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RE: BMO/BHO Council File # 14-0656 – Update from the BABCNC

Dear Members of the PLUM Committee, Councilmembers Huizar, Harris-Dawson, Englander, Cedillo and Fuentes, Councilmembers Koretz, Ryu, all of City Council, and Mayor Garcetti:

In keeping with previous letters and actions by the BABCNC on the BMO/BHO, the purpose of the Baseline Hillside Ordinance is to protect the Santa Monica Mountains from destruction. We support the general recommendations in the code update, including elimination of the under-the-house exemption and the capping of hauling and grading at a maximum of 6,000 cubic yards.

Although we are grateful for the elimination of the under-the-house exemption and that a hauling and grading max of 6,000 cubic yards is being imposed, we think the maximum grading limits fail to address the problem in the hillsides that result in truck trips which ultimately destroy our hillside neighborhoods. As a result, while we support this provision, we would request that these hauling and grading limitations be reviewed periodically after further study in regards to the hillside areas.

We also feel that BHO has not been separately sufficiently discussed; it has been overshadowed by the BMO and not enough time has been given to the Hillside Ordinance.

It is apparent that the lack of coordination between Planning, Building & Safety and the Department of Transportation has resulted in extensive hauling and grading through the hillside neighborhoods, we think there should be trip fees and verification of the hauling. It is felt that these departments need to be more integrally coordinated to avoid the overlapping of projects in the same area.

There should also be additional fees imposed upon import/export to pay for destruction of the infrastructure. Specifically, construction vehicles need to pay for street damage with a fee levied on each truck servicing the...
This is a use fee, relevant to the damage and destruction of the roads by the trucks. There should also be a schedule of performance with construction bonds and appropriate completion bonding.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns with the pending revisions to the BHO code.

Sincerely,

Robin Greenberg, rgreenberg@babcnc.org
President, Bel Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council

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