

SPECIAL EDITION!

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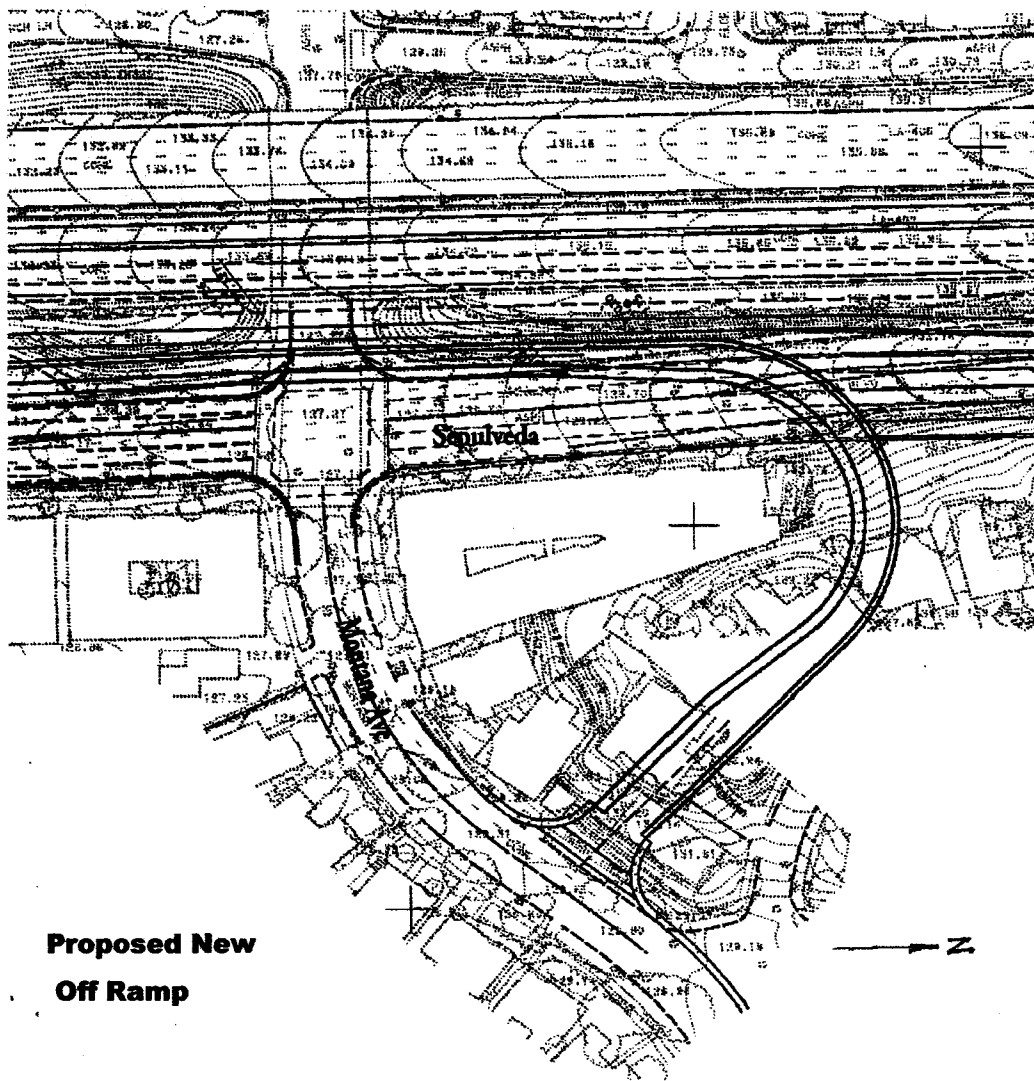
Neighbors Mobilize to Stop 405 Off-Ramp

Westwood Hills homeowners have united in an effort to defeat a CALTRANS proposal to replace the existing Montana Avenue off-ramp from the Northbound 405 freeway with a new ramp that would destroy homes and devalue property in our neighborhood. CALTRANS says that the existing off-ramp must be closed to provide room for a new High Occupancy Vehicle Lane on the Northbound side of the 405. A project to add a new HOV lane to the Southbound 405 is nearing completion and will result in the closing of the Waterford Avenue off-ramp sometime next year.

