

**PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY  
CITIZENS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
*Endowment Provided by the Puente Hills Landfill***

**April 18, 2023, Tuesday, 7 p.m.**

**LOCATION:**

**Palm Park: 5703 Palm Avenue, Whittier, CA 90601.**

Catherine Houwen	La Habra Heights
Adam Nazaroff	La Habra Heights
Vacant	La Habra Heights
Jeff Brauckmann, Vice Chair	Whittier
Vacant	Whittier
Vacant	Whittier
Matthew Liang, Chair	County of Los Angeles
Gabriel Monares	County of Los Angeles
Bryan Coreas	County of Los Angeles

**Members of the public may provide electronic comments by Monday, April 17, 2023, by 4:00 p.m. to [info@HabitatAuthority.org](mailto:info@HabitatAuthority.org). Please label the email in the subject heading as “Public Comments.” Public comments may also be verbally heard during item III of the meeting.**

72 hours prior to Citizens Technical Advisory Committee meetings, the entire Citizens Technical Advisory Committee agenda package is available for review, along with any meeting-related writings or documents provided to a majority of the Committee members after distribution of the agenda package, at the Authority’s website, [www.habitatauthority.org](http://www.habitatauthority.org). In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, if you require a disability related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please call Andrea Gullo at 562.945.9003, at least 48 hours prior to meeting.

Pursuant to Section 54954 of the Government Code, the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Authority) will hold a regular meeting of the Citizens Technical Advisory Committee (CTAC) at the above time and location for the purpose of:

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to order.
- II. Roll call.
- III. Public comments.
- IV. Approval of Minutes for the March 21, 2023, Special Meeting.
- V. Standing Reports:
  - a) Report by Board Liaison on previous months’ Authority Board of Directors meetings.
  - b) Committee Member feedback from the public as it relates to the Authority.

- VI. Discussion: Receive and file February 2023 Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) Ranger Report.
- VII. Review by Authority staff and discussion regarding community opinion survey results administered by Authority consultant Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates.
- VIII. Discussion and recommendation to the Board of Directors to adopt Authority Resolution 2023-04, Authorizing Execution of Administering Agreements for State Funded Projects.
- IX. Closing Remarks (Comments/questions from Committee Members and/or Executive Director).
- X. Adjournment and announcement of the next meeting.

The Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority is a public entity established pursuant to the Joint Exercise of Powers Act by agreement between the City of Whittier, Los Angeles County, and Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County. Regular meetings of the Citizens Technical Advisory Committee are scheduled for the Tuesday before the third Thursday of every month. Questions about any agenda item can be addressed to Andrea Gullo, Executive Director, 562.945.9003.

DRAFT Minutes  
PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY  
CITIZENS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
March 21, 2023

The special meeting of the Citizens Technical Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at Palm Park, 5703 Palm Ave, Whittier, CA 90601.

**I. CALL TO ORDER.**

Chair, Matthew Liang, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL.**

A roll call was taken, and there was a quorum at this.

<b>Members Present:</b> Matthew Liang, Chair	County of Los Angeles
Catherine Houwen	La Habra Heights
Adam Nazaraoff	La Habra Heights
Bryan Coreas	County of Los Angeles
Gabriel Monares	County of Los Angeles

**Members Absent:**

Jeff Brauckman	Whittier
(vacant)	Whittier
(vacant)	La Habra Heights

**Authority Representatives Present:**

Andrea Gullo, Executive Director  
Michelle Mariscal, Ecologist  
Marlyn Barajas, Program Analyst  
Kenn Hughes, MRCA Deputy Chief Ranger

**III. INTRODUCTION OF NEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Gabriel Monares took the oath of office before the meeting began. CTAC members welcomed Member Monares.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

There were no public comments.

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE February 14, 2023, REGULAR MEETING**

Member Coreas motioned to approve these minutes as drafted and Member Houwen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**VI. STANDING REPORTS:**

**a. REPORT BY BOARD LIAISON ON PREVIOUS MONTHS' AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING.**

Member Houwen provided this report.

**b. COMMITTEE MEMBER FEEDBACK FROM THE PUBLIC AS IT RELATES TO THE HABITAT AUTHORITY.**

None.

Executive Director Gullo gave an update on social media activities.

**VII. DISCUSSION: RECEIVE AND FILE JANUARY 2023 MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (MRCA) RANGER REPORT**

Ranger Kenn Hughes reviewed the January ranger report. There was discussion.

**VIII. DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE AUTHORITY'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON THE APPROVAL OF COMMENTS ON THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY EAST SAN GABRIEL VALLEY AREA PLAN DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND DRAFT PLAN DOCUMENTS.**

Ecologist Mariscal provided a report. There was discussion.

