

**Hillside Federation
Newsletter
March, 2014**



www.hillsidefederation.org

**Wildlife Corridor
One Step Closer**

Sen. Fran Pavley



Senator Pavley led a tour of the area near Liberty Canyon Road and Highway 101 to discuss steps to protect wildlife while planning and design of a permanent crossing is underway.

This month saw an exciting new development in the effort to create a wildlife corridor across Highway 101 to link the Santa Monica Mountains and the Simi Hills. This corridor is critical for the biodiversity of the area and the health of species such as the mountain lion.

On February 24, officials approved a \$200,000 grant from the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority to fund a Caltrans study of a wildlife crossing in the area near Liberty Canyon Road. It will take a year to complete a project study report using this grant,

**Agenda
March 5, 2013
7:00 pm**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of minutes
- III. Officers' Reports
 - A. President's Report
 - Nominating Committee
 - B. Treasurer's Report
- IV. New Business
 - A. 3164 Abington Dr. - Marti Ornest
 - B. Tree Trimming - Tony Tucci
- V. Old Business
 - A. Recode LA - Carol Sidlow
 - B. 10550 N. Bellagio Rd. - Steve Twining
 - C. Curtis School - Mark Stratton
- VI. Adjournment

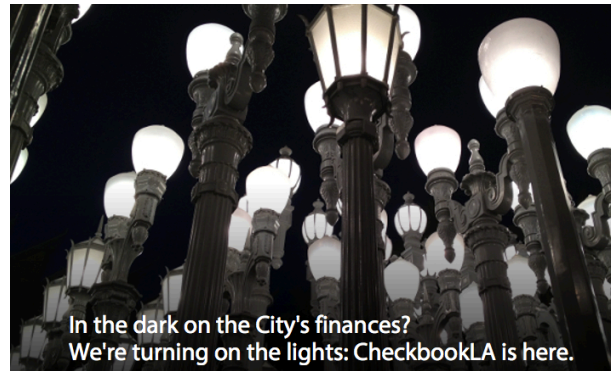
Next meeting - Wednesday, April 2, 2014

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.*

the first step before Caltrans can proceed with environmental clearance and engineering.

On the same day, I led a tour of the area to discuss more immediate steps that can be taken to protect wildlife until a more permanent linkage, such as an overcrossing or tunnel, can be built. These steps include moving signage and using fencing to direct animals through the existing highway underpass and out of harm's way. Participating agencies will work to maximize the use of this underpass while the Caltrans planning process is underway.



Welcome New Member
Organization!

Save Sunset Blvd.

ControlPanelLA

City Controller Ron Galperin and Councilmember Paul Krekorian announced the creation of the city's new financial data website, ControlPanelLA

<https://controllerdata.lacity.org>

Galperin and Krekorian co-hosted a seminar and live demonstration of the website on February 13. The city's first open data platform and portal, which launched last October, is a tool users can access to gain insight on the city's transactions relevant to its revenue sources, expenditure accounts and payroll for nearly 50,000 city employees. The presentation covered the contents and features of the database, demonstrated real time searches and results, explored how to read and export data and concluded with a question and answer session for participants.

Happy searching. Thank you, Ron for making this tool available to the public.

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.

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| <p>P.O. Box 27404 Los Angeles, CA 90027 president@hillsidefederation.org www.hillsidefederation.org</p> <p>PRESIDENT Marian Dodge</p> <p>CHAIRMAN Charley Mims</p> <p>VICE PRESIDENTS Mark Stratton Wendy-Sue Rosen</p> <p>SECRETARY Carol Sidlow</p> <p>TREASURER Don Andres</p> | <p>ORGANIZATIONS:</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>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. Save Sunset Blvd. Shadow Hills Property Owners Sherman Oaks HOA Studio City Residents Assn. Sunset Hills HOA</p> | <p>Tarzana Property Owners Assn. Torreyson Flynn Assn. Upper Mandeville Canyon Upper Nichols Canyon Upper Riviera HOA Whitley Heights Civic Assn.</p> <p>CHAIRPERSONS EMERITUS Shirley Cohen Jerome C. Daniel Patricia Bell Hearst Alan Kishbaugh Gordon Murley Steve Twining Polly Ward</p> <p>CHAIRMAN IN MEMORIUM Brian Moore</p> |
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”X-Prize” for More Efficient Government Ideas

Could you be a winner?

