

# Hillside Federation Newsletter February 2019



## Environmental Groups Offer Wildfire Advice to Governor Newsom

Five environmental organizations (California Chaparral Institute, Sierra Club California, Center for Biological Diversity, The John Muir Project of the Earth Institute, and Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation) sent an open letter to California Governor Gavin Newsom in January, offering twelve detailed policy suggestions to the new administration on wildfire and related issues. The letter urges Governor Newsom “to break with the conventions that have led to the crisis and focus fire risk reduction efforts where it matters most – directly on our homes and communities, and *where* we build them.”

The letter includes a primer on wildfire and a lengthy list of academic research from wildfire experts. The letter and supporting materials provide a significant policy resource for local, state, and federal officials and those concerned or interested in wildfire policy.

Given the importance of the issue and its potential solutions for the Santa Monica Mountains and other hillside and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, we strongly encourage members to review the letter and recommendations.

The letter is available at California Chaparral Institute’s website:

[http://www.californiachaparral.com/images/  
Gov\\_Newsom\\_Wildfires\\_2019.pdf](http://www.californiachaparral.com/images/Gov_Newsom_Wildfires_2019.pdf).

## Agenda

February 6, 2019

7:00 pm

Pinz Bowling Center, 2nd Floor  
12655 Ventura Blvd., Studio City

### I. Call to Order

**Guest:** Erin Schneider from Office of  
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl

### II. Approval of minutes

### III. Officers’ Reports

A. President’s Report – Charley Mims

B. Treasurer’s Report – Don Andres

### IV. Old Business

A. Bel Air Country Club Tree Removal  
update - Linda Whitford

B. Burbank Flight Path update  
– Suellen Wagner

### IV. New Business

A. Councilmember David Ryu’s motion to  
restrict developer donations

B. Hollywood Community Plan – Jamie Hall

### VI. Adjournment

Next meeting  
March 6, 2019  
7:00 p.m.

Pinz Bowling Center, 2nd Floor  
12655 Ventura Blvd., Studio City

**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.*

## City Planning Wildlife Pilot Study

The Hillside Federation's January meeting featured a special presentation from the Los Angeles City Planning Department regarding the City's Wildlife Pilot Study. Federation members generally liked the direction of Planning's presentation for the study. Proposed boundaries are east of the I-405 freeway and west of the 101 in the Santa Monica Mountains, but many expressed a desire that it cover a larger area including areas on the other sides of the freeways so that more data on wildlife connectivity could be collected. Slides from the presentation may be viewed at <https://planning.lacity.org/Documents/Citywide/WildlifePilotStudy/StudyBoards.pdf>.

The council motion to initiate the study has the following objectives: protect remaining open spaces and wildlife habitat; increase wildlife mobility; prevent further wildlife injuries/deaths; designate sensitive habitat areas; and incorporate conservation, equity, and biodiversity. Presentation materials included a variety of concept regulations intended to fulfill these objectives. Members expressed concern that enforcement of regulations will be critical to the success of the program.

Planning seeks input from all interested parties, and we encourage federation members to participate. Please review the information at the link above and email comments to: [lena.mik@lacity.org](mailto:lena.mik@lacity.org) and [nina.phinouwong@lacity.org](mailto:nina.phinouwong@lacity.org). Please also forward or cc your emails to the Federation at [chairman@hillsidefederation.org](mailto:chairman@hillsidefederation.org).

We hope our constituent organizations and their members will all provide comments.

### Bringing an Issue to the Federation

If your organization would like to bring an issue to the attention of the Federation, please complete a Request for Action form (available at [www.hillsidefederation.org](http://www.hillsidefederation.org)) and send it to [RFA@hillsidefederation.org](mailto:RFA@hillsidefederation.org) along with supporting documents no later than 10 days prior to the meeting. This will help you organize your presentation while providing the necessary information to allow the Federation to consider your organization's request.

### Federal Government Shut Down Delays Fire Cleanup and Interferes with Wildlife Data Collection

An interesting story about adverse effects of the recent 35-day federal government shutdown on National Park Service employees who work in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area was published in late January by [LAist.com](http://LAist.com).

Ryan Fonseca's article (available at: [https://laist.com/2019/01/29/shutdowns\\_effects\\_on\\_santa\\_monica\\_mountains\\_national\\_park.php](https://laist.com/2019/01/29/shutdowns_effects_on_santa_monica_mountains_national_park.php)) details the critical post-Woolsey fire work that remains: cleaning up burn areas including Paramount Ranch, rooting out invasive plant species that might quickly establish a foothold, and removing hazardous debris. Four NPS employees lost their homes in the Woolsey fire.

