

FOUNDED IN 1952

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE FEDERATION**

PRESIDENT

Polly Ward

CHAIRMAN

Steve Twining

VICE PRESIDENTS

Patti Negri

Desmond McDonald

Joan Luchs

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Marilyn Stefano

TREASURER

Fritz Zeiser

MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

BelAir Knolls

BelAir Skycrest

Benedict Canyon

Beverly Crest

Beverly Glen Park

Briarcliff

Cahuenga Pass

Neighborhood

CANDER

Encino Property

Forest Hills

Franklin Hills

Franklin/Hwd.Blvd.West

Friends of Caballero

Glassell Park

Glenridge

Highland's Owners

Hollywood Dell

Hollywood Heights

Hollywoodland

Holmby Hills

Homeowners of Encino

La Tuna Canyon

Laurel Canyon

Lookout Mountain Alliance

Los Feliz Improvement

Montecito Heights

Mt. Olympus

Mount Washington

Nichols Canyon

No.Beverly Dr/Franklin

Outpost

Pacific Palisades

Residents of Beverly Glen

Roscomare Valley

Sherman Oaks

Studio City

Tarzana

Torreyson-Flynn

Upper Mandeville

Whitley Heights

CHAIRMAN EMERITUS

Jerome C. Daniel

Patricia Bell Hearst

Gordon Murley

**CHAIRMAN IN
MEMORIUM**

Brian Moore

I'm sure we've all had a very busy time, dealing with land use issues as we struggle with the ballot issues we are confronting. I had hoped to have a speaker to address the major issues at the October meeting - at this time I am not able to confirm such. However, our Chairman, Steve Twining is very much up to speed on the city issues and also may be able to provide us with Councilman Eric Garcetti's power presentation on such - so at the least, we promise a powerful and interesting discussion of the issues in October.

Councilwoman Wendy Greuel has been very active in responding to the citizens' concerns in her NE and SE Valley areas, and some of her motions are presented in this issue. Of special notice is the presentation to her constituents of *charettes* to discuss items of concern in the district - which actually resulted in a consensus of community desires. I saw it happen!

I'm sure you will be happy to note that Marilyn Stefano is back with us preparing the newsletter. Thank you, Marilyn.

MOTIONS

All Presented by WENDY GREUEL

Laurelwood Drive in Studio City has met critical mass. Laurelwood Drive is located south of Ventura Blvdstreet fails to meet the parking and circulator demands of residents, businesses on Ventura Blvd and Carpenter Elementary School.....and serves as an ingress and egress for hillside neighborhoods....Laurelwood Drive West is an extremely narrow one-way substandard hillside street with high R3 density...it is

The mission of the Hillside Federation shall be:

To protect the property and the quality of life of residents of the Santa Monica Mountains and other hillside areas of Los Angeles and its environs, and to encourage and promote those policies and programs which will best preserve the natural topography and wildlife of the mountains and hillsides for the benefit of all the people of Los Angeles.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, OCTOBER 4, 2006 -

8:00pm

OSULA

Corner 3921 Laurel Canyon
& Maxwellton
Studio City

AGENDA

- * Introduction of Members and Guests
- * Minutes of September Meeting to be Approved
- * State Bond Measures
- * City Bond Issues
- * Others
- * Reports - President
Chairman
Vice Presidents
Others

uncertain if emergency vehicles would be able to accessfuture new development will occur at even higher densities further placing the public's safety at risk.

I therefore move that the Council DIRECT the Dept of City Planning, Bureau of Engineering, Fire Dept and the Dept of Building and Safety to report back with recommendations on how to resolve the issues presented, including an analysis of appropriate bases for an interim control ordinance.

MOTION

Hillside construction often requires significant amounts of grading and hauling that can cause negative impacts to the environment and surrounding community. In areas characterized by narrow streets, these impacts can include traffic congestion and blockage, air quality degradation from idling earth haulers, noise, and loss of on-street parking. Where multiple

hauling projects occur in a small radius, these impacts are exponentially exacerbated. An approved soils and geology report is not required prior to a haul route hearing which gives rise to concerns about slope stability and public safety.

