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Budget and Finance Committee
City Hall
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

April 23, 2012

Re: Recreation and Parks Budget - Park Rangers

Honorable Councilmembers Krekorian, Englander, Cardenas, Rosendahl, and Koretz:

The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Inc. representing thirty-eight homeowner and resident associations spanning the Santa Monica Mountains, strongly supports the presence of Park Rangers in the city's regional parks. Park Rangers have traditionally had a broad range of duties from putting out fires to finding lost children. Their intimate knowledge of the parks' terrain and issues makes them ideally suited to protect both parks and park visitors.

With the loss of the Office of Public Safety officers, it is essential for public safety that the eight vacant Ranger positions in the 2012-2013 budget be filled immediately with Rangers. The position of Chief Ranger needs to be reinstated and the position filled. Park Rangers are uniquely qualified as public safety officers especially trained for duty in our city parks. While OPS and LAPD respond *after* a crime has been reported, Park Rangers regularly patrol parks to act as a deterrent to crime. And Rangers cost the city less. More efficient and cheaper—they are a real bargain.

Without the insightful supervision provided by Park Rangers, our regional parks will rapidly deteriorate. Instead of being a peaceful place where people can escape from the stress of the city, they will become a place where the criminal element can operate undisturbed. Instead of a beautiful place to learn about and enjoy nature, they will become a place full of litter and graffiti. This is not what anyone wants to see in our parks.

We urge you to fully fund our Park Rangers.

Sincerely,

Marian Dodge

Marian Dodge

Beachwood Canyon Neighborhood
Bel Air Knolls Property Owners
Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners
Bel Air Ridge Association
Benedict Canyon Association
Brentwood Hills Homeowners
Brentwood Residents Coalition
Canyon Back Alliance
Crests Neighborhood Assn.
Franklin Ave./Hollywood Bl. West
Franklin Hills Residents Assn.
Highlands Owners Assn.
Hollywood Dell Civic Assn.
Hollywood Heights Assn.
Hollywoodland Homeowners
Holmby Hills Homeowners Assn.
Kagel Canyon Civic Assn.
Laurel Canyon Assn.
Lookout Mountain Alliance
Los Feliz Improvement Assn.
Mt. Olympus Property Owners
Mt. Washington Homeowners All.
Nichols Canyon Assn.
N. Beverly Dr./Franklin Canyon
Oak Forest Canyon Assn.
Oaks Homeowners Assn.
Outpost Estates Homeowners
Pacific Palisades Residents Assn.
Residents of Beverly Glen
Roscomare Valley Assn.
Shadow Hills Property Owners
Sherman Oaks HO Assn.
Studio City Residents Assn.
Sunset Hills Homeowners Assn.
Tarzana Property Owners Assn.
Torreyson Flynn Assn.
Upper Mandeville Canyon
Whitley Heights Civic Assn.

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