



THE FEDERATION

OF HILLSIDE AND CANYON ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

POST OFFICE BOX 1673
HOLLYWOOD HILLS, CA 90078
213-368-6120

MAY 2009

NEWS

PAGE 1

email: president@hillsidefederation.org
website: www.hillsidefederation.org

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hillside Federation hosts
candidates for Council District 5
and Town Hall with
Carmen Trutanich on
May 6, 2009

Here is your opportunity to meet the candidates. Find out which one will best represent your goals and who is most able to accomplish and shape the direction of these two important offices in the coming years. **Are there questions not yet asked or answers not fully covered in prior debates?**

Paul Koretz and David Vahedi, separated by only 0.2 percentage points in the March 3rd primary election, have both accepted our invitation to present their qualifications for leadership of Council District 5 through these challenging times. **The Campaign meeting will start at 7 PM** and after each candidate gives a two-minute opening statement, they will take **written questions only** submitted in advance by Federation members and the audience.

The City Attorney Candidate forum with **Carmen 'Nuch' Trutanich and Councilman Jack Weiss** was planned to follow the CD 5 presentation. Trutanich confirmed his attendance, but at this late date we have not received confirmation that Jack Weiss will be present.

Continued on page 2



*Important
Information
Enclosed*

NEXT MEETING

May 6, 2009

ALERT

NEW STARTING TIME

Meeting starts promptly at 7 pm

UNIVERSAL CITY NISSAN

3550 Cahuenga Blvd. West

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

AGENDA

Introductions: Members/Guests

Minutes: April

President's Report:

A. Densification Lawsuit victory: Judge overturns tentative ruling in favor of EAHCLA Petition

B. SMMC Benefit Assessment District COC Citizens Oversight Committee-District 1 & 2: Appointments: Motion & Vote

C. Executive Committee Officers induction by Jerome Daniel

Campaign Forum Debate:

A. CD 5 Candidates:

Paul Koretz and David Vahedi

Town Hall Event:

**A. City Attorney Candidate:
Carmen Trutanich**

Adjournment:



Continued from page 1

Consequently, the City Attorney part of the event has been converted into a Town Hall style meeting with only candidate Trutanich speaking. There will be two minutes of opening statements followed by **written questions only** submitted in advance from the Federation and the audience.

The most important element in these contests is YOUR VOTE. Only those who vote can be part of shaping the future of Los Angeles in the conduct of these two offices. **VOTE ON MAY 19!**



TABLES ARE TURNED AS EACHLA WINS COURT VICTORY

Although the court's tentative decision ruled against EAHCLA's Density Bonus Implementation lawsuit against the City of Los Angeles, a month later on March 13th the tables turned after additional oral arguments were presented to the court by Attorney Doug Carstens of Chatten-Brown & Carstens, litigator in the case. The following is quoted from a news release issued by the LA Times on April 14, 2009.

A Los Angeles County Superior Court judge has ruled that the City of Los Angeles acted illegally when it approved a controversial "densification" ordinance without first conducting environmental review of the potential impacts of the ordinance. The coalition of community groups that brought the challenge hailed the ruling as an opportunity for the City to redraft the ordinance to advance the twin goals of affordable housing and environmental protection.

A state law (S.B. 1818) mandates that cities allow density bonuses to developers proposing to build a percentage of affordable units at a proposed development. The Los Angeles ordinance that was the subject of the lawsuit, filed by EAHCLA in April of 2008, went far beyond the state mandate, in some cases allowing up to 300% of the bonus required by state law. EAHCLA's lawsuit claimed that, because the City went beyond the requirements of state law, the City first had to study the environmental impact of the ordinance. The Court agreed, holding that those sections of the ordinance that go beyond State law are invalid. The Order issued on Monday, April 13 by Superior Court Judge Thomas I. McKnew, Jr. prohibits the City from processing applications for density bonuses or incentives that exceed State mandates, and also invalidates approvals that already have been granted based on the ordinance.

"We are very pleased with the Court's decision" said EAHCLA spokesman Rob Glushon. "The judge clearly recognized that while the City had to do something to implement the state law, the City went about implementing the law in the wrong way by approving a deeply flawed ordinance and illegally refusing to first consider the environmental effects of its approval. We now hope to work with the City in redrafting the ordinance so that both the environment and affordable housing are protected."

