



Beachwood Canyon Neighborhood Association

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September 19, 2008

Larry Markes
president

George Abrahams
vice president

Gary Wilmes
treasurer

Fran Reichenbach
secretary

Nina VanTassell
Jack Fitzgerald
Lori Hughes
Missy Kelly
Mary Anne Nelson
board members

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Recycling Grey Water in Beachwood Canyon

Dear Mayor Villaraigosa,

We are a neighborhood group working to inform our residents about conserving energy and resources. Lately, one issue we have explored has been recycling grey water. The Building and Safety Department has told us that it **is legal** to recycle grey water, but that the residents must use a City-approved installer. As of this date, we have only been able to locate one installer (in San Diego) and that one has not yet been officially approved. That same installer told us that to get an estimate for the installation of a grey water recycling system, he would charge \$150 per hour for his travel time to and from Beachwood Canyon. Obviously, this cost makes obtaining an estimate cost-prohibitive.

On the other hand, the Planning Department has told us that recycling grey water is **illegal**. The respected environmental organization, Tree People, offers instruction on how to recycle grey water from one's washing machine to water plants. We see that the City of Malibu has apparently been very active in this area. But here in Los Angeles, with conflicting responses to our question of how a resident can recycle grey water, and a lack of service providers, we are stopped in our tracks.

The City's own Department of Water and Power is urging residents to conserve as we continue to experience a drought. We would like to be good citizens and cut back on our water use as much as possible.

We would like our city, under your leadership, to be our partner and leader in finding solutions. In fact, we are confident that Los Angeles could be a nationally recognized leader in supporting new technology research and industries to solve our technology challenges.

One helpful step would be for the City to develop a list of installers/vendors of water recycling systems that are safe, reasonably priced, and local. Another useful step would be to have a web page that explains in user-friendly terms how to implement water recycling in our homes. Finally, if the City could offer incentives to homeowners and developers to install or retrofit for water recycling, this would encourage full participation.

We would appreciate your help in our attempts to be "green" in Beachwood Canyon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Markes".

Larry Markes, President
Fran Reichenbach, Founder and Secretary
Kris Sullivan, Member
Cynthia Cannady, Member