



Volume 22, Issue 3
Feb. 24, 2006



Fourth Council District Newsletter



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Koreatown, Miracle Mile, Hancock Park, Larchmont Village, Windsor Square, Park LaBrea, Hollywood Hills, Los Feliz, Franklin Hills, Silver Lake, Toluca Lake, North Hollywood

ACQUISITION OF CAHUENGA PEAK MOVES CLOSER TO REALITY WITH NEW PLEDGE OF MONEY



Dear Friends:

My campaign to acquire Cahuenga Peak from private developers and annex it to Griffith Park got a double-boost this week. Last night, the central Regional Volunteer Neighborhood Oversight Committee recommended allocating \$955,000 of Prop. K money toward the purchase of these 138 unspoiled acres just west of the H in the Hollywood Sign.

If the City Council ratifies R-VNOC's recommendation, our pool of funds will grow to \$4.5 million, still shy about \$1.5 million that we have been told is the asking price for the land.

However, it's puts us closer to our goal of buying this property for public use, ensuring it will remain open space forever.

Our campaign also got a boost from a front page story in the *Los Angeles Times* today that

detailed its ownership and a most interesting historical note: former landowner Howard Hughes once planned to build a love nest for actress Ginger Rogers below the 1,820-foot peak. Hughes' Summa Corporation owned the land in a trust until 2002 when it was sold to Chicago-based investors for \$1.675 million.

When I learned of the sale, I was shocked. I was as surprised as anybody to find out the City of Los Angeles didn't own it. It looks like we do because it's right next to the Hollywood Sign and nothing has been built on it — yet. But, as I have come to know, with modern engineering techniques, there is no such thing as an un-buildable lot.

While the owners have never pulled a permit or made any specific plans to develop, it's enough of a threat to get my juices going.

I absolutely will not allow any structures to mar this pristine hillside that, in due time, will afford hikers a near 360-degree panoramic view of Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley.

Thanks to many hundreds of you who wrote letters of support in favor of this acquisition, we have secured the help of the non profit Trust for Public Land to negotiate with the property owners on our behalf. The most recent appraisal by the city valued the land at \$4.27 million,

Though TPL puts the figure closer to \$6 million. Other funds have been committed from Prop. 40, a state park bond, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, with additional monies raised through a variety of smaller public and private entities. Private citizens interested in contributing should contact Larry Kaplan at the Trust for Public Land at 213.380.4233.

I know you'll help me in our campaign to save Cahuenga Peak!

— TOM LABONGE

L.A. ART & ARCHITURE AT PARIS' POMPIDOU



Councilmember LaBonge will lead a delegation of artists, architects, art patrons and members of Los Angeles' extensive art community to Paris for a retrospective: "Los Angeles 1955-1985" at the Pompidou. The announcement was made today at the CalTrans building, designed by Thom Mayne of Morphosis, who'll be featured in the exhibit.