



A compendium of useful information for those brave of heart and spirit who choose to call this wonderful place home

***Special thanks to the residents of Kagel Canyon who dedicated their time to research
and write this welcome packet for you.***

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***** Legal Disclaimer *****

This Handbook was borne out of an interest from our residents to share information with newcomers to Kagel Canyon. Many of us experienced the same questions and concerns upon moving here, and thought it would be useful to collect much of the information we have learned over the years into one useful place, for the benefit of new residents. As such, this book represents the work of volunteers, who are also your new neighbors. Many of the articles included herein were written and contributed by individuals, and as such, may represent the viewpoint of an individual and not necessarily the opinion of the Kagel Canyon Civic Association. The KCCA has made every attempt to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information provided in this handbook. However, the information is provided "as is" without warranty of any kind. Neither the KCCA nor any individual contributor to this handbook accepts any responsibility or liability for the accuracy, content, completeness, legality, or reliability of the information contained herein. No warranties, promises and/or representations of any kind, expressed or implied, are given as to the nature, standard, accuracy or otherwise of the information provided in this handbook, nor to the suitability or otherwise of the information to your particular circumstances. Neither the KCCA nor any individual contributor to this handbook shall be liable for any loss or damage of whatever nature (direct, indirect, consequential, or other) whether arising in contract, tort or otherwise, which may arise as a result of your use of (or inability to use) this handbook, or from your use of (or failure to use) the information contained herein. Wherever possible, links and/or contact information has been provided for experts and/or authorities for the topics addressed in this handbook. You, as the reader of this handbook, are responsible to conduct your own "due diligence" regarding the information contained (or omitted) herein.

We hope that this handbook proves useful to you. Should you think of any topics that should be addressed in future editions, please share your ideas with us at kagelcanyonevents@gmail.com

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How to Use This Handbook

Dear Reader,

This handbook is intended to be an evolving document and source of information that can be updated over time. This is why it is presented in a three-ring binder – so that whenever updates are issued, the old pages can be easily removed and replaced with the updated pages.

When you receive this book, the Welcome Handbook Committee should make note of your name and address so that you are included in our list of “Registered Owners” and updates can be provided to you as they are created.

You will note that the bottom of each page is notated in several ways:

On the left of the footnote is the Chapter, Section, and Subsection (if applicable).

On the right of the footnote is the “Version Number” of the entry. Each original entry is marked V1, for Version 1. When an update is created, it will be labeled as V2, or V3, etc.

Let’s say that our bi-annual KCCA elections have taken place and we need to update Chapter 2, Section J: “A List of Current Board Members and How to Contact Them”. A V2 of this page will be created and distributed to all Registered Owners of the Handbook. When you receive your updated page, you can just flip to Chapter 2, Section J of your Handbook, pull out V1, and swap in V2 containing the updated information.

In the event that we add new Sections or entirely new Chapters, you would also receive an updated version of the Table of Contents.

Should you think of any topics that should be addressed in future editions, or should you find information in this Handbook that is outdated or incorrect, please share your ideas with us at kagelcanyonevents@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Your Kagel Canyon Handbook Committee

THE KAGEL CANYON HANDBOOK

A compilation of things you ought to know if you live in the canyon

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Chapter One:

Welcome to Kagel Canyon!

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Dear New Neighbor,

Welcome to Kagel Canyon! We are so glad you made the choice to move to this wild and wonderful place that we call home.

I am writing this “welcome” message in the wake of the Creek Fire. For those readers who are new to the area, the Creek Fire was one of the most devastating events in Kagel Canyon history. Over the course of several days in December 2017, the Creek Fire consumed 15,619 acres, mostly in the Angeles National Forest, and destroyed 60 homes total, 16 of which were in Kagel Canyon. In a way it seems odd to be writing a welcome message just on the heels of such an event, but in a way it is actually quite fitting, as the Creek Fire and the events that followed truly epitomize some of the best characteristics of our residents and some of the best qualities of our community.

Kagel Canyon is the strongest community that you will ever meet. Our residents have always been known for their rugged independence, and this archetype was exemplified during the fire. The Creek Fire was not the first fire in which many of our neighbors defied evacuation orders, risking their own lives to save our community. The residents who stayed behind worked tirelessly throughout several days and several nights, battling not only flames, smoke, and flying embers, but also physical, mental, and emotional exhaustion in order to protect their homes, their neighbors’ homes, and the canyon we call home.

Though our small neighborhood lost 16 homes to the fire, what we did not lose was our community, the heart and soul of which is a spirit that was not broken by the fire, but instead was fortified, intensified, and strengthened as it emerged from the tragedy like a phoenix rising from the ashes. It is that dogged, indefatigable, unwavering, and enduring spirit that defines our community. In the days and weeks that followed those very dark days of the fire, I saw the very best of humanity. Our community was blessed with an outpouring of kindness, compassion, selflessness, and generosity of spirit as our neighbors came together to help each other through a myriad of physical, psychological, emotional, and financial challenges. We are currently beginning the rebuilding process, and it is the Kagel Canyon spirit that will carry us through and that will make us emerge even stronger on the other side.

I fully understand that many folks move up to this rustic enclave in the mountain above Los Angeles because they seek an escape from city life and “want to be left alone” (in the interest of full disclosure, I was one of those people). But it is also these very same semi-secluded attributes of our community that ironically make it essential for us to know our neighbors.

The Creek Fire is just one example of how neighbors rely on each other for survival in the canyon. Many residents went door to door at 4 am waking up their neighbors to alert them to the approaching fire. Other neighbors worked together to extinguish flames and embers and saved not only their own homes, but also the homes of neighbors who had evacuated. Others led horses and other pets to safety outside of the canyon. *Food for thought: If you are at work when a fire breaks out in the canyon, will your neighbors know that you have a dog at home that needs to be evacuated in your absence? And vice versa?*

Given our location, the canyon also unfortunately falls prey from time to time to mail thefts and burglaries. It is most often our own neighbors who have successfully thwarted these crimes in progress, but they are only successful if and when they know who their neighbors are and what types of cars they drive. In one incident, a neighbor successfully stopped a burglary in progress by brazen thieves who broke into a home in broad daylight. The resident was able to thwart the burglars because he knew his neighbors and their work schedule,

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and therefore was confident that the folks he saw on the property did not belong. *Food for thought: Do your neighbors know you and your family members well enough to know if the person they are seeing is a thief taking mail out of your mailbox? And vice versa?*

Please keep in mind that, given our location outside of city limits, we are not within immediate reach of the sheriffs or other emergency responders. It could take the sheriffs an hour to respond to an emergency here in the canyon. Similarly, should there be an emergency such as an earthquake which compromises highways and access to the canyon, we could find ourselves inside the canyon for days (or longer) before emergency responders are able to reach us and offer assistance. Therefore, our neighbors have come to rely on each other and it would behoove you to make the effort to become part of that network of support.


The bottom line is that while you certainly don't need to be best friends with everyone (or anyone) in the canyon, your neighbors need to know you well enough to know if something out of the ordinary is taking place on your property, and need to know you well enough to be able to offer assistance during an actual emergency. And vice versa. We are a tight-knit, self-sufficient, and resilient community with neighbors who are ready and willing to help you, if you give them the opportunity to do so. Your life could depend on it.

We have a group of amazing residents who make Kagel Canyon a wonderful place to live. We have folks with diverse backgrounds, talents, interests, and skills, and I learn something new and interesting about my neighbors every single day. Shortly after I moved to the canyon, I found myself in need of a log splitter. I was headed to Home Depot, fully prepared to pay \$90 to rent one for the afternoon, when I ran into a neighbor who stopped me. He shared with me a wise tip, which I will now pass on to you. He said, "Don't ever pay to buy or rent something, because someone in the canyon will already have it, and they'll either be willing to loan it to you, or trade you for it." And that's how I found myself borrowing a log splitter from Joe, who I had never met, in exchange for a homemade apple pie. A very good trade if you ask me.

Situated just at the edge of the second largest city in the United States, Kagel Canyon is a remarkable place where neighbors actually know each other's names (and, even more often, the names of each other's dogs). There is an entire network of neighbors like Joe and like me here in the canyon who are just waiting to meet you and offer our advice, help, friendship (and log splitter), if and when you need it. I invite you to attend a KCCA meeting or one of our upcoming events so that you can learn more about your new community and meet some of your new neighbors. We'll be happy to have you there! Our meetings and events are always posted on the bulletin board and everyone is always welcome and encouraged to attend.

Welcome to Kagel Canyon! I look forward to meeting you soon.

With love,



Kelly Erin Decker

President
Kagel Canyon Civic Association

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A TIMELINE OF THE HISTORY OF KAGEL CANYON

The 1800's:

Unknown date: Miners Henry Kegel and John Zens settled in Kegel and Little Tujunga Canyons. Mr. Kegel's home, built of adobe with a brick veneer and wooden siding added later, was located at the entrance to the canyon just beneath the bulletin board. At this time, no roads were in existence and travel was by horse, mule, or on foot.

1870: Henry Kegel built a reservoir in Little Tujunga in 1870.

1880's: Henry Kegel and John Zens filed mining and water claims in Kegel and Little Tujunga Canyons. One of the mining claims issued to Kegel mentions a mill, the location and type of which are unknown.

1892: On December 20, the San Gabriel Timber Reserve was set aside by proclamation order of President Benjamin Harrison. Consisting of 555,520 acres extending from Pacoima to the Cajon Pass, it was the first federal reserve in the State of California. In December 1908, the name was changed to the Angeles National Forest.

The 1900's and 1910's:

1909: Mr. Allen Coon and the Reverend Anthony Dexter (brother of Nathaniel Dexter, who later donated the land now comprising Dexter Park) bought a lemon grove at the entrance to Kegel Canyon. Later, Nathaniel Dexter described it: *"There was no road or entrance to the canyon, nothing in sight all over the valley except a few ranches miles apart and extremely large. Just a wild country anyway you looked. Quiet, beautiful hills, wonderful air, and only half dozen or so homes."*

1913: Angeles National Forest land suitable for home sites was restored to the homestead rolls for a period of 13 months. Kegel Canyon was reported to be impassable to autos during the rainy season, and in places almost impossible for a team of horses and wagon.

1914: Kegel Canyon Road was deeded to the County of Los Angeles as the result of a lawsuit.

1915: A homesteader by the name of Richardson filed claim on the first water rights in the canyon. He was located on a quarter section in the upper part of the canyon.

1916: Famous movie director Cecil B. DeMille bought Paradise Ranch, the estate of Catherine Ramsey, adding 80 acres to his 400 acres in Little Tujunga Canyon. Later, he bought Middle Ranch and built a cottage and horse stables. Eventually his home was donated to the Hathaway Home for Children, formerly located on Gold Creek Road.

1916: Nathaniel Dexter acquired a bee lease from the "Angelus Forest Service" and maintained a number of hives for honey and outdoor pleasure.

1918: Graphite was discovered above Kegel Canyon, resulting in the formation of the Los Angeles Graphite Company. A two-mile road was built from the top of Kegel Canyon to the graphite mine. The lack of water in the summer months was the deciding factor in the ultimate failure of this enterprise.

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The 1920's:

1923: By 1923 four homes were thought to exist in Kagel Canyon, including the following three, about which details are known:

1. Mr. Henry Kegel's home
2. The Whites (Ernest, Bertha, and Mildred Lee), who homesteaded on property near the graphite mine.
3. One home measuring 12' x 12', which was actually a still and had at one time "White Whiskey from floor to ceiling and hog meat hanging from the rafters."

1920's: Mr. Peters arrived from Wall Street with his secretary, Miss Rhodes. Mr. Peters dealt in mining claims, deeds, and other legal papers, and through manipulation he acquired about 80 acres of land in Kagel Canyon. He formed the Peters Rhodes Corporation and subdivided his land into lots about 40 x 60 feet. He announced the creation of the El Merrie Del Resort to include a club house, swimming pool, tennis court, and miniature golf course. He also built a dance hall, which was a drawing card for weekend merrymakers who came to enjoy outdoor dancing to music provided by a huge radio. Regular dances were held on Saturdays and Sundays. One Sunday, he attracted a crowd of 3,000 people. Lots were sold for the erection of weekend retreats. By 1926 the El Merrie Del Country Club was promoted in the paper with a concrete swimming pool, golf course, tennis court, clubhouse (never built), horseback riding, hiking, picnic tables and fireplaces with cabin sites on 40-foot level lots. About 200 summer houses were built. An article published in the May 25, 1926 edition of the San Fernando Valley Leader described El Merrie Del as "the Switzerland of America" and a "Mecca for pleasure seekers."

Martin's General Store was opened (currently the site of the Hideaway Bar). The garage across from the store was used as a gas station, with pumps located between the store and the garage so that customers could drive on either side.

Sometime in the 1920's, the Angeles Shooting Range opened on Little Tujunga Canyon Road. It is still used today, and is a favorite practice location of police officers from all over Los Angeles County as it is one of the few remaining outdoor ranges.

1928: In addition to the summer homes, there were also about fifteen permanent residences, many built from river rock.

Mr. Herrick had 160 acres in citrus, olives, and avocados in the Upper Canyon, a quarter section now owned by Glen Haven Mortuary.

1929: Following the stock market crash, some people who used Kagel Canyon as a weekend getaway began to move in on a more permanent basis.

A fire of undetermined origin destroyed four summer homes in Kagel Canyon. The fire burned over 20 acres and was fought by over 100 men.

The 1930's:

1930: The Kagel Canyon Improvement Association was formed, with Saul Delue as the first president. As a result of Mr. Delue's influence with the County Supervisors, the Association later attained the services of both Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas Company, and Kagel Canyon Road was paved.

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Early 1930's: The Peters Rhodes Corporation failed, and seven families purchased the El Merrie Del Resort and summer homes. Many of these homes, then called the "Oak Crest Properties", were destroyed after the 1971 earthquake. Following the Great Depression, some families found it more economical to live permanently in their weekend retreats than to maintain their homes in town.

1931: Motorcycle races in Kagel Canyon attracted a crowd of about 3,000 one Sunday.

Nearby, Pop's Willow Lake was opened by James "Pop" Gautier at the location currently occupied by Orcas Park. Originally a "swimming hole," it was later rebuilt as a pool in the shape of a four-leaf clover and had a beer garden. During WWII, it was "the place to go".

1932: Lot lines were surveyed in Kagel Canyon by the county surveyor.

1934: Land was acquired for Dexter Park. A swap was made between the Department of Agriculture and the County of Los Angeles. For the area that now comprises Big Pines Recreation Area near Wrightwood, the County received the area for Dexter Park. Cement tables and stone fireplaces were built, and spruce and pine trees planted.

The Board of Supervisors decreed that the installation of waterworks in Kagel Canyon would be too costly. The area had not been surveyed or streets laid out in the El Merrie Del section. Property owners in the canyon were charged \$1.03 on each \$100 of assessed valuation as a lighting tax, in addition to other taxes.

1935: Live Oak trees were planted in Dexter Park.

Quail hunting was reported as being good in Kagel Canyon.

The dance hall in Kagel Canyon was banned by the Board of Supervisors.

Two men were arrested as being the "fire bugs" who set a fire in Kagel Canyon which burned about 250 acres.

1936: Water District 21 was formed. The Kagel Canyon Improvement Association had a \$68,000 bond issued against the land and, with assistance from the WPA, a water system was to be implemented. The formation of WD21 forced the condemnation of Frank and Ethal Polk's property, which was located between the fire station and the cemetery, as it was determined to be the future location of the water district wells. Protesting the taking of his land, Mr. Polk held off the county with a shotgun for 30 days.

Later that year, several cabins were washed off their foundations or damaged by mud from heavy rain.

Morton's General Store (which occupied the land where the Hideaway currently sits), was sold and moved further up the canyon.

Residents from Big Tujunga Canyon protested that they had to drive 20 miles to exercise their right to vote, as their polling place was located at the General Store in Kagel Canyon.

1937: According to the Forest Service, 84,020 people visited Big Tujunga Canyon over the three-day Fourth of July weekend. A total of 85 gunny sacks of fireworks were confiscated at the entrance to the canyon. Over that same weekend, 1,980 people visited Kagel Canyon, and 1,390 visited Little Tujunga Canyon.

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1938: A major flood in the Los Angeles area damaged Pop's Willow Lake and destroyed a boat house, restaurant, dance hall, and several other buildings nearby.

Cecil B. DeMille declared war on rattlesnakes at his ranch.

1939: A non-denominational church moved behind the General Store. A pastor came from Pasadena.

The Kagel Canyon Women's Club's first big project was getting a \$39,000 recreation building constructed in Dexter Park.

The 1940's

1940: Hansen Dam was completed, at a total cost of \$11,303,454. An estimated 2,000 people attended the dedication ceremony on August 17, 1940. A park was proposed for the Hansen Dam reservoir area, and became a reality in time.

Glen Haven Memorial Park opened, comprising 160 acres in the middle/upper Canyon.

1944: On July 6, 1944, a US Army Air Force P-38 plane (registration #43-28888) crashed near the top of the canyon. This brought the reality of World War II close to home, as the war had been seen as a remote and removed event. Once the war ended, the population of Kagel Canyon (as well as the rest of the western U.S.) grew, with the return of the veterans and a mass migration from the East Coast.

1940's: The inadequacies of the Peter Rhodes Corporation began to manifest themselves. Lots were too small to build on. Roads were too narrow and too light for normal traffic. Poor surveying had resulted in some houses being built on the street.

The 1950's

1950's: Many of the people who lived in the Canyon worked for Lockheed.

Each summer, beginning about the month of June, it became necessary to ration water. Eventually an hourly system was put into effect. The water would be off from 6 pm to 6 am; on from 6 am to 9 am; off from 9 am to 2 pm; and on from 2 pm to 6 pm. However, the plan was not very effective. While the water was on, folks would fill every available container, including their bathtubs. This stored water was seldom used, so when the time came for the water to be turned on again, the containers would be emptied and refilled with fresh water. As a result, the residents at high elevations received a combination of mud and air instead of water. Many remedial measures were attempted in an effort to stop the waste, but none were very effective.

1957: Residents protested the closing of the post office within Kagel Canyon. Leo Ferns, then Corresponding Secretary of the KCCA, sent a letter to the Postmaster General in Washington, D.C., along with a petition signed by approximately 200 people, requesting that the post office be re-opened as it was "the only place within walking distance for several hundred people who depend on it to fulfill their post office needs."

1959: On April 11, 1959, Dexter Park was opened to the public. Nathaniel Dexter had donated the land to the County in 1954, and he personally attended the dedication when the park building was complete five years later. During the dedication ceremony, he described the land which he had donated. *"... I discovered what*

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looked like a small place to push through the tall thick grass to enter a dreamland of oak trees, each with a woodrat nest around the base and with their burnt black, drooping branches that reached to the ground. Coyote, rabbit tracks, and big squirrels were everywhere, and even the tracks of mountain lions... The size of a park is not the only important thing about it. There is also the setting. Most parks give you the feeling that someone has planted it all for you. I think that here you actually get more the feeling of being out of doors in the natural hills."

The 1960's

1961: A Kagel Canyon-Little Tujunga Canyon Fire destroyed homes in November 1961, followed by mudslides the next year. Together, residents along the creek installed thousands of feet of fencing next to the creek bank to shore up the hill and prevent erosion.

1969: A flood altered Dexter Park, creating a water canal that runs through the park today.

The 1970's

1971: Sylmar Earthquake. At least 40 homes in Kagel Canyon were lost in the earthquake, particularly some of our oldest, historic houses which were built before housing codes. The large swimming pool that was part of the original "El Merrie Del Resort Development" was also badly damaged, and never repaired as the expense was too great. Some long-term residents moved out, as it was cheaper to purchase a new home in the valley than to rebuild. Some decisions not to rebuild were based on changes in the neighborhood, as drugs had been introduced to Kagel Canyon and the atmosphere was changing to a more "hippie culture".

1974: The post office in Kagel Canyon closed. Later, with the addition of zip codes, addresses in Kagel Canyon changed from being listed as "San Fernando" to "Sylmar", which was the primary designation of the zip code 91342. This is why some historical records may list your property as being in San Fernando, but recent records may list your property as being in Kagel Canyon, Lakeview Terrace, or Sylmar.

1975: The Mill Fire swept through Kagel Canyon, burning 47,000 acres total. One home on Summit Trail was lost.

1975: Lopez Landfill opened. As other city-owned dumps were closed, more and more of the City's garbage was sent to Lopez Canyon. By the end of its operation, 80% of the City's total of 820,000 tons of trash per year were dumped there.

The 1980's

1982: Heavy winter rains caused a collapse at Lopez Landfill, sending a flow of trash through Kagel Canyon.

1980's: The 1980's saw an upswing in development in the Upper Canyon, with the number of homes doubling during that time. Many were larger, modern homes that stood in stark contrast to the existing homes. An LA Times headline from 1988 reads: "War over Kagel Canyon: Old-Timers in Cabins Clash with Angry Newcomers in Expensive Houses." The primary target was the property of Robert Winemiller, who moved with his family to Kagel Canyon in 1930 and was among the canyon's first year-round residents. Since that time, Winemiller amassed a lifetime of items, including more than 70 car hulks, and allowed numerous guests to stay in trailers on his 8-acre parcel in Upper Kagel. Ultimately in October 1988, the County declared the property to be a

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public nuisance and brought in contractors to clear the property, despite a human blockade formed by Winemiller and friends.

1989: Residents of Kagel Canyon, along with neighbors from Lakeview Terrace and Pacoima, gathered at the entrance to Lopez Canyon Landfill and blocked garbage trucks from entering. The protesters fought a proposed expansion of the landfill, asserting that the landfill was hazardous to their health.

The 1990's

1996: In July, Lopez Canyon Landfill accepted its last load of garbage. In related news, a vote by the LA City Council awarded a contract to "Lopez Canyon Energy Partners", a private company, to capture the methane gas at Lopez Landfill and convert it to electricity.

The 2000's – the Present

2007: After a long, costly political battle with residents who objected to the placement of a homeless center in the vicinity, Hope Gardens Family Center opened at the base of Lopez Canyon.

2008: In October, the Marek Fire burned 4,824 acres, destroyed 40 homes, and killed a man and his dog. Much of Kagel Canyon burned, but only one home (in Dexter Park) was destroyed.

2008: The Alonzo Family sold their ranch to the Santa Monica Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority. The sale ensured that the 127.5-acre parcel which borders Kagel Canyon (located at the hairpin turn on Lopez Canyon Road) would be preserved and conserved for future generations. Through the 1980's and 1990's, the ranch had been used as a Christmas tree farm, which provided a tree annually to the KCCA holiday party at Dexter Park.

2011: After a lengthy legal battle, CAOS (the Community Alliance for Open Space, of which the KCCA was a member) won a lawsuit against the City of Los Angeles, thereby thwarting the City's plans to open a big rig truck driving academy on the top of Lopez Canyon Landfill.

2016: In July, the Sand Fire swept through Little Tujunga Canyon and bore down on Kagel Canyon. The Sand Fire was the fourth largest wildfire in all of California in 2016, ultimately burning 41,432 acres between Kagel Canyon and Acton. 18 homes were lost in the Bear Divide area north of Kagel Canyon. Evacuation orders issued for Upper Kagel were rescinded 30 minutes later as luckily the wind changed direction and the canyon was spared.

2017: At 3:44 am on the morning of December 5, 2017, fire erupted on Gold Creek Road. Wild Santa Ana winds, with hurricane-force gusts in excess of 80mph, caused the fire to spread quickly. Within minutes, Kagel Canyon was surrounded by flame. At the height of the blaze, 2,295 firefighters were dedicated to combatting the Creek Fire. They came from all over California, and from as far away as Montana, Idaho, and Utah. In the end, the fire had consumed 15,619 acres. The majority of the devastation was borne by the Angeles National Forest, including Kagel Canyon, Lopez Canyon, Little Tujunga Canyon, and Gold Creek, but the winds carried embers far and wide, igniting areas of LA City as well, including Sylmar, Lakeview Terrace, Sunland, and Shadow Hills. In total, the Creek Fire destroyed 60 homes, 16 of which were in Kagel Canyon, as well as 63 outbuildings. Dozens more were damaged.

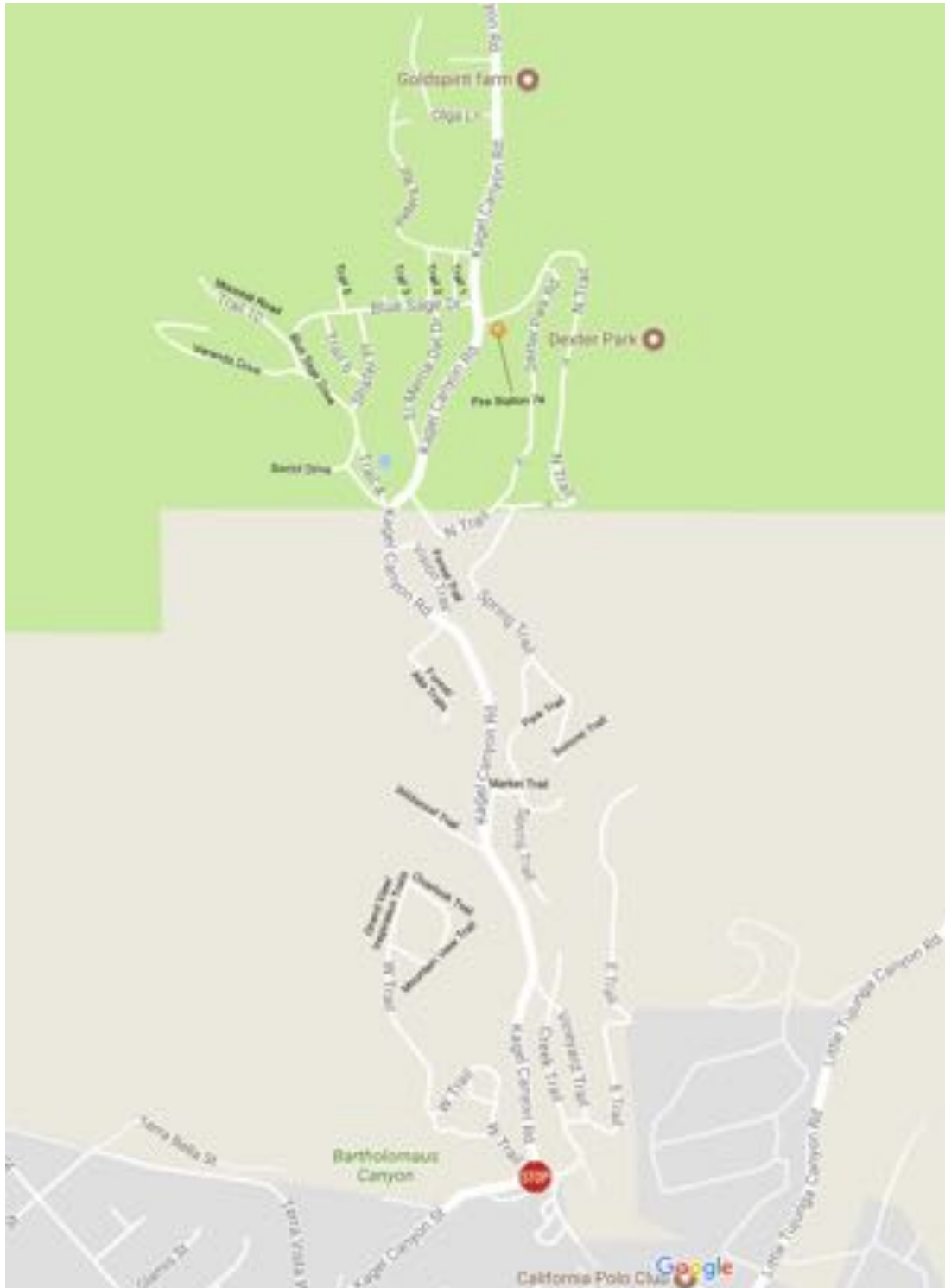
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** Note that many of the smaller "roads" shown (particularly on the outskirts of the canyon) are trails or fire roads, and are not accessible by motor vehicles.*

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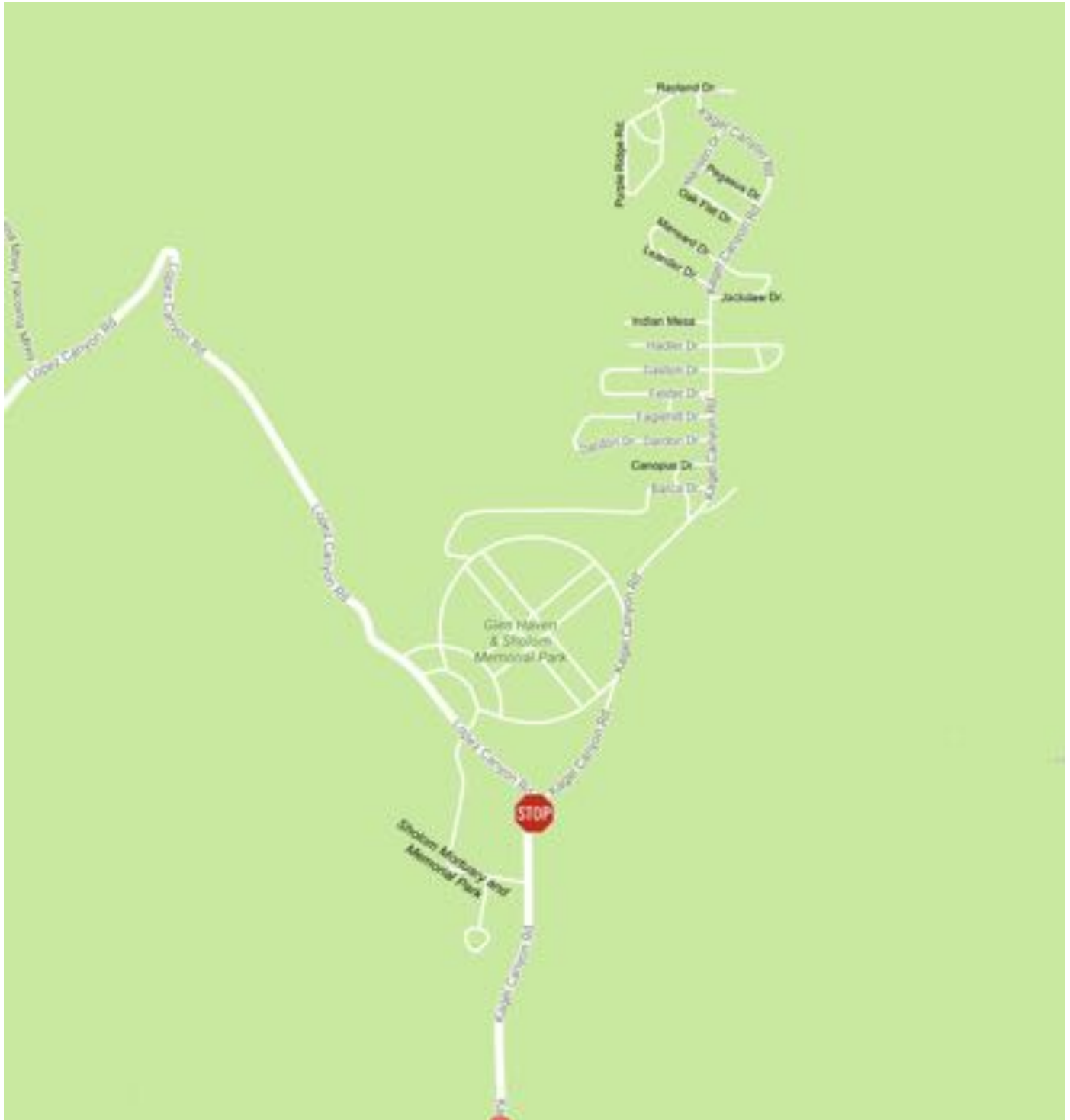
MORE DETAILED MAP OF LOWER KAGEL CANYON



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MORE DETAILED MAP OF UPPER KAGEL CANYON



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Chapter Two:

The Kagel Canyon Civic Association

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A Brief History of the Kagel Canyon Civic Association (The “KCCA”):

Water has always been the most important issue facing Kagel Canyon. In fact, water (or the lack thereof) was responsible for the founding of the KCCA in the 1930's, and for its revival in the 1970's.