The city filed a motion for reconsideration and objections to the Court's ruling that will be heard on May 21st at 9 a.m. The community hopes that the City sees the wisdom to work with EAHCLA and its representatives instead of appealing the ruling.."



Paul Koretz grew up in the 5th Council District of Los Angeles and was educated at local schools, graduating from Hamilton High School. He earned a bachelor's degree in History from UCLA in 1979. A lifelong Democrat, Koretz served on the Los Angeles County Democratic Committee for more than 10 years. For the past 25 years Paul Koretz has devoted his life to public service. He served as State Assemblymember for the 42nd District which also represents most of the 5th district. Prior to that, he served as a City Councilmember and Mayor of West Hollywood. He also worked for then LA City Councilmember's Zev Yaroslavsky and Marvin Braude as council aide, Chief of Staff for Board of Equalization Brad Sherman and council aide for West Hollywood Councilmember Alan Viterbi.

Koretz's wife, Gail, serves as Director of Public Affairs for Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center. They have one daughter, Rachel. The Koretz family currently resides in the Beverly-Fairfax District of Los Angeles

If elected, Paul Koretz will create a planning process that ensures more involvement and input for 5th District residents. He will also push to create a visionary plan of what we want Los Angeles Transit to look like in 25 years, rather than just continuing the random development of the city.

Working with environmental leaders to create a green-print for Los Angeles, that will make L.A. one of the most environmentally-friendly cities in the country, including more green space, solar energy for new developments and city buildings, water conservation measures, and more air and water pollution controls.

David T. Vahedi is a life long resident with deep roots in the 5th District. He attended Westwood Elementary School (currently Westwood Charter), Emerson Junior High School, and University High School. Graduating from the California State University system with a Bachelor's of Science in Accounting, David decided to enter public service as an auditor for the State Board of Equalization.

Continuing his education, he and earned a Juris Doctorate from Loyola Law School and now has a private practice focusing on civil litigation. David is a current Board Member of Westwood South of Santa Monica Homeowners Association and a co-founder of the Westside Neighborhood Council. He and his wife, Karli, are now raising their two year old son, Connor, in the 5th District.

Vahedi created a Constituent Bill of Rights he will follow if elected. It includes: 1) having sufficient police officers and firefighters dedicated to the community, 2) the right to have a Councilmember who will support neighborhood public schools, 3) the right to receive fast and efficient quality city services, 4) the right to have Councilmember staff that will treat residents with the utmost respect and responsiveness, 5) the right to ask questions about policy issues and receive accurate and useful answers, 6) the right to an inclusive and transparent process for community development, 7) the right to advance notice of all projects and proposals affecting residents' neighborhoods, 8) the right to have local Home Owner Association leaders and residents present at all meetings where development projects are discussed, 9) the right for residents to have city hearings held in their neighborhood at convenient times, 10) the right to meet with their Councilman at scheduled office hours in the district offices every week, 11) the right to have local Homeowner Association's positions respected and their meetings attended on a regular basis.



Carmen Trutanich grew up in the South Los Angeles town of San Pedro. He attended elementary and high school in San Pedro. Carmen attended USC for both his undergraduate and post-graduate degree in Business Administration. After receiving his MBA, Carmen enrolled in night school, at South Bay University College of Law. While working at Star-Kist, he found time to teach at Los Angeles Harbor and Marymount Community Colleges where he taught Business Management, Business Law, Real Estate Law, and Supervision Management. He possesses a Life Credential to teach college in California. Carmen Trutanich spent his early career at the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. In 1998, Carmen left the firm he helped found and formed Trutanich-Michel, LLP with his office suitemate, C. D. "Chuck" Michel. Although their practice areas are unrelated and greatly diverse, Carmen has continued to focus on his area of expertise, environmental litigation.

Carmen's wife of 30 years, Noreen, has retired after spending 30 years in the commercial airline industry. They have two children, Kristen who is a Deputy District Attorney in Long Beach and Nicholas Andrew and is currently employed as a federal law clerk in the Central District Court.

If elected, Carmen Trutanich will begin to reform the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office as outlined in his Blueprint for Change. As well as tactic other issues in Animal Welfare & Protection, Billboards, Corruption, Deceptive Business Practices, Environmental Responsibility, Ethics, Fiscal Management, Gang Violence, Graffiti, Healthcare, Land Use and Zoning Enforcement, and Technology.



