

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY  
Endowment Provided by the Puente Hills Landfill**

This meeting will take place remotely in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e) *et seq.* (AB 361) and Resolution 22-05, adopted by the Board on April 8, 2022. Members of the public can observe and participate in the meeting as follows:

**Via video (Zoom) by joining at this address:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83302090462>

**- Or- Phone by joining at these numbers:** +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782,  
Meeting ID: 833 0209 0462, Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83302090462>

*Members of the public may provide electronic comments by 3pm on Wednesday, April 20, 2022 before the meeting to [mmiller@HabitatAuthority.org](mailto:mmiller@HabitatAuthority.org). Please label the email in the subject heading as “Public Comments”. Public comments may also be verbally heard during item #1 of the meeting.*

Agency	Director	Alternate
County of Los Angeles	SULIC, Chair	YOKOMIZO
City of Whittier	MARTINEZ	BOUCHOT
Hacienda Heights Improvement Association	HUGHES	vacant
Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County	FERRANTE, Vice Chair	BOEHMKE

The Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority is a public entity established pursuant to the Joint Exercise of Powers Act by agreement with the City of Whittier, County of Los Angeles, and Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts. Questions about any agenda items can be directed to Andrea Gullo, Executive Director, at 562.945.9003.

Pursuant to Section 54954 of the Government Code the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Authority), a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Authority will be held at the call of the Chairperson of the Authority at the above time and place for the purpose of:

1. Receipt of Public Comments.
2. Report by Citizens Technical Advisory Committee.
3. Consent Calendar:
  - a. Approval of Authority Regular Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2022, and Special Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2022.
  - b. Approval allowing all written resolutions attached to staff reports to be read by title only and waiving further reading.
  - c. Board adoption of Authority Resolution No. 2022-06 A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority Proclaiming a Local Emergency and Authorizing the Transition to Use of Remote Teleconference Meeting Procedures by the Board of Directors and All Standing Committees of the Authority, as authorized by

Government Code Section 54953(e) *et seq.*, for the SUBSEQUENT Period of April 21, 2022, through May 21, 2022.

- d. Receive and file the Authority's Portfolio Earnings Reports and Custom by Instrument Type for March 2022 prepared by the County of Los Angeles Treasurer and Tax Collector.
4. Discussion and possible action regarding Authority comments on Draft Initial Study – Mitigated Negative Declaration for the City of Whittier's Murphy Reservoir Replacement Project.
5. Discussion and possible action approving Authority Resolution No. 2022-07 approving the application for grant funds for the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Wildfire Prevention Program for the Puente Hills Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Project Round Two.
6. Discussion and possible action authorizing Executive Director to execute contract for mechanical fuel modification services with 805 Discing and Grading Inc. in the amount of \$24,249.60, for a possible five-year total of \$128,744.42.
7. Discussion and possible action for ongoing authority to invest within the Authority's investment portfolio appropriate funds determined to not be needed to cover agency expenditures one year out in accordance with the Authority's Fiscal Policies.
8. Instruction to negotiators on property negotiations for Assessor Parcel Numbers 8239-045-902 and 8239-047-902. Negotiations for an access easement over the property. Negotiating parties include Board Chair, Executive Director, and Coast Community College. (This item can be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 regarding real estate negotiations.)
9. Instruction to negotiators on property negotiations for Assessor Parcel Numbers 8267-014-904, 8267-014-906 commonly known as the Diaz/Old Coach property and APN 8266-002-901, Powder Canyon. 1) Negotiations for an easement over approximately 1/10th of an acre of the property for heli-hydrant easement, and 2) Negotiations regarding La Habra Road vacation and a portion to be dedicated to the City of La Habra Heights for a fire access easement. Negotiating parties include Board Chair or Vice Chair, Executive Director, and City of La Habra Heights. (This item can be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 regarding real estate negotiations.)
10. Instruction to negotiators on property negotiations for Assessor Parcel Numbers 8266-002-901 and 8269-003-900. Negotiating parties include Board Chair, Executive Director, and Rowland Water District. (This item can be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 regarding real estate negotiations.)
11. Board Members' statements, responses, questions or directions to staff, and Executive Director's comments.
12. Adjournment and announcement of next meeting.

**NOTE:** Members of the public may address the Board of Directors on any item shown on the agenda.

Notice and Agenda **Regular Meeting**

**Thursday, April 21, 2022, 3:00 p.m.**

NOTE: 72 hours prior to Board of Directors meetings, the entire Board of Directors agenda package is available for review, along with any meeting-related writings or documents provided to a majority of the Board members after distribution of the agenda package, at [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 Melissa Miller at 562.945.9003 at least 48 hours prior to meeting.

**DRAFT Minutes of Regular Meeting – March 17, 2022**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY**

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Held via video conference and teleconference

This meeting took place remotely in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e) *et seq.* (AB 361) and Resolution 22-01, adopted by the Board on February 17, 2022. Members of the public could observe and participate in the meeting as follows:

Via video (Zoom) and telephonically by joining at this address :  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89030984962> Meeting ID: 890 3098 4962

- Or- Phone by joining at these numbers+1 (669) 900-6833 or +1 (253) 215-8782  
Meeting ID: 890 3098 4962, Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbVSLzCyLL>

At approximately 3:01 p.m., the regular meeting was called to order and a roll call was taken.

From Hacienda Heights Improvement Association:

Absent

From Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County:

Present: Robert Ferrante, Vice Chair

From City of Whittier:

Present: Jessica Martinez, Director

From County of Los Angeles

Present: Ivan Sulic, Chair

Authority representatives present:

Andrea Gullo, Authority Executive Director  
Michelle Mariscal, Authority Ecologist  
Melissa Miller, Authority Board Secretary  
Kenn Hughes, Deputy Chief Ranger, Mountains Recreation and Conservation  
Authority (MRCA)  
Fernando Gomez, Chief Ranger, MRCA  
Elena Gerli, Esq., Aleshire & Wynder LLP, Authority Counsel  
Cathy Houwen, Member of Authority's Citizens Technical Advisory Committee  
(CTAC) and CTAC's Liaison to Board of Directors  
Kelly Telford, CPA; Senior Assurance Manager; LSL, LLP  
Melanie Lee, Senior Consultant, SCI Consulting Group  
Ryan Aston, Project Analyst, SCI Consulting Group

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Others present:

Claire Schlotterbeck, Executive Director of Hills For Everyone (HFE) and Secretary of Chino Hills State Park Interpretive Association  
Edith Gonzalez, Deputy Director of District Operations, San Gabriel Valley/El Monte Regional Office of Los Angeles County First District Supervisor Solis  
Martin Reyes, P. E., Transportation Deputy, Office of Los Angeles County First District Supervisor Solis  
Kimberly Olivares, Assistant Field Deputy/Caseworker, San Gabriel Valley/El Monte Regional Office of Los Angeles County First District Supervisor Solis  
Natasha Krakowiak, Trail Planner, Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation  
Adriana Quinones, Board Member for Hacienda Heights Improvement Association  
Ellen Gervase, resident of Hacienda Heights  
4 unidentified members of the public

**1. RECEIPT OF PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

Chair Sulic acknowledged the two public comments received electronically, from Adriana Quinones and Ellen Gervase (both of which are included in this public record).

Ellen Gervase also spoke to ask several questions about why not all residents neighboring the Preserve received the recent survey regarding local funding for the Authority, why no information has been provided to the public regarding the Authority's current funding and staff salaries, why the Authority's CTAC members have not reached out to their communities about this funding issue, and whether the Authority has yet considered reducing the hours of recreational activity allowed on the Preserve's trails.

Martin Reyes expressed thanks from Los Angeles County Supervisor Solis' office for addressing the funding issue in this agenda's item 6, and reported that Supervisor Solis has not yet engaged with her constituents about this issue and so requests that the Authority Board delay any decision about this until she understands the other funding arrangements that the Authority already has in place, whether any other funds could be available, and what the affected communities support when she meets with them in the coming weeks.

Adriana Quinones also spoke to emphasize that this agenda item 6 requires more outreach to the community.

**2. REPORT BY CITIZENS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

Regarding the March 15, 2022, Authority CTAC meeting, CTAC Member Houwen reported that:

- CTAC received and filed the end-of-the-year Authority fiscal year budget 2020-2021 and half-year Authority fiscal year budget 2021-2022;
- CTAC recommended to the Board of Directors that, after reviewing SCI's presentation and CTAC Member Nazaroff's comments regarding obtaining more description of the

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next steps possible as well as the potential costs and risks of proceeding with pursuing this local funding mechanism, especially in the current inflationary economy, the Board Directors take appropriate action to consider moving forward with the proposed local funding mechanism.

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

- a) Approval of Authority Regular Meeting Minutes of February 17, 2022.
- b) Approval allowing all written resolutions attached to staff reports to be read by title only and waiving further reading.
- c) Board adoption of Authority Resolution No. 2022-03 A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority Proclaiming a Local Emergency and Authorizing the Transition to Use of Remote Teleconference Meeting Procedures by the Board of Directors and All Standing Committees of the Authority, as authorized by Government Code Section 54953(e) *et seq.*, for the SUBSEQUENT Period of March 17, 2022, through April 16, 2022.
- d) Receive and file the Authority’s Portfolio Earnings Reports and Custom by Instrument Type for February 2022 prepared by the County of Los Angeles Treasurer and Tax Collector.
- e) Receive and file an update on the completed Ridgewood/Brea Power Phase II Coastal Sage Scrub Mitigation Site.