Member Monares motioned to recommend to the Board that they approve the comment letter and Member Nazaroff seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**IX. RECEIVE AND FILE THE AUTHORITYS FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 END OF THE YEAR BUDGET REPORT, AND FISCAL YEAR 2022-23 MID-YEAR BUDGET REPORT.**

Executive Director Gullo provided a report on the matter. There was discussion. Chair Liang received and filed the report.

**X. CLOSING REMARKS (COMMENTS/QUESTIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND/OR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR)**

Member Houwen commented on how great it is to hold CTAC meetings back in person.

Executive Director Gullo invited CTAC members to attend the Special Board meeting held on March 22, 2023, and reception before the Board meeting for outgoing Board Member Mike Hughes. She also made them aware of new information on the agency website about funding options, under the About Us tab.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING**

There being no further comments, or business to be discussed, Chair Liang adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting date is April 18, 2023.



**MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
Franklin Canyon Park  
2600 Franklin Canyon Drive  
Beverly Hills, California 90210  
Phone (310) 858-7272 Fax (310) 858-7212

February 28, 2023

**Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority  
Ranger Services Activities for February 2023**

- Continued general patrol for: providing visitor information, identifying hazardous conditions and correcting illegal activity.
- Continued general maintenance for: graffiti removal, vandalism repair, litter and dumping removal, fence and gate repairs, sign installations and repairs and trail maintenance.
- Communicated with Habitat Authority trail watchers about trail conditions and hazards.
- Participated in our ranger monthly management meeting.
- Assisted a hiker that collapsed at Arroyo Pescadero. The ranger performed CPR with Whittier Police until paramedics arrived.
- Met with fuel modification contractor for upcoming clearance.
- Met with Sage Environmental and Habitat Authority staff regarding goat grazing in Turnbull Canyon.
- Met with Habitat Authority staff at Sycamore Canyon regarding weed abatement projects.
- Picked up dumping including:
  - Debris at Arroyo San Miguel.
  - Tires and propane bottles at Powder Canyon.
- Continue to notify the Habitat Authority staff of all unsuccessful animal road crossings that are observed at or near Habitat Authority property. During the month of February no animals were observed.
- Continue to monitor the Harbor underpass. No activity to report.
- Continue to pick up dog defecation at all the trailheads.
- Replaced the plexi-glass on the kiosk at Turnbull Canyon.

- Cleaned up large graffiti in the tunnel under Colima Road.
- Repaired the drinking fountain at Arroyo Pescadero.
- Repaired the fire gate at the Elderberry Trail entrance.
- Repainted all the red curbs at the Arroyo Pescadero Trailhead parking lot.
- Inspected the roads and trails for downed trees and trail damage after the rain.
- Removed a fallen tree at Hellman Park.
- Continue to patrol the SCE, Brea 57 site and Monterey mitigation sites in Powder Canyon and the Olinda site in Arroyo San Miguel.
- Dealt with various violations including:
  - In the Preserve after hours at Sycamore Canyon, Hacienda Hills, Powder Cyn., Hellman Park and Arroyo Pescadero.
  - Parking violations at Arroyo Pescadero, Hacienda Hills Trailhead, Sycamore Canyon and Ford property.
  - Dogs in Sycamore Canyon
  - Hikers in Turnbull Canyon and Powder Canyon after rain.
  - Loud music in the Hacienda Hills.
  - Smoking at Ford property.
  - Warn and advise electric bikes in Powder Canyon and Hacienda Hills.
  - Off road motorcycle in Turnbull Canyon.
  - Dogs off leash at Arroyo Pescadero.
  - Bikes in Arroyo Pescadero and Hellman Park.
- The Preserve was closed several days in February due to rain.
- Searched Hellman Park for any homeless activity. No activity to report.
- Spoke to a transient walking his bike at Arroyo Pescadero. Advised him of the rules including no bikes, Preserve hours and no camping.
- Due to safety concerns and overcrowding at the Turnbull Canyon entrance, we previously worked with the owner of the property and Whittier Police Department to secure the vacant lot that is next to the entrance.
- Continue monitoring the surveillance cameras at various trailheads in attempt to catch the vehicle break-in perpetrators. We are also coordinating with Whittier Police and L.A. County Sheriff. One case in February resulted in an arrest and another case is under investigation due to the positive identification from the cameras.

- Continue to contact the Los Angeles County Department of Street Maintenance regarding the graffiti along Turnbull Canyon Road.
- Continue to check and re-post trail closure signs and rope-fence at unauthorized trails and restoration areas in Turnbull Canyon, Worsham Canyon, Powder Canyon and Hellman Park.
- Continue to conduct perimeter patrols of all property for fence damage, illegal access points, rope swings, and encroachments.
- Received several calls during the month of January to our 24-hour ranger emergency services number including:
  - Several calls for hikers locked in at Hellman Park.
  - Several inquiries if the Preserve is open.
  - Reporting a car driving fast in La Habra Heights.
  - Reporting a vehicle broken into at Sycamore Canyon.
  - Inquiring about parking for Hellman Park.
  - Dog off leash at Arroyo Pescadero jumping on people. Unable to locate.
- Continue to work closely with Executive Director Andrea Gullo on various projects and assignments as requested.

