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## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Council Unanimously Approves Northeast Hillside Ordinance

*Ordinance championed by Councilmembers Reyes and Huizar seeks safety and building measures to protect residents and hillsides by creating uniform standards on new construction projects*

LOS ANGELES (Nov. 26, 2008) – In a move designed to address fire and safety issues while protecting the character and quality of Northeast Los Angeles hillside properties against overdevelopment, the Los Angeles City Council voted 12-0 today to support a new hillside ordinance.

The new hillside ordinance, heralded by environmentalists and density opponents, will protect against long-held hillside property owners' concerns over reckless and unsafe development.

"My district is full of beautiful hillside communities," said Councilmember José Huizar. "This ordinance will end haphazard development where residents' safety and picturesque views have been at risk for a number of years now and will put us more in line with surrounding communities."

At a recent City Planning and Land Use Management Committee meeting, LAFD Assistant Fire Chief Craig Fry, a supporter of the ordinance, said that by limiting the size and scope of new buildings, the zoning change could potentially save lives and help avoid the kind of structural losses suffered in the recent Sylmar fire.

Before the ordinance, there were no restrictions on how much dirt could be graded on hillside property, which is a huge safety concern. With the new ordinance, grading will be reduced to a maximum of 500 cubic yards, plus 5 percent of the total lot size, up to a maximum of 1,000 cubic yards.

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**New Hillside Ordinance for Northeast Los Angeles**  
**Page 2**

Depending on lot size and slope, the new zone changes sets limits on building height, retaining wall height and square footage allowed for all new construction projects in Northeast Los Angeles, including El Sereno, Hermon, Lincoln Heights and Monterey Hills.

Supporters of the project include California Assemblymember Kevin de León, The Hillside Federation, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the Audubon Society.

The new ordinance affects approximately 11,000 parcels and will go into effect Jan. 9, 2009, and will replace an interim control ordinance, which had been in place since December 2006, and was set to expire in January.

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