



Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

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

P.O. Box 4831
Chatsworth, CA 91313-4831
ssmpa.com

February 6, 2015

Re: Hidden Creek Estates

To: Mitchell Englander, Los Angeles City Councilmember District 12

The proposed Hidden Creeks Estates Development (HCE), 188 homes, has yet to be approved by Los Angeles City councilmembers to be annexed to LA city for sewer lines, water, electricity, roads, fire and police department, library and other services. These city services will cost all taxpayers money through increased property taxes and higher DWP rates.

Many letters from environmental organizations and individuals protesting the HCE Development have been sent to LA City Council from the inception of this residential development: SSMPA, Sierra Club, Audubon Society, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, naturalist Don Mullally, and others. Paul Edelman, Deputy Director, Natural Resources for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, stated, "You couldn't pick an ecologically worse place to plop down a big subdivision." Our wildlife need the Mormon and Browns Canyons woodlands and lush habitat in this significant ecological area (SEA).

A healthy Los Angeles River needs to have blue streams and seasonal streams with the riparian habitat along these tributaries undisturbed. Grading for the HCE Development would move 7 million cubic yards* of earth (37,235 cubic yards per house, in excess of all Maximum "By-Right" Grading Quantities per the City's Baseline Hillside Ordinance by a factor of 10). Browns Creek and Mormon Creek will not survive this kind of earth movement or the aftermath of homeowners and their assault on this lush forest-native habitat by planting invasive, non-native plants, use of pesticides, herbicides, and all other unnatural activity in a vital wildlife corridor.

The slopes of the Santa Susana Mountains are natural landslide areas. Disastrous landslides and debris flows will happen to HCE residents after grading and building in the Santa Susana Mountain foothills. This is also a significant seismic fault region. There are the natural occurring Santa Ana winds which compound the wildfire risks. All these natural conditions put humans and pets that move into this location in great jeopardy. This urban sprawl in a high-risk region does not make sense.

In summary, there is not a good reason for the City to annex the proposed Hidden Creeks Estates. It would be costly for taxpayers, destroy a valuable ecological area for wildlife, and put humans at great risk to live in the foothills of the Santa Susana Mountains.

Make the right decision: Vote NO to annexation of Hidden Creek Estates to the City of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,

Teena Takata
President, Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

* Final Environmental Impact Report HIDDEN CREEKS ESTATES PROJECT, EIR Case File No. ENV-2005-6657-EIR, p.II-2

cc: All Los Angeles City Councilmembers and Mayor Garcetti

About **Santa Susana Mountain Park Association:**

Santa Susana Mountain Park Association is a 43 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 regional open space.

SSMPA Board of Directors:

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