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

December 20, 2003

RE: ENV-2002-2481-EIR; SCH#2002091018
Canyon Hills Project – DEIR Comments

Dear Ms. Zaitzevsky,

I have lived in the foothill area for over 35 years and my house is located in the Crystal View area of Tujunga-less than a mile from the proposed Canyon Hills project area. I believe that my opinion qualifies as a "citizen expert" in this area for the purposes of the reported impact this project would have. I have recently been elected as a "Community Representative" in a local election for the area in which the development is proposed. I have had the opportunity to review the DEIR and have noticed many glaring inaccuracies in the report that you should be aware of.

56-1

First, I frequent the proposed building area and know it to be a favorite of mountainbikers and hikers as well as those on family and pet walks, especially on the weekend. The DEIR doesn't propose what happens to the multi-use of this area when homes are put there.

56-2

In this area of Los Angeles we have been largely ignored as to our constant requests for a greater police presence and more fire stations. We have inadequate policing and fire resources at our present population level. This current urgency would become a full blown emergency should the development proceed without the multi-million-dollar commitment from the City to adequately staff emergency personnel. As a recent example I would point to the wildfires we have had in this area which included that area where the proposed development lies. If the proposed development were in place already I do not see any reason why Tujunga would not suffer the fire disaster of Oakland, California where the dense residential area coupled with sparse fire personnel resulted in many millions of dollars in property loss.

56-3

In my recent campaigning/election to town council, every resident I have talked to in my area *without exception* is vehemently against this proposed development for various valid reasons including those mentioned above. For example, many residents both long term and recent arrivals have moved to this area specifically for the benefit of living among relatively undeveloped mountain ranges especially along the 210 freeway from the Lowell exit to the Sunland Blvd exit. Developing this area would defeat the very reason these residents have invested so much of their lives moving here.

56-4

Additionally, this report states that there will be a minor effect on the current schooling population in this area. This is ridiculous. Even the most conservative estimate adds over 450 new school age children to the population which is already overcrowded in local schools. This new addition would mandate at least one new elementary and high school to be built which is completely ignored by the DEIR.

56-5

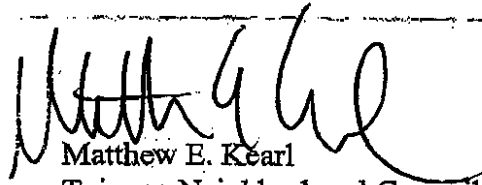
It has also been proposed that the main surface street to be used by the new population would be Tujunga Canyon Road-an undivided and dangerous two lane road lined with private homes on both sides and only one lane in each direction. Should the DEIR be correct in adding the new traffic to this country road it would impossibly clog the road since it cannot be widened any further due to the presence of private homes. This is unacceptable to the thousands of residents who already suffer through the present traffic on this road.

56-6

The proposed development is excessively broad in scope and does not address the concerns of literally thousands of affected residents of this area. The DEIR is simply inaccurate and requires a re-study and submission taking into account the myriad of underreported or wholly omitted effects the development will have on this unique area of Los Angeles. Nowhere in the City is there a remaining refuge like we have here in Tujunga. The residents here tell me that they expect the City to ignore their views as has been done to them by the City so many times in the past. Please prove them wrong by requiring a new Canyon Hills DEIR and to require that the proposed project comply with the existing laws and Scenic Plan, as well as limiting the proposed development to a maximum of 87 homes. Thank you for your consideration.

56-7

Very truly yours,


Matthew E. Kearl
Tujunga Neighborhood Councilman