The proposed off-ramp would come off of the 405 north of the existing ramp, cross over Sepulveda Blvd. and swing down Dalkeith Ave. terminating on Montana Avenue west of Glenroy. This alignment would require condemnation of an undetermined number of homes on Dalkeith and Montana, and would drastically alter the character of the adjacent streets and the Montana Avenue entrance to Westwood Hills. In addition to dumping all of the Northbound traffic onto Montana Avenue, the proposed freeway off-ramp would increase noise, air pollution, and visual blight throughout the area.

CALTRANS says that the existing ramp isn't needed because the ramp carries relatively few vehicles. At the peak hour, between 6 a.m. and 7 a.m., the total number of vehicles leaving the Northbound 405 via the Montana exit is 530. Many of these motorists are bound for the UCLA hospital or other campus locations and those could be accommodated easily by an enlarged and improved eastbound off-ramp at Wilshire, which is part of the project. The Wilshire westbound off-ramp from the Northbound 405 would continue to offer easy access to Sepulveda Blvd. for motorists who need to reach Montana Avenue.

So WHY BUILD A NEW OFF-RAMP to replace one that isn't needed? CALTRANS says that it is responding to pressure from people in the community who don't want the existing off-ramp to be closed. Many of us would like to keep the existing off-ramp. But according to CALTRANS keeping the existing off-ramp open isn't an alternative. Our choice is between NO OFF RAMP and a NEW OFF RAMP. Faced with that alternative, Lori Fontanes and Ken Fields have organized **Stop the Off-Ramp** with the assistance of the Westwood Hills Property Owners Association. Their goals are 1) To stop Caltrans from building a new Montana off-ramp that would destroy homes as well as the unique character of our neighborhood; and 2) To get Caltrans to take the concept (now known as 2A) off the drawing board completely as it already impacts property values and becomes a disclosure item in all current real estate transactions in Westwood Hills. Stop the Off-Ramp will be gathering names to present as a petition to CALTRANS and our elected officials. The petition is on Page 3 of this newsletter. **Please tear it off, sign it and return it today.**



**Proposed New
Off Ramp**

One of the measures proposed by CALTRANS for the 405 Freeway project is to *send the Montana Avenue off-ramp through our neighborhood*. This has been proposed because CALTRANS must close the existing Montana Avenue off-ramp as part of the project. The choice presented to us is **NO OFF RAMP** or a **NEW OFF RAMP** that would destroy homes and dump traffic directly onto Montana Ave.

CALTRANS needs to hear from our community that we oppose the proposed new off-ramp! Please let CALTRANS know how you feel!

Sign the petition on the opposite page, tear it off, and return it **NO LATER THAN March 20**.

Don't delay. We need to hear from EVERY HOUSEHOLD!

**ACT NOW TO
SAVE OUR
NEIGHBOR-
HOOD.**

**SIGN THE PETI-
TION AND RE-
TURN IT TODAY!**

You can return the petition by mail, by FAX, by e-mail, or call us and a member of our committee will pick it up at your home.

**TO RETURN THE
PETITION**

MAIL: to
Westwood Hills
Property Owners
Association,
Box 24515,
Los Angeles, CA
90024

FAX: to (310) 472-
8914 or 471-2857

FOR PICK UP:
Leave a message at
(310) 472-8914

E-MAIL
Scan and send to
WHPOA@msn.com

PETITION

To: Caltrans Planners and our Elected Representatives

We, the undersigned residents of Westwood Hills, oppose any new free-way off-ramp that would intrude on our neighborhood and /or require the destruction of our homes.

The off-ramp proposed by CALTRANS as part of the Northbound 405 HOV lane project would destroy homes and the unique character of our neighborhood. Construction of such an off-ramp would diminish the value of property throughout the neighborhood. Discussion of concept called "Alternative A" has already impacted property values and has become a disclosure item for all current real estate transactions in Westwood Hills,

We call on CALTRANS TO REMOVE THIS ALTERNATIVE from discussion immediately to relieve residents of this unfair financial burden. We understand that CALTRANS may be required to close the existing Montana Avenue off-ramp. While we regret the loss of convenience for some of our residents, we believe that the relatively low number of cars that now use the off-ramp can be accommodated within the improved Wilshire Blvd. off-ramp system included in the project, and choose to preserve the integrity of our neighborhood and the value of our property by opposing the replacement off-ramp.

