

**Hillside Federation
Minutes
March 4, 2015**

I. Call to Order. President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

Presentation: Drought & Water Use

Speakers: Andy Shrader–Director, Environmental Affairs, Water Policy & Sustainability CD 5, Kristen Holdsworth–California Center for Sustainable Communities at UCLA, Melanie Winter–Water LA, Jevon Lam–Department of Water and Power.

Andy Shrader spoke about the severe drought conditions and the need for all communities to step up regarding water conservation as the City has gone thru 2/3 of its reserves in 1 year. With the lack of snowpack in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, the situation is severe; Kristen Holdsworth presented the UCLA study regarding water usage in Los Angeles and their conclusions about water usage and provided some solutions; Melanie Winter informed the Federation about on-going local water conservation efforts; and Jevon Lam from the Department of Water and Power spoke about the various residential rebate programs offered by DWP including appliance rebates, rain barrel equipment, and turf removal program which all focus on water conservation.

There was a lively discussion with questions from Federation members regarding: the disconnect between water supply assessments and water conservation with respect to new development in the City of Los Angeles; use of “greywater” as a condition for new development due to the water crisis; need for watering in our hillside areas for fire protection; water run-off from our streets and what can be done to capture it; overdevelopment and the increase in the demand for water; an ordinance to require new apartments to have individual water meters; rainwater harvesting systems; and lack of engagement by the Department of Building and Safety.

II. Approval of Minutes: Minutes were approved as amended.

III. Officers’ Reports

A. President’s Report: Marian Dodge

Marian introduced Felicia Park-Rogers, Westside Senior Field Deputy for Supervisor Sheila Kuehl. Supervisor Kuehl is very interested in children and family issues and environmental issues among others. There are 3 District offices located in Van Nuys, Calabasas and Metro/Westside Los Angeles.

Marian thanked Lois and Mark for providing coffee and cookies; Steven Poster for the use of the Cinematographers Guild for the Hillside Federation’s CD 4 Candidate Forum, and Don and John for their assistance during the forum.

An update regarding the March 3, 2015 Citywide election was given. The election had a poor turnout. As an example, the race for the CD 4 Council seat drew about 8% of the eligible voters to the polls. The final results regarding the CD 4 election are still undetermined but the 2 candidates that are currently in the lead are Carolyn Ramsay and David Ryu with Tomás O’Grady in third place. The run-off election is scheduled for May 19, 2015. Both City Charter amendments passed.

In January, the Hillside Federation sent a letter to the Fish and Game Commission supporting a ban on bobcat trapping. The Federation also sent a letter supporting the appeal of the Scenario Lane Lot Line Adjustment. A letter of thanks was received from the Wildlife Conservation Board for the Hillside Federation's support of the wildlife crossing at Liberty Canyon.

Marian announced the Nominating Committee for the slate of Hillside Federation officers for the April 1, 2015 election. Barbara Dohrmann, Steven Poster and Yvonne Hessler will present the slate of officers in the next newsletter.

B. Treasurer's Report: Don Andres

Don reported on bank balances, information about liability and D&O insurance, that all tax filings for the year have been completed, and on the addition of 2 new member organizations: *Save Coldwater Canyon!* and *Rancho Verdugo Estates HOA*.

Don also announced he will be participating in a Runyon Canyon hike with State Senator Ben Allen and State Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian.

IV. New Business

A. Barham Ramp Closure – John Strozdas

John Strozdas from Keep the Barham Ramp Association gave a short history about the proposed closing of the Barham ramp off the 101 Freeway in Universal City and the Keep the Barham Ramp Association's position. He said a case can be made that the ramp closure was never properly disclosed or vetted to the community during the public meetings or hearings of the Universal Evolution development project. Under CEQA, developers are mandated and required to disclose known impacts of their development. The Keep the Barham Ramp Association has filed a lawsuit against Universal, Caltrans, the City, and the County of Los Angeles. As its name implies, the intention of the Keep the Barham Ramp Association is to keep the Barham ramp open. This is a very complicated project without any clear answers. Interested members were encouraged to sign the petition to keep the ramp open at: www.keepthebarhamramp.com.

