



October 1, 2008

Save Dictionary Hill Group Puts “Open Space” in Name

A community group organized three years ago to oppose development on and around Dictionary Hill in the heart of Spring Valley has changed its name to Dictionary Hill Open Space Advocates.

The group formerly known as Lookout Mountain Advocates (LOMA), a historic reference to the local landmark in Spring Valley’s formative years, has not changed its mission, which is to preserve the existing open space and natural habitat of Dictionary Hill and Bancroft Creek Canyon.

A 211-home project that would involve cutting 35 feet off the top of the 1,059-foot hill and eliminating sensitive habitat in the last significant area of natural open space in Spring Valley has been making its way through the County planning review process for several years. In July, after hearing from the developer of the Highlands Ranch project, the Board of Directors of the Rancho San Diego Association listed numerous negative impacts they saw in the plan. Their concerns included significant increases in local road traffic in front of two elementary schools, dust and noise associated with blasting and extensive grading, potential property damage to nearby homes due to blasting operations, and loss of natural open space and sensitive habitat that many residents feel should be a community and regional resource.

Several months ago, the Dictionary Hill Open Space Advocates group submitted comments to the County on the developer’s (WWI) Environmental Impact Report. The County’s extensive review is almost complete and the project will soon go back to the Spring Valley Planning Group for public comment, then on to a public hearing at the County Planning Commission.

For more information about Dictionary Hill Open Space Advocates, please contact Sonya or Chris Heiserman (461-1586) or Carol Guerrero (466-3123).

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