

## SANTA MONICA CANYON NEWS - FEB. 2016

### AIRCRAFT NOISE HITS CANYON

Since last October, large commercial aircraft have been heard and seen flying at lower altitudes as they cross over our canyon heading toward LAX. These flights are heard every day from before 5:00 AM, disturbing sleep, ability to work at home and impacting our quality of life.

Even a small adjustment in altitude makes a large difference as sound is magnified within the Canyon's rims. The aircraft noise impact on residential neighborhoods close to active commercial airports is not new. A recent change in FAA protocol has created noise levels similar to some areas under historic flight paths. Many believe the noise will get even worse. FAA is rolling out a satellite-based system (NextGen) across the country to replace ground-based (radar) aircraft control with LAX scheduled for later this year. NextGen will allow aircraft to fly safely at lower altitudes and closer to each other and is not the cause of the recent noise spike. If planes continue to fly in their current pattern, or even lower, near or over the Canyon and more frequently than they have in the past few months the impact will be severe. Other cities where NextGen has been implemented have seen dramatic noise increases some have filed lawsuits.

The Pacific Palisades Community Council recently passed a motion supporting Mar Vista Community Council's request that LA City obtain information from the FAA regarding the observed changes to flight approaches to LAX impacting our neighborhood. The goal is to get full disclosure from the FAA and LAX on new flight patterns and advocate against low altitude commercial flights that disrupt our quiet canyon. SMCCA encourages concerned Canyon residents to register their concerns with the following public officials and offices:

- Congressman Ted Lieu - janet.turner@mail.house.gov; 213.894.4903
- Senator Dianne Feinstein - sabiha\_khan@feinstein.senate.gov; 310.914.7300
- Senator Barbara Boxer - Nicolas\_rodriguez@boxer.senate.gov; 213.894.4903
- City Councilman Mike Bonin - omar.pulido@lacity.org; 323.740.0494
- Office of Noise Management at LAX - Kathryn Pantoja - kpantoja@lawa.org 424.646.6501

For further information contact SMCCA Board member Wes Hough at weshough@gmail.com.

### PROGRESS ON HOMELESS ISSUES

On Nov. 8, 2015, a second fire from homeless encampments erupted on the bluffs below Via de Las Olas. To protect our hill-sides and coastal bluffs, restricted entry signs are being placed to deter camping and trespassing in these high-risk fire zones. The signs were unveiled on October 7 with a dedication ceremony. Attendees included Councilman Mike Bonin and Supervising Fire Inspector John Novella (center R & L in photo below).

The coastal bluffs signage was but one of many accomplishments by the Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness last year. The cost of the signs was covered by several community organizations. Two additional signs have been installed in the brushy area above the Little Tunnel and along Ocean Avenue, where additional encampments have been observed. The cost for this signage will be covered by SMCCA and BOCA.



Under the direction of Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Michael Moore, Officers Lavenson and Inguiez have been routinely performing sweeps of beaches and bluffs. Additionally, the Brush Clearance Unit of LAFD has begun to give us support along the bluffs, clearing hillside areas of campers and other trespassers violating the recently posted "No Entry" signs.

The Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness has reached their first goal of raising \$125,000 to obtain the services of the Ocean Park Community Center (OPCC)

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## Homeless, continued

for one year. OPCC professionals began outreach to local homeless people on Jan.11, 2016. Two outreach workers are working five days per week, starting with the mentally ill homeless first, to find them the help they need. (Three homeless have agreed to accept services so far!) If you see a homeless individual who appears to be in need of assistance, please contact OPCC and be prepared to give a description of the individual and their location or that of the encampment. SMCCA is pleased to support the taskforce and its hard working chair, Maryam Zar. We also recognize the hard work of our own board member, Sharon Kilbride, who was honored as the 2015 Pacific Palisades Citizen of the Year for her dedicated work on homeless and beach cleanup issues.

Contact information:

OPCC Outreach communication line: 310-460-2630

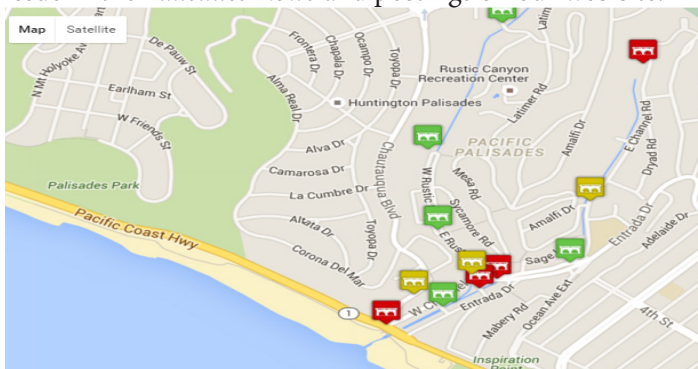
If you are interested in supporting this important work please send your tax deductible check to:

Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness  
PO Box 331  
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272  
MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO OPCC.



## CANYON BRIDGES FALLING DOWN?

We just learned from *Palisades News* editor Sue Pascoe that some bridges in our canyon appear to need repair or replacement. They are located near the red icons on map. These bridges were inspected recently as part of a national program. Of special concern are the bridges over the channel at PCH and near Canyon School. Track progress on this issue in the *Palisades News* and postings on our web site.



