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March 2022

HILLSIDE NEWS

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AGENDA AND MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Agenda - March 15, 2022 at 7:00 pm

via Video Conference

1. Call to Order
 1. Guest Series: Getting to Know Candidates
 1. Senator Henry Stern -- Candidate, LA County Supervisor
 2. Louis Abramson – Candidate, Assembly District 51
 2. CD 5 Update - Daniel Skolnick/Ali Simard
 3. CD 4 Update - Mehmet Berker
2. Approval of minutes – Robin Greenberg
3. Officers' Reports
 1. President's Report - Charley Mims
 2. Treasurer's Report - Don Andres
4. Old Business

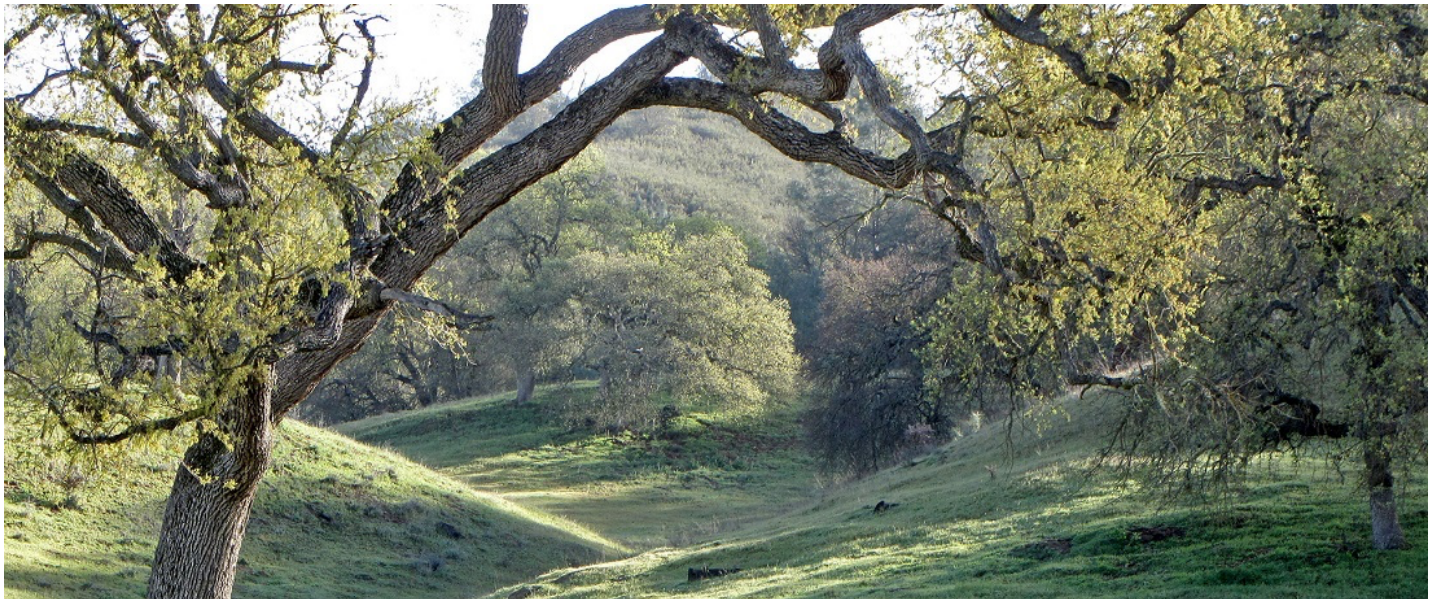
1. Mount St. Mary's University Project - Wendy-Sue Rosen
2. Mirman School Project - Mark Stratton
3. Mulholland Design Review Board Memorandum update - Don Andres
4. SB 9 & 10 update - Jamie Hall
5. New Business
6. Adjournment

Next meeting April 19, 2022

February 15, 2021 - Draft Minutes

NEWS

SB 1404 Introduced by Senator Henry Stern



From Laurel Canyon Association
March 8, 2022

California Environmental Quality Act: Oak Woodlands.

We are very happy to report that Senator Henry Stern has introduced SB 1404. This establishes

that "*The removal of three or more oak trees within an oak woodland shall constitute a significant effect on the environment.*" This underlines the significance of the impacts to oak woodlands on our ecosystems. It also amends the California Oak Woodlands Conservation Act to include ALL public agencies - including the City of Los Angeles. Finally, the existing law says that tree replacements can only constitute *one half* of the mitigation. The rest of the mitigation must take the form of conservation easements over existing oak woodlands, payment into a trust fund for woodland conservation, etc. Tree replacements *alone* do not suffice.