Director Martinez motioned to approve, adopt and receive and file these items. Vice Chair Ferrante seconded this motion, and in a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.
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**4. INTRODUCTION OF CHIEF RANGER FERNANDO GOMEZ. DISCUSSION, RECEIVE AND FILE JANUARY 2022 MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (MRCA) RANGER REPORT.**

Deputy Chief Ranger Hughes briefly reviewed this report, and introduced Chief Ranger Gomez, who updated the Board regarding the rangers’ enhanced coordination and communication with the Whittier Police Department and the resulting evidentiary and enforcement activities of both agencies. Director Martinez thanked the rangers for their efforts, and Chair Sulic asked if similar activity enhancement has been implemented with the Los Angeles County Fire Department personnel. Chief Ranger Gomez confirmed that such coordination with County Fire is ongoing. The Board received and filed this report.

**5. INTRODUCTION OF ACCOUNTING CONSULTANT KELLY TELFORD, CPA, OF LANCE, SOLL & LUNGHARD, LLP. DISCUSSION, RECEIVE AND FILE AUTHORITY END OF THE YEAR BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2020-21, AND AUTHORITY HALF YEAR BUDGET UPDATE FISCAL YEAR 2021-22.**

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Executive Director Gullo introduced Authority accounting consultant Kelly Telford, CPA, who briefly reviewed the information presented in the staff report, noting that both revenues and expenses for the Authority's just-past fiscal year were below what had been estimated. Vice Chair Ferrante asked about the status of communications with Los Angeles County regarding the expected funding from Measure A, and Executive Director Gullo replied that the County's recent changes in the administration of funds from Measure A make it more difficult for the Authority to continue to obtain reimbursements for management activities and have prohibited the use of such reimbursements on land which the Authority does not own but instead manages on behalf of the City of Whittier. Chair Sulic added that talks are continuing between the Authority, the County and the City of Whittier, and Vice Chair Ferrante asked that updates about these communications continue to be provided to the Board at future meetings. Executive Director Gullo noted that the grants recently obtained from the RMC and CalFire will be utilized on all owned and non-owned properties managed by the Authority. Chair Sulic asked about the Authority's financial outlook, and Executive Director Gullo answered that the Authority's endowment funds have had to be invested in longer-term instruments in order to maximize the return rate as much as the recent economic circumstances have allowed. CPA Telford added that government entities are prohibited from investing in typical instruments such as stocks and real estate, leaving the available investments mostly in low-interest instruments, but for all of California expenses are increasing faster than are revenues. Executive Director Gullo stated that the Authority is still looking to cut its budget for the next fiscal year, and will need to consider trimming its ranger service significantly since there are no grant funds available that will apply to that expense.

**6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A) RECEIVE AND FILE THE SURVEY FINDINGS RELATED TO LOCAL FUNDING MEASURE, B) DIRECTION ON MOVING FORWARD WITH EITHER A COMMUNITY FACILITY DISTRICT OR SPECIAL TAX SPECIAL ELECTION, AND C) AUTHORIZATION FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A NON-BID CONTRACT WITH SCI CONSULTING GROUP FOR SERVICES TO FACILITATE A FUNDING MEASURE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$55,500 OR \$80,000 DEPENDENT ON THE MECHANISM.**

Executive Director Gullo introduced Authority consultant Melanie Lee from SCI Consulting, who provided a PowerPoint presentation reviewing the results of their recent community survey conducted for the Authority. Director Martinez asked how many renters were polled as opposed to property owners, and Consultant Lee replied that 78% of the respondents were the owners of their properties. Vice Chair Ferrante stated that the support of Los Angeles County as well as the governments of the five cities or communities polled in this survey should be determined before proceeding further. The Board received and filed the survey findings, and Counsel Gerli stated that this item's B) and C) can be tabled in anticipation of a special meeting in the future.

**7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION APPOINTING BOARD DIRECTOR(S) TO THE SUBCOMMITTEES A) TO COORDINATE WITH STAFF AND CONSULTANT TO ADDRESS FEASIBILITY OF A FINANCING MECHANISM IN PART FOR WILDFIRE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF AGENCY PROPERTIES, AND B) REGARDING FINANCES INCLUDING THE AUTHORITY'S SPECIFIC PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS.**

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Chair Sulic stated that this item also should be tabled in relation to the tabling of item 6.

**8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ADOPTING AUTHORITY RESOLUTION NO 2022-04 REPEALING AND REPLACING THE AUTHORITY’S PURCHASING POLICY, AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO UPDATE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO REFLECT THE UPDATED PURCHASING POLICY.**

Counsel Gerli reviewed the differences between the current Purchasing Policy and the proposed revision thereof, and there was little discussion.

Vice Chair Ferrante motioned to adopt Resolution 2022-04 Repealing and Replacing the Authority’s Purchasing Policy and to authorize Executive Director to update any and all relevant documents necessary to reflect the updated purchasing policy. Director Martinez seconded this motion, and in a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

**9. INSTRUCTION TO NEGOTIATORS ON PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS FOR ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBERS 8239-045-902 AND 8239-047-902. NEGOTIATIONS FOR AN ACCESS EASEMENT OVER THE PROPERTY. NEGOTIATING PARTIES INCLUDE BOARD CHAIR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE. (This item can be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 regarding real estate negotiations.)**

At 4:47 p.m. Chair Sulic moved to continue discussion of items 9, 10 and 11 in Closed Session.

In the closed session, item 9 was discussed by the Board and no reportable action was taken.

**10. INSTRUCTION TO NEGOTIATORS ON PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS FOR ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBERS 8267-014-904, 8267-014-906 COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE DIAZ/OLD COACH PROPERTY AND APN 8266-002-901, POWDER CANYON. 1) NEGOTIATIONS FOR AN EASEMENT OVER APPROXIMATELY 1/10TH OF AN ACRE OF THE PROPERTY FOR HELI-HYDRANT EASEMENT, AND 2) NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING LA HABRA ROAD VACATION AND A PORTION TO BE DEDICATED TO THE CITY OF LA HABRA HEIGHTS FOR A FIRE ACCESS EASEMENT. NEGOTIATING PARTIES INCLUDE BOARD CHAIR OR VICE CHAIR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND CITY OF LA HABRA HEIGHTS. (This item can be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 regarding real estate negotiations.)**

In the closed session, item 10 was discussed by the Board and no reportable action was taken.

**11. INSTRUCTION TO NEGOTIATORS ON PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS FOR ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBERS 8266-002-901 AND 8269-003-900. NEGOTIATING PARTIES INCLUDE BOARD CHAIR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND ROWLAND**



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**WATER DISTRICT. (This item can be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 regarding real estate negotiations.)**

In the closed session, item 11 was discussed by the Board and no reportable action was taken.

At 4:57 p.m. Chair Sulic moved to end the Closed Session and the Open Session recommenced.

**12. BOARD MEMBERS’ STATEMENTS, RESPONSES, QUESTIONS OR DIRECTIONS TO STAFF, AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S COMMENTS.**

Director Martinez thanked the Authority’s staff for their continued efforts.

Executive Director Gullo advised that the State of California’s emergency declaration is still in effect regarding the COVID pandemic, and Counsel Gerli confirmed that there is no news yet regarding its status.

Vice Chair Ferrante reported that Sanitation Districts staff are currently set to redeploy beginning next month and fully in June, with masks and distancing not required indoors but recommended.

Chair Sulic stated that the Authority should wait as long as possible to resume in-person meetings, since the current teleconferencing method seems to allow for increased access and participation.

Executive Director Gullo reported that staff is trying to arrange volunteer assistance for two Junior Ranger hikes early next month, and that she recently attended a presentation of an independently filmed documentary entitled “Turnbull Canyon: Road Unwound” and found the historical information therein from the Workman Temple Museum staff to be substantial but the overall film emphasized various myths and sensationalized topics. She added that she will email later about any other updates she has.

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

There being no further comments, or business to be discussed, Chair Sulic adjourned the meeting at 5:02 p.m. The next regular meeting date is April 21, 2022, but since a special meeting might be needed before that date in order to consider the tabled funding-mechanism and subcommittee items, the next actual meeting date is still to be determined.

*Approved:*

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*Ivan Sulic, Board Chair*

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*Melissa Miller, Board Secretary*

**DRAFT Minutes of Special Meeting – April 8, 2022**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY**

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Held via video conference and teleconference

This meeting took place remotely in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e) *et seq.* (AB 361) and Resolution 22-03, adopted by the Board on March 17, 2022. Members of the public could observe and participate in the meeting as follows:

Via video (Zoom) and telephonically by joining at this address:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81493803627> Meeting ID: 814 9380 3627

- Or- Phone by joining at these numbers: +1 (669) 900-6833, +1 (346) 248-7799  
Meeting ID: 814 9380 3627, Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kgYcxuLfb>

At approximately 11:00 a.m., the special meeting was called to order and a roll call was taken.

