

Communication from Public

Name: Ann Hull

Date Submitted: 02/27/2023 12:06 PM

Council File No: 05-1388

Comments for Public Posting: The people of Tujunga respectfully request a new environmental impact study of the Canyon Hills Project due to conditions being changed following the 2017 La Tuna Fire and the narrowing of La Tuna Canyon. The approval of the Canyon Hills project was based on a 2003 environmental impact study that is outdated and contains false information. We would like a motion to be placed on the agenda for a new EIR.

Communication from Public

Name: Mary-Lynne Fisher
Date Submitted: 02/27/2023 04:05 PM
Council File No: 05-1388

Comments for Public Posting: These comments are directed to the Public Safety Committee hearing scheduled for Tuesday, February 28 and chaired by Councilmember Rodriguez. I am writing to oppose the construction of 220 homes in Canyon Hills and to request that a new Environmental Impact Report be commissioned before any further work is allowed on the site. I am a member of the steering committee of the Crescenta Valley Community Association. We are a grass roots volunteer association that advocates for the interests of residents from Sunland-Tujunga through La Crescenta-Montrose to La Canada. In that role I spoke to the PLUM committee in December 2019 to oppose developer Snowball West's request to rezone the former site of the Verdugo Hills Golf Course to allow construction of a similar number of homes. Our cry was "No New Homes in Fire Zones." Fortunately the PLUM committee listened to community members who described the extreme fire risk that building on the site would pose and denied the rezoning. The City Council affirmed. Councilmember Rodriguez' opposition to the rezoning was an important influence on the committee's decision. The developer sued the city, the Superior Court judge affirmed the City Council decision, and the developer appealed to the Court of Appeal. A crucial argument leading to the ruling was the vastly increased danger that wildfires would post to residents and the extremely limited means of evacuating the area in the event of a wildfire. While I hope and expect that the Court of Appeal will affirm the Superior Court's decision, if the developer prevails, the City Council must consider the risk to residents, both in existing neighborhoods and in the proposed development in the context of other building plans that may come before it. Canyon Hills poses the same fire risk as the Verdugo Hills Golf Course site. Permission to build so many homes on the site was granted in 2005 based on an EIR done in 2003! Conditions on and around the property have changed substantially since that time. Not only did the La Tuna Canyon fire in 2019 demonstrate how prone to wildfires the area is, but it showed the difficulty of evacuating residents on narrow roads when fire trucks are attempting to gain access to fight the fire. Major developments with a single point of entry and exit are simply far too dangerous to be allowed in Canyon Hills and should be banned. They could turn new luxury

homes into death traps. To illustrate this point, consider events of the past weekend when heavy rains caused a mudslide that blocked La Tuna Canyon. That route, which was four lanes in 2003, is now only two lanes. A new EIR must focus not only on the increased fire danger but on the actual times it would take residents of existing neighborhoods and the proposed development to evacuate. Failing to require a new EIR would be a dereliction of the City Council's duty to protect the city's residents and to preserve our neighborhoods.

Communication from Public

Name: Kimberly Nichols

Date Submitted: 02/27/2023 09:38 PM

Council File No: 05-1388

Comments for Public Posting: No Canyon Hills. Please no development. Development is going the wrong way. Improve cities instead. It is cheaper to develop than fix but “development” is HURTING US AS A SPECIES. Fires drought...remember the pandemic? Mudslides

Communication from Public

Name: Susan Bolan

Date Submitted: 02/28/2023 10:40 AM

Council File No: 05-1388

Comments for Public Posting: Sent via email to Luigi Verano Juan.L.Verano@lacity.org and <http://lacouncilcomment.com/> City of Los Angeles, Public Safety Committee 200 North Spring Street, Room 1010, City Hall Los Angeles, CA 90012 Re: Public Safety Meeting - February 28, 2023 at 3:30 PM Non-agenda Item, Canyon Hills Project, La Tuna Canyon area, Tujunga Dear Public Safety Committee Members, The greater Crescenta Valley community was reminded of the proposed Canyon Hills project AKA Whitebird Inc. when the owner recently applied for a grading permit to begin leveling the canyon hillsides in La Tuna Canyon. This project was of great concern to community groups back in 2005 when it was studied and approved, who were also relieved when it did not move forward. Now twenty years since the environmental documents were compiled, conditions in the canyon have changed. We have learned a great deal about housing density and how it relates to fire evacuation and safety in areas with limited access. In the interest of public safety and in agreement with decisions made by the LA PLUM committee and the Superior Court regarding the adjacent property, the Snowball West project, the Public Safety Committee is urged to look further into this matter. Crescenta Valley stakeholders request that this item be immediately be added to the next meeting agenda as massive grading of the hillside is imminent. The twenty-year old EIR/EIS should be reopened and current conditions should be examined. Sincerely, Susan Bolan, writing as an individual Crescenta Valley Community Association, Steering Committee Member Crescenta Highlands Neighborhood Association, Board Member Glendale Homeowners Coordinating Council, Board Member Further background information can be found at <https://www.crescentavalleyweekly.com/viewpoints/02/03/2023/views-from-the-valley-23/>

Communication from Public

Name: Emma Kemp
Date Submitted: 02/28/2023 01:52 PM
Council File No: 05-1388
Comments for Public Posting: ATTN: MONICA RODRIGUEZ: "PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE" Tuesday, February 28, 2023 ROOM 1010, CITY HALL - 3:30PM Dear Monica and members of City Council, I am writing on behalf of the 7, 232+ community members who have signed a petition to demand a new EIR for the planned Luxury Gated Community in the Verdugo Hills in Tujunga ('Canyon Hills').
Petition here:
<https://www.change.org/p/no-canyon-hills-protect-verdugo-mts-from-200-home-gated-development-in-wildlife-area>. As you know, the original EIR for this project was conducted in 2003. Environmental and contextual conditions are significantly altered today and thus we share several public-safety related concerns pertaining to this development. These include, but not limited to, the following: + Fire Safety: Inadequate fire safety escape route or emergency vehicle routes. The La Tuna Canyon fire destroyed several domestic dwelling structures in this area in 2017. How will 200+ homes impact the fire safety mitigation for this project given the current (and yet outdated) plan offers only one main road in and out of the canyon? + Traffic / Emergency Evacuation: The 210 freeway as well as surrounding roadways are significantly busier today than they were 20 years ago when the original EIR was conducted. Will this roadway accommodate an additional minimum of 200+ homes (which could increase to 800+ given the recent approval of SB9/10)? In case of fire, earthquake, mudslide (as occurred this weekend at the entry point to the proposed development) or other emergency condition, how will safe evacuation of residents occur in already stressed traffic conditions? We expressly call for a new EIR for the 'Canyon Hills' development before any grading or construction begins. This is a matter of public safety and we request your input. Warmly, NO Canyon Hills Community Coalition.