

**Hillside Federation
Newsletter
May, 2014**



www.hillsidefederation.org

Santa Monica Mountains Land Use Plan Approved

Thanks to the leadership of numerous elected officials and community and environmental advocates, along with the support of hundreds of interested individuals, the California Coastal Commission voted unanimously on April 10 to approve the Land Use Plan component of the Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Program.



The Hillside Federation submitted a letter in support of the LUP, and we would like to thank our member organizations and their members and other interested persons who did likewise. Kim Lamorie, President of the the Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation, sent a celebratory thank-you e-mail following the victory, printed on page two of this month's newsletter.

**Agenda
May 7, 2014
7:00 pm**

I. Call to Order

Guest: City Controller Ron Galperin

II. Approval of minutes

III. Officers' Reports

- A. President's Report
Installation of Officers
- B. Treasurer's Report

IV. New Business

- A. Solar Farms - Marlene Rader, Kagel Canyon

V. Old Business

- A. Cell Towers, Above Ground Facilities - Alexander von Wechmar
- B. Sale of LA City Surplus Property - John Given
- C. 8150 Sunset - Alex Rose, Andrew MacPherson
- D. 1500 Gilcrest - Wendy-Sue Rosen
- E. Re:code LA - Carol Sidlow
- F. Hollywood Sign Shuttle - Lucy Gonzalez

VI. Adjournment

Next meeting - Wednesday, June 4, 2014

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.*

**DEAR FRIENDS OF THE
SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS!**

**Thank you for supporting the
Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal
Program (LCP). What a win!**

On April 10, in Santa Barbara, all 12 California Coastal Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the Santa Monica Mountains Land Use Plan (LUP), one of two components of the LCP. Your letters and e-mails made a significant difference—with overwhelming support—411 were received FOR LUP approval, versus 66 received against.

The Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation, would like to express our sincere gratitude to our Supervisor, Zev Yaroslavsky, to whom we all owe a great deal. Zev has been a 20 year champion of environmental protection and conservation in the Santa Monica Mountains - with close to 20,000 acres preserved in perpetuity during his tenure. The LCP, when certified, will be the crowning achievement of his leadership - protecting the



magnificent sweeping ridgelines, oak woodlands, open space, creeks, steep canyon habitat, and all the wild and wonderful inhabitants of the Santa Monica Mountains! Zev and his land use deputy, the savvy Ben Saltsman, in collaboration with the Coastal Commission staff, created a brilliant document, one that ensures the public's best interest is served, not the special interests or lifestyles of a few seeking to despoil the state's most precious coastal resources.

It was an amazing and historic day at the hearing for coastal resource protection in the Santa Monica Mountains. The stakeholders that

came together to support the LUP included: the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the National Park Service, State Parks, Heal the Bay, HOA's from across southern CA, our LCP community homeowners, horse owners; and, political leaders - Senator Fran Pavley, Assemblymember Richard Bloom, Bobby Shriver, Wendy Greuel, Sheila Kuehl. Kudos also to the city of Agoura Hills - who cemented their city as the true gateway to the Santa Monica Mountains. Led by the efforts of Mayor Pro Tem, Illece Buckley-Weber, who was joined by Mayor Bill Koehler and Councilmembers Harry Schwarz and John Edelston, they voted to support the LUP.



As expected, the same coalition of developer attorneys and lobbyists opposed the plan. Two of the most familiar faces, testifying as lobbyists, were Don Schmitz, a Malibu pro-vineyard proponent/owner, and development expediter; as well as, City of Calabasas Councilmember and developer attorney, Fred Gaines. Both have a history of battling Santa Monica Mountain land use policies for their clients.

Stay tuned for the next step in the process - approval of the Local Implementation Program (LIP) - the other component of the LCP. That hearing at the Coastal Commission will likely take place in June, followed by a journey back to our Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for hopeful LCP approval in July or August.

Thank you once again for being a part of this historic effort to protect the ruggedly beautiful, natural landscape of the Santa Monica Mountains - our scenic resource of national significance.

