

Hillside Federation Newsletter February, 2016



www.hillsidefederation.org

Senator Kevin de León to Join the Hillside Federation in February

California Senate President pro Tempore Kevin de León, who was unable to attend the Federation's holiday party in December (he was attending the Paris Climate Summit) will join us at our regular meeting on February 3.



Senator de León was joined by assembly Republican leader Chad Mayes on January 29 for a discussion on their respective priorities for California at the Public Policy Institute of California. The event can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/kXvzicjUht4>.

Our February 3 meeting will also feature requests for action regarding an opportunity to add 14-plus acres to Runyon Canyon Park, and the Neighborhood Integrity Initiative, which calls for a 2-year moratorium on code and general plan deviations that increase density, among other requirements. The initiative language is available at: <http://tinyurl.com/hvv6g88>.

We hope that you will join us for another informative regular meeting!

Agenda

February 3, 2016

7:00 pm

Pinz Bowling Center, 2nd Floor
12655 Ventura Blvd., Studio City

I. Call to Order

Guests:

Senator Kevin de León
Tim Pershing for Asm. Bloom – Climate Change update
Zak Meyer-Krings for Sen. Ben Allen

II. Approval of minutes

III. Officers' Reports

A. President's Report
B. Treasurer's Report

IV. New Business

A. Runyon Canyon Land Acquisition – Amy Dantzler
B. Neighborhood Integrity Initiative – Jill Stewart

V. Old Business

A. Innsdale vineyard update – David Benz
B. Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing – Marian Dodge
C. San Vicente Peak Telecommunications Tower – Mike Leslie
D. Hidden Creeks – Wendy-Sue Rosen
E. 8904 Crescent Dr. - Steven Poster

VI. Adjournment

Next meeting – March 2, 2016

Hillside Federation mission: *To protect the property and the quality of life of the residents of the Santa Monica Mountains and other hillside areas of Los Angeles and its environs, and to encourage and promote those policies and programs which will best preserve the natural topography and wildlife of the mountains and hillsides for the benefit of all the people of Los Angeles.*

MRCA Offers Cleanup Assistance

MRCA Ranger and Deputy Executive Officer Walt Young visited the Federation in January to offer MRCA's help to community organizations by providing resources for neighborhood cleanup. Following the meeting, Walt sent the following information:

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) is offering financial assistance to Hillside Federation neighborhood associations and non-profit organizations engaged in roadside trash removal.

If your organization would like to clean a section of Santa Monica Mountains or canyon roadway, MRCA will provide your organization gloves, safety vests, trash sticks, and trash bags. Additionally, MRCA may also pay dumping fees, and assist with removal of large items.

Projects large and small are eligible.

MRCA shares your love of the Santa Monica Mountains. Working together, we can keep our neighborhoods free of roadside trash.

For further information, please contact: walt.young@mrca.ca.gov.

Bringing an Issue to the Federation

If your organization would like to bring an issue to the attention of the Federation, please complete a Request for Action form (available at the website www.hillsidefederation.org) and send it, along with supporting documents, to president@hillsidefederation.org no later than 10 days prior to the meeting. This will help you organize your presentation so that our meetings can flow efficiently, while providing the necessary information to allow the Federation to consider your organization's request.

THANK YOU CASA TORELLI IMPORTS

The Hillside Federation would like to thank Casa Torelli Imports Inc. for its generous donation to the Federation's annual holiday party in December. Casa Torelli provided a Pinot Noir, Primitivo, Pinot Grigio, Moi, and La Casetta.

Mention the Hillside Federation when you shop at Casa Torelli and receive a 15% discount!

Contact: Andrea, 310-640-7600.

Baseline Mansionization Ordinance & Baseline Hillside Ordinance Update

For those following the BMO/BHO update process, the Los Angeles Department of Planning released a summary of comments and questions received during the comment period on Friday, January 29, along with the second issue of the Neighborhood Conservation newsletter. Planning received more than 650 written comments, and more than 300 people attended the four staff hearings during this phase of the public outreach for the code amendment process.

The City Planning Commission is tentatively scheduled to make its recommendation to the City Council on proposed code amendments on May 12, 2016. The CPC hearing was originally planned for March, but has been delayed to allow more public input and environmental analysis.

