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Honorable Council Members  
Los Angeles City Hall, Room 340  
200 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

May 23, 2014

Re: City Council Motion #14-0331, Solar Rights Act Amendment and DWP Notice

Dear City Councilmembers:

The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Inc., founded in 1952, represents 44 homeowner and residents associations spanning the Santa Monica Mountains, from Pacific Palisades to Mt. Washington. The Federation's mission is to protect the property and quality of life of its over 200,000 constituents and to conserve the natural habitat and appearance of the hillside and mountain areas in which they live. At its May 2014 meeting, the Federation voted unanimously to support City Council Motion No. 14-0331 concerning the need for environmental protection against the impacts of solar power generating projects in residential areas and broader public notice of such projects and their impacts.

The motion (1) recommends that the State Legislature amend the California Solar Rights Act of 1978 to authorize local governments to exercise discretionary review of solar power generating projects and (2) requires the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) to report back to the Council on its efforts to adequately inform local communities of solar projects planned for residential areas and the potential environmental impacts of such projects. While the Federation strongly supports the development of solar energy, the Solar Rights Act must be amended to confer on local governments the basic discretionary authority to protect local communities, the environment, and wildlife when such power-generating projects would constitute non-conforming uses or otherwise violate zoning restrictions.

The Federation is also concerned that DWP has apparently refused to reveal the locations of the solar projects that have been accepted into its Feed-in-Tariff (FiT) Program, even where such projects would be located in residential areas such as the Equine keeping District in Lake View Terrace adjacent to the National Forest Foothills. Public notice is essential for such potentially impactful projects, especially those planned for environmentally sensitive areas like the National Forest Foothills and the Santa Monica Mountains.

The Hillside Federation therefore strongly supports Council Motion No. 14-0331 and urges the City Council to pursue the legislation necessary to assure that local governments are granted the authority to subject solar power generating projects to normal planning and environmental review procedures whenever such projects are planned for residential or other areas where such land use activities do not conform to existing zoning requirements.

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  
Cahuenga Pass Property Owners  
Canyon Back Alliance  
CASM-SFV  
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.  
Lake Hollywood HOA  
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.  
Save Sunset Blvd.  
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  
Upper Nichols Canyon NA  
Upper Riviera Homeowners Assn.  
Whitley Heights Civic Assn.

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