

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA

GREATER CYPRESS PARK
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
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GREATER CYPRESS PARK
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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The Honorable Gloria Molina

Los Angeles County Supervisor, 1st District

500 West Temple Street, 8th Floor

Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Open Space Preservation Tract 3867, lots 405, 404, 403, 402, 401, 400 and 399

Parcel Numbers: 5464-028-046 (7587.7 sq ft), 5464-028-046 (3617.1 sq ft) lot line adjustment, 5464-028-045 (3500.2 sq ft) lot line adjustment, 5464-028-045 (6646.9 sq ft), 5464-028-027 (.22 acre), 5464-028-028 (.23 acre), 5464-028-029 (.14 acre) and 5464-028-042 (.25 acre)

February 9, 2010

Dear Supervisor Molina:

The Greater Cypress Park Neighborhood Council fully supports the Mount Washington Homeowners Alliance's proposal for the acquisition of seven lots, currently for sale along "dirt" Burnell Drive proximate to the entrance of Elyria Canyon Park, as part of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's Northeast Open Space Plan.

Our community has appreciated and embraced Elyria Canyon Park since 1994, when you dedicated the park on that beautiful day in May. Your support of this Open Space was critical and without it, the acquisition would not have been made. Elyria Canyon Park is a cherished park that, because of its location on the boundaries of three adjacent neighborhood council districts, is shared by the communities of the Arroyo Seco NC and the Glassell Park NC as well as our own Greater Cypress Park NC.

We believe the acquisition of this Open Space would be an excellent use of any state and local monies that have been targeted for the preservation of open space within the densely populated Northeast area of Los Angeles.

Our neighborhood council initially supported the preservation of this site in 2006 because we recognized the unique natural environment, and the need to preserve it. This location is on a hilly north-facing slope containing numerous mature endangered California Black Walnut Trees as well as the associated flora and fauna of the black walnut woodland habitat. In recent years, Mule deer have been reported in Mount Washington for the first time since the 1960s, and they traveled along "dirt" Burnell on their way to and from Elyria Canyon State Park. Raptors seen at this site include several species of hawk and owl and the list of bird species found on Mount Washington has reached 113. Recently a California Legless lizard was found in the area, making this the first report in Mount Washington of this unusual reptile. This is a rich and thriving natural ecosystem that would add greatly to the open space already provided by Elyria Canyon Park.

This location has provided an unofficial entrance to Elyria Canyon Park for the residents for years. It is also a significant wildlife corridor. We ask you to lend your support to proposal to acquire this property to preserve the Black walnut woodland and extend the habitat for our native wildlife and for generations to come.

We appreciate any effort and funding you are able to secure toward the preservation of this unique habitat.

Yours sincerely,

Gus Lizarde

Chair, Greater Cypress Park Neighborhood Council

CC: Paul Edelman, Councilman Ed Reyes, Councilman José Huizar