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Cahuenga Pass Neighborhood
Crests Neighborhood Association
Encino Property Owners
Forest Hills Homeowners
Franklin Ave/Hwd.Blvd.West
Franklin Hills Residents
Glenridge Homeowners
Highland Owners Association
Hollywood Dell Civic
Hollywood Heights Association
Hollywoodland Homeowners
Holmby Hills Homeowners
La Tuna Canyon Community
Laurel Canyon Association
Los Feliz Improvement
Mt. Olympus Property Owners
Mount Washington Association
Mt. Wash. Homeowners Alliance
Nichols Canyon Association
No.Beverly Dr./Franklin Canyon
Oak Forest Canyon Association
Outpost Estates Homeowners
Pacific Palisades Residents
Residents of Beverly Glen
Roscomare Valley Association
Shadow Hills Property Owners
Sherman Oaks Home Owners
Studio City Residents Association
Tarzana Property Owners
Torreyson-Flynn Association
Upper Mandeville Canyon
Whitley Heights Civic

CHAIRMEN EMERITUS

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Patricia Bell Hearst
Gordon Murley
Polly Ward

CHAIRMAN IN MEMORIUM

Brian Moore

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:
2009 and Beyond**

2009 was busy for the Hillside Federation and for the issues important to protecting and preserving our hillside communities and to improving the quality of life for all of Los Angeles. 2010 also promises to be a crucial & productive year as well. Thank you to all of our members and supporters for all of your aid and for your continued involvement in the vital work of our Hillside Federation. Here are some of the highlights of the year that was - and the year to come:

Baseline Hillside Ordinance

Draft Language is still being worked on. We will continue to push for a timely enactment of appropriate guidelines and limitations for hillside development.

Cultural Heritage Ordinance

The L.A. City Planning Commission (CPC) on September 10 voted 7-1 to approve significant amendments to the City's major preservation law, the Cultural Heritage Ordinance.

Billboards

On August 7th, the L.A. City Council unanimously approved an ordinance banning all new off-site Billboards and Digital signs. Enforcing the laws on the books and limiting the proliferation of billboards remains a problem.

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*Important
Information
Enclosed*

NEXT MEETING

January 6, 2010

ALERT

NEW STARTING TIME

Meeting starts promptly at 7 pm

UNIVERSAL CITY NISSAN

3550 Cahuenga Blvd. West

between Lankershim-Universal Drive bridge
off ramps; park underground garage/street;
take elevator to 2nd floor conference room

AGENDA

Introductions: Members/Guests

Minutes: June and September

President's Report:

- A. City pays out \$100,000 for EACHLA Densification Lawsuit victory.
- B. Judge ruled Billboard settlement was illegal. Court is requiring all digital billboard permits to be revoked and city has banned new permits to be issued.
- C. Huizar: Atry withdraws 300,000 sq. ft. proposal in Griffith Park. City Council votes to buy open space on Elephant Hill.
- D. Granny Flats ruling delayed indefinitely.
- E. Smith: Courts deny Las Lomas project to build 5500 homes, 300 room hotel and 2 million sq. ft. of commercial space where the 5 and 14 Freeways converge.

**Controller Greuel meets with Community leaders to discuss how Audit Findings can improve Land Use process-
Presentation: Ron Galperin**

Adjournment:

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Hillside Redefinition Mapping

A Hillside Area Amendment was adopted, removing about 51,000 single-family zoned lots from the Hillside Area designation.

EAHCLA

The Environment and Housing Coalition of LA along with the Hillside Federation and many other associations participated in a challenge against the City's version to the state's SB 1818..... a related ordinance authorizing density bonuses. The court ruled that the City is prohibited from providing incentives that exceed SB 1818 mandate through *ministerial* procedures, but not those bonuses that underwent environmental review commensurate with discretionary actions.

Marijuana Dispensaries

The L.A. City Council voted to cap the number of dispensaries at 70 – but as a practical matter many additional existing dispensaries would be allowed to continue operating. The Council plans to revisit its decision in 2010.

