



## SANTA MONICA CANYON NEWS - SPRING 2013

### **CIRS WORK TO IMPACT PCH**

Last year, the City of Los Angeles suspended construction of the Coastal Interceptor Relief Sewer (CIRS) 900 feet short of completion because of challenging soil conditions beneath the coast highway near the entrance to the Entrada Drive Beach Parking Lot. The purpose of CIRS is to divert the maximum feasible storm runoff to the Hyperion Sewer Treatment Plant near El Segundo. This Proposition O project is part of the City's program to clean up Santa Monica Bay. After further study of the soil beneath PCH, it was determined that the best alternative is to construct a deep pit under the roadway and install the 48" sewer line with a micro-tunneling machine that will simultaneously drill horizontally through the soil and install the piping. The 900' gap is between the parking lot driveway and the first driveway of Santa Monica's Annenberg Beach House.

This project is expected to take about seven months to complete. In addition to the pit at the parking lot, there will be a "receiving" pit at the Annenberg border. The City's goal is to award the contract in August. Construction will begin by October and should be completed by Memorial Day 2014.

Traffic will be impacted. Peak direction traffic lanes will remain at three Southbound in the AM (6 AM to 10 AM) and three Northbound in the PM (3 PM to 7 PM). During "off-peak" hours of 10 AM to 3 PM and 7 PM to 6 AM there will be two lanes in each direction with a 10' buffer lane in between. Although the City has worked closely with Caltrans on its traffic plan, final signoff is still pending.

The primary traffic mitigation measure will be temporary message boards on Highway 101 at Kanan-Dune, Malibu Canyon and Topanga Canyon Roads to deter discretionary commuters from using PCH. This plan was successful during the previous phase when one lane of PCH was closed for an extended period with 24-hour "K"-rails. Signs also will divert traffic to Sunset Blvd from PCH. It is possible California Incline reconstruction will overlap some of this project. That would not be a pretty picture. We have encouraged the City to work closely with Santa Monica on Incline traffic issues and Santa Monica has stated they will support needed LA resources to deal with Canyon spillover traffic.

Find more CIRS info at [LAPropO.org](http://LAPropO.org) or by calling 213.978.0317. Updates on both projects will be found at [pchpartners.org](http://pchpartners.org).

### **CALIFORNIA INCLINE UPDATE**

Final design of the California Incline Replacement Project now is expected to be complete by Fall of this year. Santa Monica states that they should have funding in place by year end and advertise for construction bids in January 2014. Their goal for this 12-18 month project is to impact only one Summer season, that would be 2014, so make your vacation plans soon. Or, wait as the city's projections consistently have been optimistic.

A Traffic Management Plan also must be prepared and Santa Monica will be meeting with LADOT and Caltrans to finalize the TMP. Our City Council office has been monitoring this project under Councilman Rosendahl's WLA Deputy Norman Kulla, and we expect this continue under our new Councilman Mike Bonin who takes office on July 1..

Your association believes that a robust TMP is mandatory and will be watching the process. Santa Monica has agreed to release the draft TMP for public comment and we will be there. Information should be available at [pchpartners.org](http://pchpartners.org) and SMCCA will be notifying our email list as milestones are reached. Another reason to include a current email address when sending in the enclosed membership envelope.

### **CHRIS MOORE LEADS SMCCA**

Please read important message from SMCCA President Chris Moore on page 4.



John Flynn Memorial Bench

## LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK RECEIVES FACELIFT

The iconic Hollywood sign is not the only Los Angeles historical landmark that has recently received a facelift. The newly named Santuario San Lorenzo, fronting the Pascual Marquez Family Cemetery, on San Lorenzo Street, has been renovated and beautified.

A new white stucco wall has replaced the wood fence that stood there for decades. The new wall, constructed by Gil Camarillo, is low enough to allow passersby to see the cemetery and its niche with the statue of San Lorenzo. It was painted white by Scott Jones custom painting to both reflect and compliment the historic John Byers' designed adobe cemetery wall. Inset on either side of the wall's entrance are tiles designed and donated by Lucinda Linger Mittleman and Sharon Kilbride.



New decomposed granite (dg) paths were installed by Miguel Angel Landa who is the groundskeeper for several residences in the Canyon including the historic hacienda of the Mexican opera star, Jose Mojica, site of La Senora Research Institute. The path follows the original cemetery easement granted to the Marquez family by the court allowing access to their family cemetery.

Directly behind the new wall are raised garden beds dedicated to cacti and succulents. The beds are edged by Malibu rock. The rock and the dg were generously donated by Bourget Brothers. Oldest available photographs of the Marquez cemetery show cacti along the front of the cemetery wall. The cactus and succulent garden beds are homage to the reality of Rancho life in the 1800s.

