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Patrick Whalen, City Planning Associate  
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June 22, 2021

Argyle Civic Assn.  
Beachwood Canyon NA  
Bel-Air Assn.  
Bel-Air Hills Assn.  
Bel Air Knolls Property Owners  
Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners  
Benedict Canyon Association  
Brentwood Hills Homeowners  
Brentwood Residents Coalition  
Cahuenga Pass Property Owners  
Canyon Back Alliance  
Crests Neighborhood Assn.  
Dixie Canyon Assn.  
Doheny-Sunset Plaza NA  
Franklin Ave./Hollywood Bl. West  
Franklin Hills Residents Assn.  
Highlands Owners Assn.  
Hollywood Dell Civic Assn.  
Hollywood Heights Assn.  
Hollywoodland HOA  
Holmby Hills Homeowners Assn.  
Kagel Canyon Civic Assn.  
Lake Hollywood HOA  
Laurel Canyon Assn.  
LFIA (Los Feliz)  
Mountaingate  
Mt. Olympus Property Owners  
Mt. Washington Homeowners All.  
Nichols Canyon NA  
Oak Forest Canyon HOA  
Oaks Homeowners Assn.  
Outpost Estates HOA  
Pacific Palisades Res. Assn.  
Residents of Beverly Glen  
Save Coldwater Canyon!  
Save Our Canyon  
Shadow Hills POA  
Sherman Oaks HOA  
Silver Lake Heritage Trust  
Studio City Residents Assn.  
Sunset Hills HOA  
Tarzana POA  
Upper Mandeville Canyon Assn.  
Upper Nichols Canyon NA  
Whitley Heights Civic Assn.

Re: **Ridgeline Protection Ordinance**

Dear Mr. Whalen:

The Hillside Federation, founded in 1952 and representing 45 resident and homeowner associations spanning the Santa Monica Mountains, has been anticipating a Ridgeline Protection Ordinance for more than twenty years. It has been our dream to get an ordinance similar to the one that Los Angeles County has enjoyed for years. We were so excited when it was announced that such an ordinance would be released soon.

Imagine our disappointment when the Ridgeline Protection Ordinance was finally released and informational webinars revealed that what we were being offered was merely a Ridgeline Protection *Supplemental Use District*, not a true *citywide* ordinance. It is instead only a pilot program in the Bel Air - Beverly Crest area and a small portion of the Hollywood Community Plan. Why do we need a pilot program for something the County has been successfully doing for decades and something for which the Hillside Federation has been begging the City for at least as long?

The ordinance should apply citywide now. It is simply nonsense that each community plan has to individually request the addition of the Ridgeline Protection Ordinance. Why should each area have to beg and grovel to get protections to which they are rightfully entitled? The Ridgeline Protection Ordinance should automatically be included in every Community Plan.

We all remember how, after a lengthy planning process (2005-2012), the Hollywood Community Plan ended up being rescinded in 2014 due to a lawsuit. Hollywood has reverted to its 1988 community plan while update attempts are still dragging on. In all likelihood a very similar scenario will play out here: a lawsuit will be filed against the current version of the HCPU2. That means that although we have requested that the Ridgeline Protection Supplemental Use District be added to the Hollywood Community Plan Update 2, we will be further delayed in getting these desperately needed protections – if indeed we ever do get them. Meanwhile, developers are free to continue destroying our ridgelines.

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Polly Ward

An additional disappointment was the creation of separate rules for ridgelines that have already been disturbed. As you accurately pointed out in the webinar, the vast majority of ridgelines have already been disturbed. That is no reason to allow those ridgelines to be further degraded. On the contrary, they are all the more environmentally sensitive because of what has already been done to them and it is all the more imperative that any new construction, addition, or remodel stay within its current footprint or comply with the parameters established for RP1. Of course existing buildings should be allowed to remain. However we see no reason why a property owner should be allowed to further degrade the ridgeline just because it is already partially degraded. RP1 should be the only model.

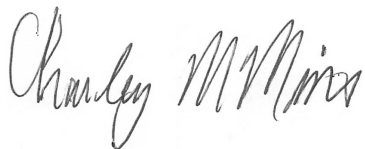
And one other very big question remains: how will the Ridgeline Protection Ordinance be enforced? Enforcement is always the elephant in the room.

Unfortunately, like so many of the Planning Department's recent decisions, the Ridgeline Protection Ordinance's slow motion rollout and lack of enforcement provisions seem designed not to protect our ridgelines but to give developers more leeway and reduce community input and participation in the process. In order to truly protect our ridgelines, the following very precise and timely actions are required:

1. The Ridgeline Protection Ordinance must be applicable citywide to all ridgelines – *not a pilot program*.
2. The Ridgeline Protection Ordinance must be included in every Community Plan.
3. RP1 should be the only model.
4. Rigorous enforcement must be included.

Then, and only then, will we have an ordinance worthy of the City of Los Angeles. If all these conditions are not met and met quickly, by the time the Ridgeline Protection Ordinance is actually implemented, there won't be any ridgelines left to protect.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charley Mims". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the printed name below it.

Charley Mims