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Los Angeles City Council
Room 395, City Hall
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

August 29, 2017

Re: Council File 09-1977-S2
Motion for LAFD Brush Clearance Recommendations

Dear President Wesson and Honorable Councilmembers:

The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Inc., founded in 1952, represents 42 homeowner and resident associations with approximately 250,000 constituents spanning the Santa Monica Mountains. The executive committee of the Hillside Federation has reviewed and supports the pending motion to receive LAFD's recommendations for additional brush clearance safety requirements.

The motion recitals note that Bel Air community members were fortunate a 1.2-acre fire in June was quickly extinguished. The motion does not mention the 55-acre Mandeville Canyon fire in late May, which was sparked by overheated brush clearance equipment.¹ News reports stated that 15 fire companies responded, closing Mandeville Canyon Road for hours, and requiring LAFD "hot-spot" supervision for the better part of two days.

Requiring additional safety measures such as fire extinguishing equipment when performing brush clearance within Very High Fire Severity Zones is a common sense solution to substantially reduce the risk of brush fires. The Hillside Federation supports the motion.

Sincerely,

Charley Mims
Charley Mims

Beachwood Canyon Neighborhood
Bel-Air Hills Assn.
Bel Air Knolls Property Owners
Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners
Benedict Canyon Association
Brentwood Hills Homeowners
Brentwood Residents Coalition
Cahuenga Pass Property Owners
Canyon Back Alliance
CASM-SFV
Crests Neighborhood Assn.
Doheny-Sunset Plaza NA
Franklin Ave./Hollywood Bl. West
Franklin Hills Residents Assn.
Highlands Owners Assn.
Hollywood Dell Civic Assn.
Hollywood Heights Assn.
Hollywoodland Homeowners
Holmby Hills Homeowners Assn.
Kagel Canyon Civic Assn.
Lake Hollywood HOA
Laurel Canyon Assn.
Los Feliz Improvement Assn.
Mt. Olympus Property Owners
Mt. Washington Homeowners All.
Nichols Canyon Assn.
N. Beverly Dr./Franklin Canyon
Oak Forest Canyon Assn.
Oaks Homeowners Assn.
Outpost Estates Homeowners
Residents of Beverly Glen
Save Coldwater Canyon!
Shadow Hills Property Owners
Sherman Oaks HO Assn.
Silver Lake Heritage Trust
Studio City Residents Assn.
Sunset Hills Homeowners Assn.
Tarzana Property Owners Assn.
Torreyson Flynn Assn.
Upper Mandeville Canyon
Upper Nichols Canyon NA
Whitley Heights Civic Assn.

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¹ See <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-brentwood-fire-20170529-htlstory.html>.