Laurel Canyon is home to many oak woodlands and this legislation will protect those woodlands if passed. If you would like to express your support for the bill, e-mail our State Senator, Ben Allen, at Senator.Allen@Senate.CA.Gov.

Thank you to LCA President Jamie Hall, who brought this issue to the attention of Senator Stern.

Read more of the Senate Bill [HERE](#)

Last chance to take the Ventura-Cahuenga Specific Plan survey!



From LA City Planning
March 8, 2022

Los Angeles City Planning is amending the Ventura-Cahuenga Boulevard Corridor Specific Plan that dictates how collected development fees are spent on public improvements to the right-of-way. This impacts public space and how you will access destinations along the Corridor for decades into the future. We want to hear from everyone who is interested in improving the Corridor for businesses, residents, and visitors alike. As a follow-up to our [Fall 2021 outreach meetings](#), we posted a [series of surveys](#) on our website to get more feedback from all of you on this topic.

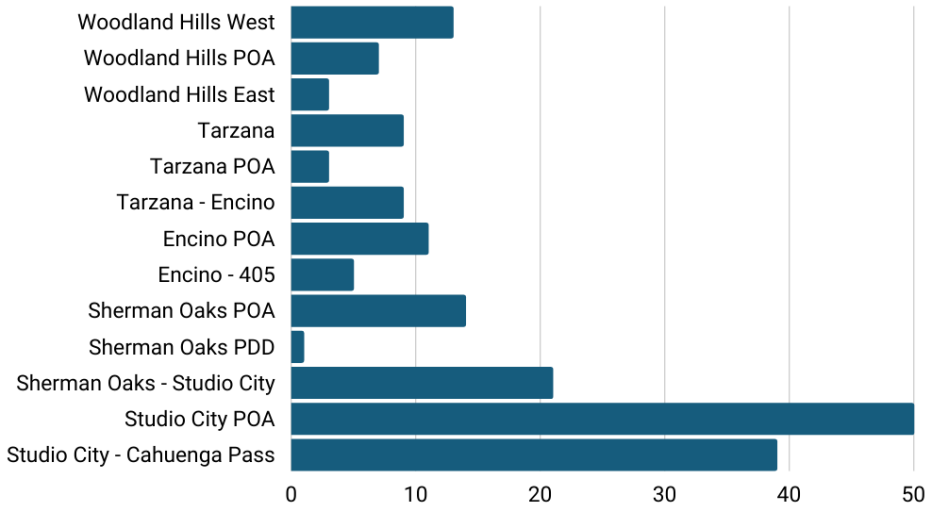
The Ventura-Cahuenga Boulevard Corridor is 17 miles long, and we understand that each community has its own unique needs and local priorities. For that reason, we have divided the corridor into 13 segments. Your feedback will help us verify our observations and identify the issues and priorities that are most important to your community. You may provide feedback on more than one segment if you wish.

Prior to responding to our survey, we encourage you to learn more about the scope of our work program by reviewing the materials from our Fall 2021 Information and Listening Session meeting available [here](#).

[Take the Survey](#)

