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Bud Ovrom, General Manager
Department of Building and Safety
201 N. Figueroa St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

June 21, 2012

Re: Illegal Extension of Permits

Dear Mr. Ovrom:

The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Inc., representing forty resident and homeowner associations spanning the Santa Monica Mountains, is deeply disturbed to learn that Department of Building and Safety staff have been granting over-the-counter extensions and “modifications” to expired permits. This is in clear violation of the Baseline Hillside Ordinance (BHO) which went into effect on May 9, 2011. Any permit that expired after that date must apply for a new permit that is in full compliance with the regulations of the new BHO.

LADBS approved the Plan Check extensions for 17428 & 17630 W. Castellammare Dr as follows:
B10VN08347, 17428 W. Castellammare Dr, PC extension until on 8/29/12
B10VN08240, 17630 W. Castellammare Dr, PC extension until on 8/26/12
These extensions and “modifications” were made without notice and without review. We understand that the Planning Department has since required the applicant to resubmit plans that are compliant with the BHO.

Pursuant to the California Public Records Act, the Federation would like a list of all extensions and “modifications” that were granted after May 9, 2011 in the hillside areas and the reason why each extension/modification was granted. Your staff should be trained in the requirements of the BHO so that such inappropriate extensions are no longer granted.

The Federation understands that you have been faced with many challenges recently and are working hard to improve the services provided by the Department of Building and Safety. We commend you for those efforts and trust that you will make every effort to assure that your staff complies with new ordinances.

Sincerely,

Marian Dodge

Marian Dodge

cc: Councilmembers
Michael LoGrande

Beachwood Canyon Neighborhood
Bel Air Knolls Property Owners
Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners
Bel Air Ridge Association
Benedict Canyon Association
Brentwood Hills Homeowners
Brentwood Residents Coalition
Cahuenga Pass Property Owners
Canyon Back Alliance
Crests Neighborhood Assn.
Franklin Ave./Hollywood Bl. West
Franklin Hills Residents Assn.
Highlands Owners Assn.
Hollywood Dell Civic Assn.
Hollywood Heights Assn.
Hollywoodland Homeowners
Holmby Hills Homeowners Assn.
Kagel Canyon Civic Assn.
Lake Hollywood HOA
Laurel Canyon Assn.
Lookout Mountain Alliance
Los Feliz Improvement Assn.
Mt. Olympus Property Owners
Mt. Washington Homeowners All.
Nichols Canyon Assn.
N. Beverly Dr./Franklin Canyon
Oak Forest Canyon Assn.
Oaks Homeowners Assn.
Outpost Estates Homeowners
Pacific Palisades Residents Assn.
Residents of Beverly Glen
Roscomare Valley Assn.
Shadow Hills Property Owners
Sherman Oaks HO Assn.
Studio City Residents Assn.
Sunset Hills Homeowners Assn.
Tarzana Property Owners Assn.
Torreyson Flynn Assn.
Upper Mandeville Canyon
Whitley Heights Civic Assn.

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