

Attachment E

Dear Councilmembers,

Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council represents hillside residential areas with narrow streets and limited points of entry and exit. For residents' safety, emergency vehicles need to be able to pass through our streets freely and quickly. When an emergency medical situation arises, residents need to be able to get help without delay. Furthermore, our entire area is in a designated very high fire hazard severity zone, and many of our neighborhoods are already quite distant from the fire station that serves them. Protecting the ability of first responders to enter and for residents to evacuate quickly should a catastrophic fire or other disaster occur is also critical to public safety.

For nearly a decade, our neighborhoods and our stakeholders - your constituents - have also experienced the adverse impacts of a high density of construction, resulting in hazardous conditions threatening our safety and creating potential liability for the City.

That these impacts were occurring was the impetus behind the introduction of the Hillside Construction Regulation, which was passed and applied to Bel Air in 2017, Laurel Canyon and North of Sunset in 2018, and Coldwater Canyon in 2023. Despite these measures, dangerous conditions remain. Construction creates frequent road blockages which often last for extended periods, often 30-45 minutes or more, and which constitute a serious safety hazard. Emergency vehicles and residents can't enter or exit their neighborhoods. Many of the residents of our area are elderly, and this presents an especially dangerous and frightening situation for them. This is not a theoretical problem; we know of real cases where construction blockages significantly delayed emergency trips to the hospital. We also know of people who have had to leave longtime homes due to these construction impacts.

We are conscious of property rights and understand that homes may need to be updated but putting residents' lives at risk is an unacceptable cost. The fact that this decade-long hazard continues is a travesty. Your constituents deserve better.

We note that the following situations are especially hazardous:

- Areas with multiple haul routes operating at the same time or with a single haul route operating with very heavy traffic
- Failure of sites utilizing the same ingress and egress points to coordinate their hauling and large deliveries, including cement trucks
- Failure of sites to provide appropriate traffic control when hauling or receiving deliveries
- Failure of sites to verify passability of streets prior to attempting deliveries of oversized construction equipment
- Worker parking, material storage and construction bins and trailers narrowing roads to a single lane of traffic
- Sites utilizing cul-de-sacs for parking and storage of materials

These may be addressed in many ways, including but not limited to:

- Limiting the density of construction projects using a single ingress and egress point
- Instituting stricter regulations regarding traffic control and provide enforcement for those regulations
- Modifying the haul route process to limit the number of truck trips using a single ingress and egress point

Additional elements of haul route reform may include further limiting of allowable grading, use of deputy inspectors assigned by LADBS rather than chosen by developers, banning transfer of approved haul routes with transfer of property ownership, requiring assignment of approved routes to by-right hauling and large material/equipment deliveries, extension of hillside haul route rules to large material/equipment deliveries, and use of revenue from bonds collected for street repair for repair of specific streets damaged by construction traffic, particularly hauling.

- Verifying actual width of continuously paved roadway before issuance of permits
- Modifying the penalty structure for violations of the HCR to ensure compliance and deter future infractions
- Requiring worker shuttling for new construction and major remodels in HCR areas

Following the adoption of the Hillside Construction Regulation, the former Councilmembers from Council Districts 4 and 5 each assured BABCNC leaders that the ordinance would be modified imminently to address additional hillside concerns arising out of the continuing construction. We are grateful that a number of requested modifications are in the pending Wildlife Ordinance. Other issues remain, specifically relating to plan check, grading and site management.

Our primary concern at this time is public safety, and addressing this is our urgent request.

We implore you to proceed with modifications that protect residents' welfare.

We look forward to working with you and your staff to bring effective solutions to Council in an expedient manner.

Sincerely,