

July 9, 2014 – DRAFT ---DRAFT ----DRAFT

Councilmember Felipe Fuentes
200 North Spring Street, Room 455
Los Angeles, California 90012-4801

Re: Equine zoning preservation

Hon. Councilmember Fuentes,

The Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council is greatly appreciative of the efforts you have put forth in attempting to preserve our ever-dwindling equine-capable properties. The equinekeeping checklist is a very important and useful first step. But to avoid losing equine-capable properties overall, ensuring equine capability must run with the land especially in K-Overlay districts. Today a home owner may not own a horse nor may his abutting neighbors. In such instances, with only requiring the steps of the Equinekeeping Checklist, permits may be granted that would in the long run destroy future equine-capability for a property and essentially remove it from the market for any future resident seeking equine-capable land. The adoption and compliance with the San Gabriel/Verdugo Mountains Scenic Preservation Plan has attempted to preserve equine-capability by requiring a 2,288 sq ft equine set-aside that may never have a permanent structure built on it whether a secondary building, a swimming pool, a tennis court, etc. However, in drafting the Specific Plan there was a fatal error in that these equine restrictions were limited to “new sub-divisions”. Thus, new building on infill properties or home additions are still eroding away our equine-capable lands because they are not subject to those set-aside restrictions. The Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council requests that you seriously consider introducing a Motion to the City Council that would require an equine set-aside. The needed size of which could be recommended by the City’s Equine Advisory Committee. This set aside would run with any K-Overlay land in perpetuity whether that K-Overlay property is being sub-divided, filing for a Parcel Map, a lot-split, a lot-line adjustment, new construction on vacant land or structure addition. Having the equine-set aside run with the land assures equine-capability will never be lost even if a current resident has no horses.

We thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Mark Seigel
President

Cc: Claudia Rodriguez
Wesly Hernandez
Dave DePinto, Pres. SHPOA
William E. Eick