

September 30, 2020

Honorable Chair Harris-Dawson and Councilmembers:

We are residents and members of the Bowmont-Hazen Neighborhood Association. For 25 years we have lived in our home on Bowmont Drive. Over the years we have watched the natural habitat erode and wildlife diminish. Our quality of life is challenged more now than ever as developers encroach the hillsides, threatening the safety of our family, the safety of our neighbors and safety of our environment.

We respectfully ask that you protect our community by including the area from Briarcrest on the east to Franklin Canyon on the west in the Hillside Construction Regulation Ordinance (Ordinance No. 184827, Council File No. 16-1472-S1 and 16-1472-S-2). Our neighborhood deserves the same protections as the neighborhoods currently protected by the Ordinance. If the Bowmont/Hazen neighborhood is not included, homeowners and residents will suffer irreparable harm.

Our streets were not designed for heavy vehicles and equipment. The streets are narrow with blind curves. The streets are already full with vehicles for local workers, gardeners, pool cleaners, repair trucks and residents. The influx of construction will overwhelm the area. The streets cannot accommodate worker vehicles, cement trucks, dump trucks, food trucks and construction equipment without the vehicles and trucks parking illegally, blocking driveways or thoroughfares. There are no sidewalks in the neighborhood. Even with speed bumps and signs, my husband and I must be overly cautious as we walk our dog in the neighborhood. The influx of traffic and construction will further compromise our personal safety. With record breaking temperatures and winds, if there is a fire in the area, residents will have no safe way to evacuate and the LAFD will not be able to get through. This is no conjecture or hypothetical examples, I am expressing the reality of living in the canyon.

The HCR is working in Bel-Air, Laurel Canyon and the Bird Streets. It has protected homeowners from overdevelopment, massive construction sites and overburdened haul routes. At the same time, it has allowed homeowners to renovate and builders to construct appropriate homes in scale with the existing homes. That is all we are asking: help us preserve the character of our community, our quality of life, and our safety.

Please help keep us safe by including the area of Coldwater Canyon from Mulholland Drive to the border of Beverly Hills in the Hillside Construction Regulation Ordinance. Thank you.

Kind regards,
Chuck and Julie Shapiro
The Bowmont-Hazen Neighborhood Association