Jack Weiss was born at the UCLA Medical Center in 1964 and grew up in Los Angeles' Westside. Jack attended Princeton University, where he majored in the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and graduated with honors. After a stint in Washington, D.C., Jack worked on Capitol Hill then came home to Los Angeles. Jack went back to school, studying law at UCLA. After law school, Jack served as a clerk for United States District Judge Lourdes Baird and then joined the United States Attorney's Office in Los Angeles as a federal prosecutor.

Jack was elected as City Councilmember for Los Angeles' Fifth District in June 2001 and reelected in March 2005. Weiss has been Chair of the Public Safety Committee, and serves on the Planning and Land Use Management Committee. Weiss, along with other council members, worked with Mayor Villaraigosa and Police Chief William Bratton to use an increase in the City's trash collection fees to recruit new police officers on the streets. During his eight years on City Council Weiss has worked on both women's issues and guns.

Jack and Leslie are the proud parents of two teenagers. The family shares its house with an energetic mutt named Newton, whom they adopted from an animal shelter.

If elected, Jack Weiss' states that his top priorities will include fighting gangs, getting guns off the streets, targeting Identity Theft, expanding DNA testing to convict Sexual Predators, increase more Police Officers, protect the environment, protection against Terrorism, expand Disaster Preparedness, and cracking down on Public Corruption.

WHICH WAY, SOLAR LA? Ratepayers must sit at the table



The Energy & Environment Committee has directed DWP, along with the City's Chief Administrative Officer and the Chief Legislative Analyst to take the first steps in developing an in-basin solar program that includes the input from "all interested stakeholders" and that uses the most reliable technology and minimizes program cost and impact to the Rate Payers."

An important part of the plan is for DWP to establish credibility and buy in by the Rate Payers and the General public, especially given the distrust that was caused by Measure B. The planning process and implementation needs to be open and transparent from beginning to end. This will require that all interested stakeholders be included: Rate Payers (residential, multifamily, commercial, industrial and government), the Neighborhood Councils, the Neighborhood Council DWP Oversight Committee, the LANCC DWP Committee, the building trade unions such as the laborers and carpenters, private contractors, the Chambers of Commerce, business, office buildings, private landlords, other government entities such as LAUSD, manufacturers and other vendors and the environmental community.

Importantly, the solar plan cannot go into the DWP black box and come out as a power point presentation where the stakeholders only have the opportunity to comment for a minute or two in front of the DWP Board of Commissioners, the Energy & Environment Committee or the City Council. This is not acceptable.

Rather, a Steering Committee needs to be established that meets regularly with DWP and its line operating management for updates, comments and, most importantly, input. The Steering Committee needs to be given the proper resources, including access to DWP staff and an experienced consultant that will assist the Steering Committee and DWP in the process.

DWP must assess its current solar capabilities, especially as it relates to management, trained personnel and staff, and the current status of its now existing \$370 million solar program.

DWP needs to consider many alternatives: third party ownership of generating assets that are controlled by a power purchase agreement, Sustainable Energy Financing Districts like they have in Berkeley; competitive bidding for the installation of all owned solar panels; the use of more experienced third party contractors, engineers, consultants and workers; and other creative solutions that will assist in the rapid development of solar power and "minimizes program costs and the impact on ratepayers."

The Solar Plan should also include a significant increase in Customer Solar programs that are part of the 1,380 megawatt Comprehensive Solar Program. These Programs would allow for the more rapid deployment of solar power and greater job creation for the experienced building trades. It would not require investment by DWP.

For example, Feed in Tariffs have been very successful in Germany, Japan and Gainesville, Florida because they offer customers a reasonable rate of return on their investment and the ability to use private contractors. Use of SB 1 and AB 811 funds are also viable alternatives.

DWP also needs to develop a more effective out-reach program that gives the Rate Payers a better understanding of the solar plan, why it is important and the impact on rates. A key part is to involve DWP operating management since they have credibility and a strong working knowledge of DWP, its capabilities and what is necessary to implement a successful solar program.

Measure B showed us that railroaded back room deals with special interests are not acceptable. The public wants our solar program to be transparent. Let the sun shine in Los Angeles.

This article was written by publisher Jack Humperville, the Rate-Payer Advocate for the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council.

APRIL MINUTES**DRAFT MINUTES
HILLSIDE FEDERATION****General Membership Meeting
April 1, 2009**

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. at the Universal City Nissan. A quorum was present.

