

**Hillside Federation
Newsletter
November, 2012**



www.hillsidefederation.org

**Ellen and Goliath
A Victory for
Franklin Canyon Hikers
MRCA**



The Superior Court ruled that this fence must come down.

[Ellen Scott plunked herself down in front of a bulldozer year and a half ago. Here is the result of her valiant action.]

In a significant ruling for hikers and outdoors enthusiasts, the Los Angeles Superior Court Wednesday issued a tentative judgment finding that a portion of the Hastain Trail outside of Franklin Canyon Park is a public easement, even though portions of it lie on private property. Franklin Canyon Park, which is above the San Fernando Valley and south of Mulholland Drive, is administered and patrolled by the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA). Testimony by "legacy hikers" and evidence at trial

**Agenda
November 7, 2012
7:00 pm**

- I. Call to Order
- Guest speakers
 - Sheila Irani CD 4 - Smokey Bear
 - Kim Lamorie - Los Virgenes HO Fed.
 - Ron Galperin - President of the Quality and Productivity Commission
 - SoCalGas Advanced Meters
- II. Approval of Oct. 3, 2012 minutes
- III. Officers' Reports
 - A. President's Report
 - B. Treasurer's Report
- IV. New Business
 - A. 3200 Durand - Crosby Doe
- V. Old Business
 - A. Hastain Trail victory - Ellen Scott, Eric Edmunds
 - B. Crescent Drive - Steven Poster, Carol Sidlow
 - C. NBCUniversal & Sign District - Krista Michaels, Wendy-Sue Rosen
 - D. Billboards Wendy-Sue Rosen
 - E. Curtis School - Mark Stratton
- VI. Adjournment

Next meeting - Wed, Dec. 5, 2012
Holiday Party

Pinz Bowling Center, next to Jerry's Deli
12655 Ventura Blvd., Studio City 91604
CA 101 between Coldwater Canyon exit
and Laurel Canyon exit

Hillside Federation mission: *To protect the property and the quality of life of the 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.*

showed the Hastain Trail has been used by the public since the 1920's.

In April, 2011, property owner Mohamed Hadid erected fences and barriers to close the trail to exclude hikers in order to grade the panoramic ridgeline above Coldwater Canyon in the Santa Monica Mountains, and build up to five large homes of 35,000 square feet or more. The MRCA joined with a grass-roots hikers group formed by Ellen Scott, the "Friends of the Hastain Trail," to fight the trail closure. Attorney Stephen Jones filed the suit for "Friends of the Hastain Trail" and represented them. Wednesday's ruling by Judge Yvette Palazuelos found that the trail had been "impliedly dedicated" to the public by prior property owners who allowed the public to freely use it, and ordered Hadid to remove the fences.

"The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority is here to protect the rights of the generations of hikers who have used this trail in the center of Los Angeles," said Joseph T. Edmiston, Executive Officer of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority. "We are here to protect this land for the people."

"This is a dramatic victory for the hiking public." said Eric Edmunds, who represented the MRCA at the non jury trial. "It was significant that the judge was able to see the trail for herself on a field trip with lawyers for both sides and a court reporter. The facts of the case became crystal clear."

The Hastain Trail is a popular 1.5-mile-long trail that follows a historic fire road in the southern part of Franklin Canyon Park to a summit affording panoramic vistas of the city and ocean. The lower part of the trail is within park

boundaries, while the upper portion lies on private property. Franklin Canyon Park was created in 1981 from land acquired by the National Park Service as part of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

Thank you Ellen and the MRCA!

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority is a local government public entity dedicated to the preservation and management of open space, urban parkland, watershed lands, trails, and wildlife habitat. The MRCA manages more than 69,000 acres of public parkland and provides natural resources and scientific expertise, critical regional planning services, operations, fire prevention and ranger services, as well as education and leadership programs for thousands of youth each year. It is one of the lead agencies revitalizing the Los Angeles River and its tributaries.

Bringing an Issue to the Federation

If your organization has an issue to bring to the Federation, please complete the Request for Action form (available on the website www.hillsidefederation.org) with documentation and send it to president@hillsidefederation.org no later than 7 days prior to the meeting. This will help you organize your presentation so that our meetings can flow efficiently.