From Hacienda Heights Improvement Association:

Present: Michael Hughes, Director

From Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County:

Present: Robert Ferrante, Vice Chair

From City of Whittier:

Present: Jessica Martinez, Director

From County of Los Angeles

Present: Ivan Sulic, Chair

Authority representatives present:

Andrea Gullo, Authority Executive Director  
Michelle Mariscal, Authority Ecologist  
Payam Mostafavi, Esq., Aleshire & Wynder LLP, for Authority Counsel Elena Gerli,  
Esq., Aleshire & Wynder LLP  
Cathy Houwen, Member of Authority's Citizens Technical Advisory Committee  
(CTAC) and CTAC's Liaison to Board of Directors  
Kelly Telford, CPA; Senior Assurance Manager; LSL, LLP  
Blair Aas, Director of Planning Services, SCI Consulting Group

Others present:

Martin Reyes, P. E.; Transportation Deputy; Office of Los Angeles County First  
District Supervisor Solis  
John Pespisa, Chair of La Habra Heights Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness  
Committee

**DRAFT Minutes of Special Meeting – April 8, 2022**  
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**PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY**

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**1. RECEIPT OF PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

Executive Director Gullo reported that no public comments have been received electronically.

John Pespisa, speaking as a resident of La Habra Heights, noted that while he supports the Authority's goals, a very strong case must be made to support the Authority's request for implementing any community facility district. He suggested that the Authority's rangers be replaced with security staff, since the rangers always contact either Whittier Police or Los Angeles County Sheriff personnel to effect any arrests. He also noted that the consultant contracted for exploration of this funding district is expensive. Lastly, he reported that in his opinion the La Habra Heights community largely does not support the Authority's implementation of a community facility district, and would appreciate being represented on the Authority's Board of Directors so they could participate in decision-making processes such as this.

**2. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

- a) Approval allowing all written resolutions attached to staff reports to be read by title only and waiving further reading.
- b) Board adoption of Authority Resolution No. 2022-05 A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority Proclaiming a Local Emergency and Authorizing the Transition to Use of Remote Teleconference Meeting Procedures by the Board of Directors and All Standing Committees of the Authority, as authorized by Government Code Section 54953(e) *et seq.*, for the SUBSEQUENT Period of April 8, 2022, through May 8, 2022.

Vice Chair Ferrante motioned to approve and adopt these items. Director Hughes seconded this motion, and in a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.
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**3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A) RECEIVE AND FILE THE SURVEY FINDINGS RELATED TO LOCAL FUNDING MEASURE, B) DIRECTION ON MOVING FORWARD WITH EITHER A COMMUNITY FACILITY DISTRICT OR SPECIAL TAX SPECIAL ELECTION, AND C) AUTHORIZATION FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A NON-BID CONTRACT WITH SCI CONSULTING GROUP FOR SERVICES TO FACILITATE A FUNDING MEASURE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$55,500 OR \$80,000 DEPENDENT ON THE MECHANISM.**

Executive Director Gullo reported that this is a continued item from the previous meeting and that so far the Los Angeles County First Supervisorial District Office has not found an additional source(s) of funding available to the Authority, and while they do not want to hinder the Authority's search for such funding they do want the Authority to conduct substantial educational community outreach. She explained options A, B and C in the staff report. She also pointed out that, upon additional review of the agency funds after the staff report was

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written, the Authority could consider using \$700,000 from the mitigation restoration projects due to overbudgeting of two of the projects if it needs to fill operational budget gaps. Authority consultant Kelly Telford, CPA, noted that the Authority in recent years has already cut important activities from its budget, such as education and ranger coverages, and almost half of its past income has come from investments which have now had their rates of return reduced for the next several years. Vice Chair Ferrante noted that, between the increased usage of the trails and duration of fire-hazard weather, the Authority cannot continue to cut its expenses, and he asked if Los Angeles County Fourth District Supervisor Janice Hahn supports the Authority's pursuit of establishing a community facility district. Chair Sulic replied in the affirmative. Martin Reyes, from the Los Angeles County First Supervisorial District Office, emphasized that Supervisor Solis wants more background information on this item and does not necessarily support it at this time given the amount of information available to them presently. Director Hughes expressed his appreciation for the Board's past conservative fiscal practices, and Vice Chair Ferrante noted that delaying to a larger election time will also be more cost-effective. Kelly Telford, CPA, added that a thorough, independent financial analysis of the Authority's position and forecast would be beneficial for providing information to the voters when they consider whether to support such a financing mechanism.

Director Hughes motioned to delay moving forward with a financing mechanism, option B in the staff report. Vice Chair Ferrante seconded this motion, adding that this delay allows for the hiring of a financial services advisor. In a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

**4. BOARD MEMBERS' STATEMENTS, RESPONSES, QUESTIONS OR DIRECTIONS TO STAFF, AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS.**

Executive Director Gullo noted that the hiring of a financial services advisor was not actually agendized in the previous item of this meeting, only suggested within the staff report, and so the possibility of that contract will be agendized at a subsequent Board meeting.

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

There being no further comments, or business to be discussed, Chair Sulic adjourned the meeting at 12:12 p.m. The next regular meeting date is April 21, 2022.

*Approved:*

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*Ivan Sulic, Board Chair*

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*Melissa Miller, Board Secretary*

Puente Hills  
Habitat Preservation Authority  
Endowment Provided by the Puente Hills Landfill

MEMORANDUM

**Date:** April 21, 2022

**To:** Board Members

**From:**   
Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

**Subject:** Agenda Item No. 3c) Board adoption of Authority Resolution No. 2022-06 A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority Proclaiming a Local Emergency and Authorizing the Transition to Use of Remote Teleconference Meeting Procedures by the Board of Directors and All Standing Committees of the Authority, as authorized by Government Code Section 54953(e) *et seq.*, for the SUBSEQUENT Period of April 21, 2022, through May 21, 2022.

Recommendation:

That the Board adopt the attached resolution, 2022-06.

Background:

The attached resolution is provided for your consideration to be in compliance with Assembly Bill 361 which was signed into law on September 16, 2021 and made effective on October 1, 2021. AB 361 allows continued remote teleconference meetings without traditional Brown Act compliance, provided certain findings can be made related to the ongoing state of emergency and subject to adherence to certain new noticing and public participation requirements.

No later than 30 days after teleconferencing for the first time under AB 361 rules, and every 30 days thereafter, the Board must adopt a resolution making the required findings of necessity to continue conducting public meetings remotely in reliance on AB 361 and affirming the measures in place to allow remote public comments by the public.

It has been approximately 13 days from the adoption of the Authority's 2022-05 resolution which was approved at the last Board meeting on April 8, 2022 and valid through May 8, 2022, so the attached is a subsequent resolution extending the timeframe for virtual meetings through May 21, 2022. Additionally, the adoption of this resolution will enable the Authority's Advisory Committee to meet virtually in May, as the previous resolution expiration date of May 8 preceded their regularly scheduled meeting of May 17.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-06

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY PROCLAIMING A LOCAL EMERGENCY PERSISTS AND RE-AUTHORIZING THE USE OF REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETING PROCEDURES BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ALL STANDING COMMITTEES FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 21, 2022 THROUGH MAY 21, 2022, AS AUTHORIZED BY GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953(E) *ET SEQ.*

WHEREAS, the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (the “Authority”) is committed to preserving and nurturing public access, transparency, observation and participation in meetings of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) and each of its standing committees; and

WHEREAS, all meetings of the Board and standing committees are open and public, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act, codified in Government Code sections 54950 *et seq.*, so that any member of the public may attend, participate, and observe the Board and standing committees conduct their business; and

WHEREAS, the Brown Act, as amended by Assembly Bill 361 (2021), codified in Government Code sections 54953(e) *et seq.*, allows for remote teleconferencing observation and participation in meetings by members of a legislative body and members of the public, without compliance with the requirements of Government Code section 54953(b)(3) regarding teleconferencing, subject to the existence of certain conditions; and

WHEREAS, the initial required condition is that the meeting is held during a state of emergency that has been declared by the Governor pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act at Government Code section 8625, proclaiming the existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the state and within the boundaries of the Authority, caused by conditions as described in Government Code section 8558; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, pursuant to Government Code section 8625, Governor Newsom declared the existence of a state of emergency for the State of California, which includes area within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Authority, in response to the outbreak of respiratory illness due to a novel coronavirus (a disease now known as COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, also on March 4, 2020, the County of Los Angeles followed suit and declared the existence of a state of emergency for the County of Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, Government Code section 54953(e) *et seq.* further requires that state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing; or, the legislative body of the Authority finds that meeting in person would present imminent risk to the health and safety of attendees; and

WHEREAS, the Board previously adopted Resolution No. 2022-05 on April 8, 2022, finding that the requisite conditions exist for the Board and all standing committees of the Authority to conduct remote teleconference meetings without compliance with Government Code section 54953(b)(3), as authorized by Government Code section 54953(e) *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, as a condition of extending the use of the remote teleconference meeting procedures provided in Government Code section 54953(e), the Board must reconsider the

circumstances of the state of emergency, and as of the date of this Resolution, the Board has done so; and