Sincerely,

Kim Lamorie, President

Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation, Inc., of the Santa Monica Mountains – www.lvvhf.org

Hollywood Hills / Griffith Park Mountain Lion P-22 is Sick with Poisoning/Mange

Hillside Federation members have been following with great interest the travels of P-22, the Santa Monica Mountains' most famous mountain lion, for many months. This is thanks primarily to the important work of National Park Service's Seth Riley (see our minutes below regarding his presentation at our April meeting), Laurel Klein Serieys (see Ms. Serieys' terrific blog on urban carnivores at: <http://www.urbancarnivores.com/>), and other biologists and wildlife experts at the National Park Service and Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

Most all of us have seen the amazing photos of P-22 taken by noted wildlife photographer Steve Winter, first published in National Geographic in December 2013. [If you are among the few who have not yet seen Mr. Winter's incredible photo of P-22 walking along a trail in the Hollywood hills at night with the lighted Hollywood Sign in the background, treat yourself to the photo and the ingenious story of how it was taken at: <http://proof.nationalgeographic.com/2013/11/14/a-cougar-ready-for-his-closeup/>].

We were thus shocked and saddened to see the National Park Service photograph of P-22 published in the Los Angeles Times on April 16, accompanying Martha Groves' article on the impact of anti-coagulant rodenticides impact on wildlife, including mountain lions, coyotes, bobcats, foxes, and birds of prey.

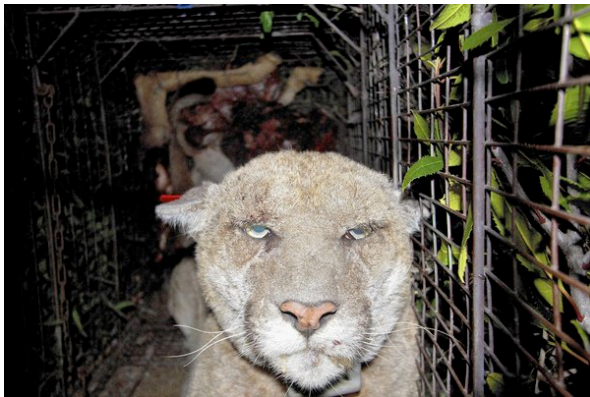


Photo of P-22 taken in late March, 2014. Nat'l Park Service.

According to the National Park Service biologists who sedated and treated P-22, the

celebrity mountain lion is suffering from mange, which is rare in wild cats like mountain lions. P-22's blood work showed exposure to rat poison.

At his April presentation to the Hillside Federation, Seth Riley noted that the connection between mange in large carnivores like P-22 and anti-coagulant rodenticides is not fully understood, but there is definitely a link. Mange can be fatal, as can exposure to poison rodenticides. Mange can also have severe indirect consequences, because it makes animals lethargic and thus more susceptible to the many dangers of living in an urbanized environment, especially automobiles. Fortunately, scientists are able to monitor P-22's well-being because he is fitted with a radio collar, and according to the LA Times article, NPS biologists have treated P-22 for both mange and poison exposure.

We hope to report in a future newsletter that P-22 is progressing in his recovery. In the meantime, we continue to advocate for a ban of the sale and use of anti-coagulant rodenticides in the City of Los Angeles. Our February 16, 2014 position letter to the Los Angeles City Council in support of CF 13-1580 (a motion to study the issue) can be found at:

<http://tinyurl.com/mbvgs3j>.

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.

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.

In Memoriam
Polly Ward, Federation Chair
Emeritus and Past President



Chair Emeritus Polly Ward,
March 24, 1928 – April 2, 2014.

Priscilla "Polly" Ward, born March 24, 1928, was one of triplets in Des Moines, Iowa. Polly and her sisters left after high school for New York City, where they worked as dancers in Broadway shows such as *Lute Song*, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, *The King and I*, *Top Banana*, and *New Faces of 1952*.

Polly Ward was awarded BS and MBA degrees from the University of Southern California, and was employed at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and ARCO (now B.P.).

As Hillside Federation President between 2002–2006, Polly was truly a moving force during very trying times in our city. Federation Executive Committee meetings were hosted by Polly at her Studio City home – always enlightening and exciting. Polly had a 41-association membership whose issues included: preservation of open pristine properties, “McMansions,” ballot bond measures and their impacts, benefit assessment districts by the SMMC to preserve hillside open space, veterans advisory land use, slope density, Mulholland Scenic Corridor schools, zoning, transitional housing, ‘Dirt’ Mulholland, transportation issues (405-101 and Sepulveda reversible lane), retaining walls, CEQA, Neighborhood Councils,

lawsuit for the General Plan Framework, and many more! Polly was a ‘regular’ at Los Angeles City Hall supporting associations and their issues.

