

CANYON HILLS PROJECT – Draft Environmental Impact Report – DEIR

It's helpful if you view this as process as vigilance, for that's basically what it is. Landowners have rights, but don't have the right to impose significant detrimental effects on communities and ecosystems merely because of they don't want certain restrictions imposed on them. It's basically that simple. **One of our roles in the public participation process is to prevent the developers from manipulating the facts and evading complying with existing laws.** Identifying and emphasizing the significance of negative impacts in as factual a manner as we can will have an impact. The City needs to be shown that there are real quality of life issues beyond just whether there is a view from the freeway! **You don't have to comment on every part of the DEIR**, you can just pick and choose the areas of concern or interest to you. The applicant has repeatedly asserted that certain impacts are not significant, so we have to show any errors in their assessment. Responding to the DEIR is the most important thing you can do. Your comments will become part of the Final EIR which will be sent to the Los Angeles City Council to help them decide whether or not or to what extent to approve the Canyon Hills Project. The LA City Planning Dept. will have to respond to each of your comments. **This is your chance to be heard and you can make a difference!**

We will be most successful by working together. We are preparing a guide for community members to assist each other in reviewing and responding to the Canyon Hills DEIR. Some of us have started to compile initial observations & questions for consideration, and are meeting to coordinate our efforts. If you are interested adding your comments or expertise, see the "Contacts & Resource Support List" section on this site. When available, we will also include general comments from "experts" in certain fields of study. In reviewing the DEIR for your own comments, especially consider the following:

- What is inaccurate or misrepresented
- What is omitted and additional information that should be included

Consider data presented, and any conclusions or assertions drawn from it. Then consider your own data sources & observations. With respect to any mitigation measures that may be presented, ask yourself if they have evidenced specifically **how or if these can be implemented**. You can also suggest additional mitigation measures **that have not been included** which you consider important features of this project.

It is important to understand that the purpose of the EIR is to provide information on the environmental impacts of Canyon Hills. To ensure that your comments have the greatest impact, we recommend the following guidelines:

- Obtain a copy of the DEIR
- Focus on the defects of the DEIR, not on the project itself
- Discuss whether the DEIR adequately identifies and analyzes the environmental impacts and how they can be reduced or avoided.
- Point out additional impacts and mitigation measures which have been overlooked.
- Indicate if you think that the DEIR does not include a range of viable alternatives in any respect (although it's not recommended that you attempt to define specifically what the alternatives should be; simply state whether you think there is an adequate range of alternatives or not).
- Provide as much substantial evidence for your criticisms as possible.
- State whether you have experience which makes you especially qualified to comment. (Your experience can be something as simple as living on a street near the project and observing traffic patterns, or as complex as having a Ph.D. in Civil Transportation Engineering).

The deadline to respond to the Canyon Hills DEIR is December 31, 2003