

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Re: Sunland – Tujunga Dialogue

My name is Jessica LoGuercio. I was born in Sunland-Tujunga in 1963. I attended Plainview Elementary, Mt. Gleason Junior High and Verdugo Hills High Schools. Both my children attended Pinewood Elementary, Mt. Gleason Middle School and VHHS. My parents, also graduates of Verdugo Hill High School, still live in Sunland – Tujunga. I live in a house in Tujunga that my husband and I purchased in 1986.

Home Depot in Sunland – Tujunga would benefit far fewer people than a general merchandise store like K-Mart or Target would benefit us. Sunland –Tujunga has Do-It-Center and a number of hardware stores and nursery's available to its population. If something is needed for contractors and builders, Home Depot in Sylmar is 10-15 minutes away. There is a Home Depot in Glendale as well. Since K-Mart closed, my general merchandise money (clothing, school supplies, and home furnishings) is mostly spent in Burbank or Glendale. I would love to shop for these items in town, benefiting the businesses and people employed in my community.

The harmful effects of having Home Depot in Sunland –Tujunga would include the influx of traffic through town. Sunland –Tujunga has one main road and the addition of all the industrial sized vehicles would bring about safety and air quality concerns in the community.

The proposed site of the Sunland –Tujunga Home Depot is very close to an elementary school and is in the foot traffic path of the local middle school. Sunland –Tujunga has one main street through town surrounded by residential neighborhoods. Sunland –Tujunga was not meant to have an industrial park right in the center of town.

Home Depot could play fair if they wanted the community to get behind them. Although I don't think they care if the community is behind them or not. Filling meetings with paid "out of towners", not completing environmental studies accurately, accusing the "locals" of being racists. They have handled the whole situation unprofessionally and immorally in my opinion. At this point, no, I don't think there is a win-win solution.

Sunland –Tujunga is an excellent place to live. It is 20 minutes from everywhere and in the "middle of no-where" at the same time.

Honestly, the quality of life improves everywhere when there are happy healthy people with families living amongst each other. This would include successful businesses along Foothill Blvd. that add to the quality of a community, not take away from it.

Thank you,

Jessica LoGuercio