



Hills for Everyone

Friends of the Wildlife Corridor

Newsletter No. 6

Summer 2002

Hillsides Assaulted by Developers!

Traffic: 14,000 new houses will mean 140,000 extra vehicle trips per day on local streets and freeways... and the loss of our ridgelines.



AERA land in background, 57 Freeway in foreground

By: Claire Schlotterbeck

Developers have proposed, received approval for, or are currently building more than 14,000 houses in this region. This is the equivalent of another City of Brea. Over half of this number (approx. 9,300 units) are slated for the hills of north Orange County and sensitive parts of the Wildlife Corridor in unincorporated Los Angeles County.

The largest proposal, by AERA Energy, calls for 3,600 houses on their land above Brea. AERA, a wholly owned subsidiary of Shell/ExxonMobil, has met with numerous groups, from soccer folks to homeowner association boards, but they apparently didn't listen to residents' concerns. Instead, they have chosen to try to inundate our area with more traffic and less beauty in a quest for profit at our expense. Not hurting for money, Shell/ExxonMobil's combined *net* profit in 2001 totaled over \$22 billion.

AERA representatives have repeatedly said they are willing to sell their land. Given its geological, biological and traffic difficulties, we would like to take them up on this offer. However, they are aiming to crank up the sale price. Their public relations campaign has already flooded residents with glossy brochures describing their "sensitive" project.

Three east - west access roads have been planned. One access is at Tonner and Brea Canyons near Brea; another at Brea Canyon and the 57 freeway in Diamond Bar. The sole access on the west connects to Harbor Blvd. in La Habra Heights. AERA has planned a neighborhood above Berry in Brea, but at this point no through road is planned. They have also proposed a commercial strip near Tonner and Brea Canyons.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Some say that environmentalism is born of grief - grief at the loss of what once was. I believe it is also born of love - love for what can still be. At the juncture of grief and love comes action.

In the 25 years I have been involved in hillside preservation in this region, I have never seen so much opportunity for protection and so much potential for loss. Numerous funding sources exist to buy the remaining threatened lands in the hills.

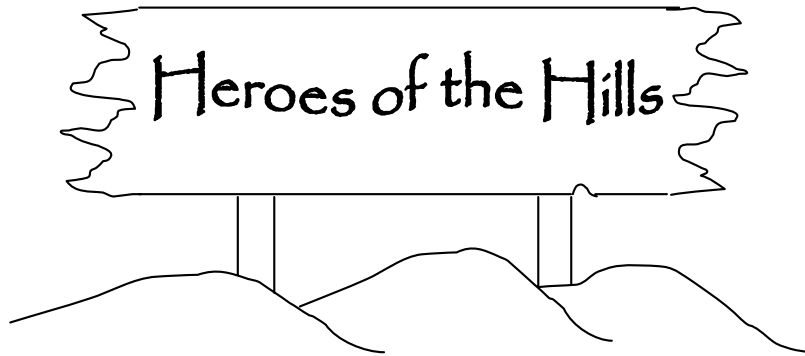
Los Angeles County's Proposition A provides \$10 million specifically for this region. State Props 12 and 40, already passed by voters, offer even more grants. Our lands are within the territory of the newly created Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. Mitigation moneys from transportation improvements are also available. Prop 50 on the November ballot offers more funding possibilities.

Decision makers can be educated to learn how to access the funds; citizens can tell them they care.

If not you, who? If not now, when?

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Whittier Dave Cowardin
 Through his leadership and savvy, Dave put together a wise and definitive Whittier Park Plan. This Plan evolved into Whittier's active preservation of 4,000 acres. He served as President of Friends of Whittier Hills (FWH) in the 1980's.

Yorba Linda Dr. Jeff Hansen
 An active biker, conservationist and photographer, Jeff has a lively chiropractic business in Yorba Linda. He shows the Corridor video, *Saving Open Space*, in his waiting room and has an amazing array of wildlife photos.

Hacienda Heights Steve Feld
 An active Sierra Club member, Steve has been a public member of WCCA since 1995. He is an avid hike leader and trip organizer, never tiring of travel. His willingness to pitch in to problem solve is especially useful.

Chino Hills Margaret Hogarth
 Margaret helped start the native plant nursery at CHSP and is still its main spirit and work horse. She actively recruited even more volunteers and is always available for events. Now, she is HFE's volunteer web guru.

La Habra Heights Judy Ennis
 Active in the preservation of our hills for over 30 years, Judy currently serves as an officer of FWH. Because of her inspiration, many younger residents have become involved in the preservation of the Wildlife Corridor.

