

Steven Poster

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July 22, 2010

Planning and Land Use Committee
City Council
City of Los Angeles
Re: **Baseline Hillside Ordinance - PLUM - 10-1001-CPC-2010-581-CA**

Dear Council Members,

Our hillside communities – mostly designated by the City as “Very High Fire Severity Zones”, have been developed without appropriate infrastructure improvements, especially with respect to roadway width.

Many of our hillside communities do not have good fire hydrant access and in some areas, there is a concern regarding adequate water resources. Water mains, some constructed in the 20’s and 30’s – are overtaxed and breaking down.

The conditions of the roadways; width of the roadways, areas built up without ANY SECONDARY ACCESS are all extremely dangerous to public safety.

I live on Wonderland Ave. below West Crescent Drive, a substandard street, less than ten feet wide in some places. One fatality has already happened because of this problem on Crescent.

Every developer who has tried to build above us has claimed hardship to have to bring the street up to safe standards. There are many streets in our hillside communities that are substandard where any development without appropriate infrastructure improvements would put our neighborhoods at risk.

The 1979 Laurel Canyon fire; the recent Station fire; the 2007 Griffith Park fire; the 1961 Bel Air Fire and the countless # of fires that occur every month that are put out before they get out of control, all remind us that the concerns of the hillside residents and our valiant Fire Department regarding fighting urban fires are REAL and the improvements made with this Ordinance will be a good step towards saving lives, property and our wildlife who share our hillside environment.

We urge you to not only recommend this new ordinance, but to restore the grading requirements that were stripped from this bill.

Thank you for all of your hard work and your consideration on this ordinance.

Sincerely,

Steven Poster

CC:
Council Member Krekorian
Council Member Reyes
Council Member Huizer
Patrice Lattimore