LA City Budget Crisis

In May a \$7.1 billion budget was approved for the 2009/2010 fiscal year, with cuts in staffing and services. Early retirement and pension fund liabilities remain unresolved. Significant deficits are forecast for the coming years – and tough choices will have to be made.

Projects We Have Been Following

Hillside projects and issues keep coming. We are continuing to follow and advocate for residents on a variety of projects; some include: Proposed 405 widening, school expansions on the Mulholland Corridor, Accessory Dwelling Units and the NBC / Universal project.

Events

The Hillside Federation hosted an array of speakers in 2009, including a town hall meeting with City Attorney Carmen Trutanich and two CD5 candidates in a runoff forum.

Look for the Hillside Federation to continue and build on our successes in 2010, and for us to remain vigilant and at the center of issues impacting our hillsides and all of L.A.

**AUTRY WITHDRAWS
PROPOSAL TO EXPAND IN
GRIFFITH PARK**

First, the good news: On August 11, 2009, the Autry Center announced to the L.A. City Council's Board of Referred Powers it was withdrawing their proposal to build a nearly 300,000 sq. ft. expansion of the Autry's building in Griffith Park. The reason given was the "expensive and virtually endless official delays" to which its plans were subjected. The Autry complained that it was "under constant threat of costly litigation" such that any attempt to proceed with the expansion planned at the Autry's Griffith Park campus would be an ill-advised diversion of financial resources.

One may wonder about the state of these financial resources. In any case, community activists- some of which include the Angeles Chapter's Griffith Park Task Force, the Sierra Club, Friends of the Southwest Museum Coalition and the Hillside Federation having helped organize a significant turnout -can feel that their hard work paid off.

The Angeles Chapter's Executive Committee citing its "existing policy against taking of park land for non park purposes," opposed expansion of the Autry Museum in Griffith Park. Neighborhood Councils questioned the need for, and the impact of, the Autry expansion. Friends of the Southwest Museum fought to keep their historic institution viable. Nonetheless, it still seemed that the Autry's Final Environmental Impact Report would easily glide past the Board of Referred Powers.

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VIEW FEDERATION WEBSITE at www.hillsidefederation.org

Latest Newsletters, News and Update Links are available

If there is something else you'd like to see, or if you want to send an article for the newsletter, let us hear from you. Call Joan Luchs at (213) 368-6120 with your suggestions.

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The hearing attracted such a large crowd that it had to be moved to City Council chambers. Even then there was standing room only when activists, hardly believing their ears, heard the Board of Referred Powers decline to approve the Autry's Griffith Park expansion lease amendment, final EIR and variance requests, accepting instead Councilmember Huizar's surprise proposal that action be deferred until Autry's lease with the city could be rewritten to contain assurances that the Southwest Museum would be restored and operated as a fully functioning museum.

The Autry declined to play, deciding to quit the game. Their decision, they pointed out, followed upon the latest delay in the political process for approving their expansion.

On another issue however, Community activists have not been as successful in their quest to retain an adequate number of park rangers. Twenty-four Neighborhood Councils plus other citizens' groups have passed various motions in favor of having more than 40 rangers on duty and having rangers as peace officers. Currently there are 24 rangers to serve 12 regional parks, and soon there might be fewer rangers.

Sierra Club members, especially those who lead regular evening hikes in Griffith Park, know how important the park rangers are in responding to all kinds of incidents in the park. Rangers know the territory they patrol. Griffith Park, for example, is large and complex.

It supports diverse plant and animal communities and is heavily used. Protecting, preserving and policing such a park is a job best performed by rangers, but they are being demoralized and stripped of their authority. The public wants safe parks, kept safe by a full staff of rangers who are authorized to perform a full range of park ranger duties. If cutbacks in the Park Ranger Division worry you, write to the Department of Recreation and Parks or to your council member.