Polly was also very active in other groups, including the Studio City Farmers Market, Osaka Sangyo, Studio City Residents Association, Studio City Neighborhood Council, Valley Vote Citywide, and Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils. Polly was a guiding light who will always be remembered.

Polly Ward passed peacefully in her sleep on April 2 at her home in Eagle, Idaho. Surviving members of her family include her sister Prudence Opperman of New York City, her Eagle and Boise family; daughter Stevie Beehler and son-in-law Doug Beehler, granddaughter Candace Freeman, and two great grandsons Talon and Hunter Freeman.

Donations may be made to the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF). Please mail to Lions at P.O. Box 266 Meridian, Idaho 83680. Donations will be put toward a community service "Melvin Jones Award" to honor Polly for her many years of service.

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.

**Hillside Federation
Draft Minutes
April 2, 2014**

I. Call to Order

President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Guest Speaker:

Seth Riley – Wildlife Expert with
National Park Service

Seth gave a power point presentation on wildlife and reported the condition of wildlife in our Santa Monica Mountains and the negative impacts of anti-coagulant rodenticides. There are over 150,000 acres to protect in our mountains, juxtaposed with constant pressure to see areas developed. Carnivore studies including Mountain Lions, Coyotes and Bobcats began in 1996 to better understand how carnivores live and survive in our urbanized and fragmented landscape and how they are affected by those forces. Significant causes of mortality among carnivores are anti-coagulants (rat poison) and vehicle related deaths.

Mountain lions – many with radio tracking – are being studied. Mountain lions need a large habitat. P-22 – the famous mountain lion photographed in front of the Hollywood Sign and featured on the cover of National Geographic magazine – currently resides in Griffith Park. He successfully crossed over the 101 Freeway from the western Santa Monica Mountains and is now part of the Griffith Park Connectivity Study. Increased connectivity across roadways is necessary for the survival, health and population of wildlife. Tunnels, overpasses and other options for wildlife crossings are being discussed, including a crossing point at Liberty Canyon off the 101 Freeway.

Engagement is needed with decision-makers across cities, counties and the state to generate more interest about this important issue. Currently there is an effort to map wildlife corridors between the 101 Freeway and Griffith Park by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

II. Approval of Minutes

The March minutes were approved as submitted.

**Mulholland Scenic Parkway
Design Review Board**

Meets 1st & 3rd Thursday
each month at 6:30 pm

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

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report - Marian Dodge

Marian reported that a thank-you note was received from the attorney representing the neighbors for our opposition to the variance to deviate from the provisions in the BHO for an over-in-height structure at 10550 Bellagio Road.

Marian reported that a stop-work order had been issued for the unpermitted work at 3461 Abington. At this point the project is going to be heard by the Mulholland Design Review Board.

Marian reported that she and Vice President Wendy-Sue Rosen attended a meet-and-greet for Bobby Shriver, who is running for the County Board of Supervisors seat being vacated by Zev Yaroslavsky, at a beautiful property in the western Santa Monica Mountains.

Marian reported that the "State of the City" speech is being given by Mayor Eric Garcetti on Thursday, April 10, 2014 at the Science Center, by invitation only.

Steve Twining, Chair of the Nominating Committee, made a motion to approve the slate of officers to be elected at the May meeting of the Hillside Federation. Motion duly seconded.

President – Marian Dodge

Chairman – Charley Mims

Vice Presidents –

Wendy-Sue Rosen and

Mark Stratton

Treasurer – Don Andres

Recording Secretary – Carol Sidlow

Executive Secretary – John Given

Tony Tucci made a motion for members to vote individually for each office. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Board voted unanimously to approve the slate of Officers.

B. Treasurer’s Report – Don Andres

Don gave Treasurer’s report. 43 of the 44 organizations who have joined have paid dues. Don thanked everyone for the increase in membership and helping make the Hillside Federation stronger than ever. The Executive Committee will continue its efforts to increase membership, especially in hillside areas in the City not currently represented by the Federation.

