



# THE FEDERATION

OF HILLSIDE AND CANYON ASSOCIATIONS, INC.

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**FOUNDED IN 1952**

**PRESIDENT**

Joan Luchs

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- BelAir Knolls Property
- BelAir Skycrest Property
- Benedict Canyon Association
- Cahuenga Pass Neighborhood
- Crests Neighborhood Association
- Encino Property Owners
- Forest Hills Homeowners
- Franklin Ave/Hwd.Blvd.West
- Franklin Hills Residents
- Glenridge Homeowners
- Highland Owners Association
- Hollywood Dell Civic
- Hollywood Heights Association
- Hollywoodland Homeowners
- Holmby Hills Homeowners
- La Tuna Canyon Community
- Laurel Canyon Association
- Los Feliz Improvement
- Mt. Olympus Property Owners
- Mount Washington Association
- Mt. Wash. Homeowners Alliance
- Nichols Canyon Association
- No.Beverly Dr./Franklin Canyon
- Oak Forest Canyon Association
- Outpost Estates Homeowners
- Pacific Palisades Residents
- Residents of Beverly Glen
- Roscomare Valley Association
- Shadow Hills Property Owners
- Sherman Oaks Home Owners
- Studio City Residents Association
- Tarzana Property Owners
- Torreyson-Flynn Association
- Upper Mandeville Canyon
- Whitley Heights Civic

**CHAIRMEN EMERITUS**

- Jerome C. Daniel
- Patricia Bell Hearst
- Gordon Murley
- Polly Ward

**CHAIRMAN IN MEMORIUM**

Brian Moore

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

### ORDINANCE BANNING OFF-SITE BILLBOARDS AND DIGITAL SIGNS WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL AND THE MAYOR



*Important  
Information  
Enclosed*

On August 7<sup>th</sup> City Council unanimously approved an ordinance banning all new off-site Billboards and Digital signs. This Ordinance also includes signs previously exempted in a Development Agreement, Specific Plans and Supplemental Use Districts.

The significance of this ordinance is the protection it provides banning all new billboard and digital signs now and after the current ICO expires September 25<sup>th</sup>. The City Attorney's proactive role was instrumental in getting this motion approved before City Council adjourned for vacation.

But communities still need to be diligent because the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals has the following appeals (Supplemental Use Districts, Specific Plans and Development Agreements) before them which are challenging a significant number of exceptions to Billboards and Digital Signs. Oral Arguments have not yet been heard so it is likely that it may be a while before these cases are decided.

Continued on page 2...

## NEXT MEETING

September 2, 2009

### ALERT

## NEW STARTING TIME

Meeting starts promptly at 7 pm

## UNIVERSAL CITY NISSAN

3550 Cahuenga Blvd. West

between Lankershim-Universal Drive  
bridge off ramps; park underground  
garage/street; take elevator to 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
conference room

### AGENDA

**Introductions: Members/Guests**

**Minutes: June**

**President's Report:**

- A. Densification Ordinance Lawsuit Report**
- B. Ordinance banning off-site Digital and Billboard Signs is unanimously approved**
- C. CD 2 Candidate Debate Fourm September 16<sup>th</sup>**
- D. Hillside Area Amendment update**
- E. City votes for a huge raise to most Planning fees**

**City Attorney holds 1<sup>st</sup> ever Forum with the Community/Marian Dodge**

**Hollywood Dell holds annual BBQ/  
Patti Negri**

**Report/Motion from Executive Committee regarding Executive Secretary Position**

**Adjournment:**

The mission of the Hillside Federation shall be: 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.

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If the Court's original ruling is reversed, over 880 Billboard and Digital Signs previously exempted from any ban during the previous City Attorney's watch will once again become legal.

When our new City Attorney took office July 1<sup>st</sup> he wasted no time getting City Council to approve a new ordinance that will protect further proliferation and blight to our residential neighborhoods at least until the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court reconvenes and makes its decision...

**Joan Luchs**  
President



**NOTICES AND UPDATES:**

**Baseline Hillside Ordinance**

Draft language is still being worked on. No public hearing is ready to be set at this time.

**Cultural Heritage Ordinance**

Will be acted upon by the City Planning Commission on Thursday, September 10th

**Mulholland Design Review Board**

Next meeting is set for September 3, 2009  
Starting at 6:30 PM at the Marvin Braude Center located at 6262 Van Nuys Blvd., First Floor Meeting Room.