V. Old Business

A. Curtis School Update: Mark Stratton

The City is waiting for Curtis to come back with an updated traffic study.

B.10220 Scenario Lane: Katherine Bard

Katherine Bard thanked the Hillside Federation for the letter of support of their Appeal of the approved Lot Line Adjustment regarding the Scenario Lane development. A hearing date for the appeal before the West Los Angeles Area Planning Commission has not been scheduled yet but they were encouraged to list all deviations of code and gather letters of support for the appeal from their Councilmember and others as soon as possible.

C. Recode LA: Carol Sidlow

Carol gave an update on the meeting of Recode LA where the Neighborhood Conservation Initiative was robustly discussed. The Initiative would put an Interim Control Ordinance (ICO) in place for some areas but not others. The Planning and Land Use Committee of the City Council agendaed the issue but did not take a vote due to the absence of the Chair Jose Huizar. The item will be re-scheduled at a date to be determined. The two hillside communities covered under this

ICO and Initiative are The Oaks in Los Feliz and Bel Air. For purposes of the ordinance, Bel Air is broadly defined by a map of the area to include the 405 Freeway to the west, Coldwater Canyon to the east, Mulholland Drive to the north, and Sunset Blvd. to the south. Members were encouraged to read the Neighborhood Conservation Initiative previously distributed via email. The Neighborhood Conservation Initiative and the need for the closing of the loopholes of the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance were discussed.

Motion: Wendy-Sue Rosen moved that the Hillside Federation support the closing of the loopholes and exemptions in the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance and the Baseline Hillside Ordinance. The motion passed.

D. Pacoima Dam Project: Dan Feinberg

Dan updated the members regarding the proposed Pacoima Dam Sediment Removal Project by the County Department of Public Works. The County proposes removal of approximately 5.4 million cubic yards of sediment from Pacoima Dam. Sediment has not been removed from the dam since 1983, which accounts for the large amount of accumulated sediment over the past 33 years. The County Board of Supervisors has jurisdiction over the issue. There is concern that sediment is being treated as a ‘waste product’ and then dumped into the canyon areas in the San Gabriel Mountains. County Department of Public Works will be holding various community scoping meetings at the following dates and times:

–March 25, 2015, Los Angeles Mission College, 6:30pm – 8:30pm

–March 26, 2015, Santa Clarita Senior Center, 6:30pm – 8:30pm

–March 28, 2015, Mission College, 10:00am – 12:00 noon

The Federation will assist in setting a meeting with Supervisor Kuehl about this important issue that affects many of our hillside communities in and around the area.

VI. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Carol Sidlow
Recording Secretary

Members Present:

Beachwood Canyon	George Abrahams
Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
Brentwood Hills	John Given
Brentwood Residents	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Cahuenga Pass POA	Steven Kates
Canyon Back Alliance	Lois Becker
CASM-SFV	Dan Feinberg
Franklin Av/Hlwd Blvd	Don Andres
	Yvonne Hessler
Franklin Hills Res	Charley Mims
Hollywoodland	Lucy Gonzalez

Kagel Canyon
Laurel Canyon
Lookout Mt.

Los Feliz Impvmt.
Oaks Homeowners
Roscomare Valley
Sherman Oaks
Studio City Res.

Kit Paull
Tony Tucci
Steven Poster
Carol Sidlow
Marian Dodge
Wayne Schlock
Steve Twining
Elke Heitmeyer
Claudia Freedle

Guests Present:

For Supervisor Kuehl
For CM Koretz
DWP
UCLA
Water LA
Keep the Barham
Ramp Assn.
Scenario Ln Residents

Felicia Park-Rogers
Andy Shrader
Stephanie Spicer
Kristen Holdsworth
Melanie Winter
John Strozdas
Sue Ling Campbell
Katherine Bard