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Mike Shull, General Manager Department of Recreation and Parks 350 S. Grand Ave, 46th floor Los Angeles, CA 90071

May 10, 2015

Re: Zip Lines in Runyon Canyon Park

Dear Mr. Shull:

The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Inc., founded in 1952 and representing 43 resident and homeowner associations spanning the Santa Monica Mountains opposes the concept of zip lines in the Runyon Canyon Recreational Area. They do not belong in any of the public lands in the Santa Monica Mountains.

Runyon Canyon was created as a wilderness park to provide green space as a respite from the hustle and bustle of urban life in Los Angeles. Zip lines are incompatible with that goal as the noise of the screaming zip liners would disturb the tranquility of hikers on the ground. Shuttling people to and from the site would increase traffic on both the Mulholland side of the park as well as on the south side of the park. Both of those areas are already heavily impacted by regular park users. The promoters claim the zip line would provide the best view in the city, but that view is already enjoyed by people on the ground in Runyon Canyon. Commercial development such as these zip lines benefit only the zip line company at the expense of other park users.

Runyon Canyon also serves as invaluable wildlife connectivity across the Santa Monica Mountains. It is a key link from the western Santa Monica Mountains to Griffith Park. Los Angeles is unique among major cities in that it has a mountain range running through the middle of it. That is a benefit that no other city can boast and we should cherish it, not degrade it. The loss of this habitat would have serious consequences for the biodiversity of species in the Southern California area.

The Hillside Federation agrees with Councilmember Tom LaBonge and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy that zip lines in Runyon Canyon are inappropriate and undesirable in a wilderness park like Runyon Canyon.

Sincerely,

Marían Dodge

Marian Dodge

cc: Councilman Tom LaBonge RAP Commission Friends of Runyon Canyon