P.O. Box 27404 Los Angeles, CA 90027 323-663-1031 president@hillsidefederation.org www.hillsidefederation.org	ORGANIZATIONS: Beachwood Canyon Bel Air Knolls Property Owners Bel Air Ridge Association Bel Air Skycrest POA Benedict Canyon Association Brentwood Hills Homeowners Brentwood Residents Coalition Cahuenga Pass Property Owner Canyon Back Alliance Crests Neighborhood Assn. Franklin Ave./Hollywood Bl. W. Franklin Hills Residents Assn. Highlands Owners Assn. Hollywood Dell Civic Assn. Hollywood Heights Assn. Hollywoodland Homeowners Holmby Hills HOA Kagel Canyon Civic Assn.	Lake Hollywood HOA Laurel Canyon Assn. Lookout Mountain Assn. Los Feliz Improvement Assn. Mt. Olympus Property Owners Mt. Washington Homeowners Nichols Canyon Assn. N. Beverly Dr/Franklin Canyon Oak Forest Canyon Assn. Oaks Homeowners Assn. Outpost Estates Homeowners Pacific Palisades Residents Residents of Beverly Glen Roscomare Valley Assn. Shadow Hills Property Owners Sherman Oaks HOA Studio City Residents Assn. Sunset Hills HOA	Tarzana Property Owners Assn. Torreyson Flynn Assn. Upper Mandeville Canyon Whitley Heights Civic Assn. CHAIRPERSONS EMERITUS Shirley Cohen Jerome C. Daniel Patricia Bell Hearst Alan Kishbaugh Gordon Murley Polly Ward CHAIRMAN IN MEMORIUM Brian Moore
PRESIDENT Marian Dodge CHAIRMAN Charley Mims VICE PRESIDENTS Mark Stratton Wendy-Sue Rosen SECRETARY Donna Messinger TREASURER Don Andres			

Big Win For Community

Lookout Mountain Alliance

Steven Poster and the Lookout Mountain Alliance prevailed on their appeal before the West Los Angeles Area Planning Commission regarding the appeal contesting the ZA's determination that would have approved multiple deviations of code, additional retaining walls, a waiver of the requirement to widen the roadway to hillside standards, and allowed the building of a megamansion of 12,000 square feet on Crescent Dr. that would be inconsistent with the neighboring community.

It was an eventful hearing held on Wednesday, Oct. 17th that lasted long into the night. A sizable group of neighbors, community leaders, organizations including the Hillside Federation and two council offices spoke in support of the appeal. The Commissioners listened and asked important and relevant questions that were previously unanswered in the determination for this case. Additionally, a few of the Commissioners had visited the site, which was immensely important and helpful.

The Applicant's representative presented their case as to why the appeal should be denied and the MND adopted. Then, Steven Poster presented the reasons the appeal should be upheld. The hearing was then opened up for public comment and over 20 people conveyed the compelling reasons this appeal should be upheld. Jonathan Brand from CD 4 gave an intelligent and thoughtful presentation about why Councilman LaBonge supported the appeal and opposed the applicant's requests for deviations from the Los Angeles Municipal Code. In addition to Councilman LaBonge's support of the appeal, the area's former Councilman Paul Koretz entered a letter into the record in strong support of the community's concerns.

Right before the Commission closed the public hearing, the applicant himself spoke and added some drama to the evening by stating that he would change his plans and was working with the owner/developer of 9100 Crescent (See Hillside Federation Newsletter - 2006) who had already obtained a B permit to do roadway improvements. When further questioned by the Commissioners, the applicant stated that he was not withdrawing his current application. The Commissioners then voted 4-0 to grant the appeal and voided the

Mitigated Negative Declaration, finding that the Associate Zoning Administrator erred and abused his discretion.

Lookout Mountain Alliance is grateful for the tremendous turn out of the community; the unanimous support by the Hillside Federation over many years; the support of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, two council offices, the Neighborhood Council, community groups and individuals too numerous to mention, and the tireless efforts of a few dedicated and determined individuals who walked the neighborhood enlisting support. All worked together to achieve victory from the jaws of defeat.

Special thanks to Wendy-Sue Rosen, Donald "the man" Keller, Marian Dodge, CD 4 Planning Deputy Jonathan Brand, CD 5 Planning Deputy Shawn Bayliss, Garrett Weinstein, Paul Edelman, Councilman Tom LaBonge, CD 4 Deputy Sharon Shapiro, Councilman Paul Koretz, Jane Shay Wald and Daniel Clivner of Sunset Doheny Homeowner's Association, Tony Tucci and President of the Laurel Canyon Association for joining the Lookout Mountain Alliance to attain this victory. It truly does take a village.

Save these dates for Hillside Federation meetings

December 5 Holiday Party

January 9

February 6

March 6

April 3

May 1

June 5

No Litter Zone

Lookout Mountain Assn.

If you have driven along the Mulholland Corridor, you may have seen signs advertising the No Litter Zone campaign - www.nolitterzone.com. Jackie Hunsicker, the person behind this effort and her new crew, now headed up by Virgil Arenas, are diligently working to make sure the Mulholland Corridor and beyond is kept free of dumping and litter. Jackie has shown us by the No Litter Zone campaign the power of one person who decides to make a difference. We are all the beneficiaries of her extraordinary efforts.

