

Hannigan, Edith@BOF

From: Topanga Creek Watershed Committee <topanga.twc@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 2:15 PM
To: Vegetation Treatment Program@BOF
Subject: Comments on VTP

The Topanga Creek Watershed Committee is a 20 year old, citizen-run non-profit devoted to the preservation and enhancement of the natural ecology in the Topanga Creek Watershed, in the western Santa Monica Mountains.

The TCWC would like to be included in all future public communications in regard to the VTP.

In regard to the current NOP, we would like to register our opposition to the plan as currently formulated.

We feel that the program is undemocratic, in that it undermines the right of citizens to have a meaningful voice in the design and execution programs intended for our communities.

Additionally, many residents of Topanga have fought long and hard to rid our watershed of all toxic substances, including herbicide. We have had considerable success and are on our way to creating a completely non-toxic ecosystem. Any program that creates the possibility that herbicide would be dispersed in our area will be vigorously fought.

Finally, we do not believe the the destruction of wide swaths of ecologically vibrant chaparral is necessary in order for us to improve our situation vis a vis wildfire. The sacrifice is not commensurate with the (dubious) gains.

Thank you.

--

Ben Allanoff
Chair, Topanga Creek Watershed Committee
21936 Canon Dr. Topanga, CA 90290
(310) 908-5505
topanga.twc@gmail.com