Currently, the Board of Building and Safety Commissioners has the responsibility to review haul routes for projects that import or export more than 1,000 cubic yards of soil. Haul route hearing notices are posted on the Commission agenda published in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the city and sent to property owners within a 300-foot radius of the subject property. Increased public notification would provide greater opportunities for community input.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Dept of Building and Safety do the following:

1. Require an approved soils and geology report prior to accepting an application for a haul route hearing.
2. Require posting of the haul route hearing notice at the subject property not less than 10 days prior to the date of the hearing.
3. Post haul route hearing notices and associated reports on the Dept website.
4. Report to the Planning and Land Use Management Committee in 60 days describing how the department addresses issues associated with hauling on streets of less than 20 feet in width and how other municipalities regulate haul routes in hillside communities.



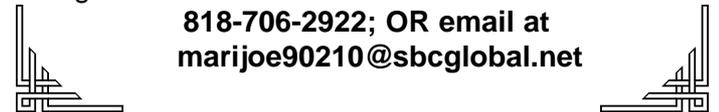
NEWSLETTER

Editor/Publisher **MARILYN STEFANO**

HEY! Is anyone reading this beside Claire Carafello & Alan Fine? What's happening? 'Sup? What's going on in your neighborhoods? I feel like the mother whose children don't call anymore - isn't anyone interested in spreading the word about great (or awful) news in their neighborhoods? We want a Newsletter that keeps us informed about what's happening (let's have some fun stuff, too). Please PLEASE send us stuff - we appreciate being in the know - or now - or no? Articles might be subject to some editing for grammar or syntax, if needed - NOT for content.

For NOVEMBER send by NOV. 25th

Fax a hard copy 2 weeks before the next meeting to



**818-706-2922; OR email at
marijoe90210@sbcglobal.net**

5. Evaluate the feasibility of staggering project starts in areas where multiple projects are proposed in order to lessen the impacts on the community.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Attorney and the Department of Building and Safety work to bring the City's CEQA Guidelines into conformance with the State's CEQA code.

Presented by: Jack Weiss
Seconded by: W Greuel

REMINDERS: ISSUES & PETITIONS

Federation meetings are scheduled to start at 8:00 pm, and end at 10:00pm and, in order to end on time, an OUTLINE OF ISSUES & PETITIONS to be brought before the Board should be mailed to : Pres. POLLY WARD at P.O.Box 1041, Studio City, CA 91614 or faxed to: (818) 761-4065, or e-mailed to: polward@aol.com, 48 hours before the scheduled meeting.

MOTIONS to be made at the meeting should be thought out beforehand, and put into writing so that they are clear and concise. EACH SPEAKER will be allowed 5 minutes to make his/her presentation, so that meetings can be kept on time.

FEDERATION'S WEBSITE UP AND RUNNING

The Federation's new website is
www.hillsidecanyon.org

Please take a look at it, and if there's something else you'd like to see on it, or if you want to send in an article to the Newsletter, we'd love to hear from you. Call Steve Twining at (310) 472-6091 to give your suggestions.

VALLEY VOTE REPORT

Valley Vote members heard Bob Hertzberg, former California Assembly Speaker in August. His remarks covered a wide range of topics. He reflected that in a democracy whoever has power and voice gets his way, even if a personal agenda. We must pay attention to those in power to make sure that they serve the people. "The genius of politics is to figure out how to get people all moving in the same direction."

On Education he said, "Nothing is more important than education because it affects so many people and their futures." Bob said he wanted to really shake things up at LAUSD. "We have to break it up, bring teachers, parents, and students together." Hertzberg noted that Villaraigosa has only 4 or 5 years to make his plan work, but it's worth the fight even if not perfect.

Hertzberg still covets the notion of dividing the city into boroughs of 70,000 to 80,000 residents each. "What matters is that the populations of small communities would know the politicians personally and be able to hold them accountable."

On term limits, he favors a plan that the state assembly be termed out after 12 years, not 6, and eligible to run again after 2 years. The problem with term limits presently is that government ends up with little "institutional memory," and many good and effective office holders are barred from returning to office in the same capacity. Under the present system, with 6-year term limits for Assembly members, there is little time for a member to become expert in any issue, and the member is distracted by fundraising and seeking election to the next office.

UPSIDE DOWN HOUSING SUBSIDIES.