WHEREAS, a state of emergency persists, as initially identified and described by the Governor in the proclamation of the existence of a state of emergency for the State of California in response to the outbreak of respiratory illness due to a novel coronavirus (a disease now known as COVID-19) issued on March 4, 2020, pursuant to Government Code section 8625; and

WHEREAS, State of California and Los Angeles County Department of Public Health officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing, as reflected by (without limitation) current State and County Public Health Officer Orders and related orders and guidance; and

WHEREAS, the Board hereby finds that the emergency conditions persist in the Authority, such that meeting in person for the meetings of the Board and standing committees of the Authority would present imminent risk to the health and safety of attendees as a result of the increased risk of the spread of the COVID-19 virus among those in attendance; and

WHEREAS, the Board hereby finds that the state of emergency due to the COVID-19 virus and the conditions related thereto has caused, and will continue to cause, conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons within the Authority that are likely to be beyond the control of services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of the Authority, and thereby reaffirms, reauthorizes, and continues the existence of a local emergency and ratifies state and local orders for social distancing; and

WHEREAS, the Board hereby finds that, as a consequence of the local emergency persisting and the imposed or recommended social distancing measures, the Board and standing committees of the Authority shall conduct their meetings without compliance with Government Code section 54953(b)(3), and shall instead comply with the remote teleconference meeting requirements as authorized by Government Code section 54953(e) *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the Board affirms that it will allow for observation and participation by Board Members, Advisory Committee Members and the public via video and/or telephone, in an effort to protect the constitutional and statutory rights of all attendees.

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

Section 1. The Recitals set forth above are true and correct and are incorporated into this Resolution by this reference.

Section 2. The Board hereby reconsiders the conditions of the state of emergency as proclaimed by the Governor, the existence of emergency conditions in the Authority, and reaffirms, reauthorizes, and continues the existence of a local emergency throughout the Authority.

Section 3. The Board finds that holding the meetings of the Board and standing committees of the Authority in person continues to present imminent risk to the health and safety of attendees

as a result of the increased risk of the spread of the COVID-19 virus among those in attendance, as required by Government Code section 54953(e) *et seq.*

Section 4. Further, the Board finds that the State of California and Los Angeles County Department of Public Health officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing; and

Section 5. The Executive Director is hereby authorized and directed to take all actions necessary to carry out the intent and purpose of this Resolution, including, continuing to conduct open and public meetings remotely in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e) and other applicable provisions of the Brown Act, for all Board meetings and all standing committee meetings of the Authority.

Section 6. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and shall be effective until the earlier of (i) May 8, 2022, or such time the Board adopts a subsequent resolution in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e)(3) to extend the time during which the Board and standing committees of the Authority may continue to meet remotely, without compliance with Government Code section 54953(b)(3), but otherwise as permitted by Government Code section 54953(e) *et seq.*

Section 7. Should any provision, section, paragraph, sentence or word of this Resolution be rendered or declared invalid by any final court action in a court of competent jurisdiction or by reason of any preemptive legislation, the remaining provisions, sections, paragraphs, sentences or words of this Resolution as hereby adopted shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 8. The Board Secretary shall certify to the adoption of this Resolution and enter it into the book of original Resolutions.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority duly held on 21st day of April, 2022, by the following vote:

**AYES:** Board Members:  
**NOES:** Board Members:  
**ABSENT:** Board Members:  
**ABSTAIN:** Board Members:

---

Chair, Board of Directors

**WITNESS** my hand of said Authority this 21st day of April, 2022.

---

Melissa Miller, Secretary





**KEITH KNOX**  
TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street, Room 462, Los Angeles, California 90012  
Telephone: (213) 974-3385 Fax: (213) 626-1701  
[ttc.lacounty.gov](http://ttc.lacounty.gov) and [propertytax.lacounty.gov](http://propertytax.lacounty.gov)

Board of Supervisors  
**HILDA L. SOLIS**  
First District  
**HOLLY J. MITCHELL**  
Second District  
**SHEILA KUEHL**  
Third District  
**JANICE HAHN**  
Fourth District  
**KATHRYN BARGER**  
Fifth District

April 6, 2022

Andrea Gullo, Executive Director  
Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority  
7333 Greenleaf Avenue, First Floor  
Whittier, CA 90602

Email: [agullo@habitatauthority.org](mailto:agullo@habitatauthority.org)

## PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORTS

Dear Andrea Gullo:

We have enclosed the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority Portfolio Income Reconciliation Report (Earnings Report), Custom Position Report, Purchase Detail Report, and Chronological Detail Report for the month ended March 31, 2022, for your review and reference.

Should you have questions, you may contact Ms. Marivic Liwag, Assistant Operations Chief, of my staff at (213) 974-7371, or [mliwag@ttc.lacounty.gov](mailto:mliwag@ttc.lacounty.gov).

Very truly yours,

KEITH KNOX  
Treasurer and Tax Collector



Jennifer Koai  
Operations Chief

JK:ML:az

Enclosures

# INCOME RECONCILIATION REPORT



Run Date: 3/31/2022 2:55:21 PM

From Date: 3/1/2022 To Date: 3/31/2022

Inv No.	Security Description	CUSIP	Effect Rate	Stored Yield	Durat	Cur Par Value	Posted Int/Div	Beginning Prem/ (Disc)	Accretion Income	(Amortization) Expense	Scheduled Accruals	Gain (Loss)	Total Income
<b>Fund: 4350 PHHPA-PH HABITAT PRESERVATION AU</b>													
117243	FFCB 2.50 (C	3133EMW65	2.5000	2.5000	15.3790	22,675,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	47,239.58	0.00	47,239.58
Inv Type: 1040 FFCB Fxd-			2.5000	2.5000	15.3790	22,675,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	47,239.58	0.00	47,239.58
114424	FHLMC 2.00 (	3134GWSD9	2.0000	2.0000	17.4850	9,500,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,833.33	0.00	15,833.33
Inv Type: 1500 FHLMC Fxd			2.0000	2.0000	17.4850	9,500,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,833.33	0.00	15,833.33
<b>Subtotal</b>			2.3524	2.3524	16.0008	32,175,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	63,072.91	0.00	63,072.91
Grand Total		Count 2				32,175,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	63,072.91	0.00	63,072.91



# Custom Position Report

As Of Date: 03/31/2022

Run: 03/31/2022 02:56:59 PM

Reporting Currency: Local

LA County

Inv. No.	Description	CUSIP	Interest Rate	Maturity Date	Yield at Purchase	Par Value	Amortized Cost	Historical Cost	Accumulated Amort/Accr
<b>Fund Grp: 4000 SPI-SPECIFIC PURPOSE INVSTMNT</b>									
117243	FFCB 2.50 (CALLABLE)	3133EMW65	2.500000	07/29/2041	2.500000	22,675,000.00	22,675,000.00	22,675,000.00	0.00
Inv Type: 1040 FFCB Fxd-(S) 30/360						<b>22,675,000.00</b>	<b>22,675,000.00</b>	<b>22,675,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
114424	FHLMC 2.00 (CALLABLE)	3134GWSD9	2.000000	08/27/2043	2.000000	9,500,000.00	9,500,000.00	9,500,000.00	0.00
Inv Type: 1500 FHLMC Fxd-(S) 30/360						<b>9,500,000.00</b>	<b>9,500,000.00</b>	<b>9,500,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Fund: 4350 PHHPA-PH HABITAT PRESERVATION AU						<b>32,175,000.00</b>	<b>32,175,000.00</b>	<b>32,175,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>						<b>32,175,000.00</b>	<b>32,175,000.00</b>	<b>32,175,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Grand Total	Count 2					<b>32,175,000.00</b>	<b>32,175,000.00</b>	<b>32,175,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>



# Purchase Detail Report

From Date: 3/1/2022 To Date: 3/31/2022

Date Basis: Settlement

Run: 03/31/2022 02:52:53 PM

Reporting Currency: Local

LA County

Inv.	Description	Fund	Group	TXN	Bank	Broker	Settle	Maturity	Rate	Par	Principal	Purchase Interest
Grand Total		Count 0							.000			



# Chronological Detail Report

From Date: 3/1/2022 To Date: 3/31/2022

Date Basis: Settlement

Run: 03/31/2022 02:58:18 PM

Reporting Currency: Local

LA County

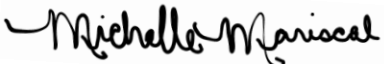
Inv.	TXN	Description	Settle Date	Maturity	Rate	Yield	Par Value	Book Value	Interest	Amort / (Accret)	(Gain) / Loss	Settlement
<b>Grand Total</b>											<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

Puente Hills  
Habitat Preservation Authority  
Endowment Provided by the Puente Hills Landfill

MEMORANDUM

**Date:** April 21, 2022

**To:** Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

**From:**   
Michelle Mariscal, Ecologist

**Subject:** Agenda Item No. 4) Discussion and possible action regarding Authority comments on Draft Initial Study – Mitigated Negative Declaration for the City of Whittier’s Murphy Reservoir Replacement Project.

