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BY _____ DEPUTY

Re: 1047 N Somera Rd Haul Permit

To The Los Angeles City Council,

This letter is in response to the decision of the Department of Building and Safety to approve a hauling route for the removal of approximately 550 dump trucks of dirt from a building project in planning located at 1047 Somera Road in Bel Air.

This decision came on the heels of improper and inadequate notice from the department to the local residents with regards to the hearing on this proposed hauling route. We, as residents, were not given adequate notice to prepare and make time to attend the meeting. Luckily, my wife was able to attend the hearing due to the fact that she had already, propitiously, taken off that day. Cheryce is a practicing physician, specializing in Breast imaging and Cancer treatment at UCLA. She is a person of significant standing in our community. Her presence was met with impatience and abject disregard for our neighborhoods concerns, safety and well-being. She was given an insulting time limit of two minutes to present our position. When I heard of this I was utterly amazed. My first reaction was to wonder how these people would feel if we, as physicians, gave them two minutes to express their concerns and fears about a negative diagnosis that they had received. My wife told them of the history of landslides on this very slope. They made no effort to query her further with regards to the specifics. You see, our property, 1059 Somera, less than 50 yards away from the slope of concern, suffered a critical and large landslide in the 1960s. The property lay fallow for over a decade before the Department of Building and Safety granted permits for the construction of my current home. The landslide not only involved 1059, but also 1065 and 1071 Somera Road. I learned about the details of this landslide when I was looking into building a deck extension on my property. The geological survey that was done discovered the information from city records. It was my geologist's professional opinion that there was considerable risk in proceeding with my project. They did, however, tell me that they could get the permits for the project. I was shocked to hear that the permits could be obtained in light of the history of slope instability and evidence of ongoing movement of our home. After spending over $9000 for plans and surveys, I decided to forget about the project due to the added instability that would occur due to the construction and dirt removal. Imagine my fear and dismay when I learned that the city had approved the removal of over 550 dump trucks of earth from the slope buttressing our property less than 50 yards away. Additionally, I need to relay a second experience I had with landslides in the area, on the very same hill face. I have formerly owned and occupied 1221 Roberto Lane. About two years after I moved out of that property, my next-door neighbors pool, which had been built with plans approved by The Department of Building and Safety, slid down the slope and took the corner of 1221 Roberto Lane with it. The Department of Building and Safety went on to red tag 1221 Roberto Lane,

deeming it unsafe for occupation. In order for the owners of that property to be able to move back into their home, the Department of Building and Safety forced them to construct a steel and concrete retaining wall at their expense to the tune of many hundreds of thousands of dollars. The property downhill of the slide also suffered severe damage from the water in the pool and needed to be re-constructed.

It seems that there is a pattern here. Plans are approved, consequences occur, and those who are left behind suffer the damage of decisions made in haste. How many projects would be approved if the city had to pay for the results of their improper permits. The history and geology of an area must be considered. It is well known that the hills of Bel Air are a severe slide area. It is well known that the hills of Bel Air encompass liquefaction zones. It is well known that it is an earthquake induced slide region. It is well known as a severe fire risk with all of upper Somera road having been destroyed in the 1960's fire. Can you imagine the horror of a fire in our neighborhood with many dump trucks in place blocking our roads? There have been known blockages of streets for extended periods of time due to recent construction projects. How long does it take for a house and neighborhood to burn down? How long does it take to suffocate and die?

Do we as long-standing residents and taxpayers have no position in this? How is it that the health, welfare, and peace of mind of residents and constituents are put on the back burner?

No one in our neighborhood would deny the right of a landowner to build on their property. What we object to is the ability of any landowner to put our entire neighborhood at risk for the construction of a massive project involving hillside destabilization in an area that is already known to be unstable and has massively failed. Is one person's profit worth another's risk and danger? Who will be held accountable if this project results in further destabilization and landslides in the area. Who will pay for the property damage? Who will be prosecuted if there is bodily injury or even worse, death, as the result of someone's home sliding down the hill. What is the acceptable risk for a neighborhoods peace of mind? How much money is enough?

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

C Fischer

Drs. Michael and Cheryce Fischer