it has been a struggle to find the funding as there are 35 community plans. The NII calls for a schedule but does not address funding. The Mayor is looking at the components of the initiative very closely. Some of the pieces, for example the EIR part, can perhaps be looked at by the City. The material will be submitted to City for review, followed by some City analysis which will be prepared and then an analysis statement. If the City does not adopt it verbatim, it goes to voters.

Hillside Federation members commented that people feel disenfranchised and the underlying problem of a lack of trust in the City. Several aspects of the initiative were clarified. It may have an impact on Re:Code LA. If the initiative is approved by voters, it can only be changed by another vote, not by the City. The accuracy of growth numbers was challenged. How much downzoning has been done in the last 10 years?

Marian requested that guests leave the meeting so that the Federation members could discuss the issue. It was suggested that the Federation form a sub-committee and ask members to submit ideas for what the Hillside Federation would present to the City to

address some of the issues intended to be covered by the NII. Then the Hillside Federation would revisit the issue to consider taking a position once the City has had an opportunity to evaluate and share its analysis. There is plenty of time as the initiative is not scheduled to be on the ballot until November. Many board members have not yet read the NII. Volunteers for the ad hoc committee are: Wendy-Sue Rosen, Wayne Schlock, Charley Mims, Mark Stratton, and John Given.

## II. Approval of Minutes

The February minutes were approved as submitted.

## III. Officers' Reports

### A. President's Report – Marian Dodge

Marian announced the 2016 Nominating Committee for the slate of Federation officers which will be put in the April newsletter. The Nominating Committee will be: Barbara Dohrmann, Gerry Hans, and Kit Paull. Candidates will be voted on at the April Federation meeting.

Councilmember David Ryu has introduced Motion CF 16-0198 regarding the creation of a Construction Overlay Zone on substandard streets in the hillsides.

Dennis Hathaway sent an update regarding *Lamar vs. City of Los Angeles*. A tentative decision was made by the Court of Appeals reversing the trial court decision and upholding the City's ban on offsite digital billboard signs.

Representative Adam Schiff will be holding two meetings to discuss the Rim of the Valley special study: Tuesday March 8, 2016 at the Los Angeles Zoo, and Wednesday March 9 at Oak Park High School in Agoura. Marian will distribute the flyer when it is available.

### Bringing an Issue to the Federation

If your organization would like to bring an issue to the attention of the Federation, please complete a Request for Action form (available at the website [www.hillsidefederation.org](http://www.hillsidefederation.org)) and send it, along with supporting documents, to [president@hillsidefederation.org](mailto:president@hillsidefederation.org) no later than 10 days prior to the meeting. This will help you organize your presentation so that our meetings can flow efficiently, while providing the necessary information to allow the Federation to consider your organization's request.

Claudia Freedle from the Studio City Residents Association announced that the new location for their meetings will be the Rio Vista Elementary School. Wendy Greuel, newly appointed by Mayor Garcetti to look into solutions regarding the homeless will be speaking to the SCRA on Tuesday, March 8.

Don Andres announced that the Department of Rec. and Parks Board of Commissioners approved the major water improvement project in Runyon Canyon Park and as a result, the park will be closed April 1 for 4 months.

#### B. Treasurers Report – Don Andres

Don Andres gave the Treasurer's report and reminded all that dues were due by March 1, 2016.

### **IV. New Business**

#### A. 1400 Linda Flora Landscaping – Steve Twining

Steve requested a letter from the Federation to Councilmember Paul Koretz and the Mayor regarding the landscaping of the huge retaining walls along the project at 1400 Linda Flora. Currently, there are bushes between the two walls, but none in front of the lower wall. The original plans for this development called for sizable trees to conceal the retaining walls. Carol Sidlow mentioned that over the years, the Federation had written letters regarding a few issues in opposition to the development. The Retaining Wall Ordinance calls for landscaping but is not very detailed about the subject. A discussion followed and included whether this was an enforcement issue, a CD 5 issue, and any mandatory requirements.

**MOTION:** Steve Twining moved that the Hillside Federation write a letter to Councilmember Paul Koretz asking him to prioritize the landscaping of the lower

retaining walls along 1400 Linda Flora. The motion passed.

### **V. Old Business**

#### A. Harvard-Westlake Parking Improvement Plan – Sarah Boyd, Save Coldwater Canyon!

Sarah Boyd described the new Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) for the Harvard-Westlake project. Not much has changed except that the new RDEIR does mention the significant impact to the oak and walnut woodlands. A few species have been added to the sensitive species list but the impact to birds has been downplayed. A debris basin has been added.

The proposed project for a parking structure is still three stories with four levels, with a bridge across Coldwater Canyon, lights with more poles so lights can be more directed, retaining walls up to 90 feet, and grading of 135,000 cubic yards, among other requests.

The traffic report was peer reviewed, but problems still exist. The community has hired a consultant to review the traffic report. An alternative location for a subterranean parking garage on the East side of Coldwater Canyon was rejected. New entitlements have been added including a paper street vacation and a vesting conditional use permit for a maximum of 79,261 sq. ft. in lieu of the Baseline Hillside Ordinance limits.