IV. New Business

A. Sale of Surplus City Properties

Tony Tucci requested that the Federation write a letter to the Mayor, City Attorney, and City Council asking that the City follow State law regarding the sale of surplus City properties and that those properties be environmentally protected in perpetuity as open space. Tony made an additional request to ask that the Hillside Federation establish a new policy for the Department of General Services. The policy would call for the Department to notify abutting property owners and communities receiving the mutual public benefit of the existing open space.

The Hillside Federation members discussed this request in the context of State law, City policy and the importance of the City following State law. Further discussion ensued about current policies and procedures with respect to selling surplus City-owned properties, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy’s ability to acquire properties and the legal and political elements involved.

Marian reported that the Department of General Services had been invited to attend the Hillside Federation meeting to make a presentation but did not respond to her request. Marian will arrange a meeting with appropriate parties and report back to the Hillside Federation Board at a future meeting.

B. Local Coastal Program - Kim Lamorie

Kim Lamorie, President of Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation and sister organization to the Hillside Federation, spoke regarding the Local Coastal Program (LCP) covering 52,000 acres which has been championed for seven years by Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky. The County Board of Supervisors voted in February to support the Local Coastal Program. On April 10, 2014, the California Coastal Commission will meet in Santa Barbara to vote on certification of the Local Coastal Program which is part of the Land Use Plan.

A Local Coastal Program identifies ground rules for future development in the coastal zone. Each LCP includes a land use plan and its implementing measures. These programs govern decisions that determine the short and long term conservation and use of coastal resources. The Coastal Commission formally reviews LCPs for consistency with Coastal Act standards. Major environmental organizations and elected officials including Assemblyman Richard Bloom and State Senator Fran Pavley are in support of the LCP.

Kim requested the Hillside Federation support the report voted on by the Board of Supervisors with recommended changes by Coastal Commission staff. Charley Mims moved to support the Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Program as adopted by the County Board of Supervisors with recommended changes by Coastal Commission staff. Motion duly seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

C. 11767 Bellagio Road – Small Lot Subdivision

Bruce Kuyper, representing neighbors around a proposed Small Lot Subdivision on Bellagio Road, spoke about the demolition of a single family residence to be replaced by six townhomes on a small lot in Bel Air located above Moraga and east of Sepulveda. The applicant originally requested variances but those requests have been withdrawn. An Advisory Agency hearing was held on February 26, 2014 for a Tentative Tract Map and is currently under advisement. Hillside Federation members discussed Small Lot Subdivisions in general, this Small Lot Subdivision in particular, lack of consistency with

**Save these dates for future
2014 Hillside Federation meetings**

May 7
June 4
July 9
August - no meeting
September 3
October 1
November 5

the Bel Air Beverly Crest Community Plan, and the potential negative impacts and precedent this type of development could bring to the various neighborhoods nearby.

Charley Mims moved that the Hillside Federation express its concern about 11767 Bellagio Road due to its impact to the character and nature of the existing neighborhood. He further moved that should the result of the Tentative Tract Map approval process come out without sufficient time for the full Board of the Hillside Federation to act upon it at its next meeting, that the Executive Committee could make a timely reply based upon the findings. Motion seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Old Business

A. Curtis School – Mark Stratton

Mark Stratton reported that the Curtis School project came before the City Planning Commission on March 27, 2014. The staff report was issued days prior to the hearing and recommended disapproval of the access road on Caltrans property, but approval of all other deviations to the Los Angeles Municipal Code.

Prior to the CPC hearing, Marian, Tom Freeman (Hillside Federation legal counsel), and other members of the Executive Committee met with Councilmember Koretz to ask that he oppose the access roadway being cut into the hillside on Caltrans property. At the time Koretz said he was concerned that if the roadway were constructed on Caltrans property it could disturb the wildlife corridor. At the CPC hearing, however, his deputy opposed the roadway, but left open the possibility that it could be constructed in the future if Curtis could get permission from Caltrans.

The Commission discussed at length the traffic study, the improper baseline used for the project, and wildlife easements that the Conservancy had requested. The Commission asked that Curtis go back and do a proper traffic study, which will require recirculation of the MND, a new staff report and another round of hearings. The community will continue to oppose the City bypassing the grading limits of the BHO, the exceptions to the Specific Plan, and the access roadway being constructed on Caltrans property.