Recommendation:

That the Board approve the attached comment letter.

Background:

The City of Whittier’s Murphy Reservoir Replacement Project proposes to demolish two existing water reservoirs, construct a new reservoir on the same site, and replace all other site infrastructure. The purpose of the proposed project is to restore the integrity and storage capacity for the existing Murphy Reservoirs, thereby facilitating the City’s ability to continue providing a clean, reliable water supply to its residents. Currently, only one of the existing reservoirs is operational and has a storage capacity of 0.5 million gallons (MG; 500,000 gallons). The replacement reservoir will have a storage capacity of 2.31 MG. As the Lead Agency, the City of Whittier released an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS-MND) document for public review on April 7th. Please see the Authority’s attached draft comment letter (Exhibit A) regarding the IS-MND.

The project site, 7900 Ocean View Avenue, is adjacent to the Authority-managed Core Habitat Zone of the Puente Hills Preserve (Exhibit B), owned by the City. Due to the Project’s proximity, Authority staff were contacted by City staff and have been communicating with them since early 2021 regarding this project, including two site visits and informal review of the IS-MND document prior to its public release. Authority staff will continue to coordinate with City staff during implementation of the project, including obtaining insurance certificates from City contractors if activity will occur on the Preserve. It is anticipated that a City contractor will need to access the Preserve on foot during installation of the retaining wall and perimeter fence. Authority staff advised City staff to review the City’s Proposition A acquisition grant agreement for the City’s property for compatibility and anything applicable to the construction of the retaining wall. City staff reported that nothing applicable was found in the agreement.

April 21, 2022

Agenda Item 4

Page 2

The deadline for submitting comments is May 6, 2022. The Notice of Availability and Draft Initial Study—Mitigated Negative Declaration are posted on the City’s website: <https://www.cityofwhittier.org/government/community-development/environmental-documents-notices/mitigated-negative-declaration-and-appendices-for-the-murphy-reservoir-replacement-project>.



# **Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority**

Endowment Provided by the Puente Hills Landfill

EXHIBIT A

DRAFT

April 21, 2022

Kyle Cason, Director of Public Works  
City of Whittier, Public Works Department  
13230 Penn Street  
Whittier, California 90602  
PubWks@cityofwhittier.org

## **Re: Comments on Draft Initial Study – Mitigated Negative Declaration for the City of Whittier’s Murphy Reservoir Replacement Project**

Dear Mr. Cason:

The Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the City of Whittier’s Draft Initial Study – Mitigated Negative Declaration for the City of Whittier’s Murphy Reservoir Replacement Project released April 7, 2022. The Board of Directors for the Habitat Authority met on April 21, 2022, and is submitting these comments for your consideration.

The Habitat Authority is a joint powers authority established pursuant to California Government Code Section 6500 *et seq.* with a Board of Directors consisting of the City of Whittier, County of Los Angeles, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, and the Hacienda Heights Improvement Association. According to its mission, the Habitat Authority is dedicated to the acquisition, restoration, and management of open space in the Puente Hills for preservation of the land in perpetuity, with the primary purpose to protect the biological diversity. Additionally, the agency endeavors to provide opportunities for outdoor education and low-impact recreation.

In the Puente Hills, the Habitat Authority manages the open space in its ownership as well as open spaced owned by the City of Whittier and Sanitation Districts, totaling over 3,880 acres, within the Cities of Whittier and La Habra Heights and the County unincorporated area known as Hacienda Heights. These lands are collectively referred to as the Puente Hills Preserve (Preserve). The proposed Murphy Reservoir Replacement Project is adjacent to Preserve lands that are managed by the Habitat Authority through Agreements with the City of Whittier, A97-172 and A15-128.

Overall, we support the City’s efforts to improve water supply to its residents and greatly appreciate the coordination and communication between Public Works staff and the Habitat Authority concerning the proposed project. Upon review of the Draft Initial Study – Mitigated Negative Declaration we were pleased to note that careful consideration was given to avoiding direct and indirect impacts to biological resources on the adjacent Preserve, including



implementation of several appropriate project-specific Best Management Practices and avoiding heavy equipment activities from January 1 through September 1 when raptor and songbirds have a high potential to nest in the adjacent habitat.

Thank you for your consideration, and feel free to contact me or Ecologist Michelle Mariscal ([mmariscal@habitatauthority.org](mailto:mmariscal@habitatauthority.org)) for further discussion. Also, please maintain our agency on the contact list for this planning process.

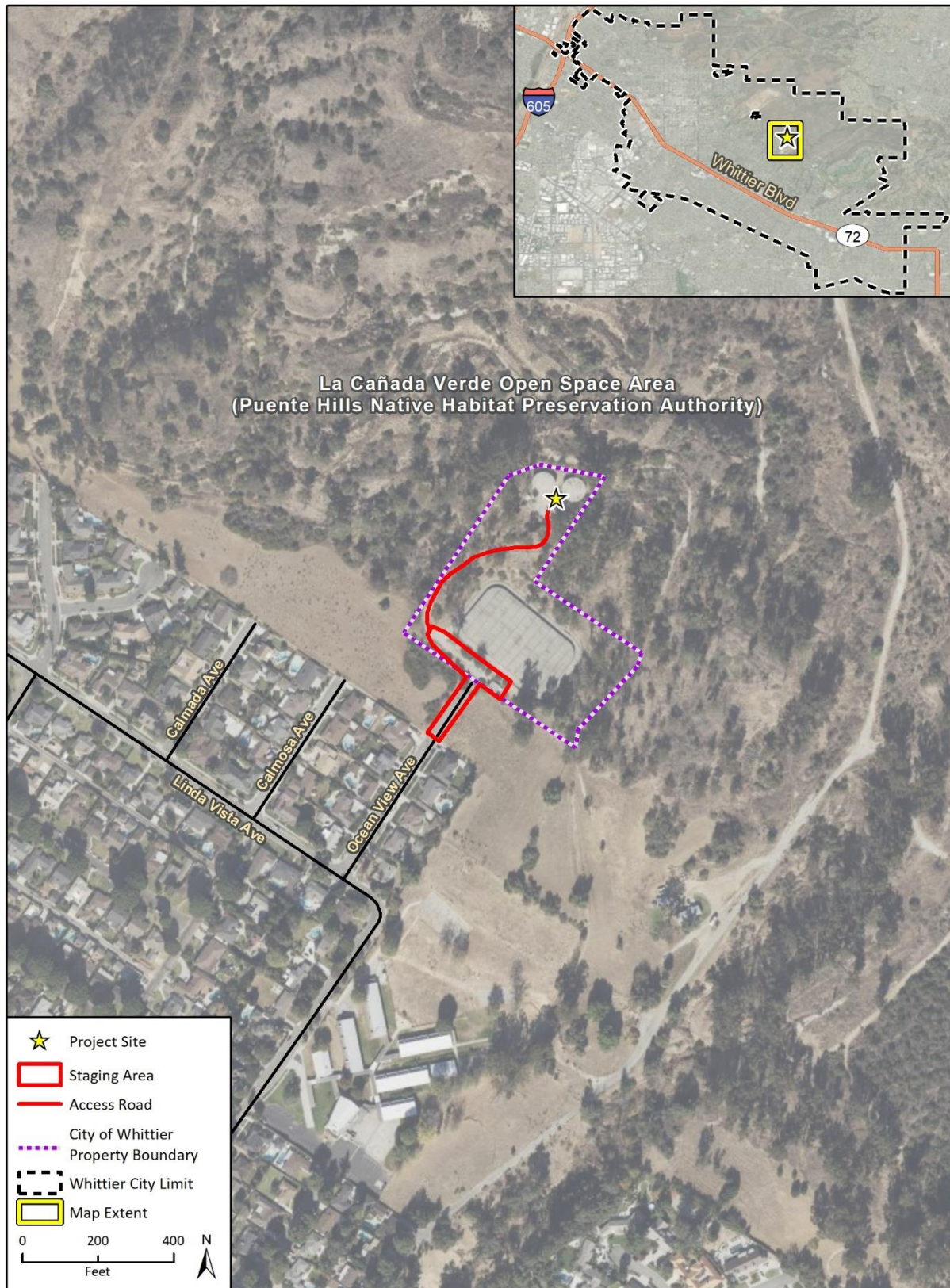
Sincerely,

DRAFT

Ivan Sulic  
Chair

cc: Board of Directors  
Citizens Technical Advisory Committee

Figure 1 Project Location

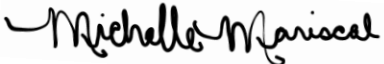


Puente Hills  
Habitat Preservation Authority  
Endowment Provided by the Puente Hills Landfill

MEMORANDUM

**Date:** April 21, 2022

**To:** Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

**From:**   
Michelle Mariscal, Ecologist

**Subject:** Agenda Item No. 5) Discussion and possible action approving Authority Resolution No. 2022-07 approving the application for grant funds for the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Wildfire Prevention Program for the Puente Hills Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Project Round Two.