**HILLSIDE REDEFINITION  
MAPPING**

In light of the many questions the Planning Department has received over the last several months, they have released a document (page 3) of the most Frequently Asked Questions' intended to be a one-sheet response to the most common questions including a brief summary of the proposed ordinance and its affects. Feel free to distribute this file to your neighbors as well as members of your associations.

Originally scheduled for the September 1, 2009 Planning & Land Use Management PLUM Committee Meeting, that meeting has been canceled. However, the Hillside Mapping Area amendment has tentatively been placed on the September 8, 2009 agenda. Please contact City Planner, Erick Lopez at 213 978-1243 or if you prefer email him at [erick.lopez@lacity.org](mailto:erick.lopez@lacity.org) to confirm this date.

**VIEW FEDERATION  
WEBSITE**

at

**[www.hillsidefederation.org](http://www.hillsidefederation.org)**

Latest Newsletters, News and Update Links are available

If there is something else you'd like to see, or if you want to send an article for the newsletter, let us hear from you. Call Joan Luchs at (213) 368-6120 with your suggestions.



**HILLSIDE AREA AMENDMENT**

*Prepared by the City of Los Angeles – Department of City Planning*

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS****What is the proposal?**

A proposal to amend the Zoning Code's "Hillside Area" definition and create a new Hillside Area Map.

**What does the proposal do?**

The proposed Hillside Area definition and map will better reflect the true hillsides throughout the City of Los Angeles.

**Why is this being proposed?**

The current definition is based on Bureau of Engineering Basic Grid Maps and major street boundaries and includes thousands of lots which are not actually hillside. The proposed Hillside Area map utilizes more refined data (USGS topographic information) and new technology that identifies the true topographical hillsides – i.e. contain or are located near areas with strong slopes (15% slope or greater).

The proposal is Step 2 of a 3-step process to protect single-family neighborhoods from out-of-scale development, commonly referred to as mansionization; Step 1 was the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance and Step 3 will be the Baseline Hillside Ordinance.

**Who does it affect?**

Approximately 51,000 single-family zoned lots which are not truly hillside will have the Hillside Area designation removed.

**How does the proposal affect these properties?**

Removal of the Hillside Area designation from the 51,000 lots which are not truly hillside, and not located in a Coastal Zone, will have the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance applied to them, thereby protecting these lots from out-of-scale development. This will leave only true hillside lots to be addressed by the **Baseline Hillside Ordinance** which is in its early stages of development, and will establish new single-family hillside regulations to address out-of-scale development throughout the City's hillside communities.

**Will this proposal remove any existing protection from over development?**

No, almost all of the properties where the Hillside Area designation would be removed front on streets with a width greater than 28 feet, so the current Zoning Code hillside regulations do not apply. They would be better protected by the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance. Those properties remaining within the proposed Hillside Area boundaries will have no change.

**Will this proposal remove any protection from excessive grading and haul routes?**

Current grading regulations are located in the Building Code and are applied based on its own Hillside Grading Area definition. Neither of those will be affected by the proposed Hillside Area amendment; so whether a property remains in, or is being removed from the Hillside Area boundaries it will continue to be subject to the current grading regulations.

**Will there be any future opportunities to revise the proposed Hillside Area Map?**

Yes, all maps developed and maintained by the Department of City Planning allow for periodic review and revision. Moreover, the opportunity to discuss any possible changes will remain open during the Baseline Hillside Ordinance public outreach and adoption processes.

**For more information on the proposed Hillside Area amendment please download the Staff Report available at:**  
**[http://planning.lacity.org/Code\\_Studies/HillsideAreaDefinitionAmendment/CPC-2008-4683-CA-StaffReport.pdf](http://planning.lacity.org/Code_Studies/HillsideAreaDefinitionAmendment/CPC-2008-4683-CA-StaffReport.pdf)**

*If you have any questions or comments, or to be added to the interest list, please contact City Planner, Erick Lopez at [erick.lopez@lacity.org](mailto:erick.lopez@lacity.org) or (213) 978-1243.*

**CD 2 CANDIDATE FORUM  
DEBATE**

Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association is hosting a CD 2 Candidate Forum Debate at Notre Dame High School Cafeteria on Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 PM located at the intersection of Woodman and Riverside in Sherman Oaks. Parking and entrance are off of Woodman.

CD2's seat was vacated by Councilwoman Wendy Greuel who was recently elected City Controller. The campaign however is already heating up with rhetoric that digresses from personalities to motives but rarely focuses on quality of life issues and concerns that make up many CD2 neighborhoods.

