



City Planning Commission
Planning@lacity.org
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Mr. Diego Cardoso
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Mr. Mike Woo

VIA EMAIL

May 18, 2010

RE: IN SUPPORT OF THE BASELINE HILLSIDE ORDINANCE,
REFERENCE: CPC-2010-581-CA

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

We write to give our enthusiastic support of **CPC-2010-581-CA.**

As you may recall, among many other battles, residents of the hillsides of Northeast Los Angeles rallied enthusiastically to assist the passing of the NELA Zone Change, as well as fight an extremely ignorant development attempt on Latrobe Street in Montecito Heights in recent years. The victory of these protections has gone a long way in shielding the assets of our city.

In addition, we reiterate in saying that our communities are not against development. We want conscientious development. Development that honors our particular gifts of topography and ecology.

You have no doubt heard arguments and complaints about citizens not being able to build their "dream homes"; or remarking that neighborhoods are "elitist" or "racist" and intend to keep development out; that proposed ordinance changes tie their hands. You'll hear confused calculations of FAR; derogatory remarks made against Planners; outcries that citizens were not notified properly.



We know their objectives. Our communities in the Northeast experienced a rash of bad development without the proper and specific checks in place:

- Construction that devastates a hillside at 90 degree angles
- Boxy structures that dominate and overpower the hillsides negating the existing character of the neighborhood
- Retaining walls that rise like monoliths supplanting wild grasses and native trees
- Dumping of construction materials in any available open space
- Streets blocked or torn up without being returned to safe repair
- Wildlife sent packing from corridors laid down before some of us were even born
- Devastation of historic vistas

Our communities support good development which supports the character of our neighborhoods and is sensitive to community issues.

We wholeheartedly support **CPC-2010-581-CA.**

Sincerely,

Montecito Heights Improvement Association
P O Box 31481
Los Angeles, CA 90042-0481

Cc: Councilmember Ed P. Reyes, PLUM Committee Chairman
First Council District
Room 410, City Hall
200. N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

James K. Williams, Executive Assistant, City Planning Commission

PLUM (Planning and Land Use Management Committee)