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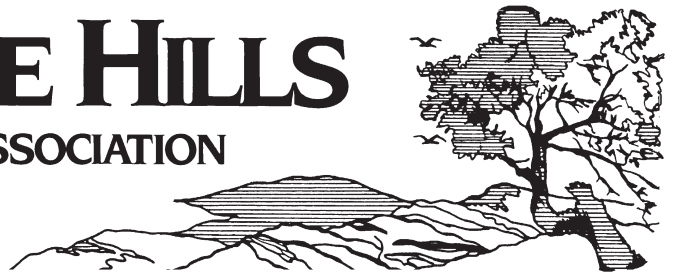
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50th-Anniversary Issue
Volume 50 • 2023



TEMPLE HILLS

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



Fifty Years of Temple Hills Conservation

On May 22 we will celebrate a half-century of building community togetherness. In early 1973 we opposed a 36-home development on the steep slopes of the south side of Park Canyon. The Planning Commission had voted in favor, but the City Council supported us with a 5-0 vote against the project, and we came together to form the Temple Hills Community Association (THCA). In 1965 more than a hundred of us put together a Temple Hills Specific Plan that was presented to various Councils and mostly implemented in parts over the years. It included 10 detailed maps on Topography, Constraints (fault lines, landslide, flood plain), Geology and Soils, Hydrology, Bicycle-Pedestrian Paths, Slope Analysis, Street System, Utilities, Vegetation and Wildlife, Views and Edges.

Our conservation of open space not only is related to impact on community and togetherness, but also view and especially geological constraints, given the landslides and destruction and damage to homes over the years on Cerritos, Donna Drive, and Buena Vista.

Now we face the threat to Rim Rock Canyon by a developer who has purchased 11 parcels we believe have been secured over the years as open space. Rim Rock Canyon is “the gem” of the Laguna Beach Inner Greenbelt. Our community, indeed all Laguna Beach, is now learning of the threat of its development. In her story herein, Becky Jones elaborates on this. Community leaders have joined in our concern. We need to spread the word of this threat, share with neighbors, and, in my view, not only oppose development but also through the city find the means to buy these lands and maintain them forever as open space.

Over the years, THCA became known not only for its newsletter, printed monthly, then quarterly, and now less frequently, but also for its annual social dinners held in resident homes, initially sit-down and the largest drawing 150 persons and 120 for dinner in celebration of our 40th anniversary. The pandemic has impacted us the past several years, but next month we will celebrate a half-century of activity with a virtual meeting. Please join us with your annual dues. Together we can continue to build our community.

— Ron Chilcote

[Ron has been Coordinator of THCA since its origins.] 🐶

TEMPLE HILLS COMMUNITY SPECIFIC PLAN Vegetation & Wildlife



Rim Rock Canyon

Threat of Development of Rim Rock Canyon

Formidable forces are gathering for developing the Rim Rock Canyon area. Over the years, the large, central parcel in this area has been known as the Juarez property. This property has recently changed hands as have multiple surrounding parcels — creating, at present, a mass of ten, soon to be 11, conjoined parcels totaling more than 12 acres. It is possible that still more properties may be added in future.

Two of these Rim Rock Canyon parcels contain existing houses located on Temple Hills Drive while the remaining nine of the parcels currently have no street access (access to legal vehicular rights of way) and so are not legal building sites; however, multiple efforts are currently underway to newly create the access necessary to open the entire acreage to development.

Developing this Rim Rock Canyon area will have major safety and aesthetic impacts on both the Temple Hills and Bluebird Canyon neighborhoods as well as on parts of the Top of the World neighborhood. Much of Rim Rock Canyon's south-facing hillside is extremely steep with some history of soil slumps on its lower boundaries and is crossed by several faults,

(Continued on page 3.)

Temple Hills Priorities

- ★ Resolve speeding on Temple Hills Drive (need policing and calming measures)
- ★ Extend Walkway to Palm Drive immediately and finish up the hill to the water tank
- ★ Underground utilities on Temple Hills above Lower San Remo Drive, also on Thalia down to Pacific Coast Highway
- ★ Ensure safety on side streets and implement speed humps, if necessary, and access for emergency vehicles
- ★ Consider Emergency Evacuation Plan
- ★ Secure open space in Rim Rock and Park Canyons
- ★ Restore Hospitality Committee for new neighbors 🐶

Happy 50th Anniversary to the Temple Hills Community Association!