Vic Vierick of Valley Glen NC and Valley Vote Board argues that Measure H "Affordable Housing Bond Issue" should be defeated for the following reasons:

Lower income people would be subsidizing more affluent people because tax per \$100,000 assessed value would be charged to all homeowners, regard-

less of income.

The tax would make all homes less affordable.

The owners of rent-controlled apartments would have to absorb the tax for the bond issue.

The tax exempt status of many of the subsidized buildings built with the bond issue money would erode the tax base, thereby reducing public services.

Prices on all products and services provided from LA real estate would have to be increased to cover the tax.

The city's anti-business ordinance, that prevents apartment owners from recouping any more than 60% of capital improvements is causing affordable apartments to deteriorate and be demolished

OASIS ARENA PROJECT

A proposal to build a 9,000 seat arena in the NoHo redevelopment area to give the San Fernando Valley a venue for sports, concerts and entertainment is winning support from some Valley groups. The mini-Staples has been proposed to provide such events without having to make the drive downtown. The Oasis is proposed for 2 acres of MTA land just west of NoHo subway station near Lankershim Blvd. Another proposal would place the Center in the Woodland Hills area.

McMANSIONIZATION

The following Cities have attempted to rein in the size of new houses: San Marino, Burbank, Glendale, Rancho Palos Verdes and Westminster.

Beverly Hills restricts new houses to 11500 sq ft plus 40% of lot size.

Pasadena allows a maximum floor area of 30% of the lot size plus 500 sq ft for single homes Its hillside ordinance limits the size of a new houses to 25% of the lot and taking the slope into consideration for what's buildable land.

Santa Monica allows for a 2-story house to have a 35% lot coverage for the 1st floor, and 26% on the 2nd floor.

Jack Weiss proposed an interim ordinance that would limit the buildable area of a lot to 60% in Beverly Grove. Ed Reyes and Tom LaBonge set restrictions for the Mt Olympus flattop and Paradise Hill, mountainous areas near Highland park, and for Hancock Park . Greuel got approval for a temporary measure that limits the size of new homes in the Sunland Tujunga area.

POLLY WARD, President

BALLOT BONDS

Four Separate Bond Issues will appear on the California State-Wide November ballot:

1. \$19.9 Billion for Transportation
2. \$10.4 Billion for Education
3. \$ 4.1 Billion for Flood Control
4. \$ 2.9 Billion for Housing

STATE BONDS ON NOV. BALLET

Let's assume that there are 38 Million People in California and \$38 Billion in bonds is voted upon by voters in November. That works out to \$1,000 per person of debt. Approximately \$76 Billion of bonds have been approved in the past by the voters of California but only \$36 Billion are outstanding.

General Obligation Bonds which, I believe these will be, are paid for out of the total revenues of the state: Income Taxes, Sales Taxes, Gasoline Taxes, Corporation Taxes and Property Taxes. Although no one can doubt the need for huge infrastructure changes in the state, the cost will have to be paid for by taxpayers and consumers. These bonds are just the beginning for up to \$200 Billion in bonds is proposed under the Governor and State Legislature's plans for the coming years.

Council President Garcetti claims that the bond proceeds will be leveraged with Federal, State and other local and non-profit funds to provide up to \$5 Billion for new housing. He estimates approximately 25,000 housing units can be built as a result of the \$1 Billion Bond Issue on the November Ballot.

PROPOSITIONS H & R on the NOVEMBER BALLOT

PROPOSITION R: City Council Term Limits Extension to Three Terms

Both Janice Hahn and Eric Garcetti went to great lengths to explain their position as to why they support Prop. R, extending council terms to three instead of the current two. They feel we need the good councilpersons like themselves and that the ballot box is the place to get rid of an unsatisfactory councilperson. Although Garcetti admitted that the Council vote to place Prop R on the ballot was rushed and without public input, because it is so worthwhile it should not be discounted and voters should vote for it. The ethics portion requires paid lobbyists to register if they are paid for 30 hours or more in a year to lobby city officials.