The public comments and newsletter are not online as this newsletter goes to print, but for more information, visit Planning's Neighborhood Conservation website at: <http://tinyurl.com/j496b6u>.



Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing

Caltrans held a public hearing on Thursday, January 14 at King Gillette Ranch in Calabasas to provide information and receive scoping comments for the environmental review phase of the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing. Conceptual drawings and other information was shared during an open house, followed by a hearing before a packed house, at which the National Park Service's Dr. Seth Riley provided an informative summary of genetic studies NPS had undertaken to show the need for the project. Hearing comments from the public and local elected officials were very supportive. A KPCC report on the hearing is available at: <http://tinyurl.com/zf8u455>.

The scoping comment deadline was Friday, January 29. The Hillside Federation

submitted a letter in support of Alternative 3 to cross both the 101 Freeway and Agoura Road. The Federation's letter expressed concern, however, about the crossing being shared by people (several renderings hiking trails in the 165-foot wide crossing that could be in conflict with the project's primary purpose).

The next phase of the project is the environmental review and analysis. Stay tuned for more updates.

Upcoming Meeting Dates in 2016

2 March
6 April
4 May
1 June

60 Minutes Story Featuring LA's Mountain Lions

Just a few days after the scoping hearing on the proposed Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing, the CBS news series *60 Minutes* presented a story on Los Angeles's mountain lions. The story includes an interview of the owners of a Los Feliz home near Griffith Park where P-22 holed up for a day last April, as well as interviews with National Park Service rangers Seth Riley and Jeff Sikich, and others.

Asked about the proposed wildlife crossing, NPS's Seth Riley said "It would be an amazing statement to say, OK, we care this much in Southern California about wild places and wild animals that we would do this and make a place for animals to get back and forth." When asked if the crossing was the mountain lions' only hope, biologist Jeff Sikich responded, "Pretty much for our Santa Monica mountain lion population, yes."

For those who may have missed it, we highly recommend you watch the online video available at: <http://tinyurl.com/h4uy3jb>.

Hillside Federation January 6, 2016 Draft minutes

I. Call to Order

President Marian Dodge called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm. Members and guests introduced themselves.

Guest speakers:

Angie Aramayo, representative from State Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian distributed a flyer regarding the earthquake Brace and Bolt program which offers up to \$3,000 to

help California Homeowners retrofit their homes. Qualifications are determined by zip code, date of construction of home, whether the home is built on a level or low slope, and other factors. The legislative session in Sacramento has just begun and members are encouraged to contact the Assemblyman's Legislative aides with ideas for creating legislation.

Park Ranger Walt Young of the Mountains Recreation Conservation Authority (MRCA) spoke about the relationship between the MRCA and LAFD. The MRCA has offered forty 4-wheel-drive vehicles for LAFD use in areas affected by flooding, debris flow, etc. Additionally, the MRCA has renewed its relationship with the No Litter Zone campaign which helps to clean up trash and debris on the canyon roads and along Mulholland Drive. The MRCA has offered to take care of expenses for community cleanups such as gloves, safety vests, trash bags, and dumping fees. The offer extends to homeowner groups, Hillside Federation members, community groups for a one-time event, or ongoing cleanups along Mulholland Drive and its canyons. As the No Litter Zone was a non-profit, a suggestion to contact area Neighborhood Councils to request a Neighborhood Purposes Grant to help fund this activity was made. Regarding homeless encampments in the hillsides, please contact Ranger Young and he will forward to the appropriate people. Park Ranger Young can be contacted at: walt.young@mrca.ca.gov. (310) 858-7272, Ext. 102.

Janet Turner, representative from Congressman Ted Lieu's office spoke about some very exciting projects in 2016. The Congressman is looking at proposals to expand the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area along the coast to include Ballona Creek and to make more money

available for open space and recreation with no impact to private property. They are still waiting on the report on the Rim of the Valley which the Congressman is supporting. On Thursday, January 14, 2016 there will be a public comment meeting in Calabasas sponsored by Caltrans regarding the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing. All are encouraged to attend to support this important project. Congressman Lieu and some of his colleagues sent a letter to the SEC requesting an investigation on whether ExxonMobil broke any laws by making misrepresentations or omitting material facts in security filings related to what the corporation knew but failed to disclose about climate change.