As former resident Dr. Eunice Stebbens wrote in 1960, “Eventually there were enough folks living in the canyon with integrity and foresight to see the potentialities of the canyon and they decided to do something about it.” Thus, in 1930, residents organized the Kagel Canyon Improvement Association, with Mr. S. A. DeLue serving as its first president. Mr. DeLue's political connections secured service for Kagel Canyon with both Southern California Edison and the Southern California Gas Company, resulting in a significant improvement in the quality of life for residents here.

In 1936, Kagel Canyon's “Water District #21” was made possible with a \$68,000 bond and labor assistance by the federal Works Progress Administration (WPA). The Canyon's first two wells were completed and put into operation in 1939. The WPA was also responsible for constructing the stone and masonry retaining walls and stairways that surround Dexter Park. You can still see a plaque commemorating this work in one of the park walls.

In 1948, the Kagel Canyon Improvement Association changed its name to the Kagel Canyon Civic Association. Bylaws were written with property owners as members. There was a board meeting the first Monday of the month and occasional public meetings as needed. Dues were \$3.00 per year. In 1949, a \$20,000 water bond was issued for two more wells, a 50,000-gallon tank, and 1.25 miles of pipeline. There were 215 water meters. The KCCA also fought to improve street lighting, install fire hydrants, and widen Kagel Canyon Road. Also at this time, the women of the Canyon organized “The Kagel Canyon Women's Club”. The first major project of the Women's Club was the Dexter Park Recreation Center, which was built in 1954 at a cost of \$39,000.

There were also efforts to be annexed to the City of Los Angeles in the 1950's due to a water shortage. In 1956, the KCCA incorporated as a non-profit organization. Other mid-century accomplishments include paving the roads, getting fire hydrants installed throughout the Canyon, and getting a first-class fire department for the Canyon – Station 74, which is still protecting the Canyon and the surrounding Foothills communities today.

Topics addressed in the 1960's are much the same as topics addressed today. Topics included flood relief, animal control, canyon clean-up, dying oak trees, an ecology walk, sheriff patrol needs, reforesting burned areas, and needs for guard rails.

In the late 1960's and early-mid 1970's, the KCCA went dormant. Then came 1979.

At the time, Kagel Canyon's Water District #21 was already paying the highest water rates in the entire state of California. Then residents learned of a County plan to raise water rates by 66%. To protest the rate increase, the KCCA was revived.

Today, the KCCA continues to address water concerns, as well as many other issues facing our community. If you visit the Dexter Park Rec Center, take a look at the photographs on display in the main room. This installation, compiled by former resident Julia Paull, features some highlights of the history of Kagel Canyon and of the KCCA throughout the years.

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The KCCA: What We Do and What We Don't Do:

What We Do:

The Kagel Canyon Civic Association is a non-profit organization under the laws of the State of California dedicated to the education and improvement of approximately 300 homes in an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County. Per the bylaws of our organization, the objects and purposes of the KCCA are:

- a. To preserve and maintain the natural resources and rural character of Kagel Canyon;
- b. To sponsor worthwhile community activities and interests on a non-partisan basis;
- c. To provide a forum for the presentation of individual ideas and opinions;
- d. To provide a means of informing ourselves concerning our rights, responsibilities, and interests with respect to public questions;
- e. To maintain liaison with government bodies and remain alert to actions that are of concern to the community;
- f. To inform and educate the citizens of cogent community problems;
- g. To maintain open liaison with surrounding neighborhood councils in order to further the unique interests of the foothill communities; and
- h. To promote the general welfare of the community and to maintain its unique residential character for future generations.

We are currently blessed to have a very active membership and board of directors which is involved not only in issues and activities within our own canyon, but also in those which affect the Foothills communities, the Angeles National Forest, and greater Southern California. Many of the activities that are sponsored by the KCCA or in which the KCCA participates are detailed in subsequent sections of this handbook.

What We Don't Do:

The KCCA is NOT a "Homeowners Association" or an "HOA". An HOA is a very specific legal type of organization in which residents of a planned community are required to join and pay monthly or annual fees which are used for the upkeep and maintenance of common areas of the community. HOAs can set out certain rules that residents are legally required to follow, including what color front door they are permitted to have, whether or not they are allowed to dry your laundry outside on a line, what type and size of pets they may have, and so on.

It is important to understand that the KCCA is NOT an HOA. Residents of Kagel Canyon are not required to join or pay annual dues. While membership in the KCCA is encouraged and we believe that it benefits the individual homeowner and the community as whole, it is entirely voluntary. The KCCA does not maintain and cannot enforce "rules and regulations" regarding what residents may do on their properties. We are not mediators and have no authority to arbitrate neighborly disputes. There are folks who have come to KCCA meetings in the past to report to the board of directors that their neighbor has [a barking dog; a crowing rooster; a live band; a dead tree; a contractor doing work which may or not be permitted; or insert any other issue here]. The KCCA may be able to point residents in the direction of a county resource or agency which may be able to address their concern/complaint, but please understand that a KCCA meeting is not a forum for bringing neighborly disputes with the expectation of a hearing/resolution.

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MEETINGS

Attending KCCA meetings is a great way to meet neighbors and to learn what issues are affecting our community. You are welcome to attend just to listen and learn, or perhaps you will be inspired to participate in or volunteer for an upcoming event. We regularly have attendance from the sheriff's station and from our county supervisor's office, and occasionally have special guests attend to speak or present on an issue of interest to our residents. Our general meetings are held at Dexter Park on the first Thursday of each month. There is a "Meet and Greet" starting at 7 pm, and the meeting is called to order at 7:30 pm. The week before the general meeting, the elected board meets to discuss issues and finalize the agenda for the general meeting. We post a notice on the bulletin board several days in advance as a reminder of our monthly meeting.

THE HOT SHEET

The Kagel Canyon Hot Sheet is the newspaper of the canyon. We publish the Hot Sheet once a month and members of the KCCA volunteer to distribute a copy to the mailbox of every household in the canyon. Each edition includes the minutes of that month's KCCA meeting, interesting articles contributed by canyon residents, information on news and events, and advertising of businesses in and around the canyon. Archived copies of the Hot Sheet can be found on our website.

OUR WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE

Find us on the internet! Our website is: <http://kagelcanyon.com/kagelcanyon/Welcome.html>
The KCCA website contains an archive of Hot Sheets, photos, events, important phone numbers, and a store for purchasing items bearing a Kagel Canyon logo.

There is a Facebook page for the residents of Kagel Canyon at www.facebook.com/KagelCanyon. It is a private page that is NOT affiliated with the KCCA. Any posts, opinions, or information should not be construed as the "official" position of the KCCA.

KAGEL CANYON KIDS

One of the things that makes living in Kagel Canyon so very special is the sense of community shared by its residents. Kagel Canyon Kids (KCK) is an effort to extend that sense and purpose of community to our children. Rather than send their kids to school locally, most canyon residents with children will often find alternative venues for schooling, including charter schools, magnet schools, or even home-schooling.

An unfortunate side effect of this trend is that the children living in Kagel Canyon often have few opportunities to meet, interact, and build lasting relationships with other children in this unique community. Kagel Canyon Kids is an attempt to remedy that situation.

As of this writing, KCK meets every other Saturday from 10:00AM to 12:00 noon, usually at the Dexter Park Recreation Center, unless other plans have been made. There is a private Facebook page called Kagel Canyon Kids, currently moderated by canyon resident and parent, Briana Dorner-Warner. To join the page, contact either Briana, or any of the current KCCA board members, who will tag you to the page, and you will be entered. Any residents with children are strongly encouraged to come to one of these meetings and to join the Facebook page. Meet-ups and events are generally finalized on the Facebook page. The only requisite for membership is children.

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ONE CALL

One Call is an emergency alert system that is administered by volunteers from the KCCA. In the event of an emergency (e.g., a fire or another legitimate emergency that threatens the lives and/or property of our residents), a volunteer “messenger” from the community will record a message containing essential information and use the One Call system to simultaneously transmit that message to all residents who are registered with the system.

A detailed description of the One Call system, how it works, and how to subscribe is included in Chapter 5, Section A of this handbook.

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ANNUAL EVENTS

The KCCA hosts a number of events throughout the year for the benefit and enjoyment of our residents. Some of our events are free; others have a nominal charge to help pay for food, drinks, or entertainment. The exact dates of the events are determined by the Board of Directors at the beginning of the year and are published to the community in the Hot Sheet.

Here is a list of some of the events that have become “annual events” here in the canyon that folks look forward to enjoying each year:



January: Pancake Breakfast and Membership Drive
February: Valentine’s Day Square Dance
March: Spaghetti Dinner
April: Community Yard Sale
May: Canyon Cleanup
July/August: Concert in the Park
September/October: Horseshoe Tournament
December: Holiday Pot Luck Party



Pictured Above: (1) Neighbors gather under the oaks in Dexter Park to enjoy the annual BBQ and Concert in the Park; (2) The Forest Trail 500 celebrates three ringers in one round during the annual Horseshoe Tournament; and (3) Everyone has fun at the annual Valentine’s Day Square Dance!

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THE KCCA BULLETIN BOARD

By now you have surely noticed the bulletin board located at the entrance to Kagel Canyon. This board was installed and is maintained by the KCCA. Anyone is welcome to post notices on the bulletin board provided that they adhere to the rules, which are posted on the board and which are printed here. On your way into the canyon each day, stop by the bulletin board to learn about any upcoming events, lost and found pets, items for sale, etc.



The rules are simple!

- Respect others' signs.
- Maximum size for postings (other than by the KCCA itself) is 8.5" x 11"
- No staples, nails, tape, or glue. Please use only pushpins to attach notices to the board. Please follow this rule. It is a painstaking task for a volunteer to have to pry staples, nails, etc. out of the board at the end of the month.
- The board is cleared monthly, on or about the first of the month.
- Anything on the board can be removed by the KCCA at any time.

COMMUNITY FREE LIBRARY

In June 2016 KCCA volunteers built and installed a community library adjacent to the bulletin board at the entrance to Kagel Canyon. Everyone is encouraged to take advantage of this wonderful resource which has proven to be very popular among our residents.



Take a book and leave a book!

- Be kind to our library and its books.
- Return a book after you have finished reading it.
- Please return books to the correct shelf. The top shelf is for adult books, and the bottom shelf is for children's books.
- Please close the door when you are done to protect the books.

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HOW TO JOIN

Membership to the Kagel Canyon Civic Association is renewed on an annual basis, and membership dues are due each January. Membership is just \$15 per year for an individual, or \$20 per year for a household.

Membership is not a requirement to live in the canyon, attend any of the events, or even attend the KCCA meetings. Membership is a requirement if you wish to vote in our bi-annual elections. Additionally, the KCCA is a non-profit association which relies on its membership dues and donations in order to sponsor annual events for everyone in the canyon to enjoy, to print and deliver the Hot Sheet to all homes, and to do many other items of interest, including paying for printing this handbook!

You can bring your membership form and dues to any KCCA meeting or event, or mail them to the address on the form below.

KAGEL CANYON CIVIC ASSOCIATION: 2019 MEMBERSHIP FORM **PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**



Name(s) of all adults living in the household

Kagel Canyon, CA 91342

Street Address

Email Address(es)

☐

YES! Please include my telephone numbers in the One Call Emergency Notification Database.

Phone 1: _____ This is a: ☐ Landline ☐ Mobile

Phone 2: _____ This is a: ☐ Landline ☐ Mobile

Text Messaging requires an additional step to Opt-In. If you require a text message, contact Michele deLorimier to add this function by emailing michinasia@yahoo.com.

☐

YES! I have children and wish to be contacted by the Kagel Canyon Kids Club in order to be informed about upcoming events for children in the Canyon.

☐

YES! I agree to follow the Code of Conduct when participating in KCCA meetings and events: *In order to keep our meetings to 90 minutes; and in the interest of encouraging resolution; and so that everyone can be heard and understood, please note this code of conduct: (1) Speak in a civil and courteous manner; (2) Raise your hand to share; (3) Don't interrupt others.*

Annual Membership is only \$15.00 per Person, \$20.00 per Household
Please make checks payable to KCCA and mail them to:
KCCA Membership c/o Barb Hansen • P.O. Box 922191, Sylmar, CA 91392-2191

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List of Current KCCA Board Members and How to Contact Them

The Kagel Canyon Civic Association holds elections once every two years. Elections are held during November of each odd-numbered year. The elected board members are installed in December and serve for the next two years. Below is a list of the board members who are serving from December 2017 – December 2019, and the ways in which you may contact them with any questions, concerns, ideas, or if you would like to volunteer to help with an event or serve on a committee.

Name	Office / Committee Chairs	Email Address	Telephone Number
Kelly Decker	President Communications/Publicity Hot Sheet Editor Welcome Packet Editor	KellyErinDecker@aol.com	(818) 761-7713 (home)
Kit Paull	Vice President Water	KPaull@earthlink.net	(818) 899-7003 (home) (818) 681-3691 (cell)
Jeff Leeson	Recording Secretary	Jeff@jeffleeson.com	(818) 761-7713
Susan Friend	Corresponding Secretary Fire & Emergency Elections Welcome Packet	SueFriend@yahoo.com	(818) 834-1272
Natasha Aasadore	Co-Treasurer	NatashaForHomes@gmail.com	(818) 388-5202
Carole Bartolotto	Co-Treasurer Creek Committee	CABartolotto@msn.com	(818) 321-1858
Chris Ahern	Director Kagel Canyon Kids Concert in the Park Spaghetti Dinner/Pancake	ChrisAhern@earthlink.net	(818) 890-6211
Natasha Aasadore	Director		
Tim Burgess	Director Horseshoe Tournament	KagelFolk3@earthlink.net	(818) 899-1210 (home) (818) 590-7725 (cell)
Briana Dorner-Warner	Director Kagel Canyon Kids	BrianaDorner@gmail.com	(310) 218-2370
Barb Hansen	Director Membership	CanyonCastle@gmail.com	(818) 899-8075 (home)
Amber Shoopman	Director	AmberShoop@gmail.com	(323) 333-0368
Ray Stevens	Director	RLStevens11@verizon.net	(818) 896-8413
David Von Stowver	Director	DavidVonStowver@gmail.com	(818) 326-6714

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Chapter Three:

Residential Development

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RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

WATER DISTRICT 21

If you live below the Fire Station, chances are you are in Water District 21.

Kagel Canyon is located in Water District 21, which serves 247 active water meters (approximately 650 residents). The district runs from the beginning of the canyon to the Fire Station (i.e., Lower Kagel Canyon, East Trail, West Trail, and part of the Middle Canyon – see map at the end of this section for specific boundaries). It includes 134.3 acres and 733 parcels. All homes within the district obtain water from District 21. Anyone wishing to build a home on a lot contiguous to, but not within, District 21 would have to pay back fees dating to 1936 when the water district was formed. At that time, residents floated a bond and the LA County Engineering Department planned a water system. Wells were hand dug with the help of WPA money, and pipes were laid.

All properties outside the water district (i.e., the ranch district and Upper Kagel Canyon) supply their own water from either a well on-site or by delivery. (See the following section on water wells for more information.)



The 300,000 gallon water tank at the end of East Trail.

Since our two original wells pump insufficient amounts of water and need to be refurbished, we buy water from the City of Glendale and pay extra money to the City of Los Angeles to deliver water to the pumping station at the entrance to the canyon. Water is then transferred to one of the two tanks in the canyon that store our water. One tank holds 300,000 gallons and is located on the fire road at the end of East Trail; and the other is a 150,000-gallon tank located on the fire road at the end of Moonhill Road.

It is important to note that our water company is LA County Waterworks, not LA Department of Water and Power. LA County Waterworks is a department within the LA County Department of Public Works (LADPW, not LADWP) that provides water to certain areas in Los Angeles County, including Kagel Canyon (the oldest of the Waterworks systems), Malibu, Topanga, Val Verde, Acton, and the Antelope Valley.

Los Angeles County Public Works located in Alhambra is responsible for administering the water districts, while the maintenance and servicing of the water system (including repairs as well as flushing the system and quality testing) are done through the Malibu Office.

Water meters are read once every two months and customers are charged by the unit. A “unit” is equivalent to 100 cubic feet of water, or approximately 748 gallons. A home that uses more than 10 units in a billing cycle will be charged extra.

The residents of Kagel Canyon are responsible for repairs to the system. In 1956, during a prolonged drought, the residents floated an \$80,000 bond to connect an emergency hookup to a city pipeline at the bottom of the

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canyon. During the 1971 earthquake, homes were lost, water mains broke, and a water storage tank was destroyed. The remaining 210 residences were responsible for paying an \$83,000 debt. In 2000, a broken connection to the west tank was partially paid by a FEMA grant and a loan from a larger water district. Each time there has been a major breakdown or large maintenance need, such as recoating the tanks, we have been able to borrow and pay back low interest loans from larger districts run by the County. The only money we have to repair our own system is from the water meter bills and the \$15.00 surcharge per lot on our property taxes.

Recently, the main water line under Kagel Canyon Road was replaced. Funding for this expensive project was made possible through a grant from Supervisor's Antonovich's office for over \$1,000,000. Without that grant, the much-needed water line replacement would have cost each homeowner within the water district approximately \$6,000.

When there is a leak in a pipe (not on a private residence), we all pay for the water loss and repairs. Therefore, it is very important to report leaks immediately.

Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, Water District 21:

Emergencies: (800) 675-4357

Customer Service (877) 637-3661

Maintenance Division: (310) 456-9661

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WATER WELLS

The homes above Dexter Park (i.e., the Ranch District and Upper Kagel Canyon) do not have water piped in by either the County or the City. These homes must supply their own water, either from a well or by having water trucked in. Well water comes from underground aquifers. This water is owned by LA City, and they require a usage meter on all new wells.

A well system includes an underground pump, an above ground pressure tank or tender, an above ground storage tank, the accompanying electrical system, and the lines that carry the water lines from the tank to your home. Some neighboring properties share a well and, in that case, each home typically, but not always, has its own pressure tank or tender. The electrical equipment and tender must be protected from the elements. There is an alarm to indicate if the water level gets low. The fire department requires that a specific amount of water be kept in the tank at all times.

Problems can arise due to pump malfunction, electrical problems, or broken parts. Sometimes the storage tank develops a leak. These leaks can be patched successfully to extend the life of the storage tank. Many of our wells have been in use for decades and still supply water. Some newly drilled wells are dry, and sometimes a well dries up. This can happen from shifting water tables or drought. If this occurs, it may be possible to drill your well deeper, although this is not a guaranteed solution. You would still have to go through the Health Department and the Department of Building and Safety. If you run out of water, your other option is to have water trucked in on a regular basis to fill your storage tank. This is typically city water.

New construction in the Upper Canyon requires homeowners to contact the Health Department in order to determine where a well can be drilled. This has nothing to do with where the water may or may not be located. A new well must be located a specific distance from any other existing well or septic system. Please contact the department of Building and Safety for more details.

Please note: if water cannot be located via drilling, the building department will deny a building permit. California recently passed a law that prohibits new construction utilizing trucked-in water for the source of water to the property.

WHO TO CALL

Boston Henry Company: Water Pump Systems: 661-268-1731
33605 Agua Dulce Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91390

Roadrunner Pump Service and Water Wells: 661-994-5073
12130 Pearblossom Hwy
Pearblossom, CA 93553

For Water Delivery:
Mel Underwood Water Trucks: 818-361-9176
13201 Foothill Boulevard
Sylmar, CA 91342

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WATER QUALITY

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Oil and gas production waste, mining, farming, industrial and domestic wastewater discharges.
- Pesticides and herbicides that come from a variety of sources, such as agricultural and residential use.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals that are the by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production and also from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, agricultural application and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants that can be naturally occurring or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, persons with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

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WATER CONSERVATION

Whether you have a well or your water is supplied by a third party, it is always a good idea to conserve water as much as possible. Here are some ways to help you conserve your water usage:

- Experts estimate that between 30% and 60% of urban fresh water is used on lawns. You can conserve a great amount of water by planning your landscape to eliminate lawns and focus on California native plants which naturally thrive in low-moisture conditions. See Chapter 3, Section K of this Handbook for more information on native plants.
- Don't use water when a broom will work. Never wash your driveway or patio down with water.
- Keep a bucket in the shower. As you let the shower water get hot, this bucket can catch the unused water. Use that water later to water your plants or flush the toilet.
- Turn the water off when you brush your teeth, when you scrub your hands, and when you shampoo your hair. You can also keep the pressure lower while you are showering to use less water.
- Don't let the water run as you wash dishes. Use low pressure and turn the water off in between scrubs. Scrub things with a sponge or your hand before you use water to rinse them off. Better yet, soak everything immediately to loosen caked on food and minimize rinsing. Pour the water from one bowl or cup to the next.
- Older toilets may use up to 5 or 6 gallons of water with each flush. Newer toilets use 1.5 gallons of water. If you have not yet replaced your toilet, consider replacing it with a new water saving toilet.
- On your existing toilet, set the water lower in your tank or use a small plastic bottle in the corner to occupy space. Either one will reduce the amount of water in each flush. Don't flush as often.
- Choose efficient fixtures. Replace your shower heads and sink faucets with low pressure fixtures to use less water. Replace your toilets, dishwashers, and clothes washing machines with units that use less water.
- Don't run the dishwasher or clothes washing machine until it's full. Those half-loads add up to gallons and gallons of wasted water.
- Use less electricity. Power plants use thousands of gallons of water to cool them. Do your part to conserve power, and you are indirectly saving water, too!
- Although at the time of printing LA County does not technically allow grey water systems, many of our residents have installed means to reuse grey water; e.g., re-routing the rinse water from the clothes washer to use to flush toilets.

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SEPTIC SYSTEMS

All houses in Kagel Canyon are on septic systems; there is no public sewer system in the canyon.

In areas where there is a public sewer system, every time you flush, or use a sink or shower, the contents flow from your home into the municipal waste system, and eventually end up at a plant where the waste is processed. Residents of a public sewer system receive a bill for this “waste treatment” service.

In Kagel Canyon, your “waste system” is on your own property in the form of a septic tank and either a seepage pit or a leach field. You are responsible for maintaining this system. Regular maintenance includes having your septic tank cleaned periodically. How often depends on the size of the tank and the number of people in the household. There are several local companies that offer this service; a list of companies that service households in the canyon follows.

There are three basic types of septic systems, each of which requires the same basic care and maintenance. They are: (1) a seepage pit only; (2) a septic tank with a seepage pit; and (3) a septic tank with a leach field.

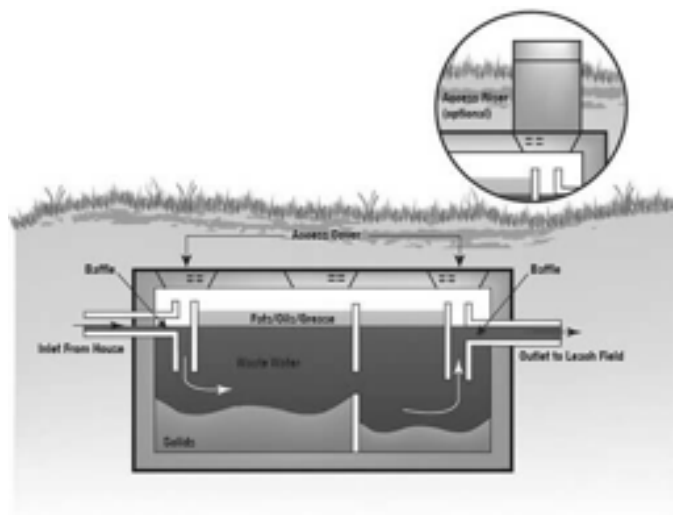
Here is how each system works:

Seepage pit only: In this system everything flows into one or more tanks, and then the water soaks into the surrounding ground. This type of system is old, and therefore is only found on older homes. Current building codes do not allow for only a seepage pit. If you do have just a seepage pit, as long as your system is working and you maintain it properly, you do not need to worry about the updated building codes. However, if your system fails, or if you wish to do additions or a remodel which requires a building permit, it is possible that you would be required to upgrade your septic system to meet the current codes. Depending on other factors, such as the proximity to the creek or oak trees, for example, you may not be able to upgrade your existing system. Without an upgrade to the septic system, many homeowners cannot do additions to increase the square footage of their home.

Septic tank: The septic tank holds the wastewater from the home until solid debris settles at the bottom of the tank (the sludge layer) and lighter waste, such as oil, rises to the top to form the scum layer. Between the two layers lies clarified liquid, which flows into an outlet pipe and is gradually dissipated through either a seepage pit, or a drain field. Bacteria helps break down the solids.

Here is what a common septic tank looks like.

Seepage pit and leach field: The seepage pit and the leach field are the end of the line for your waste system. The seepage pit, as the name suggests, is a deep pit that needs vertical space but not linear or horizontal space. A leach field requires space. It is still buried quite deep below the surface; however, the field, as the name implies, comprises linear pipes that collect the waste.



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In order to have a septic system, the ground must percolate; that means the water in the system has to soak into the ground. Some soil is too dense to allow water to percolate; other soil can over saturate with water. In either case; if the soil does not percolate to the required degree, the water will rise to the surface, and there will be pools of sewage in the yard.

In the future, the County may upgrade their requirements again. There is currently a fourth type of system that is required only under certain circumstances; eventually it may be the required system for all of Los Angeles County. This system is basically an underground sewage treatment plant with a combination of pumps, filters, and UV lights to better clean the waste before it goes into a seepage pit or leach field. The downside of this system is that it is costly, as the tank alone can cost over \$10,000. In addition, there are ongoing costs which accrue to the homeowner, including constant monitoring to a remote station via a land line, and quarterly inspections.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR PROPERTY:

1. Know where your septic system is located, including your tank and your seepage pit or leach field.
2. You should be able to identify the location of the septic tank. The cover to the tank should be easily accessible. Do not cover the tank covers with structures; it is okay to have dirt over the tank cover.
3. Unless your tank and system are rated for the weight of a vehicle, do not drive over it. Driving over a system can cause the top of the tank to collapse or can crush the pipes of the leach field.
4. When you open the top of a septic tank, it will be full of water. That is not a concern; your concern is about the solids, which you cannot see.

HOW TO USE YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

1. The only thing that should go into your septic system is human waste, toilet paper, and waste water. Do not dump paint, chemicals, oil, etc. in the toilet or down drains. These items can kill the bacteria in the tank which are necessary to help decompose the waste. Never dump tampons, maxi pads, cotton balls, q-tips, condoms or anything else into a septic system. They won't decompose, and eventually will clog up the system.
2. Certain types of toilet paper can also cause problems. Toilet paper that is thick doesn't break down as well and can cause problems. Just because a toilet paper says it is "septic system safe" on the package doesn't mean it is. Heavily "quilted" toilet paper often causes problems. "Biodegradable wipes" should never be flushed. They will not decompose and will clog the system.
3. Avoid using "toilet cleaners" that use bleach, or other harsh chemicals, as those chemicals can kill off the bacteria in the tank that's needed to help break down the solids.
4. In-sink garbage disposals should not be used in a home on a septic system. The small food particles can flow through the tank and clog the leach holes in the system.
5. A septic system needs water, but it's also possible to put too much water into a septic system. Numerous websites from various agencies report that the single biggest cause of septic system failure is too much water going into the system. This is why some residents have chosen to have clothes

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washing water and/or dishwashers dump into a separate “grey water” system so the main septic system isn't being overloaded with lots of water. Any grey water should be put into an underground system that allows it to soak into nearby landscaping, and should never be used on the surface. This is because that water contains bacteria that could be harmful. On a final note, LA County does not technically allow “grey water” recycling.

6. Clean your system regularly. It is advisable to clean your tank when it is no more than $\frac{3}{4}$ full of solid material. If you wait to pump the system until a problem occurs, such as the toilet backing up, you have waited too long. At that point, it's probable that solids have already entered into the leach area and possibly clogged it, which can result in a very expensive repair.
7. Septic tank additives like Rid-X may help your system. These additives add bacteria to the tank, which in turn, help break down the solids in the tank.
8. If you have just purchased a home, ask the previous owner how often they cleaned the system. Unless they just cleaned the system, it is advisable to have the system pumped immediately. Then repeat the cleaning in one year. That way, you can gauge how often you need to clean the tank based on how much material was removed after one year.

Failure to properly maintain a septic system can cause odors and health hazards. Continued failure to maintain a septic system can result in a complete septic system failure, requiring a repair or new system. It is not always possible to repair a system, and repairs and/or replacement can be costly.

To replace your existing system with a new system, you need space for a new tank and pit, or leach field. However, many properties in the canyon do not have much usable yard space. Most current construction permits require a second location for a septic system, should the first system fail. If you need to replace your system, check your building plans for the location of your second system. If the existing system cannot be repaired and there is no place to put a septic system or the ground cannot percolate, there is no other option. The property will most likely be condemned.

Do not be alarmed. With proper care, maintenance, and a little effort, it is easy to keep a septic system working properly for decades.

WHO TO CALL for SEPTIC PLUMBING AND MAINTENANCE:

Here are two local companies who service septic systems in the canyon:

Shoreline Septic Pumping; 818-675-8147
10160 Bradley Avenue
Pacoima, CA 91331

Showalters; 818-767-8234
11121 Penrose Street
Sun Valley, CA 91352

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NATURAL GAS AND PROPANE

All homes below Dexter Park (i.e, the Lower Canyon, East and West Trails) are serviced for natural gas from Southern California Gas Company.

All homes above Dexter Park (i.e, the Ranch District and Upper Kagel Canyon) must supply their own gas by using a propane tank, usually installed by a propane company. The propane company you use will fill your tank as needed. You will need to buy a conversion kit to convert natural gas appliances in order to use propane. Check with Home Depot, Lowes, or another local hardware store for such a kit or if you need to replace your propane water heater. There are several companies that will fill your propane tank as needed; see below for a list of the most commonly used vendors in the area.

GAS SHUT OFF:

Regardless of who supplies your gas, it is important to know how to shut off your gas. On the next page is a picture of the gas lines supplied by So Cal Gas and where the shut-off valve is located. On the meter, there are two gas lines: one comes from the street and the other goes to your home. There may be a shut-off valve on either side, or on both sides. Shutting off one valve should do the trick. You will need a crescent wrench or a special gas shut-off wrench to turn the valve. If you don't have one, get one.

Propane tanks often have a valve to shut off the propane from the tank. Some homes have a shut-off valve on the line going from the outside of the home to the inside.

If you smell gas, you should shut off your valve, leave the area, and call 911 immediately.