By Carol Henning
Co-Chair, Sierra Club Editorial Board

COMMUNITY LEADERS MEET WITH CONTROLLER WENDY GREUEL TO DISCUSS AUDIT FINDINGS

“The City of Los Angeles has not established an adequate process for reviewing, approving, and overseeing development projects that ensures that the final project conforms to the intent of the decision maker.” That’s the conclusion of a recent Audit conducted by a consulting firm hired by the City Controller to conduct an audit of planning and development in Los Angeles.

Three dozen neighborhood council members and neighborhood advocates – including the Hillside Federation -- attended a November 14 Land Use Stakeholder Meeting to discuss the findings of the Audit, to get the input of grass-roots leaders, and to plot a course for fixing the current mess. The meeting, hosted by City Controller Wendy Greuel, featured representatives from Harvey M. Rose Associates, LLC, the firm that conducted the audit, along with Michael LoGrande of the L.A. Planning Dept. and John Biezins of the Dept. of Building & Safety.

The Audit report was released in March, just before the departure from office of former City Controller Laura Chick. Recently elected Controller Greuel is now in the process of calling attention to, and getting action on, audits that haven’t been acted upon. Controller Greuel announced that a staggering 46% of Controller audits conducted between 2004 and 2009 hadn’t been heard by the City Council or any of its committees. Moreover, while city departments are required to reply to the Controller’s audits within 30 days, it has often taken nine months or more to begin getting responses. “We need to push and nudge,” said Controller Greuel. By bringing more public attention to the audits – and to departments that don’t timely respond – Controller Greuel wants to make sure that the audits, along with suggestions for reform, don’t merely get shelved.

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Among the findings of the Audit: “No single City department manages development projects from the project review through project construction and completion. The Department of City Planning does not manage other City departments’ review of proposed projects, and does not actively monitor compliance with the projects’ conditions of approval once the building permits have been issued. In the absence of a single point of management, development projects can materially change during the project plan review and project construction and completion, resulting in the final project being different from the project as it was approved by the decision maker.”

Other key findings:

1. The City of Los Angeles’ community plans, which represent the Land Use Element of the General Plan, are outdated and not specific enough to consistently and predictably direct the development project approval process.
2. The Department of City Planning uses/ recommends conditions of approval that are not clear or specific.
3. The Department of City Planning does not actively manage/operate with other City departments.
4. Department of Building and Safety’s modifications can materially alter the project from the initial project plans that were submitted to and approved by the decision maker.
5. The Department of City Planning lacks department-wide document standards for clearing conditions on development project plans and maintaining records.
6. The Department of City Planning does not actively monitor project compliance with the determination letter’s conditions of approval once the building permits have been issued.
7. None of the City departments directly involved in the development process have adequate controls to ensure that the project complies with the conditions of approval.

8. The Department of City Planning’s new data management system (Condition Development and Management System, or CDMS) automates many of the Department’s manual processes but the system alone does not fully address processes for managing development project conditions of approval in an adequate manner.
9. City departments do not consistently track, plan or budget for maintenance of public improvements installed as a result of conditions of approval for development projects. In addition, Some City departments do not collect sufficient fee revenues to cover the costs of maintaining public improvements.

These and other problems were discussed at the Nov. 14 meeting, along with issues raised by Hillside Federation President Joan Luchs in a letter to Controller Greuel. Among the President’s points to the Controller:

“Discretionary applications should not be approved unless the impacts are fully identified and mitigateable with the City’s current infrastructure.... approval of any discretionary application must be based on the merits of the project and not any outside influences. If projects continue to get approved without adhering to existing codes as the current climate process has been permitting and looking the other way... more and more residents and businesses will be exiting Los Angeles due to the continued deterioration of quality of life in this city.”

Adding to the problems of process, are the problems of increasingly limited resources. Everyone at the meeting expressed concern about the impact that staff cuts and retirement could have on the already over-burdened planning, approval, and enforcement process. Building and Safety could lose more than 10 percent of its staff, and many of the Planning Department’s most seasoned employees have signed up for early retirement. All this is happening at a time that Zoning Administrator cases are near an all-time high.

