P.O. Box 27404 Los Angeles, CA 90027 www.hillsidefederation.org

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**PLUM Committee** 

September 19, 2022

Re: CF 21-0777 Retreat at Benedict Canyon Project Support

Dear Councilmembers:

The Hillside Federation opposed the Retreat at Benedict Canyon Project in 2020 because it was not compliant with any City policies. We were amazed that anyone would propose such an inappropriate development to the Santa Monica Mountains, designated a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. The Federation opposed the project in December 2020 and we continue to oppose it.

It goes against the City's General Plan; zoning regulations, the state's Wildfires and Climate Change policy to deprioritize new development in areas of extreme fire risk; city, state and federal goal of preserving 30% of land as Open Space by 2030; lower density in the hillsides to preserve wildlife habitat and connectivity; the Protected Tree Ordinance

It sets a dangerous precedent for intensification of use in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.

Unfortunately, wealthy developers expect that they can go to City Hall to change the rules so that they can built whatever they want wherever they want. It's called spot zoning and it's illegal. The Federation supports CM Koretz' motion to rescind the initiation of a General Plan Amendment for the hotel.

Sincerely,

**Charley Mims** 

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