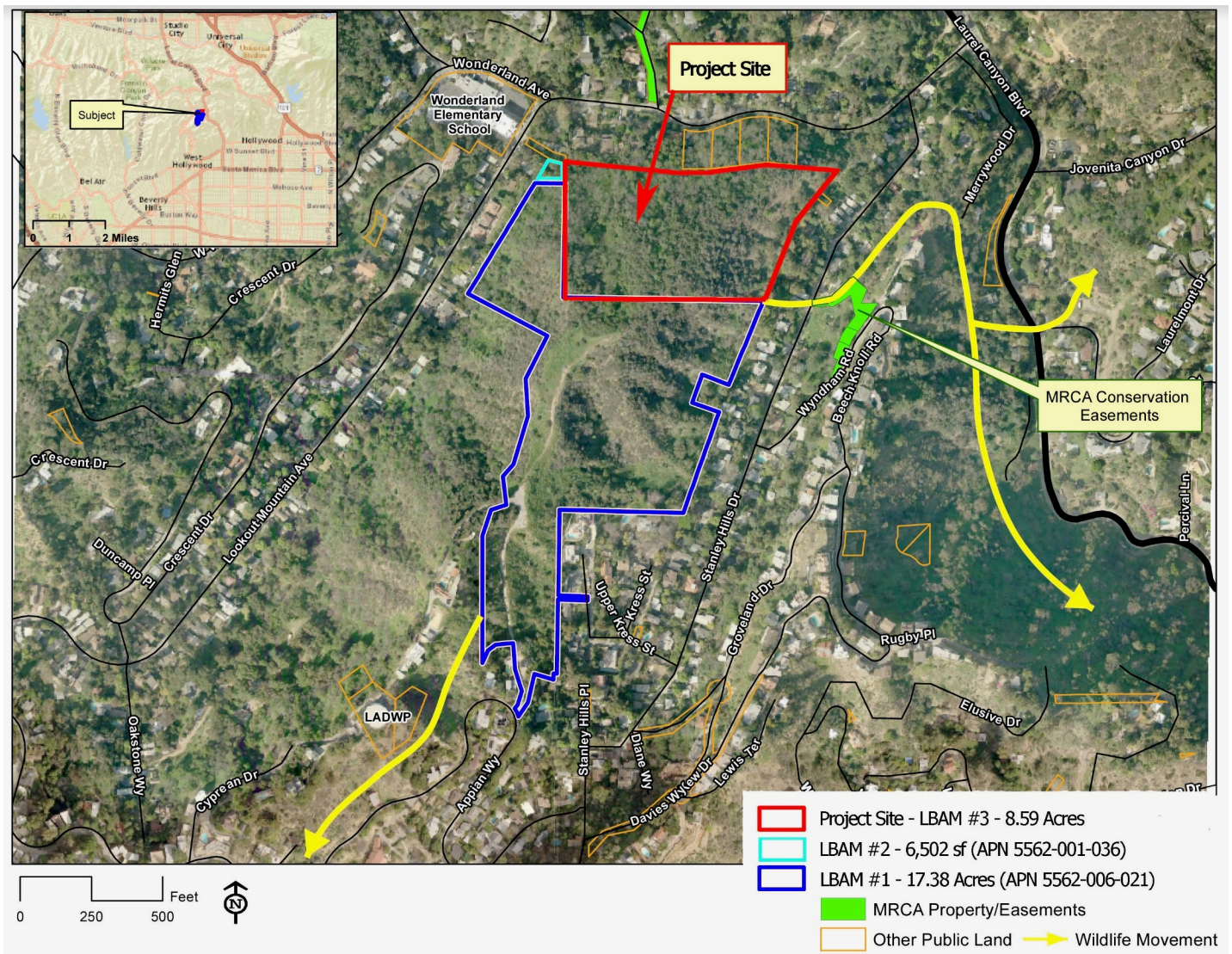
The survey will close Tuesday, March 15, 2022. As a reminder, the survey is only one forum to provide input and you will have more opportunities to provide feedback throughout the process. If you have additional comments to share now or after the survey closes, we invite you to visit our [Contact page](#) and submit a comment.

Responses Received to Date



Response count as of March 7, 2022 12:00 PM. All surveys will continue to be open for responses until Tuesday, March 15, 2022 11:59 PM.

Laurel Canyon's Nature Preserve Grows to 26 Acres!



From Laurel Canyon Land Trust
 March 7, 2022

We are so excited to report that the Laurel Canyon Land Trust has closed on another 9 acre open space acquisition project in Laurel Canyon - home to a beautiful Walnut Woodland and an uncollared Mountain Lion, a critically threatened species. This expands the Let's Buy a Mountain Nature Preserve to 26 acres! Wow!

Thank you to the California Natural Resources Agency for providing essential grant money, the 70 private donors and the Laurel Canyon Association who covered the out of pocket expenses, the organizations, foundations and elected officials that supported our grant application, our volunteer grant writer, Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife ("CLAW"), and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority. The LCLT Board of Directors is eternally grateful!

Ever Wondered How You Can Help?

We are facing a global climate crisis and the natural environment will suffer dire consequences as

a result. Urgent action is required. Land conservation is a critical part of meeting this challenge. Do you want to be a part of the solution?

Here are some ways you can help!

- *Do you own vacant land in Laurel Canyon? Consider donating it! You could be eligible for a substantial tax benefit.*
 - *Does your backyard contain undeveloped, native habitat? Consider a conservation easement! Again, you could be eligible for a substantial tax benefit.*
 - *Want to make an immediate impact? Contribute to our current land acquisition project [HERE](#). We are trying to preserve 2135 and 2141 Laurel Canyon Boulevard.*
 - *Feel like helping stuff envelopes to potential donors? Shoot us an e-mail!*
 - *Other ideas? Shoot us an e-mail!*
-

In memory of George Abrahams



From Marian Dodge
March 7, 2022

I attended a ceremony at Mt. Sinai Sunday for the unveiling of George's headstone. About 20 people attended the outdoor ceremony to remember George. The bird represents his love for wildlife.

