

Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation, Inc.

Post Office Box 353, Agoura Hills, California 91301



"The voice and conscience of the Santa Monica Mountains since 1968"

January 2011 MEETING (www.lvhf.org)

Thursday, January 20th, 2011, **7:00 p.m.**

The Place – Diamond X – Take Las Virgenes to Mulholland; turn left on Mulholland. For the next 3/4 mile, the King Gillette Ranch will be on your right. After you've passed Stokes Canyon Road, in about 3/4 mile, you will see a sign on your right with "Diamond X" and the National Park Service logo on it. A short distance past the sign a narrow road goes south at a right angle. This is Wickland Road, and, at this point you are entering the King Gillette Ranch. Follow Wickland about 300 yards until the road forks; take the left-hand fork; keep bearing left to the lighted house on the right. Park; enter through the lit doorway.

**Call to Order
Roll Call
Agenda Changes/ Approval
Delegates Reports**

**Correspondence/Announcements
Officer's Reports
Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Old Business/ Reports

1. Federation Business & HOA Updates & Issues
2. Healthy Oaks Ordinance (HOO). Great Progress! Full report & analysis. Appreciation to Ben Saltsman, Planning Deputy Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky and John Todd, Chief Forestry Division, County of LA Fire Department
3. Banquet

New Business

1. Federation Welcomes Guest Calabasas Councilmember James Bozajian
2. Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains–Steve Williams, Conservation Biologist. "Keep Your Green", new consultation program for homeowners to transfer home landscapes into ecosystems with vegetable gardens, rainwater harvesting and runoff infiltration components and more...
3. Malibu Valley Farms Coastal Development Permit Revocation & Malibu Canyon LP Annexation

THANKS TO SUPERVISOR YAROSLAVSKY KEY OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION

Thanks to Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA)—the management arm of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy—purchased 101 acres of prime Santa Monica Mountains open space that straddles Topanga Canyon and San Fernando Valley watershed divide.

Zev dedicated the 3rd District funds to expand the Los Angeles County trail system in the Santa Monicas. Almost \$1 million of the funding was a grant to the MRCA from the 3rd District as part of the County's Proposition A Competitive Natural Land For Trails grant program. The balance came from Proposition 62 utility funds that are allocated to each of the County's five districts according to their unincorporated population.

The principal trail in the purchase is the very significant Summit-to-Summit Motorway, a historic fire road that connects the Calabasas Peak Motorway on the west side of Old Topanga Canyon Road eastward to the Henry Ridge Trail and ultimately to Topanga Canyon Boulevard. The acquisition includes part of the main ridgeline that separates Mulwood from Topanga between Topanga Canyon Boulevard and Old Topanga Canyon Road.

The long-coveted open space and trail network are part of a large habitat area that abuts the southern boundary of the City of Calabasas and descends into Topanga State Park. The oak- and walnut-forested property offers stunning views of the San Fernando Valley and the many rugged peaks and valleys of the more interior Santa Monica Mountains. This new parkland provides optimal habitat for people and the full complement of mammals, reptiles and birds that occupy the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

In recent years, a group of developers zealously tried to activate some old site plans that would have enabled them to turn a portion of the Calabasas Peak Motorway into a paved road so they could develop ridgeline mansions along its entire length. At one point these developers hired an attorney and sued to force the County to allow them to develop the ridgeline mansions. This group of developers was led by development expediter Don Schmitz and pro-developer attorney Fred Gaines, who is running now as a candidate for Calabasas City Council.

Fortunately, the developers were not allowed to deviate from the County's North Area Plan, and the tactics of Schmitz and Gaines to line the ridgeline with unsightly mansions did not come to fruition. Many of the old site plan permits have since expired.

With over half the Summit-to-Summit ridgeline now in public ownership, residents of Topanga, Cold Creek and Calabasas hope they can look forward to the day when more of the Summit-to-Summit scenic resource ridgeline can be preserved. The Federation does too (thank you Zev!).

“Zev’s commitment to the preserving open space and creating accessible public parkland is rock solid,” said Joseph T. Edmiston, executive director of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.



The new 101-acre parkland, which is accessible from Old Topanga Road, bolsters public ownership of existing trail networks in Topanga Canyon near the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy-owned Summit Valley Ed Edelman Park.



HAVE CHICAGO-STYLE POLITICS COME TO CALABASAS?

