

## La Tuna Canyon Sediment Placement Site

As of 4-3-10

Councilmember Krekorian was hoping to meet with the County to review alternative debris flow sediment transfer sites which might actually even turn out to be more financially feasible to utilize than the proposed La Tuna Canyon Sediment Placement Site. One alternative under consideration has been the Vulcan Inert Material Landfill Pit. By right, Vulcan is required to refill the pit it has mined for rock and gravel over the years. Historically just a couple of years ago, to get out from under having to take on this gargantuan responsibility of refilling the pit itself, Vulcan wanted to sell the pit outright - as is - for someone else to undertake this task for a pittance of \$25 million. Councilmember Krekorian, Mary Benson – local Field Office staff member for the Councilmember and the “principals” at Vulcan recently spent some time on a conference call. Vulcan appears to be willing to negotiate at some level. This makes it obvious that alternatives, at the very least, are available to be explored. It might very well end up costing more to prepare La Tuna to accept this debris than to utilize some other alternative. The Congressman is under pressure from both sides on this issue – including from the County Supervisor himself. The community is highly appreciative that the Councilmember has become actively engaged in this process rather than merely sitting back claiming “my hands are tied”. Everyone in the downtown office is working feverishly on this issue to bring it some mutually acceptable conclusion. Having been a prior Assemblymember, Councilmember Krekorian has resources in Sacramento as well. Resources in California Department of Fish and Game and other avenues at various levels of government – he has not limited himself to local LA City. The CD2 Council Office is now in the best position to work with the community and to work with the County to seek an alternative and not to push something through until all options, all alternatives, have been reviewed. If no other alternative is found to be mutually acceptable, then so be it but currently no one has convinced the Councilmember that there are no other options. Michael Linton from the local Vulcan facility has put Mary Benson in touch with the West Coast Division Regional Manager for Vulcan Industries that has the authority to negotiate any kind of deal. Ms Benson has arranged a meeting between the Manager and the Councilmember at which time options will be discussed. Although the Councilmember is extremely busy with local issues, he is willing to put them aside to deal with this because of pressure from the County. The Councilmember has prepared a letter to send to the Governor since the County has approached the Governor to declare a “State of Emergency”.

As of 3-27-10

Bill Eick has been trying very hard to contact the California State Department of Fish and Game to alert them to the proposed transportation of sediment from recent hillside debris flows into the La Tuna Canyon. He has only been able to get an answering machine with no response.

Councilmember Krekorian has confirmed his stand that we must work with the County to locate alternate disposal sites. The Councilmember is not convinced that we have a true “state of emergency” requiring us to blindly utilize La Tuna Canyon, a dedicated scenic corridor, as a Sediment Placement Site without taking a moment to seek alternative sites – an effort not yet

pursued. The factor standing in the way of investigating alternate sites such as eg the Vulcan Inert Landfill Pit may strictly be a budgetary issue. Yes, it will cost the County to dispose of Sediment in the landfill now whereas, failing to take into account future effects of their actions, dumping the sediment in the Canyon on the surface appears to cost nothing. So it may just be a matter of sitting down with the County to review alternatives, what the alternatives may be, whether alternative means would still be financially feasible – or in the long run even be more cost effective.

### As of 3-20

Many decades ago the county purchased properties in, among other places, La Tuna Canyon and applied for “emergency permits” to utilize these properties as Sediment Placement Sites. The purpose of a Sediment Placement Site was to have a location to transfer eg sediment coming down from fire-denuded hillsides and overrunning debris basins continuing down streets and into homes in events of heavy rains. This was the situation happening in early 2010 following the 2009 massive Angeles National Forest fires such as the Station Fire. If declared an emergency, permits to transfer sediment to a Sediment Placement Site could be obtained without having to comply with extensive environmental laws. Discussions were underway in County agencies to ask the Governor to declare a state of emergency – this without the community being aware of this. Bill Eick is attempting to obtain related documents. Approximately 2 weeks ago, Bill observed county employees surveying in La Tuna Canyon and, at the time, did not “connect the dots”. The survey was to determine proper elevations for dumping debris in the canyon. It was an article in the LA Times that brought the issue to light. Bill has brought the Office of Councilmember Krekorian into recognition of the issue and has attempted to communicate with the County on this issue. This is a very inappropriate site in this day and time and the best bet would be to seek an alternate site. One example might be the Vulcan Pit, an inert landfill site with it’s own goal of filling it’s pit as soon as possible since once full they will be able to develop their land. It should be a win-win situation if the Vulcan Pit could serve as an alternative site. The County does not appear to care about trees that will be lost in La Tuna Canyons Sediment Placement Site as sediment is brought in nor the unpleasant aesthetic features that will come with it, but may be concerned about traffic issues on La Tuna Canyon Rd. La Tuna Canyon Rd is very windy with weight regulations limiting truck weight utilizing the road to 6,000 lbs. This regulation evolved out of a \$1.8 million lawsuit against the City in the mid-90’s due to inadequate road design. It is hoped that someone in the “Risk Management” department will recognize utilization of this site as a Sediment Placement Site now would once again open up the City to a potential lawsuit issue. It is important for community members to write letters to Councilmember Krekorian and to Supervisor Antonovich to pull the plug on this proposal.