



Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

Dedicated to the Preservation of the Simi Hills and Santa Susana Mountains

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To: Daniel O'Donnell – Planning Department
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November 8, 2013

OPPOSITION TO Hidden Creeks Estates Project, CPC-2005-6656-AD-GPA-ZC-DA

Dear Mr. O'Donnell

We, the Board Members of the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association, are in complete opposition to the Hidden Creeks Estates Project, a proposed housing development of 188 units in the Santa Susana Mountains, which would disturb the Browns and Mormon Canyon watersheds (Browns Canyon hydrologic Unit Code 180701050202), for the following reasons:

1. It is vital to native plants and animals in the greater Los Angeles region to protect, not destroy, a riparian wetland with a year-round flowing blue stream. Browns Canyon and Mormon Canyon Creeks are premier watersheds that feed the Los Angeles River. Mayor Garcetti is appealing to the Federal Government for funding to restore the Los Angeles River. Saving the streams that feed the river is necessary.
2. Disastrous effects would ensue from development, massive grading, and significant loss of native plants and habitat in a wilderness area designated for protection in the "Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor Study Act, HR1835"; this bill has passed Congress and requires the Interior Department to consider extending the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area protection into the Simi Hills and Santa Susana Mountains.
3. It is a formidable risk to expose people and homes to a geologically and seismically hazardous landscape. Future costs to the city to cover potential disaster events could be excessive.
4. The proposed site for Hidden Creek Estates is unstable and landslides naturally occur. The Santa Susana Mountains are still uplifting, causing movement on the thrust faults. It is dangerously hazardous to build in this area.
5. This canyon is in a designated historical wildfire corridor. The chaparral and hot-dry Santa Ana wind path along the ridges and foothills create a highly combustible area. Natural wildfires will occur, causing havoc for homeowners, domestic animals, and exorbitant cost for the city.
6. Archaeological and cultural artifacts need to be protected in this region.
7. This proposed development is an egregious destruction of habitat, ancient oaks, black walnut, sycamores, and other indigenous plant life that supports wildlife: mountain lions, bobcats, American badgers, coyotes, grey foxes, long-tailed weasels, raccoons, raptors such as Cooper's Hawk, Golden Eagle, California Condor and many amphibians and reptiles.

8. Los Angeles must look to vertical development along main arteries of public transportation, rail, bus, for future growth and preserve the natural beauty and remaining wildlife corridors, open space, mountains and foothills.

Sincerely,



Teena A. Takata
President, Santa Susana Mountain Park Association
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About Santa Susana Mountain Park Association:

Santa Susana Mountain Park Association is a 41 year-old non-profit organization based in Chatsworth, Los Angeles, California.

We represent approximately 700 members and concerned citizens, and we partner with many organizations to promote ecological and recreational quality in Southern California.

SSMPA's mission is to preserve and protect the Simi Hills, Santa Susana Mountains, and surrounding open space.

SSMPA Board of Directors:

Teena Takata, John Luker, Vanessa Watters, Diana Dixon-Davis, Bob Dager,
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