Without considering the effects of their actions on the City as a whole or on their constituents, the members of the Calabasas City Council unanimously endorsed the election of infamous developers' lawyer Fred Gaines to the Council. They also recruited, and then unanimously endorsed Planning Commissioner Martha Fritz to fill the second vacancy on the Council. The vacancies were created by the last-minute withdrawal of Barry Groveman and Dennis Washburn from the race.

In fact, all five council members were in such a rush to endorse that they did so *before* the filing deadline for the March 8 election. Since City Hall is a “no-smoking” facility, we can't accuse the Council of hatching this scheme in a smoke-filled room, but their premature, united action was certainly in the best tradition of Chicago-style politics.

It is one thing for individual Council members to endorse the candidate of their choice, but for *all* members to act in unison and endorse the same two candidates when there were several other well-qualified candidates available smacks of an attempt to rig the election. Why did the Council “jump the gun” and make its unanimous endorsement before most citizens were even aware that there was an election coming up? Why weren't the Council members willing to give the voters time to judge for themselves after hearing from all the candidates? It is this premature, united action by the Council that is an affront to the intelligence of their constituents and leaves the Council's motives—and judgment—open to question. Many other observers see the hand of Mayor Barry Groveman in this unusual and suspect move.

The Council's endorsement of developers' attorney Fred Gaines is a matter of special concern. It is common knowledge that Gaines makes his livelihood by representing developers before the County, the Coastal Commission and ultimately the Court of Appeal. Further, most of the development proposals that Gaines has been hired to defend were already in violation of the zoning plans of their community and are among the most controversial developments proposed in recent years. These include such projects as Fantasy Island in Triunfo Canyon; Malibu Valley Farms, across the street from King Gillette Ranch; and James Kay's illegal development on Castro Peak. With Gaines' help, Kay, a Las Vegas radio-tower tycoon, fought the National Park Service and the Coastal Commission in an effort to build his hobby ranch and to block public access to a popular hiking and equestrian trail. The *Los Angeles Times* reported Kay's threat to pave nearly a mile of the Backbone Trail, which runs through state and federal parkland: “I intend to pave it like the Ventura Freeway expansion project,” he said.”

So why is it a problem if a City Council member represents developers for a living? Because the quality of life in Calabasas and the rest of Las Virgenes depends on good planning and controlled, well considered growth, which in turn depends on citizen control of planning and zoning. That's what differentiates us from highly urbanized Valley areas like Canoga Park and Reseda, places that were built out by politicians who were influenced more by the short-term profit needs of their developer clients than by their citizens' long-term needs for open space and a quality environment.

Many of us moved here to escape the traffic, crowded schools, unsightly signage and poorly planned development of the San Fernando Valley, yet Calabasas Council members have decided to throw their support behind a developer's attorney with a track record of representing and supporting some of the worst developers in the area.

OLD TOPANGA HOMEOWNERS, INC. FILE SUIT AGAINST THE CITY OF CALABASAS

Last month, the Old Topanga Homeowners, Inc. filed suit against the City of Calabasas. The suit seeks to stop the illegal enforcement of the highly controversial "OWTS Inspection Ordinance" which, as you may recall, had not been properly adopted by the City. The City however, continues to strong-arm terrified residents with Declarations of Public Nuisance, Notices of Violation, and threats of legal action. (We wonder how much the city is spending on prosecuting attorney fees now for this?)

Building Official Sparky Cohen was named alongside the City for the selective over-enforcement of the Inspection Ordinance. Residents of Old Topanga, and other homeowners on septic systems, have never disputed the need to properly maintain their systems, but the Calabasas building officials have often over-stepped the limits of what many consider to already be a punitive Ordinance.

Calabasas had until January 13th to respond, and they did. If negotiations fail, the residents are left with no recourse but to go to court. With the current amendments to the Building Codes, the City has severely diminished any third-party appeals processes.

CITY HOLDS “~~WORKSHOP~~” ON BUILDING CODE

WORKSHOP – “A meeting at which a group of people engage in intensive discussion and activity on a particular subject or project”

When the Calabasas City Council rushed through the adoption of the Interim Building Code by unanimous vote on November 24, it reassured citizens that it would hold a public workshop in January before adopting a permanent building code. It did keep that promise, but not in a way people expected.

Publicity went out for a workshop scheduled for January 4, but instead of a meeting where staff explained the building code to attendees and then answered questions; there were several individual staff members with different areas of expertise sitting alone at separate tables. People were compelled to stop by and talk individually to them.

