

**Hillside Federation
Newsletter
July, 2010**



**Agenda
July 7, 2010
7:00 pm**

UPPER STONE CANYON RESERVOIR

by Shirley Cohen, Past President & Past Chair of the Hillside Federation

Federal regulations require that Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir be covered. Three options are being considered: a floating cover, an aluminum cover with solar panels or a buried concrete cover. The buried concrete cover would have soil and plants above it.

The Bel Air Association, the Roscomare Valley Association, the Residents of Beverly Glen and the Bel Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council have all supported the buried concrete cover because it would retain the natural environment of the area. The Hillside Federation is also being asked to support this option.

Representatives of the Stone Canyon Subcommittee will be at your July 7th meeting to present details about the proposals and will answer questions you may have about them.

- I. Introductions
- II. Approval of May 5 and June 2 minutes
- III. President's Report
 - A. Rec. Sec. nominee - Donna Messinger
 - B. President's comments
- IV. New Business
 - A. Upper Stone Canyon Reservoir - Shirley Cohen (possible motion & action)
 - B. Van de Kamps Bakery - Laura Gutierrez & Miki Jackson (possible motion & action)
 - C. Amend bylaws to allow voting by e-mail; quorum
 - D. EIR for AEG's NFL stadium
- V. Old Business
 - A. Baseline Hillside Ordinance - Bill Eick
 - B. Lopez Canyon - Marlene Rader
- VI. Adjournment

Next meeting - Wednesday, Sept. 1, 2010

Universal City Nissan
3550 Cahuenga Blvd. West
between Lankershim and Universal Dr. bridge off ramps. Park in the underground garage or on the street; take elevator to 2nd floor conference room.

The mission of the Hillside Federation shall be to conserve the natural habitat and appearance of the Santa Monica Mountains and other hillside and canyon environs of the greater Los Angeles area through scientific research and education as well as safety precautions and beautification.

Bait and Switch at Van de Kamps with Taxpayer's Money

By Miki Jackson and Laura Gutierrez, Van de Kamps Coalition

A few paragraphs can hardly explain the complexities of an 11-year struggle to save the landmark Van de Kamps Bakery building, only to then to be robbed of the promised Satellite Campus of Los Angeles City College by the Los Angeles Community College District and the Mayor's Office, but we will try to briefly outline it.

Built in 1930 for the famed Van de Kamps Bakery, it closed in 1990 and was left vacant for many years. Though it had been declared a historical property, a developer was seeking to demolish the building for a big box development.

Concerned resident Netty Carr, seeking to preserve the historic building, sought out other community members and the Coalition to Save the Van de Kamps Bakery was founded in 1999. The Coalition's missions were twofold - save the building and find a tenant once the building was saved.

We launched a well organized effort, built a tide of community support that includes the Hillside Federation, and saved the building. Meanwhile we collaborated with then Senator Richard Polanco, as he worked with Los Angeles City College for a satellite college at the VDK site. He secured \$3 million dollars in state funds as seed money to purchase and build a community college satellite at that site.

The Coalition campaigned for Prop A and AA bond measures to fund the construction of

the campus. Millions of dollars wasted and a long series of delays followed, but finally construction began in earnest in 2007.

Early in 2009 the community began to hear rumors that the Satellite Campus might be abandoned by Los Angeles City College, which was now under its fourth president since 2001. This was confirmed when the announcement was made in April, 2009 that LACC was handing Van de Kamps over to the Los Angeles Community College District to become a rental property of the District. The reason given was budgetary problems at the state level. This made no sense to us since the Van de Kamps Satellite had been carefully planned to use no state funds nor any funds from LACC, but to be self supporting with 80% for fee classes to support 20% traditional Community College Classes.

Since then, the renamed Van de Kamps Coalition, has mounted a massive effort to get Los Angeles Community College District to follow the marketing plan they developed in 2004 to open the satellite without any Community College funds and to stop the illegal action of converting a Community College bond funded campus to a rental property for non-Community College tenants.

