



## SANTA MONICA CANYON NEWS - FEB. 2018

### **VOLUNTEERS CLEANING UP AFTER HOMELESS MOVE OUT**

The Pacific Palisades Task Force on Homelessness (PPTFH) uncovered 65 homeless encampments in 2016. These were found in the Corona del Mar Bluffs, Via Olas Bluffs, Temescal Canyon, Palisades Drive and Castellammare areas. The task force posted restricted entry very high fire severity zone signage in all of these locations. We believe this may have prevented a "Skirball" fire in our midst. The task force was very successful in removing homeless individuals from these brushy hillside areas where fire danger is a constant threat. In 2017, PPTFH placed most of the folks, some living in these areas up to eight years, into intake services. Many of the formerly homeless now are housed through this program. The goal in 2017 for the enforcement committee was to clean up these abandoned encampments and trash pits. The task force had three successful community clean ups last year and removed 45 encampments in the Corona del Mar Bluffs, Via Olas Bluffs and Temescal Canyon. Twenty campsites remain



to be cleaned this year in the Via de los Olas Bluffs, Palisades Drive and Castellammare areas. To volunteer for the next clean up, email [clean90272@gmail.com](mailto:clean90272@gmail.com) and leave your contact information. Please check out [pptfh.org](http://pptfh.org) to sign up for the newsletter. There are other volunteer opportunities for you to make a difference in your community by helping solve the homeless problem. Donation information also is available on the website. For other volunteer opportunities, please contact Carmen Kallberg, [ckallberg@aol.com](mailto:ckallberg@aol.com).

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### **FLOOD DANGER IN OUR CANYON?**

In 1938, Southern California suffered from the worst local flood in a century. Over 7,000 homes and 800 cars were destroyed and 110 people perished as Southern California rivers overflowed from this 50-year storm. Our canyon did not escape as the unlined creek and channel overflowed. Soon, LA County was rerouting and lining our watercourses with concrete. Goodbye frogs and tadpoles . . . We were interested in how the upgraded facilities would stand up to another 50-year storm. For reference, there is a two percent chance of a 50-year storm occurring in any given year. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works tells us that the storm channels in Santa Monica Canyon are designed to withstand a 50-year storm event. The design criteria assume rainfall would fall uniformly over already saturated land. What could go wrong?



A particular storm could exceed a 50-year intensity or debris in the system could magnify the impact of a rain event. There is one major debris basin (in Sullivan Canyon) in our watershed and it is cleaned out whenever it reaches just 20% capacity. The channels themselves also are cleared periodically. No studies have been conducted to determine what would happen if the capacity of our channels is exceeded but it stands to reason that adjacent properties could be impacted. If you are concerned about exposure or the need to obtain flood insurance, we believe you should consider contacting a licensed professional.

## FAA NOISE MITIGATION FAILURE

NextGen, the satellite-based navigation system implemented last year over our Canyon and the Palisades, was supposed to lead to more efficient use of airspace and permit pilots to target waypoints with greater precision on approach to LAX. FAA touted higher altitude requirements at key approach waypoints as one new requirement that would reduce noise impact on Canyon residents.

However, analysis of actual aircraft flight levels prepared by LAX staff shows planes bound for LAX are flying below the minimum. During the month of December 2017, for example, 71% of planes approaching LAX from the West were below the 6,000-foot minimum and 31% below 5,500 feet. These data corroborate what we are continuing to experience, loud airplanes overhead especially in the evening and early morning hours. While minimum altitudes should be enforced at all hours, its particularly inexcusable for the FAA's controllers to allow flights below the required minimum when people are trying to sleep.

The SMCCA lawsuit against FAA over NextGen flight paths was in mediation last year to no avail and we are now in the litigation phase. SMCCA's objectives continue to be to push planes further out over the ocean and increase the minimum altitudes. Because of the FAA's failure to enforce its own minimum altitudes we must continue to be vigilant after the lawsuit is concluded.

Please continue to make your voice heard by filing noise complaints at [www.planenoise.com/lax](http://www.planenoise.com/lax). For more information contact [DebWarfel@gmail.com](mailto:DebWarfel@gmail.com).