Jason Lyon, NC rep and 9/12 Commission member studying the future of NC's, rebutted Garcetti and Hahn's arguments. NC's were clearly not contacted or consulted as mandated by the City Charter prior to City Council's unanimous vote. The LA City Attorney's office strongly advised the City Council and the Mayor that a City Charter Amendment and Ethics Reform Ordinances should not be placed into the same ballot measure as this could lead to a legal challenge. (Which it Has.) Both the City Ethics Commission and NC's were excluded on the drafting of the ballot measure.

Due to more than one legal challenge the fate of Proposition R being on the ballot is still unknown. In the past citizens have voted overwhelmingly to institute term limits and whether or not they will vote to extend them now is uncertain. To date at least 16 NC's have voted to Oppose Prop. R.

PROPOSITION H:

I am indebted to the Westchester/Playa del Rey Neighborhood Council for their analysis of Proposition H, a city wide \$1 Billion housing bond for the November 7, 2006 general election ballot. On July 25, 2006, the L.A. City Council unanimously voted to place the bond measure on the ballot.

There was no early notification provided to Neighborhood Councils as required by the City

Charter therefore denying NC's the opportunity to comment on the bond measure. The City Attorney in 2000 indicated that NC's may take positions on ballot measures, but may not spend taxpayer money in support or opposition to those measures. Additionally, the general public was denied the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed ballot measure.

The \$1 Billion bond measure means that property owners will be paying for the debt maintenance of this measure for the next 20 years. According to the L.A. Times this would mean that property owners could pay \$1.20 per month or \$14.66 per year per \$100,000 assessed valuation.

City income has increased. Increased property tax revenue has brought over a \$700 million windfall to the City treasury this past year. The City Council passed a huge percentage increase from \$11.00 to \$29.00 per barrel (One single family home is entitled to one green, blue and black barrel.) I personally pay double because to make sure my brush is cleared I need an additional green barrel.

Additional evidence against the bonds is that media reports indicate that the housing market in Southern California is cooling down. According to KFWB 980 radio show "Money Watch," there is a 7-month supply of housing available in the market place, prices are softening, and notice of defaults and foreclosures are on the increase.

I spent most of Saturday, September 17 listening to Council President Eric Garcetti, Councilperson Janice Hahn and New Planning Director Gail Goldberg.

Eric Garcetti claims that in the last decade there was a shortage of some 60,000 new housing units in the City of Los Angeles. Population increased by I believe some 400,000 people and only 15,000 new housing units were built. He claims that just 1% of the population can afford to purchase median priced housing in LA and 11% can afford rents at the current rental price. Today 35% of residents own their own homes and 65% rent.

The bond will be only for the purposes of acquisition, construction, rehabilitation, development and financing of safe, clean affordable housing for the homeless, those in danger of becoming homeless, such as battered women and their children, veterans, seniors and the disabled, assisting first time homebuyers, and providing low income working fam-

ilies safe and affordable rental housing, and making loans to private and non-profit entities to develop affordable housing by the following programs:

A-. \$250 Million or more for affordable rent housing for extremely low income individuals and households, including the formerly homeless ranging from zero income to 30% of the Area Median Income (AMI) as established and revised by HUD.

B. \$350 Million or more for affordable rental housing from 30% to 80% AMI.

C. \$250 Million to help individuals and households at or below 150% of AMI to buy their first homes.

D. Funds not committed above shall be allocated in accordance with the Two-Year Work Program.

Additional Provisions: Administered by the Housing Dept. with oversight from a Citizens Advisory Committee whose members shall be three appointed by the Mayor and four by the President of the City Council. A financial audit shall be conducted each year. Bond proceeds shall not be used for purposes of eminent domain over single-family homes or parkland.

STEVE TWINING, Chairman

BEL AIR BEVERLY CREST NC OFFICE

Chairman **STEVE TWINING**, also President of the above Neighborhood Council, advises that If you are interested in attending any Neighborhood Council meetings, please contact STEVE TWINING at the Council office: 310-479-6247, Fax: 310-479-0458, 1525 S. Sepulveda Blvd., #5. The office is open Mon. & Wed., 9am-6pm, and Fri. 9am-1pm.

MULHOLLAND SCENIC PARKWAY DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

MARVIN BRAUDE SAN FERNANDO
CONSTITUENTS SERVICE CENTER
6262 Van Nuys Blvd., Van Nuys
Date: the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month
Time: 6:30pm