LA City Council Directs City to Offer SMMC First Right of Refusal

From the Office of Councilmember Paul Koretz
March 2, 2022

The Los Angeles City Council voted in favor of a motion that directs the Department of General Services to identify City-owned surplus property in the Santa Monica Mountains Zone and codify that the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) shall have the first right of refusal to acquire such lands for conservation at the City of Los Angeles's purchase price plus any administrative and management costs incurred by the City.

In 2008-9, LA Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa initiated the "Own A Piece of LA" program to itemize, account for, and offer undevelopable slivers of City surplus land and/or remnant parcels to adjoining neighbors since they are deemed incapable of independent development and can only be of use to adjoining property owners. However, with advanced engineering innovations in recent decades, development in sensitive ecological areas has increased, resulting in the fragmentation and degradation of essential remaining wildlife habitat connectivity and corridors, particularly in the Santa Monica Mountains Zone, home to the Southern California subpopulation of the Mountain Lion. Local mountain lions are now a "candidate" species under consideration for listing as "threatened" under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) by the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

"While I have been working with the City Planning Department for the better part of a decade to protect wildlife habitat connectivity in the Santa Monica Mountains, it is imperative that we be certain we are not at the same time inadvertently selling off parcels for development that could obstruct the very linkages we are working so hard to protect," said Councilmember Paul Koretz. "Thank you to Councilmembers Raman and Blumenfield for continuing to partner with me in our shared commitment to protect our precious wildlife and habitats in our Santa Monica Mountains."

"Wildlife habitat connectivity is so essential to the survival of the cornerstone species we share our Santa Monica mountains with, and many areas are in serious danger of being blocked if we do not act urgently and consciously," said Paul Edelman, Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and its chief biologist "Today's action by the City Council is so important and affirms the State legislature's 1979 Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Act, but more steps need to be taken sooner rather than later."

"Our park land is precious and acknowledging the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's right of first refusal at the original purchase price for surplus City land underscores our commitment and prevents any confusion," said Councilmember Bob Blumenfield. "When critical open space is lost, it's usually lost forever and the SMMC is the biggest protector of our wildlife corridors, open space, and indigenous plant species in the region."

"This motion allows the Santa Monica Conservancy to have the right of first refusal when the city disposes of public land in the Santa Monica Mountains. My district contains so much of the beautiful and unique Santa Monica Mountain range, and I am so proud to partner with

Councilmember Koretz to ensure that we preserve as much of this land as possible and prevent it from being developed," said Councilmember Nithya Raman.

"It is essential for our collective long-term health that caution preempts short-term profit when addressing City-owned open space in the Santa Monica Mountains," said Tony Tucci, co-founder of Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife (CLAW) who brought this issue to the City Council's attention.

"Today's City Council vote recognizes that undeveloped City-owned lands of any size in our hillsides let us all "breathe" and that this land has an inherent and immediate value to our environment and a long-term benefit for the wellbeing of both our wildlife and human populations of Los Angeles."

"Thanks to Councilmembers Koretz, Raman and Blumenfield for ensuring the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy has an opportunity to preserve our precious natural resources one surplus lot and sliver of land at a time," said Wendy-Sue Rosen, Brentwood Alliance of Canyons & Hillsides.

Los Angeles is located in a global biodiversity hotspot called the California Floristic Province, which means that it includes more than 1,500 endemic plant species, that at least 70 percent of the area's original habitat has been lost, and that the rest is endangered by human activities. Much of the remaining biodiversity within Los Angeles is located in the mountains and hillsides including the Santa Monica Mountains Zone. Plants and animals need these interconnected ecosystems to continue to exist and flourish within this urban context and this biodiversity hotspot is jeopardized by increased development and habitat fragmentation.

Senate Bill 9 Implementation

Senate Bill 9 Implementation Memorandum



From Los Angeles City Planning
February 28, 2022

On February 10, City Planning issued a memorandum co-authored by the Los Angeles Housing Department and the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety that provided guidance for applicants interested in taking advantage of [Senate Bill \(SB\) 9](#). This State legislation requires that any proposed housing project containing no more than two residential units within a single-family residential zone be considered ministerially (without discretionary review), provided that the project meets certain requirements, including no loss of covenanted affordable units through demolition or alteration.

