

# Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN SUNLAND TUJUNGA  
7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga, CA 91042 • www.stnc.org • 818-951-7411

October 11, 2017

Planning Director Vince Bertoni  
Los Angeles Department of City Planning  
200 Spring St., 7th Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Director Bertoni,

At the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council General Board meeting held on October 11, 2017, the Board voted 10 For, 0 Against, 8 Abstain to support the Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council in **OPPOSITION to the Draft Cannabis Zoning Regulations, CPC-2017-2260-CA** as it relates to Cannabis Cultivation.

We strongly support the stand taken by Councilman Paul Krekorian:

"I oppose any and all activity in A-zones.

- a) If cannabis activity is to be allowed in A-zones, it should only be allowed on property that has an existing agricultural use with a Certificate of Occupancy or permits for agricultural activity prior to Jan. 1, 2017.
- b) Absolutely no cannabis activity should be allowed in A-zones that are in very high fire hazard severity zones."

Further, the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council requests that the Draft Cannabis Zoning Regulations be modified to include reference to the Foothill Boulevard Corridor Specific Plan and its Design Guidelines (Ordinance No. 170,694, 173,455). The current Draft Cannabis Zoning Regulations, CPC-2017-2260-CA do not currently include any reference to our Specific Plan, which covers the entire Commercial Corridor for Sunland-Tujunga, including Foothill Blvd., Commerce Avenue and immediately surrounding streets.

This late addition to the proposed zoning regulations regarding Cannabis Cultivation was made public only a few short days prior to the hearing held before the City Planning Commission on September 14, 2017 with no public outreach nor public comment period of the usual length of at least 15-30 days as is normally the case prior to a public hearing. Stakeholders were caught off guard and scrambled to notify the community of this situation but there was barely enough time to respond, even by immediately working on it over the weekend to meet the deadline of Monday (two days before the Hearing).

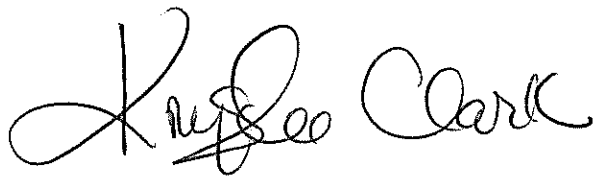
Our Neighborhood Council boundaries appear to also have a majority of A1 and A2 zoned properties. Specifically, surrounding Riverwood Ranch, Alpine Village, McGroarty Street, McGroarty Terrace, Haines Canyon, Blanchard Canyon, Renaissance and Big Tujunga Canyon. These are in residential neighborhoods that are the last areas where Equine use is common, which is an asset to the lifestyle balance in our City.

Another concern is that the Council President and Planning Commission President state that cannabis farming is no more problematic than "growing tomatoes and corn". Has there been any research to substantiate this? Do the farms in Northern California and other States which have recently approved recreational marijuana use and cultivation have similar experiences? When driving through agricultural areas of California there are open, unfenced farms with fruits and vegetables that don't seem to require the security that cannabis farms in our City will probably need. Their existence will most likely also have impacts on surrounding uses and neighborhoods and impose additional burdens on the Police Department to ensure public safety.

Further, the Draft Ordinance states that there is no Specific Plan applicable to these areas, but this is incorrect. Actually, a great deal of the A1 and A2 land in CD7 is under the San Gabriel/Verdugo Mountains Scenic Corridor Specific Plan. More importantly, there are no *buffer* requirements for these farms. For example, schools on McGroarty Street have A1 lots surrounding or adjacent to them, and there are numerous other similarly sensitive sites. Even with cannabis being grown in a greenhouse there could be any number of threats to these students and surrounding neighborhoods.

La Tuna Canyon and other areas directly adjacent to many neighborhoods of Sunland-Tujunga just experienced the largest brush fire in Los Angeles history. Again, the majority of the A1, A2 lots in CD7 are in *extreme high wind and high fire* areas. Those areas burned in the recent fire will be subject to mudslides, landslides and flooding soon and these conditions will exist for a number of years until the natural flora returns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krystee Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Krystee" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Clark".

Krystee Clark, President  
Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council

cc. Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez, CD7  
Councilman Paul Krekorian, CD2  
Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger  
Sun Valley Area NC  
Foothill Trails District NC  
Sylmar NC  
LAFD Station 77  
LAPD Foothill Station  
Kevin James, President Board of Public Works  
Council President Herb Wesson  
Los Angeles City Council