II. Approval of Minutes

The November minutes were approved.

III. Officers' Reports

A. Presidents Report - Marian Dodge

Marian thanked John Given for his work on the newsletter and thanked everyone who helped on the Hillside Federation Holiday party including Don, Mark for arranging the wine donation, and all the member organizations for participating. Special thanks to Andrea from the Ca Di Fara Winery for the wonderful wine. Marian read Councilmember Paul Koretz's proclamation that was presented to the Federation at the party.

The Mayor has appointed a new Director of City Planning, Vince Bertoni, formerly a Deputy Director of Planning in the City who most recently served as the Planning Director in the City of Pasadena. Bertoni is very knowledgeable about hillside issues and was previously honored by the Federation for his work on the Baseline Hillside Ordinance.

LAFD Deputy Chief Joe Castro, former West Bureau Chief, has been promoted to Chief Deputy of Emergency Operations for

the LAFD. The new West Bureau Chief Bureau Commander is Pat Butler.

A public hearing by the South Coast Air Quality Management District will be held on Saturday, January 9, 2016, 9:00 am at Granada Hills Charter High School regarding the Porter Ranch gas leak.

PlanCheck meets on Saturday, January 9, 2016 at the downtown DWP building at 10:30 am. Topics include Small Lot Subdivisions and Unapproved Dwelling Units.

A Griffith Park community input meeting regarding a traffic plan to address traffic congestion caused by Hollywood Sign viewing will be held on Wednesday, January 20, 2016, 6:30 pm at Friendship Auditorium.

There are two meetings being held by the Department of City Planning regarding the Small Lot Subdivision Ordinance:

- Wednesday, January 20, 2016 at the Felicia Mahood Multipurpose Ctr., 11338 Santa Monica Blvd., and
- Tuesday, January 26, 2016 at the Grace E. Simmons Lodge, 1025 Elysian Park Drive. More details are provided in the January newsletter.

B. Treasurer's Report - Don Andres

Don updated members with the year end report. The Hillside Federation is strong with 45 member groups. The Holiday Party was very successful with 97 attendees. Dues notices will be sent out shortly for 2016 and due by March 1, 2016. The Executive Committee will meet to discuss the expenditure of funds in the near future.

V. Old Business

A. Baseline Hillside Ordinance Amendments

The BHO amendments were discussed at the November Hillside Federation meeting. The comment period ends Monday, January 11, 2016 and members are encouraged to

submit comments. The Federation supports the BHO amendments and offered two additional amendments. Everyone is encouraged to read the Hillside Federation letter and the Draft Ordinance. John addressed questions regarding basements, grading, proportional story bonus, 10% bonus authority by the Zoning Administrator, exemption for garages, and other topics.

The next opportunity for input will be in March at the City Planning Commission meeting. Charley reminded everyone that when this item is scheduled before the City Planning Commission, we will all need to communicate and turn out.

People are encouraged to send comments to Hagu.Solomon-Cary@lacity.org with a copy to their council office. With respect to hauling and import and export issues, Carol encouraged folks to speak with their Council people about setting a meeting with LADBS about this issue, and perhaps looking to move haul route hearings to the Department of Public Works where environmental issues such as cumulative impact can be discussed, rather than just the route of the trucks.

B. 7107 Hollywood Blvd/Mosaic Church
- Don Andres

The existing structure, the Mosaic Church, was designated a Historic-Cultural Monument. The developer did not oppose the designation. The developer may be considering incorporating the existing church building into some new design plans. This development project is located in a residential zone, however, the developer wants to extend the commercial designation across La Brea and make it a mixed residential-commercial complex, which would be precedent-setting. The developer has requested a zone change and the fear is that this zone change might continue to move all the way down

Hollywood Blvd. The Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council is in discussions with the developer to limit the size, magnitude and eliminate the commercial development portion of the project.