Recommendation:

That the Board approve the attached grant-required Resolution 2021-07 read in title only which authorizes the Executive Director to submit and execute associated grant documents as needed.

Background:

The Authority is applying to receive grant funds from the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) in the amount of \$275,600 for wildfire fuel reduction actions. This funding is sourced from the Governor's wildfire resilience plan. The RMC is looking to award funds by mid-May. If awarded, the funds would need to be spent by the end of FY 24-25. Proposed projects include defensible space clearance in Hacienda Heights, fuel load reduction via goat grazing in La Habra Heights, invasive species removal coupled with habitat enhancement in Whittier, and roadside clearance along emergency access routes. The work would commence in the fall of 2022, with most clearance tasks being repeated annually for an additional two years. Goat grazing would occur during spring of 2023 and spring of 2024. Due to limited Authority staff capacity, the grant amount also includes funds to hire a biological consultant to oversee the implementation of the projects through 2024; that work would include contractor scheduling, communications, and site visits to assess job completion. The grant application assumes that the Authority would be hiring two contractors, Nakae and Associates and Land IQ, in a noncompetitive manner to complete the projects due to project timing, staff capacity, and because they are the most satisfactory for Authority purposes. Should the Board approve this application, and the RMC awards the grant, then those two contracts would return to the Board for consideration of approval expected in May.

According to Section 2-1 of the Authority's Purchasing Policy, contracts over \$25,000 need Board approval. Also, in accordance with section 4-4 of the Purchasing Policy, it is recommended that if competitive procurement of services is not in the best interest of the Authority it is not required. Nakae and Land IQ are recommended because timing of the

project is of the essence, and the proposed contractors are known to possess the needed experience and qualifications as they have successfully implemented several landscape contracts, including goat grazing services, for the Authority. Therefore they are the most satisfactory for Authority purposes.

The Authority is including a 10% contingency in the project budget to cover any unforeseen circumstances that might arise. Attached is the grant resolution (Exhibit A) and project timeline (Exhibit B).

**Preliminary Budget (FY 21-22 through FY 23-24)**

\$	212,000	Fuel reduction, defensible space, habitat enhancement, project oversight
\$	21,200	Contingency (10%)
<b>\$</b>	<b>233,200</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>
\$	21,200	Project Management (10%)
\$	21,200	Indirect (10%)
<b>\$</b>	<b>275,600</b>	<b>Total</b>

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact with the grant project. It will also support indirect costs and staff time associated with the managing the projects.

April 21, 2022

RESOLUTION 2022-07

RESOLUTION OF THE PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION  
AUTHORITY APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT  
FUNDS FOR THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES  
RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY  
WILDFIRE PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR  
Puente Hills Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Round Two  
PROJECT

WHEREAS, the State of California has authorized an expenditure of General Funds by the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) for the Wildfire Prevention Early Action Budget Plan in Section 14 of the Budget Act of 2020, and in the Wildfire and Forest Resilience package in Section 68 of the Budget Act of 2021; and

WHEREAS, The RMC has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of the grant program in its jurisdiction, setting up necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the RMC require the Applicant's Governing Body to certify by resolution the approval of the Application before submission of said Application to the State; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant will enter into a contract with the State of California for the Project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority hereby;

Approves the filing of an Application for Grant Funds from the RMC Wildfire Prevention Program; and

Certifies that the Puente Hills Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Round Two Project is consistent with local or regional land use plans or Programs (or if it is not, that the project is still approved); and

Certifies that the Project is consistent with the goals of Wildfire Prevention Program including multi-beneficial and multi-jurisdictional ecosystem and watershed protection projects in accordance with statewide priorities; and

Certifies that the Application has or will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the Project that is being submitted for funding consideration; and

Certifies that the Applicant has reviewed and understands the General Requirements and General Policies of the RMC Grant Program Guidelines; and

Finds that this action and Puente Hills Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Round Two project are exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.

Appoints and authorizes the Executive Director (or her designee) as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute, and submit all documents including, but not limited to Applications, agreements, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the Project.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the Board of Directors, and the Board Secretary shall certify the vote adopting this resolution.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Board of Directors of the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority at this regular meeting of April 21, 2022 by the following vote.

Motion \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_

Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_

Nays: \_\_\_\_\_

Abstentions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Chair of Board of Directors

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

ATTEST:

I Melissa Miller, Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority, witness my hand on the 21<sup>st</sup> of April, 2022.

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

EXHIBIT B

**Puente Hills Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Round Two**

**Timeline**

Performance Begin and End Date: June 2022 through December 2024

Project	Tasks	FY 21-22	FY 22-23				FY 23-24			
		Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	File CEQA Cat. Exemption									
Project 1- LBCC*	Remove vegetation piles along access roads									
Project 2- Peppergrass Trail fuel reduction and habitat enhancement	Clear weeds along trail and haul to legal landfill									
	Enhancement area weeding									
	Replace existing straw wattles to prevent erosion									
	Native seed collection from the Preserve									
	Harvest and install 100 prickly pear cactus pads									
	Hand seed with Coastal Sage Scrub seed mix									
Project 3- Turnbull Cyn Trail invasive removal	Weed management along emergency access road									
Project 4- Hacienda Hills Trailhead defensible space	Clear non-native weeds within the bioswale									
	Prune vegetation along emergency access road									
	Clear brush behind western property line									
Project 5- Goat grazing fuel reduction	Goat grazing (30 acres) in La Habra Heights									

\* Long Beach Conservation Corp (LBCC), operating under a separate RMC grant, will be pruning vegetation along emergency access roads and piling the debris along the road for pick up.

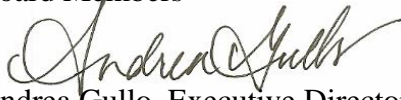


Puente Hills  
Habitat Preservation Authority  
Endowment Provided by the Puente Hills Landfill

MEMORANDUM

**Date:** April 21, 2022

**To:** Board Members

**From:**   
Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

**Subject:** Agenda Item No. 6) Discussion and possible action authorizing Executive Director to execute contract for mechanical fuel modification services with 805 Discing and Grading Inc. in the amount of \$24,249.60, for a possible five-year total of \$128,744.42.

Recommendation:

That the Board authorize Executive Director to execute the above-mentioned contract for a term of one year, plus the option for staff to renew it annually up to five years total, and to amend the budget if deemed appropriate.

Background:

The mechanical fuel clearance contract for Whittier and Hacienda Heights was previously with Gardner Tractor, and could have been renewed through 2023, however the contractor retired.

Solicitation for competitive proposals for the mechanical fuel modification (brush clearance) services for agency properties in Whittier and Hacienda Heights was made by the Authority in accordance with the Authority Purchasing Policy. The invitation for proposals and specifications package was made available on the Authority’s website and distributed to six companies. A mandatory job walk was held, and two contractors attended. One proposal was received by the deadline on April 6.

The cost estimate received from 805 Discing and Grading Inc. was within the range expected for this project. Staff checked references and the contractor appears to be qualified and have the experience to implement the work. With Board approval and upon execution of the contract, work is expected to begin April 25.

**Contractor’s hourly rate and proposed costs:**

	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>Year 5</b>	<b>Total for five</b>
	<b>FY 21-22</b>	<b>22-23</b>	<b>23-24</b>	<b>24-25</b>	<b>25-26</b>	<b>years</b>
Base	\$ 24,249.60	\$ 24,977.09	\$ 25,726.40	\$ 26,498.19	\$ 27,293.14	\$ <b>128,744.42</b>
Hourly Rate	\$ 306.00	\$ 329.60	\$ 339.48	\$ 349.67	\$ 360.16	



Fiscal Impact:


This contract is compatible with the current Authority operating budget which allocated \$160,000 for fuel modification services. In May 2021, the Authority entered into a grant with the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for Wildfire Prevention Program funds to reimburse the Authority for annual fuel clearance expenditures.

Puente Hills  
Habitat Preservation Authority  
Endowment Provided by the Puente Hills Landfill

**MEMORANDUM**

**Date:** April 21, 2022

**To:** Board Members

**From:**   
Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

**Subject:** Agenda Item No. 7) Discussion and possible action for ongoing authority to invest within the Authority's investment portfolio appropriate funds determined to not be needed to cover agency expenditures one year out in accordance with the Authority's Fiscal Policies.

Recommendation:

That the Board authorize ongoing authority to invest appropriate funds determined to not be needed to cover agency expenditures one year out in accordance with the Authority's Fiscal Policies.

Background:

In efforts to generate additional revenue, for the Board's consideration is the investment of approximately 4 to 5 million dollars of the Authority's funds currently in the County's cash pool into short-term investments. After consultation with the County's Treasurer's Department they have informed staff that they may be able to find the Authority a short-term investment to maximize agency revenue.

