

Hillside Federation Newsletter September 2019



National Park Service

P-61 Is Most Recent Victim

We all cheered when mountain lion P-61 successfully crossed the 405 freeway from west to east in July. He was the first GPS-collared mountain lion to cross the 405 in the 17 years that the National Park Service has been tracking the big cats. (P-22 was not collared until he got all the way to Griffith Park in 2012.)

Unfortunately the 4-year-old male lion was struck and killed on September 7 when he tried to cross back to the west of the 405 near Bel Air Crest Road. Researchers suspect that P-61 may have encountered an uncollared male on the east side of the freeway who challenged his right to that turf.

Freeways have created barriers for the movement of lions to other open spaces. Many animals have been killed trying to cross freeways, highlighting the need to build the wildlife crossing planned for the 101 freeway in Agoura Hills. The National Wildlife Federation is raising money for that project.

<https://savelacougars.org>

Agenda

September 17, 2019

7:00 pm

Unitarian Universalist Church of Studio City
12355 Moorpark Street, Studio City

I. Call to Order

Guest: Nicole Kuklok-Waldman, Chris Parker
3003 Runyon Canyon Rd.

V. New Business

A. 3003 Runyon Canyon - Joan Cashel

II. Approval of minutes

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report - Charley Mims

B. Treasurer's Report - Don Andres

IV. Old Business

A. AB 1788 Rodenticide ban update

B. Protected Tree Ordinance update

V. New Business con't

B. Mountaingate membership

VI. Adjournment

Next meeting October 15, 2019

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.*



Los Angeles Times

Will Neighbors Get Any Justice?

When luxury developer Mohamed Hadid was charged with three misdemeanor counts regarding his huge project at 901 Strada Vecchia Road, his Bel Air neighbors thought they would finally get some justice. Hadid was charged with illegal use of land, building without a permit, and failure to comply with Building and Safety orders to make the building comply with code or demolish the non-permitted features of the building. He built entire areas including an IMAX theater that were never approved. Hadid pleaded no contest to the criminal charges and was sentenced to community service and fines and ordered to stabilize the slope.

Hadid was sentenced to perform hundreds of hours of community service at a church; however neighbors are concerned that he is not doing the required hours of community service. Hadid's social media posts appear to show him at gala events in Europe when he was supposedly performing his community service in Los Angeles. Apparently one of his employees has been performing the hours at the church for him. The City Attorney's Office said there is insufficient evidence to establish a probation violation.

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) and send it to 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.

Save these dates for
Hillside Federation meetings:

October 15
November 19
Holiday Party
December 12

Protected Tree Ordinance to PLUM

The amendments to the Protected Tree Ordinance CF 13-1339 are to be heard by PLUM Tuesday, Sept. 17
2:30 pm
Council Chambers City Hall

The amendments will consider adding toyon and elderberry to the list of protected trees as well as what size tree will be protected.

The Federation supports the addition of both the Mexican elderberry and toyon to the protected tree list because of the fruits they provide for our native birds. Additionally, with the loss of so many trees to drought and insect infestation, it is more important than ever to protect these smaller trees. Send in your letter of support now.



toyon - Native Plant Society



Mexican elderberry - NMSU

Do Fire Breaks Work?

The Los Angeles Times has an excellent article on fire breaks, Sunday, September 15, p. A1. For years the state's fire protection policy has been to create long, wide fire breaks to stop fires. However research scientists have analyzed fires and found that wind-driven fires blow right over fire breaks, a conclusion confirmed by observations of local fire chiefs. Adding fire resistant features such as ember-proof vents to houses is a far more effective way to protect homes.

Fire breaks cause a huge loss of habitat, cause erosion, often have to be recut every year, and are expensive. Modifications to homes do not impact the environment, are relatively inexpensive, and last for years. However the state's priority is still focused on fire breaks, not on hardening homes.

The online version of the article has fascinating graphics of several recent California wildfires.

<https://www.latimes.com/projects/wildfire-california-fuel-breaks-newsom-paradise/>

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

**Hillside Federation
Unitarian Universalist Church of Studio City
7/16/19
Draft Minutes**

I. Call to Order

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

Guests: LAPD Office of Emergency Services - Officer John Davis, Officer Peter Feher
Major incident response team

The Mandeville Canyon evacuation drill is an example of how LAPD practices an evacuation plan. Their main job is to coordinate organizations and groups with outreach to the community residents. Big fires in and around the residential areas of Los Angeles, and evacuation is a joint operation. They are prepared at all times to respond to a major event and provide information and guidance to the citizens at the 30+ minute zone. Prepare a “go” kit with 1-3 days of provisions, medications, food and clothes in each car or at least ready to grab in case of an emergency. The emphasis is on brush clearance with that being one of the biggest factors when a fire comes through the hillsides. Community activism to share information is key in times of disaster or emergency. It is one of the greatest resources for emergency officials and helps them provide greater assistance to our hillside communities. All tools will be and should be utilized in emergencies and times of need. Sign up to be notified and share with your neighbors. Notify LA is the new Reverse 911.

There were many questions from board members. LAPD meets on location at the scene of emergencies in order to respond accordingly when a situation needs attention. Traffic (DOT) is very well coordinated with LAPD Emergency Response. Having multiple evacuation options if they are available and knowing your way out is important. Prepare before disaster strikes. Practice prior to needing to use the evacuation plan.

II. Approval of minutes

The June minutes were approved as corrected.

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report - Charley Mims

Three associations submitted letters. The Federation is encouraging more groups to send in letters regarding AB 1788, the rodenticide ban.

Many meetings are scheduled regarding Harvard-Westlake School's development plans for the Weddington golf and tennis open space in Studio City.

B. Treasurer's Report - Charley Mims

42 member organizations have paid their dues. The new date for the Holiday Party is December 19 at the Mulholland Tennis Club. [Note: The date has since been changed back to the 12th.]

IV. Old Business

A. 1400 Linda Flora update - Robin Greenberg

1400 Linda Flora came on the market on July 12, 2019, asking \$59,000,000. It is zoned LARE40 and is a 30-acre parcel with 7 graded acres. Plans call for a 40,000 square foot residence, including an 11-car subterranean auto gallery and a world-class wellness center. The sale listing states that “the surrounding acreage is ideal for a private label vineyard.”

Senderos (Hoag Canyon) came on the market June 2, 2019, asking \$75,000,000. It is 250 acres in the heart of Bel Air and represents 6% of Bel Air's total land area. This unentitled land is bordered by Mulholland on North, Moraga Drive on the South, Bel Air Crest on the West, and Linda Flora Drive on the East.

B. Kite Hill (1446 W. Avon Pl) update - Silverlake Heritage Trust

The walking trail and access to the stairs has been open to the community for as long as anyone can remember. There is only a paper street off a sub-standard street. The proposed development is right in the middle of the trail. So, the development has stopped and SMMC has appraised the land and is preparing to make an offer but it will likely be far lower than the owner's expectation on the value. www.kitehill.org