Many folks in the neighborhood have become monthly contributors to help with the effort. Virgil and his crew work on Wednesday, so if you see them working, please thank them and if you are so moved, make a donation directly to them.

Please be sure to check out the No Litter Zone campaign website to see how you can become more involved.

Here's an article from the Los Angeles Times about the No Litter Zone project for your enjoyment and information.

<http://articles.latimes.com/2011/nov/13/local/la-me-canyon-litter-20111113>

The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations 2012 Holiday Party



1952 - 2012

*Mulholland Tennis Club
2555 Crest Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90046*

*Wednesday, December 5th, 2012
6:30 - 9:30 pm*

\$40/person - Buffet Dinner & Wine



*RSVP by November 26th
andres2007@sbcglobal.net*

*Make check payable to:
Hillside Federation*

*Mail to: Don Andres, Treasurer
7470 Franklin Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90046-2242*

Questions: 323-333-7445

Thank you for your support!

MRCA Fire Prevention Campaign

Westwood-Century City Patch



Nickie Miner, Jerry Daniel, Tom LaBonge, Anita Sokolsky, Paul Edelman, Carol Sidlow, Arnold Newman, Dave Garfinkle

Officials Urge Residents to Take Precautions During Wildfire Season

Park rangers from the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority are installing 100 signs along the Mulholland Scenic Corridor asking for the public's help in reporting suspicious activities or behavior that could cause fires.

In light of the recent heat waves that hit Los Angeles and the [fire that ripped through some 95 acres of the Sepulveda Pass](#) in September, firefighters and community leaders warned residents of the Hollywood Hills and Santa Monica Mountains on Monday that the most dangerous part of the fire season may be coming.

By mid October, the dry Santa Ana winds can blow through coastal Southern California, creating the potential for devastating wildfires. "On red flag deployments, which is when the wind is at a heightened level, the temperature is at a heightened level, and the [low] relative humidity—in other words the moisture in the air—is at a heightened level, we'll have a 24-hour patrol with law enforcement rangers driving throughout some of these overlook areas," said David Updike, fire management officer for the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

The MRCA, which oversees parts of the Santa Monica Mountains east of the 405 Freeway, is placing 100 signs this week along the length of Mulholland Drive and at MRCA parks. MRCA

spokesperson Dash Stolarz said the signs cost about \$5,400 and were being installed as part of regular maintenance at no additional cost to the agency.

"Residents will hopefully see these signs and ... if they see something suspicious, they'll remember the sign, they'll remember the number ... and they'll call us," Updike said.

Postcards will also be mailed to local residents asking for help in identifying suspicious activities or careless behavior that can lead to fire.

The announcement was made at a press conference Monday, October 8 at the Nancy Hoover Pohl Overlook at Fryman Canyon, 8401 Mulholland Drive, with MRCA firefighters, representatives of hillside and canyon homeowners associations and Los Angeles City Councilman Tom LaBonge in attendance.

"Brush fires are either caused by nature or by human activity," said MRCA Chief Park Ranger Fernando Gomez. "And we don't get a lot of lightning storms out here," he said.

Smoking is probably the biggest threat to the more than 69,000 acres of public land that make up the MRCA's purview, Gomez said. "We get people from all over the world," Gomez said. "We get people who, that is their habit, and they get off the tour buses, the first thing they want to do is light up a cigarette." Gomez said that fire education is paramount in the battle against cigarette-lit fires. "For us that live here and work here, it's a really big concern," he said.

The 70-person agency is on the cusp of losing a large portion of its budget, with 20-year-old Proposition A set to expire this year. The Los Angeles County proposition gave the MRCA some \$1.6 million per year. To bolster its budget, the agency is looking to local residents to pass measures MM and HH in November. The ballot measures would impose a parcel tax of \$24 per year on homeowners living in or near the Santa Monica Mountains for the next 10 years.

The MRCA oversees public parkland in the Santa Monica Mountains and the Hollywood Hills from Griffith Park west to the 405 Freeway and parts of Encino, Tarzana and Woodland Hills.

The MRCA asks that you call 310-456-7049 if you see any activity that could potentially cause a fire.

**Hillside Federation Draft Minutes
October 3, 2012**

I. Call to Order

President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Mayoral Candidates Forum

President Dodge moderated a Q&A with mayoral candidates Jan Perry, Kevin James, Wendy Greuel, and Eric Garcetti. Topics included implementation of a Ridgeline Ordinance; candidates' positions on billboards and the new Sign Ordinance; attitudes toward Area Planning Commission appointments and Building & Safety hires; ACE and Clean Hands ordinances; the over-granting of variances; streamlining the permitting process; and increased density under the new Hollywood Community Plan.