What a wonderful legacy started years ago by concerned area residents that has continued due to many years of thoughtful leadership by Ron and Fran Chilcote of San Remo Drive. I owned a home in lower Temple Hills from 1986-2003 and served on a number of THCA committees over those years. I designed the current newsletter masthead and was Acting Coordinator of THCA during 1998-1999. The Association was more active in those earlier years, regular resident meetings were held, civic leaders were invited to come speak to the community, and some important accomplishments were completed like the undergrounding of utility poles in the majority of Temple Hills. An annual highlight was the well-attended potluck community dinner held at a local Temple Hills home.

Many concerns from the past 50 years are still present today. There are traffic problems like speeding and accidents on Temple Hills Drive. New development seriously threatens open-space areas where large numbers of residents enjoy walks, and many have a beautiful view from their homes.

Current Temple Hills residents will hopefully take action to protect your quality of life by getting involved in THCA. Send an email or letter to City decision makers to please guard existing open space and add to it whenever possible, and raise your voice at important public meetings about issues in your area. Along the way to being more involved in the Temple Hills community, consider bringing back the annual potluck dinner for some fun!

— Gayle Waite

[Gayle is a current downtown Laguna Beach resident and President, Laguna Canyon Conservancy.] 🐾

TEMPLE HILLS OPEN SPACE IN DANGER

Since its inception, THCA has helped to endorse and create the 22,000-acre Laguna Greenbelt that surrounds Laguna Beach. There are also important parcels of open space within the city limits, known as the “inner greenbelt.” In Temple Hills we have significant undeveloped open space that is now being purchased by a developer who is working to provide access to the previously “land-locked” parcels to open them up for development. Please keep aware of this danger to our Temple Hills and Rim Rock Canyon open space and let the city council know of your concerns. More information to follow — stay tuned.

— Bob Borthwick

[Bob Borthwick is a board member of THCA.] 🐾

Saving Aliso Creek: 50-Year Anniversary

In 1973 a group of about 20 local volunteers formed the Aliso Creek Corridor Study Team to create a master plan for the 19-mile-long creek that extends from the Cleveland National Forest at “Cooks Corner” in Modjeska Canyon to the ocean at Aliso Beach in South Laguna. The master plan was called “Aliso Creek: Forest to the Sea.” I was part of this Study Team, which was chaired by architect Ron Yeo. After over six months of weekly study sessions and field trips, the Study Team’s members presented their master plan to the Orange County Board of Supervisors in 1974. The Board unanimously endorsed the plan to save the natural creek and create a continuous trail network, which eventually led to the creation of the Aliso & Wood Canyons Wilderness Park, a major part of the Laguna Greenbelt. The original nine-minute narrated slide show presented in 1974 has now been digitized and can be viewed at the Aliso Creek Visitors Center or on the Laguna Greenbelt website: lagunagreenbelt.org

— Bob Borthwick 🐾

Congratulations to the Temple Hills Association on Their 50th Anniversary!

This is what makes Laguna so special. We care about where we live and our community. Many of us on Morningside Drive look at the south-facing side of Rim Rock Canyon. It is our environment of quiet, no lights, rock outcroppings, native habitat including a glorious burst of Encelia yellow blooms — Bush Sunflowers — this spring. We are concerned about the recent purchases of the south-facing Rim Rock Canyon parcels with no legal access now up for sale for development. We intend to let our council members know about our concern in hopes that there will be way to preserve this land. The parcels would then connect to the Laguna Beach open space at the end of Rim Rock Canyon and Lavender Lane, which continues to join the open space that connects to the Fire Road and the wilderness parks.

Let’s work together to preserve this area.

— Mary Feagraus

1561 Morningside Drive and email mefegraus@cox.net

[Mary Feagraus is former director of the Laguna Canyon Foundation and for many years involved in Laguna Greenbelt.] 🐾

THCA and Laguna Greenbelt

THCA has been a steadfast supporter of the Laguna Greenbelt’s efforts to preserve and protect our precious open spaces since its inception. We will continue to work with the residents of Temple Hills and Bluebird to preserve as much of the remaining open space in Rim Rock Canyon as possible.