WHO TO CALL:

So Cal Gas
Emergencies: 800-427-2200
Customer Service: 877-238-0092

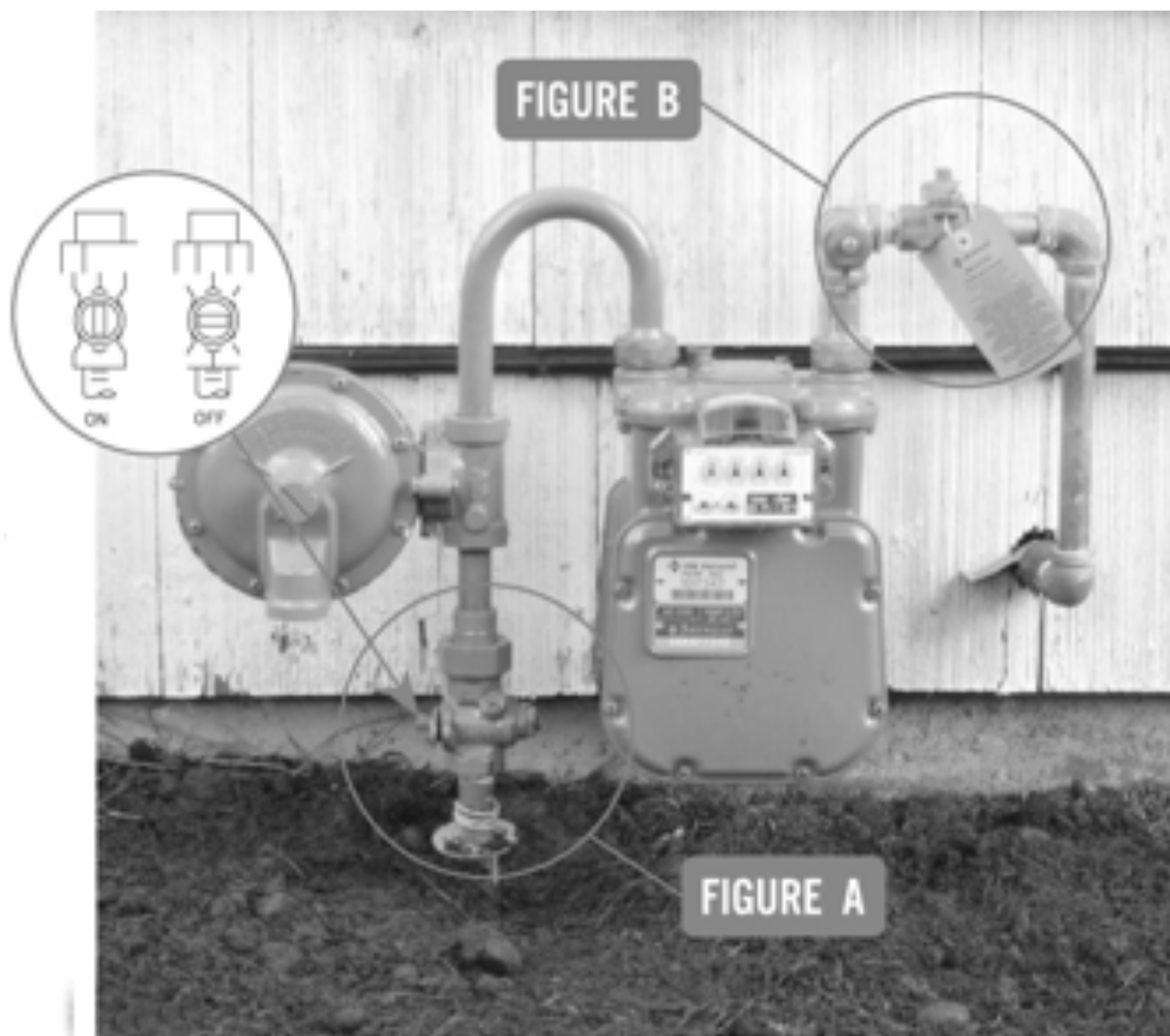
Delta Liquid Energy:
818-838-4400
12685 Foothill Blvd
Sylmar, CA 91342

Propane Spot:
818-768-7768
9365 San Fernando Road
Sun Valley, CA 91352

Propane for Less:
818-767-2444
9043 San Fernando Road
Sun Valley, CA 91352

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BUILDING CODES

There are numerous county agencies that have jurisdiction over the development and construction of private property. If you are considering rebuilding, refurbishing, doing an addition, or other construction on your property, be sure to check with the building department, regional planning and other applicable agencies that may have jurisdiction over your project.

Before starting any project, it is a good idea to research the existing permits on your property. However, the following is important to know: many of the homes in Kagel Canyon were built between 1920 and 1950, back when building codes were very lax, and far less restrictive than they are today. Moreover, it is estimated that over 80% of the permits for homes over 25 years old were lost, misplaced, or destroyed. As such, it is quite possible that the county records for your property are either incomplete or non-existent. It's advisable to get copies of whatever records there are of your property and keep them in a safe place. Services like "permitreport.com" will pull records for a small fee, and they are usually worth it.

Because of the above reasons, it's important to do your homework on your property before starting any work on your home. Several residents have found themselves facing expensive and time-consuming problems because they went to pull permits after they started work. In at least one case, a home was condemned and is currently sitting vacant.

Many existing homes would not meet the current building codes if built today, but are legal as they were permitted and met the codes of their era when constructed. However, if you do an addition, remodel or other work, the new construction would have to meet today's requirements. Often time, this is not possible. Today, there are numerous codes that now exist that can make enlarging an existing home virtually impossible.

Here are some of the codes that may interfere with new construction:

Oak Tree Ordinance: The Oak Tree Ordinance was put into place to protect the native oak trees. As such, you cannot build within five feet of a drip line of any oak tree. So if your house is under an oak tree, you would not be allowed to expand it. Furthermore, it is illegal to cut any limb over 2" in diameter from an oak tree. Doing so can result in a fine up to \$10,000. In order to do any work on your property near/around/under an oak tree, you will need an oak tree permit. This includes any work, even putting up a fence. Please refer Chapter 4 Section 3 of this Handbook for more information on Oak Trees. If there are oak trees on your property, you will need to file for an oak tree permit with the Building & Safety Department and see if they will approve your plans.

Septic Issues: Septic systems are designed for the size of a home. Increasing the square footage of a house often requires increasing the size of the septic system. If your property is small and/or if your property borders the creek, you may not have space for a septic system upgrade. Please refer to Chapter 3 Section B of this Handbook for more information on Septic Systems.

Property Setbacks: Over time, setback requirements have changed. Currently, all structures must be set back from any property line. If your existing home is too close to the street or property line, you may not be able to do an addition. There are also setbacks for the creek. So while your current home may not meet current setbacks, any new development would have to meet the current setback requirements.

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LOT LEGALITY AND SUBDIVISION

If you own a legal lot, when you look on the County Assessor's map you will see solid lines around your parcel. If your parcel has dashed lines, it means that the lot was not created by a parcel or tract map, and as such, is illegal. To legalize the lot, you will need to get a certificate of compliance from the Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning. To determine if your lot is already legal, you need to have a title search done, or request the County Department of Regional Planning to do a search. There is a fee involved with either scenario.

These small illegal lots are created when a property owner deeds a portion of a larger parcel to another person. In order for a lot to receive a certificate of compliance (COC), the lot must meet current zoning requirements, which include access to a public road. In order to build on such a lot, you have to make sure you can build a home and meet the setback requirements for the home and the septic system, as well as have access to water via a well or public water.

A legal subdivision occurs when a property owner submits a plan to Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning and gets approval to divide a large lot into several smaller lots. A subdivision must stay within the parameters of the zoning for the area. If the area is zoned for one house every acre, the subdivision could not create lots smaller than an acre, for example. Some of the requirements for a subdivision are, but not limited to, access to a public road for each lot. For more information on these subjects, visit the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning website: <http://planning.co.la.ca.us/>

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ROAD MAINTENANCE AND ACCESS IN UPPER KAGEL CANYON

The roads in Upper Kagel Canyon (i.e., above the “End of County Maintained Road” sign on Kagel Canyon Road, just north of the cemeteries), including Kagel Canyon Road and the side roads, are private roads.

Please ask for permission to park on these roads when accessing the trails and fire roads. It is important to keep all roads clear of vehicles, particularly during a fire, to ensure a clear lane for easy access by the Fire Department or Sheriff’s Department in case of emergency.

All road maintenance in Upper Kagel Canyon is the sole responsibility of the home owners in the Upper Canyon. According to the county, this includes Kagel Canyon Road. There is no homeowners association or other formal body responsible for collecting fees for this work. The organization of road maintenance and repair has been done by a group of residents who then hire an asphalt contractor to do the actual paving. Donations to the road fund are held in an account maintained strictly for the purpose of paving. Because Upper Canyon residents bear the cost of road maintenance and repair, any filming done in the Upper Canyon must make a donation to the road fund, or entrance will be denied.

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TRASH PICKUP AND RECYCLING

There are no public services for trash or recycling in Kagel Canyon. It is the responsibility of each home owner to find and hire a company to pick up trash. Many residents have trash bins on the street that are serviced once a week. Here are a few of the companies that service Kagel Canyon:

Canyon Disposal: 818-786-5805

Republic Services: 888-742-5234

Cordova: 818-896-0509

If you have material to dump over and above what your weekly trash service allows, Sunshine Canyon Landfill, located on Sunshine Canyon Road in Sylmar, is the closest landfill that allows public customers to drop off material during regular business hours. Additionally, Sunshine Canyon offers two “free dump days” per year for residents of unincorporated LA County (including Kagel Canyon), and flyers get mailed to our homes several weeks in advance of each free dump day.

<http://sunshinecanyonlandfill.com/drop-off-information/>

The KCCA also holds a free dump day each spring where residents can dispose of trash for free here in the canyon.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS AND ELECTRONIC WASTE:

The Household Hazardous Waste and Electronic Waste Collection Program gives Los Angeles County residents a legal and cost-free way to dispose of items that cannot be disposed of in the regular trash. Items that HHW accepts include:

- Motor oil, oil filters, brake fluid
- Used antifreeze
- Paint, paint thinner, turpentine
- Cleaners with acid or lye
- Pesticides or herbicides
- Household batteries or car batteries
- Pool chemicals
- CRTs, old TVs, misc. electronics
- Mercury thermometers or thermostats
- Fluorescent light bulbs

The closest HHW Program to the canyon is the Sun Valley S.A.F.E. center:

11025 Randall Street

Sun Valley, CA

(800) 98-TOXIC (800-988-6942)

http://www.lacsd.org/solidwaste/swfacilities/recyclecontact/hhw_e_waste/

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GREEN WASTE:

While Lopez Canyon Landfill is closed for the collection of municipal waste, there is a mulching facility located at the top of the Landfill which will accept green waste (tree branches, trimmings, brush clearance) from Kagel Canyon residents. Residents are allowed to bring green waste to the mulching facility on weekdays, typically between 3:45 and 4:00 pm. If you have not taken green waste to Lopez before, contact a KCCA Board Member to do a ride along the first time so that you can learn where to go and what to do. Please see Chapter 6, Section E of this Handbook for more information about Lopez Canyon Landfill and the green waste facility.

ILLEGAL DUMPING

Illegal dumping is the unauthorized disposal of waste on any public or private property. Disposal of brush clearance refuse on public or private property is also considered illegal dumping. Unfortunately, Lopez Canyon is often used as a dump site by not only individuals, but also construction companies that dump truckloads full of construction debris on the side of the road. If you see someone dumping, do not approach them. Get the license number, snap a photo, and report them to the Sheriff Department. You can also report the illegal dumping to the La County Department of Road Maintenance; they will clean up the road and remove the dumped material.

For more information on illegal dumping, please see Chapter Seven, Section C of this Handbook, and visit this website: <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/illdump/support.cfm>

LA County Department of Road Maintenance: 661-252-2700 or 888-DUMPING

LA County Sheriff Department: 818-248-3464

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LANDSCAPING YOUR HOME

Living in or in close proximity to the Angeles National Forest and in a high fire area means that you have to be diligent about the plants you use around your home and in your garden. Seeds from non-native plants can migrate into the forest's natural areas and change the landscape. Changing the vegetation of the forest could be detrimental to the existing plants as well as to the animals that inhabit these areas. Likewise, planting highly flammable plants can further endanger your home during a fire. The Los Angeles County Fire Department has a list of advisable plants that are fire retardant and well as a list of plants that are illegal to plant on your property.

<https://www.fire.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Plant-List.pdf>

NATIVE PLANTS

Native plants do best in our area since they are designed to grow here. They can survive our hot, dry weather, lack of nutrient soil, and lack of water. They are the best plants to sustain our natural habitat and our natural wildlife. The use of native plants has many benefits for the home owner as well:

- **Erosion control:** Native plants have an intrinsic root system created to find water. This root system helps hold the soil together and thereby reduce erosion from wind and water. Many ornamental plants and weeds, such as mustard, have a single tap root as their main root; this does not help with erosion control.
- **Water Conservation:** Once established, many California native plants need minimal irrigation beyond normal rainfall. Saving water conserves a vital, limited resource and saves money, too.
- **Lower Maintenance:** In a garden environment, native plants do best with some attention and care, but require less water, fertilizer, pruning, less or no pesticide, and less of your time to maintain than do many common garden plants.
- **Reduce Pesticides:** Native plants have developed their own defenses against many pests and diseases. Since most pesticides kill indiscriminately, beneficial insects become secondary targets in the fight against pests. Reducing or eliminating pesticide use lets natural pest control take over and keeps garden toxins out of our creeks and watersheds.
- **Invite Wildlife:** Native plants, hummingbirds, butterflies, and other beneficial insects are “made for each other.” Research shows that native wildlife clearly prefers native plants. California’s wealth of insect pollinators can improve fruit set in your garden, while a variety of native insects and birds will help keep your landscape free of mosquitoes and plant-eating bugs.
- **Support Local Ecology:** While creating native landscapes can never replace natural habitats lost to development, planting gardens, parks, and roadsides with California native plants can help provide an important bridge to nearby remaining wild areas.

A great local resource for native plants is the Theodore Payne Foundation.

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Theodore Payne Foundation
10459 Tuxford Street
Sun Valley, California 91352
818-768-1802
<http://theodorepayne.org/>

The website has extensive information about native plants: what types work in the different types of soil, shade/sun, how big they grow, and what animals are attracted to which plants, etc. They also have plant sales twice a year and numerous classes to help you with everything from basics, planning your garden and maintaining.

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PETS

DOGS AND CATS

In Los Angeles County, dogs and cats are required to be licensed by Los Angeles County Animal Care and Control. Licenses must be renewed each year. LA County also requires that dogs be spayed/neutered and that they be implanted with an identification microchip.

A property owner can have 3 dogs and 5 cats per residence on the property. (At the time of printing this edition, the LA County Board of Supervisors had voted to raise the limit on the number of dogs allowed per household from 3 to 4. However, this vote was still under review and had not yet been enacted. Please check online for current legal limits.) For more than 3 dogs or 5 cats, an “animal facility” permit is required. Other domestic pets, such as birds, fish, and chickens, for personal use only, are allowed with no maximum.

CHICKENS

You can have chickens! Each chicken need about one square foot for nesting and a minimum of 10 square feet of space to move around. Chicken coops and pens must be at least twenty feet from your own residence and thirty-five feet from other residences and structures. While chickens are rather low maintenance pets, they still need daily attention. Chickens start laying eggs at about six months and can produce an egg every day or two for several years. They can be your outside garbage disposal as chickens will eat just about anything including your table scraps. On top of that, their manure makes great fertilizer. Chicken owners should be conscious of providing a safe but spacious enclosure for chickens, as they make attractive targets for our local coyotes, bobcats, and mountain lions.

HORSES

Much of Kagel Canyon is zoned A-1 or A-2. Horses are allowed on A-1 and A-2 lots of at least 15,000 square feet. One horse per 5000 square feet is allowed, or 8 horses per acre, on A-1 and A-2 lots. The remainder of Kagel Canyon is zoned R-1, which allows residential development, but no horses. Structures for horses including barns, pipe corrals, and turnout spaces must be a minimum of fifty feet from any street, highway, or homes. Horses must be provided a minimum space of 144 square feet (12 feet by 12 feet) per horse with cover. There are no license requirements for horses from Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control.

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DUMPED ANIMALS

Sadly, Kagel Canyon and nearby Lopez Canyon have become dumping grounds for unwanted animals. If you see a stray dog or cat roaming around, there's a possibility it may have been dumped.

Many dumped animals die of dehydration, starvation, or are killed by the coyotes that live in the area. Many residents have found the remains of stray dogs up in the hills. Many of the dumped animals are friendly and will jump in your car if you let them! If you see a stray animal and do not want to catch it yourself, post the location and description on the Kagel Canyon Facebook page as soon as possible so other residents can help catch it.

Calling Los Angeles County Animal Care and Control may not solve the problem. They will come out to look for the loose animal; however, they will not spend much time looking if the animal is not in plain sight, and it may take hours before they arrive, by which time the animal may not be in the same location that you reported. If you have the animal in your possession, they can come pick it up, if you want. You can also send a picture by email or fax to the County to alert them of a found dog or cat.

Please note that Kagel Canyon is located in Los Angeles County, not Los Angeles City. The shelter for our area is the Los Angeles County Animal Control center in Castaic. However, if you have a lost pet, it is advisable to check the City shelters as well as in the past, some pets from Kagel Canyon have ended up in the city shelter.

Castaic Animal Care Center
31044 North Charlie Canyon Road
Castaic, CA 91384
661-257-3191
<http://animalcare.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/acc>

WALKING DOGS

While many of us consider Kagel Canyon to be “living in the country”, Kagel Canyon Road can be a busy street with speeding cars. Please walk your dogs with caution. There are many miles of fire roads and trails just in our backyard within the Angeles National Forest. Many of us enjoy walking our dogs there, but please be careful if you let your dogs off leash. It is not legal to let your dogs off leash on Forest Service property; when you do, you put wildlife and your dogs at risk. The mountain areas are home to rattlesnakes, coyotes, mountain lion, bobcats, and birds of prey.

Additionally, there have been several recent incidents where residents have allowed aggressive dogs to run loose, sometimes in the neighborhood, and sometimes on the fire trails off leash. This irresponsible behavior has resulted in attacks to other residents and their dogs and, in one case, to a horse and rider. It is worth knowing this so that you are always aware of your surroundings and so that you can, should you choose to and deem it necessary, carry pepper spray or some other means of protection with you.

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BARKING DOGS

Los Angeles County Code Section 10.40.065 states that any animal which barks, whines, or howls in a continuous or untimely fashion is considered a public nuisance. Every person who allows a public nuisance to exist, after notice in writing from the Department to cease this nuisance, may be charged with a misdemeanor. Repeated reports of barking dogs will result in stiffer penalties and fines.

We recommend that if someone in the canyon has a barking dog that's causing a nuisance, to first try to resolve the matter directly with your neighbor, without involving authorities. If you do not wish to confront the resident directly, often times, a simple note left in their mailbox informing them of the situation will help rectify it.

If you have a dog that is barking, then bark training is in order. A number of the residents here have trained their dogs by using the “muzzle” method, which, if done consistently, works quickly and effectively. Simply put it on, when the dog barks for no reason, a stern “NO” command is given to the animal. If it barks again, the “NO” command is given again, and immediately, a muzzle is placed on the dog. A proper muzzle will allow the dog to drink, breathe, and pant, but it cannot bark. The muzzle isn't painful, but it is annoying to the dog. Only a properly fitted muzzle purchased from an animal supply place should be used. Please do not “make” your own muzzle.

The first time you use the muzzle, it is placed on the animal for 15 minutes. When the muzzle is removed, if the dog starts barking again for no reason, then the dog is given another verbal warning, and the muzzle is placed back on the dog. The second time the muzzle is placed on the dog for thirty minutes. The third time the muzzle is used for an hour.

The key to success with this method is consistency. This must be done every time the dog barks, not “just on weekends” or whenever the resident “happens” to be home. Many residents have reported that the muzzle has only needed to be used a couple of times before the dog “gets it” and stops barking. Some residents have reported that their dog learned not to bark in less than one day.

Do not leave a dog muzzled alone. While a properly fitted muzzle shouldn't cause the animal any harm, it is cruel to muzzle a dog for hours on end, and the dog doesn't learn anything from that. The repeated application of the muzzle, (i.e., the training) is what teaches the dog not to bark incessantly.

Please note, muzzle training will not prevent your dog from barking if there is a good reason for it to bark, for example, if someone is at your door. It will, however, train the dog to not bark for no reason.

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LOCAL VETS

There are a number of local veterinarians in the area. Residents from Kagel Canyon go as far as La Canada and North Hollywood for their pets. Knock on your neighbor's door and get a recommendation from them. Here are a few in the area:

Pet Medical Center
8416 Foothill Boulevard
Tujunga, CA 91040
818-353-8508

East Valley Veterinarian Clinic
8709 Sunland Boulevard
Sun Valley, CA 91352
818- 767-7116

For Emergency Care there is:

Chatoak Pet Hospital
17659 Chatsworth Street,
Granada Hills, CA 91344
818-363-7444

Eagle Rock Emergency Pet Clinic
4254 N. Eagle Rock Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90065
323-254-7382

Animal Emergency Care Centre (24 Hours)
11730 Ventura Boulevard
Studio City, CA. 91604
818-760-3882

Note: Please also see Chapter 5, Section J of this Handbook which addresses the danger that rattlesnakes pose to dogs.

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HORSEBACK RIDING

Horses are a part of life here in Kagel Canyon and have been an important part of our history and community since it was founded. Unfortunately, there have been some tragic incidents involving vehicles and horses. Driving in a community where neighbors own horses requires caution and responsibility on the part of both drivers and riders.

Here is a list of some common-sense rules for newcomers and neighbors who do not own horses, as well as for those neighbors who do own horses and who ride on the local roads. These should serve as a reminder that will keep everyone safe.

EQUESTRIAN RULES OF THE ROAD: FOR DRIVERS

1. Give equestrians the Right-of-Way.
2. Slow down and be aware of the hazard of animals and riders.
3. Use caution when approaching horses on streets or trails. It takes only moments for a horse to get spooked and bolt, which could cause a terrible accident.
4. Don't honk your horn. Horses have an instinctual drive to escape frightening situations by bolting. Riders and bystanders alike can get hurt in the process.
5. Respect the Right-of-Way of others by not violating traffic laws, such as failing to stop at a stop sign, speeding, or passing other cars on our roads.
6. Use caution when passing horses. It's the law. Drivers are to slow or stop, exercising control of a vehicle when passing a horse, horse drawn vehicle or any livestock pursuant to VC 21759.
7. Pass horses from behind with care. Allow the rider extra room and drive slowly around to give the horse a chance to see you. If there's not enough room in your lane to pass, wait until there is room in the other lane or when the road widens before you slowly proceed.
8. If a horse is acting up, stop for a moment to allow the rider to get the horse under control, then proceed slowly and be prepared to stop if the horse starts to act up again.
9. If people are loading a horse, stop and wait for the horse to be loaded into the trailer. If there is space, proceed slowly and give plenty of room when passing as a horse may suddenly back out of the trailer.
10. Do not "send a message" by driving close to a horse because you feel the rider is hogging the road or being rude. Be the better person and have patience.

EQUESTRIAN RULES OF THE ROAD: FOR RIDERS

1. Ride defensively. Assume that not all drivers know what to do, and that not all drivers will do the right thing.
2. Share the road. When you see or hear a vehicle approaching, be polite and move to the right to give the driver room to pass.
3. Stay single file on all streets.
4. At intersections, let the vehicle proceed first.
5. Do not ride in the middle of the road.
6. When being passed by a vehicle, stop if necessary until the vehicle goes by.
7. You are responsible for your own safety. Ride with traffic, be visible, alert, communicate your intentions, and always wear a helmet.

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8. When loading or unloading a horse, do so on a side street and out of traffic, when possible. If your horse has trouble loading, signal any approaching car to go around, and wait until the vehicle passes to load the horse. Do not assume that the driver knows your situation and what to do.
9. When crossing the street or using an equestrian crossing, you have the duty of using due care for your own safety. Pursuant to VC 21805, no horseback rider shall leave a curb and proceed suddenly into the path of a vehicle which is close enough to constitute an immediate hazard.
10. Use the trails when possible. Remember that it is about being safe and enjoying the ride.
11. Wear reflective gear and lights. If you are wearing dark colored clothing and riding a dark horse after dusk with no reflective gear and no lights, you are asking to be hit by a vehicle. Remember, you are responsible for your safety and the safety of your horse. Make sure that you are visible at night by wearing light colored gear, as well as outfitting yourself and your horse with reflective gear. Flashing bicycle lights and/or horsetail lights are even better at alerting drivers to your presence.



Following the rules keeps horses, riders, and drivers safe!

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Chapter Four:

Our Natural Surroundings

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HIKING

There are plenty of hiking trails in the Angeles National Forest. There are many walks you can take through the canyon and the area fire roads.

A popular trail is the three-mile loop from Dexter Park. Start at the north end of the park, where Dexter Park Road and North Trail meet, there is a fire road heading east. You will know it by the yellow county gate that stands at the entrance to the fire road. When the fire road splits at the top, make a right. You will have some beautiful views of the mountains and the San Fernando Valley. *(As a point of interest: if you go left at the top of the fire road, the fire road leads to a Ranger Station and Little Tujunga Canyon Road. This ties in to the Doc Larsen Trail, an eight-mile loop which is popular with equestrians.)* The fire road ends at the top of East Trail, a paved road. Continue down East Trail; bear right at the first opportunity to Vineyard. This will loop around and lead to Creek Trail, which is a dirt road that appears to be someone's driveway. After a short walk on this easement you will once again be on the pavement of Spring Trail. This takes you behind the Hideaway and back to the south end of Dexter Park. (Remember to bring water for yourself and pet along with doggie pick up bags!)

Additionally, it is worth noting that there have been plans in the works for many years to create a four-mile trail loop on the property of the Lopez Canyon Landfill. The trail project is planned to be completed in three phases. Phase I would start at an Equestrian Staging Area/Trailhead that is planned to be constructed on Terra Vista Way (at the base of the mountain, facing the residential neighborhood in Lakeview Terrace) and go up to the southwest corner of the landfill deck that faces Kagel. Phase II would create a trail that borders the top portion of the landfill, providing a view east to Kagel Canyon. Phase III would tie in to the north with the existing fire roads, and tie in to where the Rim of the Valley Trail will eventually be located. This trail system has been in the works for years and has been held up due to government bureaucracy, lack of funding, land ownership issues, and other reasons which have been cited throughout the years. If you are interested in this project, please attend the bi-annual meetings at the Lopez Landfill to encourage its completion.

Here are a few websites for more information:

<http://hikeangelesforest.com/>

<http://www.modernhiker.com/area-maps/angeles-national-forest/>

There is also a Facebook group for local hikers: Hiking in the Foothills.

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KAGEL CANYON CREEK

The rural nature of Kagel Canyon has allowed for the preservation of the creek, which has been left in its natural state for much of its length. The creek is a natural resource that is rare in Southern California and as such should be protected to the best of our ability. Kagel Canyon Creek provides a much-needed water source for many wild animals who call this area home. Visit the creek at dusk and you will likely hear a chorus of frogs. You may see small mammals, like opossums and raccoons, or large mammals, including bobcats, coyotes, and even deer, coming to the creek to drink.

Because of the creek ecosystem and the animals that rely on the creek for drinking water, it is important that we protect the creek from pollution and other damage. Below are some tips for residents. While some tips are specific to those whose properties border our creek, keep in mind that many of our roads and trails empty into the creek and therefore even if you don't live adjacent to the creek, the products that you use on your property may end up in the creek.

- Pesticides, herbicides and rodenticides can run off into the creek, killing the plants and animals. Even fertilizers are detrimental because they add excess nutrients to natural waters that lead to algae bloom, bad odors, and even fish kills. Never use these products on your property.
- Wastewater from private property can never be dumped into the creek.
- Native plants and trees which grow within a creek corridor provide important habitat value unlike many exotic plants. Native species provide erosion protection during high water flows and generally recover quickly when waters subside. In times of flooding, a creek bank with native trees and plants may be your property's best protection.
- Pave only when necessary. Paved surfaces increase runoff during storms and peak flows in creeks, adding to flooding and erosion problems. Paving also results in lower creek flows during the dry season. If you are planning to construct walkways, patios, driveways, or stormwater drains, consider alternatives with permeable surfaces to allow more rain water to soak into the ground. Never dispose of concrete, asphalt or other building materials in the creek.
- Build away from the creek. Avoid locating structures such as decks, patios and storage sheds near the creek bank. Construction disturbs the soil and vegetation. Any structure built within reach of flood waters can be damaged or destroyed and may decrease the creek's ability to carry high water safely. It's best to maintain the area in a natural state.
- Check for erosion regularly and correct problems promptly. Erosion control need not be costly. Consider low-tech, lower-cost, creek-friendly alternatives such as planting with native riparian species to stabilize creek banks.

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- Remove invasive plant species from riparian corridors. One plant that we have a problem with here in the canyon is called “Arundo”. It looks like bamboo, and spreads rapidly and degrades the riparian habitat. It has been the practice of LA County Flood Control to come out periodically and spray herbicides in order to control the spread of the invasive Arundo. If we do not want the county to spray poison into the creek, we have to take care of brush clearance and Arundo removal in the creek ourselves.



A close-up photo of Arundo.

Building near the Creek:

On LA County road maps, much of Kagel Canyon Creek is recognized as a road easement. While no road will be constructed over the creek, the setbacks required of any road do apply. As such, development should not occur within 25 feet of the center line of the “road.” The mapped road does not always follow the actual creek bed, so some older homes may be closer than the required setback. In addition, many of the homes in the creek area predate the requirement for setbacks.

Homeowners must have a septic system that is at least 50 feet from the center of the creek and on a slope that allows a “15 feet to daylight” configuration. In other words, if your leach field is 5 feet as measured from the top of the field to the top of your grade, then the slope cannot be steeper than 3:1, which would result in 15 feet to daylight. If you have a 45 degree slope then the top of your leach field would have to be 15 feet deep which would also result in a 15 feet to daylight configuration. The water table around the creek is very high and water is found as little as seventeen feet deep. As such, the bottom of your leach field must be a full 10 feet above the ground water.

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OAK TREES

One of the first things that a visitor to Kagel Canyon observes is the oak trees. Large and majestic, small and peculiar, they grow from the creekside to the upper slopes of the hillsides. Our oak trees are a wonderful asset to our canyon and we should all be aware of them and treat them with respect.

There are 20 types of oaks native to California, 60 native to the country, and 500 to 600 worldwide. There are six types of oak tree that grow naturally in our area:

1. The Coastal Live Oak, which grows to 40 feet high and can live for 250 years or more;
2. The Interior Live Oak, which grows to 15 to 20 feet high and can live for 150 or so years;
3. The California Black Oak, which grows up to 80 feet and can live for more than 325 years;
4. The Canyon Live Oak, which tops out at 20 to 60 feet and can live for 250 to 300 years;
5. The California Scrub Oak, which is 4 to 10 feet high and might live to 70 years; and
6. The California White Oak, which grows to 40 to 60 feet high and can live to about 200 years.

These oaks are remarkably resistant to wild fires, and even when a fire scorches them and burns their leaves and twigs, they can come back and regenerate. Some trees in our forest have been exposed to wild fires on several occasions. Fires do take a toll on the trees and they can reduce their life their expectancy.

Our oak trees are considered a “keystone species”, forming the habitat for hundreds of other species of flora and fauna and influencing the surrounding landscape. These trees are native to the area and have adapted to the climate and environment. The timber has been used for construction, fuel and shade for centuries. So much has been felled that there is a danger of the oaks becoming rare.

Because the oak tree has been identified by LA County as a significant historical, aesthetic, and ecological resource, the **Oak Tree Ordinance** was established for the protection and propagation of these trees.

The Oak Tree Ordinance requires anyone wanting to move, cut down, reduce or over-trim a tree, to get a permit and pay a fee. The area under the tree and inside the drip line also falls under the same ordinance.