## CANYON HISTORY LESSON

SMCCA President Marilyn Wexler has been pouring through the files of the Association and found fascinating historical information. The following is excerpted from the SMCCA Newsletter dated May 1966:

**Save The Stream Project:** *At this moment, the natural stream in Rustic Canyon below Sunset is reprieved; but because the State has refused to create even a small Santa Monica Mountains Park, and because the real reason for concreting the stream bed is to carry off the debris from forthcoming subdivisions to be chopped out of the area where the Park should be, County Flood Control will put it back into next year's budget unless there are new developments. Fred Feiler held out some hope that new developments may be brought about in the five or six months which remain.*

**Traffic in the Canyon:** *James Hardy, Senior Traffic Engineer stated: there are no plans for doing anything about weekend traffic on Channel Road; his Department has recommended against a light at Mesa and Channel; a stop sign has been recommended for Mesa and Latimer; a centerline has been recommended for Mesa Road; more loading areas have been recommended for the Canyon School; and he believes there are some plans to widen Entrada Drive, but wasn't sure.*

## RUSTIC CANYON PARK UPDATE

**Eucalyptus Grove - THE BIG BAD IVY PULL** in the Grove will be held on Saturday February 17 and Sunday February 18, 2018, from 9:00am to 1:00pm. The invasive German Ivy has taken over the grasses in many places, and VOLUNTEERS are needed to help get rid of the ivy. Community Service credit for students will be given. The Rustic Canyon Recreation Center and SMCCA have sent out flyers asking for your help.



Otherwise, the Eucalyptus and other exotic (non-native) trees and shrubs in the city and state landmarked grove are doing well.

Several new Eucalyptus trees and Acacias were planted last year, adding to the forest and replacing a few that were lost.  
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**Freeway Situation:** *Fred Feiler reported six routes are under consideration, but said an "educated guess" points to two leading choices: a route taking off from the Santa Monica Freeway about Tenth Street, crossing the city along Tenth Street, then turning down the Canyon to the coast just above Entrada; and secondly, a route along the beach, double-decked, from the present end of the Freeway at the tunnel, to link up with the Malibu Freeway. Both routes are attractive to the State from a cost standpoint. James Mound of the Santa Monica Causeway Commission, in essence, reported that there is nothing new regarding the construction of the causeway.*

**Oil Drilling:** *Larry Kamber reaffirmed the recommendation from the Canyon Civic Association Directors that Canyon property owners not sign leases either with the Occidental Oil Company or with Standard Oil Company. Questions elicited several shockers in the fine print of the leases; for example: you don't have to sign to get royalties, since you have five years to sign and collect them if drilling ever does start. Also, if water has to be injected underground to force oil out, lessees are not paid an oil extraction equal to the volume of water injected. Further, drilling can take place next door to you, despite the Company's statements, once enough signatures are obtained. Councilman Braude's Field Secretary, Charles Britten, warned: "You should have no illusions. If you sign this lease you are voting for oil drilling in this area right where you live."*

## Park Update, continued

All but one of the Cycads have grown new leaves since planting. The palm-like *Dioon spinulosum* trees are looking very well for their very long years.

Watch for the orange Monarch butterflies on the now prolific Milkweed plants with the orange and yellow flowers. The two *Agathis robusta* / Queensland Kauri trees have both shown robust new growth the last few years. The new leaves are tan colored. They'll grow to over 80 feet tall, like the ones at the Huntington Garden shown at the right.



**Gala Rustic Night Party is September 22, 2018.** Save the date! This is when we have our *not to be missed* glorious annual Rustic Night Party. Park Advisory Board Chair and party planner extraordinaire, Veslemoey Zwart, promises another fabulous event. Be sure SMCCA has your email address so you will be notified of the exciting details. Previous parties have raised well over \$100,000 which has enabled the rehabilitation of the tennis courts, refinishing of the gym floor in the historic clubhouse, enhancement of the Dodo Chaney tennis lounge as well as replacement of doors and relandscaping of the courtyard. Stand by for the refurbishment of the outdoor basketball court which is now pending. Join your neighbors and enjoy a truly memorable occasion in support of the PAB's plans to continue rehabilitation and restore the historic Uplifters Clubhouse by its Centennial anniversary in 2023.