— Norm Grossman

[Norm is President of Laguna Greenbelt.] 🐾



More Police Officers

The Laguna Beach Police Department has hired additional officers to patrol residential neighborhoods for public-safety traffic issues such as excessive speeding, loud engines, and street racing. The LBPd indicated that the new officers are currently in training and should be noticed in the Temple Hills neighborhood by the end of May. They will be monitoring and citing violators.

Temple Hills Drive is specifically targeted in the City because of its noted history of excessive speeding, numerous serious accidents, and the use of the corridor as a “track” for street racing.

The City has also contracted with a consultant for another Traffic Survey on Temple Hills Drive that should be concluded by July 2023.

— Update from the Temple Hills Traffic and Circulation Committee 🐾



Temple Hills Archives

Meeting minutes, newsletters, and other materials relating to the Laguna Beach Temple Hills Community Association are being preserved as part of the Orange County Collection in the Special Collections and Archives at the University of California, Irvine, Library. The website for Special Collections and Archives is <https://special.lib.uci.edu> and the research librarian for Orange County Collections is Krystall Tribbett, krtribbet@uci.edu. — Anne Frank 🐾

(Threat to Rim Rock Canyon, continued from page 1.)

with the Juarez property (approximately half the acreage) characterized by an ancient landslide that appears on City maps. In addition, the area is in an extremely high fire hazard severity zone.

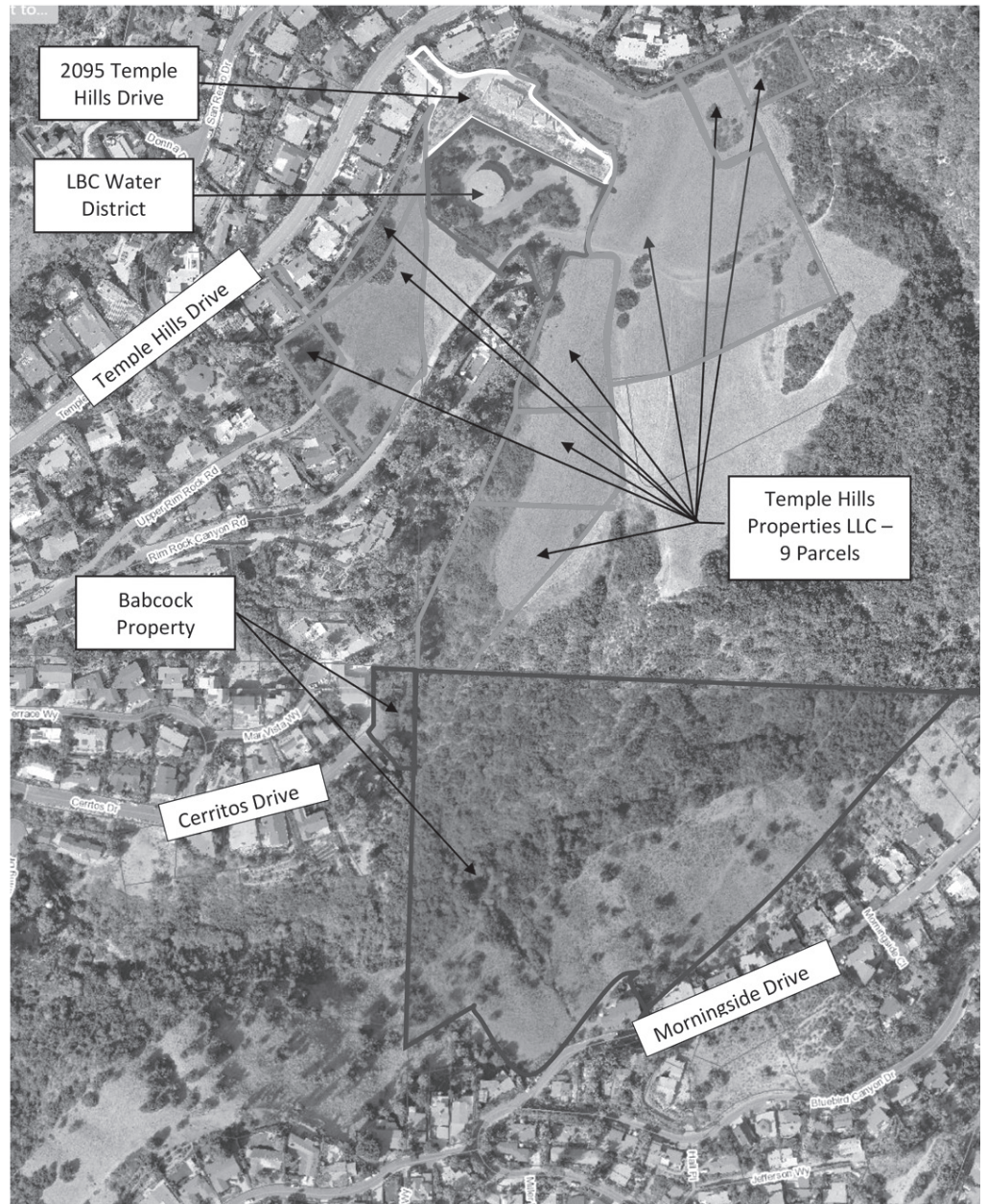
The mass of the developable area being created will result in a significant increase in traffic, potentially spilling onto very narrow, substandard streets, increasing traffic issues and the difficulties of emergency access to and from Temple Hills and Bluebird Canyon homes.