Assemblyman Mike Gatto (D-Los Angeles) announced AB 2138 today, which would offer cash incentives for people with ideas to increase government efficiency and reduce government waste. The legislation would authorize Governor Jerry Brown to select three state agencies, each of which will offer a \$25,000 prize for Californians with great ideas to solve a specific problem, innovate a process, or otherwise streamline a system within a government agency. The prize will be open to all Californians.

“This bill is a creative way to open up government to the marketplace of ideas,” said Gatto. “I believe there are experts in many fields who are frustrated with the inefficiencies of government and know exactly how to improve a system or process. For these experts, it is not about the money, but the renown. This modest ‘California Government X-Prize’ provides the platform for creators and innovators to apply their knowledge to streamline California’s government.”

Similar prizes have been around for centuries, dating back to 1714, when the British government created the Longitude Prize – a £20,000 award (more than \$4 million in today’s dollars) to the person able to formulate a method to calculate the longitude of a ship once it had sailed out of view of land.

More recently, the Federal Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) launched a contest in February 2011 to develop a combat vehicle that could be used for reconnaissance as well as delivery and evacuation. Ordinarily, the procurement process for developing this kind of vehicle would cost the government millions of dollars and take a considerable amount of time. The DARPA contest was a wild success. It received over 150 design submissions in less than two months. The winner of the contest, a blue-collar worker for Peterbilt Trucks named Victor Garcia, received just \$7,500 for having the best design (but a lifetime of renown and recognition within his field).

In his book *Citizenville*, Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom explained that “incentive prizes are a perfect bipartisan solution: They solve problems,

help people, and save money, thereby fulfilling goals that span the whole political spectrum.”

“The people of California are resourceful and inventive,” said Gatto. “Incentives like this can showcase Californian’s creative solutions to some of the state’s most pressing issues.”

Mike Gatto is the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee in the California State Assembly. He represents Burbank, Glendale, La Cañada Flintridge, La Crescenta, Montrose, and the Los Angeles neighborhoods of Atwater Village, East Hollywood, Franklin Hills, Hollywood Hills, Los Feliz, and Silver Lake. www.asm.ca.gov/gatto

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.

Rodenticide Forum

Learn how to protect pets and wildlife

Thursday, March 13,
6:00 – 8:00 pm

Calabasas Public
Library, 200 Civic Center Way



SMMNRA Interagency Trail Management Plan



National Park Service (NPS), California State Parks (State Parks), Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and the Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority are reinitiating preparation of the long-awaited Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA) Interagency Trail Management Plan (TMP). The TMP will establish the overall vision for future development and management of the nearly 500-mile SMMNRA trail network. Based on identified desired conditions for park natural, cultural and recreational resources, the TMP will prescribe a comprehensive plan for circulation, access, and allowable trail uses for trails throughout the national recreation area. Because NPS and State agencies are jointly preparing the TMP, a NEPA and CEQA-based Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) will accompany the TMP. The TMP EIS/EIR will consider alternative visions for the trail network and will provide a detailed analysis of potential environmental impacts of each vision.

NPS and State Parks are now accepting the public's suggestions for issues the TMP EIS/EIR should address and for the content and design of a range of alternatives. You may submit your comments online by going to:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/smmnra-tmp>

and clicking on Open for Comment on the left.

Comments are due April 1.

Planning for the greater SMMNRA trail network began in mid-1990s with the Santa Monica Mountains Area Recreation Trails (SMMART) Project. The original federal and

state notices to prepare the TMP EIS/EIR were published in 2003. In September 2005, NPS, State Parks, and SMMC/MRCA conducted public scoping meetings and gathered public comments on conceptual trail facilities and map alternatives needed to prepare the Draft EIS/EIR. Owing to lack of funding, the NPS and partner agencies were unable to prepare the Draft EIS/EIR after the 2005 public scoping effort. With funding now in hand, the partner agencies are resuming preparation of the joint TMP EIS/EIR. We invite your participation throughout the planning process.

