



Cahuenga Pass Property Owners Association

Member of the
Federation of
Hillside & Canyon
Association, Inc.

THE PASSWORD

The Newsletter of the Cahuenga Pass Property Owners Association
Representing the Cahuenga Pass Since 1952

September 2000

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE from DAN BERNSTEIN

"CHOICES: The Choice You Make When You DON'T Choose"

When you choose to remain uninvolved in decisions that affect your community, others have much greater influence. It is dangerously wrong to assume that an individual speaking on behalf of your community shares your opinion on what should be done. For example, at a recent hearing on the Barham Bridge, CPPOA Board members witnessed two individuals claiming to represent this community giving wholesale approval to bridge changes without requiring any traffic mitigation for this community during the 1-2 years of construction and bridge closure.

Your Board of Directors carefully considers all issues affecting our community. We hold monthly meetings on the third Tuesday of each month, and these meetings are open to the public. We form committees. We are represented on various government-sponsored boards and coalitions. This organization has protected community interests since the 1950's and is recognized by the Mayor's Office, the Los Angeles City Council and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, and we meet regularly with our elected representatives. This organization has been responsible, among many other accomplishments, for the following:

- ◆ Covering the Universal Amphitheatre to eliminate concert noise
- ◆ Halting Universal's planned theme park expansion and reducing by 60% the overall expansion
- ◆ Curtailing plans to build a parking structure in the greenscape along the Hollywood Freeway that had been described by one City planner as "resembling a waffle iron and the size of the World Trade Center laid on its side"
- ◆ Beautification of our neighborhood, including the landscaping of our Fire Station 76 (with Universal Studio's participation) and an all-out anti-graffiti program which has all but eliminated graffiti from our neighborhood
- ◆ Active Neighborhood Watch programs that have helped our neighborhood crime statistics drop

We welcome your involvement and input to ensure that the CPPOA represents our community. You can work at the committee level on an issue you care about or join our Board of Directors. Come to a meeting from 7:30 to 9:30 P.M. the third Tuesday of each month at the Toluca Lake Tennis Club, 6711 Forest Lawn Drive, Conference Room 207. We are looking forward to seeing you.

SECESSION ISSUES AND THE CAHUENGA PASS

When Valley VOTE initiated their secession drive, the leaders of that group claimed the Cahuenga Pass as part of their new Valley city. The CPPOA community poll in 1998 showed that an overwhelming 93% of respondents DID NOT want to be part of the Valley and stated their Identification with Hollywood. The leaders of Valley VOTE, however, continued to include this area in their boundaries which meant that eventually the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), empowered by state legislature to decide secession issues, would include our area - against our will - in the planned Valley city.

Then a group of Hollywood citizens began to explore secession (Hollywood VOTE) and to consider boundaries for the new Hollywood city. At that moment residents and property owners of the Cahuenga Pass had the chance to establish our area as part of Hollywood rather than the Valley. Your CPPOA Board members went door-to-door collecting signatures that established this area as within Hollywood borders, forever removing us from the Valley boundaries.

On 8/14/00, in a *L.A. Times* article, Hollywood VOTE leaders reported that they have collected 20,000 signatures of voters living within the boundaries of the proposed 4-square-mile city, about 400 more than the 19,600 needed to trigger the feasibility study. If the signatures are valid, the Commission will have to determine if Hollywood cityhood would be "revenue-neutral" to both Hollywood and the City of Los Angeles. If so, secession could be placed before voters on the November 2002 ballot. Your Board supports the feasibility study - LET US KNOW YOUR OPINION ON SECESSION!

UNIVERSAL OWNERSHIP CHANGES

Seagram, owner of Universal Studios and the largest landowner in the Cahuenga Pass, has been bought by VIVENDI, a French company with extensive interests in motion pictures (Canal+), the Internet (Vivazzi) and television. Vivendi began its corporate existence many decades ago as a municipal utility, supplying water to the city of Paris.

Jean-Marie Messier, Vivendi's 43-year-old chairman, has agreed that Edgar Bronfman Jr., Seagram CEO, will head the music operations (Universal paid \$10.4 billion to acquire music giant Polygram 2 years ago). Top executives at Universal Pictures will remain in their current positions, though Pierre Lescure, CEO of Canal+, is expected to oversee the filmed entertainment divisions.

Of more immediate concern to the Cahuenga Pass are the critical issues of the further development of Citywalk and the theme park, the future of studio operations such as the film lot, the backlot, the tour, and community relationships between this corporate giant and the residents and business owners in the Pass. Current rumors include Paul Allen, billionaire co-founder of Microsoft and principal investor in Dreamworks SKG, buying the studio as the new Dreamworks campus, talk on Wall Street that the studio's real estate assets will be sold off separately, and speculation that a new Specific Plan for future development is upcoming. The CPPOA will post updates on our regular meetings with Universal.

