

CHATSWORTH NATURE PRESERVE COALITION

Working Together to Save a Crucial Habitat in Los Angeles-San Fernando Valley

www.savechatsworthpreserve.com



September 19, 2016

Case No. VTT-73427

Case No. CPA 2004-7308-ZC-ZAD-K

CEQ ENV-2014-3995-EIR

Milena Zasadzien

Department of City Planning

E-mail: milena.zasadzien@lacity.org

Dear Ms. Zasadzien:

Here are the reasons the Chatsworth Nature Preserve Coalition is protesting the Andora Subdivision Project:

- The proposed Andora Estates abuts the Chatsworth Nature Preserve/Reservoir (CNP) and Chatsworth Oaks Park area owned by the Department of Water & Power. The former is protected by the LA City Ordinance as a Nature Preserve and is zoned Open Space. Both are significant elements of LA County's Santa Susana Mountains Significant Ecological Area. This development will infringe on a principal wildlife corridor between the CNP and the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park (SSPSHP). California Fish and Wildlife has stated a minimum of 1000 feet, plus additional width allowing for homes to remove vegetation for fire control, must be met for wildlife habitat linkage-corridors. The proposed Andora Estates project footprint decimates the usable width of this critical wildlife corridor.
- The FEIR stated LA City should review the adjacent lot, Eagles Nest, with approximately 43 acres to the west and north of the Applicant, to provide the appropriate width for a wildlife corridor. After development the 9503 N. Andora property contributes about 310 feet to the corridor. The Eagles Nest lot is not easily accessible, with a terrain of steep banks that block access, on the south and north sides of that property. This topography is not represented on a flat map. Eagle's Nest, therefore, should not be included as part of the corridor width calculation.
- Chatsworth is an historic, archaeologically and culturally rich community comprised of the geological Chatsworth Formation, with unique and rare sandstone formations, sedimentary rock outcroppings and boulders. The Chatsworth Community Plan, Objective 13, encourages the preservation of low density single-family residential areas, the conservation of open space lands, and preservation of the Chatsworth Community Business District, that does not mar the scenic views of the Simi Hills and Santa Susana Mountains.

- Los Angeles Mayor, Eric Garcetti, is supportive of the National Park Service's Rim of the Valley Special Corridor Special Resource Study, Alternative D, that achieves the most sustainable wildlife corridors and habitat linkages with the most equitable access to nature, recreation, and cultural resources. The proposed Andora Estates-Eagle's Nest developments will negatively impact this crucial wildlife corridor.

We continue to protest the Andora Estates development for other concerns:

- Andora Estates development will disrupt the natural course of seasonal water flows within the Simi Hills watershed. This is water that is needed for Chatsworth Nature Preserves' last surviving oak savannas and valley oak (*Quercus lobata*) trees in the San Fernando Valley-Los Angeles City. The survival of our historic oak trees is dependent on ground water, supported by the water flow from the Simi Hills now channeled through the proposed Andora Estates development.
- Watershed disruption and pollution caused from a residential development will impact both the CNP Ecology Pond, recently renovated at great expense to LADWP, and the Chatsworth Creek, a feeder to the Los Angeles River system.

Other serious problems created by this development: Light pollution, increased traffic that will put wildlife and humans at great risk, located in an historic high-fire area with greater cost for management. This is detailed in our April 17, 2016 letter.

For all the reasons listed in this letter and our April 17 letter, Chatsworth Nature Preserve Coalition, continues to oppose the Andora Estates development.

Sincerely,

Chatsworth Nature Preserve Coalition

Carla Bollinger
carlamamay@aol.com

Mark Osokow
mark.osokow@sfvaudubon.com

Dina Fisher
i@dinafisher.net

Art Langton
wrentit@att.net

Julie Clark De Blasio
native.conservation@gmail.com

Christine Rowe
crwhnc@gmail.com

Gerald Garoskilly
garoskilly@gmail.com