The ordinance states as the purpose of the permitting process: “The oak tree permit is intended to preserve and enhance property values by conserving and adding to the distinctive and unique aesthetic character of many areas of Los Angeles County in which oak trees are indigenous. The stated objective of the oak tree permit is to preserve and maintain healthy oak trees in the development process.”
[[Ord.83-0157 - 1) Old. 82-0168 - 2 (part), 1982]]



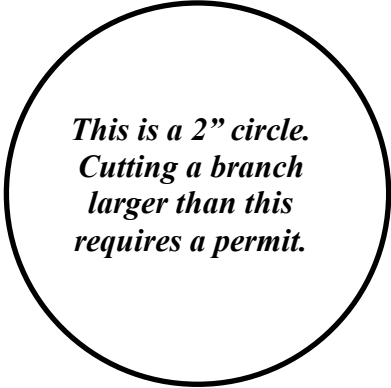
One of the Canyon's many majestic oak trees.

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The brief summary of the ordinance is nine pages long, but to summarize:

You may not cut, remove, relocate, inflict damage or encroach onto the protected zone of any oak tree with an eight inch or greater diameter of the trunk of a single oak, or twelve inches in diameter in the case of a multiple trunk oak tree, without first obtaining a permit. This ordinance applies to all oak tree species including scrub oaks. Should you have an oak tree and you need to do anything to it, except trim dead branches, or branches less than two inches in diameter, you require a permit. Not getting a permit and getting caught can be very expensive. For one tree, a fine in the order of \$2,000 or more, and for two or more trees, a fine in the order of \$7,000 or more.



***This is a 2" circle.
Cutting a branch
larger than this
requires a permit.***

There is one part of the ordinance that does not require a permit: if the oak tree is less than 25 inches in circumference at a point 54 inches above the ground (22.56.2060). One resident had a condition where the local fire department had issued a notice that a branch of a small oak tree was overhanging the roadway in a manner that would impede the fire truck. The resident was advised to call the forestry department of the fire department who in due course sent out a representative who pointed out that the branch was over 2 inches in diameter and would therefore require a permit. The assistant pointed out that the tree was less than 25 inches in circumference at 54 inches from the ground. Therefore, the resident could cut down the tree without a permit rather than trim a small branch and have the associated cost.

Before you do anything to an oak tree, first get clearance from the LAFD, Oak Division, which can be reached at 818-890-5719. Before you plan any work around an oak tree, first contact the Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning at 213-974-6411. If you have an emergency or safety issue concerning an oak tree, call the County Forester at (323) 890-5719 or visit our local fire station.

If you would like more information on oak trees and the Oak Tree Ordinance, please see:

http://ucanr.edu/sites/oak_range/files/60602.pdf

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PESTICIDES, HERBICIDES, AND RODENTICIDES

Pesticides are substances used for destroying insects, herbicides for killing plants, and rodenticides for killing rats, mice, squirrels and gophers. All of these substances are poisonous to the target intended, and often to targets that are not intended. Thus, when you use these products, you are putting poison into the environment that can kill wildlife and poison our soils and water. Please refrain from using these products.

PESTICIDES

Pesticides may be applied in many forms on plants in order to kill the insects that eat our gardens, farms, and other plants. The pesticides remain on the plants that are then eaten by animals. Those plant-eating animals, such as rabbits and deer, for example, are then ingesting poison. This poison can kill them or make them sick. Predators who eat these prey animals are also poisoned when they eat the affected animal. The pesticides accumulate in the bodies of animals and are carried up the food chain.

In the past, it was determined that the pesticide DDT was causing raptors, such as bald eagles, to have thin eggs, killing their babies. Stopping the widespread use of DDT on farmlands has allowed a comeback of these raptors. On a smaller scale, applying a pesticide on your garden can negatively affect all the wildlife in our canyon.

In addition, pesticides leach into the soil. Water rinses the plants, which also causes the pesticides to travel into the soils or waterways. These pesticides can end up in the soil you intend to grow your vegetables, poisoning your garden. Runoff from your yard may end up in Kagel Creek and eventually in the ocean. While your runoff of poisonous pesticides may be a small amount, the cumulative runoff of everyone's yards is a large amount.

Some examples of pesticides are Rose and Flower care, Bug B Gone, Complete Insect Killer, Tree and Shrub Protect. Read the label on all products before purchasing or using them, and please refrain from using any poisonous chemicals in your yard.

RODENTICIDES

Rodenticides are used to kill rodents. They are often expensive and incredibly destructive to wildlife. Rodenticides provide a very slow and painful death. A rodent eating the poison may suffer for days after ingesting the poison before it eventually dies. A dying rodent is easy prey for a predator such as a hawk, owl, coyote or bobcat. That predator then becomes poisoned with the same rodenticide and will also slowly die. In the meantime, the higher level of ingested poison can weaken the animal, making it difficult to hunt or defend itself, in turn making itself easy prey for another animal. And thus the poison is carried higher up the food chain.

Recent research conducted in the Santa Monica Mountains showed that seven out of eight wildcats tested positive for two or more rodent toxins in their systems. Researchers found higher levels of toxins in wild cats that spend more time in developed areas.

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Fortunately, there are many other ways to control rodents and deter them from your property. Electronic traps kill a rodent instantly and quite effectively. You can prevent rodents from entering your home by sealing all cracks and holes, and by installing wire mesh over larger open areas under your house.

A product by Havahart called Critter Ridder is a non-poisonous product that you put around your home. The product is only a very strong pepper product; it is not poisonous, but rodents, gophers, and other small animals do not like it and therefore avoid the area.

HERBICIDES

Herbicides are products that are used to kill unwanted vegetation, such as weeds, mustard, and grass. As with pesticides, when you use these products, you are essentially spraying poison into your soil, water, and environment where animals can ingest it and get sick or die. In addition, herbicides will kill vegetation that may be necessary for erosion control on a slope, or required habitat for animals for shelter, nesting sites, or food.

Any product used to control weeds will be poisonous. READ THE LABEL.

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OUR PEACOCKS

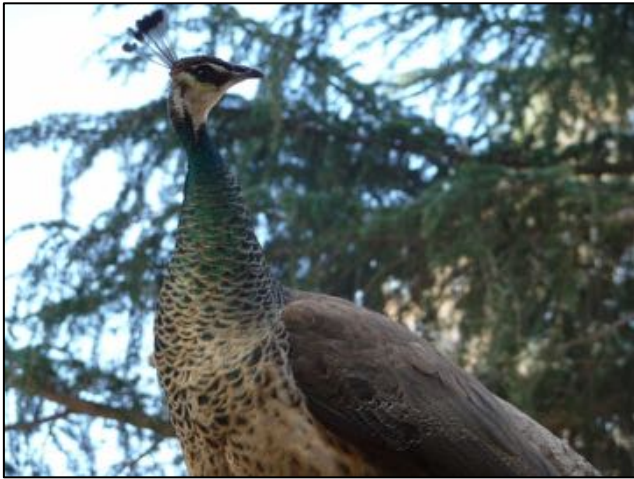
WE HAVE PEACOCKS! As with many topics related to life in Kagel Canyon, our residents are divided on the issue of the peafowl. Some folks love them, and others hate them. However, they are a part of our canyon and are here to stay.

Why the heck are there peacocks in Kagel Canyon? There are enclaves of wild peacocks all over Southern California, with a famous population of over 1000 of the birds living in Palos Verdes. There is also a well-known group of peafowl living in Arcadia, which found their way to the area in the early 1900's when the town's founder, Lucky Baldwin, imported the birds from India where they are native. Our wandering troupe of Kagel peacocks are likely the result of someone who kept the peacocks as pets and then released them for whatever reason. It has been said that while preparing for the film "Cleopatra" (the 1934 version starring Claudette Colbert), director Cecil B. DeMille had many peacocks imported from India to his Paradise Ranch on Little Tujunga Canyon Road. The costume designers used their tail feathers to create Cleopatra's elaborate coat. When filming was completed, the birds stayed, roaming freely through the ranch and the surrounding mountains. Their descendants still live here today.

What can you tell me about peacocks? Peafowl (the collective name for males, which are called "peacocks", and females, which are called "peahens", and babies, which are called "peachicks") are very hardy birds which live long lives. Peafowl can grow to a maximum of 10 pounds and can live up to 15 years in captivity; however, the life expectancy in the wild is difficult to determine. They are omnivorous, obtaining most of their food with their feet. They come in a variety of colors including blue, green, light brown and purple. The India Blue peafowl is the most common in this area and the one with which people are most familiar. Peafowl are usually found in small groups consisting of one male and several females. The male attracts the attention of peahens by fanning its elegant upper tail coverts (the feathers that cover the bird's tail, not the actual tail) over its back. The males tail train will lengthen and get fuller over the first two to three years and will have reached consistent length and quality at five to six years old. The peacock will molt the tail in late summer signifying the end of the breeding season.



A male (peacock) shows his characteristic colorful tail plumage.



A female (peahen) has more muted coloring than her male counterpart.

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Other than looking pretty, what are peacocks good for? Peacocks are one of the few animals that catch and eat poisonous snakes, including rattlesnakes. They have also been known to indicate if a rattlesnake has entered the vicinity by emitting their distinctive loud shrieks and honks.

Are peacocks noisy? Most months, the peacocks are quiet, unless spooked or otherwise aggravated. However, during mating season, the males may get very noisy attracting females; but it is quite a spectacle to watch the males parade their colors.

Where can I find out more about life with peacocks? A helpful document on peafowl can be found at www.rpvca.gov. This website has a link to the Rancho Palos Verdes "Peafowl Management Plan". This document is an account of the history of the peafowl in a community where, like Kagel Canyon, the peafowl population can grow until it becomes a destructive force.

[I like peacocks]/[I don't like peacocks], so how do I [attract]/[detract] peacocks from visiting my property? You can attract or detract Peafowl to your property by having an environment that the peafowl like or dislike, respectfully. Peacocks do not like confrontation. They want to nest somewhere that they find to be safe and welcoming. Therefore they tend to roost, and generations of peacocks tend to live, in the same places within the canyon because they find those particular areas to be safe and welcoming. If, every time you see a peacock in your yard, you approach it waving a broom and yelling "Shoo!", the peacock will feel unwelcomed and will likely abandon your property and seek a safe haven elsewhere.

[I like peacocks]/[I don't like peacocks], but they are eating all the flowers out of my garden! What can I do? The best thing that you can do to deter peacocks from returning to your property is to remove food sources that they seek. Peacocks love birdseed, dog food, cat food, compost, and a variety of plants and flowers. By keeping pet food out of the open, covering your compost, and featuring plants that peacocks don't like to eat, you can reduce their presence on your property. Appendix A on the RPV management document has a list of plants that peafowl will be attracted to as well as a list of plants they dislike so much they will the avoid all together.



Left: Standing side by side, you can easily see the color difference between peacock and peahen, as well as the female's noticeably shorter tail feathers. Right: A peacock displays his tail plumage to attract a mate.

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FEEDING THE WILDLIFE: DON'T DO IT.

The following is an article that was printed in the October 2013 edition of the Hot Sheet. Its content is quite relevant to this section of the Handbook, so we are reprinting it here in its entirety.

Recently several residents were complaining that some other residents have taken up “feeding” the wildlife, specifically a family of raccoons (including babies) that live here in Kagel Canyon. I hear someone was also feeding the coyotes as well. (Yes, believe it or not...)

Some said they had spoken with a couple who were feeding the raccoons, and the attitude was they didn’t care what others thought, they were going to continue to feed the raccoons.

I wanted to address why feeding wild animals is a really bad idea, not just for the humans and pets in the canyon, but also for the wildlife. While I’m sure the folks who are feeding the wildlife have good intentions, their actions will ultimately harm the very animals they claim to like and care about.

Here’s why:

When wild animals are fed, they no longer seek out food from natural sources. Very quickly they become dependent on handouts from humans. If the resident isn’t available, (e.g., they go on vacation, get sick, or move), the animal then suffers and, in some cases, will actually starve to death. This is especially true when the wild animal has been fed from a young age, because the animal never learns how to get its own food in the wild like it should. This is exactly what will happen with the raccoon babies if the feeding doesn’t stop immediately.

Equally as important, the foods the animals are being fed are most likely not what the animals actually need to maintain a well-balanced diet. Cat food, dog food, human food, etc., isn’t good for many animals, and while they may “eat” it, in most cases, they ultimately won’t get the nutrition they actually need... that nutrition can only be gotten by them eating their natural food they would normally gather in the wild.

“Cooked” foods, like chicken for example, present other dangers to wild animals as well. Cooking makes chicken bones brittle, and they will break and shatter into sharp points, which, if ingested, can tear up an animal’s internal digestive tract, causing bleeding and ultimately killing them. (This is why vets will tell you to never give chicken bones to a dog as well.)

Over time, a wild animal doesn’t become “tame” because it’s been fed, and it’s not “safer” even though it may appear to be “friendly” to the person feeding it. In fact, the opposite is the case, and the animal becomes more dangerous, and can potentially turn without warning. This is because the animal has become accustomed to people, is less afraid of them, and in many cases, will become more aggressive in its quest for “free” and “easy” food. It will become increasingly



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frustrated when it doesn't get food from people, and that frustration will turn into aggressive behavior. This creates a dangerous situation for people, pets, and the wild animal itself.

Raccoons are beautiful creatures. They also have razor sharp claws and teeth, and have been known to do some serious damage to people and pets when they feel threatened. Normally a raccoon will run from people. But if it's being fed, a raccoon's natural fear of humans (and pets) goes away, and it will become more brazen, and more aggressive. Humans are no longer perceived as a threat.

Raccoons also carry a number of dangerous diseases, rabies being one of the more severe ones. In fact, raccoons are the most frequently reported animal species with rabies in the U.S.! One bite to a human or pet can spread the rabies, which, if not dealt with, can lead to death of the person or animal bitten. Coyotes are also dangerous as well.

Because of this, feeding wildlife, (except birds) is illegal, and can carry stiff fines. California Department of Fish and Game will investigate allegations of people feeding wildlife, and will issue warnings and then citations if the feeding doesn't stop. This is to protect both humans, and the wildlife, for the reasons mentioned above.



If you know of someone feeding wildlife in the canyon, you can contact the California Department of Fish and Game via email at askr5@dfg.ca.gov and let them know.

If you want to feed wildlife, feed the birds. Unlike some wildlife, birds have a huge area they can easily cover, so if food sources in one area become scarce, they can easily move to another. Birds also pose little threat to humans or pets, rarely carry diseases, and don't get aggressive if food sources become scarce, they simply "move on".

Please, let's all live peacefully with the wildlife, and not make it dependent on us for survival. Part of loving the wildlife is also leaving it alone.

PAWS Wildlife website says the following:

"Many people enjoy feeding wildlife because it allows them to have close contact with the animals, or because they believe they are helping the animals survive. While seeing wild animals up close can be enjoyable, providing wild animals with a steady, human-supplied food source nearly always leads to problems for both the animals and humans." Check out their website, which lists the reasons why you should not feed wild animals (birds and squirrels excepted): www.paws.org/feeding-wildlife.html

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OUR WILD NEIGHBORS

One of the reasons we are drawn to Kagel Canyon is the proximity to Angeles National Forest. The lure of rustic, majestic mountains brings us breathtaking views and brings us close to the inhabitants of these mountains.

Kagel Canyon is at the base of Angeles National Forest, and much of the canyon lies within the Forest boundaries. The habitats in this forest region range from riparian, to oak woodland, to open grassland, to rugged chaparral. Such a variety of habitats also brings us a variety of animals, including many birds of prey; numerous song birds; and lots of large mammals such as deer, coyote, bob cats, mountain lions, porcupines and more.

In the following pages you will find brief descriptions of some of the more common animals found in our canyon. Please remember that wild animals are just that: wild. This is their home. The best thing you can do is look but do not touch. Do not infringe on their nests, try to feed them, or harm them in any way. If we leave them be; they will leave us be and we can all live in harmony with the great outdoors.

You can take several precautions to discourage predators from entering your yard:

- Trim back excess vegetation that might otherwise provide cover.
- Do not feed birds or other wildlife, which might attract predators.
- Pick fruit off trees when it ripens and do not leave rotten fruit on the ground.
- Do not feed wild animals; feeding them could make them dependent on your food and less wary of humans.
- Do not leave pet food or water outdoors.
- Keep pets indoors or in secure, protective cages or pens, especially at night.
- Secure your trash cans so coyotes, raccoons and other animals cannot get into them.
- Close off crawl spaces under your home, including your porch and outdoor sheds.
- Consider a deterrent that generates electronic sounds that mimic the calls of an animal's enemies, for instance, the hiss of a cougar.
- Actively deter coyotes with loud noises, flashing lights, or recorded human voices.
- Spay and neuter your dogs as a coyote could mate with them.
- Share this information with your neighbors.

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LARGE PREDATORS

Living at the base of Angeles National Forest, we are going to have large predators nearby. In the mountains surrounding Kagel Canyon there are coyotes, bobcat and even at least one mountain lion.

1. COYOTES

- a. **Description:** Coyotes are members of the dog family, but are distinguished from domesticated dogs by their pointed, erect ears and drooping tail, which they hold below their back when running. The coloration of coyotes varies from grayish brown to a yellowish gray on the upper parts. The throat and belly are white. The long tail, which is half the body length, is bottle shaped with a black tip.
- b. **Habitat:** Coyotes are resourceful. They are capable of digging their own burrows, but they often enlarge the burrows of other animals if available.
- c. **Diet:** Coyotes are carnivorous and opportunistic: they will feed on whatever is most readily available and easy to obtain. They eat primarily small mammals, such as rabbits, ground squirrels, and mice. They occasionally eat birds, snakes, large insects and other large invertebrates, fruits and berries. They will also scavenge on animal remains. Coyotes can live in a variety of areas since they will eat almost anything, including human trash and household pets. Everything a coyote does is related to a potential meal. In the canyon, chickens, outdoor cats, and small dogs are easy prey for coyotes. Coyotes have been known to jump fences to get to pets.
- d. **Activity:** Coyotes are nocturnal predators but are often seen during daylight hours. They are highly flexible in social organization, living either in a family unit or in loosely knit packs of unrelated individuals as well as hunting individually.
- e. **Communication:** The coyote is a very vocal animal with a varied repertoire of calls. It uses a long howl to report its location, short barks to warn of danger, yips when reuniting with pack members, growls when establishing dominance, whines and whimpers when bonding, and high-pitched barks to summon pups. You will often hear the call of coyotes in our hills, particularly at night or when they are hunting.
- f. **If you see one:** Many of the guidelines listed at the beginning of this chapter will help keep coyotes from your yard, but you do live in a canyon and can expect to see them often. Please remember that coyotes help to keep the balance of nature in order. Education is the solution to our coexistence. If you encounter one while in your yard or walking in the canyon:
 - Be as big and loud as possible. Do not run or turn your back.
 - Wave your arms, clap your hands, and shout in an authoritative voice.
 - Make noise by banging pots and pans or using an air horn or whistle.



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- Throw small stones, sticks, tennis balls or anything else you can lay your hands on. Remember the intent is to scare and not to injure.
- Spray with a hose, if available, or a squirt gun filled with water and vinegar.
- Shake or throw a “coyote shaker”—a soda can filled with pennies or pebbles and sealed with duct tape.

Coyotes contribute many beneficial aspects to our ecosystem helpful to many including gardeners and homeowners. 80% of a coyote’s diet are the destructive, vegetation eating rodents that farmers and homeowners try to get rid of. Natural rodent control is always preferable to manmade poisons and inhumane traps. Coyotes also eat insects.

2. BOBCATS

- Description:** Bobcats (*Lynx rufus*) are a species of small wild cats, approximately twice the size of a domestic cat. Females weigh up to fifteen pounds; males up to eighteen pounds. Its coat is variable, though generally tan to grayish-brown, with black streaks on the body and dark bars on the forelegs and tail. Its spotted patterning acts as camouflage. The ears are black-tipped and pointed, with short, black tufts. There is generally an off-white color on the lips, chin, and under parts. Bobcats in the desert regions of the southwest have the lightest-colored coats. They get their common name because of their short, bobbed tail. Their tail can actually be up to six inches long!
- Habitat:** They are found throughout the United States and are adaptable to many environments, including deserts, swamps, forests, and urban areas. They may have several dens within their territory. The main den is usually a cave or rock shelter. It could also be a hollow log, fallen tree, or another protected place. Their auxiliary dens are less visited, and are often brush piles, rock ledges, or stumps they use for temporary shelter.
- Diet:** Bobcats are strict, but generalist, carnivores. Their diet is entirely made up of prey species, but they don't specialize on any one prey type. Bobcats primarily eat small mammals but may also prey on birds and reptiles. In southern California, a National Park Service study found that bobcats most frequently eat rabbits, but also often prey on gophers, ground squirrels, and woodrats.
- Activity:** Bobcats are primarily nocturnal animals who prefer to avoid human contact. Bobcats that live in areas highly fragmented by urbanization are even more nocturnal than bobcats that live in remote areas. They are solitary and territorial.
- If you see one:** While it is unlikely that a bobcat will approach a person, should you encounter a bobcat, you should keep as much distance between you and the animal as possible:
 - Immediately protect children and pets.
 - Back away from the bobcat slowly and deliberately.
 - Avoid running away because that could trigger a pursuit response.
 - If possible, spray the animal with water.
 - When possible, make a lot of noise (banging pans, for instance, or blowing an air horn).



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3. MOUNTAIN LIONS (also called a puma, cougar, catamount, or panther)

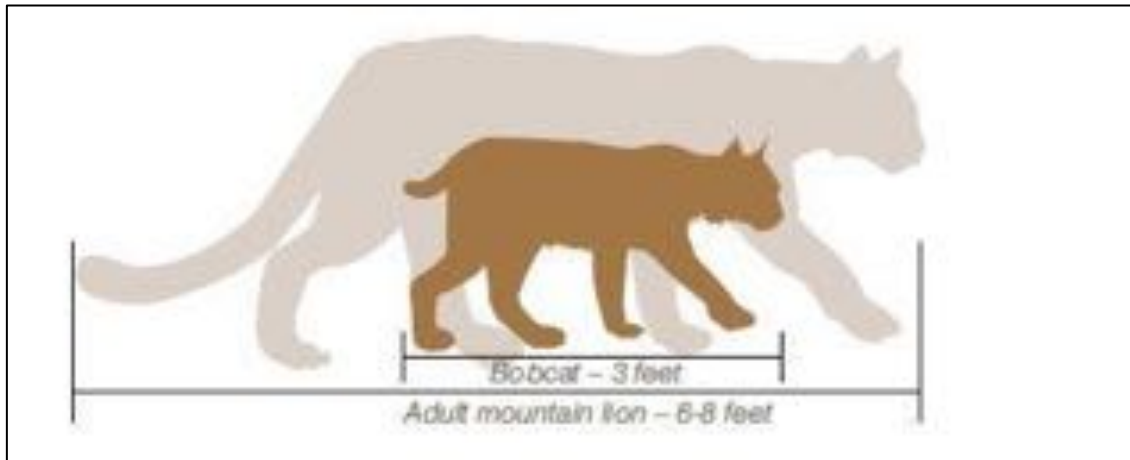


- a. **Description:** Although they look quite different from a bobcat, people often mistake bobcats for mountain lions. However, mountain lions are much larger than bobcats and are uniformly colored tawny or beige. There can be some variation in color throughout its range, but in Southern California, our mountain lions are a yellowish beige color. Mountain lions have a long, black-tipped tail, and small head with round ears (unlike the bobcat's pointed ears with tufts of hair). Young mountain lions have distinctive spots (until nearly 1 year of age).
- b. **Habitat:** Mountain lions are extraordinarily adaptable and can be found in every type of habitat in California. The big cats make their home from southern deserts to humid coast range forests, from foothill chaparral to the high desert and from sea level to 10,000-foot elevations in the Sierra Nevada. They are particularly fond of rocky foothill and mountainous areas that support populations of deer, elk, small mammals and large rodents. With the exception of females and their kittens, mountain lions live alone, in home ranges (territories) that vary in size from 25 to 200 square miles. Adult males occupy the largest home ranges and females with young kittens occupy the smallest home ranges. The size of the home range depends on the terrain, vegetative cover and amount of prey available.
- c. **Diet:** Mountain lions are strict carnivores, but they are flexible in their prey choices. However, mountain lions may have a strong preference for certain types of prey depending on where they live. For instance, in the Santa Monica Mountains, diet studies by the National Park Service have revealed that approximately 90% of investigated kill remains consist of mule deer. Other common prey species are raccoons, badgers, and coyotes. This data was gathered by examining 390 kill sites in the Santa Monica Mountains made by 15 mountain lions.
- d. **Activity:** Mountain lions are very elusive and most active at dusk, dawn and night time.
- e. **If you see one:** Should you encounter a mountain lion, you should keep as much distance between you and the animal as possible:
 - Immediately protect children and pets.
 - Back away from the mountain lion slowly and deliberately.
 - Stand up straight and tall; do all you can to appear larger than you are. Raise your arms and open your jacket if you're wearing one. If you have small children, pick them up and put them on your shoulders. This makes you look bigger and keeps the children from trying to run.
 - Avoid running away because that could trigger a pursuit response.
 - If the mountain lion behaves aggressively, throw stones or anything you can reach without crouching down or turning your back. Wave your arms slowly and speak firmly.
 - **In the extremely unlikely instance where a mountain lion attacks, you have no option but to fight back.** Unlike with bears, "playing dead" does not work, and can get you killed. Mountain lions have been driven away by prey that fights back. People have successfully fought off lion attacks using such objects as rocks, sticks, clothing, garden tools and even their bare hands.

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- When possible, make a lot of noise (banging pans, for instance, or blowing an air horn).
- Mountain lions have been spotted in Dexter Park. Do not make yourself a target by walking or jogging alone, by walking a small dog, or by walking a small child, at dawn or at dusk, or while wearing earphones.



This diagram demonstrates the difference in size between a mountain lion and a bobcat.

4. BEARS

- Description:** Yes, we have had bears in Kagel Canyon! You all know what a bear looks like. Here we have California Black Bears. They may look brown, but they are all “black bears”. Their coloring varies in different parts of the state and can be tan/golden, to brown, to black. Typically they are dark brown with a brown muzzle and, occasionally, a small white chest patch. Black bears are large-bodied animals that have a small, narrow head, powerful limbs, and small ears. Adult females weigh 100 - 200 pounds whereas adult males are larger, at 150 - 350 pounds, though individuals over 600 pounds have been taken by hunters in California. Black bears have five toes, each with a well-developed claw, on both front and hind feet, and teeth adapted for feeding on both plant and animal matter. Black bears are very good climbers, and they will quickly scale a tree to avoid a predator if they cannot outrun it.
- Habitat:** In most of the contiguous United States, American black bears are usually found in heavily vegetated mountainous areas, from 1,300 to 9,800 ft in elevation. However, several factors have forced bears out of the mountains and into the urban-wildland interface areas (i.e., the canyons and foothill areas). The first factor is that in the past 20 years, the population of black bears in the state has more than tripled. Bears are solitary creatures and so the land available to each solitary adult has become overpopulated, forcing more and more bears into the urban areas. The second factor is the drought. The drought has killed more than 12 million trees in the forests of Southern California. The loss of habitat in our area was obviously exacerbated by the third factor: the Creek Fire (and other fires that have damaged the bears’ habitat). Many small animals that are not as mobile as bears and deer have

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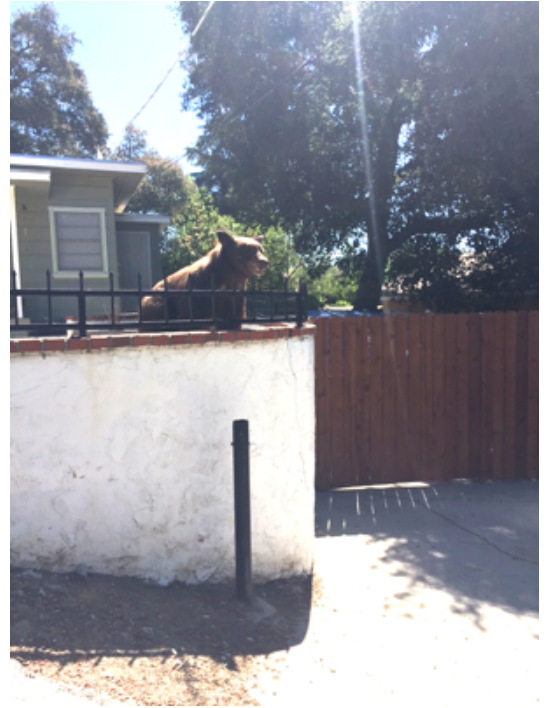
died off as their habitat shrinks. Larger animals, including bear, have moved into new territory to look for food rather than compete for food in a cramped forest area. As the weather gets hotter and drier, bears are moving into inhabited areas in search of food and water. With much of the bears' habitat and food source destroyed during the fire, bears have ventured farther out of their original territory in search of their necessities.

- c. **Diet:** Bears commonly consume ants and other insects in summer, but prefer nut crops, especially acorns, and manzanita berries in the fall. As omnivores, black bears will eat whatever seems edible. Mostly they are plant eaters, but they have been reported catching and consuming young deer fawns. Bears frequently adapt to human presence, often because bears are attracted to human garbage, pet food and other food items. Bears become attracted to human communities due to the immediate availability of food.

- d. **Activity:** Bears in the wild are mostly active at night, but bears are adaptable to their environments and can be active during the day if it behooves them. The bear seen in Kagel Canyon in Summer 2018 was very active during daylight hours. Bears are "lazy" hunters and will look for the food source that is easiest for them to consume. This is why it is of the utmost importance for residents to keep their trash contained (see more below).

- e. **If you see one:** Bears are not inherently aggressive towards humans. Most bears attack humans because they are scared or surprised. They typically only attack dogs if the dog attacks them first. Should you encounter a bear, you should keep as much distance between you and the animal as possible:

- **Remain calm and move slowly.** In most black bear encounters in California, the bear will take off as soon as it sees you. A more curious bear may stand on its hind legs to see you better, but this is not necessarily aggressive behavior.
- **If the bear is cornered, back off slowly to give it room to escape.** Don't turn your back on it, but do back up a few yards as calmly and slowly as you can. This is especially true if you meet a sow with small cubs.
- **Pick up any children with you, and leash your dog.** Put small kids on your shoulders: this protects them and makes you look bigger.
- **Make noise.** Talk, sing, yell. Bang metal pots. Let the bear know that you're human and intimidating. Wave your arms.
- **Do not run.** Not even if the bear charges at you. If you can see the bear, it's not stalking you, and it's merely trying to intimidate you with a bluff charge. Running is prey behavior, and may encourage the bear to attack you for real. Black bears can run at 30 miles per hour and can climb trees. Stand your ground, and retreat only slowly, facing the animal the entire time.



A Bear looks out over a fence on Blue Sage Drive.

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- **If the bear actually attacks you, fight back.** Throw rocks, thwap it with tree branches, punch and kick if it comes to that.
- **Do not follow the bear to take pictures of the bear;** do not take selfies with the bear. This should go without saying. Yes, someone in California was mauled for doing this foolish behavior.

Bears are looking for easy food, and this is where we come in. If your yard offers food and water (and keep in mind that garbage is also food for bears), then they will keep coming back. Allowing wild animals access to human food and garbage can be deadly. Wild animals naturally fear people, keep a distance, and will not bother you, so long as they remain truly wild. But if they have access to human food and garbage, they want more. Their natural ways are ruined. Their normal wildness and fear of humans is lost. That's when conflicts occur. Bears can be dangerous, and they can be even more dangerous when they are protecting their young cubs.



A Bear rummages through an available trash can on Shafer Place.

