

**Hillside Federation  
Minutes  
February 5, 2014**

**I. Call to Order**

President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

**Guest Speakers:**

Mike Aguilera – Congressman Adam Schiff’s office: Helicopter Noise Legislation

Mike reported that within the Omnibus Spending Bill, the legislature passed the Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act. The FAA has one year to voluntarily implement six recommendations to reduce helicopter noise. If this cannot be accomplished voluntarily, the FAA will be required to develop regulations. The Bill was signed by the President in January 2014. There is currently no public safety exemption included except for emergencies. The Secretary of Transportation will work on the threshold to lower noise and Mike will report back to the Federation.

Marian recognized two members of the Hillside Federation who worked hard on this issue: George Abrahams and Gerry Hans. Gerry reported that there is interest in leasing out the helipad at LAX and that could be of concern to the community.

Wendy Rosen asked Mike to take back a message of thanks to Congressman Schiff for getting this legislation passed and the Hillside Federation will continue to monitor.

Mike asked for nominations for Woman of the Year for Women’s History Month. Flyer handed out.

Karen Wagener - Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation and Jamie Moore, Public Information Officer/ Los Angeles Fire Department

Karen reported that the Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation has pledged to raise funds to purchase 3,000 brush helmets at the cost of \$45 per helmet for every firefighter in the City of Los Angeles, which is of significant interest to the hillside communities. Organizations or individuals who are interested in making larger donations to the Brush Helmet Campaign are most welcome. If we all pitch in, the goal will be attained that much faster.

Regular helmets worn by firefighters to fight structure fires are worn for shorter periods of time and are heavy. Brush helmets are specifically designed for fighting brush fires, are worn for longer periods of time and are lighter in weight.

Everyone loves their own Fire Stations however, in case of a major event like hillsides going up in flames; we rely on firefighters from all over the City. To ensure that our local fire stations are alerted to donations made for the brush helmets, community groups and individuals can make a note on their checks identifying the local station. They will be notified by the Foundation.

Jamie thanked the Foundation for all their help. He reiterated the importance for everyone to clear their brush as brush season is upon us and we are in drought conditions almost year round. He reminded us to make sure that we all have working smoke detectors. There have been 7 fatalities in 18 days and in every single fire, there were no working smoke alarms.

Karen and Jamie announced the Fahrenheit 2014 fundraiser for the Los Angeles Fire Department will be April 5, 2014 in Sherman Oaks at the Disaster Preparedness facility highlighting the Urban Search and Rescue Units with live demonstrations of fire apparatus and a display of the many resources that are used by our Los Angeles Fire Department. This is an incredible fundraising event.

Tim Pershing - Assemblyman Richard Bloom’s Office:

Tim reported that the session in Sacramento is just beginning. The Otis 2014 Creative Economy Report is coming out focusing on the creative economy i.e. film, art, fashion, furniture making, etc. As the creative industries such as film are going out of the state, incentives need to be looked at. This is a priority for the Assemblymember.

Tim addressed the water issues in the state and the challenges we face regarding water in these drought years. There have been many proposals about this issue. Wendy asked when Assemblyman Bloom takes a position on the Bay Delta Plan to let the Federation know.

George Abrahams requested information about funding for Alquist-Priolo mapping and wants the Alquist-Priolo Act strengthened. Tim will discuss it with George.

The rodenticide issue is still being reviewed.

Los Angeles County Department of Public Works - Kenneth Rickard, P.E., Chris Stone  
Water Resources Division, Maria Chong-Castillo - Supervisor Yaroslavsky's office: Pacoima  
Reservoir/Sediment removal

The County made a presentation about the need for removal of 3 million cubic yards of sediment from the Pacoima Dam, which has not been addressed since 1983 because of challenges and environmental concerns. Five alternatives are being proposed for review. These include dry excavation and/or conveyer, dredging, sluicing, trucking, slurry piping, stock piling, or a combination. Maintenance will also be addressed as part of the environmental review so that the sediment will be removed on a more regular basis. Funding for this project is provided from the Flood Control charges already levied on our property tax bill. No new money will be needed.

Maria Chong-Castillo underscored the importance of this issue to Supervisor Yaroslavsky. The office wants to be sure that all information is out to the community early so the community is aware and their input is included in the process. Maria reported that all factors will be analyzed with all alternatives being difficult. Input from the community may lead to a new alternative or a combination of alternatives.

Scoping meetings for the CEQA process will begin in Spring 2014 with full comment period. The County hopes to have construction begin in Summer of 2016. The Board of Supervisors will make the final decision.

Charley Mims, Marian Dodge, and members of CASM met with the County Department of Public Works about this project on January 28 and agree that this is a very complex issue with no easy answers. The Hillside Federation will monitor this process.

Websites for more information are:

[www.LASedimentMangement.com](http://www.LASedimentMangement.com)

[www.Reservoircleanouts@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:www.Reservoircleanouts@dpw.lacounty.gov)

**II. Approval of Minutes** – The January minutes were approved as submitted.

### **III. Officers' Reports**

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

Marian congratulated George Abrahams on his proclamation from Tom LaBonge for his community service.

Marian suggested a date change for the July meeting from July 2 to July 9 to avoid the 4th of July holiday. The Board voted to support.