MINUTES: Minutes of February and March were approved, with the following corrections:

- 1) February: In the Linda Greco Report: Athens Waste has expanded use of their permitted 400 tons of solid waste to 1400 tons at a facility within 500 feet of a residential area .
- 2) March: Spelling change, Ass'n. to Assoc. and use of 'through' instead of 'by' relating to insurance coverage.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: LAURA CHICK

Retiring Controller **Laura Chick** served as the first women to be City Controller. When asked about her next position she replied that she couldn't announce it yet, but "I know you'll be pleased."

The Controller reported having completed 170 audits and reports, all of which are available on the Controller's web site. The Controller's role is as chief accountant and auditor for all city department books, asking "how are we doing?" – "How can we do it better?" The goal is to be the taxpayers watchdog, improve services, eliminate fraud and waste, and open up the city's books.

Laura Chick and City Attorney **Rocky Delgadillo** have an unresolved lawsuit pending over her mission to perform audits "whenever and to whomever," including the City Attorney's Office. Delgadillo does not believe that the City Controller has the right to audit or have access to either the City Attorney's Office or any offices of elected officials. Little action has been generated by the Controller's reports which "sit on the shelf of the Audits and Governmental Efficiency Committee" of the City Council.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS:

A proposed Forum for the next Federation meeting, Wednesday, May 6, was announced. It will feature two candidates starting at 7:15 PM, **Paul Koretz** and **David Vahidi**, who are vying for the 5th Council District seat. A Forum is also scheduled to follow for City Attorney candidates **Carmen Trutanich** and **Jack Weiss**. Some of the Debate Forum issues will focus on development, judge's Densification Ordinance ruling, gangs and current sign ordinance as well as enforcement.

The judge assigned to the Densification lawsuit delayed his ruling after listening to oral arguments from EAHCLA's attorney **Doug Carstens** even though the Judge's Tentative Ruling disregarded the negative impacts on affordable housing and ignored the difference between State Laws and City Ordinances mentioned in the petition as well as letters received from Supervisor **Zev Yaroslavsky**.

Mulholland/Laurel Canyon wildlife corridor project needs more funds due to an enormous sale price.

The City announced drafting a new ordinance that would restrict CEQA appeals to property owners within 500 feet of the project being considered.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer **Dan Palmer** reported that 100% of eligible member organizations have paid 2009 dues.

ELECTION RESULTS:

The 2009 election slate was unanimously approved.

Chairman: Lynette Berg Robe
President: Joan Luchs
Vice President: Charley Mims
Vice President: Lannette Pabon
Executive Secretary: Laura Gutierrez
Treasurer: Dan Palmer
Recording Secretary: Ann Walnum

At the conclusion of the vote, President Luchs thanked retiring Executive Secretary Liz Tigar for her 40 years of service.

GOOD NEWS FOR PARK STARVED LOS ANGELES**Paul Edelman, Chief, Natural Resources and Planning**

The longstanding Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) option to acquire six acres at the southwest corner of Laurel Canyon Boulevard and Mulholland Drive appears to have taken a positive turn thanks to City Council motions on April 24th to contribute funding. If the motions by Jack Weiss and Wendy Greuel are approved on May 1st, two milestones will be reached. First, a second conservation easement between the Laurel Canyon and Mulholland rights-of-ways will be guaranteed. Second, a third conservation easement of considerable size will be permanently secured along Laurel Canyon Boulevard. These easements are designed to maximize wildlife movement to and from Laurel Canyon Boulevard crossing areas. Of equal importance is the option period to acquire the rest of the land will be extended an extra month into July. Finding a willing private funding entity is critical to keep the sequential acquisition going.

The MRCA staff will pursue the Mulholland Design Review Board to review proposed park naming of monument signs to benefit a potential donor. City traffic counts show that 15 million cars go through this intersection annual! Tasteful monument signs would provide valuable exposure for a corporation or individual, in perpetuity. Over 250 people have contributed funds to date. So far \$425,000 has been knocked off of the acquisition price. Good things sometimes take time.

APRIL MINUTES**SIGN ORDINANCE AND HILLSIDE MANSIONIZATION REPORT:**

David Garfinkel (Tarzana Property Owner's Assn.) reported on the status of the Sign/Billboard and the Hillside Densification Ordinances.