When bears become aggressive towards humans, law enforcement will shoot the bear rather than relocate it. Contrary to popular opinion, bears are not frequently "relocated" by CA Fish & Wildlife. They do not move wildlife to resolve human conflict issues because it doesn't resolve the problem. An urbanized bear can't be moved to the forest and be expected to live wild, it will go back to an urban area because that's what it knows. So please don't feed bears! There is a saying that "A Fed Bear is a Dead Bear", so please don't think that you are helping bears by feeding them. Help them by allowing them to stay wild and alive.

Here are some tips to keep bears from visiting your yard:

- Wait to put out trash until the morning of collection day. Don't allow trash to sit around in cans outside, or with loose lids. Kodiak Products (www.kodiak-products.com) have a fully automated, locking trash can that is bear resistant.
- Keep barbecue grills clean and stored in a garage or shed when not in use. A bear's sense of smell is 2,100 times as good as a human's. So even if your barbecue doesn't have any meat left for the bear to steal, the smell of the barbecue may still tempt him into your yard to poke around.
- Pick up fruit that has fallen from trees -- don't allow it to sit around in your yard and be snacks for bears.
- Keep pet food and water indoors. Do not leave dishes outside, or bears will come and help themselves.
- Keep an eye on your dogs, cats, chickens, etc. While black bears diet is primarily plant-based, they are opportunists and if they are hungry, your pet in a fenced yard is easy prey. Bears can take down large animals, including deer.

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"Tough Love": The following was excerpted from an email that went out to the community during the Summer of 2018 when the bear was a regular visitor to Kagel Canyon. It summarizes and addresses why "Tough Love" is necessary for the safety and survival of bears who wander into neighborhoods.

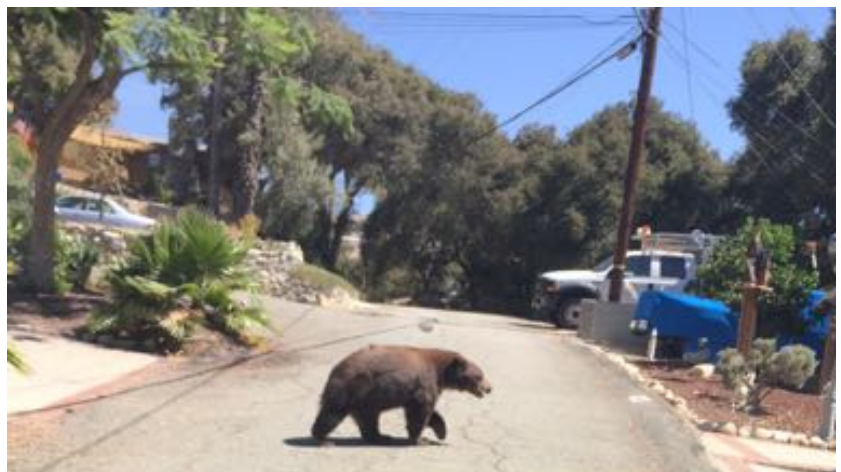
... Now we get to the hard part. The "TOUGH LOVE" part. I know and understand that many people (myself included) are excited to have the bear here. We love the bear. The bear is adorable. It's hard to "say no" to the bear. But the reality of the situation is that what the bear needs in order to live is TOUGH LOVE. If you encounter a bear in the canyon, unfortunately it is not enough to simply "let him be". As much as we want Kagel Canyon to be a "safe place" for wildlife, bears and humans do not co-exist peacefully in neighborhoods. We cannot create a safe haven here for the bear to hang out. Bears cannot hang out on your porch or in your backyard. They need to be discouraged from hanging out here, and that is for their own safety and well-being.

Bears in neighborhoods will not survive for a number of reasons. One of these is the presence of vehicles. Being hit by a car is a leading cause of death for bears in California, and our bear was almost hit by a car when it crossed Kagel Canyon Road on Sunday morning. More likely, though, is that our wild bear will become corrupted by human behavior and human error. Bears who find human food become reliant upon it because it is easier than foraging. They quickly lose their wild and natural ways, and can become aggressive in the neighborhoods where they find food.

This is when bears get killed "in the name of public safety" -- when they have become habituated to humans and their behavior changes and presents a threat to human life. "Our bear" is adorable, but if you look at his claws in the attached photo, you should realize that he could seriously injure a human if he wanted to. He's not a feral cat that you "adopt" and put out food and water and let him hang out in your yard and say "Here, kitty kitty!" He's a large, wild animal, and if you treat him like a pet, he's going to end up being killed. I don't know any other way to say this and to encourage our neighbors to change their behavior if they want this bear to live.

You never want to approach, surround, or corner a bear. If you encounter a bear, the goal is to to scare the bear out of the area without causing harm to the bear. Scaring bears away from development helps to preserve their natural fear of people, keeping them more wild. Without approaching the bear, you can scare it by making yourself as large as possible, yelling "Go away, bear!" (or really whatever you want to yell, since this bear doesn't speak English), clanging pots and pans, or making loud noises of whatever ilk in order to encourage him to leave the area. Just "letting him be" here is a lovely idea, but unfortunately it gets the bear acclimated to houses and to humans, and that just encourages the type of behavior that will result in him being killed.

The best chance for this bear's survival is for him to NOT find food and water in Kagel, NOT find a comfy happy place to hang out in someone's yard, and as a result, wander back up further into the National Forest and resume his wild ways. Sadly for us, that means giving the bear tough love and not allowing him to hang out here.



A Bear crosses Shafer Place.

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OTHER MAMMALS

1. OPOSSUMS

- a. **Description:** The opossum is about the size of a cat (4 - 14 pounds) and has rough grayish-black fur. It has a white face, a pink nose, and a long hairless, pink tail. This animal is well-known for “playing possum” or pretending to be dead when it is in danger. Opossums are often depicted as hanging from their tails, though this is only partially accurate. Opossums do have semi-prehensile tails, but these are not strong enough to support the weight of a fully- grown opossum. Instead, adult opossums use their tails as a brace or a ‘fifth leg’ when climbing trees.
- b. **Habitat:** Opossums prefer low, damp, wooded streams and swamps. Farming areas having hedgerows and small, wooded streams are preferred over densely forested upland areas.
- c. **Diet:** Opossums are scavengers, and they often visit human homes or settlements to raid garbage cans, dumpsters, and other containers. They are attracted to carrion and can often be spotted near road kill. Opossums also eat grass, nuts, and fruit. They will hunt mice, birds, insects, worms, snakes, and even chickens.
- d. **Activity:** Opossums are usually solitary and nomadic, staying in one area as long as food and water are easily available. Some families will group together in ready-made burrows or even under houses. Though they will temporarily occupy abandoned burrows, they do not dig or put much effort into building their own. As nocturnal animals, they favor dark, secure areas. These areas may be below ground or above
- e. **If you see one:** Do nothing. Leave the opossum alone and enjoy watching wildlife in your own backyard. However, if the opossum is injured or an orphan (less than 7 inches from nose to rump) then contact the Opossum Society of the United States, a local wildlife rehabilitator, a veterinarian, or your local animal shelter for help. Opossums are beneficial, eating unwanted pests around your home and garden such as snails, slugs, spiders, cockroaches, rats, mice and snakes. Opossums are free gardeners! Do not approach opossums. They are not aggressive, but they have very sharp teeth and they will bite humans or dogs if they feel they need to defend themselves.



An opossum carrying babies on its back.

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2. RACCOONS

- a. **Description:** A grown raccoon will measure about 32 inches from the tip of its nose to the end of its tail and will weigh about 20 pounds. The raccoon appears to be wearing a mask because of the dark colored fur at its eyes and cheeks. The tail is ringed with dark fur.
- b. **Habitat:** Raccoons do not construct their own den sites and are quite flexible and eclectic in their housing choices. While hollow trees are a common nesting location, so too are barns, attics, old squirrel nests, large forks in tree limbs, crawl spaces under houses and sheds, abandoned cars, brush piles, rock clefts, and groundhog holes.
- c. **Diet:** Raccoons will consume just about anything including trash if they live close to humans. They will get into gardens as well. They are very skilled in getting food including smashing melons so that they can get to the fruit inside. What they will feed on depends on their location. They gorge in the spring and summer to build up reserves of fat for the winter. Common items include mice, eggs, some small lizards and insects. If they are able to be around water, they have been seen washing their food off before they consume it. Plenty of their food comes from the water, including frogs and crayfish. They will also consume fruit and plants.
- d. **Activity:** The raccoon is very intelligent and they can problem-solve. They can get into just about anything, and that is why many people think they are a pest. They can open doors, drawers, trash cans, and other items that would normally keep other critters out of your territory. They are excellent climbers and can be high up in the trees in no time at all. When they are coming down they do so backwards and then when they are close the ground they will turn around and leap to land on all fours.
- e. **If you see one:** Enjoy watching them from a distance. Because raccoons are opportunistic feeders, the key to resolving conflicts with them is to contain available food sources. Once food is contained, raccoons will move on. Seal garbage cans (use bungee cords on lids), cover compost bins, and place netting over fish ponds. Putting out garbage on the day that it will be picked up will discourage raccoons from frequenting the area. Do not let your dog engage with a raccoon, as adults can be vicious with their sharp teeth and claws and will win more often than not.



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3. MULE DEER

- a. **Description:** There are a number of types of deer that live in the Angeles National Forest, but the most common is the California Mule Deer. The Mule Deer is easily distinguished from other deer by its large, mule-like ears and its black tipped tale. The bucks have antlers, which are shed each year in January or February. Fawns are born in late spring to early summer. They have white spots at birth, but lose these spots within a few months.
- b. **Habitat:** Generally, the California Mule Deer has a preference for hill terrain, especially an oak woodland habitat.
- c. **Diet:** It is a browser and typically takes over 90% of its diet from shrubs and leaves and the balance from grasses.
- d. **Activity:** California Mule Deer usually browse close to water sources. From that source, they may roam 1 – 2 miles, and typically make their beds in grassy areas beneath trees. On hot summer days, the deer often seek out shade and rest in the midday heat. Fawns and does tend to forage together in familial groups, while bucks tend to travel alone or with other bucks. They are most active near dawn and dusk.
- e. **Hunting:** Because of our location in the Angeles National Forest but close to the City, we occasionally have people come into the canyon for the purpose of hunting deer. Generally speaking, hunting is permitted in the National Forest during designated hunting seasons. However, hunters must follow all LA County, California State, and Federal laws governing hunting and the discharge of weapons. These include laws that prohibit hunting within a certain distance of a residence, building, developed recreation site, or occupied area; and laws that prohibit hunting within a certain distance of roads. These distance requirements effectively preclude hunting anywhere in Kagel Canyon. The Los Angeles County Fish & Game Commission published a map in 1994 (which still holds true today) which shows that all of Kagel Canyon and Lopez Canyon are areas in which the discharge of any firearm is prohibited. Due to our jurisdictional issues (some of our land is LA County, some Angeles National Forest, etc.), it has historically been difficult to get enforcement of the hunting laws. If you see a hunter, your best bet is to call the LA County Sheriffs Department.



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HAWKS AND OWLS

Our area is home to a great variety of beautiful birds. Unfortunately, sometimes when we see these birds on the ground, it is because they are injured. Birds can be injured by power lines, by collision with vehicles, and in many other ways.

If you find an injured bird of prey, please contact the Wildlife Waystation, which is located just a few miles north of us, at 14831 Little Tujunga Canyon Road. Their phone number is 818-899-5201.

Exercise caution if attempting to pick up an injured bird, either to remove it from a dangerous location (e.g., the road), or to take it to a wildlife treatment center. An injured bird will not know that you are trying to help it and will resist your efforts in whatever way it can. When rescuing the birds of prey listed in this handbook, the rescuer must take all precautions to avoid being clawed, bitten, or stabbed by the “rescuer”. The best way to capture an alert raptor is to completely cover it with a jacket, coat or blanket. If possible, wear heavy gloves. Gather up blanket and bird together, keeping it away from all parts of your body that you deem valuable. Cardboard boxes (with several air holes punched) work well for transport. Placing the bird in a *closed, secure, darkened* environment is very important. It will help keep it calm, reduce additional stress and prevent it from causing further injury to itself.

1. RED-TAILED HAWK

- a. **Description**: Large bird of prey with broad wings and a short wide tail. Brown above, pale colored below, and a red colored tail.
- b. **Habitat**: Prefers open areas. They like to hunt off telephone poles and fence posts over open fields.
- c. **Diet**: Rodents and small mammals.
- d. **Activity**: This is probably the most common hawk in North America. If you have sharp eyes, you’ll see several individuals on any long car ride, anywhere. Red-tailed hawks soar above open fields, slowly turning circles on their broad, rounded wings. Other times you will see them atop telephone poles, eyes fixed on the ground to catch the movements of a vole or a rabbit. They attack in a slow, controlled dive with legs outstretched.

2. RED-SHOULDERED HAWK

- a. **Description**: Orange-colored underside and dark topside. The wings are notably barred with white and dark brown. They are medium-sized birds, only slightly smaller than the red-tailed hawk. The red-shouldered hawk has rounded wings and medium-length tails that they fan out when soaring. In flight, they often glide or soar with their wingtips pushed slightly forward, imparting a distinctive, “reaching” posture.
- b. **Habitat**: Riparian. A red-shouldered hawk is typically a sign of tall woods and water. These birds are found near creeks, woodlands and waterways.
- c. **Diet**: They hunt small mammals, amphibians, and reptiles either from perches or while flying.
- d. **Activity**: Red-shouldered Hawks soar over forests or perch on tree branches or utility wires. Its rising, whistled *kee-rah* is a distinctive sound of the forest.

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Left: A red-tailed hawk, vs. right: a red-shouldered hawk.

3. SHARP SHINNED HAWK

- a. **Description:** A tiny hawk that appears in a blur of motion – and often disappears in a flurry of feathers. The Sharp-Shinned Hawk is the smallest hawk in North America, and a daring, acrobatic flyer. These raptors have distinctive proportions: long legs, short wings, and very long tails, which they use for navigating their deep-woods homes at top speed in pursuit of songbirds and mice. They are smaller than a crow. They are almost blue in color above and pale on the underside. Orange-colored underside and dark topside. The females of this species are considerably larger than males.
- b. **Habitat:** Open areas and wooded areas. They are found where both red-tail hawks and red shouldered hawks are found.
- c. **Diet:** Birds and small mammals.
- d. **Activity:** Active during the day. These raptors are agile fliers that speed through dense woods to surprise their prey, typically songbirds.



Above, the Sharp-Shinned Hawk.

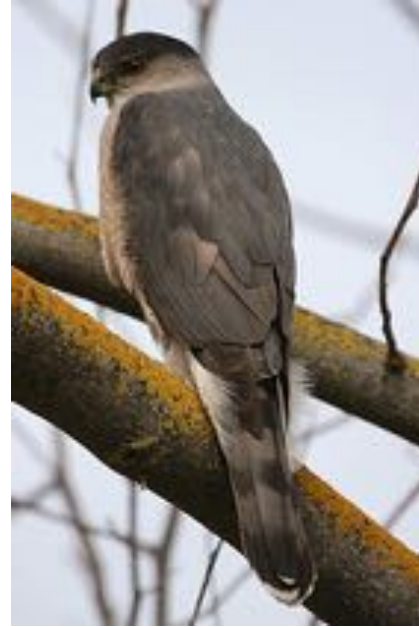
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4. COOPERS HAWK

*Below, the Sharp-Shinned Hawk
(from previous page) in flight.*

- a. **Description:** Medium-size bird, about the size of a crow, but similar in coloring to the Sharp-Shinned hawk. They are browner with white bars above. They also have long tails. The two birds are very similar and can be difficult to differentiate.
- b. **Habitat:** Open areas and wooded areas, ranging from deep forest to leafy subdivisions and backyards. They are found where both red-tail hawks and red shouldered hawks are found.
- c. **Diet:** Birds and small mammals.
- d. **Activity:** Active during the day. Among the bird world's most skillful fliers, Coopers Hawks are common woodland hawks that tear through cluttered tree canopies in high-speed pursuit of other birds. They are agile and quick. Look for Coopers Hawks to fly with a flap-flap-glide pattern that is typical of accipiters. Even when crossing large, open areas, they rarely flap continuously. Another attack maneuver is to fly fast and low to the ground, then up and over an obstruction to surprise prey on the other side.



Left: A juvenile Coopers Hawk, vs. Right: An adult Coopers Hawk.

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5. GREAT HORNED OWL

- a. **Description:** With its long, ear-like tufts, intimidating yellow-eyed stare, and deep hooting voice, the Great Horned Owl is the quintessential owl of storybooks. This is a medium-sized bird, with long ear-like tufts, making it easy to identify. Wings on owls are rounder than hawk wings.
- b. **Habitat:** This is one of the most common owls in North America, equally at home in deserts, wetlands, forests, grasslands, backyards, and even cities.
- c. **Diet:** This powerful predator can take down birds and mammals even larger than itself, but it also dines on daintier fare such as scorpions, mice, and frogs.
- d. **Activity:** Great Horned Owls are nocturnal. You can often see their distinctive silhouette on a telephone pole or in a tree. They fly with stiff, deep beats of their rounded wings. Their call is a deep, stuttering series of four to five hoots.



*Above: A Great Horned Owl in a tree;
A Great Horned Owl in flight.*

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6. BARN OWL

- a. **Description:** Ghostly pale and strictly nocturnal, Barn Owls are silent predators of the night world. Lanky, with a whitish, heart-shaped face. With a whitish chest and belly, and buffy underparts, their coloring and marking are distinguishable among owls. When seen at night, they can appear all white.
- b. **Habitat:** Despite a worldwide distribution, Barn Owls are declining in parts due to destruction of their habitat. Barn Owls nest and roost in cavities, abandoned barns, and other buildings, and dense trees. They require large areas of open land over which to hunt.
- c. **Diet:** At night, they hunt by flying low, back and forth over open habitats, searching for small rodents primarily by sound.
- d. **Activity:** This owl roosts in hidden, quiet places during the day. By night, they hunt on buoyant wingbeats in open fields and meadows. You can find them by listening for their eerie, raspy calls, quite unlike the hoots of other owls.



Above, left: A Barn Owl in flight.

Above, right: A Barn Owl at rest.



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OTHER INTERESTING BIRDS:

1. TURKEY VULTURE

- a. **Description:** If you've gone looking for raptors on a clear day, your heart has probably leaped at the sight of a large, soaring bird in the distance – perhaps an eagle! But if it's soaring with its wings raised in a V and making wobbly circles, it's likely a Turkey Vulture. These birds ride thermals in the sky and use their keen sense of smell to find fresh carcasses. They are a consummate scavenger, cleaning up the countryside one bite of their sharply hooked bill at a time, and never mussing a feather on their bald heads. These are large, dark birds with long, broad wings. Bigger than other raptors, except for eagles and condors. When soaring, Turkey Vultures hold their wings slightly raised, making a V when seen head-on. The coloring is white and black on the underside which also makes a V. They have bald heads that are red in color.
- b. **Habitat:** Turkey Vultures are common around open areas such as roadsides, suburbs, farm fields, countryside, and food sources such as landfills, trash heaps, and construction sites. On sunny days, look for them aloft as early as 9 a.m.; in colder weather and at night they roost on poles, towers, dead trees, and fence posts.
- c. **Diet:** Carrion of various species. You may see them on the ground in groups, huddled around roadkill or dumpsters.
- d. **Activity:** Turkey Vultures are majestic but unsteady soarers. Their teetering flight with very few wingbeats is characteristic. Look for them gliding relatively low to the ground, sniffing for carrion, or else riding thermals up to higher vantage points. They may soar in small groups and roost in larger numbers.



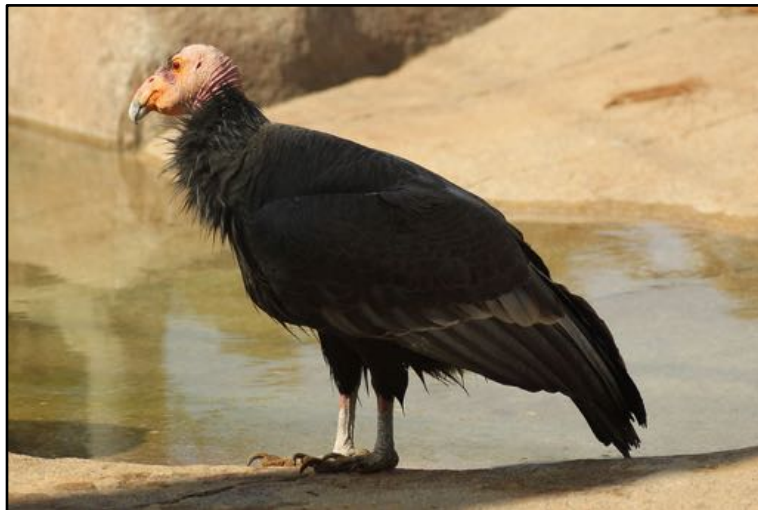
Above: A Turkey Vulture at rest, and a Turkey Vulture in flight.

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2. CONDORS

- f. **Description:** The spectacular but endangered California Condor is the largest bird in North America. The wings are exceptionally long and broad, with long primary feathers giving a fingered look to the wingtips. In flight, the body is noticeably bulky, the head appears small, and the tail is short and broad. The population fell to just 22 birds in the 1980s, but there are now some 230 free-flying birds in California, Arizona, and Baja California with another 160 in captivity. Lead poisoning remains a severe threat to their long-term prospects. The San Gabriel Mountains provide a critical habitat for the California Condor. While they are rare, they are occasionally spotted over Kagel Canyon.
- g. **Habitat:** California Condors scavenge for carrion in habitats ranging from Pacific beaches to mountain forests and meadows. Pairs nest in caves on cliff faces in mountains up to 6,000 feet in elevation. Their size makes take-off difficult, leading them to use high perches for easier take-offs.
- h. **Diet:** These superb gliders travel widely to feed on carcasses of deer, pigs, cattle, sea lions, whales, and other animals.
- i. **Activity:** Condors are masterful soarers that rarely flap their wings. They have a solid, heavy appearance in the air, and don't get buffeted by the wind in the way that smaller soaring birds do. Condors are social birds that form groups around carcasses, at bathing spots, and at roosts.



A California Condor.

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SNAKES

All snakes are predators. All snakes are also cold-blooded animals, which means that their body temperature changes along with the temperature of their surroundings. As ectotherms, they must regulate their body temperature externally by sunning themselves or retreating to cool, shaded areas. Typically in the winter, snakes hibernate underground, though due to our warm climate in Southern California, some snakes do not fully hibernate. Snakes are most commonly seen between April and November, when the average temperatures are suitable for them to be out and about.

Snakes eat their prey whole and are able to consume prey three times larger than the diameter of their head because their lower jaw can separate from the upper jaw. To keep prey from escaping, snakes have rear-facing teeth that hold their prey in their mouths. Venomous snakes inject their prey with venom, while constrictors squeeze their prey.

Rattlesnakes are the only venomous snake in our area. The following pages are an introduction to the more common snakes in our area.

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1. RATTLESNAKE (Venomous!)

- a. **Description:** Rattlesnakes can be easily identified by their rattles. However, baby rattlesnakes may have a very little rattle or no rattle at all. The other distinguishing feature is their triangular head caused by large jaws that protrude wider than their body. All other snakes have a head that is oval and blends into their neck. Most rattlesnakes have a diamond-shaped pattern on their skin. Depending on the subspecies, the snake may be dark green to dark brown to light colored cream. There are two subspecies common in our area: the Western Rattler and the Southern Pacific Rattler. The Western is the most commonly seen rattlesnake in California. Often seen while hiking in undisturbed areas, or on roads at night. Usually light beige to brown with darker diamonds. They have a black stripe that goes from their eye to the back of their head. The Southern Pacific is much darker in color, but still has diamonds in its coat. Both snakes are quite stout and can grow to over four feet in length.
- b. **Habitat:** Mountains, grasslands, rocky areas; they are quite common in Kagel Canyon.
- c. **Diet:** Rodents, rabbits, birds, and lizards. Rattlers lie in wait until a victim comes along, and then strike at speeds of half a second. Their venom paralyzes the prey, which they then swallow whole. The digestive process can take several days, and rattlesnakes become sluggish and hide during this time. Adult rattlers eat about once every two weeks. They hunt mostly in the evening and at night. Adult rattlesnakes eat mostly rodents, which are, of course, warm-blooded. Snakes can sense the heat of prey better when the air around them is cool.
- d. **Activity & Hibernation:** Rattlesnakes actually hunt more after the sun goes down. While they need sun, they still don't like 100-degree weather (as most animals do not) and can easily die if they overheat. Thus, in the summer, you are just as likely to encounter a snake at night as in the day. Because they are cold-blooded, rattlesnakes stay underground when it is cold, generally emerging from hibernation in April, when the average daytime temperatures remain about 60 degrees F or higher. Rattlesnakes are most commonly seen April to November, but when they go into or come out of hibernation is highly weather dependent. Also because of our climate in Southern California, some rattlesnakes may not completely hibernate.
- e. **Behavior:** Rattlesnakes are distinctive because of their defensive stances. They may coil their bodies and raise their heads high off the ground in a defensive posture. This coiled position serves as a way to anchor the body if they feel the need to strike with their head. As a rule of thumb, rattlers can, at best, strike a distance equal to 2/3 their total body length. For example, a three-foot snake may be able to strike as far as two feet away. This is why you should always keep a safe distance from any rattlesnake, particularly one that is in a coiled position.

f. **If you see one:**

Rattlesnakes are important members of the natural community. They will not attack, but if they are disturbed or cornered, they will defend themselves. Give them distance and respect. They are not aggressive. If you leave the snake alone, it will not bother you. Rattlesnakes are lay and wait hunters, and therefore are often found coiled up in a corner, under a rock or log, or hiding and waiting. They are not waiting for you! So just walk away and leave them alone.

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Rattlesnake bites can be extremely dangerous, but rattlesnakes should not be considered as vicious and always ready to attack without provocation. They will not strike without a reason, but they will aggressively defend themselves. They are often portrayed with the body partly coiled, the tail rattling loudly, and the head up ready to strike. This display is a warning not to come any closer or they will strike; a defensive behavior that some rattlesnakes use when they sense that crawling away would put them in danger. If they are given some space and some time to escape to a safe place, they will usually crawl away as fast as possible.

Because they cannot crawl to safety as fast as some snakes, rattlesnakes often use their cryptic color and pattern to blend into their surroundings in order to hide from their prey and from other animals that could threaten them. They often hunt by sitting still and waiting for a warm-blooded prey animal to pass close enough for the snake to strike it. Sometimes a passing human will be struck instead, mistaken for food. When they sense the presence of something that might threaten them, rattlesnakes often lie still to avoid detection and do not rattle, because that would give away their location. At other times they rattle loudly, sometimes from a good distance, to warn potential enemies of their presence. In both cases they are doing everything they can to avoid confrontation and to avoid striking and biting and using up their valuable supply of venom which they need to kill and digest their food.



Above: A Southern Pacific Rattlesnake.

Below: A Western Rattlesnake.



Please refer to Chapter 5, Section J for what to do if bitten by a rattlesnake.

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2. KING SNAKE (Non-Venomous)

- a. **Description:** King snakes are easily distinguished from other snakes by their colorful pattern of black, white and red stripes.
- b. **Habitat:** King snakes prefer rocky areas. They are not commonly seen in riparian areas.
- c. **Diet:** They eat rodents, lizards, birds, and even rattlesnakes!
- d. **Activity:** They are active both day and night. They prefer to lie under rocks to get warm and then hunt at night.
- e. **If you see one:** Leave it be. It is not venomous and they are an essential part of the environment helping control the rodent (and sometimes rattlesnake) population.



Above: California King Snake.

3. WHIPTAIL or STRIPED RACER SNAKE (Non-Venomous)

- a. **Description:** This fast, sleek snake can get up to 5 feet long. It is a dark green to black color with yellow longitudinal strips; one on each side of its body.
- b. **Habitat:** Successful in many habitats, but prefers chaparral habitat.
- c. **Diet:** Lizards, small rodents, and smaller snakes
- d. **Activity:** Active in the day. Very fast moving. They like to lie stretched out, lifting their head and neck.
- e. **If you see one:** Leave it be. If threatened or handled, this snake will strike repeatedly and bite viciously. However, they are NOT venomous and they are an essential part of the environment helping control the rodent population.



Above: Striped Racer Snake.

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4. GOPHER SNAKE (Non-Venomous)

- a. **Description:** Long muscular body. Sometimes confused for the rattlesnake. It is brown in color with dark or black blotches on its coat; again similar to the rattlesnake. However, it does NOT have a triangle head or diamonds on its coat.
- b. **Habitat:** They can survive in many different habitats from riparian, to grasslands, to rocky outcroppings.
- c. **Diet:** Eats mostly small mammals, especially rodents. Occasionally eats lizards.
- d. **Activity:** Active mostly in the daytime, except in hot weather it will be active at night. When threatened it will hiss, flatten its head, coil up and shake its tail to mimic the rattlesnake. This is one of the most commonly seen snakes, especially on roads and trails.
- e. **If you see one:** Leave it be. Unfortunately, this harmless and beneficial species is very often killed for fear that it is dangerous or that it is a rattlesnake. Gopher snakes are not venomous and they are an essential part of the environment helping control the rodent population.



Above (1) and (2): Gopher Snake.

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5. GARTER SNAKE (Non-Venomous)

- a. **Description:** In Los Angeles we have two subspecies of Garter Snake: the California Red-Sided Garter Snake and the Two-Striped Garter Snake. Grows to three feet long. Dark gray to green in color with darker spots and light strips along the lower sides of the body. Smaller than the gopher or rattlesnake.
- b. **Habitat:** Prefers riparian habitats and water areas. Therefore this snake is a very good swimmer, and when threatened, will often retreat to the safety of the water.
- c. **Diet:** Primarily small, water-dwellers like frogs, toads, tadpoles, salamanders, and fish.
- d. **Activity:** Likes to hunt along streams and creeks. Primarily active during daylight.
- e. **If you see one:** Leave it be. Like most garter snakes, when picked up and handled, these will often strike repeatedly and release an unpleasant musk. However, they are not venomous.



Above: California Red-Sided Garter Snake
Below: Two-Striped Garter Snake



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TARANTULAS, SPIDERS, AND SCORPIONS

There are about a hundred varieties of spiders in California. They range in size from very small up to 4 inches or more in diameter, including the legs. Most of them are not poisonous to people and pets. They are beneficial as they are insectivores and keep the insect population down. For great pictures and more information check out the website: <http://www.spiders.us/species/filter/california/>

1. **Black Widows (poisonous)**

- a. **Description:** There are two variations of this species: one is black and the other is brown. Both are characterized by a similar body shape: they are about half an inch long, and they have the distinctive "hourglass" on the abdomen. While typically red, the "hourglass" can be yellow, orange, or brownish and not a regular hourglass shape.
- b. **Habitat:** They are reclusive and make haphazardly constructed cobwebs. They prefer cluttered spaces, garage corners, rock walls, or molded plastic with downward facing openings. Their egg sacks look like little cotton balls.
- c. **Diet:** Insects
- d. **Activity:** Widows are nocturnal and build messy, three-dimensional webs. They will commonly hang upside down near the center, and when they sense an insect getting caught, they run over and bite the insect, before covering it in their silk.
- e. **If you see one:** Leave it alone. Prevent interaction with them by always wearing gloves when you work outside. You can keep them out of your house by vacuuming regularly. Pesticides do not work on them. Most bites occur by accident, for example, if you are putting on a pair of work gloves or a shoe and there is a spider inside.
- f. **If you get bitten:** The bite itself may feel like a small pin prick at the time, or may not even be noticed. Symptoms don't usually start until 1 – 3 hours after the poisonous bite, and may include:
 - rigid stomach muscles, which some medical professionals have misdiagnosed as appendicitis;
 - sweating, sometimes of just the bitten body part, such as a bite to the hand that results in only the arm sweating profusely;
 - severe pain that can be local, radiating, or regional;
 - urine retention; and
 - less commonly: numbness, agitation, fever, and patchy paralysis.