On the issue of enforcement, all of the candidates agreed to support the Clean Hands Ordinance. There was also universal support for the idea of changing the code so that community members who prevail in an appeal would be reimbursed for the cost of the appeal.

II. Approval of Minutes.

The September 5th minutes were approved as corrected.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report - Marian Dodge

Marian reminded members about Measures MM and HH. She announced a Stanley Hills Drive fundraiser for their wildlife corridor lawsuit and Studio City Neighborhood Council's presentation on NBCUniversal's alternate 10 for their expansion project.

The Holiday Party will be on Dec. 5 at the Mulholland Tennis Club.

B. Treasurer's Report - Marian Dodge

Don Andres sent a report that was basically the same as last month.

IV. Old Business

A. Linda Flora Dr. project

Steve Twining gave an update on this project going ahead in spite of community and Federation objections. Building & Safety approved both the haul route and the Mitigated Negative Declaration.

B. Helicopter Noise Relief - George Abrahams

**Happy Birthday
Santa Monica Mountains
National Recreational Area!**

*Remembrance of the Founding Mothers
of the Park & Founder's Day Celebration*

*Come celebrate the 34th birthday of the
Santa Monica Mountains
National Recreational Area.*

When: 1pm, November 10, Saturday with Birthday Party at 2 PM

Where: Gillette Ranch Visitor Center at the corner of Malibu Canyon Road
and Mulholland Highway (enter on Mulholland)

Join rangers for a special tribute arranged by Save Open Space to founder Margot Feuer, who passed away this year. This tribute will include brief remarks on Margot's role in the establishment of the SMMNRA, followed by a tree planting supervised by the National Park Service. The plantings will honor all three SMMNRA founders: Margot Feuer, Sue Nelson and Jill Swift.

After the tree planting, join the festivities for the park's birthday party in the visitor center courtyard. The birthday party starts at 2 PM and will include singing and birthday cake with an optional history tour of the Gillette Ranch to wrap up this Founder's Day event. NPS/MRCA/CSP

RSVP requested but not required:

For the 1 PM Tree Planting and Remembrance:
Mary Wiesbrock (SOS), marywiesbrock@sbcglobal.net

For the 2 PM birthday party, no RSVP needed.

**Mulholland Scenic Parkway Design
Review Board**

Meets 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month,
6:30 pm

Marvin Braude Constituents Service Center
6262 Van Nuys Blvd. Van Nuys, CA
1st floor conference room

When we work together with a consistent strong voice, we have success.

C. Hollywood Community Plan – George Abrahams

Save Hollywood is asking for a Federal Grand Jury investigation into corruption resulting in downsized fire stations. They are asking for support from the Federation. They are also asking neighborhood associations for money to fight Hollywood Plan and will be glad to make presentations at neighborhood meetings.

All other agenda items (Smokey Bear campaign, Los Virgenes Homeowner Federation, and NBCUniversal project update) were postponed until next month because of the late hour.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Lois Becker, Acting Secretary

Members Present:

Beachwood Canyon	George Abrahams
Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
	Lois Becker
	Barbara Dohrmann
Benedict Canyon	Nickie Miner
Brentwood Hills	John Given
Brentwood Residents	Tom Freeman
Cahuenga Pass POA	Patricia Weber
Canyon Back Alli.	Wendy-Sue Rosen
Hollywood Dell Civic	Patti Negri
Hollywoodland HOA	Lucy Gonzalez
Lookout Mountain	Carol Sidlow
	Anita Sokolsky
Los Feliz Impvmt.	Marian Dodge
Nichols Canyon	Madeline O'Donnell
Res. Beverly Glen	Gillian Calof
Roscomare Valley	Steve Twining
Studio City Residents	Claudia Freedle

Guests Present:

Candidates & staff	Kevin James
	Tim Lineberger
	Lydia Grant
	Jan Perry
	Chris Chaffee
	Wendy Greuel
	Marisol Espinoza
	Dale Thrush
	Eric Garcetti
Chair Emeritus	Alan Kishbaugh
Hollywood Dell Civic	Kerry Crutchfield
	Wallace Goldstein

Web Site

The Hillside Federation has a new web site, www.hillsidefederation.org.

One of the things we want to do is have live links to the web sites of all our member organizations. Please send us the link to your association's web site. In return, we ask that you post a link to the Hillside Federation web site on your web site.

You may also visit the web site for letters on positions taken by the Federation and past newsletters and minutes.