We have documented and reported, over \$7 million in illegally spent Community College bond funds to eliminate classrooms and build custom office spaces, equipment such as computers, copiers, furniture and other amenities to the exact specifications of non-Community College tenants and to rush much of that construction to meet deadlines set by these tenants. The Board of Trustees of the Community Colleges has had to admit to misuse of bond funds in an article in the LA Times published in March. The District's own

bond attorneys, Fulbright and Jaworski, issued a letter to the District telling them to stop the illegal use of our taxpayer bond funds. In spite of all of this, they, and the Mayor's office have continued to rush this tangle of illegal actions forward.

Van de Kamps Coalition members vow that they will not quit until Van de Kamps is returned to LA City College as a proper satellite campus and other scandals they have found are fully revealed. Our elected officials could have stopped this political Mayor-centric driven disaster. Over \$7.1 million of illegal bond expenditures were used by LACCD and the Mayor's office to destroy classrooms at Van de Kamps. Passively watching those illegal expenditures unfold were Ed Reyes, Eric Garcetti, Kevin DeLeon, Gil Cedillo, and Xavier Becerra. This is what happens when elected officials "politically go along, to get along" instead showing real leadership.

On January 10, 2010, litigation was filed by our attorney against LACCD for violations of CEQA citing change of use at this site. What was to be a satellite community college has now become commercial rental property. We are now seeking funds to pursue further action to protect our taxpayer funds that the District and now possibly the City of Los Angeles led by the Mayors' office, continue to abuse.

Miki Jackson is a longtime community activist and founding member Van de Kamps Coalition. Laura Gutierrez became a member of the coalition in 2006.

*Website: www.vandekamps.org
email: vdkcoalition@gmail.com*

PRESIDENT'S AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS INITIATIVE

Please join senior representatives of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the White House Council on Environmental Quality, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Department of Defense for a public listening session and discussion in Southern California on conservation, recreation, and reconnecting people to the outdoors.

This session offers an opportunity to hear and describe the challenges and opportunities we face in land and water conservation, in improving recreational opportunities for a large urban population, and in restoring and conserving our vital natural and cultural resources to enable access to a broad array of outdoor recreation. The listening session and discussion is an opportunity to hear from you about solutions for building a 21st century conservation and recreation agenda and for reconnecting people with the outdoors.

Thursday - July 8, 2010

3:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Thorne Hall, Occidental College

1600 Campus Rd., LA, 90041

(See map at <http://www.oxy.edu/x6307.xml>)

This event is free. Please register by Thursday, July 1st by sending an email to sun.nelly@epa.gov with your name, organization your telephone number. We will endeavor to accommodate everyone.

In the event you are unable to participate in person, please submit your comments and stories via the America's Great Outdoors website at

><http://www.doi.gov/americasgreatoutdoors/>

President's Message

Bylaws

The Hillside Federation can be a powerful voice in City Hall – if we can get our voice heard in time. As we all are aware, the city frequently gives short notice on controversial issues in the hopes that organizations like ours will not be able to take action in time to do anything. Sometimes timing is just bad when an issue arises before the next meeting. Sometimes the Federation has time to act but lacks a quorum and is unable to take an official position.

This is what occurred at the June 2 meeting. A presentation was made regarding supporting the Open Space designation of Lopez Canyon. Because we lacked a quorum, we were unable to take a position on the matter although those directors who were present were unanimously in favor of supporting the Open Space with one abstention.

Robert's Rules of Order allows organizations to poll members by e-mail providing that the bylaws permit it and provided that a record of the vote is filed with the minutes. However, the bylaws must specifically allow such votes, and the Federation's bylaws make no mention of electronic voting. I think this is an option that the Federation should investigate.

Another option that might be considered would be to change the quorum. The bylaws currently define a quorum as delegates of one third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the member associations. (Art. II,

Sec. 7) With 32 member organizations, that means a quorum is 11 association members. In June we had 10 present. Changing a quorum to 30% would be ten; 25% would be eight.

The best solution of all would be to have every member organization represented at the meetings! That way the lack of a quorum would not be an issue. However, especially given the distances some directors have to travel to get to the meetings and the busy lives we all lead, I understand that you can't always attend every meeting. The Federation needs to address the issue so that we can take a formal position on issues that impact us all.

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, CA
1st floor conference room

**MAY 5, 2010
DRAFT MINUTES**

President Joan Luchs called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM at Universal City Nissan. A quorum was present.