SB 9 took effect on January 1, 2022. Known as the California Housing Opportunity and More Efficiency (“HOME”) Act, SB 9 facilitates the subdivision of lots by single-family zoned property owners, as well as building a duplex or two detached units on a lot through a ministerial process.

While most two-unit projects proposed under SB 9 can proceed directly to [Plan Check](#), applicants are still encouraged to meet with City Planning prior to filing if the project is located in a [plan overlay](#). For more information, contact planning.figcounter@lacity.org.

[Department Memo](#)
[Fact Sheet](#)

Ridgeline Protection Ordinance Update

Ridgeline Protection Ordinance



From Los Angeles City Planning
February 28, 2022

On February 3, City Planning announced that the proposed Ridgeline Protection Ordinance would become part of the [Wildlife Pilot Study](#) program. In light of feedback received, the Department has determined that the goals of these parallel but related work programs would be best served by combining them into a single ordinance to consolidate present efforts.

The [Wildlife Pilot Study](#) is a proposed ordinance that introduces development regulations aimed at protecting and preserving Los Angeles's natural resources, habitats, and ecosystems. Ridgelines, as potential corridors for wildlife mobility, have been considered a critical resource under the proposed Wildlife Pilot Study. The draft ordinance for the Wildlife Pilot Study aims to incorporate ridgeline protections, in keeping with the City's overall goals on sustainability.

By consolidating ridgeline protections into the Wildlife Pilot Study, City Planning will be incorporating the ecological, biological, and environmental resources currently analyzed under both ordinances and apply them uniformly across Los Angeles's ridgelines and the Wildlife Pilot Study area. The revised ordinance is slated for release this spring.

[Fact Sheet](#)

Save the date: Hillside Federation's 70th Anniversary



1952 - 2022

Save the Date!
Hillside Federation 70th Anniversary
May 7th, 2022 from 3:00 - 7:00 pm
at the TreePeople
Purchase Tickets at [HillsideFederation.org](https://www.hillsidefederation.org)

ABOUT THE HILLSIDE FEDERATION

The Hillside Federation is a public benefit non-profit 501(c)(3) organization *founded in 1952*. Our mission is 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.

Organizations

Argyle Civic Association
Beachwood Canyon NA
Bel Air Association

Lake Hollywood Homeowners
Laurel Canyon Association
LFIA (Los Feliz Improvement Association)

Bel Air Hills Association
Bel Air Knolls Property Owners
Bel Air Skycrest POA
Benedict Canyon Association
Brentwood Hills HOA
Brentwood Residents Coalition
Bundy Canyon Association
Cahuenga Pass POA
Canyon Back Alliance
Crests Neighborhood
Dixie Canyon Association
Doheny/Sunset Plaza NA
Franklin Hills Residents Association
Franklin/Hollywood West Residents Assn
Highlands Owners Assn
Hollywood Dell Civic Association
Hollywood Heights Association
Hollywoodland Homeowners
Holmby Hills HOA
Kagel Canyon Civic

Mountaingate
Mt. Olympus Property Owners
Mt. Washington Homeowners Alliance
Nichols Canyon NA
Oak Forest Canyon Homeowners
Oaks Homeowners
Outpost Estates Homeowners
Pacific Palisades Residents Assn
Residents of Beverly Glen
Save Coldwater Canyon!
Save Our Canyon
Shadow Hills Property Owners
Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association
Silver Lake Heritage Trust
Studio City Residents Association
Sunset Hills Homeowners
Tarzana Property Owners
Upper Mandeville Canyon Association
Upper Nichols Canyon NA
Whitley Heights Civic Association

Bring 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](#) 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.

SUPPORT US

We're fighting to protect the Santa Monica Mountains, hillside areas of Los Angeles and its environs and we can't do it without you. In order to do the important work we do, we rely entirely on support from people like you!



Jerry Daniel Memorial Fund

In honor of his great achievements, the Hillside Federation has established the Jerry Daniel Memorial Fund to provide resources to help maintain and improve the Jerry Daniel Overlook on Mulholland Drive above the Hollywood Bowl, as well as resources for other environmentally sensitive efforts in his memory.

Please support the Hillside Federation's mission and DONATE today!

DONATE

Our mailing address is:

Hillside Federation
P.O. Box 27404
Los Angeles, CA 90027

HillsideFederation.org

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