NPS wildlife work has also been negatively impacted, with loss of more than a month of data collection, less time to capture and tag local bobcats, and concern over loss of habitat for the endangered red-legged frog. In addition, a new mountain lion was spotted in the mountains, but could not be collared because the NPS biologists who capture and tag mountain lions were furloughed.

**Hillside Federation**  
**January 9, 2019**  
**Draft Minutes**

**I. Call to Order**

President Charley Mims called the meeting to order at 7:11 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

**Guest: Hagu Solomon-Cary,**

Director of Planning, Council District 5

CD 5 is working on three policy issues. They are working diligently to update the Hillside Construction Regulation Ordinance (HCR), the area covered, however, will not be expanded. CD 5 is working with LA County on the Ridgeline Ordinance to make it a comprehensive ordinance with wildlife protections. Alison Simard reported that CM Koretz has been working on the the Wildlife Corridor project for 8 years to get wildlife protections into an ordinance. There are new developments and ideas coming through.

**Presentation: Wildlife Pilot Study**

- LA City Planning Department: **Conni Pallini, Lena Mik, and Nina Phinouwong**

A pdf version of Planning's Wildlife Pilot Study presentation is available online at: <https://planning.lacity.org/Documents/Citywide/WildlifePilotStudy/StudyBoards.pdf>.

The goal of the study is to maintain and preserve the current open/wildlife corridors. The Pilot Study area is located between the 405 and the 101 freeways in the Santa Monica Mountains. The study will focus on new development at first. The regulations will develop Protection Areas for Wildlife (PAWS), with a goal of reducing wildlife deaths, designating sensitive habitat areas, and reducing fire risk.

The study is being coordinated with LA County's Significant Ecological Areas (SEA) and the federal Rim of the Valley project. The Bureau of Sanitation is heavily involved in the water and biodiversity aspects. The pilot study will fit in with the Mayor's Sustainability Plan. The pilot study is in the process of developing design recommendations for fencing, landscaping, trash enclosures, buffers, lighting, and windows.

Approximately 100 people attended their first open house in November. They are seeking feedback from the public on their proposals.

Comments on the pilot study may be sent to the Department of Planning's Citywide Unit to: Lena Mik, [lena.mik@lacity.org](mailto:lena.mik@lacity.org), 213-978-2717, or

Nina Phinouwong, [nina.phinouwong@lacity.org](mailto:nina.phinouwong@lacity.org), 213-978-1302.

Federation member comments to the pilot study team included the following: Charley Mims requested contacts for the Bureau of Sanitation & Mayor's Sustainability Plan. Mark Stratton stressed the need for enforcement. Cathy Wayne cited the need to protect trees and ridgelines, and Slope Density regulations. Mary Ledding is concerned about fences for privacy and protection from two-legged animals. Gerry Hans recommended expanding the pilot study to include at least a little land on the other side of the freeways in order to protect connectivity.

Marian thanked the Planning Department for making a full presentation to the Federation.

**II. Approval of minutes**

The November minutes were approved as corrected.

**III. Officers' Reports**

**A. President's Report – Charley Mims**

Former County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky's wife Barbara died.

The Hollywood Community Plan comment period is closing January 31. Check your neighborhood to see if any changes are planned, especially for height, zoning, and street use.

ADU Ordinance - Planning is waffling on the ordinance; you need to continue to contact your councilmembers to notify them that you are concerned and want ADU's banned in hillside Very High Fire Hazard Severity areas. CMs Ryu and Koretz support a ban in hillside areas.

**B. Treasurer's Report – Don Andres**

The Holiday Party was a great success with 107 attendees. It was sold out before Thanksgiving.

The 2018 year-end financial report was presented and discussed.

**MOTION:** Don moved that the financial report be approved. The motion passed.

**MOTION:** Steve Twining, on behalf of Patricia Bell Hearst, moved that the Federation make a contribution of \$100 to the Saban Community Clinic in memory of Barbara Yaroslavsky. The motion passed. Members were encouraged to make contributions as well.