A female black widow spider.

Another symptom is bite victims will move or rock back and forth incessantly to try to lessen the pain from the venom injection process. However, these symptoms are the most severe manifestation; many black widow bite symptoms merely resemble the flu.

Black widow bites don't cause conspicuous swelling, necrosis, or deterioration of tissue around the bite. If bitten, seek medical attention immediately. You can place a cold pack on the bite to relieve the pain.

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An anti-venom for black widow bites is available, and works for all species that have been tested, worldwide. Response to the anti-venom is fast, and bite victims can go from intense pain back to normal in 30 minutes. The anti-venom is based on horse serum, so physicians need to monitor for anaphylactic shock. American physicians are somewhat reluctant to use anti-venom for this reason and might prefer to have the bite victim simply endure the symptoms, which can be similar to a bad flu episode and that usually dissipate in a few days. The brown widow's bite is less severe and characterized as not medically significant.

2. Tarantulas

- a. **Description:** Big, brown, and furry. The females of the species can live up to 25 years, though a lifespan of males is only 7 – 10 years.
- b. **Habitat:** Solitary spiders, tarantulas live in holes in the ground, or occasionally amid rocks, on dry, well-drained grass-covered hillsides or oak-filled woodlands. Tarantulas have poor vision, so they depend on the silk that covers the ground in and around their burrows to send a vibration, signaling that prey is within their reach.
- c. **Diet:** Beetles, grasshoppers, lizards, mice, scorpions, spiders and other insects. Tarantulas are ideal desert dwellers. They require little water, obtaining moisture from their prey.
- d. **Activity:** They hunt at night, and can sometimes be seen walking around in the day. Mating season is in September and October. Because females typically stay inside their burrows, if you come across a tarantula on a footpath, it is probably a male out in search of a mate. They are known to walk (slowly) up to four miles in search of a female.
- e. **If you see one:** Leave it alone. Though they have fangs and carry poison, they are not considered a threat to humans. Their poison is not harmful to us, but you do not want to be bitten by one, so don't harass them.



3. Scorpions

- a. **Description:** Scorpions are a small invertebrate with a segmented body. They have four pairs of legs, a pair of pinchers on the front legs, and a long, segmented tail that curls up with a stinger on the end. They have been found in many fossil records, and are thought to have existed since about 450 million years ago. They are in the same class as spiders ("Arachnida") and look somewhat like a small crab or lobster. Most species of scorpion (there are 60 species in California) reach an adult size of between 2 and 3 inches. Because they are flesh-toned, they are often difficult to spot, especially on natural desert terrain.
- b. **Habitat:** Most commonly found in deserts as ground dwellers. If they enter your home, they will look for dark places to hide out (e.g., inside of closets, cupboards, under beds).
- c. **Diet:** Scorpions are predators which eat a large range of insects, spiders, centipedes, and even other scorpions.

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- d. **Activity:** They are nocturnal and hunt at night, so there are more chances to encounter a scorpion (and be stung) after dark.
- e. **If you see one:** Leave it alone. Scorpions are beneficial to the environment as they eat insects.

Scorpion venom is used to subdue prey and to defend against threats. Most scorpion stings are not considered life-threatening to humans, with the exception of the bark scorpion, which is not known to live in this area. While not deadly, you don't want to be stung by a scorpion, and want to seek medical treatment in the event that you are stung. The effect of a scorpion's sting depends primarily on the species of scorpion involved. The sting of scorpions in *Vaejovis* and *Hadrurus* genera is usually no more serious than stings of ants, bees, or wasps, unless a person has an allergic reaction. Normal reactions include an immediate intense, localized, burning sensation with little redness or swelling; symptoms usually subside after about 30 minutes.

Prevention: To prevent stinging encounters with scorpions, don't leave shoes, boots, clothing items, or wet towels outdoors where scorpions can hide. Shake towels around the swimming pool and shake all clothing and shoes before putting them on. Wear gloves when working in the yard. Wear shoes outdoors, especially during the evening hours. A portable black light (UV light) may be used to survey for scorpions in and around the home. Scorpions glow brightly under black light and are therefore easily found and removed.



Scorpions are easily identifiable by their front pincers and curled tail.

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Chapter Five:

Fire Danger and Emergency Preparedness

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ONE CALL EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

What is One Call?

One Call is a telephone mass notification system. In Kagel Canyon, we use the One Call system to send out emergency messages. The messages are generated by our community, not by any governmental organization. One Call only works if the whole community is involved.

One Call is based on the idea of the old-fashioned “telephone tree”, but is more efficient because it rapidly transmits a recorded emergency message to all phone numbers registered with the system. In the event of an emergency such as a fire (or other life-threatening natural or manmade disaster), a representative from the KCCA will record a message containing vital information, and then use the One Call system to transmit that message to all registered participants. We believe this system will prove invaluable in terms of relaying what could be lifesaving information to our residents in a timely and efficient fashion.

How does One Call work and what is my role?

As part of its overall “Fire and Emergency Preparedness Program”, the KCCA has subscribed to One Call and relies on community volunteers to operate. Unlike other mass notification services provided by LA County (Alert LA) or LA City (Notify LA), One Call is NOT run by any governmental organization. The success – or failure – of the One Call system to notify residents of an emergency depends entirely on the participation of our neighbors. When you sign up for the One Call system, you are signing up to be a participant in this community-driven program.

We need all residents be our “eyes and ears” on the ground. If you become aware of an emergency situation, it is your role to notify one of the messengers from the list below. Be prepared to give as much information as possible. The messengers will then communicate with each other, and one messenger will record and transmit the message to all residents registered with the system, should the situation warrant. While only the messengers are trained on the system to record and transmit a message, the system will fail if no one informs them that an emergency is taking place.

Who are the messengers and how do I reach them?

Your volunteer messengers are the following KCCA Members:

- a. Kelly Decker: Home: (818) 761-7713; or kellyerindecker@aol.com
- b. Michele deLorimier: Cell: (310) 345-9234; or michinasia@yahoo.com
- c. Susan Friend: Days: (818) 834-1272; Eves: (818) 686-8616 or suefriend@yahoo.com
- d. Shannon McGinnis & Simon Scheeline: Cells: (323) 353-7642 or (323) 353-7644; Home: (818) 890-2489; or shannita57@yahoo.com and simonlegrip@yahoo.com
- e. Briana Dorner-Warner: Cell: (310) 218-2370; or brianadorner@gmail.com
- f. Amber Shoopman: Cell: (323) 333-0368; or ambershoop@gmail.com

(Please note that if there is an emergency, you must call a messenger. Email addresses are provided here should you have any questions or wish to communicate about a non-emergency matter related to the One Call system.)

If you do not reach one messenger, please leave a message and then try another messenger on the list until you

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actually reach and speak to a human. Please do not repeatedly call one messenger; bear in mind that the messenger may be in the process of recording a message to send to the community, or coordinating with the other messengers regarding the emergency.

Who is eligible to participate in One Call?

Everyone who is a resident or property owner in Kagel Canyon is eligible to participate in One Call. Renewals are required January 1 of each year. If you do not renew in January, your subscription will become inactive and you will NOT receive One Call notifications.

There are two ways that you can sign up to participate:

(1) Membership in the KCCA: The KCCA offers a subscription to One Call as a free benefit of membership to all members in good standing. If you hold a current individual membership, you will receive 3 “credits” for participation in One Call; if you hold a current household membership, you will receive 5 “credits”.

(2) Non-Member Residents: If you do not wish to be a member of the KCCA but still wish to participate in One Call, you may do so by making a donation to the KCCA in the amount of \$5 per “credit”.

Everyone who wishes to participate in One Call will also have to sign the liability waiver which is included and explained elsewhere in this Hot Sheet.

What is a “credit”?

A credit is how One Call counts its users. A subscription for One Call to send a message via phone call (to either a land line or a cell phone) costs 1 credit. A subscription for One Call to send a message via text message costs 2 credits.

You can choose how you wish to allocate your credits. For example, if you have 3 credits, you have two options: you can register 3 telephone numbers to receive a call in the event of emergency (3 calls x 1 credit each = 3 credits total), OR you can register 1 telephone number to receive a call, and 1 number to receive a text message (1 call + 1 text = 3 credits total).

Text Messages:

If you sign up to receive a telephone call(s), your registration is complete. However, if you sign up to receive a text message, there is one additional step required of you before you will receive a text message. Per California law, the One Call system requires text message users to “opt in” to receive text messages from their system. After you sign up, you will receive a call from One Call which will provide instructions on how to opt in to the text message system. Your text number will not be on the list until you complete the “opt in” step. Text message recipients will receive an abbreviated version of the voice recorded message due to character limits.

Odds & Ends:

- Regardless of when you sign up, subscriptions expire on December 31 of each year. Everyone is required to renew their subscription in January to stay enrolled in One Call.
- Many phones now have Caller ID. When we conducted our initial tests of the system, for some people the Caller ID was displayed as “ONE CALL”, but for some the call just appeared as an unlisted 877 number.

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- The One Call system will leave a message on voice mail or answering machines on unanswered lines, but it is your responsibility to check messages.
- If you turn off your phone at night in order to be able to sleep, then you will not hear when the phone rings to alert you to a fire in the middle of the night.
- There are lots of brush fires. You will not receive a lot of One Call notifications. A One Call message will only be issued in the event of an emergency which, in the discretion of the One Call messengers, has been determined to be an imminent threat to life and/or property in Kagel Canyon.
- One Call volunteers from our community have been trained in the system and will certainly do their best, but no warranties or guarantees are expressed or implied with your registration. If an emergency occurs that interrupts land lines, mobile lines, and/or internet services, relaying of a message may become impossible.
- No one is “automatically enrolled” by virtue of living here or being a member of the KCCA. Only those residents who opt in to participate in the system are enrolled. If you have any questions about the system or want to check to see if you are enrolled, please contact Michele deLorimier who is our neighbor-messenger and also the volunteer database administrator.

If you would like to subscribe to be a participant in the One Call system, please do the following:

1. Choose the applicable sign-up form and complete it (appears on the next page of this Welcome Packet).
2. Read, initial, and sign the waiver which appears on the two pages which follow the sign-up sheet.
3. Submit these forms, along with any applicable payment, by one of the following means:
 - Bring them in person to any KCCA Meeting.
 - Scan and email the documents to KagelCanyonEvents@gmail.com and then remit payment via the “Donate” tab on our website, www.kagelcanyon.com
 - Put them in an envelope with a stamp and mail them to:
Kagel Canyon Civic Association
P.O. Box 922191
Sylmar, California 91392-2191

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KAGEL CANYON CIVIC ASSOCIATION: 2019 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Only \$15.00 for an Individual, \$20.00 per Household

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name(s) of all adults living in the household

Kagel Canyon, CA 91342

Street Address

Email Address(es)

☐

YES! Please include my telephone numbers in the One Call Emergency Notification Database.

Phone 1: _____ This is a: ☐ Landline ☐ Mobile

Phone 2: _____ This is a: ☐ Landline ☐ Mobile

Text Messaging requires an additional step to Opt-In. If you require a text message, contact Michele deLorimier to add this function by emailing michinasia@yahoo.com.

☐

YES! I have children and wish to be contacted by the Kagel Canyon Kids Club in order to be informed about upcoming events for children in the Canyon.

☐

YES! I agree to follow the Code of Conduct when participating in KCCA meetings and events: *In order to keep our meetings to 90 minutes; and in the interest of encouraging resolution; and so that everyone can be heard and understood, please note this code of conduct: (1) Speak in a civil and courteous manner; (2) Raise your hand to share; (3) Don't interrupt others.*

Non-KCCA Member One Call Participant 2019 Sign Up Form

Donation of \$5 per Credit

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name(s) of Participant(s)

Kagel Canyon, CA 91342

Street Address

Email Address(es)

Phone 1: _____ This is a: ☐ Landline ☐ Mobile

Phone 2: _____ This is a: ☐ Landline ☐ Mobile

Text Messaging requires an additional step to Opt-In. If you require a text message, contact Michele deLorimier to add this function by emailing michinasia@yahoo.com.

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RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT FOR THE KAGEL CANYON CIVIC ASSOCIATION - ONE CALL EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

This agreement shall constitute the Terms of Service for the One Call Emergency Notification System ("One Call") administered by the Kagel Canyon Civic Association (the "KCCA").

One Call is a volunteer-run service intended to provide subscribers/participants with a pre-recorded message in times of emergency. The undersigned herein acknowledges that he/she has read this document carefully and understands the Terms of Service. **One Call is NOT a substitute for the subscriber/participant's own judgment and the KCCA is NOT responsible for injury to person and/or property which may occur as a result of a failure of the One Call system.** This is a legal document. **Read it carefully and be sure you understand it before signing.** Your signature indicates your understanding of and agreement to its terms, including that you are voluntarily giving up certain legal rights, including the right to recover damages in the event of injury, death, or property damage.

By signing up to be a participant in One Call, I agree as follows and have initialed each item to indicate that agreement:

I _____ (name),

reside at _____ Kagel Canyon, CA 91342.

This agreement is between me and the KCCA. On behalf of myself, my personal representatives, heirs, next-of-kin, spouse, and assigns, I do hereby acknowledge that:

____ One Call is run by volunteers from the community. It is not administered or executed by any governmental agency or authority. While these volunteers have been trained on the system and will do their best to send out a One Call, there is no guarantee that a One Call will be transmitted or that I will receive a One Call in the event of an emergency.

____ There are multiple scenarios in which the relay of a One Call may become impracticable or impossible, including but not limited to: a power outage; interruption of land lines, cell phone lines, and/or internet services; inability of volunteers to record or transmit a message; data entry errors; etc. Additionally, volunteers may be unaware that an emergency situation is taking place, may be out of the area at the time of the emergency, or may be unreachable at the time of the emergency.

____ There are many situations that take place in and around our area which may or may not constitute an "emergency" that warrants the transmission of a One Call. Brush fires, for example, occur every day, but I will rarely, if ever, receive a One Call. A One Call will only be sent if it is determined that there is an imminent threat to life and/or property in Kagel Canyon. This threshold is subjective, and volunteers use their own discretion, given the information (or lack thereof) available at the time, to determine when a situation reaches a level that warrants transmission of a One Call. Their determination may or may not be accurate.

____ A One Call message is a recorded transmission in which a volunteer has limited time to relay information. The One Call message may not include all the information that I want or need to make decisions that affect my life and property.

____ I understand that the One Call service, and any call received or not received, may not be timely; and that the information received or not received may not be accurate or reliable.

____ One Call is one useful tool which residents can use as part of their overall emergency preparedness program, but it is not the only tool, and should not be relied on at all or exclusively. One Call is not a substitute for my own judgment. Whether I choose to evacuate or not evacuate, or choose to take or not take any other action, in the event of an emergency is my own decision and I accept responsibility for the consequences of that decision.

____ I am a participant in the One Call service, not a recipient of the One Call service. Should I become aware of an emergency situation that may threaten life or property in Kagel Canyon, I will do my best to notify the One Call volunteer messenger(s) of the situation. I understand that the success of the One Call system relies on all subscribers to do their part in the event of an emergency, and that the failure on the part of any subscriber to participate in the system could result in the failure of the system as a whole.

____ Should my contact information change, it is my responsibility to notify the One Call database administrator accordingly.

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___ I understand that if my telephone is turned off, away from my person, out of service range, or otherwise disabled, I will not be able to receive a One Call should one be transmitted.

___ I understand that if I am a member-in-good-standing of the KCCA, that my subscription to One Call comes as a free benefit of membership. I understand that if I am subscribing to One Call without joining the KCCA, that any fees collected are a donation that helps to cover the cost of the KCCA's participation in and execution of the One Call system for the benefit of the Kagel Canyon community.

___ Regardless of when I subscribed to One Call, I know that subscriptions expire on December 31 of each calendar year, and that it is my responsibility to renew my subscription each January 1.

___ I am aware that this is a contract between me and the KCCA and that it waives legal rights that I may have now or in the future and releases the KCCA and others from claims for damages.

___ Assumption of Risk: I am voluntarily participating in One Call with full knowledge of the risks involved. I agree to accept any and all risks associated with my participation, including but not limited to injury, death, and damage to or loss of property. I hereby expressly and specifically assume the risk of injury or harm in the activities and release the KCCA from all liability of injury, illness, death, property damage or loss resulting directly or indirectly from my subscription to and participation in this service.

___ Insurance: I understand that the KCCA does not assume any responsibility for or obligation to provide me with financial or other assistance, including but not limited to medical, health or disability benefits or insurance of any nature in the event of my injury, illness, death or damage to my property. I expressly waive any such claim for compensation or liability on the part of the KCCA in the event of such injury or expenses incurred by me.

___ Release and Waiver: I do hereby release and forever discharge and hold harmless the KCCA, any of its past, present or future officers, board of directors, volunteers, members, agents, employees or assigns, interested third parties, including but not limited to One Call Now, and others acting on their behalf (the "Associates") from any and all liability, claims, and demands of whatever kind of nature, either in law or in equity, which arise or may hereinafter arise from my subscription to and/or participation in the One Call Notification System. I understand and acknowledge that this release discharges the KCCA and its Associates from any liability or claim that I, or my family, may have against the KCCA and its Associates with respect to bodily injury, personal injury, illness, death, or property damage that may result from my subscription in One Call.

___ I agree that I will not sue, prosecute, or in any way make a claim against the KCCA or its Associates for injury to me or damage to my property resulting from my subscription to and/or participation in One Call, including but not limited to claims which could arise from any acts, omissions, or negligence, however caused, on the part of the KCCA or its Associates.

___ I agree that this Waiver and Release of Liability protects and is for the benefit of the Kagel Canyon Civic Association and its Associates. I agree that I may not make any claim or take any action against any of its Associates that I could not make or take against the KCCA itself.

___ I agree that the rights I am giving up and agreements I am making apply equally to me and to my heirs, successors, assigns, guardians and legal representatives. I agree that none of these individuals may make any claim or take any action that I could not make or take myself.

___ I agree that this Release is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the laws of the State of California and that this Release shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of California. I agree that in the event that any clause or provision of this Release shall be held to be invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity of such clause or provision shall not otherwise affect the remaining provisions of the Release which shall continue to be enforceable.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS DOCUMENT. I UNDERSTAND IT IS A PROMISE NOT TO SUE AND A RELEASE AND INDEMNITY FOR ALL CLAIMS IN CONNECTION WITH MY SUBSCRIPTION TO THE ONE CALL SYSTEM. I SIGN THIS RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY WILLINGLY AND VOLUNTARILY AND WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE AND ACCEPTANCE OF ITS CONTENTS.

Signature

Printed Name

Date

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LOCAL EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

L.A. COUNTY SHERIFF

Kagel Canyon is located in the unincorporated portion of Los Angeles County. Our local police is NOT the LAPD. It's the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department (LASD). In case of an emergency, please dial 911. If you want the 911 dispatcher to know your location, you should call from a land-line phone. If you call from a cell phone, they cannot always tell from where you are calling. Sometimes, the operators get confused about the location of Kagel Canyon and whether they should notify the LAPD or the Sheriff when you call for help. If this happens, tell them you are in unincorporated LA County and to please send the Sheriff.

You can reach the La Crescenta Valley Sheriff's station directly for non-emergency calls by calling 818-248-3464.

FIRE STATION 74

Fire Station 74 is our local fire station; it is staffed 24/7. It is located at 12587 N. Dexter Park Road on the southeast corner at the intersection Kagel Canyon Road and Dexter Park Road.

Sand and sandbags are available at Fire Station 74 year-round. Kagel Canyon residents are asked to limit their take to twenty-five bags as a courtesy to everyone who relies on this service.

The phone number is: 818-899-8017.

This is the direct line to the Fire Station; use only for non-emergency calls. In case of an emergency, you should call 911. Many of our residents believe that calling our local Fire Station 74 directly (or driving to get them) will result in a faster response. However, this may actually delay response in an emergency due to the way that emergency calls must be logged and dispatched in LA County. If you call FS 74 directly, the firemen then must call 911 dispatch to relay the information you provided and answer questions about an incident they have not witnessed firsthand, instead of preparing themselves to respond to the emergency. When the fire captain has to perform this administrative function, it wastes valuable time in getting the fire crew out to the site of the emergency. The result is that response time can be delayed by up to three to four minutes if you call the local station rather than calling 911.

For any emergency (including medical situations, traffic accidents, house fires, wildfires, or other scenarios that require a professional response), call 911. If you can, call 911 from your landline so that your location can be accurately recorded. If you must call 911 from a cell phone, keep in mind that your location is not captured automatically. Always give the 911 operator your cell number immediately in case your call is dropped. Never assume that someone else has already called. If you witness an emergency, call 911 and report it. The more people who call 911 about the same event, the better, because each call helps the dispatcher to gather additional information, which can help them to send the proper equipment and personnel to the scene.

In the past, residents have expressed frustration in calling 911, as the operators have had difficulty locating Kagel Canyon. When you call 911, you need to be prepared to help the operator help you by providing the information necessary for the dispatchers to pinpoint the emergency and send help to that location. If the call is a fire, start by saying, "I need to be patched in to LA County Fire dispatch." The operator will stay on the line

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while you talk to the LACoFD dispatcher so that s/he can record the emergency and arrange to send additional resources if necessary (e.g., sheriffs, EMT, etc.). Identify your location as Kagel Canyon, 91342, an unincorporated community in Los Angeles County. It can be difficult to report the exact location of a brush fire when there is no exact street/house address involved. Be prepared to describe the location as best as you can, using streets or other landmarks to help the operator locate the emergency (e.g., “the fire is burning on the hillside on the east side of Kagel Canyon Road, between Barca Drive and Canopus Drive”).

Due to numerous fires near the Cemetery and near the hairpin turn (both locations being difficult for a non-resident dispatcher to understand/process), Maria Grycan, our LACoFD liaison, had both locations entered into the County 911 CAD system (Computer-Aided Dispatch system). If you are calling to report a fire at or near one of these locations, you can identify the location as “Glen Haven Memorial Cemetery” or “The Hairpin Turn on Lopez Canyon Road”, and these will appear as known locations with GPS coordinates in the 911 system.

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BRUSH CLEARANCE

Under the Los Angeles County Fire Code, all property owners in Kagel Canyon are required to thin or remove flammable vegetation or combustible growth up to 200 feet from any structure in order to create a “defensible space” that minimizes fire danger to the structures and enables firefighters to protect our homes in the event of a fire. Note that clearance requirements apply to your property even if the structure being protected is not on your property.

When landscaping and maintaining your property, the goal is to create a defensible space around your home. If your home and driveway are overgrown with weeds, tree limbs, and dead brush, the Fire Department will have a difficult time protecting your home. In an emergency situation when faced with limited time and resources, the Fire Department will triage homes that are threatened by fire in order to determine which homes are able to be saved. If your home does not meet brush clearance requirements, it may not be considered “defensible” by the Fire Department.

Plant fire-resistant plants and vegetation to increase your defensible space. Fire resistant specimens usually grow close to the ground; have a low sap or resin content; grow without accumulating dead branches, needles or leaves; are easily maintained and pruned; and are drought tolerant. (While some native plants do not fit these criteria, it does not mean you should remove your native plants.)

The deadline for annual brush clearance in our area is May 1. Each year in May and June, the Fire Department will inspect your property to ensure that it meets the minimum standards required by the Fire Department. Those parcels found to be in violation will be issued a notice of violation, and the property owner will have 30 days to correct the infractions. Then the Fire Department will return to the property to do a re-inspection. If the property is in compliance, the owner will receive a notice to that effect. If the property is NOT in compliance, the property will be turned over to the Brush Clearance Unit (BCU) for enforcement. The BCU will impose a \$500 fine and will notify the property owner that his/her property will be scheduled for clearance by the County. The County’s Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights & Measures (Weed Abatement Division) will then inspect the property one final time. If the work has since been completed, no further action will be taken. If the work has not been completed at the time of inspection by the Weed Abatement Division, the work is scheduled to be performed by the County and the cost of that clearance, along with an \$804 administrative penalty, will be added to the property owner’s property tax bill.

We would encourage you to visit the Los Angeles County Fire Department website (www.fire.lacounty.gov) and review the Ready Set Go Program information contained there. This program contains important information on how to prepare for wildland fires, and how to prepare to evacuate if and when the time comes. The program includes a Wildfire Action Plan that you can complete yourself, and this can be accessed directly at <https://www.fire.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/RSG-Booklet.pdf>.

At the time of printing, the LA County Fire Department brush clearance requirements are as follows:

- All flammable vegetation identified as a fire hazard by the inspection officer shall be mowed or cut to a stubble height of 3 inches, for 50 feet around any structure.
- Thin remaining vegetation for the next 150 feet around any structure by clearing, trimming, thinning, limbing up, and removing flammable vegetation. (Note: bullet point 1 and 2 add up to the 200-foot clearance requirement for high fire hazard areas.)

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- Specimen native trees and shrubs are permissible, provided that they do not form a means of transmitting fire to any structure. It is recommended that specimens shall be spaced a minimum of 15 feet or 3 times their diameter from other specimens, structures, or surrounding native brush.
- Access roads shall be maintained with a minimum of 10 feet of brush clearance on each side. Fire access roads shall have unobstructed vertical clearance to the sky. Trees overhanging fire access roads shall be maintained to provide adequate vertical clearance.
- Provide a minimum of 3 feet of brush clearance around all fire hydrants.
- It is required that all trees and shrubs shall be maintained free of dead wood and litter. Shrubs may be required to be trimmed up from the ground 1/3 of their height. Trees shall be trimmed up a minimum of 6 feet or 1/3 their heights up to 40 feet, depending on surface fuels. Maintaining the lower third of trees and shrubs by removing all leafy foliage, twigs, and branches is important to prevent a “fire ladder”.
- Trees are best trimmed during dormancy or during the winter months. Care should be taken when trimming trees during the spring as this is the nesting season for many species of birds.

Below are some other steps you should take to help your home survive a wildfire:

- Plants should not be planted within ten feet of a roadway or a combustible fence.
- Maintain 5 feet of vertical clearance between roof surfaces and portions of overhanging trees and shrubs.
- Remove any portion of a tree or shrub within 10-foot radius of a chimney outlet.
- Maintain the roofs of all structures free and clear of leaves, needles, twigs, and other combustible matter.
- Remove all dead/dry undergrowth and material within trees and shrubs (including dead or dry palm fronds).
- Once brush clearance is conducted, remove and dispose of all cut or bagged vegetation, all dead trees, and all debris. This includes all combustible junk, trash, or debris on your property, regardless of how it got there.
- Mulch may be used, but it cannot exceed 3 inches in depth within 30 feet of a structure, or 6 inches in depth 30+ feet from a structure.
- Maintain other landscape vegetation (e.g., pampas grasses, palm trees, eucalyptus trees, etc.) in such a condition so as not to provide an available fuel supply to augment the spread of a fire or impede the egress of emergency vehicles.
- Firewood shall be located a minimum of 30 feet away from any structure or completely enclosed within a fire-resistant container.

While brush inspections may only take place during one part of the year, please always remember that brush clearance maintenance is a year-round responsibility, and firefighters reserve the right to cite property owners for conditions found to be fire hazards at any time during the year.

Keep in mind when conducting brush clearance that you cannot just remove all vegetation from your property. The roots of the vegetation, as well as the vegetation itself, are vital in erosion control. Los Angeles County Department of Public Works has many documents about vegetation clearance and erosion control. Here is the link to the homeowner's guide for flood, debris, and erosion control:

<https://dpw.lacounty.gov/wmd/HomeOwners/>

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Vegetation management for fire protection should involve the thinning of vegetation, the reduction in size of the vegetation, and the removal of dead vegetation. Maintaining some vegetation on your property allows water to be absorbed into the ground during the raining season, thus, improving our water table. The vegetation slows the flow of water to reduce soil erosion. The roots of the plants, even those removed above ground, add stability to the soil which also reduces soil erosion.

When landscaping, plant native fire-resistant plants and vegetation around your home. Plants that are fire resistant usually:

- Grow close the ground
- Have a lot sap or resin content
- Do not accumulate dead branches, needles or leaves
- Are drought tolerant

All plants will burn under extreme fire weather conditions. Fire resistant plants burn at a relatively low intensity, at slow rates of spread, and with short flame lengths. To best protect your home from fire, it is recommended that fire resistant plants be used when landscaping. A list of those plants can be obtained through the Fire Department by calling the Brush Clearance Unit at (626) 969-2375.

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MAKING YOUR HOME FIRE RESISTANT

The Los Angeles County Fire Department has many documents that give great advice on how to make your home fire resistant. These are steps that you can take over and above the required brush clearance and address how to give your home its best chances of surviving a wildfire. Refer to the Ready Set Go Wildfire Action Plan for details on “hardening” your home.

One of the biggest challenges we faced during the Creek Fire were the high winds, which caused embers to travel through the air for miles from their source, starting new fires wherever they landed. During a wildfire, thousands of embers can rain down on your roof and pelt the side of your home like hail during a storm. If these embers become lodged in something that is easily ignited on or near your house, your home will be in jeopardy of burning. **Embers coming into contact with flammable material is the major reason why homes are destroyed during a wildfire.** By being “ember aware” and taking action ahead of time, a homeowner can substantially reduce the vulnerability of his home to the threat of embers. These tips come from the University of Nevada, which produced a useful document called “Be Ember Aware”, a guide to steps that you can take to help your home survive a wildfire.

1. **Wood Roof:** Replace wood shake and shingle roofs with fire-resistant types: composition, metal, and tile.
2. **Roof Openings:** Plug openings in roof coverings with non-combustible materials.
3. **Roof Debris:** Routinely remove plant debris, such as pine needles, leaves, branches, and bark, from your roof. *This is a big one for Kagel Canyon as we have many homes underneath pine trees and oak trees, both of which leave behind an abundance of flammable material. You need to do this routinely, because you are not going to have time to clear your roof if you are awakened at 4 am and have only minutes to escape with your essentials!*
4. **Skylights:** Replace plastic skylights with ones constructed of double-pane glass. One of the panes should be tempered glass. Close skylights and windows if wildfire is threatening.
5. **Spark Arrester:** Install an approved spark arrester on chimneys. Clean your chimneys and maintain your spark arresters twice each year.
6. **Windows:** Replace single-pane, non-tempered glass windows with multi-pane, tempered-glass windows.
7. **Vents:** Many homes burn from the top down. This occurs when a burning ember floating in the air goes inside an attic vent and lands on insulation. There it may smolder a while before bursting into flames. Attic vents are usually located on the end of each side of a home, up near the roofline or in the roof itself. Some are small, others are large like the “whirlybird” style. All of these should be sealed during a fire. Cover attic, eave, and foundation vents with 1/8” wire mesh, or install new vent types to prevent ember entry. If wildfire is threatening, cover vent openings with pre-cut pieces of plywood, or formed aluminum foil (several layers thick and stapled into the appropriate size/shape). For end vents: Make a plywood door for each vent and keep one next to each vent. When a fire is approaching, you can then put them in place. A permanent door on hinges with a clasp is the best solution as it can just be closed and locked in place. For whirlybirds: Make a plywood box that fits snugly over the whirlybird, sealing the unit. Do the same for any roof top vents. These vents are important and should not be sealed permanently. They release heat from your attic, which if allowed to build up, will destroy your roof, raise the overall temperature of your home, and increase your utility bills dramatically. Alternatively, consider installing ember-resistant vents which remain in place at all times so that you don’t have to worry about closing your vents prior to evacuating.