If you had a specific question about a specific problem, this might have been a good arrangement, but for people who came seeking more general knowledge and background information about what a building code is and how it's enforced and about what the interim code actually says, the evening wasn't helpful at all. Staff people manned the tables, and the majority sat alone much of the evening with only an occasional visitor – that is, with the exception of Sparky Cohen, the city's controversial building official, and Maureen Tamuri, the community development director, both of whom had a line of citizens waiting to talk to them. Good questions may have been asked, but who knows how or if they were answered. The so-called workshop denied citizens the benefit of group discussion where people could take advantage of collective questions and collective answers.

Surprisingly, candidates for City Council were mostly conspicuous by their absence, with the exception of Lucy Martin, president of the Greater Mulwood Homeowners Association, who spent the entire evening inside the hall asking detailed questions and listening to responses about the building code. Candidate Fred Gaines, more interested in being a politician, spent his time *outside* the hall handing out campaign literature rather than learning or paying any attention to the complicated and contentious community issues being discussed inside the room.

Looks like the “workshop” was another example of same-old lip service from City Hall, sold to residents under the pretense of being something it is not.

TRACKING OUR LAWMAKERS

We are used to hearing all kinds of promises from candidates at election time, but, after the cheering crowds have gone home, the confetti has been swept up and the champagne bottles recycled or carted off to the dump, what have the people we elected to make our laws done in the past year to advance the cause of economy and efficiency in government, good planning and environmental protection?

Here are a few bills passed by the legislature this past year that were *signed into law* by the governor and how our local legislators—State Senator Fran Pavley and Assemblywoman Julia Brownley--voted on these bills:

AB 920 - Ended the practice of utility companies receiving surplus solar electricity from customers without paying them for it.

Pavley: FOR Brownley: FOR

AB 94 – Restored a Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit and allowed local government to receive donations of land from it.

Pavley: FOR Brownley: FOR

AB 8 x2 – Weakened brand new rules reducing diesel pollution from heavy equipment and exempted certain transportation projects from CEQA.

Pavley: AGAINST Brownley: AGAINST

AB 81 x3 – Exempted a 75,000-seat football stadium from legal challenge under CEQA.

Pavley: AGAINST Brownley: AGAINST

Here are a few bills passed by both houses of the legislature that were *vetoed* by the governor:

AB 666 – Would have required counties to make findings that a new subdivision in a state-designated high fire hazard area would have adequate fire protection services and would be designed in accordance with state fire protection regulations. Passed Senate 24-12, passed Assembly 59-18; vetoed by the governor.

Pavley: FOR Brownley: FOR

SB 679 – No land acquired for the state park system could be used for non-park uses without the express authority of an act of the legislature. Passed Senate 24-15; passed Assembly 43-32; vetoed by the governor.

Pavley: FOR Brownley: FOR

AB 473 – Would have required owners of apartments and other multi-family housing to provide recycling services. Passed Senate 24-11; passed Assembly 52-25; vetoed by the governor.

Pavley: FOR Brownley: FOR

SB 402 –Would have expanded state’s successful Bottle Bill. (Supported by retailers and environmental groups.) Passed Senate 22-14; Passed Assembly 58-16; vetoed by the governor.

Pavley: FOR Brownley: FOR

AB 1242 – Would have made it state policy that everyone should have access to safe, clean, affordable water. Passed Senate 23-14; passed Assembly 53-24; vetoed by the governor.

Pavley: FOR Brownley: FOR

Both Pavley and Brownley are rated as having a 100 percent environmental voting record by the California League of Conservation Voters.

WILD WALNUT PARK HOME TO NEW CELL INSTALLATION But No One Told The Neighbors

The Calabasas Antenna/Wireless Communication Facilities Ordinance (17.12.050 of the Municipal Code) states that “no (telecommunications) facility shall be located within a residential zoning district, *including areas set aside for open space, parks, or playgrounds*,” so you can imagine the surprise of local residents when they discovered workers installing an AT&T facility in Wild Walnut Park, their neighborhood park.

Wild Walnut Park, situated along Mulholland west of Calabasas High School and across the street from the Mountains Restoration Trust, is without any doubt a Calabasas City park and is shown as such on official City maps. Nevertheless, the City approved construction of a cell installation.