Some of the issues involved are:

Safety: speed, startling, near misses

Tranquility: desire for a tranquil experience, concerns about noise, dust, tension on shared-use trails

Fairness: adequate opportunities for all users

Sense of Wilderness: desire to maintain the Santa Monica Mountains as a quasi-wilderness experience for urban dwellers.

Numerous suggestion for alternatives have been received:

- Keep bikes on fire roads and wide trails.
- Keep some nature/family trails.
- Don't build new trails for shared use.
- Allow bikes on more trails to disperse use.
- Apply alternate use designation strategies.
- Open full Backbone Trail to mountain biking.
- Keep Backbone Trail sections closed to mountain biking.
- Construct mountain biking bypass around Boney Wilderness.
- Open more unmaintained/unofficial trails to public use.

As you can see, there are all kinds of opinions. The NPS wants to hear yours. You may submit comments online (see above) or by mail:

Management Team
SMMNRA Interagency Trail Management Plan
401 W. Hillcrest Drive
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

or by fax: (805) 370-1850

Comments are due April 1.

**Hillside Federation
Draft Minutes
February 5, 2014**

I. Call to Order

President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Guest Speakers:

Mike Aguilera – Congressman Adam Schiff’s office: Helicopter Noise Legislation

Mike reported that within the Omnibus Spending Bill, the legislature passed the Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief Act. The FAA has one year to voluntarily implement six recommendations to reduce helicopter noise. If this cannot be accomplished voluntarily, the FAA will be required to develop regulations. The bill was signed by the President in January 2014. There is currently no public safety exemption included except for emergencies. The Secretary of Transportation will work on the threshold to lower noise and Mike will report back to the Federation.

Marian recognized two members of the Hillside Federation who worked hard on this issue: George Abrahams and Gerry Hans. Gerry reported that there is interest in leasing out the helipad at LAX and that could be of concern to the community.

Wendy Rosen asked Mike to take back a message of thanks to Congressman Schiff for getting this legislation passed and the Hillside Federation will continue to monitor.

Mike asked for nominations for Woman of the Year for Women’s History Month. Flyer handed out.

Karen Wagener - Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation and Jamie Moore, Public Information Officer/ Los Angeles Fire Department

Karen reported that the Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation has pledged to raise funds to purchase 3,000 brush helmets at the cost of \$45 per helmet for every firefighter in the City of Los Angeles, which is of significant interest to the hillside communities. Organizations or individuals who are interested in making larger donations to the Brush Helmet Campaign are most welcome. If we all pitch in, the goal will be attained that much faster.

Regular helmets worn by firefighters to fight structure fires are worn for shorter periods of time

and are heavy. Brush helmets are specifically designed for fighting brush fires, are worn for longer periods of time and are lighter in weight.

Everyone loves their own fire stations however, in case of a major event like hillsides going up in flames; we rely on firefighters from all over the city. To ensure that our local fire stations are alerted to donations made for the brush helmets, community groups and individuals can make a note on their checks identifying the local station. They will be notified by the Foundation.

Jamie thanked the Foundation for all their help. He reiterated the importance for everyone to clear their brush as brush season is upon us and we are in drought conditions almost year round. He reminded us to make sure that we all have working smoke detectors. There have been 7 fatalities in 18 days and in every single fire, there were no working smoke alarms.

Karen and Jamie announced the Fahrenheit 2014 fundraiser for the Los Angeles Fire Department will be April 5, 2014 in Sherman Oaks at the Disaster Preparedness facility highlighting the Urban Search and Rescue Units with live demonstrations of fire apparatus and a display of the many resources that are used by our Los Angeles Fire Department. This is an incredible fundraising event.

**Save these dates for Hillside
Federation meetings**

April 2 - Elections

May 7

June 4

July 9

August - no meeting

September 3

Tim Pershing - Assemblyman Richard Bloom's Office:

Tim reported that the session in Sacramento is just beginning. The Otis 2014 Creative Economy Report is coming out focusing on the creative economy i.e. film, art, fashion, furniture making, etc. As the creative industries such as film are going out of the state, incentives need to be looked at. This is a priority for the Assemblymember.