SIGNATURE

NAME

ADDRESS (required)

PHONE #

Cut Here

Crime Report

At approximately 10:20 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 22, an armed robbery occurred on the 300 block of Dalkeith Avenue. A man wearing a black stocking cap and carrying a handgun approached the occupants of a car that had just parked in the home's garage. The assailant demanded the victims' money, credit cards and jewelry. The victims complied and were told they had three seconds to lock themselves in the garage or the assailant would shoot.

In the aftermath of the robbery, Dalkeith resident Jane Schwab hosted an information meeting at her house on Feb. 27th for Dalkeith residents, during which LAPD officers took questions and discussed crime prevention.

LAPD Senior Lead Officer Mike Wang said Westwood Hills residents can obtain information on what citizens can do to prevent crime at the Los Angeles Police Department's web site (www.lapdonline.org).

In addition, Officer Wang reported on crime statistics during the past four months for our neighborhood: November, 2002: no crimes reported; December, 2002: one burglary from an auto; one robbery, two residential burglaries; Jan., 2003: one grand theft auto.

For emergency police response call 911. For a problem that is occurring now, but doesn't require immediate response, the number to call is (877) 275-5273. For a community problem that is ongoing, but not occurring now, call Officer Wang at (310) 575-8423.

UCLA Drops Plan for Hillside Complex

It appears that UCLA has at least temporarily abandoned a plan to develop a recreation building and outdoor swimming and recreation complex on the bluff facing Veteran Avenue. A final EIR on the larger Northwest Campus Housing Infill Project released in mid-February states that approval of the EIR by the Regents, scheduled for March, will not constitute approval of the recreation project. Also dropped is a 5,000 square foot storage building which would have been sited behind the Veteran Avenue fence north of Cashmere Street.

Instead, the campus will bring the project forward at a later date and do the required environmental review at that time. WHPOA had objected to the project as not consistent with the Stipulated Agreement between UCLA and WHPOA that limits development of the area between Veteran Avenue and DeNeve Drive.

The campus will go ahead with plans to add housing for 2,000 students east of DeNeve. WHOPA is reviewing this EIR and an accompanying EIR on revisions to the Long Range Development Plan to accommodate increased enrollment. Both will be approved by The Regents March 25 in San Francisco.

UCLA continues to fall short of its pledge to consult with our Association on plans for the area covered by the Stipulated Agreement. WHOPA has yet to be informed, much less consulted, regarding plans to build additional Child Care facilities near the Northeast corner of the campus. We learned of the project from a campus sign announcing the location and opening date of the new facilities.

Westwood Hills Property Owners Association

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Debra Gendel
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Margot Barron

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Save Glendon Manor

Westwood residents are asked to help save Glendon Manor in Westwood Village from demolition. The 1929 Spanish-style multi-family residence was determined eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources in 1998 after lengthy hearings and extensive evidence. It is the last original Janss residential building remaining in the Village.

But AIMCO/Casden wants to demolish it in order to construct a loading dock for its massive mixed-use project, "Palazzo Westwood."

Westwood residents can help preserve this signature building by writing to Councilman Jack Weiss and urging him to either: insist Casden not demolish it or sell the building to restoration experts. Send correspondence to: Jack Weiss, Los Angeles City Council, 200 North Spring St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

New Assemblyperson for Westwood Hills

As of January, Westwood Hills has a new representative in the State Assembly. Our new Assemblymember is the Hon. Herb Wesson, Jr., Speaker of the Assembly. His local office is: 5100 W. Goldleaf Circle, Suite 230, Los Angeles, Ca 90056. Telephone (323) 290-5105. Capitol Office: State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814. (916)310-2047.

MEMBERS OF THE WESTWOOD HILLS E-MAIL NETWORK GET NOTICES OF MEETINGS HELD TO DISCUSS PROJECTS SUCH AS THE CALTRANS PROPOSAL AS WELL AS UPDATES ON CRIME AND TRAFFIC AS WELL AS OTHER VALUABLE INFORMATION. SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS AND YOUR WESTWOOD HILLS STREET ADDRESS AT WHPOA@MSN.COM AND WE WILL ADD YOU TO OUR LIST.