**IV. Old Business**

A. Burbank Flight Path Over Santa Monica Mtns

- Suellen Wagner

The flight paths are in somewhat of a “holding pattern.” The FAA workshops were unsatisfactory as they did not address 4F noise sensitive areas. Councilmembers have written letters. The deadline to comment has been pushed back to April 25th, 2019. Community members have made some progress by speaking with Burbank Airport directly. The airport can request changes in flight paths. The FAA is likely to do an Environmental Assessment (EA).

**V. New Business**

A. 1446 Avon Pl. – Will Barrett, Silver Lake Heritage Trust

A developer has purchased open space known as Kite Hill. Avon Terrace is on a 39% slope. The project is located on a paper street. Owner would need concrete pylons to build a road, which requires deviations from the Baseline Hillside Ordinance. The community tried to purchase the property but the developer refused to sell and refuses to keep a trail open that has been used by locals for many decades. A ZA hearing is scheduled for January 15, 2019.

**MOTION:** Steve Twining moved that the Federation support maintaining the natural habitat and hiking trail on Kite Hill and request the hearing time be extended. The motion passed.

**VI. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephen Benson, Recording Secretary

**Members in Attendance:**

- |                         |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Bel-Air Assn            | Linda Whitford  |
| Bel Air Hills Assn      | Robin Greenberg |
|                         | Steve Twining   |
| Bel Air Skycrest POA    | Mark Stratton   |
| Brentwood Hills HOA     | John Given      |
| Cahuenga Pass POA       | Steven Kates    |
|                         | Krista Michaels |
| Canyon Back Alliance    | Lois Becker     |
| Doheny-Sunset Plaza     | Ellen Evans     |
| Franklin/Hlywd Bl W     | Don Andres      |
|                         | Yvonne Hessler  |
| Franklin Hills Res Assn | Charley Mims    |
| Hollywood Dell Civic    | Mary Ledding    |
| Laurel Cyn Assn         | Cathy Wayne     |
| Los Feliz Impvmt Assn   | Marian Dodge    |
| Oaks HOA                | Gerry Hans      |
| Res of Beverly Glen     | Stephen Benson  |
| Save Coldwater Cyn      | Heidi Mackay    |
|                         | Suellen Wagner  |
| Shadow Hills POA        | Cindy Bloom     |
| Silver Lake Herit Trust | Will Barrett    |
| Studio City Res Assn    | Alan Dymond     |
| Upper Nichols Cyn       | Joan Cashel     |

**GUESTS:**

- |                |                      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| CD 5           | Hagu Solomon-Cary    |
|                | Alison Simard        |
| Planning Dept. | Conni Pallini-Tipton |
|                | Lena Mik             |
|                | Nina Phinouwong      |
| CLAW           | Andrew Lasken        |
|                | Tony Tucci           |
|                | Megan Evans          |
| CPPOA          | Karen Reesenfeld     |
| Shadow Hills   | James Gutman         |

The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Inc. P.O. Box 27404 Los Angeles, CA 90027 <a href="mailto:president@hillsidefederation.org">president@hillsidefederation.org</a> <a href="http://www.hillsidefederation.org">www.hillsidefederation.org</a>	<b>ORGANIZATIONS</b> Argyle Civic Assn. Beachwood Canyon Bel Air Association Bel-Air Hills Association 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 CASM-SFV Crests Neighborhood Assn. Doheny-Sunset Plaza NA Franklin Ave./Hollywood Bl. W. Franklin Hills Residents Assn. Highlands Owners Assn. Hollywood Dell Civic Assn.	Hollywood Heights Assn. Holmby Hills HOA Kagel Canyon Civic Assn. Lake Hollywood HOA Laurel Canyon 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 Residents of Beverly Glen Save Coldwater Canyon! Shadow Hills Property Owners Sherman Oaks HO Assn. Silver Lake Heritage Trust	Studio City Residents Assn. Sunset Hills HOA Tarzana Property Owners Assn. Torreyson Flynn Assn. Upper Mandeville Canyon Upper Nichols Canyon Whitley Heights Civic Assn.  <b>CHAIRPERSONS EMERITUS</b> Shirley Cohen Jerome C. Daniel Patricia Bell Hearst Alan Kishbaugh Steve Twining  <b>CHAIRPERSONS IN MEMORIAM</b> Brian Moore Gordon Murley Polly Ward
<b>PRESIDENT</b> Charley Mims			
<b>CHAIRMAN</b> Marian Dodge			
<b>VICE PRESIDENTS</b> Mark Stratton John Given			
<b>TREASURER</b> Don Andres			
<b>SECRETARY</b> Stephen Benson			