



## Santa Susana Mountain Park Association

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

P.O. Box 4831

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[ssmpa.com](http://ssmpa.com)

Mr. Jodie Sackett, Case Planner  
Los Angeles County Dept. of Regional Planning  
320 W. Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

September 3, 2013

Re: Proposed Woolsey Canyon Estates, TR061037, RCUP04-069

Dear Mr. Sackett,

Santa Susana Mountain Park Association (SSMPA) is writing Los Angeles County Planning Department regarding this proposed development, Woolsey Canyon Estates, as designated on your website <http://planning.lacounty.gov/case/view/04-069>. This proposed development will negatively impact Santa Susana Mountains-Simi Hills-Chatsworth Nature Preserve wildlife and habitat.

Wildlife movement through the Simi Hills linking the Santa Monica Mountains to the Santa Susana Mountains and beyond is crucial to the preservation of large mammals such as mountain lions, bobcats, and other smaller animals in the Southern California landscape. If the Simi Hills continue to be subjected to urban sprawl, housing developments and residential estates, wildlife movement will be cut off leading to inbreeding and demise of all large species and smaller animals. This proposed development has many damaging and fatal results for all wildlife in Southern California. Missing in your studies are animals that live in and travel through the Woolsey Canyon-Box Canyon area: mule deer, opossums, raccoons, badgers, skunks, bats, bobcats and cougars. All of these animals have been sighted traveling through the Woolsey Canyon eco-system between the Santa Susana Field Lab and inside the Chatsworth Nature Preserve.

Dense sage chaparral and abundance of native plants, including as noted in the biological report a significant loss of the Santa Susana Tarplant and Humboldt Lily, as well as the potentially significant loss of the Plummer's Mariposa Lily, Many-stemmed Dudleya, and the SFV Spineflower, either rare or endangered, have unrecoverable ramifications if this development proceeds.

When homeowners move into an ecologically sensitive area, they do not respect the environment. Residents do not tolerate living with mice, rats, rattlesnakes, and all critters they feel are a threat. Soon, they begin using anti-coagulants, traps, and pesticides that are lethal to both native plant habitat and wildlife.

The Coast Live Oak Woodland in the designated area and shaded ravine of the Woolsey Canyon Creek is at risk. In the clearing for this development out of the 57 oak trees, ten are targeted for destruction, leaving 47. Los Angeles County has a responsibility to preserve oak trees, not destroy them. Not just trees will be destroyed; these trees are also homes for many birds and animals.

The need for Los Angeles County-City to not only rely on "imported" water sources but to conserve and use groundwater is another reason not to disturb the Woolsey Canyon Creek, Hydrologic Unit #180701050202, a vital watershed for the Chatsworth Nature Preserve, owned/managed by DWP. This watershed serves the water needs for wildlife and habitat, as well as for humans.

This area of the Simi hills is an archaeologically sensitive area, a convergence region for both Chumash and Tongva. The Burro Flats cave, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, is just up this hill. Because of the known extensive Native American use of this area, an archaeological study should be ordered and completed for inclusion in any environmental impact report or any other pre-approval process that may be used for this proposed development. See also, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burro Flats Painted Cave](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burro_Flats_Painted_Cave). If development is approved, a qualified local archaeologist and a Native American monitor should be present during any time earth is moved.

The destruction a Significant Ecological Area, unique rock formations, riparian woodland and the Woolsey Canyon Creek, are reasons to not approve the Woolsey Canyon Estates development.

Sincerely,



Teena A. Takata, President

Cc: LA County Supervisors

Michael Antonovich 5<sup>th</sup>

Don Knabe, 4<sup>th</sup> District

Zev Yaroslavsky, 3<sup>rd</sup> District

Mark Ridley-Thomas, 2<sup>nd</sup> District

Gloria Molina, 1<sup>st</sup> District

Shirley Imsand, LA County Planning Biologist

Scott Harris, CA Fish and Wildlife

Senator Fran Pavley

**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 surrounding open space.

**SSMPA Board of Directors:**

Teena Takata, John Luker, Vanessa Watters, Diana Dixon-Davis, Bob Dager, Carla Bollinger, Warren Stone, Donna Nachtrab, Tom Nachtrab