On the north side are low-water, California native plantings, including Catalina Cherry trees, California Holly, California Coffeeberry, and various Southern California sages – selected to reflect the type of fauna most likely encountered and utilized by the inhabitants of early California. Boething Treeland in Woodland Hills provide most of the plantings at

a reduced cost. The landscape design was created by Ernesto Marquez, a descendant of the land grant family, with assistance from Lucinda Linger Mittleman. It reflects the historic Mission era while taking advantage of 21st Century innovation.

The site has a new irrigation system. The piping from the street to the Santuario was installed by Rivas Plumbing at a reduced cost. The irrigation system within the Santuario was installed by Miguel Angel Landa's crew at reduced cost.

The Santuario Board of Directors is exploring the possibility of electricity for the site. Vince Olivera, owner of JV Electric and also a descendant of the Marquez and Reyes families, has provided consultation and initial digging for electricity at no cost. Several obstacles remain to installing electricity.

None of these improvements would have been possible without the generous donations of funding, talent and expertise, and time from neighbors of the cemetery, Marquez and Reyes relatives, and other supporters. Through their generosity they have become part of this living legacy.

For more information about the Pascual Marquez Family Cemetery and Santuario San Lorenzo, or to donate further needed funds, please contact Colleen McAndrews, President of the Santuario San Lorenzo Board of Directors, at [colleen@bmhlaw.com](mailto:colleen@bmhlaw.com).

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## VISIT GALLERY 169

Have you been to Gallery 169 at 169 West Channel Road? Built by Frank Langen, the gallery hosts shows in a variety of media including ceramic, photographic and prints. Shows rotate every few months. To learn more and get on the email list, go to [www.gallery169.com](http://www.gallery169.com) under "Contact."





# JOIN CERT TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY FROM DISASTER

by Dawn Forrester

*I moved to Los Angeles from New York in 1996 and every time I felt an earthquake I thought, "I really don't know what to do if a big one hits." But then I wouldn't feel a tremor for a while and I'd forget about that feeling of helplessness. That all changed when my husband and I started our family and moved to Santa Monica Canyon. While where we live is beautiful and idyllic, if a major disaster strikes, it may take hours or days for help to arrive. Just look at what happens when Sunset or the 405 is blocked. So when I was told that Palisades High was going to hold a 7-week Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training; I signed up.*

*The class was filled mostly with faculty and students from the high school. There were two of us, Cynthia Winter and myself from the community. I thought I would learn what to do in case of an earthquake, but I learned so much more. We set up a medical triage center, learned how to manage utilities and put out fires with the LAFD on campus, performed light search and rescue and basic medical aid. We acquired valuable information about disaster preparedness and how to better aid the community when a disaster happens that could overwhelm the local response capabilities.*

*During our 3rd week of training, Hurricane Sandy hit the eastern seaboard affecting 24 states from Florida to Maine. Streets were flooded, trees and power lines were knocked down and people were stranded in their homes waiting to be rescued. I still have relatives in New Jersey and I worried that they were ok. This superstorm really opened my eyes to the possibility that a disaster of great magnitude could hit our backyard at any time.*

*Our CERT trainer, Brad Davies was asked about "the BIG one" and he said something like . . . "it is not a matter of if, but when"*

*The 2010 Haitian earthquake affected more than 3 million people. More than 250,000 homes were demolished as well as 30,000 other buildings. In 2004, the tsunami that hit the Sumatra coast in the Indian Ocean a day after Christmas killed 240,000 people. The cause of the deadly waves was a magnitude 9.1 underwater quake. In 2007, wildfires in Southern California destroyed at least 1,500 homes and scorched over 500,000 acres of land from Santa Barbara County to the U.S.-Mexico border." (from The Fiscal Times)*

*I love this area, but we are in the land of wild-*

*fires, earthquakes, landslides and possibly tsunamis. Being prepared for disaster and knowing how to respond to the resulting hazards will protect our families and communities until professional help becomes available. CERT is an amazing program; it makes communities safer, more prepared and more resilient when these incidents occur. I now feel confident knowing that I will be able to protect myself and my family after a disaster, and apply what I have learned to do the greatest good for the greatest number of people in my community. I definitely now feel the opposite of helpless.*

*Following is link where you can find more information about the CERT Program.*

*<http://www.cert-la.com/downloads/CERT-LA-flyer.pdf>*

## Park it!

You certainly don't need me to tell you how much Rustic Canyon Park means to all of us who live in or visit the Canyon. It's a place to hang out, have picnics, take our kids to play, or play ourselves. For some, it's just a vista to look out over or a greenbelt to drive or walk past. Whatever it is to you, what may not be as evident is its need for a little extra love and care. Resources at the City's Recreation and Parks Department are slim and levels of services and maintenance allotted to the Park are commensurately inadequate. And, don't expect things to change anytime soon. So, it's up to the community to step up and provide a little people-power to keep the park clean and tended to.