INTRODUCTIONS AND MINUTES:

Board members introduced themselves and the minutes of April 7th were approved as corrected.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- The new Recording Secretary was not present at this meeting to be nominated.
- President's comments: Joan updated everyone about the Baseline Hillside Ordinance meeting. At the April meeting it was decided to be continued on May 13th so that they could review the following: comparison of regulations from other jurisdictions, look at issues of flat roofs, ridgeline protection, retaining walls, and are considering creating a single-family home user manual. Additional comments to follow later in the meeting.

Induction of new Executive Committee by Lynette Berg Robe.

President: Marian Dodge

Chairman: Joan Luchs

Vice President 1: Charley Mims

Vice President 2: Cassandra Barrère

Treasurer: Dan Palmer

Continued President's Report from Joan Luchs: The Studio City Neighborhood Council addressed the bus shelter issue one year ago and have heard that the billboard lights on the kiosk will be shut off. It is not clear if that has happened. Joan presented a letter from the Studio City organization and suggested that we send a similar letter in time for the Studio City Neighborhood Council Board meeting on May 19th. This letter will also be sent to the Mulholland Scenic Plan Design Review Board, Paul Krekorian, City Attorney Carmen Trutanich and LA City Planning Director Gail Goldberg, Contract Administrator for the City Bureau of Street Services Lance Oishi

and President of the City Planning Commission. Charley Mims moved that the Hillside Federation oppose all commercial advertising within the corridors of the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan, as these are in opposition to both the spirit and intent of that Specific Plan (ordinance 167,943 adopted May 13, 1992). We are specifically concerned about not establishing a precedent for commercial advertising along the Mulholland Scenic Parkway and therefore request that the city remove the advertising signs from MTA Bus Stop No. 218's bus shelter at the intersection of Laurel Canyon Blvd. and Mulholland Drive, which is located within the Mulholland Specific Plan inner corridor. The Hillside Federation also proposes that this installation and any further installations within the Mulholland Scenic Parkway corridor be sent to the Mulholland Design Review Board for their review and approval prior to installation. After discussion the motion was unanimously approved.

Joan also announced the Land Use Committee meeting of the Studio City Neighborhood Council on Wednesday, May 12th at 7:00 with guests, Gail Goldberg and Bud Ovrom.

Joan thanked the Federation for all of their support the past three years and passed the gavel to Marian.

Marian thanked everyone and looks forward to carrying out the mission of the Federation. She invited each member to mark on a map the area of their organization and to complete a sign in sheet with how many households they represent, their neighborhood council, and Council District.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Baseline Hillside Ordinance: Marian Dodge and Nicole Miner added to Joan's earlier comments that the developers want additional bonuses to build larger homes on substandard lots. This is a concern to the Federation re: wildlife corridors, impaired views and lack of natural space. The Baseline Hillside Ordinance (BHO) will not replace the previous Hillside Ordinance. These are to be "sister" ordinances with each addressing concerns.

Marian suggested the Federation send a letter of support for the staff report with additional comments opposing giving additional bonuses for substandard lots and that they need to include the first 400 sq. ft. of garage in the base calculations of square footage. After discussion Charley Mims moved that the federation support the BHO with the above suggestions. The motion was unanimously approved.

It was mentioned that the deadline for additional comments has passed. Joan will call Erick Lopez to see if she can get this added to the report for the meeting of 5/13.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Charging parking fee in Griffith Park: Councilmember Bill Rosendahl suggested charging parking fees as a means of increasing city revenues and it is being proposed specifically for the zoo parking lot. Discussion ensued regarding the long-term impact, the precedent it would set for charging fees at every Griffith Park parking lot, and the original gift of Colonel Griffith that stated the park would provide free access to the people. If this is denied the gift can revert from the city back to the Griffith estate. It was moved that the federation send a letter to City Council against charging for parking anywhere in the park and strongly mentioning Colonel Griffith's condition of his gift. The motion was unanimously approved.

