



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

*"Parks Make Life Better!"*

Russ Guiney, Director

John Wicker, Chief Deputy Director

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December 11, 2012

Sent via e-mail: [bmenke@planning.lacounty.gov](mailto:bmenke@planning.lacounty.gov)

TO: Brianna Menke  
Community Studies North Section  
Department of Regional Planning

FROM: Clement Lau, AICP  
Land Acquisition and Development Section

SUBJECT: **DRAFT HILLSIDE MANAGEMENT AREA (HMA) ORDINANCE**

The Department of Parks and Recreation has reviewed the draft Hillside Management Area (HMA) Ordinance. We understand that the ordinance has two objectives:

- Protect scenic hillside views, consisting of slopes, hilltop summits, and ridgelines, and conserve natural hillside character and significant geological features through sensitive hillside site design and provision of open space; and
- Avoid excessive grading and landform alteration to protect hillside resources from incompatible development and land uses.

It is our position that improvements such as parks and multi-use trails are compatible with the above objectives and should therefore be allowed in the required open space areas (page 6). We also agree that where possible, landscaped parks and improved open space should be located between natural open space and structures to buffer sensitive resources from edge effects (page 9).

Thank you for including this Department in the review of this ordinance. If you have any questions, please contact me at (213) 351-5120 or [clau@parks.lacounty.gov](mailto:clau@parks.lacounty.gov).

c: Parks and Recreation (N.E. Garcia, K. King, J. Barber, J. Rupert, J. Yom)