 DO YOU KNOW OF OTHER
 CONSERVATION HEROES IN THE HILLS?
 Please email their names with a brief description of their efforts to:
info@hillsforeveryone.org



Brea Bev Perry
 Three-term Councilwoman Perry serves as Chair of the Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority and Vice Chair of the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. Bev's many regional contacts bring recognition and support for preservation.

Ninety percent of AERA's land lies in unincorporated Los Angeles County while the rest lies in unincorporated Orange County. In May 2002 they filed their plans with both counties. Environmental review will begin soon.

To see an aerial video clip of this land, visit www.lahabraheights.net.

Hills For Everyone is embarking on its own campaign to inform residents of the negative impacts this project will have on their quality of life. Check out our website for updated information www.hillsforeveryone.org. Be prepared to join hands with neighbors throughout the hills whose quality of life would suffer if this massive project is approved.

In addition, Texas-based Nuevo Energy has proposed 914 houses in Brea east of the 57 freeway on Lambert. Their project proposes a private road into the only remaining wildlife connection between the Puente and Chino Hills under the 57 Freeway at Tonner Canyon.

Shapell Industries has proposed 1,077 houses on sensitive lands in Yorba Linda. They want a threefold density increase over the General Plan and deletion of hundreds of acres of open space to accommodate executive housing.

Our communities have not yet even felt the impacts of 3,400 houses currently under construction in both cities.

\$\$\$ Funding Needs \$\$\$
 HFE has developed a PowerPoint presentation to inform the public about threats to the Corridor. Equipment is needed for use at public presentations:

- * A portable LCD projector
- * A laptop computer

HFE is a tax deductible 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

DID YOU KNOW?

- * **Discover Magazine - September 2002 highlights our work**
 This nation-wide magazine contains a big article on wildlife corridors, featuring our corridor work and the significance of Coal Canyon.
- * **Guided hikes occur in Chino Hills State Park on Saturdays**
 State Park Resource Ecologist Alissa Ing conducts nature hikes in the Park on Saturday mornings. Guided hikes by special arrangement are also available. For more information call 909-780-6222.
- * **Help revegetate the State Park every 3rd Saturday from 9 - 12**
 Take the kids, meet great people, and keep the nursery growing.

UPLIFTING UPDATES

BREA CAÑON OIL COULD BE SAVED

The City of Brea is meeting with the landowner's representatives to discuss acquisition of their 500+ acres of land in Tonner Creek. It includes lush oak and walnut woodlands. Brea has submitted a grant request for \$3 million to the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, a new state agency working on the San Gabriel River and its watershed, which includes Tonner Canyon.

The estimate of the property cost by a state certified appraiser is within reach for acquisition. The County of Orange has also expressed interest in this land as a park. They have funds available from Props 12 and 40.

FREEWAY UNDERPASS TO BE BULLDOZED

In one of the rare instances when bulldozers actually help land, Chino Hills State Park is formulating plans to remove the asphalt under the Coal Canyon underpass of the 91 freeway. Removal of the asphalt will be followed by recontouring the land, and revegetating the area with native plants.

The existing on and off ramps will be reconfigured to allow access for public safety only. The fencing will be re-routed to guide the wildlife under the underpass so they can travel between the Puente-Chino Hills and the Cleveland National Forest.