- Cuts in Park Rangers: Kristin C. Sabo, park volunteer, presented her report that Park Rangers as peace officers are being eliminated and/or moved to other positions in the Department of Recreation and Parks. Ten rangers are currently assigned to do only interpretative work. This has resulted in public safety issues. People will be calling the LAPD to maintain order in the parks. One impact is that there is currently only one Park Ranger in Griffith Park all the time. The new procedures go against the Park Ranger Strategic Plan and the MOU with the union defining Park Ranger duties. Dan Wright moved that the Federation adopt the resolution as outlined by Kristin and send a letter to the Recreation and Parks Commission. The motion was approved unanimously. The

Federation will also send a separate letter on this issue to the City Council, the Mayor, the Budget and Finance Committee and the CAO.

Kristin's Resolution:

For the department of Recreation and Parks to:

1. Immediately restore and enforce the following two meet-and-confer documents:
 - a. MOU document between Recreation and Parks non-peace officer Park Rangers and the Union (2002).
 - b. The Delineation of Duties document (2002).
2. Restore the California state-required POST Chain of Command structure with one Chief who has control of all Park Rangers under their command. Revoke the specialized, inefficient, bifurcated structure (Nov., 2009) that decreases efficiency and tactical activities, as well as destroys the required chain of command.
3. Adopt and follow the Park Ranger Five Year Strategic Plan (April, 2009) and implement immediately.
4. Implement hiring of full peace officer Park Rangers immediately to fill all positions available in the budget by July 1, 2010.

ADDITIONAL NEW BUSINESS:

Marian asked that we review SB1818, an act to amend section 65915 of the Government code relating to housing and discuss it at the next meeting. Barbara Broide sent copies of two motions going to City Council committees to modify SB1818. Barbara is seeking community support for the two motions.

Nickie Miner asked about homeowners' responsibility to repair their own sidewalks before they can sell their home. Charley Mims responded that the law states that the homeowner is responsible. When the city had plenty of money in the 70s they offered to do some sidewalk repair relative to tree roots. Those funds are no longer available.

Guest, Kristin Sabo mentioned that the city is requiring everyone who has septic tanks to have an inspection. If your system is older than five years, you need to replace or hook in to the city sewer system.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM
Respectfully submitted,
Dawneen Lorance
Acting Recording Secretary

JUNE 2, 2010
Draft Minutes

Federation Officers Present:

Outgoing President/Chair: Joan Luchs, Cahuenga Pass
Neighborhood Assn.
Incoming President: Marian Dodge, Los Feliz
Improvement Assn.
Outgoing Chair: Lynette Berg Robe, Studio
City Residents Assn.
Vice President 1: Charley Mims, Franklin
Hills Residents Assn.
Vice President 2: Cassandra Barrère, Laurel
Canyon Assn.
Treasurer: Dan Palmer, Residents of
Beverly Glen

Federation Directors Present:

Don Andres Franklin/Hollywood Blvd. West
Mark Stratton Bel Air Skycrest POA
Gillian Calof Residents of Beverly Glen
Dawneen Lorance - Hollywood Heights
Neighborhood. Assn.
Nicole Miner Benedict Canyon Assn.
Madeline O'Donnell Nichols Canyon Assn.
Daniel Wright Mt. Washington HOA

Guests:

Barry Johnson Studio City Residents Association
Studio City NC

Kristin C. Sabo Recreation and Parks Volunteer

President Marian Dodge welcomed attendees
and introductions were made. There was no
quorum present.

A map was circulated to members requesting
them to mark their geographical jurisdiction,
Neighborhood Council affiliation as well as
Council District.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

1. New signers for bank account
The federation needs to update the signature
cards for the bank account. It was
recommended that the signers be the
President and the Treasurer. There are many
old signers still authorized on the account;
they need to be removed.

2. Website

The web site needs to be updated and we need
to increase the federation's presence on the
web.
Federation members should e-mail links to
their organizations' web sites for the
federation website.

An Ad Hoc web site committee was formed:
Gillian Calof and Dan Palmer from Beverly
Glen will investigate web sites. Dan will get a
bid to Marian.

3. Billboards

Good news! Last week the 9th Circuit Court
upheld the city's ban on billboards.

4. Burbank Airport Authority

The Studio City Residents Association invited
everyone to hear two directors from the
Burbank Airport Authority speak on June 8,
7:30 at Beverly Garlands Hotel.