Tim addressed the water issues in the state and the challenges we face regarding water in these drought years. There have been many proposals about this issue. Wendy asked when Assemblyman Bloom takes a position on the Bay Delta Plan to let the Federation know.

George Abrahams requested information about funding for Alquist-Priolo mapping and wants the Alquist-Priolo Act strengthened. Tim will discuss it with George.

The rodenticide issue is still being reviewed.

**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
1st floor conference room

Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
- Kenneth Rickard, P.E., Chris Stone Water
Resources Division, Maria Chong-Castillo -
Supervisor Yaroslavsky's office: Pacoima
Reservoir Sediment removal

The County made a presentation about the need for removal of 3 million cubic yards of sediment from the Pacoima Dam, which has not been cleaned since 1983 because of challenges and environmental concerns. Five alternatives are being proposed for review. These include dry excavation and/or conveyor, dredging, sluicing, trucking, slurry piping, stock piling, or a combination. Maintenance will also be addressed as part of the environmental review so that the sediment will be removed on a more regular basis.

Funding for this project is provided from the Flood Control charges already levied on our property tax bill. No new money will be needed.

Maria Chong-Castillo underscored the importance of this issue to Supervisor Yaroslavsky. The office wants to be sure that all information is out to the community early so the community is aware and their input is included in the process. Maria reported that all factors will be analyzed with all alternatives being difficult. Input from the community may lead to a new alternative or a combination of alternatives.

Scoping meetings for the CEQA process will begin in Spring 2014 with full comment period. The County hopes to have construction begin in Summer of 2016. The Board of Supervisors will make the final decision.

Charley Mims, Marian Dodge, and members of CASM met with the County Department of Public Works about this project on January 28 and agree that this is a very complex issue with no easy answers. The Hillside Federation will monitor this process.

Websites for more information are:

www.LASedimentMangement.com

www.Reservoircleanouts@dpw.lacounty.gov

II. Approval of Minutes – The January minutes were approved as submitted.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report - Marian Dodge

Marian congratulated George Abrahams on his proclamation from Tom LaBonge for his community service.

Marian suggested a date change for the July meeting from July 2 to July 9 to avoid the 4th of July holiday. The Board voted to support.

Marian reported on the National Park Service, California State Parks, SMMC, MRCA invitation to participate in the public scoping process for the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Interagency Trail Management Plan. Two meetings will be held. The comment period deadline is April 1, 2014. Marian will send out information to member groups.

Marian reported that there is an ongoing project to map wildlife corridors in the Santa Monica Mountains. Marian will distribute information to Federation members. More information can be found on the website: www.CLAWonline.org.

Nominating Committee - April Elections: Marian announced the recommended members of the Nominating Committee for 2014: Steven Poster, Steve Twining, and Patricia Weber. These members of the Federation represent all areas of the hillside communities. Don Andres made the motion to approve the committee. Motion passed unanimously.

Wendy Rosen reported that Congressman Waxman has announced his retirement after 40 years. Candidates who have announced they are running so far are Wendy Greuel, Ted Lieu and Marianne Williamson.

B. Treasurer's Report: Don Andres

Don gave the Treasurer's report and circulated the chart from last month's meeting with City Council, State Senate, Assembly and Neighborhood Council for one more proof.

What's happening in your neighborhood?

Please send the Federation news of your activities with photos so we can share them with all our members.

IV. New Business

A. 6443 and 6459 Innsdale Drive - Sheila Irani & David Benz

Marian introduced Sheila Irani, previously with Tom LaBonge's office and now running for CD 4, and David Benz both from Lake Hollywood HOA. Sheila and David reported that an applicant has filed an application to build an estate on Innsdale and is seeking many deviations/exceptions from City code, to build a project that includes excessive grading, roadway development, construction of a tennis court, pool, wine cellar cave, and a hammerhead turn for the fire department at the end of the gated roadway.

Additionally, the applicant is seeking a street vacation. David discussed the negative impacts of building the roadway. A geologist hired by the community reported that this proposed project

might be a seismic and flood disaster. Councilman LaBonge opposes the street vacation and other aspects of the project.