There are approximately 11,000 existing signs, of which 4000 are illegal, either lacking a permit or having a permit violation. The City Planning Commission proposed to make penalties higher than revenues, refer penalties to a collection agency and make both sign companies and landowner's liable.

Because of the overlap in regulations between hillside and flatland proposals, a better definition is needed for what is flatland and what is hillside. Meetings with the Planning Department did not produce clarifications.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Ann Walnum
Recording Secretary

FEDERATION OFFICERS PRESENT

President Joan Luchs, Cahuenga Pass
Vice President Charley Mims, Franklin Hills Residents

Treasurer Dan Palmer, Residents of Beverly Glen
Executive Secretary Liz Tigar, Tarzana POA
Recording Secretary Ann Walnum, Mount Washington Assn.

FEDERATION DIRECTORS PRESENT

Mark Stratton	Bel-Air Skycrest
Nickie Miner	Benedict Canyon
Marilyn Stone	Forest Hills Homeowners
Don Andres	Franklin Ave/Holly/West
Tom Meredith	Hollywood Dell Civic
Lannette Pabon	Hollywood Heights
Jim Cairns	Hollywoodland
Linda Greco	La Tuna Canyon
Marian Dodge	Los Feliz Improvement
Donald Seligman	Los Feliz Improvement
Ann Walnum	Mount Washington
Madeline O'Connell	Nichols Canyon
Niles Chapman, M.D.	Sherman Oaks Homeowners
Laura Gutierrez	Sherman Oaks Homeowners
Irma Dobbyn	Tarzana Property Owners
Dave Garfinkle	Tarzana Property Owners

GUESTS PRESENT

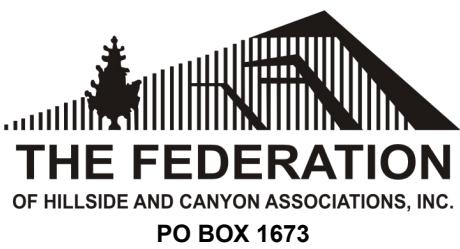
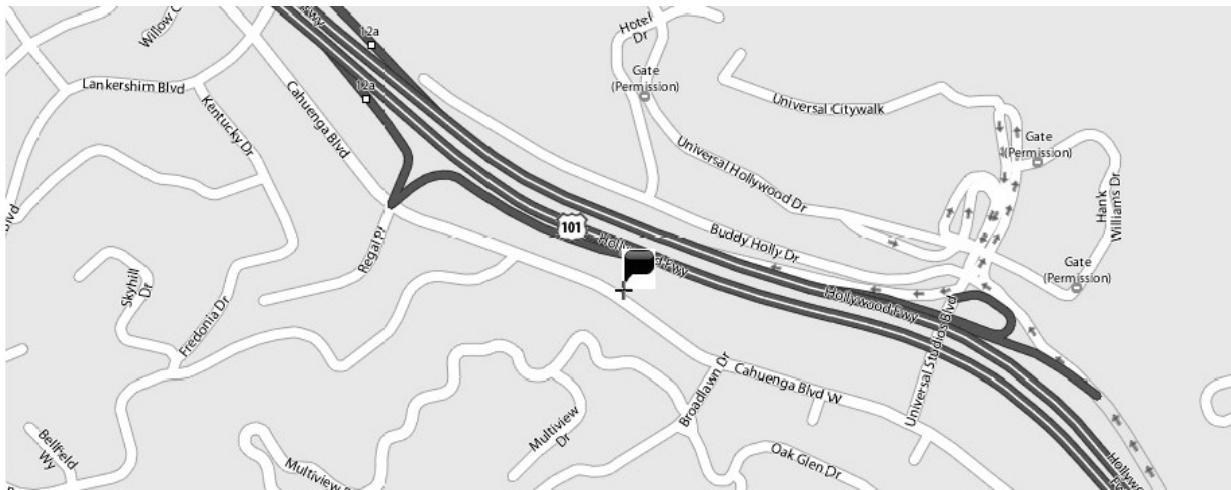
Laura Chick	City Controller
Pat Chapman	Sherman Oaks Homeowners
Tony Tucci	Laurel Canyon
Tammy Ehrenfeld	Hollywood Dell Civic
Jon Zimmermann	Los Feliz Improvement
Ivor Pine	Laura Chick/Governmental Affairs

**NEXT MEETING MAY 6, 2009
ALERT NEW STARTING TIME
Meeting starts 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



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***Important Information
Enclosed***

