In December of last year TNC and TPOA opposed the Beggruen Institute plan to build a very large facility in the Santa Monica Mountains, just west of the 405. Here’s the result of the court ruling against Beggruen proposed project.

Los Angeles, CA -- A Santa Monica Mountains community association has prevailed in court against the Berggruen Institute, founded by billionaire Nicolas Berggruen, for misusing a state law that protects the public’s right to protest real estate developments that threaten neighborhoods.

A 1999 contract between the parties restricts development to a “Reduced Density Plan” that allows up to 29 single-family homes. But instead, the developer is planning a 223,880 sq ft conference and event center with pavilions, an auditorium, outdoor amplifiers and two towering spheres visible for miles. The property, located atop a landfill dotted with methane gas wells, is designated a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone that burned in the 2019 Getty Fire.   
 A coalition of homeowner associations, environmental groups, hikers and the broader community strongly opposes Berggruen Institute's plan. The institute would bring in large crowds, heavy traffic and intense human activity, increasing the chance of wildfires while encroaching on open space, trails, wildlife and habitat.

Berggruen Institute has 60 days to appeal the case. If they do appeal, it will most likely take another year until the court of appeals renders its decision. If Berggruen elects not to appeal, MOSMA will begin to prepare for trial, which will likely take place within (more or less) 14 months from now.