This was done without any notice to the residents of nearby homes, HOA’s, the Trust or the City’s Calabasas Klubhouse preschool. Residents received no notice of any plan for construction of the cell installation and only found out about it from the workers installing it in the park. When confronted by neighboring residents, their answer was, “The city approved it.”

We are told that “non-controversial” telecommunications facilities are either given administrative approval or heard by the City’s Director of Community Development Maureen Tamuri in what are called “director’s hearings.” But who decides what is non-controversial? And what happened here? Since a cell facility in a City park appears to violate the provisions of the Municipal Code, why wasn’t it the subject of public hearings before the Planning Commission or the City Council? The administrative approval given by Ms. Tamuri left the public out of the process, and, as you will see in the pictures at the end of this article, there are questions that need to be asked and answered. Is the installation a public health and safety risk? How deep is it? The facility took a significant amount of time to install and a significant amount of deep digging. Will it leak? How reactive is it with water? Is it next to an underground spring, which several long-time residents attest to? Were any studies done? Are there environmental impacts?

On the west side of town a similar situation is brewing, but in that case, Malibu Canyon residents were *notified* that a telecommunications company had applied for a permit to erect a 35-foot monopole-type telecommunications antenna near the entrance to Lupin Hill School on Adamor Road. That antenna is in a “residential zoning district,” where quite a few children walk to and from school or gather to be picked up and dropped off before and after school—and it’s not far from the school playground.

The City had planned to hold a “Director’s SPECIAL meeting” in Council Chambers at the extraordinary time of 6 p.m. on Wednesday, January 19, though the meeting was canceled because, according to the City, “the applicant has requested this be continued to a date uncertain.” (Hmm stay tuned, more to come on this....). Additionally, the City Council is reportedly scheduled to look at the Antenna/Wireless Communication Facilities Ordinance again at its February 1 meeting. While we’d like to think the Director has turned over a new leaf and wants community input for consideration as opposed to trying to deter it, that is highly unlikely based on the city’s track record. Why not just have a real public hearing at the Planning Commission or before the Communications and Telecommunications Commission, (which, seemingly never had public outcries when it was the reviewing body)?

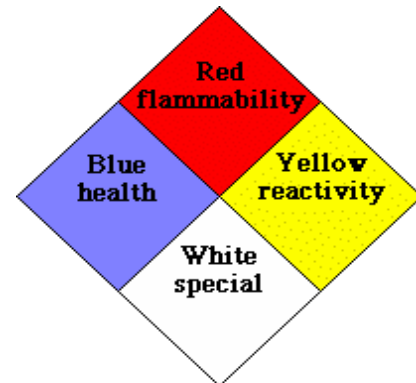
During last year’s Development Code workshops, residents brought up past and potential problems with Director administrative approvals (done behind closed doors) and Director’s “hearings” (a misleading term). The residents asked that these issues be brought to real public hearings, such as before the Planning Commission. The Director of Community Development (and likely the City Manager, behind the scenes) was opposed to those recommendations. What occurred in Wild Walnut Park is an example of how administrative approvals granted behind closed doors can run contrary to the public’s best interest. The City needs to return authority to the Communications and Telecommunications Commission!

Below is a photo of the Hazardous Materials sign under the hatch of the new cell installation at Wild Walnut Park. The resident who took the photo was told he was “too

close [to the installation] without protective clothing,” and the AT&T technician subsequently tried to block the next shot. What kind of toxic substances are now in our neighborhood park? Maybe none. But, the question definitely warrants answers.



The [National Fire Protection Association \(NFPA\)](#) has developed a standard system (ANSI/NFPA 704) for indicating the health, flammability, and reactivity hazards of chemicals.



**NFPA Chemical Hazard Label
General Rating Summary**

Health (Blue)

- | | | |
|---|----------------|---|
| 4 | DANGER | May be fatal on short exposure. Specialized protective equipment required |
| 3 | WARNING | Corrosive or toxic. Avoid skin contact or inhalation <u>*WILD WALNUT?</u> |
| 2 | WARNING | May be harmful if inhaled or absorbed |
| 1 | CAUTION | May be irritating |
| 0 | | No unusual hazard |

Reactivity (Yellow)

- | | | |
|---|----------------|---|
| 4 | DANGER | Explosive material at room temperature |
| 3 | DANGER | May be explosive if shocked, heated under confinement or mixed with water |
| 2 | WARNING | Unstable or may react violently if mixed with water <u>*WILD WALNUT ?</u> |
| 1 | CAUTION | May react if heated or mixed with water but not violently |
| 0 | STABLE | Not reactive when mixed with water |

Flammability (Red)

- | | | |
|---|--|-----------------|
| 0 | | Not combustible |
|---|--|-----------------|

In case you missed it, following is a copy of the Federation's *News Watch* distributed on 01-14-11. Stay tuned for subsequent issues, in addition to next newsletter follow up on several key issues reflected here.