Marian reported on the National Park Service, California State Parks, SMMC, MRCA invitation to participate in the public scoping process for the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Interagency Trail Management Plan. Two meetings will be held. The comment period deadline is April 1, 2014. Marian will send out information to member groups.

Marian reported that there is an ongoing project to map wildlife corridors in the Santa Monica Mountains. Marian will distribute information to Federation members. More information can be found on the website: [www.CLAWonline.org](http://www.CLAWonline.org).

Nominating Committee - April Elections: Marian announced the recommended members of the Nominating Committee for 2014: Steven Poster, Steve Twining, and Patricia Weber. These members of the Federation represent all areas of the hillside communities. Don Andres made the motion to approve the committee. Motion passed unanimously.

Wendy Rosen reported that Congressman Waxman has announced his retirement after 40 years. Candidates who have announced they are running so far are Wendy Greuel, Ted Lieu and Marianne Williamson.

#### B. Treasurer's Report: Don Andres

Don gave the Treasurer's report and circulated the chart from last month's meeting with City Council, State Senate, Assembly and Neighborhood Council District for one more proof.

#### **IV. New Business**

##### **A. 6443 and 6459 Innsdale Drive** - Sheila Irani & David Benz

Marian introduced Sheila Irani, previously with Tom LaBonge's office and now running for CD 4, and David Benz both from Lake Hollywood HOA. Sheila and David reported that an applicant has filed an application to build an estate on Innsdale and is seeking many deviations/exceptions from City code, to build a project that includes excessive grading, roadway development, construction of a tennis court, pool, and a hammerhead turn for the fire department at the end of the gated roadway.

Additionally, the applicant is seeking a street vacation. David discussed the negative impacts of building the roadway. A geologist hired by the community reported that this proposed project might be a seismic and flood disaster. Councilman LaBonge opposes the street vacation and other aspects of the project.

Wendy Rosen made a motion to support the position of Lake Hollywood HOA and oppose any deviations from the code. Motion seconded and passed unanimously. The Federation will send a letter to the ZA even if record is closed. The letter will address concerns for public safety and destruction of hillside environment.

##### **B. Rodenticide Ban** - Ali Simard, Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife (CLAW)

Ali reported that rat poison is dangerous and if you are using rat poison, please stop. The Federation passed a motion in September 2013 to support the ban, purchase and sale of rodenticide in the city. Ali asked the Federation to write letter a supporting CLAW's position to support Koretz's motion that Rec and Parks report back to Council on rodenticide use in the City.

#### **V. Old Business**

##### **A. 1500 Gilcrest** - Michael Phillips and Juliana Maio

Juliana and Michael thanked the Hillside Federation for their support. After a year of waiting, the Zoning Administrator denied all the community mitigations requested and approved all of the changes requested by the applicant. ZA Maya Zaitzevsky's determination legalized all the violated conditions. Also, the ZA used the plan approval process to virtually allow a new project to be approved.

Michael and Juliana have appealed the determination to the West Los Angeles Area Planning Commission. Tom LaBonge supports appeal. The date of the hearing has not been set.

Wendy Rosen moved to support the appeal. Motion duly seconded and passed unanimously. The Federation will send a letter that addresses hillside issues and the plan approval process being utilized improperly.

##### **B. 10550 Bellagio Rd.** - Steven Poster

The West Los Angeles Area Planning Commission overturned the ZA's determination and denied the over-in-height residence. The question on everyone's mind is will Paul KorteZ invoke Charter Section 245 to overturn the WLAAPC decision as he did on Stone Canyon?

##### **C. Curtis School** - Mark Stratton

Mark reported that the project is back. February 18 is the deadline for MND comments; February 20 is the Mulholland Design Review Board hearing.

##### **Announcements**

Wendy announced that Tom Donovan will be reappointed by the Mayor to the West Los Angeles Area Planning Commission. She attributed the reappointment to the power of community participation and engagement. Carol asked that Federation members be notified when this reappointment comes to the Planning and Land Use Committee and City Council so members of the community can show further support.

#### **VI. Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Carol Sidlow  
Secretary

**Members Present:**

Beachwood Canyon	George Abrahams
Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
Brentwood Hills HA	John Given
Brentwood Res. Coal.	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Cahuenga Pass	Patricia Weber
Canyon Back Allian.	Lois Becker
Franklin Av/Hlwd Bl.	Don Andres
Kagel Canyon	Kit Paull
Lake Hollywood	Sheila Irani
	David Benz
Laurel Canyon	Ali Simard
Lookout Mountain	Steven Poster
	Carol Sidlow
Los Feliz Impvmt.	Marian Dodge
N. Beverly/Franklin Can	Robert Levy
Oaks HOA	Gerry Hans
Sherman Oaks HOA	Elke Heitmeyer
Studio City Res.	Alan Dymond
Upper Mandeville	Elodie Lorenz
Upper Nichols Canyon	Cyd Zeigler
Upper Riviera HOA	Stacia Thompson

**Guests Present:**

Rep. Adam Schiff	Mike Aguilera
Asm. Bloom	Tim Pershing
Sup. Zev Yaroslavsky	Maria Castillo
LA County Dept.	Chris Stone
of Public Works	Kenneth Rickard
LAFD Foundation	Karen Wagener
LAFD	Capt. Jaime Moore
CASM/SFV	Dan Feinberg
	Ann Job
Save Sunset Blvd.	Andrew McPherson
	Alexandra Rose