GUEST SPEAKER: Marlene Rader, Lopez Canyon Open Space

Marlene, representing the Community Alliance for Open Space, made a presentation regarding the Lopez Landfill/Open Space and their request for support to block the variance going before PLUM on June 15th regarding the Big Rig Driver Training Academy being proposed. Suggested arguments to make: industrial use is illegal under current status as open space, stay focused on findings, show no revenue benefit, and cite past variances that deal with this issue specifically. The appeal of the variance will go before City Council June 30, at City Hall.

A straw vote was taken regarding recommendations to support the appeal. There was unanimous support for the appeal with one abstention. Individual organizations were encouraged to write letters supporting the appeal.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Baseline Hillside Ordinance
There was discussion regarding the fact that grading restrictions were dropped from the proposal and the fact that there was no mention in the final staff report summary (page P 4) that grading was one of the items they would be reviewing after the May 27 hearing.

Actions: Contact Bill Eick and David Garfinkle for clarification of the argument that F.A.R will somehow mitigate problems. Contact Erick Lopez for an explanation of why grading was removed and how it will be offset.

Additionally it was reported that PLUM is sensitive to outcry and e-mails so write, write,

write – Dan Wright requested samples/ templates to use.

2. Advertising on bus shelters – letters were sent. Building & Safety and the Bureau of Street Lighting both denied responsibility for the lighted ads of bus shelters.

3. SB 1818
Marian will send out motions to revise the ordinance for members to review and take a position. There are 2 motions to revise (Krekorian & Koretz). Letters of support are requested.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Van de Kamps Building
Dan Wright reported on changes to the original plan for a much-needed community college. They will now lease one building to a charter school with lease space for a ‘web workforce’ office and will add mixed use. This decision is possibly in violation of the bonds for a community college and the EIR.

2. Outreach Committee
We will formulate a plan to introduce the federation to Neighborhood Councils that have federation member associations in their area. Cassandra Barrère will head the ad hoc committee and solicit participation.

3. Koretz - Cost-recovery Fees
Councilmember Paul Koretz has a motion (CF 09-0969-S1) which would accelerate the increase of fees to developers, which would help reduce the city’s budget deficit. Tom Freeman, Upper Mandeville Canyon, sent a sample letter that could be used to support Koretz’ motion.

4. Mt. Olympus speed bumps

Mel Remba announced that Mount Olympus will self-fund the installation of speed bumps and solar speed feedback machines using City resources in a public/private partnership. It is expensive but is a way for communities to address their needs during the city's budget crisis.

5. Quorum

The group discussed reducing the quorum requirement to facilitate monthly federation business. Currently we have 32 paid member organizations and a 1/3 quorum requirement. One suggestion: 25% of the membership would mean 8 members would comprise a quorum.

6. President's Letter

Mel Remba suggested that Marian write a letter to past member organizations spelling out her new agenda and reminding new board members who the Federation is and how we work for mutual hillside issues. "Meet Marian" was sent to the current membership. We need a "Meet the Federation" to attract their return.

7. New Policy & Procedures

Board members asked the new President to lead the meetings in a timely manner, limiting redundancy and encouraging order. The Board offered support in all ways to achieve this goal. Additionally there was discussion regarding bringing new business to the floor on the day of the meeting. Board members expressed their interest in eliminating the standing rule that all new business must be run thru the President.

Respectfully submitted by
Cassandra Barrère,
Acting Recording Secretary

Members Present:

Bel-Air Skycrest POA	Mark Stratton
	Lois Becker
Cahuenga Pass Neighborhood	Joan Luchs
Highlands Homeowners	Nicole Ellington
Laurel Canyon Assn.	Cassandra Barrère
Los Feliz Improvement Assn.	Marian Dodge
	Don Seligman
Mt. Olympus POA	Mel Remba
Mt. Washington HO Alliance	Dan Wright
No. Beverly/Franklin Canyon	Robert Levy
Residents of Beverly Glen	Gillian Calof
	Dan Palmer
Sherman Oaks HOA	Laura Gutierrez

Guest Present:

Community Alliance for Open Space - Marlene Rader

Web Site

The federation is in the process of updating its web site, www.hillsidefederation.org. Please be patient while we make the transition. One of the things we want to do is have live links to the web sites of all our member organizations. Please send us the link to your association's web site. In return, we ask that you post a link to the Hillside Federation web site on your web site.