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Honorable Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Chair  
Planning and Land Use Management Committee  
City Hall, Room 1010  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

March 31, 2021

**Re: Oppose Proposed Administrative Appeal Fee Increase Without  
Additional Public Review and Opportunity to be Heard  
Council File 09-0969-S3**

Dear Chair Harris-Dawson and PLUM Committee Members:

The Hillside Federation, founded in 1952 and representing 46 resident and homeowner associations with 250,000 constituents spanning the Santa Monica Mountains, voted to oppose the proposed appeal filing fee increase at its March 16th meeting.

The proposal to increase the non-applicant filing fee for an appeal from \$89.00 to a jaw-dropping \$16,097 is unconscionable. This would mean that neighbors and neighborhood associations would likely not be able to afford to file an appeal thus effectively denying them their constitutional right to participate in the public process.

The city attempted a similar filing fee increase in 2016. The public responded and vigorously opposed the increase. So this year, in the midst of COVID-19 shutdowns and no in-person council meetings, the city tried to surreptitiously slip an even larger increase through the PLUM Committee hoping that the public would not notice. There was nothing on the agenda to give a hint of the real intent of the agenda item. Isn't failure to notify the public of agenda items a violation of the Brown Act? This tactic plays into two great threats currently facing our democracy: the fear of disenfranchisement and distrust of government.

The City has an obligation to provide adequate and clear notification to the public so that we can exercise our right to participate in the public process. Neighborhood Councils need adequate notification so that they can review motions in committee before bringing it to their full boards for a vote. At the very least, this matter should be continued for 60 days so that neighborhood councils can properly review the proposal.

The Federation urges you to abandon this ill-conceived proposal to increase non-applicant appeal filing fees in order to ensure the public our full and valued voice in the land use process.

Sincerely,

Charley Mims

Argyle Civic Assn.  
Beachwood Canyon NA  
Bel-Air Assn.  
Bel-Air Hills Assn.  
Bel Air Knolls Property Owners  
Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners  
Benedict Canyon Association  
Brentwood Hills Homeowners  
Brentwood Residents Coalition  
Cahuenga Pass Property Owners  
Canyon Back Alliance  
Crests Neighborhood Assn.  
Dixie Canyon Assn.  
Doheny-Sunset Plaza NA  
Franklin Ave./Hollywood Bl. West  
Franklin Hills Residents Assn.  
Highlands Owners Assn.  
Hollywood Dell Civic Assn.  
Hollywood Heights Assn.  
Hollywoodland HOA  
Holmby Hills Homeowners Assn.  
Kagel Canyon Civic Assn.  
Lake Hollywood HOA  
Laurel Canyon Assn.  
LFIA (Los Feliz)  
Mt. Olympus Property Owners  
Mt. Washington Homeowners All.  
Nichols Canyon NA  
N. Beverly Dr./Franklin Canyon  
Oak Forest Canyon HOA  
Oaks Homeowners Assn.  
Outpost Estates HOA  
Pacific Palisades Res. Assn.  
Residents of Beverly Glen  
Save Coldwater Canyon!  
Save Our Canyon  
Shadow Hills POA  
Sherman Oaks HOA  
Silver Lake Heritage Trust  
Studio City Residents Assn.  
Sunset Hills HOA  
Tarzana POA  
Torreyson Flynn Assn.  
Upper Mandeville Canyon Assn.  
Upper Nichols Canyon NA  
Whitley Heights Civic Assn.

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