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May 4, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom Governor of California 1303 10th Street, Suite 1173 Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Public Comment Deadlines for Environmental Review

Dear Governor Newsom:

The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Inc., founded in 1952, represents 44 homeowner and resident associations with approximately 250,000 constituents spanning the Santa Monica Mountains. Attached to this letter is a request to certain state legislators to ensure their local constituents will have sufficient ability to make informed public comment on a major land use project in Los Angeles.

The request raises an issue that the Governor's Office of Planning and Research is perhaps best equipped to address: ensuring that the COVID-19 pandemic crisis does not inadvertently result in a systematic failure to allow meaningful public participation of environmental review processes in California. While your office and OPR have provided guidance that deadlines for filing, noticing, and posting of CEQA documents with county clerk offices have been temporarily suspended through Executive Order N-54-20, no such guidance has issued to ensure interested stakeholders will retain their right to meaningful public participation due to notice and access problems caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We hope you will use the resources of your office to rectify this problem.

Sincerely,

Charley Mims, President