PLEASE JOIN AND SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY

CAHUENGA PASS PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

A nonprofit California Mutual Benefit Corporation incorporated for residents & property owners in the Cahuenga Pass

P.O. Box 8528, Universal City, CA 91618-8528 Tel: 323-960-7868

ANNUAL DUES: \$30

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____

FAX _____

EMAIL _____

AREA OF INTEREST OR CONCERN _____

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NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL UPDATE
by Dan Bernstein, President

The passage of the new Los Angeles City Charter created a system of neighborhood councils that are designed to have an advisory role in issues affecting local communities. In August 1999 a group of concerned citizens from the Hollywood area began meeting to design a conceptual outline of the future Hollywood Neighborhood Council. After a year of meetings and workshops, that outline was created. CPPOA Board member Richard MacMinn and I have been instrumental in helping to create this design for our neighborhood council.

The Hollywood Neighborhood Council (HNC) is to consist of representatives selected by Local Councils and Issues Committees. The Local Councils will operate like town meetings, open to all topics of discussion. The Issues Committees will have specific topics of discussion, set agendas, and speaker time limits.

Through their representatives, the Local Councils and Issues Committees will present their positions at meetings of the HNC and, by means of discussion, formulate a united advisory position. When fully operational, the HNC is projected to have over 250 stakeholders involved. With funding and city staff support, the HNC will be able to keep the community well-informed.

Over the next 12 months, the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) and the City Council will create guidelines for certified neighborhood councils. For a list of DONE workshops and hearings, visit the website: lacityneighborhoods.com
If you would like a copy of the HNC outline, please call:
Dan Bernstein at 323-876-9934.

We urge the City Council to adopt a plan for neighborhood councils that will provide all of us with a chance to create a very special community in a great city.

MEET YOUR BOARD

President	Dan Bernstein
Vice President/Newsletter	Krista Michaels
Secretary	Dusty (Celeste) Dickinson
Treasurer	David Kegaries
Community Beautification	Judy Marlin
Valley View School Liaison	Franny Parrish
Website Design	Lee Scheinbaum
Ventura/Cahuenga Blvd Plan	
Review Board	Richard MacMinn
Development	Steven Goldfisher
Historic Preservation	Florence Blecher
Cahuenga Pass Coalition	David Kegaries
Neighborhood Councils	Dan Bernstein
Hillside Federation	Krista Michaels

DIRECTOR PROFILE

Greetings, Neighbors! I am Dusty Dickinson, and my husband I have lived in this beautiful Pass for over 35 years. I love this area for its greenery and privacy, and also for its convenience to L.A. City activities. I recently joined the CPPOA Board because of my concern over the many changes, both good and bad, taking place in our neighborhood. CPPOA Board members are well-informed and know what government agencies to contact to correct problems. I am happy that I am now doing something to help preserve our lovely Cahuenga Pass. I hope I can encourage some of you to involve yourself in shaping our neighborhood's future.

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UNIVERSAL STUDIOS NOISE HOTLINE
818-622-2995

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Watch for info on the upcoming
CPPOA WEBSITE

BARHAM BRIDGE TRAFFIC UPDATE

After several years of silence, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) studying the Barham-Cahuenga Corridor has suddenly released a package of 11 possible improvements designed, they claim, to ease traffic in the Pass. The study area is a "dogbone" that includes all of Barham Blvd & Cahuenga Blvds East & West down to the Hollywood Bowl. The changes include such measures as widening the Barham Bridge from 48 to 60 feet, widening both Cahuenga Blvds, adding turn lanes, and building a new onramp to the southbound 101 Freeway from Universal Center Drive. While some changes - adding a Smart Shuttle service that runs between each end of the Corridor - clearly make sense, others are not so certain. One proposal is to add another right turn lane from Barham Blvd onto Cahuenga Blvd West to stack 2 lanes of traffic entering the 101 South; how will area residents access the Mobil Station through a double layer of gridlocked traffic? And what traffic mitigations have been proposed for the 1-2 years of construction/closure of the area that will surely be required? None is included in this package. The CPPOA is eager for solutions to our long-standing traffic problems but we are hesitant to approve a package that will cause years of construction headaches to provide only .04% traffic improvement. We feel more time is needed, particularly if this package is meant to mitigate future development at Universal Studios.

THE CAHUENGA PASS PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 8528
Universal City, CA 91618-8528

BARHAM BRIDGE & TRAFFIC UPDATE

HOLLYWOOD & VALLEY SECESSION: What Does It Mean For the Pass?