These are pictures of the 58 acres of open space and golf course located in Tujunga - Verdugo Hills – that attorney Fred Gaines representing developer, Snowball West Investments, LLP is trying to transform into a dense 229 unit housing tract. (See story below).

FEDERATION NEWS WATCH

YOU CAN RUN, BUT YOU CAN'T HIDE Calabasas Voters Have A Right To Know...

Calabasas is in big trouble. Mayor Barry Groveman, who along with Councilmember Dennis Washburn announced at the last moment that he would not seek re-election, handed a parting gift to the Calabasas electorate: He and the rest of the City Council selected and endorsed two candidates *before* the filing period for nominations had closed and *before* they even knew everyone who was running! Guess Mr. Groveman couldn't wait to tell Calabasas voters how to keep his legacy alive and perpetuate the status quo.

To say these endorsements are stunning would be an understatement. They raise questions about Mr. Groveman's continuing influence and about what goes on behind closed doors at the Council. Even more disturbingly, they raise questions about how and why the Council made the endorsements. Unbelievably, the Calabasas City Council endorsed attorney Fred Gaines, who makes his living representing developers large and small throughout the Santa Monica Mountains and the rest of Southern California.

The tactic is: Shhh, don't tell anyone in Calabasas. Voters are completely in the dark about Mr. Gaines' profession. He is not an environmental attorney as he pretends to be. His livelihood comes from representing clients seeking to exploit the environment. Mr. Gaines obviously needs to keep the facts of his longstanding career under wraps from the voters (and perhaps from certain Council members) until he is safely elected. This is going to present a conflict should he be elected. Is he going to suddenly give up his law practice (Gaines & Stacey, LLP), in which he has built a reputation as a shrewd and effective counsel for developers? We seriously doubt it. Will he do a 180-degree turnaround as a Calabasas Councilmember and negatively impact his practice (and cause him to lose developer clients) outside the city? We doubt that too.

Mr. Gaines is who he is—not who he says he is, or who he may want to look like in order to get votes.

Fred Gaines' professional commitment is to help his clients develop open space. To even consider someone like him for City Council contradicts the goals and objectives

the City's residents so highly value and hold in utmost importance. As it says in the City's 2030 General Plan, **"The preservation of the remaining open space land within Calabasas and acquisition of new lands for open designation are consistently identified as the community's highest priority. Open space is a key component of the City's character, representing a scenic resource of great value and importance to the quality of life for Calabasas residents."**

Martha Fritz, the other pro-development, Council-endorsed candidate, presents similar problems. At the City's Development Code workshops, she opposed restrictions on ridgeline development, using the issue to vent her frustration with restrictions placed on her own mountain-top property. She too is risky to the city. We can be certain that the sensible land-use policy championed by Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky—"let the land dictate the use"—is something neither Fred Gaines or Martha Fritz respects. It's definitely something Fred Gaines continues to challenge in court on behalf of his clients.

Fred Gaines looks for loopholes and ways around environmental laws for his clients – not for ways to protect our environmental resources.

Calabasas voters have a right to know the truth.

A FOX IN THE HEN HOUSE?

Calabasas City Council candidate, Fred Gaines, often portrays himself as a steward of the environment. Nothing could be further from the truth. Fred Gaines has a long history of representing developers and controversial projects that have had devastating environmental impacts. Case in point is Mr. Gaines' current efforts to transform 58 acres of beautiful open space and a golf course into a dense housing tract. Located in Tujunga, adjacent to the 210 freeway, the project is within the National Park Service's potential "Rim of the Valley Corridor." Gaines is representing the developer, Snowball West Investments, LLP.

The proposed project is a massive 229-unit housing development with parallel rows of four- and five-bedroom homes. **Gaines contends they [his clients] have a right to build 229 houses on the site and—pending something unforeseen—they plan to do exactly that.** (Visit www.savethegolfcourse.org for more comprehensive information and details.)

