

James Yeramian

From: Kallich, Joel [jkallich@amgen.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2006 7:48 AM
To: 'boardsec@smmc.ca.gov'
Cc: Peter Rothenberg (E-mail)
Subject: Testimony for March 27, 2006 meeting

Board Secretary James Yeramian
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Advisory Committee
SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY
LOS ANGELES RIVER CENTER AND GARDENS
570 WEST AVENUE TWENTY-SIX
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90065

Dear Mr. Yeramian:

I would like to provide supporting testimony regarding the following board item for your March 27, 2006 meeting:

16. Consideration of resolution authorizing the addition of properties to the Stokes Canyon-King Gillette Connector, Liberty Canyon Wildlife Corridor - North, and the Upper Las Virgenes Open Space Preserve-Northeast Connector workprogram projects.

I want to state that I support the adding of additional properties to the Upper Las Virgenes Open Space Preserve, specifically a parcel that adjoins Kittridge St. and Randiwood St. in West Hills.

This parcel, which both adjoins and is directly opposite of my property, is a crucial area of wildlife habit. Before the current owner posted no trespassing signs I frequently hiked in this area and saw bobcats, deer, roadrunners, hawks, owls, and many other wild animals. The views over the San Fernando Valley are spectacular, as are the views towards the interior of the Las Virgenes Preserve. It is a wonderful piece of property and it would be both a shame and significant loss to the community if it was developed.

While our family enjoys the peace and quiet of our position next to this empty property, we believe it should be protected and used by the general public. This wonderful open space is important to all the citizens of the Valley and preserving it for their and their children's future enjoyment should be a priority of your committee. Finally, I think that this is an important wildlife area as it sits between three parks (Knapp Ranch, Las Virgenes Preserve, and El Scorpion park) and as such should be protected so that there is not such a jigsaw puzzle of boundary lines between private and public land which animals have often difficulty discerning.

I urge the committee to visit the area and I think that you will see for yourselves the necessity of protecting this space before it gets developed. Please let me know when you and/or the committee can visit and I would be happy to provide coffee and an opportunity for you to meet the residents of the neighborhood that adjoins the property as I am a member of the board of the Westhills Homeowners Association.

If you have any questions or there is any other way that I can assist please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,
Joel Kallich

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