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8. **Rain Gutters:** Keep rain gutters free of pine needles and oak leaves. Use rain gutter covers to reduce maintenance.
9. **Siding:** Fill gaps in siding, and trim materials with a good quality caulk. Replace building materials that are in poor condition.
10. **Wood Piles:** Move firewood stacks/scrap lumber piles at least 30 feet from the home/any other structures.
11. **Patio Furniture:** Place combustible furniture (lounge chairs, tables, hammocks, etc.) inside the house or garage if wildfire is threatening.
12. **Deck Boards:** Replace deck boards that are less than 1" thick or boards that are in poor condition with thicker, good condition boards. Use metal flashing between the deck and the house.
13. **Deck Debris:** Remove plant debris from the gaps in between deck boards, the gap between the deck and the house, and lying on top of the deck.
14. **Porch and Deck Accessories:** If wildfire is threatening, remove combustible materials from the porch and deck (e.g., newspapers, wicker baskets, door mats, pine cones, dried flower arrangements) and place BBQ propane tanks indoors.
15. **Under the Deck:** Remove plant debris, wood piles, and other easily ignited material from under decks. Consider enclosing the open sides of the deck with siding materials that are properly vented or with 1/8" wire mesh to reduce maintenance and deter ember entry. Do not use wooden lattice to enclose decks.
16. **Flower Boxes:** Remove wooden flower boxes from beneath windows if fire is threatening.
17. **Eaves:** Many older homes do not have closed eaves. Cover open eaves with sheathing, such as plywood or fiber-cement board. Use tongue and groove joints (or other intricate joints) and do not use butt joints. You can also use stucco to close the underside of your eaves to prevent embers from entering your home.
18. **Vehicles:** Close vehicle windows. Back into your garage and close the door, or park away from the house.
19. **Garage Doors:** Adjust garage doors to achieve as tight a fit as possible within the door frame. Consider using trim around the garage door opening to reduce the size of gap openings. Close the garage door if wildfire is threatening.
20. **Garbage Cans and Recycling Bins:** Use cans covered with tight fitting lids near the house or other structures. Move newspaper recycling bins indoors. Any combustible or flammable materials should be stored in covered, approved containers.
21. **Wooden Fences:** Maintain wooden fences in good condition and create a non-combustible fence section or gate next to the house for at least 5 feet.
22. **Electrical Lines:** If you are installing electrical lines or upgrading your electric, install electric lines underground if possible.

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FIRE INSURANCE AND THE CALIFORNIA FAIR PLAN

Fire insurance is a good thing to have, and is required if you have a mortgage on your property. Because we live in a “high fire zone”, many insurance companies will not agree to provide coverage to homes in Kagel Canyon (or certain sections of Kagel Canyon). If you have contacted many insurance providers and cannot find any broker to provide fire insurance on your residence, you should contact the California Fair Plan.

The California Fair Access to Insurance Requirements (“FAIR”) Plan was created by state legislation in 1968 following the 1960’s brush fires and riots. It is an insurance pool established to ensure the availability of basic property insurance to people who, for reasons beyond their control, have not been able to obtain insurance in the voluntary market. The California Fair Plan provides insurance as a last resort, and should be used only after a diligent effort to obtain coverage in the voluntary market has been made.

You can find out more about the Fair Plan on its website, www.cfpnet.com. Additionally, if at some point you find you have no choice but to have Fair Plan insurance, you should still check again every year with different insurance agencies to see if their requirements have changed and your property has become eligible for insurance. If it has, you may be able to save money on your premiums and also get better coverage for potential losses.

FLOOD CONTROL AND SANDBAGGING

Sand and sandbags are available at Fire Station 74 year-round. Kagel Canyon residents are asked to limit their take to twenty-five bags as a courtesy to everyone who relies on this service.

The time to place sandbags is before a storm hits. You need to know how the water flows on your property and where to place the bags to protect your house or other structures. If you have questions about whether you need to sandbag or where to sandbag; just ask the crew at Station 74. You can also ask your neighbors what it is like when it rains and where the water flows. You want to make sure when you are placing sandbags that you do not create more of a problem by restricting the natural flow of water as it tries to reach the creek.



Neighbors Jeramy and Ralf help to prep Spring Trail for a coming storm by using sandbags to guide water away from homes and toward the creek.

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STREET PARKING

Parking on the street can be hazardous. Be careful. Please do not block fire lanes and gates.

Street parking in Kagel Canyon can be difficult, if not impossible, depending on which area you are in. Many of the streets are narrow, and not suitable for street parking. Some are clearly marked with “no parking” signs. The absence of a no parking sign does not mean parking is allowed or recommended.

The county requires a person’s driveway to be at least fifteen feet wide to allow a fire truck to gain access to a home. Roads need at least fifteen feet as well. If you park your car on the street and you reduce the road access to less than fifteen feet for a fire truck; don’t park there! It is illegal to block access by emergency crews to any street or residence. If you block access, you can be cited, and towed. In the event of an emergency, a fire truck can and often will push your vehicle out of the way, and then you will be billed for any damage done to the fire truck. You will also have no recourse for any damage done to your vehicle, which can be extensive.

Please avoid parking on narrow streets directly opposite a driveway to a horse property. A vehicle pulling a trailer needs to make wide turns to enter or leave a property. When you park opposite the gate you prevent ingress and egress by the horse trailer. During an emergency, that truck and trailer need to be able to leave at a moment’s notice.

If everyone on a street is parking on one side of that street, then don’t park on the opposite side of the street. Doing so forces drivers to “weave” through the area. Follow what the neighbors are doing. Also avoid parking on curves, especially on narrow streets.

Don’t block driveways, gates, or any access area to someone’s property. When in doubt, knock on a door and ask, or just park somewhere else.

Before throwing a party, or inviting many guests over, please figure out where they can safely park and inform your guests. Encourage them to carpool. This will help prevent cars from causing problems and being towed. Often times,



Take a look at these photos of engines responding to a structure fire on Blue Sage at Shafer Place. Is there room on this street for your car to be parked as well????



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that may mean your guests will need to park several blocks away from your home and will have to walk to it. Sometimes, folks will park at Dexter Park, or down on the “flatlands” before entering the canyon, and will then be shuttled to a home.

If you have a large RV or trailer and you don’t have room to park it at your property, you need to find suitable parking elsewhere. The “dirt lot by the bridge” is not public property. It’s actually private property, and vehicles parked for more than a day or two will be cited and towed.

We encourage folks to visit our beautiful canyon, but please be respectful of others when parking so you don’t create a problem or endanger others.

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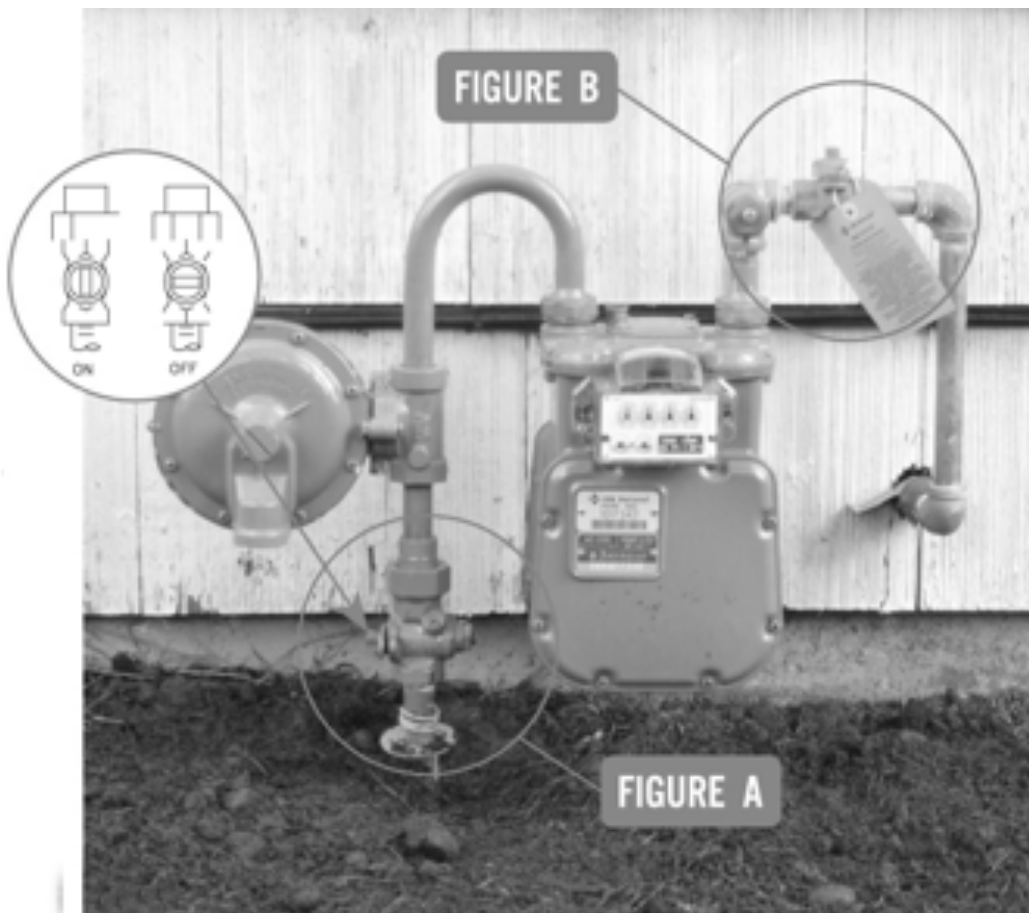
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GAS SHUT OFF

Regardless of who supplies your gas, it is important to know how to shut off your gas. Below is a picture of the gas lines supplied by So Cal Gas and where the shut off valve is located. On the meter, there are two gas lines; one comes from the street and the other goes to your home. There may be a shut off valve on either, or both sides. Shutting off one valve should do the trick. You will need a crescent wrench or a special gas shut off wrench to turn the valve. If you don't have one, get one.

Propane tanks often have a valve to shut off the propane from the tank. Some homes have a shut-off valve on the line going from the outside of the home to the inside.

If you smell gas, you should shut off your valve, leave the area and call 911 immediately.



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EVACUATION PLANNING

It is important to have an evacuation plan in case of an emergency by fire, flood, or earthquake, for example. Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has many documents you can access for ideas on making an evacuation plan. Here is their website: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eprp/>

EVACUATION ROUTES

If you have not driven around the neighborhood: do so. It is important to know how to get in and out of our canyon in case of emergency. The main routes in and out of Kagel Canyon are: (1) through Kagel Canyon Road which leads to Kagel Canyon Street, and (2) Lopez Canyon Road which leads to Paxton Road. There are many different ways to get to Kagel Canyon Road from the subdivision below. It is a good idea to know these roads as during an emergency, the intersection of Foothill and Osborne Street will be closed. Often, you can access Kagel Canyon if you enter the lower subdivision from Terra Bella, Van Nuys Boulevard, or Paxton Road.

EMERGENCY KITS

An emergency evacuation can be scary. During the Creek Fire, evacuation came in the middle of the night, in the dark, and faster than anyone thought possible. When an emergency happens, your mind is racing, it's hard to think clearly, and you only have a short window of time to act. Since the most important thing is to get yourself, your family, and your animals out safely, planning ahead can help to ensure that you can focus on what's important.

A prepared resident will create three evacuation lists, based on the amount of time available before you have to leave. Build a 5-minute list, a 30-minute list, and a 1-2 hour list, then practice with your family to see if you can gather all of the items in the specified time frame.

Overall, remember the "6P's":

- **People and Pets**
- **Papers, Phone Numbers, and Important Documents**
- **Prescriptions, Vitamins, and Eyeglasses**
- **Pictures and Irreplaceable Memorabilia**
- **Personal Computers (Information on Hard Drives/Disks)**
- **Plastic (Credit Cards, ATM cards) and Cash**

Specifically, consider including the following items on the appropriate evacuation list(s), and then print out your lists and tack them somewhere easily accessible (e.g., the refrigerator door):

- **Important Papers:** Have COPIES of important papers and keep these in a plastic, waterproof case that you can easily grab and take with you. These items are priceless, because you may find that you need to prove who you are and that you own your house. Include:
 - Birth certificates
 - Computer related items (computers themselves, plus cords/chargers, backup disks, flash drives with important documents, etc.)
 - Drivers license
 - Deed to your house

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- Insurance papers (home insurance, car insurance, medical insurance)
 - Legal documents
 - Marriage license
 - Medical records
 - Passports
 - Social security numbers
 - List of personal contacts.
 - Photographs of your family members and pets, in the event you become separated
- **Pets:** Make sure that your pets are micro-chipped and have ID collars. Never leave your pet home if you have to evacuate. In addition to the fact that your pet might die from fire, smoke inhalation, or other means, the other problem is that if you find you are not permitted to return to the evacuation zone for 3+ days, your pet will be home alone without food, water, or access to the outside. Create a grab-and-go pet kit that includes:
 - Leashes
 - Medications
 - Meal/water bowls
 - 3 days worth of food and water.
 - Veterinary records/rabies vaccinations (needed to leave your pet at a temporary shelter)
- **Money:**
 - Blank checks and check books
 - Cash (at least some in small denominations in the event that merchants are compromised and unable to make change)
 - Credit cards
 - Wallet/purse
- **Medications:**
 - General first aid kit
 - Eyeglasses
 - Hearing aids
 - Prescription medications
 - Whatever specific medications you know you might need (Epi-pen, inhaler, etc.)
- **Sentimental Items**
 - Family Bible
 - Irreplaceable keepsakes/family heirlooms
 - Original paintings/artwork
 - Photos and albums, slides, home videos, etc.
 - Jewelry
 - Note that these items are going to be specific to you! You have to think about and identify these items ahead of time. If you only have 5-minutes notice to evacuate, you can't waste that valuable time standing around thinking for the very first time about what these items might be.
- **Food and Water:**
 - Manual can opener
 - Non-perishable, ready-to-eat food
 - Water (at least 1 gallon per person per day, and more for pets)
 - Food and water storage
- **Toiletries:**
 - Toothbrushes and toothpaste

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- Soap/shampoo and towels
- Shaving articles
- Sanitary devices



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RATTLESNAKES:

RATTLESNAKE BITES

For Humans:

First and foremost, take the steps necessary to prevent being bitten. This means always being aware of your surroundings and being conscious of where snakes are likely to be. If you see a rattlesnake, leave it alone! When hiking, be aware of where you are placing your feet. Step on a rock or log, not over it; this way you can see a snake that is sheltering in the shade beneath. Use caution when sitting down on a stump or a rock. Don't wear headphones when on a trail, or at least leave one earbud out so that you can still hear your surroundings. Use extra caution near a spring or river. Be cautious walking through long grass. Never put your hands or feet where you cannot see with your eyes. Don't do careless things like stick your hand into a woodpile or into a pile of leaves. Being aware of your surroundings and the potential for rattlesnakes is your primary defense against being bitten.



If you are bitten by a rattlesnake, please call 911 or have someone drive you to an emergency room as soon as possible. Be very cautious driving yourself as the venom can cause serious side effects. Only drive yourself as a last resort. Additionally, frenetic, high-speed driving places the victim at greater risk of an accident and increased heart rate. If the doctor is more than 30 minutes away, keep the bite below the heart, and then try to get to the medical facility as quickly as possible.

If you are bitten by a rattlesnake, no first aid is better than bad first aid:

DO NOT:

- Do not make incisions over the bite wound or cut the area around the bite.
- Do not restrict blood flow by compressing the area or applying a tourniquet.
- Do not ice the wound.
- Do not attempt to extract the venom by sucking the poison out with your mouth or any other device.

These methods can cause additional harm and most amputations or other serious results of a rattlesnake bite are a result of icing or applying a tourniquet.

DO:

- Stay calm.
- Walk 20 – 30 feet away from the snake and sit down.
- Call 911.
- Wash the bite area gently with soap and water if available.
- Remove watches, rings, any tight clothing, etc., which may constrict swelling.
- Immobilize the affected area.
- Keep the bite below the heart if possible.
- Get to the nearest medical facility safely and immediately.

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Each year, about 8,000 venomous snake bites occur in the US and about 5 of those people die. You've got a good chance of survival if you seek medical attention immediately. The only effective treatment for a snake bite is the right anti-venom to neutralize it. Each snake venom and the needed anti-venom are different so try to remember the color and characteristics of the snake to relay to the medical personal. Under no circumstances try to kill the snake and bring it to a medical facility; this can just cause the snake to bite you multiple times, injecting more and more venom into your body. Do not wait for symptoms to appear. It is important to get in touch with emergency personnel as soon as possible. The venom rapidly diffuses throughout the system and your blood pressure can drop rapidly.

If you are bitten in a remote location, such as while hiking on a trail, take 5 minutes to plan your evacuation. Make contact with emergency personnel by cell phone. Walk slowly to get help. Don't let the fear of raising your heart rate immobilize you. People with a snakebite have walked out from remote areas.

Note the time of the bite. Document your swelling. Use a sharpie, pen, etc. Circle the original bite mark and as the swelling moves, draw larger circles. Do this at regular intervals (every 15-30 minutes), and note any unusual symptoms that you are experiencing. This will help the medical personal. The most common symptoms are pain and swelling.

For Dogs and Horses:

Unfortunately there are cases each year where dogs in the canyon get bitten by rattlesnakes. Dogs are naturally curious and put their snouts into places where snakes are hiding, and snakes strike in self-defense. How can you decrease the chances that your dog will get bitten?

Preparing Your Property: One thing that you can do to reduce this risk is to prepare your property accordingly. If you have a fenced area for your dogs, keep that area free of places that are attractive for rattlesnakes to hide (e.g., wood piles, rock piles, ornamental plants, etc.). You can also install "rattlesnake fencing" around a specific area that is designated for dogs/children. This entails purchasing galvanized ¼" wire mesh fencing (sometimes called "hardware cloth"). Install the mesh fencing to a minimum height of 3 feet above ground, and dig a trench to bury the mesh fencing to a minimum of 2 feet below ground. The underground portion is necessary to prevent snakes from entering your property through gopher or other animal holes. Remove shrubs, overhanging vegetation, and other plants from the perimeter of the fence to eliminate items that a rattlesnake could use as leverage to crawl over the fence. Be cautious with gates and areas where the fence meets the house to ensure that there are no openings or gaps that snakes can use to gain entry. While nothing is fool-proof, these steps reduce the chances of having rattlesnakes on your property, which in turn reduce the chances of your dog being bitten.

Vaccinate Your Pet: There is a rattlesnake vaccine available for dogs and horses. The vaccine involves an initial dose and a booster one month later, then yearly thereafter. In some circumstances where the dog's anticipated exposure to rattlesnakes is greater, you may want to get boosters two or even three times per year. Discuss with your vet. The vaccine costs about \$25 and is well worth the investment. This vaccine will not prevent a rattlesnake bite, but it will reduce pain and swelling as well as reduce the risk of permanent injury from the snake bite. Most importantly, the vaccine buys you the time to get your dog to the vet to receive anti-venom; the vaccine is not in place of taking the dog to the vet to receive the anti-venom. Please note that not all veterinarians carry rattlesnake anti-venom, and some carry limited amounts. Call your vet first to let them know that you are coming and to ensure that they have anti-venom on hand and ready for your arrival.

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Aversion Training: Because of the prevalence of rattlesnakes in LA County, there are several companies which offer “Rattlesnake Aversion Training”. Many (but not all) of our residents who have taken their dogs through the training program have experienced success in training dogs to avoid the sight, sound, and smell of rattlesnakes. The training involves introducing the dog to a variety of live, muzzled rattlesnakes and using a low-level electronic stimulation collar to train the dog to stay away from the snakes. The companies that offer this training typically host a “clinic” at a specific location on a specific date (e.g., one weekend they will be in Palm Springs, the next weekend they will be in Acton, etc.) and you must make an appointment to bring your dog to the clinic at a specific time. Some trainers will come to your home to do personal training, for a higher fee. The training for your dog lasts about an hour, and should be repeated annually (ideally in the late spring, at the start of rattlesnake season) to ensure that the training is retained from one season to the next. Here are links to some companies that offer this training in California. Do research to decide if this training is right for your dog.

<http://socalrattlesnakeavoidancetraining.com/home.php>
<http://www.manpaw.com/rattlesnake-course.html>

Like dogs, horses are often bitten on the nose. The swelling can restrict breathing which could kill the horse. If you have horses, it is a good idea to keep a six to eight-inch piece of hose in your emergency kit. When the horse is bitten on the nose, you put this piece of hose up his nostril so he can still breathe. Consult with your veterinarian about this technique.

Rattlesnake Removal:

If you have a rattlesnake on your property that you want removed, you can call the Fire Department. They will kill the rattlesnake. Alternatively, you can catch the snake with a snake stick, place in a large trash can with no holes in the bottom, and relocate it outside the canyon. However, this is dangerous and not recommended for amateurs.



A fireman removes a rattlesnake from a home in Southern California.

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Chapter Six:

Our Neighbors

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THE HIDEAWAY: 12122 Kagel Canyon Road

History: In the early 1920's, the "Canyon Market", a grocery store on Market Trail, was zoned for business. Hot dogs and hamburgers were sold on weekends. A garage and gas pumps were added. In 1945, Bill and Myra Riddles bought the property and named it "The Riddles". They added living quarters in the back, a 6-stool bar in the front, and a little coffee shop in the rear. An old menu lists beef French dips for fifty cents, cheeseburgers for 45 cents, milkshakes and malts for 35 cents, and 10 cent coffee and sodas. In 1953, Frank and Evelyn Cavanaugh bought the property and renamed it "The Hideaway". The Cavanaughs closed the gas station with its pumps between the garage and the store, and operated the bar 6 days a week. Bill and Dottie Bach bought the business in 1958 and acquired a liquor license. The bar was open from 4:00pm – 2:00am 6 days a week and closed on Mondays. Bill's ghost is still occasionally seen at the bar.



Today: The Hideaway remains one of the last bars in LA County where patrons can ride up on horses or Harleys. Because of its country charm, the bar has often been featured in films, including *The Dukes of Hazard*, *Drowning Mona*, *The Big Star*, and *Behold My Heart*. Currently, Wednesday is Karaoke night and Sunday an open jam night, featuring a variety of live music. Hours vary on most days, as does the availability of food.

The Hideaway Country Bar and Grill is located at 12122 Kagel Canyon Road. Phone: (818) 890-1225.

HOPE GARDENS

Hope Gardens is located at 12249 Lopez Canyon Road. It is a 71-acre transitional housing facility run by Union Rescue Mission for women and children. They assist women transition from homelessness to independence in 12-36 months by offering long term rehabilitation programs, life skills education, financial and job training, and spiritual care. They also have a youth development program and a residence for senior women. There are volunteer opportunities available by calling the Union Rescue Mission at (213) 347-6300.

THE CEMETERIES

Glen Haven Memorial Park is located at 13017 Lopez Canyon Road (at the intersection of Kagel Canyon Road and Lopez Canyon Road). Shalom Memorial Park is located just south of Glen Haven on Kagel Canyon Road. Because of their location and lack of security, the cemeteries often attract a criminal element. If you witness anything of concern, contact the Sheriff's Department or the owner, Judy Eideles at (818) 300-1160.

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DEXTER PARK

Dexter Park is a 40-acre park located at 11053 North Trail. It has a children's play area, outdoor half-court basketball, picnic tables, horseshoe pits, a community center with a kitchen, and a gymnasium.

History: Nathaniel Wheaton Dexter had a bee lease from 1916 from the U.S. Forest Service, which named the area after him. In the early 1930's, he donated the land to the U.S. Forest Service. In 1934-35, cement tables and stone fireplaces were built, and spruce trees and live oaks planted. The park building, which originally cost \$4,500, has been a meeting place through the years, hosting Boy Scout Troop #77 and a Camp Fire Group for Girls. The Kagel Canyon Women's Club held a tiny tot program, art shows, a senior program, various exercise and craft programs, holiday parties, Easter egg hunts, and even a beauty pageant. Because children now attend a variety of schools, the park is less of an after-school meeting ground compared to the past.

The photo exhibit at the park, curated by former resident Julia Paull, consists largely of photos collected by past canyon residents and shares some wonderful memories of the history of Kagel Canyon and Dexter Park.

Currently, LA County Parks maintains an active seniors program at Dexter Park, including seniors from all over the North Valley. Most community activities hosted at the Park are sponsored and organized by the KCCA, including such annual events as a Pancake Breakfast, Valentine's Day Square Dance, Spaghetti Dinner, Community Yard Sale, Barbecue and Concert in the Park, Horseshoe Tournament, and Holiday Pot Luck Party.

Residents enjoy using Dexter Park for horseshoes, basketball, the children's playground areas, picnicking, walking dogs, and hiking. You can also rent the Park building for private events. Residents have previously held birthday parties, memorial services, and even wedding receptions at Dexter Park. The KCCA is not in charge of renting out the Park building, and does not have the authority to do so. Reservations for the community center and gymnasium can be made at parks.lacounty.gov or by calling the County Parks events registration line at (800) 267-2757.

You will notice a number of stone fireplaces near the picnic tables in Dexter Park. Due to the fire danger they present, these were cemented over years ago. You are not permitted to barbecue in Dexter Park unless you first notify Fire Station 74 and obtain a permit from them (this is not difficult and costs \$3, if anything. The point is for the Fire Station to be aware that someone is using flame in the park and make park users aware of the fire danger).

The phone number at Dexter Park is (818) 896-3210.

To report any activity that requires a response from law enforcement, contact the LA County Park Patrol at (800) 834-0064.



One of the children's play areas at Dexter Park.

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LOPEZ LANDFILL: OUR NEIGHBOR TO THE WEST

11950 Lopez Canyon Road

In 1974, the City of Los Angeles acquired over 600 acres from Los Angeles County. The resulting use of the land was the Lopez Canyon Landfill, a Class III solid waste facility, which operated from 1975 to 1996. Final closure documents were filed in February 2011 and accepted as official on June 21, 2012. While the landfill was in operation, more than 400 trash trucks delivered trash from most of the City of Los Angeles. Each weekday, over 100 employees buried nearly 4,000 tons of refuse below 12 inches of dirt. As other city-owned dumps were closed, more and more of the City's garbage was sent to Lopez Canyon. By the end of its operation, 80% of the City's total of 820,000 tons of trash per year were dumped there.

In 2004, the Lopez Canyon Environmental Center (LCEC), also known as the "green waste facility" or "mulching facility", began operation on a 20-acre portion at the top of the landfill. When residents of LA City fill their green bins with yard trimmings, these are delivered to LCEC for processing. The contents are sorted, picked through to remove any incidental trash, and ground into smaller pieces. The ground-up pieces of green waste are then placed into piles, called windrows. At any given time, the mulching facility maintains between 18 and 20 windrows, each 300 feet long, 20 feet wide, and 8 feet high. These are turned and watered, eventually becoming different grades of mulch and compost, which is then either given away or sold to farmers.

While the mulching facility does not accept drive-in drop-offs from the general public, residents of Kagel Canyon are allowed to drop off green waste from their own yards at the processing facility. Generally speaking, residents are allowed to arrive around 3:45 – 4 pm, while the facility is still open, but as the operations for the day are winding down and residents will not be in the way of active truck and grinding work. If you have yard waste to drop off but have never been before, ask a KCCA board member or a neighbor to go with you for the first time so that you know where to go and what to do. After checking in at the front gate (bring an ID with your address to prove residency, if asked), you will be responsible for driving to the green waste facility and offloading your own green waste in the correct pile. Anyone planning to bring yard waste should first contact Manuel Gomez, the operations manager, at (818) 485-0710.

In 2016, the Lopez Canyon Environmental Education Center (EEC) was constructed just inside the entrance to the landfill. The purpose of the EEC is to educate the public about various topics, and it hosts workshops on composting and landscaping the second Saturday of each month from 9:00am-12:00pm. (Before attending, you should check the website for current workshop schedules.) Next to the EEC are three areas which contain the finished product of the green waste processing facility – mulch, compost, and premium compost. These are given away for free,



An aerial view of the Lopez Canyon Landfill.

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and you can come with a truck and a shovel during operating hours and help yourself. This area also frequently stocks sand for free pickup by residents needing to fill sandbags for storm preparation.

If you look at the east side of the landfill, you will see a series of horizontal pipes running across the slope (currently these are painted orange). These pipes collect methane gas, which is a natural byproduct of the settling of the landfill. The gas is routed to a plant, also on landfill property, where it is converted to energy. In 2016, Fortistar upgraded its gas-to-energy station at the landfill so that it now provides 3 megawatts of electrical power to the LADWP. Although gas recovery diminishes over the course of a landfill's settling, energy continues to be sold, with proceeds being split between the landfill and the Lopez Amenities Trust Fund. The Lopez Amenities Fund was established for the purpose of putting money back into the communities which were most adversely affected during the operation of the landfill. That fund is controlled by the Councilman representing LA Council District 7. Despite the fact that Kagel Canyon was, and continues to be, most impacted by the operations of the landfill, we are not eligible to receive monies from the Lopez Amenities Fund because we are in LA County and not LA City.

The landfill is zoned Open Space with a commitment from The City of Los Angeles to use the space for passive recreation after the landfill has settled – a process that can take 20 years or longer. There are currently plans for an equestrian staging area to be constructed on landfill property on Terra Vista Way, and for a 6-mile trail loop that will eventually connect to other trails.

There are other structures on the landfill which you may notice in use from time to time. There is a helipad, which is often used as a practice site by search and rescue teams. If you see a helicopter just hovering above the landfill for lengthy periods of time, look closer and you may see them lowering and raising crew members in practice drills. There is also a one million gallon water tank, which can be used during emergency situations.

The landfill used to hold quarterly meetings to update residents of the surrounding communities on post-closure landfill operations, but this schedule has recently been scaled back to include just two meetings per year. The meetings begin with an (optional) half-hour tour of the landfill facility, and then move inside for presentations, discussions, and Q&A. Topics at meetings usually include landscaping, use of money from gas collection, operations at the Environmental Center, post-closure maintenance, status of the proposed equestrian staging area and trail system, status of a proposed solar power project, and preservation of open space zoning. Community members are urged to attend and give input at landfill meetings. Attendance at meetings has helped to prevent the landfill from operating outside the limits of the open space zoning requirements – for example, community involvement stopped attempts to construct and operate a big rig truck driving school on the landfill.

In addition to bi-annual meetings and workshops hosted at the LCEC, the landfill has supported the community by donating the bins used for our annual Canyon Cleanup and coordinating transportation for them to be dumped at Sunshine Canyon Landfill.

Even though the landfill “closed” in 1996, it is still a very active place, and you may see and hear a variety of activity taking place there today. Depending on where you live in the canyon, you may be adversely affected by the operations on the landfill, specifically by odor or noise emanating from the mulching facility. Specific complaints about the landfill, odors or noise, for example, should be made at the time of occurrence.

There are several entities which should receive any such complaints:

- First, report your complaint to the Lopez Landfill Hotline: (818) 485-0703.

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- You should also email Khalil Gharios and Manuel Gomez via the email addresses listed below.
- Please copy your email to the KCCA board members so that they are aware of the complaint.
- If your complaint is an odor/particle complaints, you should also report your complaint to AQMD (the South Coast Air Quality Management District), which regulates public health standards related to air quality. You can reach them by calling 1-800-288-7664, or submit your complaint online by visiting <http://www.aqmd.gov/contact/complaints> and then clicking on “Online Complaint System”.

Generally speaking, an employee from the landfill should come to the location of the complaint, then investigate the possible source of the complaint and remedy the cause at the landfill, and report back to the complainant the action that was taken to resolve the issue.