Don described the Neighborhood Integrity Initiative, a ballot measure sponsored by the Coalition to Preserve LA, which calls for a two-year moratorium on developments requesting exemptions in the City of Los Angeles. They are collecting signatures to qualify for the November 2016 election.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Carol Sidlow
Recording Secretary

Members Present:

Bel-Air Assn.	Bruce Kuyper
Bel Air Skycrest	Mark Stratton
Benedict Canyon	Kerry Welland
Brentwood Hills	John Given
Cahuenga Pass	Krista Michaels
Canyon Back Alliance	Lois Becker
Franklin Ave/Hlwd Bl	Yvonne Hessler
Franklin Hills Res.	Charley Mims
Hollywood Dell	Mary Ledding
Lookout Mountain	Steven Poster
	Carol Sidlow
Los Feliz Impvmt.	Marian Dodge
Nichols Canyon	Don Andres
Oaks HOA	Gerry Hans
Save Coldwater Cyn!	Heidi Mackay
Sherman Oaks	Elke Heitmeyer

Guests:

Cong. Ted Lieu	Janet Turner
Assm Nazarian	Angie Aramaic
MRCA	Walt Young



Recently discovered mountain lion kittens P-46 (female) and P-47 (male), National Park Service photo.

NPS Biologist Discovers Mountain Lion Kittens in Santa Monica Mountains

National Park Service biologist Jeff Sikich discovered two mountain lion kittens in the Santa Monica Mountains in December, according to a January 14 National Park Service press release. The kittens, known as P-46 and P-47, were featured in a recent 60 Minutes story on Santa Monica Mountain lions (see p.4). The mother is P-19, but the father has not yet been determined. Sikich says that continued successful reproduction “indicates the quality of the natural habitat is high for such a relatively urbanized area.”

News of the kittens quickly gained attention, with coverage in the LA Times, ABC, KTLA, KCET, National Geographic, and many other outlets. The news release is available at <http://www.nps.gov/samo/learn/news/mountain-lion-kittens-born-in-santa-monica-mountains.htm>.

<p>The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Inc. P.O. Box 27404 Los Angeles, CA 90027 president@hillsidefederation.org www.hillsidefederation.org</p>	<p><i>ORGANIZATIONS</i> Beachwood Canyon Bel-Air Association Bel Air Knolls Property Owners Bel Air Skycrest POA Benedict Canyon Association Brentwood Hills Homeowners Brentwood Residents Coalition Cahuenga Pass Property Owner Canyon Back Alliance CASM-SFV Crests Neighborhood Assn. Franklin Ave./Hollywood Bl. W. Franklin Hills Residents Assn. Highlands Owners Assn. Hollywood Dell Civic Assn. Hollywood Heights Assn. Hollywoodland Homeowners Holmby Hills HOA Kagel Canyon Civic Assn.</p>	<p>Lake Hollywood HOA Laurel Canyon Assn. Lookout Mountain Assn. Los Feliz Improvement Assn. Mt. Olympus Property Owners Mt. Washington Homeowners Nichols Canyon Assn. N. Beverly Dr/Franklin Canyon Oak Forest Canyon Assn. Oaks Homeowners Assn. Outpost Estates Homeowners Rancho Verdugo Estates HOA Residents of Beverly Glen Roscomare Valley Assn. Save Coldwater Canyon! Save Sunset Blvd. Shadow Hills Property Owners Sherman Oaks HOA Silver Lake Heritage Trust</p>	<p>Studio City Residents Assn. Sunset Hills HOA Tarzana Property Owners Assn. Torreyson Flynn Assn. Upper Mandeville Canyon Upper Nichols Canyon Whitley Heights Civic Assn.</p> <p><i>CHAIRPERSONS EMERITUS</i> Shirley Cohen Jerome C. Daniel Patricia Bell Hearst Alan Kishbaugh Gordon Murley Steve Twining</p> <p><i>CHAIRPERSONS IN MEMORIAM</i> Brian Moore Polly Ward</p>
<p><i>PRESIDENT</i> Marian Dodge <i>CHAIRMAN</i> Charley Mims <i>VICE PRESIDENTS</i> Mark Stratton Wendy-Sue Rosen <i>SECRETARY</i> Carol Sidlow <i>TREASURER</i> Don Andres <i>EXECUTIVE SECRETARY</i> John Given</p>			