The Studio City Neighborhood Council will be meeting next week and discussing this project. Harvard-Westlake will be making a presentation, as will the opponents, and there will be public comment. The comment period deadline on the RDEIR is March 21, 2016. Although previous comment letters will still apply, there are changes including the inclusion of the Baseline Hillside Ordinance.

**MOTION:** Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the

Hillside Federation write a letter regarding the RDEIR addressing the deviations from the Baseline Hillside Ordinance in addition to the comments already submitted. The motion passed.

**B. LA-RICS Telecommunication Towers and EC Action** – John Given

The public comment deadline for the FEIR on the LA-RICS telecommunications towers was February 25, before the Federation meeting. Although the proposed tower on San Vicente Peak was removed from the project at the Federation’s and Mike Bonin’s request, there were other towers proposed in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreational Area on Topanga Peak, Green Mountain, and Temescal Canyon. The FEIR was deficient because it failed to consider a “no project alternative” on a per site basis or alternative sites and antenna configurations. The Executive Committee discussed the issue and voted to write a letter in response to the FEIR.

**MOTION:** Marian Dodge moved that the members confirm the Executive Committee’s decision to write the letter responding to the FEIR for the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS) Land Mobile Radio (LMR) System. The motion passed.

**C. Re:Code LA** – Carol Sidlow

The Public Forums regarding Re:code LA will start on March 16. Information on dates, times and location were in the March newsletter. In addition to public meetings, there will be a virtual forum on April 26. Sign up for the virtual meeting can be done at the Re:Code LA website.

**VI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Submitted by Carol Sidlow  
Recording Secretary

**Members Present:**

Beachwood Canyon	George Abrahams
Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
Brentwood Hills	John Given
Brentwood Res. Coal.	Wendy-Sue Rosen
CASM-SFV	Dan Feinberg
Franklin Ave/Hlwd Bl.	Don Andres Yvonne Hessler
Franklin Hills Res.	Charley Mims
Hollywood Dell	Mary Ledding
Lake Hollywood	David Benz
Laurel Canyon Assn.	Alison Simard
Lookout Mountain	Carol Sidlow
Los Feliz Impvmt.	Marian Dodge
Mt. Washington All.	Dan Wright
Oaks Homeowners	Wayne Schlock
Res Beverly Glen	Stephen Benson
Roscomare Valley	Steve Twining
Save Coldwater Cyn!	Heidi Mackay Sarah Boyd
Sherman Oaks	Elke Heitmeyer
Studio City Res.	Claudia Freedle

**Guests:**

Mayor’s Office	Kevin Keller Daniel Tamm
Planning Dept. (ret’d)	Alan Bell
Communities for Jobs & Housing	Mark Edwards
Coal. to Preserve LA	Jill Stewart Laura Gutierrez Mickey
Chair Emeritus	Patricia Bell Hearst



# SoCalConnected Story on Southern California Mountain Lions



National Park Service photo still from the KCET feature

In case you missed it, KCET recently aired a feature on local mountain lion survival entitled “A Tale of Two Mountain Lions.”

Miguel Ordeñana, a Friends of Griffith Park board member whose cameras captured the first photos of P-22, is featured in the story. NPS’s Jeff Sikich and Dr. Seth Riley are also interviewed in the 10-minute short.

Beth Pratt-Bergstrom, of the National Wildlife Foundation, leads the fundraising drive for a wildlife crossing at Liberty Canyon. The Hillside Federation supports the fundraising efforts of the National Wildlife Foundation and encourages all of our member organizations to spread the word to their members. Sharing the SoCalConnected video is a great way to show the need for a wildlife corridor. Donations to the National Wildlife Foundation project are tax deductible.

The video can be found online at: <https://www.kcet.org/shows/socal-connected/a-tale-of-two-mountain-lions>.

<p>The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Inc.  P.O. Box 27404  Los Angeles, CA 90027  <a href="mailto:president@hillsidefederation.org">president@hillsidefederation.org</a>  <a href="http://www.hillsidefederation.org">www.hillsidefederation.org</a></p> <p>PRESIDENT  Marian Dodge</p> <p>CHAIRMAN  Charley Mims</p> <p>VICE PRESIDENTS  Mark Stratton  Wendy-Sue Rosen</p> <p>SECRETARY  Carol Sidlow</p> <p>TREASURER  Don Andres</p> <p>EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  John Given</p>	<p><i>ORGANIZATIONS</i></p> <p>Beachwood Canyon  Bel-Air Association  Bel Air Knolls Property Owners  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.</p>	<p>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  Rancho Verdugo Estates HOA  Residents of Beverly Glen  Roscomare Valley Assn.  Save Coldwater Canyon!  Save Sunset Blvd.  Shadow Hills Property Owners  Sherman Oaks HOA  Silver Lake Heritage Trust</p>	<p>Studio City Residents Assn.  Sunset Hills HOA  Tarzana Property Owners Assn.  Torreyson Flynn Assn.  Upper Mandeville Canyon  Upper Nichols Canyon  Whitley Heights Civic Assn.</p> <p>CHAIRPERSONS EMERITUS  Shirley Cohen  Jerome C. Daniel  Patricia Bell Hearst  Alan Kishbaugh  Gordon Murley  Steve Twining</p> <p>CHAIRPERSONS IN MEMORIAM  Brian Moore  Polly Ward</p>
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