Contact information for Lopez Landfill:

Manuel Gomez, Operations Superintendent:

Office: (818) 485-0710

Cell: (213) 216-8669

email: manuel.gomez@lacity.org

Khalil Gharios, Manager, Solid Resources Processing and Construction Division:

Office: (213) 485-3002

Email: Khalil.Gharios@lacity.org

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THE SHOOTING RANGE

Angeles Shooting Range
12651 North Little Tujunga Canyon Road
Lake View Terrace, CA 91342

Contact person: Ron Cottriel, General Manager
(818) 899-2255 or (800) 499-4486

Website - <http://www.angelesranges.com/>

Hours of operation: open every day except Christmas. Note that the hours listed below are hours during which the range is open to the public. You may hear shooting after these hours. That is because the range is also used by law enforcement during hours after the range is closed to the public.

FALL / WINTER Standard Time

Mon	9AM - 10PM
Tue	9AM - 10PM
Wed	9AM - 9PM
Thu	9AM - 5PM
Fri	9AM - 5PM
Sat	8AM - 5PM
Sun	8AM - 5PM

SPRING / SUMMER Daylight Savings Time

Mon	9AM - 10PM
Tue	9AM - 10PM
Wed	9AM - 9PM
Thu	9AM - 6PM
Fri	9AM - 6PM
Sat	8AM - 6PM
Sun	8AM - 6PM

This shooting range has been here since the 1920's and was incorporated in 1958. It is one of the few outdoor ranges left in Los Angeles. They have areas for shooting pistol, rifle, and shotguns for clay throwers. They do not rent guns. They do sell ammunition to be used on site. There are restrictions on the types of ammunition they carry.

Depending on where you are in the canyon, you may hear the noise from the shooting range. Wind and humidity sometimes increase the travel of sound, so there are days when you may not hear the range at all, and days when you may hear it more loudly than you think you should. The range is governed by local noise ordinances.

Many police officers use this range for practice and training. They shoot at the highest and most private area on the property; it is also the area where sounds travel the easiest.

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NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE

History of the Angeles National Forest:

The San Gabriel Forest Reserve was established on December 20, 1892, consisting of 555,520 protected acres. On July 1, 1908, it was combined with the neighboring San Bernardino Forest Reserve and the Santa Barbara Forest Reserve, thus creating the new Angeles National Forest. In 1925, some reconfiguring was done to detach portions of the ANF and the Cleveland National Forest in order to form the San Bernardino National Forest.

The ANF is registered as California Historical Landmark #717, for being the first National Forest in the state. The current ANF covers a total of 700,716 acres, protecting large portions of the San Gabriel Mountains and the Sierra Pelona Mountains.

On October 10, 2014, President Obama used his authority under the Antiquities Act to create the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, protecting 346,177 acres that fall mostly within the Angeles National Forest. The National Monument contains the Sheep Mountain Wilderness Area, the San Gabriel Mountains Wilderness Area, and the Pleasant View Ridge Wilderness Area. Most of the major peaks of the San Gabriels are located within the National Monument.

President Obama cited as reason for creation of the National Monument the fact that more than 15 million people live within 90 minutes of the San Gabriel Mountains, which provide 70% of the open space for Angelenos and 30% of their drinking water. The area is also home to numerous threatened and endangered animal species. Creation of the monument was in response to decades of support from the local community which demanded greater protection for the heavily touristed area.

Enjoying the Angeles National Forest:

The ANF contains 53 trailheads and 697 miles of trails, some of which are accessible right from our own backyard. When you go hiking in the hills surrounding Kagel Canyon, you are on Forest Service property. In fact, much of Kagel Canyon lies within the borders of the Angeles National Forest, and many of our residents own homes that are built on private property outcroppings within the National Forest boundaries.

The ANF also has 66 campgrounds, 36 picnic areas, and even 2 ski areas within the ANF. In addition to hiking, camping, and picnicking, there are also water sports to be enjoyed at nearby Pyramid Lake, Lake Castaic, and Elizabeth Lake.

The Los Angeles River Ranger District has its main office right near us. It is located at 12371 N. Little Tujunga Canyon Road. They are open M – F, 8 am to 4:30 pm. The phone number is (818) 899-1900. You can drop in during business hours and get information about hiking and other recreational opportunities within the forest.

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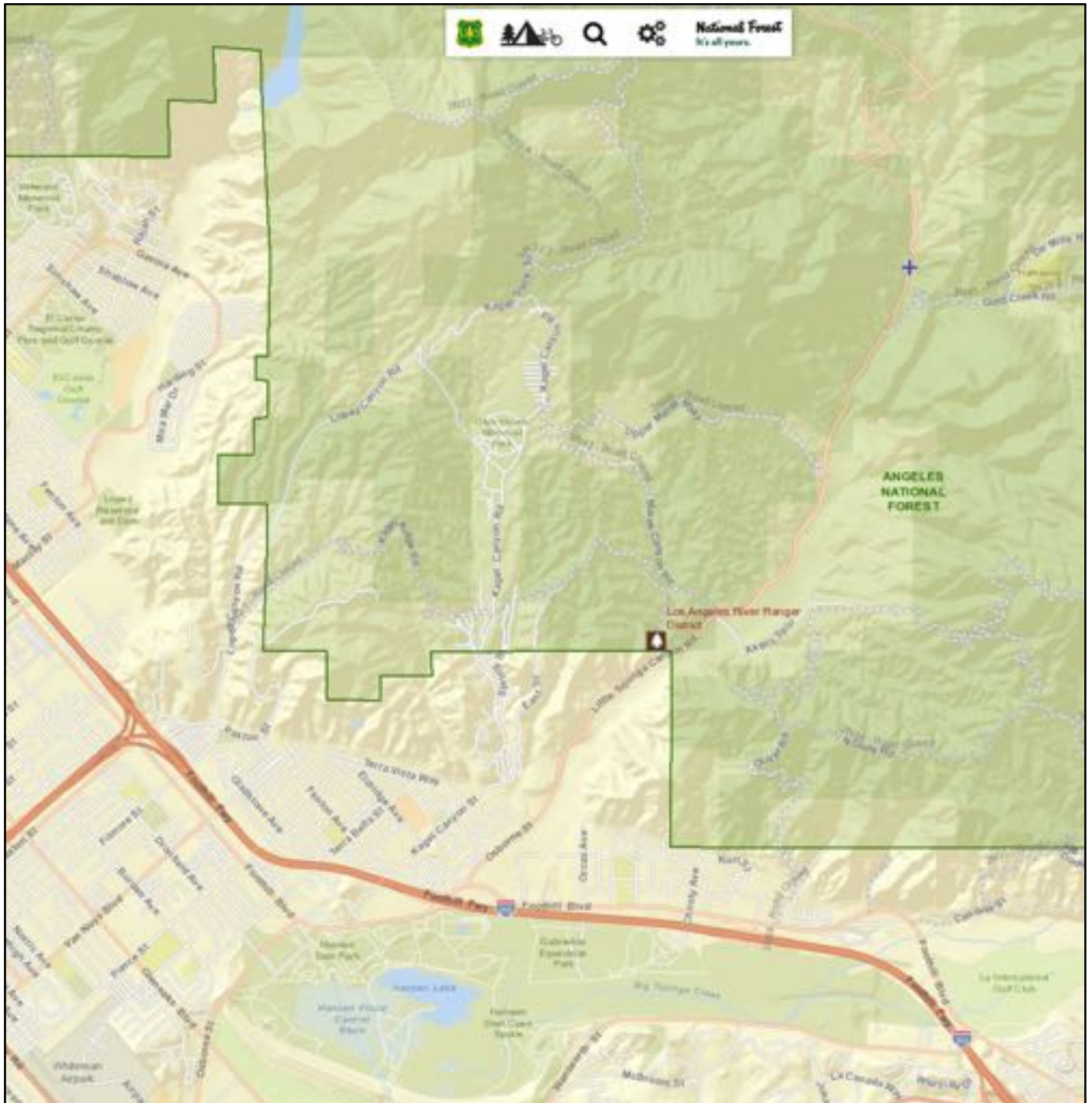


The Angeles National Forest is huge, and it's difficult to show its boundaries on just one map. This map shows an overview of our area and the western portion of the ANF. The map on the following page is a close-up map that shows Kagel Canyon, and how it geographically overlaps/intersects with the Angeles National Forest.

For more information on the Angeles National Forest and the recreational opportunities available there, please visit: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/angeles>

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In this map, the green overlay (with dark green border) shows the boundaries of the Angeles National Forest. Kagel Canyon is always easy to spot on a map. The circular formation is Glen Haven Memorial Park, which is located in the middle of Kagel Canyon.

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SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

The portion of the mountains at the top of Lopez Canyon are owned by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. The current ownership of this land was the result of a private sale in 2008, when the Alonzo Family sold their ranch to the Santa Monica Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority. The sale ensured that the 127.5-acre parcel which borders Kagel Canyon (located at the hairpin turn on Lopez Canyon Road, on both sides of the road) would be preserved and conserved for future generations.

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy was established by the California State Legislature in 1980. Since that time, it has helped to preserve over 73,000 acres of parkland in both wilderness and urban settings, and has improved more than 114 public recreational facilities throughout Southern California. Through direct action, alliances, partnerships, and joint powers authorities, the Conservancy's mission is to strategically buy back, preserve, protect, restore, and enhance treasured pieces of Southern California to form an interlinking system of urban, rural and river parks, open space, trails, and wildlife habitats that are easily accessible to the general public.

For more information, visit: <http://smmc.ca.gov/>

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IN SEARCH OF FOOD

There are many markets in the area that vary in terms of their convenience and quality. The closest convenience mart is the 7-11 which is located on Osborne and Lexicon, near the intersection of Foothill Blvd. Here is a list of markets frequented by our residents, based on direction and proximity to the bulletin board:

To the West:

- Vons: 13730 Foothill Blvd., Sylmar, CA 91342. (5.1 miles)
- Vallarta Supermarket: 13820 Foothill Blvd, Sylmar, CA 91342. (5.3 miles)
- Trader Joes, 11114 Balboa Blvd, Granada Hills, CA 91344 (9.6 miles)
- Sprouts, 10821 Zelzah Ave, Granada Hills, CA 91344 (11.4 miles)
- Whole Foods, 19340 Rinaldi St, Northridge, CA 91326 (12.3 miles)

To the East:

- Ralphs, 10455 Sunland Blvd, Sunland-Tujunga, CA 91040 (4.5 miles)
- Vons, 7789 Foothill Blvd, Tujunga, CA 91042 (6.3 miles)
- Smart and Final, 6555 Foothill Blvd, Tujunga, CA 91042 (8 miles)
- Ralphs Fresh Fare, 2675 Foothill Blvd, La Crescenta, CA 91214 (11.4 miles)
- Trader Joes, 2462 Honolulu Ave, Montrose, CA 91020. (12.2 miles)
- Sprouts, 920 Foothill Blvd, La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011 (13.5 miles)

To the South:

- Sunland Produce, 8840 Glenoaks Blvd, Sun Valley, CA 91352 (Armenian market with wholesale produce to the public) (5.9 miles)
- Ralphs, 8325 Laurel Canyon Blvd, Sun Valley, CA 91352 (6.7 miles)
- Sprouts, 1011 N San Fernando Blvd, Burbank, CA 91504 (11.8 miles)
- Additionally the towns of North Hollywood and Burbank offer many shopping selections if you happen to already be in that area.

To the North: The City of Santa Clarita has a wide selection of supermarkets (and other shopping facilities), beginning at an 18-mile distance from Kagel Canyon.

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FARMERS MARKETS:

As of the time of publication, there are two Farmers Markets close to the canyon. The Montrose Farmers Market has been in operation for years and features food, plants, crafts, chair massage, and a petting zoo. It is open every Sunday from 9 am – 2 pm, rain or shine, in historic downtown Montrose on Honolulu Avenue.

More recently, the Sunland Farmers Market opened in the summer of 2017. This market is held every Saturday from 9 am to 1 pm on the site of the Tierra del Sol Foundation, located at 9919 Sunland Blvd.

You can find other Farmer's Markets in the area by visiting this website:
projects.latimes.com/farmers-markets

RESTAURANTS

With the following website, you can enter your complete address and they can tell you what restaurants will deliver. <https://www.seamless.com/>

For Pizza delivery or pick up:

- Domino's: 12040 Foothill Blvd, Lakeview Terrace, CA 91342 / (818) 686-0303
- Double Deal Pizza: 8530 Foothill Blvd, Sunland, CA 91040 / (818) 951-3241
- Guido's Pizza: 10761 Glenoaks Blvd, Pacoima, CA 91331 / (818) 890-9899

Some canyon favorites for dining in or taking out include:

- Big Pop's Ribs: 10755 Glenoaks Blvd [at Osborne], Pacoima, CA 91331 / (818) 896-5599
- Rigo's Taco: 10750 Glenoaks Blvd [at Osborne], Pacoima, CA 91331 / (818) 896-8242
- Mandarin Terrace: 8815 Sunland Blvd, Sun Valley, CA 91352 / (818) 768-9888
- Rice Avenue (formerly known as My Thai): 8654 Foothill Blvd Sunland, CA 91040 / (818) 352-1979
- Backdoor Bakery: 8349 Foothill Blvd, Sunland-Tujunga, CA 91040 / (818) 353-2233
- Joselito's: 7308 Foothill Blvd, Tujunga, CA 91042 / (818) 951-2275
- Caruso's: 13737 Foothill Blvd, Sylmar, CA 91342 / (818) 361-7500
- Caruso's Italian Kitchen II: 10504 Mt Gleason Ave, Tujunga, CA 91042 / (818) 273-4985
- Villa Terraza: 9955 Sunland Blvd., Sunland Ca 91040 / 818-875-4051
- Mi Casita: 8069 Foothill Blvd, Sunland-Tujunga, CA 91040 / (818) 352-5250
- Rise N Shine Café: 9685 Sunland Blvd., Sunland, CA 91040 / (818) 352-5755
- Ranch Side Café: 11355 Foothill Blvd. [at Osborne], Lakeview Terrace, CA 91342 / (818) 834-0031

There are numerous fast food chains along Foothill Blvd just to the west in Sylmar and to the east in the Sunland-Tujunga area.

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Chapter Seven:

Useful Contact Information

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Our Government Representatives at All Levels

LA County Supervisor Kathryn Barger (represents District 5 in the LA County Board of Supervisors)

**Downtown Office:**

500 West Temple Street
Room 869
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Tel: (213) 974-5555
Fax: (213) 974-1010

Local Office:

21943 Plummer Street
Chatsworth, CA 91311
Tel: (818) 993-5170

Website: <http://kathrynbarger.lacounty.gov/> (use the “contact” page to submit comments)

Note: Our area representative in the San Fernando Valley field office is Jarrod DeGonia.

State Assemblymember Luz Rivas (represents District 39 in the California State Assembly):

**Capitol Office:**

State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0039
Tel: (916) 319-2039
Fax: (916) 319-2139

Local District Office:

9300 Laurel Canyon Blvd.
First Floor
Arleta, CA 91331
Tel: (818) 504-3911
Fax: (818) 365-8083

Website: <https://a39.asmdc.org/> (use the “contact” page to submit comments)

State Senator Anthony Portantino (represents District 25 in the California State Senate)

**Capitol Office:**

State Capitol
Room 3086
Sacramento, CA 95814
Tel: (916) 651-4025
Fax: (916) 651-4925

Local District Office:

116 East Broadway
Suite 204
Glendale, CA 91205
Tel: (818) 409-0400
Fax: (818) 409-1256

Website: <http://sd25.senate.ca.gov/> (use the “contact” page to submit comments)

Note: Our area representative in the Glendale field office is Vickere Murphy.

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U.S. Congressman Adam Schiff (represents California's District 28 in the U.S. Congress)



Washington D.C. Office:

2372 Rayburn House
Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Tel: (202) 225-4176
Fax: (202) 225-5828

Local District Office:

245 East Olive Blvd.
Suite #200
Burbank, CA 91502
Tel: (818) 450-2900
Fax: (818) 450-2928

Website: <https://schiff.house.gov/> (use the "contact" page to submit comments)

Note: Our area representative in the Burbank field office is Teresa Lamb Simpson.

U.S. Senator Kamala Harris (represents California at Large in the U.S. Senate)



Washington D.C. Office:

112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Tel: (202) 224-3553
Fax: (202) 224-2200

Local Office:

312 N. Spring Street
Suite 1748
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Tel: (213) 894-5000
Fax: (213) 224-0357

Website: <https://www.harris.senate.gov/> (use the "contact" page to submit an email)

U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (represents California at Large in the U.S. Senate)



Washington D.C. Office:

331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Tel: (202) 224-3841
Fax: (202) 228-3954

Local Office:

11111 Santa Monica Blvd.
Suite 915
Los Angeles, CA 90025
Tel: (310) 914-7300
Fax: (310) 914-7318

Website: <https://www.feinstein.senate.gov/> (use the "contact" page to submit an email)

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Kagel Canyon Civic Association Board Members **2017-2019**

Name	Office / Committee Chairs	Email Address	Telephone Number
Kelly Decker	President Communications/Publicity Hot Sheet Editor Welcome Packet Editor	KellyErinDecker@aol.com	(818) 761-7713 (home)
Kit Paull	Vice President Water	KPaull@earthlink.net	(818) 899-7003 (home) (818) 681-3691 (cell)
Jeff Leeson	Recording Secretary	Jeff@jeffleeson.com	(818) 761-7713
Susan Friend	Corresponding Secretary Fire & Emergency Elections Welcome Packet	SueFriend@yahoo.com	(818) 834-1272
Natasha Aasadore	Co-Treasurer	NatashaForHomes@gmail.com	(818) 388-5202
Carole Bartolotto	Co-Treasurer Creek Committee	CABartolotto@msn.com	(818) 321-1858
Chris Ahern	Director Kagel Canyon Kids Concert in the Park Spaghetti Dinner/Pancake	ChrisAhern@earthlink.net	(818) 890-6211
Natasha Aasadore	Director		
Tim Burgess	Director Horseshoe Tournament	KagelFolk3@earthlink.net	(818) 899-1210 (home) (818) 590-7725 (cell)
Briana Dorner-Warner	Director Kagel Canyon Kids	BrianaDorner@gmail.com	(310) 218-2370
Barb Hansen	Director Membership	CanyonCastle@gmail.com	(818) 899-8075 (home)
Amber Shoopman	Director	AmberShoop@gmail.com	(323) 333-0368
Ray Stevens	Director	RLStevens11@verizon.net	(818) 896-8413
David Von Stowver	Director	DavidVonStowver@gmail.com	(818) 326-6714

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USEFUL NUMBERS FOR VARIOUS THINGS YOU MAY NEED FROM TIME TO TIME

** Note that for various agencies and services, Kagel Canyon is represented by LA County and not LA City. Therefore the agency or office you may need (listed below) may not be the one geographically closest to Kagel Canyon, but is the one that services our unincorporated area.*

EMERGENCY SERVICES:

9-1-1. When there is a life-threatening emergency or an emergency that requires the IMMEDIATE assistance of either the Fire Department, the Sheriffs, or an ambulance, you should call 911. Examples include:

- A fire
- A crime in progress
- A car crash, especially if someone is injured
- A medical emergency where someone requires immediate medical attention

Please note that you will need to identify your location as Kagel Canyon, 91342 and if the dispatcher is confused you may have to explain that we are in unincorporated Los Angeles County and not Los Angeles City so that they may find your location.

Crescenta Valley Sheriff's Station:

Kagel Canyon and Lopez Canyon are serviced by the LA County Sheriff's Station, NOT by LAPD which services LA City. Our local station is:

Crescenta Valley Sheriff's Station
4554 Briggs Avenue
La Crescenta, CA 91214
818-248-3464

If you need to report a crime or suspicious activity that is not an emergency, call the dispatcher at 818-248-3464. You can also use a form on their website to file a report for certain non-emergency incidents, such as minor theft/stolen property incidents. www.crescentavalley.lasd.org

Los Angeles County Fire Dept. Station 74:

Kagel Canyon is serviced by the LA County Fire Dept (LACoFD), NOT by the LAFD which services LA City. However, during an actual fire, we may receive support from cooperating agencies including the LAFD, the Angeles National Forest fire service, and others.

If there is an actual fire, you must call 911. Calling our local fire station only wastes time because the crew there will need to call 911 dispatch anyway in order to report the fire and get it logged in the system before they can leave the station to actually respond to the fire. If you call 911 and they are confused as to your location, you may inform them that LA County Fire Department Station 74 in Kagel Canyon is our closest fire station.

You may call or stop by our local Station 74 here in Kagel Canyon to meet the firefighters, ask questions about brush clearance, or follow up on a non-emergency issue.

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LA County Fire Station 74
12587 North Dexter Park Road
Kagel Canyon, CA 91342
818-899-8017

INFORMATION FOR LA COUNTY SERVICES AND AGENCIES (listed in alphabetical order following the 211 and The Works entries):

211 LA County. *(Note: You may have heard of 311, but that number services LA City, not LA County.)*

211 LA County is the central source for providing information and referrals for all health and human services in LA County. The 2-1-1 phone line is open 24 hours, 7 days a week, with trained Community Resource Advisors prepared to offer help with any situation, any time. Examples of referrals that you might need include:

- Housing
- Food
- Domestic Violence
- Transportation
- Income & Employment
- Legal Assistance
- Children and Family Services
- Adult Protective Services
- Utility Service Providers
- Landlord/Tenant Issues
- Emergency Shelter

Services for Special Populations:

- Seniors and Older Adults
- Veteran Services
- Youth Services
- LGBTQ Services
- Homeless Services

Health Issues:

- Health Care
- Mental Health
- Crisis Services
- Substance Abuse

LA County “The Works”.

Visit <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/theworks/> or go to the App Store on your iPhone or Android.

Are you tired of seeing illegal dumping on Lopez Canyon Road? Frustrated by graffiti on public buildings, in local parks and at other landmarks? Don't know which government agency to contact for services? Then you need The Works. The Works offers a one-stop solution for County residents to report and track services. If the service is not handled by Los Angeles County, The Works will provide you with the appropriate contact information.

The Works is a free app that you can download to your phone which allows you to:

- Report pothole repairs, graffiti removal and street sweeping
- Report incidents of alleged illegal dumping
- Report facility and trail maintenance at County parks
- Attach optional photos to help us identify the problem
- View and track reports using the status tab
- Using your GPS, locate the nearest Public Works office, library, water company, utility provider, local transit services and more

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Animal Care & Control: <http://animalcare.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/acc>

You can use the form on their website to request service for non-emergency situations (report a stray or loose dog or cat, report non-emergency animal cruelty or neglect, request dead animal pickup from a public roadway or public area), submit an animal noise complaint, or give feedback or ask questions.

Our closest field office / shelter is:

Castaic Animal Care Center
31044 North Charlie Canyon Road
Castaic, CA 91384
Manager: Karen Stepp, kstepp@animalcare.lacounty.gov
Dispatch: (661) 257-3191

Assessor's Office: <https://assessor.lacounty.gov/>

You can call or visit the Assessor's Office in order to:

- Find property assessment data and maps
- Find information on annual property taxes, supplemental property taxes, and reassessments
- Change a mailing address

Our closest field office is:

LA County Assessor's Office
North District Office
13800 Balboa Blvd.
Sylmar, CA 91342
(818) 833-6000

Building & Safety: <https://dpw.lacounty.gov/bsd/content/>

You can call or visit the Building & Safety Office in order to find out about:

- Plan check
- Permit Applications and Status Checks
- Inspection
- Code Enforcement
- Property Rehabilitation
- Building Codes
- Plan Submission and Review
- Building Violations

Our closest field office is:

LA County Dept of Public Works, Building & Safety
23757 Valencia Blvd.
Valencia, CA 91355
Tel: (661) 222-2940
Fax: (661) 222-2947

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Dead Birds or Bats: <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/DeadBirdReporting.htm>

Most “dead animal pickup” is conducted by Animal Care & Control (listed above). Dead birds and bats are different because West Nile Virus poses a public health issue and the County may want to collect and test the dead bird or bat. You can call 213-989-7060 (LA County Public Health) or 877-WNV-BIRD (California Dept of Public Health) to report the bird type and location.

Dexter Park: http://parks.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/dpr/Parks/Dexter_Park

Dexter Park is one of the many parks managed by the LA County Department of Parks and Recreation.

To visit the Park or contact on-site staff:

Dexter Park
11053 North Trail
Kagel Canyon, CA 91342
(818) 896-3210

To make a reservation to use the Park for your own private function:

For general information, visit: <http://reservations.lacounty.gov/>
Then call: (800) 267-2757

Flood Control: <https://dpw.lacounty.gov/lacfd/>

The LA County Flood Control District provides flood protection, water conservation, and recreational and aesthetic enhancement within its boundaries. Its projects include dams and reservoirs, storm drains, seawater barriers, sediment removal projects, soft bottom channel clearing, and spreading grounds. Specifically in Kagel Canyon, Flood Control manages Kagel Canyon Creek, including maintaining the pipe and wire structure system and weed abatement of invasive species.

Tel: (626) 458-4304

Graffiti Removal: <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/general/graffiti.cfm>

For graffiti removal in the unincorporated areas of the Los Angeles County, contact the Graffiti Hotline at (800) 675-4357. The graffiti removal hotline is available with live operators 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can also fill out a form on the website listed above, or report the offense through “The Works” app on your smartphone.

Illegal Dumping: <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/illdump/support.cfm>

You can use “The Works” app to report illegal dumping that has already taken place so that it may be picked up by LA County crews. You can also report it by calling 1-888-8-DUMPING, or by emailing dumping@ladpw.org. You can also report it by filling out a form online, which can be accessed by visiting the website listed above and then clicking on “Confidential Online Reporting Form”.

If the dumping includes hazardous materials (e.g., paint, oil, coolant, or any hazardous waste), then please call the Health Hazardous Materials Division 24-hour emergency hotline: (323) 890-4317.

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If you see illegal dumping in progress, you should also call the non-emergency dispatch line of the Crescenta Valley Sheriff's Station at (818) 248-3464. If the sheriffs are able to catch a dumper in the act, that person will be cited and fined.

Lopez Canyon Landfill (operated by the LA City Bureau of Sanitation):

For General Inquiries regarding operations, the mulching/green waste facility, or classes offered at the environmental education center:

Manuel Gomez, Operations Superintendent:

Office: (818) 485-0710

Cell: (213) 216-8669

email: manuel.gomez@lacity.org

Khalil Gharios, Manager, Solid Resources Processing and Construction Division:

Office: (213) 485-3002

Email: Khalil.Gharios@lacity.org

For Complaints:

Specific complaints about the landfill (odors or noise, for example) should be made at the time of occurrence. There are several entities which should receive any such complaints:

- First, report your complaint to the Lopez Landfill Hotline: (818) 485-0703.
- You should also email Khalil Gharios and Manuel Gomez via the email addresses listed above.
- Please copy your email to the KCCA board members so that they are aware of the complaint.
- You should also report your complaint to AQMD (the South Coast Air Quality Management District), which regulates public health standards related to air quality. You can reach them by calling 1-800-288-7664, or submit your complaint online by visiting <http://www.aqmd.gov/contact/complaints> and then clicking on "Online Complaint System".

Oak Trees:

- Before you do anything to an oak tree (trimming, cutting, etc.), first get clearance from the LAFD, Oak Division, which can be reached at (818) 890-5719.
- Before you plan any work around an oak tree (including "minor" things such as putting in a fence), first contact the Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning at (213) 974-6411.
- If you have an emergency or safety issue concerning an oak tree, call the County Forester at (323) 890-5719 or visit our local fire station.

Public Works: <https://dpw.lacounty.gov/contact/>

From this website, you can report problems including: graffiti removal, potholes and other needed street repairs, illegal dumping, missing street signs, tree fallen and blocking a road, and more. *Note: "The Works" app as described above is a function of the Department of Public Works.

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Public Works headquarters is located at:

900 S. Fremont Avenue

Alhambra, CA 91803

(626) 458-5100

For urgent requests (something that would affect public safety), please call: 800-675-HELP.

Regional Planning: <http://planning.lacounty.gov/>

The Regional Planning Office performs all land use planning functions for the unincorporated areas of LA County, including:

- Long range planning
- Land development counseling
- Project/case intake and processing
- Environmental review
- Zoning enforcement

Our closest field office is:

LA County Dept of Public Works, Regional Planning

23757 Valencia Blvd.

Valencia, CA 91355

Tel: (213) 974-6411

Fax: (661) 222-2947

Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk: <http://lavote.net/contact-us/branch-office-locations>

The LA County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk is the place to go for help with the following:

- Voter/Election Issues (voter registration, vote by mail, voting options and other information and election resources)
- Records (birth records, marriage records, real estate records, etc.)
- Business matters (fictitious business names)
- Marriage licenses and ceremonies

Our closest field office is:

14340 West Sylvan Street

Van Nuys, California 91401

Tel: For Registrar of Voters: (800) 815-2666

Tel: For Recorder/County Clerk: (800) 201-8999

Waterworks: <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/www/web/Default.aspx>

If you are in Lower Kagel Canyon, chances are you are serviced by LA County Waterworks, District 21 (see Chapter 3, Section A for more information). You can visit their website to find out information about your water, report a maintenance issue, sign up or disconnect service, system improvements, and even pay your bill online.

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Main Office:

1000 South Freemont Avenue
Building A9-E, Fourth Floor
Alhambra, CA 91803
Tel: (877) 637-3661
Fax: (626) 300-3385

Malibu Office:

23533 West Civic Center Way
Malibu, CA 90265
Tel: (877) 637-3661
Fax: (310) 317-4674

Emergencies: (800) 675-4357
Customer Service: (877) 637-3661
Maintenance Division: (310) 456-9661

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Chapter Eight:

Advertisements from Local Businesses & Service Providers

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LOCAL BUSINESSES AND SERVICES

The people and businesses listed in this section are your neighbors. They have paid to advertise in the Kagel Canyon Handbook so that all new residents can receive this publication for free. Please help to pay back the good karma by considering using their services should you find yourself in need of what they have to offer!

ACUPUNCTURE

Eloise Albrecht, L.Ac & CMT

Bodyworker for 25+ years and Acupuncturist for 12 years
Specializing in relief of chronic pain with hands and pins
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818.749.3454.

AuthenticBody.net

Office in Montrose by appointment
CA L.Ac Lic # 15711

ATTORNEY

LAW OFFICES OF
MICHAEL A. GOLDSTEIN

KIAN R. MAGAÑA
ATTORNEY AT LAW

THE BROADWAY HOLLYWOOD
1645 N VINE STREET, SUITE 809
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90028
T/323.461.2000
kr@goldsteinlawgroup.com

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818-517-5641

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Email: belindella@yahoo.com

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INSURANCE



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Office: 418 N. Glendale Ave., Suite J
Glendale, CA 91206

Mailing: POB 250163
Glendale, CA 91225

Tel: 818-241-6267 • Fax: 818-502-0501
Email: atamianins@sbcglobal.net

Established in 1981

Richard Atamian
Owner/Broker

MASSAGE THERAPY SCHOOL



Hands on Healing Institute

Professional Massage Program
Electives Open to the Public

Just 8 miles away on Foothill
Blvd. in Tujunga

visit: gotohhi.org
818-951-5811

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MUSIC



PET SITTING



"I grew up with dogs, cats, rabbits, turtles, and fish. Currently my husband and I have two dogs and six cats, all very dear to our hearts. I will treat your furbabies as if they are my own."

20+ years pet sitting experience
References provided upon request

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REAL ESTATE



MIKE ANDERSON
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*When you see me don't think of Real Estate,
But when you think of Real Estate see me.*

818-899-0993
HomesToBuy@aol.com
www.BrokerInTrust.com

Cal BRE Lic 01028629





Kagel Canyon
Resident Broker
REALTOR®