Existing neighborhood views of the ocean and hillsides will inevitably be negatively impacted by new development. In addition, the Juarez parcel is crossed by a public walking path leading to one of the best overlooks in Laguna, precious to residents who walk the path. Also lost will be animal habitats, Coastal Sage resources, and the darkened night sky.

We all need to be paying attention to this anticipated development of Rim Rock Canyon and be prepared to turn out and let our voices be heard if and when official proposals are presented to the City. For now, spread the word to your friends and neighbors about potential plans to develop the Rim Rock Canyon area. Let our City Council members know that you are concerned about the dangers of development in this canyon and that you oppose creating new building sites there.

— Becky Jones

[Becky is a former member of the Laguna Beach Planning Commission and has been involved in Temple Hills issues and problems since THCA's beginnings.] 🐾

Former Juarez Property Surroundings

Rim Rock Canyon

TEMPLE HILLS

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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**Come join us on May 22 and
celebrate our 50th Anniversary
(virtual meeting—see access
below)**

Come Join Us!

The Temple Hills Community Association, since our founding in 1973, has worked to improve the quality of life on our streets and in our neighborhoods, to help neighbors get to know one another, to help them interact with the City when property issues and neighborhood concerns arise, and to join together to address the bigger issues that affect us as a community.

Over the years, working together as a community,

- *we've prevented Temple Hills Drive from becoming a major regional thoroughfare joining with major streets in Aliso Viejo,*
- *encouraged the acquisition of hillside open space and the establishment of mini-parks,*
- *worked to facilitate safe pedestrian options,*
- *fought out-of-scale development and subdivisions,*
- *facilitated undergrounding in those areas of the bill where a majority of residents approved,*
- *provided a community voice to the City,*
- *fostered a tradition of great neighborhood parties.*

Are there any problems in your neighborhood? We'd like to know. What are your interests? Would you like to become more involved? There are opportunities on the Steering Committee and the Neighborhood Groups.

Come join with us. 🏠



Topic: Community Outreach

Time: May 22, 2023 7 PM PST (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://ucr.zoom.us/j/95641739548?pwd=S1FFdVV5](https://ucr.zoom.us/j/95641739548?pwd=S1FFdVV5NnU0VTc4RHVsNVhhWmhkQT09)

NnU0VTc4RHVsNVhhWmhkQT09

Meeting ID: 956 4173 9548

Passcode: 619913

One tap mobile

+16694449171,,95641739548# US 📶

How to help THCA

Let us know who your new neighbors are so that we can include them in our mailing. Even though every house should get a newsletter, often it is addressed to the old owner and "resident." We would like to be more friendly by addressing it to the new owner and occupant. The City is unable to provide us these records in a timely manner so hearing from you would help us out.

The THCA newsletter is always happy to receive news and photos that might be of interest to the community.

Please contact THCA at laguna.thca@gmail.com.



THCA MEMBERSHIP DUES COUPON

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Dues 2023 (\$25 per household) =\$ _____

Donation to THCA\$ _____

Total Enclosed =\$ _____

**Please mail this coupon with your check to
THCA, P. O. Box 4913, Laguna Beach, CA 92652**