Gaines and his client are overwhelmingly and fervently opposed by powerful environmental groups, the surrounding community and local politicians.

Los Angeles Councilmember Paul Krekorian said in a recent statement: "I fully support the efforts of Volunteers Organized in Conserving the Environment (VOICE) and the more than two dozen organizations that fight to preserve the Verdugo Hills Golf Course, an important and popular **oasis of open space** and recreational activity in our community. From the 5,000 active and involved VOICE members, to the hundreds of others in the community groups from Sunland-Tujunga to Studio City, **I am proud to stand with such forceful advocates for open-land preservation and believers in positive environmental policy.** Their efforts to save the golf course reflect a community-wide desire to maintain an open and very beautiful area for people to enjoy in an increasingly developed urban region. I will continue the fightto preserve this much needed green space in our community."

When you visit the website you will see that much of what Gaines is saying and doing for this developer-client is identical to the shenanigans we often see from him, including his attempts to out-maneuver environmental and zoning laws. For example, Gaines said Snowball West is seeking a *lot line adjustment* that would separate the property into two parts: the hillside areas and the flatter portions of the property. Community members have questioned whether the lot line adjustment is intended to avoid the slope density ordinance instituted by the City of Los Angeles?

At a recent presentation that Gaines gave on behalf of his client, members of the public made a point of saying that the event was, designed to put a human face on Snowball West Investments, LLP, in order to mute future community opposition....and despite Snowball West's stated willingness to engage the community, their ultimate goal is to develop the property and secure what they call "a reasonable return" on their investment, even if that requires destroying the golf course.

As stated in the Draft Environmental Impact Report, the project would result in:

- significant unavoidable environmental impacts to: scenic vistas, scenic resources, existing visual character, and protected oak and sycamore trees - to name just a few.
- **the removal of 11 sycamores and 85 coast live oaks (and encroachments on 31 more).**
- greatly diminished open space scenic resource with clearing of 14 acres of pristine native habitat, chaparral etc.



The introduction of the urban development proposed by Mr. Gaines' client and the loss of this major open-space resource will compromise the rural character of nearby La Tuna Canyon. La Tuna Canyon retains its rural ambiance because of open space that has already been dedicated in the area.

We strongly recommend you visit these websites and blogs to read about this for yourself and to see Gaines in action. You will discover what this community and these environmental groups are up against in their efforts to preserve this open space and to prevent Mr. Gaines and his client from developing it.

www.savethegolfcourse.org; www.fight2savevhgc.wordpress.com

As you can see, what Mr. Gaines does for a living is not opinion; it is fact. He represents developers and development, *not* the environment and *not* open-space preservation. He has a track record of looking for ways around environmental protections to benefit his clients and a history of looking for loopholes to circumvent zoning or laws instituted to protect resources.

Do you really think he is going to give up his lucrative client list of developers with deep pockets? Think again. More to come.....

The following is excerpted from www.fight2savevhgc.wordpress.com

Calabasas, You Have A Problem

Posted on January 9, 2011 by STA



Fred Gaines, the attorney that represents Snowball West Investments in their vehemently opposed efforts to transform the [Verdugo Hills Golf Course](#) into housing, [has announced his candidacy](#) for the Calabasas City Council. He may present himself as an environmental advocate in Calabasas, but he's trying to wreak environmental havoc in Sunland-Tujunga. [Don't buy his lies](#) Calabasas, he's a fox and a developer's best friend trying to get into your hen house.

###

This from the LVMWD....

**Free Wastewater Treatment Facility Tour
Saturday February 5**

CALABASAS, CA January 18, 2011 – The Las Virgenes –Triunfo Joint Powers Authority (JPA) will host a free public tour of its wastewater treatment and recycling facilities on Saturday, February 5 from 8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. The tour will begin at LVMWD headquarters, 4232 Las Virgenes Rd. in Calabasas.

Tour guests must be 12 years of age or older; children under 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Registration is required; interested parties should call 818-251-2200 during business hours. Complimentary breakfast snacks and a light lunch will be provided to participants. Guests should wear comfortable shoes as moderate walking and stairways are encountered during the tour.

“We welcome the opportunity to show residents the many steps we take to protect public health and the environment at our water recycling and composting facilities,” said John R. Mundy, Administering Agent / General Manager for the JPA. “Most folks don’t give a thought to water once they send it down the drain. This tour is a great way to learn what happens to that water and how we turn waste into products that benefit our communities. ”