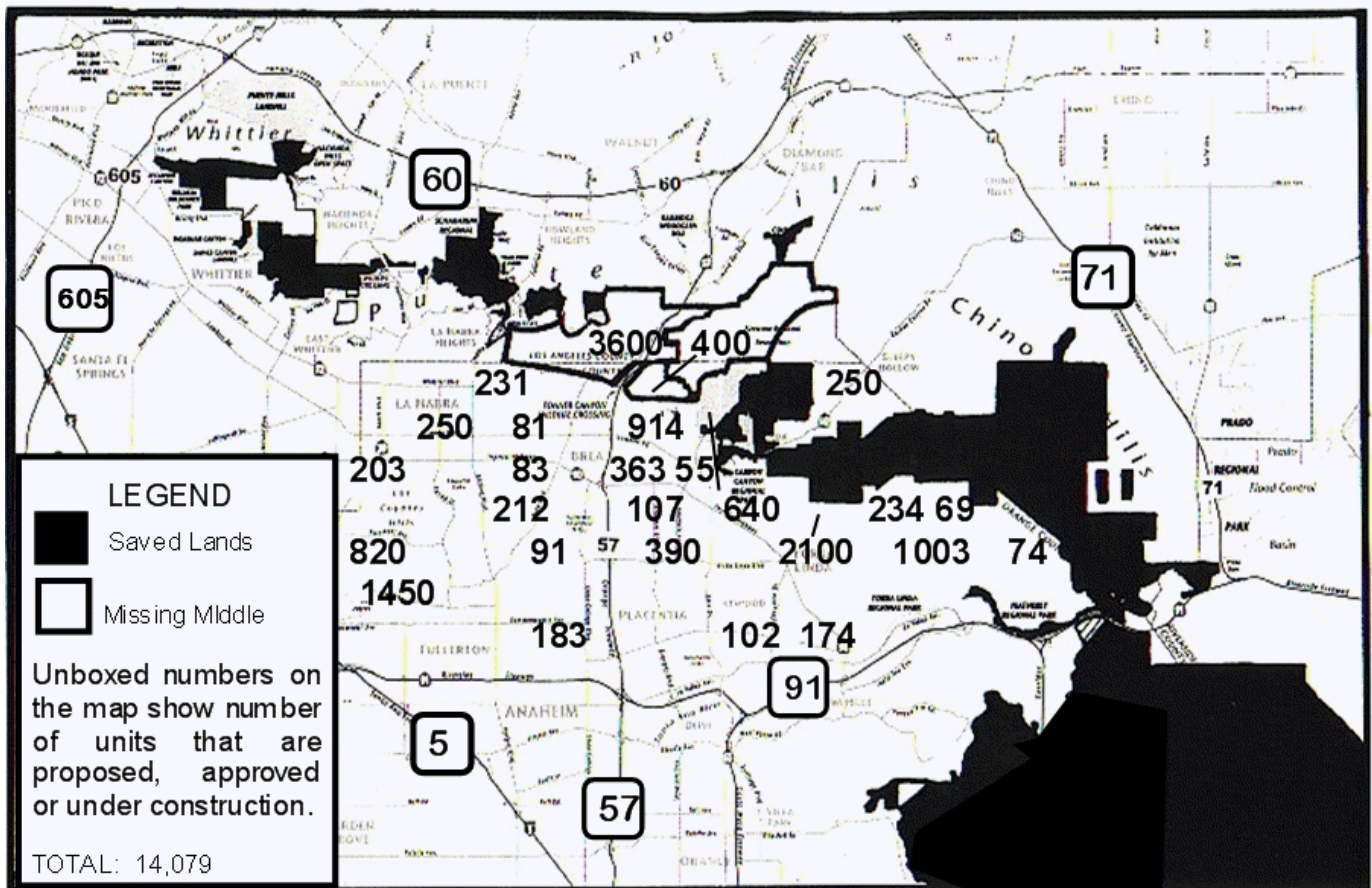
**WHO AM I?
INQUIRING MINDS
WANT TO KNOW...**

**FIRST ACCURATE ANSWER
WINS A PRIZE!**

Email your answer to:
info@hillsforeveryone.org

See Fall 2002 Newsletter for answer

OVERDEVELOPMENT THREATENS HILLS



BOTHERSOME BULLETINS

CANYON CREST - BREA

This 250 unit project is proposed on the ridges east of Olinda Village and north of Carbon Canyon Road within Brea's city limits. The Canyon Crest slopes are so steep fire trucks can't get to the houses in a timely manner. The project requires substandard (private) roads to make it feasible.

The project would bulldoze 1,600

native oaks and walnut trees. The developer cannot safely mitigate the traffic of an additional 2,500 vehicle trips a day on Carbon Canyon Road.

At first blush, it looks like the Canyon Crest Draft EIR has identified a number of unmitigatable, unavoidable negative impacts. If that is the case, the City Council can simply turn the project down.

TONNER CANYON

Nearly two years ago, the City of Industry bought 2/3 of the Boy Scout Reservation. The Sierra Club and others filed two lawsuits. When our day in court finally came, the judge refused to admit the volumes of documentation about Industry's plans to build three reservoirs on the property. The case is now under appeal. Conservationists believe they have a much better chance of prevailing in the appellate court.

ARTISTS' CORNER

"Summer Pleasures"

Artist:

Dr. Jeff Hansen



Bob - A local cat in a cool tree

To submit your artwork, send it to: info@hillsforeveryone.org

Fall Issue Theme: Awesome Autumnns

HILLS FOR EVERYONE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Bob Henderson
Vice President: Jill Kowalik
Sec'y-Treasurer: Glenn Parker
Members-at-Large: Dr. Jack Bath
Dr. Carol McKenzie
Exec. Director: Claire Schlotterbeck

Editor: Melanie Schlotterbeck

NEW BOARD MEMBER

Jill Kowalik, long time open space advocate from La Habra Heights, has joined the Hills For Everyone Board. A UCLA professor, Jill has been tireless in promoting protection of land. She and husband Bill filmed, wrote and produced the *Saving Open Space* video on conservation efforts in the hills. Her media skills and energy are a welcome addition.



Hills for Everyone

Friends of the Wildlife Corridor

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WWW.HILLSFOREVERYONE.ORG