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What's next? The Controller pledged to follow up with those in attendance, and the groups they represent – including the Hillside Federation – with dates that the Audit will be heard in the Council's Audits & Governmental Efficiency Committee, the Planning & Land Use Management Committee, and the full City Council. The Controller's website has detailed recommendations for addressing many of the problems, and the responses (or non-responses) of the departments will be posted on an ongoing basis. The Planning and Building & Safety Departments also promised to create a task force to better cooperate with each other, and to include community representatives.

As it always has, the Hillside Federation and all of our stakeholder members, need to be vigilant in making sure we see the timely implementation of much-needed changes and reforms.

You can read and download the Controller's Audit at:

<http://controller.lacity.org/audits/FinalReportLACityPlanning032309.pdf>

*By Ron Galperin
President/Crests Neighborhood Association.
Vice President Bel Air-Beverly Crest NC*

ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS ORDINANCE

Due to budget cuts the Planning Department has discontinued their work on ADU's, per the attached status update from Gail Goldberg, the Planning Director. The existing state standards will continue to apply in Los Angeles.

Anyone who would like to be kept informed about **Accessory Dwelling Units ADU** may request to be placed on the Interested Parties List by contacting Gabriela Juarez from the City Planning Department. Thank you for your participation on this issue.

Gabriela Juarez
Department of City Planning
Code Studies Section
Email: Gabriela.Juarez@lacity.org
Ph: (213) 978-1337
Fax: (213) 978-1334

December 17, 2009

To: Neighborhood Councils
City Council Members
Interested Parties

Report: Accessory Dwelling Units Ordinance

Because of impending staff budget reductions through the Early Retirement Incentive Program and ongoing required staff furloughs, the Planning Department must reduce our policy work program.

One of the programs that will go on indefinite hold is the creation and adoption of a local ordinance for Accessory Dwelling Units.

The Department of City Planning recently began a public process to discuss issues related to the development of an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) ordinance. As a first Step in this process, staff held several workshops across the city to hear community views and perspectives in different parts of the city. We frequently hold such workshops at the beginning of a new planning effort as a way to gather input, to assess perspectives, and to identify issues that may be unique to different geographies or interest groups. No draft ordinance was created.

State law (AB 1866) requires that all cities allow second units by right in single family and multi family residential zones. This law establishes standards for ADUs which all cities must follow unless a city adopts its own ordinance to establish different standards (provided they do not conflict with specifically identified standards in the law). The state law is clear that in the absence of a local ordinance, the city must follow the State default standards for ADUs. The City Attorney's office advised that if the Department wanted to impose restrictions beyond the state law, an ordinance would be required.

The Planning Department began that process to develop an ADU ordinance that would be tailored to

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The Planning Department began that process to develop an ADU ordinance that would be tailored to Los Angeles. However, it is very clear from the public input that this work program would be very time consuming and labor intensive. The Planning Department does not have the resources to devote to such an undertaking at this time. As such, the **Department of City Planning has put the development of a City ADU ordinance on hold indefinitely. In the interim the city will comply with the parameters established by State Law.**

Sincerely,

S. Gail Goldberg

S. Gail Goldberg, AICP
Planning Director

**REMINDERS:
ISSUES & MOTIONS**



Federation meetings are scheduled to start at 7:30 PM and end by 9:30 PM. In order to end on time, issues to be brought to the Board require a complete outline and a background, including what is being requested, then emailed to president@hillsidefederation.org at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting along with a direct phone and fax number or phone and email address if available.

MOTIONS to be made at the meeting should be well thought out and printed so that they are clear and concise, with enough copies for all member associations. Each presenter will be given 5 minutes to make a presentation so that meetings can be kept on time. All requests to agendaize an issue **MUST** be approved in writing by the President before the item will be placed on the Agenda.