The County of Los Angeles is the Authority's Controller, and as such holds its cash funds in the County pool. The Authority has approximately \$8 million in the County pool which in March had an interest rate of 0.65%. Also, the Authority's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the County, executed in May 2011, enables investing using a structured portfolio that is within the guidelines of the County's Investment Policy Statement and adopted by the Authority. County staff provided example projections in March for a one-year non-call investment rate at 1.175 to 1.2%, which would yield approximately \$47,000 for a \$4 million investment. The County can investigate similar and/or other instrument options that are shorter in duration such as 6 months. The amount, rate and duration of the final investment would be explored with the Authority Chair and Vice Chair per the Fiscal Policies prior to implementation.

The Fiscal Policies state coordination with the Chair and Vice Chair for final investment decisions is as follows:

The Executive Director is authorized to make decision(s) regarding investment of Authority funds in consultation with the Authority Chairman and Vice-Chairman and if the Authority Chairman and Vice-Chairman are not available for consultation, the Executive Director is authorized to make decision(s) regarding investment of funds provided the managing County and/or Sanitation District investment officials are first consulted and the Authority Chairman and Vice-Chairman are subsequently advised of the decision(s).

Fiscal Impact:

There would be a positive fiscal impact. The intent with this item is to increase revenue for the agency using funds that do not conflict with agency cash flow needs.

# **Additional Materials**

Minutes  
PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY  
CITIZENS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
February 15, 2022

This meeting took place remotely in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e) et seq. (AB 361) and Resolution 22-01, adopted by the Board of Directors on January 20, 2022. Members of the public could observe and participate in the meeting as follows:

Via video (Zoom) and telephonically by joining at this address:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88124554766>

- Or - Phone by joining at these numbers: +1 (669) 900 6833, +1 (253) 215-8782  
Meeting ID: 881 2455 4766, Find your local number:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88124554766>

The special meeting of the Citizens Technical Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, February 15, 2022, via video and telephonically.

**I. CALL TO ORDER.**

The Vice Chair, Roy Francis, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:04 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL.**

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

<b>Members Present:</b>	Roy Francis, Vice Chair	La Habra Heights
	Catherine Houwen	La Habra Heights
	Adam Nazaroff	La Habra Heights
	Shelley Andros	Whittier
	Ray Wong	Whittier
	(vacant)	Whittier
	(vacant)	County of Los Angeles
	(vacant)	County of Los Angeles
	(vacant)	County of Los Angeles

**Members Absent:** none

**Authority Representatives Present:**

Andrea Gullo, Executive Director  
Michelle Mariscal, Ecologist

Melissa Miller, Administrative Assistant  
Kenn Hughes, Deputy Chief Ranger, Mountains Recreation  
and Conservation Authority (MRCA)

**Members of the  
Public Present:**

Steve Huber, Whittier Area Audubon  
Jim Kelly, President, Friends of the Whittier Hills  
Gina Natoli, former CTAC member  
John Houser, former CTAC member  
Martin Reyes, P. E., Transportation Deputy, Office of Los  
Angeles County First District Supervisor Solis  
Adriana Quinones, Board Member for Hacienda Heights  
Improvement Association

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

Gina Natoli expressed her desire to ask questions regarding this meeting's ranger reports and workplan item, and it was agreed that she would be allowed to do so when those items are being heard.

Steve Huber reported that Whittier Audubon's monthly hikes in Sycamore Canyon are continuing and bringing in new people interested in learning about the many species found on the Preserve – over 40 species on February 12.

**IV. DISCUSSION REGARDING LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERVISORIAL REDISTRICTING AND IMPLICATIONS FOR THE AUTHORITY.**

Executive Director Gullo reviewed this item as presented in the staff report, and there was no discussion.

**V. APPRECIATION FOR FORMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS CHUCK LAWRENCE, KAREN CHANG, JOHN HOUSER AND GINA NATOLI, AND POSSIBLE DISCUSSION.**

Executive Director Gullo reviewed this item, noting that former CTAC members Natoli, Chang and Houser could be returning to CTAC if they are renominated by Los Angeles County Supervisor Solis, which is unknown at this time. She also mentioned that former CTAC member Lawrence earlier this evening expressed his regret that he is unable to attend this meeting tonight. All five CTAC members present expressed their appreciation for the service, viewpoints and knowledge provided to CTAC by all of these former members. Executive Director Gullo expressed gratitude for retiring Whittier CTAC Member Lawrence for his eight years of commitment and dedication, as well as for all outgoing CTAC Members who made valuable contributions.

**VI. DISCUSSION OF ELECTION PROCEDURES AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ELECTION OF CTAC CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR, AND SELECTION OF BOARD LIAISON.**

Executive Director Gullo reviewed this item as presented in the staff report, and there was little discussion.

Vice Chair Francis motioned to delay the election of officers until the April meeting. Member Houwen seconded this motion, and in a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Member Wong motioned to nominate Member Houwen to continue serving as CTAC's Board Liaison. Member Andros seconded this motion, and in a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

**VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE DECEMBER 14, 2021, REGULAR MEETING.**

Member Andros motioned to approve these minutes as drafted. Member Houwen seconded this motion, and in a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

**VIII. STANDING REPORTS:**

**a. REPORT BY BOARD LIAISON ON DECEMBER 16, 2021, AND JANUARY 20, 2022, AUTHORITY BOARD MEETINGS.**

Regarding the Board's January 20 meeting, Member Houwen reported that:

- the Board removed CTAC Members Natoli, Chang and Houser from that Committee at the request of Los Angeles County Supervisor Solis;
- staff members from Supervisor Solis' office were introduced;
- the Board reappointed CTAC Member Houwen to another term of service
- the Board authorized staff to enter into a membership agreement with Sourcewell; and
- the Board authorized the expense of approximately \$20,000, dependent on cost estimates, for the implementation of a wayside display and trail renaming honoring former Authority Board member Bob Henderson, and the execution of this construction contract based on the quote received in the amount of \$12,164.61 from MDJ Management through Sourcewell.

**b. REPORT FROM SOCIAL MEDIA SUBCOMMITTEE.**

Member Andros reported that good coverage was recently posted regarding the fire last week, and also good photographs taken in the Preserve of a bobcat and a coyote, with such photos always eliciting favorable responses from the Authority's social media followers.

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

There was nothing reported for this item.

**IX. UPDATE REGARDING RECENT FIRE IN AUTHORITY'S SYCAMORE CANYON AND SPYGLASS ESTATES ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2022.**

Ecologist Mariscal reported that a little more than half of the fire was on Preserve land, and the area had already been partly cleared and the Authority's clearance contractor had been at the site just the day before. Executive Director Gullo confirmed that rangers coordinated their efforts with both the Whittier Police Department and Los Angeles County Fire Department, and that in battling the fire the water tank at Hellman Park was used. She added that so far the location and the method of the fire's source are unknown. The Committee received and filed this update.

**X. DISCUSSION, RECEIVE AND FILE NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2021 AND SECOND QUARTERLY 2021-2022 MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (MRCA) RANGER REPORT.**

Deputy Chief Ranger Hughes reviewed these reports, noting that the encroachment at Gotera Drive has been resolved. He answered questions from Member Nazaroff and former member Natoli. The Committee received and filed these reports.

**XI. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGARDING APPLICATION FOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RIVERS AND TRAILS CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR AN AUTHORITY STRATEGIC SIGNAGE UPDATE PROGRAM.**

Executive Director Gullo reviewed this item, adding that its expected timeline is approximately one year. Jim Kelly noted that his organization also has the Chuck And Mary Hanson Educational Fund from which they committed \$3,000 towards this project. Member Nazaroff asked if the hours at Arroyo Pescadero and Powder Canyon will remain being from sunrise to sunset, and Executive



Director Gullo responded that the results of the Authority's trail-camera study should help determine that status, and maybe there is some kind of signage that would allow for easy subsequent updates to such information.

Member Nazaroff motioned to recommend to the Board of Directors that they approve submission of an application to the NPS RTCA program. Member Andros seconded this motion, and in a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

**XII. RECEIVE AND FILE UPDATE ON AUTHORITY WORKPLAN.**

Executive Director Gullo reviewed this item as presented in the staff report. Former member Natoli asked if any mitigation funding is anticipated from the City of La Habra Heights' recent installation of their heli-hydrant on Preserve property, and Executive Director Gullo advised that that city filed for a categorical exemption for that project and therefore no mitigation will be required for the project. The Committee received and filed this update.

**XIII. DISCUSSION, COMMITTEE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS, RESPONSES OR QUESTIONS.**

Member Nazaroff asked when the goats are anticipated to be performing brush clearance in Turnbull Canyon, and Ecologist Mariscal replied that they will be there before nesting season begins on March 15. He also asked why the Board meeting agenda's item 7, regarding access to properties on Reposado Drive in La Habra Heights, is not also to be considered by CTAC, and Executive Director Gullo replied that the issue is a legal one related to the Board's policies, which type of topic is not typically in CTAC's purview.

Vice Chair Francis again thanked former members Natoli, Houser, Chang and Lawrence for their years of service on CTAC.

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

There being no further comments, or business to be discussed, Vice Chair Francis adjourned the meeting at 8:13 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting date is March 15, 2022.