Here's how you can help:

The SMCCA will sponsor a twice-monthly clean-up day we're calling Park it! where volunteers can contribute their time to help with needed maintenance and/or clean-up of the grounds. A list will be created each time identifying specific things that need attention - including, for instance, raking leaves from hard surfaces or planting beds, weeding, pick-up around picnic areas... whatever may be needed.

SMCCA Board members will participate each time and we hope that others of you from the community will join us. The Park deserves all of our attention and the Park-it! program is just one way we can all help out.

If you are interested in participating, you can provide us your name and contact details in one of three ways:

- 1.) Check the box and include contact information on the enclosed dues envelope; or
- 2.) Add your name on the Park it! sign-up sheet located in the Park lobby or at next month's Annual Meeting; or
- 3.) Contact us at [parkit@smcca.org](mailto:parkit@smcca.org).

We hope you'll find the time to join us.



Santa Monica Channel and Rustic Creek. Photo by Sara Jane Boyers ©

## CHRIS MOORE LEADS SMCCA

Dear Santa Monica Canyon Civic Association,

Chris Moore, your new President, here for this year's newsletter. First of all, thank you for being a part of the canyon and this association. Our goal is to provide information, improve our canyon, to advocate for our canyon within our local governments and to build our community.

There are many issues facing us this year. First, the Rustic Canyon Park, including the Eucalyptus Grove, tennis courts, and stage, all need infrastructure attention. Second, there are a few large construction projects headed our way, the California Incline and the finishing of the Sewer project both affecting the PCH. Third, the overall city resources for the infrastructure of the canyon are stretched so thin that we are facing some real problems. Fallen trees, broken signs, backed up drains, traffic congestion, and emergency services are all being left unattended for far too long.

We all need to decide to make an effort for the canyon to stay the great place it is. The SMCCA will be asking you over

### Board Members—

Andrew Bergman  
 Lisa Bittan  
 Sara Jane Boyers  
 Bob Bronstein  
 Chris Casady  
 Norman Cowie  
 Mike Deasy  
 Stone Douglass  
 Quentin Fleming  
 Dawn Forrester  
 Leslie Hope  
 Wesley Hough  
 Nina Houghton  
 Sharon Kilbride  
 Isabelle Mizrahi  
 Chris Moore  
 Sanford Panitch  
 Reese Relfe  
 Steve Richards  
 Ron Staake  
 Nico Vilgate  
 Marilyn Wexler  
 Cynthia Winter  
 George Wolfberg  
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Mesa Stairs. Photo by Sara Jane Boyers ©

### Santa Monica Canyon Civic Association

Founded 1947  
 P.O. Box 3441  
 Santa Monica, CA 90408-3441  
 info@smcca.org  
 www.smcca.org

the next year for your time, money, and contacts in order to address the issues presented above. Please think about your ability to help and how you can help and let me know directly.

My email is cmoore@themediainfarm.com. I would love to hear from any or all of you.

I, and our board, have decided to dedicate significant time and money to protect and sustain our beautiful area for years to come. As we approach the 100 year anniversary of many parts of our canyon, I believe we should do all we can to guarantee that it is a great place to live, raise kids and play for another 100 years.

### 2013 Dues Now Payable

The SMCCA is a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization. Your dues and contributions help keep your association strong. Yearly membership is only \$10 per person, a modest price for supporting your community. Please send payment to SMCCA at PO Box 3441, Santa Monica, CA 90408-3441, **or pay through our web site [www.smcca.org](http://www.smcca.org)**. Additional contributions for our eucalyptus grove improvement project or for general purposes are welcome and greatly appreciated.

If you would like to participate on the board or in any other capacity or have areas of interest, please let us know in your reply. Please include your email address so we can send you important notices. Let us know if you aren't receiving weekly LAPD crime alerts so we can add you to our email list.

The Board meets on the second Tuesday of most months and announcements are posted on our web site. Please save the date for our annual meeting on May 14.

We do not share or sell our email or mailing lists.

### Important Phone Numbers---

Graffiti Report	3-1-1
Illegal Leaf Blowers	1.800.996.2489 x-1
Illegally Parked Vehicles	1.213.485.4184
Pothole Repair	1.800.996.2489 x1
West LA Police Station	1.310.444.0702

### Newsletter Staff--

Sara Jane Boyers	Bob Bronstein
Dawn Forrester	Sharon Kilbride
Chris Moore	Reese Relfe
George Wolfberg	