## ATTENTION MAIL ORDER SHOPPERS OF SANTA MONICA 90402

When you purchase clothes, electronics or even cars you are charged a sales tax. The sellers rely on a third-party to determine the correct sales tax. Unfortunately, third-party results frequently are inaccurate as to sales made to Los Angeles residents living in the 90402 zip code. What this means is that you are charged 10.5% sales tax (the City of Santa Monica rate) instead of 9.5%, the City of LA tax rate, and all the city taxes go to Santa Monica instead of Los Angeles. We brought this to the attention of the City Controller and our City Councilman Mike Bonin. Mike immediately "got" it and has introduced a City Council motion directing City finance people to diagnose the problem and take steps to make the City "whole."

If you find a vendor is attempting to charge you the higher Santa Monica Tax, use the California State Sales Tax lookup site, shown somewhat blurrily, sorry, to the right. The site may be reached at <https://maps.gis.ca.gov/boe/TaxRates/>. Enter your Street Address, City (Santa Monica in this case) and the zip code. Search will return the result with a red balloon over your Los Angeles residence! Good luck.

## Homelessness, continued

SMCCA's Homelessness guru, Sharon Kilbride provided a summary of the activities of the Task Force. Notably, since PPTFH began its work the first of 2016, the professional outreach team funded by community donations has contacted 472 individuals in the Palisades and Santa Monica Canyon. Only 124 stayed in the area, while the others traveled on. Of these 124, 40 have disengaged or not been seen over three months, and five have died. The remaining 79 persons, whom we consider our "Palisades resident homeless people," are working toward housing: 42 are off the streets in permanent supportive housing; 16 are in transitional housing, preparing for permanent housing; and six are "enrolled," which means that they have completed a life goal plan. This leaves only 15 individuals. However, they are among the most difficult to help and will require continued attention by the team..

## WELCOME BACK GOLDEN BULL

The Golden Bull has new owners/investors. Mark Verge, along with fellow investors Luke Tabit, Eddie Silkaitis, Chase Ahders have pledged to carry on the Bull's unique vibe. And, our beloved eatery will continue to be the neighborhood restaurant it has always been with a few "soft changes." If you have visited recently, you have found that the bar has been updated, while respecting tradition. The main dining room has not yet reopened but is predicted to follow the same track. One change that we may see is that the "mood" of the restaurant will change as the evening progresses, starting with a quieter early bird feel which will progress to more upbeat music as the night goes on. Likely not to disco dancing on the bar, but.....?

CA.GOV California State Board of Equalization Find a Sales Tax Rate

Search by: ☒ Address ☐ My Location

Enter an address below:

Street: 421 Entrada Dr  
City: Santa Monica  
State: California  
Zip: 90402

Search

Type an address above and click "Search" to find the sales and use tax rate for that location. All fields required.

The tax rate displayed is for the address shown below. Please review the results to ensure that the address shown below is the location that you intended. Also, be aware that tax rates, as well as city and county boundary lines, are subject to change. The rate displayed on the screen is based upon the search results, and is the rate in effect today.

Results:

421 Entrada Dr, Santa Monica, CA 90402

Sales & Use Tax Rate (1/24/2018):

**9.500%**

Tax Area(s)  
LOS ANGELES

A map of Santa Monica, California, showing the location of 421 Entrada Dr. A red balloon with the text "9.500%" is placed over the address. The map shows various streets including Torrey Pines Rd, Ocean Ave, and Santa Monica Blvd.

## ***Reconfigured Entrada Curve Passes the January Rain Test***

The Entrada curve near Kingman Ave. has been recognized for many years as particularly dangerous. The curve had outdated current design criteria and was the scene of many solo crashes. When wet, the build-up of oil and road residue caused the road to be extra slippery, especially during the first major storm of the season. Vehicles were seen spinning in circles coming down the hill and crunching into the roadway barriers which needed frequent repairs. City engineers recognized the problem and reconfigured the roadway as part of the Entrada sidewalk project. The new roadway passed its first major test during early January rains when no vehicles slid into the roadway barriers. Congratulations to the LA City Bureau of Street Services for a job well done on this curve!

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### ***Board Members—***

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Sharon Kilbride	Cynthia Winter
Mark Landay	George Wolfberg
Emile Levisetti	

### ***Santa Monica Canyon Civic Association***

Founded 1947

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

info@smcca.org - www.smcca.org

## ***2018 Dues Now Payable***

SMCCA has served our community for over 70 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, fighting aircraft noise 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 to receive 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 8 at 7 PM. Councilman Mike Bonin will speak. Please save the date.

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

### ***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

**Or, download the *MyLA311* App to your phone.**

### ***Newsletter Staff--***

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