If you have any questions, or would like any additional information, please feel free to contact me anytime. Thank you.

Sincerely,

*K E Hughes*

Kenn Hughes  
Deputy Chief Ranger



MEMORANDUM

Meeting Date: April 18, 2023

To: Citizens Technical Advisory Committee

Prepared by: Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Agenda Item: **VII. Review by Authority staff and discussion regarding community opinion survey results administered by Authority consultant Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates.**

Background:

In December 2022, the Board of Directors approved a contract with Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (FM3) in the amount of \$33,900 to conduct an opinion poll for the Authority regarding the agency's financial needs and general community perceptions on related matters. The poll has successfully concluded, and an in-person verbal report regarding the results will be provided at the Committee meeting.

Results were shared with the Board of Directors at their March meeting. The Board provided feedback that community outreach and education will continue.

Recommendation:

Receive and file.

MEMORANDUM

Meeting Date: April 18, 2023

To: Citizens Technical Advisory Committee

Prepared by: Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Agenda Item: **VIII. Discussion and recommendation to the Board of Directors to adopt Authority Resolution 2023-04, Authorizing Execution of Administering Agreements for State Funded Projects.**

Background:

In accordance with Assembly Bills 178 and 179, the Authority will be receiving one-time funding of \$1,300,000 for ranger services for firefighting, law enforcement, outdoor education, and protection of the natural resources for trail visitors. The funds are being administered by Caltrans.

Attached is a resolution which is necessary to receive this funding. The resolution authorizes the Executive Director to enter into a Funds Transfer Agreement between the California Department of Transportation and the Habitat Authority. Authority staff is currently working with Caltrans on the specific scope and flexibility of how the funds can be expended. It is anticipated that, after the Funds Transfer Agreement is executed, the entirety of the funds can be received in advance by June 2023. The funds can be used for Authority expenditures for all of fiscal year 2022-23 and beyond; the end date is not specified but anticipated to be used over two to four years.

Fiscal Impact:

The implementation of the resolution will fiscally benefit the agency for this and future fiscal years. More information can be forthcoming at a later date.

Attachments:

Board Resolution 2023-04

Recommendation:

That the Board of Directors approve resolution 2023-04.

**Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority  
Resolution No. 2023-04**

**A Resolution of the Board of Directors Authorizing Execution of Administering Agreements  
for State Funded Projects**

WHEREAS, the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) is eligible to receive State Funding for certain Projects through the California Department of Transportation; and,

WHEREAS, Master Agreements, Program Supplemental Agreements, Fund Exchange Agreements and/or Funds Transfer Agreements must be executed with the California Department of Transportation before such funds can be claimed; and,

WHEREAS, the Habitat Authority wishes to delegate the authority to execute these agreements, including the Funds Transfer Agreement between the California Department of Transportation and the Habitat Authority, and any amendments thereto to the Executive Director and/or designee; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY FINDS, RESOLVES, AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:**

1. The Recitals set forth above are true and correct and are incorporated into this Resolution by this reference.
2. That the Habitat Authority designate the Executive Director, and/or his/her or Board's designee, as the person authorized to negotiate, execute and submit all documents which may be necessary for all Master Agreements, Program Supplemental Agreements, Fund Exchange Agreements and/or Fund Transfer Agreements, and any amendments thereto with the California Department of Transportation.
3. Gives approval to the Chair of the Board of Directors to sign this Resolution on behalf of the Board, and the Secretary to the Board of Directors shall certify to the passage and adoption thereof.

The foregoing resolution was APPROVED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting held the 20 of April, 2023 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENTS:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Ivan Sulic  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Board of Directors

----- CERTIFICATION OF RESOLUTION -----

PHHPA  
Resolution 2023-04  
April 20, 2023

ATTEST:

I, Marlyn Barajas, Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority, witness my hand on the 20 of April, 2023.

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Signature

Marlyn Barajas  

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Secretary of the Board

# Additional Materials

April 4, 2023

Subject: Brea Boulevard Corridor Improvement Project Cancellation

Dear valued Stakeholder,

Last year, OC Public Works issued a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that evaluated potential environmental effects associated with the Brea Boulevard Corridor Improvement Project (Project) for public review and comment. The public comment period began December 1, 2022 and ended February 3, 2023. The Notice of Availability for the Project's draft EIR is attached for your reference.