## CANYON SCHOOL EDIBLE GARDEN

Part hands-on how-to vegetable and herb gardening in raised bins, and part healthy eating education focused around harvested edibles, the Canyon Charter Elementary School Edible Garden Program is an all-volunteer labor of love. Enthusiastically launched several years ago by a trio of Canyon dads, aka "Garden Guys," the students and teachers adore the program and families experience the tangible benefits as their children learn to like vegetables. Their blog <http://canyongardening.blogspot.com/> does an excellent job of illustrating the program. It shows how the students participate.



The program is 100% funded by parent contributions and periodic grants. At present, the edible garden program is available to younger students (kindergarten through 2nd grade) who participate weekly or biweekly. Expansion into 3rd through 5th grades is a dream, but only possible with more volunteers and additional funding. Donations are welcome. Please mail checks to the Canyon Booster Club, 421 Entrada Drive, Santa Monica, CA 90402.





## ***INCLINE IS EL NIÑO READY***

California Incline reconstruction is continuing at a rapid pace. The roadway has been anchored by replacement bridges and piers. The contractor has completed installation of “soil nails” to strengthen and stabilize the bluff adjacent to the roadway. The portion of the pedestrian bridge over the Incline was found to have deteriorated and has been removed. A replacement is planned as part of this project. Curbing, a graded base layer of crushed gravel and two layers of asphalt sub-base have been installed to protect the future roadway from runoff. Engineers believe this will permit the project to weather the anticipated rainy season with minimal issues.

In addition, the contractor is placing re-bar to strengthen the replacement balustrades. Look for artistic and sculpted prefabricated molds to appear in February in anticipation of concrete pouring.

The project is on schedule for completion prior to July the 4th.

## ***BEACH TUNNELS GETTING THE LOVE***

The gateways to our beaches are looking cleaner and smelling sweeter these days thanks to our local Canyon associations. The beach tunnels were built in 1940, and have been damaged by flooding, sand, and deterioration over the past 75 years. With the help of Monte, a formerly homeless gent and now neighbor, we are able to maintain both tunnels and keep them in tip-top shape. If you see Monte in the tunnels, be sure to thank him for doing a such a fantastic job.



## ***WILL THE SUNSET TREES TOPPLE?***

Many visitors and residents of Rustic Canyon and Pacific Palisades have expressed deep concern about a dozen or more Eucalyptus trees that line Sunset Blvd. between Brooktree Road and Chautauqua Blvd. Some are so top-heavy with vegetation that the branches lean over Sunset Blvd., like a canopy, brushing the tops of passing trucks and buses.



Eucalyptus trees are known for their shallow spreading roots, and some have a proclivity to drop branches, earning the sobriquet, “widow-makers.” Many of the Sunset trees appear to be stressed and the possibility of catastrophic consequences must be considered.

For many months, residents have written and called Councilman Bonin’s office and other city authorities to alert them about this dangerous situation. They have been told that the Urban Forestry Division “is in the process of submitting this project for bid and once the contract is awarded, the trees will be well trimmed.” However, so far the situation has not been remedied.

Let the City know you want these trees trimmed and a safer Sunset Blvd. Contact the Bureau of Street Services' Urban Forestry Division, 213.847.3333; or, call 3-1-1.

## ***CITY PLANS NEW ENTRADA SIDEWALK***

City engineers are finishing plans for a new handicap accessible sidewalk on the east side of Entrada Dr. from the Amalfi (wooden) stairway to Adelaide Dr. The project is funded by a state grant with construction by LA City crews (as was the ramp on East Channel Rd. leading to the Sage Lane Bridge over the Santa Monica channel). The sidewalk will be six to seven feet wide and will narrow the street pavement by up to three feet. SMCCA, BOCA and adjacent residents have been in robust discussions with the City and Councilman Bonin’s staff to give input. Questions? Contact Councilman Bonin’s Westside Director, Debbie Dyner-Harris: [debbie.dynerharris@lacity.org](mailto:debbie.dynerharris@lacity.org)

## 2016 Rustic Party Head's Up

**September 24, 2016.** Save the date! This is a *not to be missed* party.

Our glorious annual Rustic Night Party is back. This time will be an autumnal event that promises to be a truly memorable occasion for our friends and supporters of the Rustic Canyon Recreation Center.

Previous parties have raised funds to rehabilitate the tennis courts, refinish the gym floor and refurbish the newly renamed Dodo Cheney tennis lounge. Proceeds are being used to begin planning for restoration of the landmarked historic 1923 Uplifter's Clubhouse, also known as the "recreation center building."

Please join us for this special evening.

## 2016 Dues Now Payable

SMCCA has served our community for over 69 years and is a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization. Your dues and contributions help keep your association strong. Yearly membership remains 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 maintenance of our historic eucalyptus grove, upkeep of the beach tunnels, 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 are not receiving weekly LAPD crime alerts so we can add you to our email list.

We invite you to attend a Board meeting. They are held on the second Tuesday of most months. We post agendas at [www.smcca.org](http://www.smcca.org). Our annual meeting is May 10 at 7 PM. Councilman Mike Bonin is invited. Please save the date.

## Important Phone Numbers---

Graffiti Report	3-1-1
Illegal Leaf Blower in use	1.877.ASK.LAPD
Illegally Parked Vehicles	1.213.485.4184
Pothole Repair	1.800.996.2489 x-1
West LA Police Station	1.310.444.0702

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## Santa Monica Canyon Civic Association

Founded 1947

P.O. Box 3441 Santa Monica, CA 90408-3441

[info@smcca.org](mailto:info@smcca.org) - [www.smcca.org](http://www.smcca.org)