

**SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY**

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March 24, 2008

Anna M. Vidal  
City of Los Angeles  
Department of Planning  
6262 Van Nuys Boulevard, Suite 351  
Van Nuys, California 91401

**Notice of Preparation  
Granada Hills-Knollwood Community Plan Project  
Case No. ENV-2006-EIR**

Dear Ms. Vidal:

The Conservancy's comment are focused in two areas of the Granada Hills-Knollwood Community Plan area. The first set of areas is the sum of all the flood control channel rights-of-ways that bisect the area from north to south. These public lands are critical for future trail connections, for storm water infiltration, and groundwater recharge. The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) must analyze these inherent values and assess whether the proposed plan is adequately protecting and facilitating the maximum multi-benefit public use of these lands. The new plan must show public trails along both sides of every flood control channel where adequate land exists. That is the only way of preserving such options even if they never happen because of legal or physical constraints.

The second focus area for the Conservancy is the multi-hundred-acre block of privately-owned open space located in the northwest corner of the community plan area on both sides of Sesnon Avenue. The DEIR must recognize that every acre of that large habitat block is integrally connective to, and contributive to, the core habitat of the Santa Susana Mountains. We advocate any reduction in development density in these areas and encourage policies that require clustering as close and possible to existing paved roads.

The DEIR must also recognize and analyze how that large habitat block holds great potential for trail connections into the Santa Susana Mountains from Sesnon Boulevard. In addition, trail routes may also be possible from Sesnon Boulevard southward to larger drainage tributaries and even as far as south of the 118 Freeway. It is imperative that adequate analysis occurs in the plan and DEIR preparation process to insure that key trail segments are well documented. Once on the community plan these trails are infinitely easier to exact

Notice of Preparation Comments - Case No. ENV-2006-EIR  
Granada Hills-Knollwood Community Plan Project  
March 24, 2008  
Page 2

from parcel and tract map entitlements. A little work now is worth great zero cost public benefits in the future.

City project approvals have created a base of the San Gabriel Mountains trail corridor to the east side of Interstate 5 to the intersection of Balboa and Foothill Boulevards. This is the optimal, if not perfect, alignment for the Rim of the Trail. The next section of trail must cross the Foothill I5 bridge and enter the subject community plan area and find a way to O'Melveny Park. This is a regionally significant trail. The DEIR and community plan must recognize the trail corridor and analyze how it can be realistically routed on both public and private lands to get across roads to O'Melveny Park. The Sesnon Boulevard rights-of-ways must be included in this analysis.

Please contact our staff if you need any assistance in demarcating any trail corridors in the hillside or along the flood control channels.

Please address any questions and all future documents to Paul Edelman of our staff at the above letterhead address and by phone at 310-589-3200 ext. 128.

Sincerely,

RONALD P. SCHAFFER  
Chairperson