

CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL ROOM 4032
SACRAMENTO, CA 95834
TEL (916) 441-1353
FAX (916) 324-4822

DISTRICT OFFICES
10051 WEST PICO BLVD., SUITE 202
LOS ANGELES, CA 90064
TEL (310) 441-9084
FAX (310) 441-0724

300 WEST THIRD ST., 4TH FLOOR
OXNARD, CA 93030
TEL (805) 486-3778
FAX (805) 486-6865

California State Senate

SENATOR
SHEILA JAMES KUEHL
TWENTY-THIRD SENATORIAL DISTRICT
CHAIR
NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE



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August 17, 2004

FILE COPY

Hon. Cindy Miscikowski
Los Angeles City Council
200 North Spring Street, Room 415
Los Angeles, CA 90012

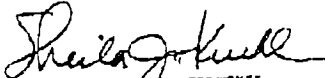
Dear Councilmember Miscikowski:

I am writing to express my concern over recent communications I've received from a number of my constituents regarding the proposed Canyonback Road gate in Brentwood. As you are well aware, the state has made a large investment in the acquisition of the "Big Wild" lands, and public access is a general condition of the expenditure of public funds. From what I have been told, I am concerned that, with the different park jurisdictions just beyond the site in question, public access might be seriously limited by the construction of the proposed gate.

It is my hope that you will hear more public testimony before the gate construction is allowed to continue, and that that the whole community of park and trail users--not just the immediate neighbors--will be given a voice in the process. People come from many other areas to access this vast swath of open space. An area such as this is a regional resource, not just the backyard of any one homeowners group. Public funding should guarantee public access.

Please let me know if the City Attorney has determined whether or not it is legal to put this gate on a public street. I would be grateful if you would direct your response to Laura Plotkin at my District Office (310) 441-9084. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


SHEILA JAMES KUEHL
Senator, 23rd District

Representing the cities of Agoura Hills, Beverly Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Malibu, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Santa Monica, West Hollywood and Westlake Village and the communities of Bel Air, Brentwood, Canoga Park, Encino, Hollywood, Mt. Olympus, Pacific Palisades, Sherman Oaks, Studio City, Torrance, Topanga, West Los Angeles, West Hills, Westwood and Woodland Hills.