Based on numerous comments we received from residents, advocacy groups, and other public agencies, OC Public Works is discontinuing work on the EIR, and will cancel the Project. Instead, OC Public Works will be evaluating other less intrusive means of addressing the aging infrastructure along the corridor. We appreciate the feedback received on this Project as it helps us better tailor our projects to meet the needs of the communities we serve.

Please be aware that we will continue to evaluate the road because maintenance projects are still needed to address the aging bridges. Additionally, OC Public Works plan to study traffic patterns after completion of Caltrans' SR-57 Lambert Road Interchange Improvement and SR-57 Freeway Widening projects to determine if a traffic signal is still warranted to address congestion at Tonner Canyon Road.

Any future projects in this area will not be associated with this Project and will be separately evaluated for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please email: [brea.corridor@ocpw.ocgov.com](mailto:brea.corridor@ocpw.ocgov.com)

Sincerely,



Edward Frondoso  
OC Public Works  
Deputy Director, OC Construction  
[Edward.Frondoso@ocpw.ocgov.com](mailto:Edward.Frondoso@ocpw.ocgov.com)  
714-245-4596 office

**Attachment:** Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR No. 628) for the Brea Boulevard Corridor Improvement Project SCH # 2017051005

# Alachua County Commission moves forward with plans for surtax revenue

By [Nicholas Rubino](https://www.wuft.org/news/2023/02/20/alachua-county-commission-moves-forward-with-plans-for-surtax-revenue/) <https://www.wuft.org/news/2023/02/20/alachua-county-commission-moves-forward-with-plans-for-surtax-revenue/> (Florida)

February 20, 2023

Alachua County's elected leaders have approved two new plans on how they will use \$188 million in taxpayer money.

In November 2022, voters in Alachua County helped pass an infrastructure surtax that will be in place for the next 10 years. It's a 1% sales tax, equating to one cent on the dollar. Half of this tax will be dedicated to the improvement of Alachua County conservation lands, along with the creation and renovation of parks and open spaces. Over the next 10 years, the surtax is projected to bring in \$188 million of taxpayer money to put toward these projects.

On Feb. 7, the Alachua County Commission held a special meeting to discuss plans for how they would best use this sum of money. The two plans up for approval were the Alachua County Forever Land Conservation and Management Program 10-Year Plan and the Parks and Open Space Master Plan.

After hours of deliberation, the committee approved the Land Conservation and Management 10-year plan as it was presented during the meeting. The plan was submitted to the managers of a 23-year-old program called Alachua County Forever, whose mission is "to acquire, improve, and manage environmentally significant lands that protect water resources, wildlife habitats and natural areas suitable for resource-based recreation."

From 2016 to 2022, the program spent approximately \$42 million on the acquisition and management of 32,687 acres of conservation land.

According to Andi Christman, the program manager for the Alachua County Forever program, today "there are currently 156 thousand acres that have not been acquired or not yet protected in those Alachua County Forever project areas."

The county mapped out an original minimum target plan of protecting 30% of the county's land and water by 2030. Recent data suggest that this plan will not be enough, and the county has a decision to make.

"If we were to accept that 30 by '30 goal as our target, knowing that it is recognized to probably not be adequate. That represents approximately 43,000 more acres needed to be protected. At our current price of \$3,177 an acre, knowing that price is only going to increase, that would represent approximately \$138 million dollars," Christman said.

## 80/20 Split on Funding

Project	Total Amount	Per Year
Land Conservation and Management	\$150,652,505	\$15,065,250
New Parks and Renovations	\$37,663,126	\$3,766,313

With the price per acre expected to increase in the coming years, the county adopted a new alternative goal to protect 50% of the county's land and water by 2050, which would equate to nearly 62 thousand acres and \$197 million at current market price value.

The county decided that they would split the funding between land conservation and park development in an 80 percent to 20 percent split.

The 80% for land conservation funding is projected to be \$151 million over the 10-year span. The amount allows the county to take a step toward the new goal of 50% coverage.

In addition, the commission approved the Parks and Open Space Master plan, but only as a visionary document for how they will allocate the funds.

"I'm prepared to support the master plan in concept, but I think we need to have another meeting or two to get into the details of what's our short term, and then mid and long-term plan," Commissioner Ken Cornell said.

Many of the problems that came up in this discussion were along the lines of funding and making it work with the rest of the county's plans.

"While I appreciate this approach, I guess I am wondering where certain pieces of this connect to some of the other work that we are doing," Commissioner Anna Prizzia said

In totality, to carry out the proposed Park and Open Space Master Plan, it would cost approximately \$88 million. With the 80 to 20 splits of the surtax revenue, the Park plan will only see roughly \$38 million of these funds.

That is why they voted to reconvene in 90 to 120 days, when they will discuss how existing county properties can be used in the short term to fit this plan, as well as looking into what conservation land and open space is available as future targets for the plan.