

FEB 22 2005

MOTION

PUBLIC WORKS

The Mandeville Canyon area of West Los Angeles is a designated City of Los Angeles Special Flood Risk Area. Over the last several decades, Mandeville Canyon has received more than its fair share of natural disasters, usually in the form of floods and mudslides. In fact, many Mandeville Canyon properties have filed repeat disaster claims to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Recently, the Bureau of Engineering (BOE) made a significant effort to secure the safety of the community by creating a Special Order, which has been very effective in ensuring that future development in the Canyon watercourse areas will occur in a safe and appropriate manner. However, a concern remains that this does not go far enough in protecting the community and guiding property owners in the appropriate manner in which development in the watershed should occur. Property owners often are not fully aware of their responsibilities toward the watercourse and City staff is often unaware of some of the building restrictions near the watercourse. As has been seen several times over the years, any obstructions in the watercourse can lead to potential disaster.

The Bureau of Engineering has identified that the enforcement authority of the Bureau of Engineering and the Department of Building and Safety, its sister permitting agency, must be strengthened. Accordingly, the Bureau has suggested that a map outlining the Mandeville area be submitted for approval and inclusion into the Los Angeles Flood Hazard Map (LAFHM). The LAFHM is the official map for the City of Los Angeles identified by the Specific Plan for the Management of Flood Hazards (Ordinance 172081). The LAFHM includes the 100-year Flood Insurance Rate Maps published by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and can include other maps designated by the City Council. This inclusion would give City staff a stronger position should an applicant choose to challenge the City's regulatory authority. It would also help the Floodplain Manager work with the Zoning Administrator to ensure that this issue is brought into consideration in conjunction with any Planning Department decisions.

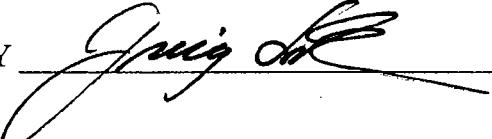
I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council request the City Attorney to draft an ordinance for presentation to the City Council to amend Ordinance 172081, which defines the Los Angeles Flood Hazard Map, to include the Mandeville Canyon watershed.

I FURTHER MOVE that if other areas experiencing significant damage to life and/or property or significant repetitive loss claims are identified in the future, that the City Engineer be directed to notify the City Council for inclusion of such areas on the Los Angeles Flood Hazard Map.

PRESENTED BY


CINDY MISCIKOWSKI
Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY




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