

Google Groups

Hillside Construction Regulation Ordinance

Virginia Kahn <virinialkahn@gmail.com>

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Posted in group: **Clerk-PLUM-Committee**

September 13, 2020

Honorable Chair Harris-Dawson and Councilmembers:

As members of the Bowmont-Hazen Neighborhood Association, a small semi-rustic community, off Coldwater Canyon, we are urging you to protect our hillside neighborhood 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).

We understand that the HCR rollout is a pilot program and was always intended to apply to the entire area of the Bel Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council. Our area has been referred to as the "donut hole" because, even though all contiguous areas are protected, we are not. We are challenged by developers who tear up hillsides, ruin habitats, disfigure landscape, threaten our safety and create a public health hazard.

Without any oversight or enforcement, bad developers have rushed oversized and inappropriate projects through City Hall to secure 'by-right' permits. We have spent countless hours attending meetings, of city departments to convince them to limit this development when it threatens our safety and is incompatible with the existing community.

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 don't procrastinate on this issue. The longer Planning and City Council wait to act, the more likely it is that the undeveloped ridgeline of Coldwater will disappear, the substandard roads will become choked with workers' cars, cement trucks, dump trucks, food trucks and construction equipment all day. These issues pose a life safety challenge in the canyons.

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. It exists. It works. It is the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

Dr. Arthur Kahn and Virginia Kahn

The Bowmont-Hazen Neighborhood Association