B. Hollywood Sign Traffic – Lucy Gonzalez

Lucy Gonzalez spoke about the terrible traffic congestion and dangerous roadway conditions created in the hillside areas around the Hollywood

Sign by visitors hoping to view the iconic sign. Meetings have been held with the communities impacted and some solutions have been proposed, including Temporary Preferred parking on Saturday, Sundays and Holidays from 8:00 am – 6:00 pm. The Recreation and Parks Department is building a gate at the top of Beachwood, which would be locked to vehicular traffic but allow for pedestrian traffic and hikers. The area is closed while the gate is being constructed.

C. Hollywood Community Plan Update

George Abrahams reported that the City Council voted to rescind the 2012 Hollywood Community Plan. However, there is controversy regarding making infrastructure improvements ‘discretionary’ and not mandatory as part of the Community Plan as this may be inconsistent with the General Plan Framework and many current community plans in the City. George reported that the recent Neighborhood Council elections for the Central Hollywood Neighborhood Council has brought in new members and new groups forming to weigh in on issues in Hollywood.

D. Slope Remediation – 1825 Laurel Canyon

Carol Sidlow reported that a cement truck fell down the hill at the top of the landslide on Crescent Heights Blvd. The news reported the incident and stated that the driver was lucky to make it out alive. The company doing the remediation work sent a letter out explaining what happened and included mitigations to hopefully prevent this from happening again.

E. Re:code LA – Carol Sidlow

Carol Sidlow reported that the last of the Planning Forums are being held over the next two weekends – Saturday, April 5, 2014, in Van Nuys at Van Nuys City Hall, and Saturday, April 12, 2014, in San Pedro. Everyone is encouraged to attend and participate. Further information is available at: www.recodela.org.

VI. Announcements

Don announced that Cyd Ziegler, delegate from Upper Nichols Canyon to the Hillside Federation, is the newly elected Vice President of the Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council.

VII. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

- continued next page -

minutes continued:

Members Present:

Beachwood Canyon
Bel Air Skycrest
Benedict Canyon
Brentwood Hills
Canyon Back Allian.
Franklin Av/Hlwd Bl.

Franklin Hills Res.
Hollywoodland
Kagel Canyon
Laurel Canyon

Lookout Mountain
Los Feliz Impvmt.
Oaks HOA
Roscomare Valley

Upper Mandeville

Guests Present:

AD 50 field rep
Chair Emeritus
Las Virgenes H Fed
CLAW
Lake Hlwd Estates
Bel Air

George Abrahams
Mark Stratton
Nickie Miner
John Given
Lois Becker
Don Andres
Yvonne Hessler
Charley Mims
Lucy Gonzalez
Kit Paull
Tony Tucci
Alison Simard
Wendell Meldrum
Marian Dodge
Gerry Hans
Steve Twining
Shirley Cohen
James Provenzano

Tim Pershing
Patricia Bell Hearst
Kim Lamorie
Skip Haynes
Brett Kornblatt
Bruce Kuyper
Pat Nation

Reminder: City Information & Services are Available via the City's MyLA311 App

As a reminder, the City of Los Angeles implemented its MyLA311 App in 2013.

MyLA311 is available for both iOS and Android smartphones. The service allows users to make service requests, pay their LADWP bill, and receive news from City Hall, among other things.

For more information or to download the app, visit: <http://lacity.org/MyLA311/>.

That web page also includes links to submit a service request online, as well as key City telephone numbers and information.



"MyLA 311 puts the power of City Hall in the palm of your hand."

<p>The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Inc. P.O. Box 27404 Los Angeles, CA 90027 president@hillsidefederation.org www.hillsidefederation.org</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>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 Tarzana Property Owners Assn. Torreyson Flynn Assn.</p>	<p>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</p> <p>CHAIRPERSONS IN MEMORIAM Brian Moore Polly Ward</p>
<p>PRESIDENT Marian Dodge CHAIRMAN Charley Mims VICE PRESIDENTS Mark Stratton Wendy-Sue Rosen SECRETARY Carol Sidlow TREASURER Don Andres EXECUTIVE SECRETARY John Given</p>			