

December 20, 2003

Los Angeles City Planning Department
Maya E. Zaitzevsky
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RECEIVED
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

DEC 24 2003

ENVIRONMENTAL
UNIT

Re: Canyon Hills Project
ENV-2002-24-EIR
SCH#2002091018

Dear Ms. Zaitzevsky:

There appear to be some questionable assumptions and conclusions in the school segment of the DEIR. First of all, the conclusion that the impact of this project will not significantly impact the school system is flawed inasmuch as it assumes that a new high school will be constructed by the year 2005 even though, apparently, the location of this school has not as yet been chosen. There is also the question of financing it with the budget crunch all cities are presently facing. Secondly, the number of children this project will create, per the DEIR, is most conservative, to say the least. The figure of 122 new students is unrealistic.

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The birth rate in this nation is about 2.5 children per family. The proposed cost of the residences in this project will eliminate the elderly, the young and the singles leaving only the married's with children or those planning to have children free to occupy the homes! The projects 280 homes may create 700 children and even allowing 50 homes to be childless only brings the total down to 575 kids. That's a far cry from the 122 in the DEIR!

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The third point is that if the new high school is not constructed, that means both high schools now in existence will be much more over their maximum as will the elementary and middle schools. That means crowded classrooms, overstressed teachers and, most importantly, a decline in learning not to mention the need to hire more teachers, do more maintenance, etc. So the impact will be SIGNIFICANT. If the high school is built, it may lessen the student impact but increase the traffic congestion through taking children to and from school five days a week!

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This school traffic coupled with about 3000 additional daily vehicle trips on La Tuna Canyon and surrounding streets spells traffic congestion and something on which the writers of the DEIR either avoided or did not care to comment??

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Lastly, the impact on the school system and the increase in traffic congestion from this project is something the EIR writers should have studied further and more completely. But just studying the school impact problem and the other problems and negatives of this proposed development is really just "window dressing." The real disaster here is that this project is just the beginning. If it is approved, with its bridges and roads, more

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development will occur with hundreds of acres turned into residential enclaves, strip malls and parking lots.

Accordingly, this development should be most carefully studied and considered and then, disapproved. Thank you.

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Margherita Brunton
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