

August 5, 2005

Councilmember Ed P. Reyes
Council District 1
200 N. Spring St., Rm. 410
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Lisa Sarno, CAO
Council District 14
200 N. Spring St., Rm. 425
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Council Member Reyes and Ms. Sarno:

North East Trees is an environmental design and planning non-profit organization based in Northeast Los Angeles. We have worked in these communities for over fifteen years to enhance local open space resources. The pressure to develop these resources for purposes other than open space must be balanced with the need to ensure environmental health and ecological sustainability of the existing communities.

Northeast Los Angeles has become the focus of speculative developers who actions threaten to undermine community infrastructure and make our neighborhoods less livable. The rush to develop parcels once considered unsuitable for building endangers neighboring properties, the character of our community, as well as the Northeast's most valuable natural resource—our hillsides.

I urge you to strongly support the proposed Northeast Hillside ICO. The goal is not the prohibit development in these areas but to ensure appropriate development in these sensitive areas. This important measure would provide some needed guidance to the concentrated development efforts in the area which could cause irrevocable damage to the communities of El Sereno, Glassell Park, Montecito Heights and Mount Washington. I support the ICO as a reasonable solution to further public safety and preserve the quality of life that attracted people to the Northeast area in the first place. The ICO will ensure that hillside developers do not threaten neighboring property owners' rights as they exercise theirs.

Please stand strong for the proposed ICO and work vigorously towards its enactment and enforcement. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Larry Smith
Executive Director

cc: Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Councilmember Jack Weiss,
Councilmember Tony Cardenas,
Elva Yanez via e-mail (Northeast Open Space Coalition)