As a result we look for SOHA's Debate Forum to disclose which candidates will put the needs and desires of the community first and reveal who will provide a real foundation of commitment and vision to improve the quality of life in CD 2. Concerned residents and activists are welcome to weigh in on topics that will shape the platform that represents the real issues and concerns of this campaign.

**Eleven candidates have qualified with the City Clerk to run for the CD 2 seat in the special election on September 22, 2009.** If no candidate gets a majority vote, there will be a run-off election between the top two candidates December 8, 2009. They are:

1. Mary Benson, Boardmember, Sun Valley NC
2. Augusto Bisani, Businessman, Business Owner (North Hollywood)
3. Jozef "Joe" Essavi, Los Angeles County Commissioner (Van Nuys)
4. Christine Essel, Businesswoman (Studio City)
5. Tamar Galatzan, Criminal Prosecutor (Studio City)
6. Paul Krekorian, San Fernando Valley Assembly Member (Valley Glen)
7. Michael McCue, Boardmember, Studio City NC
8. Louis Pugliese, LA City Commissioner (Sun Valley) and Teacher...
9. David "Zuma Dogg" Saltsburg, Neighborhood Activist (North Hollywood)

10. Pete Sanchez, Community Organizer (Valley Village)
11. Frank Sheftel, Candy Factory Owner (North Hollywood)

**IMPACTS TO THE FIRE  
DEPARTMENT AS A RESULT OF  
BUDGET CUTS .....**

In light of misinformation regarding impacts to the Fire Department as a result of budget cuts I want to take the opportunity to present you with the facts, placing the current Fire Department budget into perspective:

1. The proposed cuts will not close a single Fire Station.
2. Every Fire Station will continue to have a paramedic resource.
3. Current budget places staff at 2002/2003 staffing levels.
4. Response times will remain under 7 minutes citywide.
5. The entire reduction to the Fire Department is taken from overtime, which actually generates more savings for the taxpayer than layoffs.
6. The Firefighters that have been reduced from various task forces will fill in for sick or absent Firefighters - thereby reducing the amount of Fire fighters needed to work on overtime.
7. The Fire Department is the only department in the City that can meet its "Shared Responsibility and Sacrifice" reduction as requested by the Mayor's budget without a single layoff or furlough.

**Councilman Greig Smith**



**JUDGE BLOCKS CITY FROM USING DWP WATER FUNDS**



In a long-expected ruling, Superior Court Judge Kenneth Freeman blocked the city from transferring money from Department of Water and Power water bills to help balance the city's general fund.

The case dates back to 2006, when the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association claimed in a lawsuit that the city's transfer of funds violated Proposition 218's requirements that fees not exceed the cost of a service. By transferring the DWP's water funds to the City's general fund, the group argued the utility was essentially being used to generate profit for the city.

Jon Coupal, executive director of the Jarvis group, called the ruling a benefit to DWP customers. **"This ruling sends a strong message to local governments across the state not to try to circumvent taxpayer protections contained in Proposition 218 because they will lose in court,"** he said.

The water fund had provided between \$25 and \$30 million a year to the City's general fund but the city has not included the money in its budget for the past several years because of this expected court ruling.

Tim Bittle, an attorney for the Jarvis association, said there are no plans to contest the DWP's much larger transfer from its power fund — exceeding \$100 million because electricity is exempted from Proposition 218.

[http://www.dailynews.com/search/ci\\_12806489?IADID=Search-www.dailynews.com-](http://www.dailynews.com/search/ci_12806489?IADID=Search-www.dailynews.com-)

**REMINDERS:  
ISSUES & MOTIONS**



Federation meetings are scheduled to start at 7:00 PM. In order to end on time, issues to be brought to the Board require a complete outline and a background, including what is being requested, then emailed to [president@hillsidefederation.org](mailto:president@hillsidefederation.org) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting along with a direct phone and fax number or phone and email address if available.

**MOTIONS** to be made at the meeting should be well thought out and printed so that they are clear and concise, with enough copies for all member associations. Each presenter will be given 5 minutes to make a presentation so that meetings can be kept on time. All requests to agendaize an issue **MUST** be approved in writing by the President before the item will be placed on the Agenda.

**MULHOLLAND SCENIC PARKWAY  
DESIGN REVIEW BOARD**

**Meets the first and third Thursday  
of the month at  
6:30 PM**

**MARVIN BRAUDE CONSTITUENTS  
SERVICE CENTER**

**6262 Van Nuys Blvd.,  
Van Nuys, CA**

**First Floor Conference Room**

Free parking under the building:  
Entrance just east of Van Nuys Blvd. on Sylvan Street