Wendy Rosen made a motion to support the position of Lake Hollywood HOA and oppose any deviations from the code. Motion seconded and passed unanimously. The Federation will send a letter to the ZA even if record is closed. The letter will address concerns for public safety and destruction of hillside environment.

B. Rodenticide Ban - Ali Simard, Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife (CLAW)

Ali reported that rat poison is dangerous and if you are using rat poison, please stop. The Federation passed a motion in September 2013 to support the ban, purchase and sale of rodenticide in the city. Ali asked the Federation to write a letter supporting CLAW's position to support Koretz's motion CF #13-1580 that Rec and Parks report back to Council on rodenticide use in the City.

V. Old Business

A. 1500 Gilcrest - Michael Phillips and Juliana Maio

Juliana and Michael thanked the Hillside Federation for their support. After a year of waiting, the Zoning Administrator denied all the community mitigations requested and approved all of the changes requested by the applicant. ZA Maya Zaitzevsky's determination legalized all the violated conditions. Also, the ZA used the plan approval process to virtually allow a new project to be approved.

Michael and Juliana have appealed the determination to the West Los Angeles Area Planning Commission. Tom LaBonge supports the appeal. The date of the hearing has not been set.

Wendy Rosen moved to support the appeal. Motion duly seconded and passed unanimously. The Federation will send a letter that addresses hillside issues and the plan approval process being utilized improperly.

B. 10550 Bellagio Rd. - Steven Poster

The West Los Angeles Area Planning Commission overturned the ZA's determination and denied the over-in-height residence. The question on everyone's mind is will Paul Kortez invoke Charter Section 245 to overturn the WLAAPC decision as he did on Stone Canyon.

C. Curtis School - Mark Stratton

Mark reported that the project is back. February 18 is the deadline for MND comments; February 20 is the Mulholland Design Review Board hearing.

Announcements

Wendy announced that Tom Donovan will be reappointed by the Mayor to the West Los Angeles Area Planning Commission. She attributed the reappointment to the power of community participation and engagement. Carol asked that Federation members be notified when this reappointment comes to the Planning and Land Use Committee and City Council so members of the community can show further support.

VI. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Carol Sidlow
Recording Secretary

**LAFD Foundation
Brush Helmet Campaign**

Support our fire fighters by equipping each one with a brush helmet for fighting hillside wildfires. \$45/helmet

Make donations to:
Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation
1875 Century Park East, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90067

www.supportlafd.org

Call (310) 552-4171

Tax ID # 27-2007326

Members Present:

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Beachwood Canyon | George Abrahams |
| Bel Air Skycrest | Mark Stratton |
| Brentwood Hills HA | John Given |
| Brentwood Res. Coal. | Wendy-Sue Rosen |
| Cahuenga Pass | Patricia Weber |
| Canyon Back Allian. | Lois Becker |
| Franklin Av/Hlwd Bl. | Don Andres |
| Kagel Canyon | Kit Paull |
| Lake Hollywood | Sheila Irani |
| | David Benz |
| Laurel Canyon | Ali Simard |
| Lookout Mountain | Steven Poster |
| | Carol Sidlow |
| Los Feliz Impvmt. | Marian Dodge |
| N. Beverly/Franklin Can | Robert Levy |
| Oaks HOA | Gerry Hans |
| Sherman Oaks HOA | Elke Heitmeyer |
| Studio City Res. | Alan Dymond |
| Upper Mandeville | Elodie Lorenz |
| Upper Nichols Canyon | Cyd Zeigler |
| Upper Riviera HOA | Stacia Thompson |

Officials Present:

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Rep. Adam Schiff | Mike Aguilera |
| Asm. Bloom | Tim Pershing |
| Sup. Zev Yaroslavsky | Maria Chong-Castillo |
| LA County Dept. | Chris Stone |
| of Public Works | Kenneth Rickard |
| LAFD Foundation | Karen Wagener |
| LAFD | Capt. Jaime Moore |

Guests Present:

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| CASM/SFV | Dan Feinberg |
| | Ann Job |
| Save Sunset Blvd. | Andrew McPherson |
| | Alexandra Rose |