**MULHOLLAND SCENIC
PARKWAY DESIGN
REVIEW BOARD**

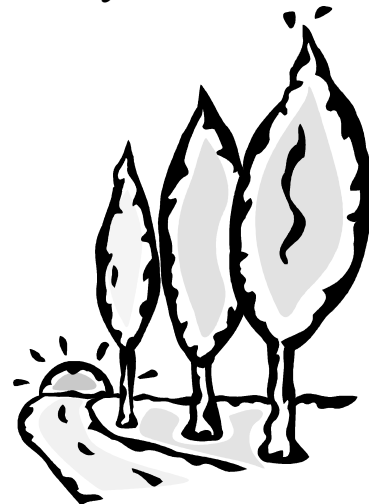
**Meets the first and third
Thursday of the month at
6:30 PM**

**MARVIN BRAUDE
CONSTITUENTS SERVICE
CENTER**

**6262 Van Nuys Blvd.,
Van Nuys, CA**

First Floor Conference Room

Free parking under the building:
Entrance just east of Van Nuys Blvd.
on Sylvan Street



SEPTEMBER MINUTES

SEPTEMBER MINUTES

DRAFT MINUTES
HILLSIDE FEDERATION

General Membership Meeting
September 2, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Joan Luchs at 7:25 p.m. at Universal City Nissan. A quorum was present.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

City Council Assignments

President Luchs announced that there are new city council committee assignments and that some committees had title changes. Information available on city web site.

Densification Ordinance

The judge is about to sign his final decision. He had modified his initial judgment stating that the city couldn’t exempt CEQA review, and had to meet the purpose of SB 1818 to increase affordable housing, rather than the results of increasing market-rate housing and decreasing affordable housing. The city appealed his decision and the judge again modified his rulings. Now there are numbers available to indicate quantities of housing availability. The judge will issue a final decision in the near future.

Billboards

Inasmuch as the ICO on billboards would have expired during the council recess probably opening a floodgate of new billboards, City Attorney Carmen Trutanich pushed for continuing the ICO, offsite permit ban, and increased fees. These passed with unanimous city council vote.

C.D. 2 Candidate Forum

A candidate forum for September 15 was announced. Election will be held September 22 and possible run-off December 8.

Hillside Ordinance

At the September 8 PLUM meeting action will be taken regarding mapping of applicable areas for the Hillside Ordinance. This is the next step toward implementing the Mansionalization Ordinance.

Planning Appeal Fees Proposed to Increase

Large fee increases were voted for many fees associated with city planning, especially appeals. Additionally the appeals process has been drastically limited. According to a July 31 City Planning Report, the new fees are “at parity with cost.”

TERMINATION OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

President Joan Luchs temporarily turned the gavel over to Vice President Charly Mims. Charly Mims moved and Dan Palmer seconded the following August 24 executive board motion to terminate Executive Secretary Laura Gutierrez:

I move to recommend to the Board of Directors that Laura Gutierrez be removed from the position of Executive Secretary due to a conflict in working with the officers and a conflict in the interpretation of how her duties on the executive committee are to be performed.”

Points in the discussion were that Ms. Gutierrez was “not able to perform according to the by-laws in regard to the newsletter,” and that “the executive secretary works at the pleasure of the president.”

A letter from Ms. Gutierrez was read tendering her resignation and stating that despite having edited newsletters for other organizations, the time demands for Hillside Federation newsletter “exceeded the amount of time that I wished to volunteer.”

Vice President Mims ruled that this resignation rendered moot any vote on the executive board action.

CITY ATTORNEY OPEN HOUSE

Marian Dodge (President, Los Feliz Improvement Association) reported on the forum sponsored by City Attorney Carmen Trutanich on Thursday, August 13 in City Council Chambers. There was a standing room only crowd. Many Hillside Federation directors were present. Our new city attorney introduced his highly qualified senior staff and answered a wide variety of audience questions. We feel very hopeful that the laws subject to enforcement by the city attorney will be capably and forcefully acted on.

