



STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
BILL LOCKYER  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

September 10, 2004

Mr. Robert Garcia, Executive Director  
Center for Law in The Public Interest  
3250 Ocean Park Blvd., Suite 300  
Santa Monica, CA 90405-3219

Mr. Thomas R. Freeman, Esq.  
Bird, Marella, Boxer & Wolpert APC  
1875 Century Park East, 23<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90067-2561

Re: Canyonback Road

Dear Messrs. Garcia and Freeman:

I am writing in response to your recent letter concerning the proposal to place a gate across Canyonback Road, a public street that provides access to the Westridge-Canyon Back Wilderness Park. In addition to this gate, it appears that the City of Los Angeles may also be considering a plan to vacate the street. I understand the City initially issued a permit for the construction of the gate, but that work has been suspended pending a review of the situation by the City Attorney's Office. You asked for my assistance in preserving access to the park and preventing the installation of the gate.

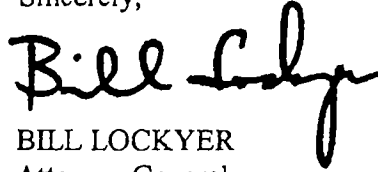
I have reviewed the circumstances surrounding the proposal to restrict public access to Canyonback Road and I share your concerns. It is readily apparent that the street serves a critical role in providing access to well-used public parks and trails in the Santa Monica Mountains. In view of this existing use, any plan to close the street or limit public access raises serious questions and must be carefully considered. Consequently, I have asked my staff to continue monitoring this proposal and report to me if any action on the part of my office is warranted.

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In the meantime, if you have any additional information that you would like to have my office consider, you should feel free to contact Deputy Attorney General Terry Fujimoto at (213) 897-2706.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Lockyer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

BILL LOCKYER  
Attorney General

cc: Los Angeles City Attorney's Office