HOLLYWOODLAND GRATEFUL

Hollywoodland representative thanked President Luchs for her advice and testimony in a five-year effort against a proposed above-height residence with excessive retaining walls. The architect had no experience in hillside building and did not give up after two city refusals; he prevailed on the third. The community mobilized neighborhood councils, resident associations, and C.D. 4, and overturned the project. However, during the process they discovered a disturbing procedural change: what had previously been termed a “variance” which required neighborhood notification is now called an “adjustment” not requiring notification.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Ann Walnum,

Recording Secretary

FEDERATION OFFICERS PRESENT

President	Joan Luchs, Cahuenga Pass
Vice President	Charley Mims, Frankin Hills
Treasurer	Dan Palmer, Resid of Bev Glen
Recording Secret	Ann Walnum, Mt. Washington

FEDERATION DIRECTORS PRESENT

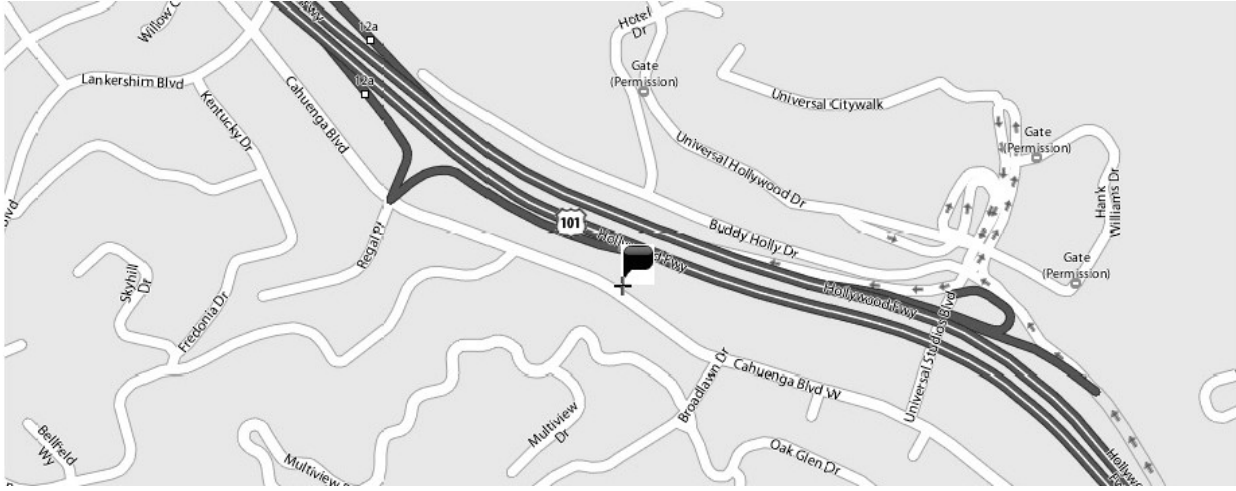
Mark Stratton	Belair Skycrest Property
Nickie Miner	Benedict Canyon Assoc.
Michael George	Cahuenga Pass Neigh.
Ron Galperin	Crests Neighborhood
Prudence Fenton	Hollywood Heights Assoc.
Cara Rule	Hollywoodland Home.
Marian Dodge	Los Feliz Improvement
Madeline O’Donnell	Nichols Canyon Assoc.
Robert Levy	No.Beverly/Franklin Cyn.
Arnie Newman	Oak Forest Canyon Assoc.
Niles Chapman,M.D.	Sherman Oaks Homeowners
Philip Feldman	Studio City Residents

**NEXT MEETING JANUARY 6, 2010
ALERT NEW STARTING TIME
PROMPTLY AT 7 PM**

UNIVERSAL CITY NISSAN

3550 Cahuenga Blvd. West
Los Angeles, CA 90068

Between Lankershim and Universal Drive bridge off ramps:
Park on street or in underground garage; take elevator to "S" street level or enter
through showroom, turn left, follow signs to 2nd floor conference room



THE FEDERATION

OF HILLSIDE AND CANYON ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

PO BOX 1673

HOLLYWOOD HILLS, CA 90078

213-368-6120

HAPPY NEW YEAR

*Important Information
Enclosed*