# **Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority**

Endowment Provided by the Puente Hills Landfill

February 24, 2022

Mayor Joe Vinatieri  
City of Whittier  
13230 Penn Street  
Whittier, California 90602

## **Habitat Authority Calendar**

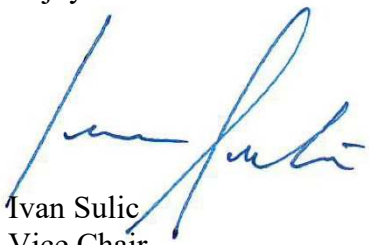
Dear Mayor Vinatieri:

Enclosed here is a copy of the new calendar of photos from the Puente Hills Preserve for your enjoyment. Each year, one of the Habitat Authority's volunteers, Bruce Everett, has produced calendars for the agency. This year he collaborated with Habitat Authority staff to choose specific images taken by our agency wildlife trail cameras that really capture the beauty and essence of the Preserve.

We look forward to working with you, your office and staff representatives in support of our agency's mission of preservation, to continue to have lasting benefits for the community and future generations.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at [ISulic@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:ISulic@bos.lacounty.gov) or (562) 807-7350.

Enjoy!



Ivan Sulic  
Vice Chair

Encl

Copy: Board of Directors

## Sen. Archuleta Recognizes 2022 Women of Achievement for the 32nd Senate District



*32nd District's Woman of the Year,  
with them is Se. Bob Archuleta (D)  
Pico Rivera.*

March 28, 2022

**WHITTIER, CA** – As Women’s History Month comes to a close, Senator Bob Archuleta (D- Pico Rivera) hosted the 2022 Women of Achievement of the 32nd Senate District on Saturday, March 26, 2022 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Whittier.

This event, which is the first hosted by the senator’s office in more than two years, celebrated the accomplishments of 11 women who have contributed to the well-being of their respective communities within the district.

“These women were nominated for their outstanding hard work and dedication to the district during the ongoing public health crisis,” Senator Archuleta said. “Our district is fortunate to call home to a great number of women who make considerable contributions to their families, professions and individual communities, and we are honored to recognize these leaders for exemplifying the strength and abilities of all women in our Senate district.”

### **The 2022 Women of Achievement of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Senate District are:**

Virginia “Ginny” Ball, nominated by City of Whittier Business Development Manager Katie Galvin-Surbatovic.

Ginny serves as a board member for a wide array of local non-profit organizations, including her ongoing work on behalf of Whittier First Day, a transitional living facility in Whittier. First Day serves approximately 2,300 individuals with critical social services, making them a beacon of hope for many who were displaced during the covid-19 pandemic. During her time on the Whittier Area Chamber Board of Directors, Ginny founded the Whittier Apartment Owners Association, which brings landlords

and tenants together to better understand their rights, discuss impactful legislation, and identify local resources. As such, she became a resource for people dealing with housing issues during the pandemic.

Blanca Curiel, nominated by daughter Okxana Vega.

Blanca enlisted in the United States Army in 1983 when she was just 17 years old, and rose through the ranks and became a Master Sergeant where she served as the Battalion First Sergeant, overseeing a battalion of 400 soldiers. After a 33-year military career serving her country, Blanca now works in the healthcare system. She sees it as a continuation of her military service, using the organizational skills she learned in the Army, to provide for the seniors in her care. Her work was even more critical during the pandemic, as Blanca aided seniors with their daily care, as well as providing companionship.

Dr. Rosalba González, nominated by Los Angeles Unified School District Teacher James Ng

Rosalba exemplifies the American Dream, having immigrated from Mexico as a young adult, while overcame barriers and obstacles to become an educator.

Her career in education includes being a teacher, a counselor, a vice principal, and is currently a principal at Hilda L. Solis Learning Academy, where she is deeply committed to making a positive difference in the lives of her students. During the pandemic, Rosalba has made it a priority to continue focusing on a positive school culture, setting high expectations for administrators, teachers, and students, while engaging the community.

Cathy Houwen, nominated by Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority Executive Director Andrea Gullo.

During the pandemic, Cathy's work as a funeral director at Community Funeral Service in La Habra were filled with ensuring grieving families were treated with dignity as they said goodbye to their loved ones. She and her colleagues worked long hours with rare days off to meet the demands of funeral services during the height of the pandemic. Cathy has volunteered her time on the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority's Community Advisory Committee for 10 years representing the City of La Habra Heights, serving as the Chair for three years.

Isis Huckins, nominated by Rose Hills Director of Community Relations & Communications Antoinette Lou.

Throughout her career, Isis has worked quietly behind the scenes while bringing loved ones into the Professional Service's care at Rose Hills. She and her team ensure each family's loved one is treated with the utmost respect and care. Over the past two years, Isis and her team were extremely challenged to meet the demands of the community during the pandemic. She and her team worked 24 hours a day to ensure every loved one was appropriately cared for and each family could proceed with a dignified funeral.

Shannon Kolbjornsen, nominated by Rose Hills Director of Community Relations & Communications Antoinette Lou.

Shannon has served families in the funeral industry for over 15 years. Throughout her career, she has assisted families in making funeral arrangements, and providing visitation/funeral services for their loved ones. Over the past couple of years, her team at Rose Hills, while adhering to the various covid requirements, continued to serve families to the best of their abilities. As our community required an

increasing demand for funeral services, Shannon coached her team to meet the demands without lowering the honor or respect given to each family.

Michelle Lynch, nominated by City of La Mirada Mayor Ed Eng.

During the many challenges presented by the continued covid-19 pandemic, Michelle has led by example, showing the community that this is the time to come together and help each other. As Neighborhood Watch Block Captain since 2011, she has continued to play a pivotal role in keeping the community safe by hosting virtual Neighborhood Watch meetings and safe in-person meetings. She also hosted the La Mirada Heroes Dinner in appreciation of first responders' work through the pandemic.

Dr. Irella Perez, nominated by Education Activists Dr. James Vigil and Polly Vigil.

Irella's journey from non-English speaking immigrant to school administrator, education advocate, environmentalist and children's book author, is an all-American story of self-reliance fueled by perseverance, passion and conviction. Irella has been one of many community leaders providing vital support to parents and students during the pandemic. Irella provided leadership, along with her colleagues on the Whittier City School Board, to ensure quality education and mental health services to students during remote learning.

Katrina Rodriguez, RN BSN, nominated by PIH Health Whittier Hospital Chief Nursing Officer Ramona Pratt.

Katrina serves as clinical director of PIH Health Whittier Hospital's general medicine/respiratory unit. Through her exemplary leadership, Katrina spearheaded the primary covid-19 unit through the last three pandemic surges, collaborating with multidisciplinary teams to ensure that patients' needs are always at the forefront of care. She led efforts to establish communication plans for PIH Health's primary covid-19 unit. The plan ensures families can keep in contact and are kept up to date regarding the condition of their loved ones through Zoom visiting and daily update calls to a designated patient representative.

Sarah Templeton, nominated by Biola University Vice President for Student Development Andre Stephens, Ph.D.

Sarah serves as the Director of the Biola University Student Health Center. During her 20-plus years at Biola, she has forged strong working relationships with those inside and outside of the university. As a member of Biola's covid-19 compliance team, she has kept the campus informed of the emerging data, research and changing protocols throughout the pandemic. Sarah put in place health and safety protocols for quarantining infected and exposed students, while working with county officials to manage outbreaks, obtain testing supplies and to help clarify protocols. When vaccines became available, Sarah was able to secure them and offer vaccine clinics on campus for students and employees, and eventually for community members.

Echo Tsai, nominated by Venerable Hui Dung.

Echo devotes a great deal of time volunteering at Fo Guang Shan Hsi Lai Temple since 1997 and Buddha's Light International Association (BLIA) since 2001. Echo's primary practice in life is to help others and serve the needs of the community by organizing and coordinating activities and events. They include senior programs, a student scholarship event, and the distribution of personal protective equipment to hospitals, law enforcement, fire stations, nursing homes, churches, schools, homeless shelters and non-profit organizations.



# County Limits Development in Fire Hazard Areas

Uploaded: , Tuesday, Apr 12, 2022

## By Press Release

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopted a new Safety Element Update to the county's general plan on April 5, which will limit new development in wildfire hazard zones, reducing regional risk as California braces for what could be another intense fire season.

According to the California Planning & Development Report, a newsletter that keeps tabs on on planning and development issues in California, the update restricts new subdivisions in very high fire hazard severity zones and prohibits amendments that would increase residential density in fire- and flood-prone areas to reduce risks to people, property and wildlife

County officials said the move will reduce sprawl and minimize construction of new power lines and electrical equipment that are frequently responsible for wildfires. The update will complement the Housing Element to provide safe, affordable housing while protecting natural habitats.

“Los Angeles County leaders made sensible policy changes that recognize the seriousness of a prolonged wildfire season,” said Elizabeth Reid-Wainscoat, a campaigner at the Center for Biological Diversity. “By putting commonsense limits on building in the most dangerous and fire-prone areas of the county, we’re planning for a safer, more sustainable future.”

Development restrictions in fire-prone wildlands also keep certain wildlife habitats intact and protect the region's biodiversity.

“Southern California is starting to shed its sprawl reputation and embrace smarter land-use decisions,” said Reid-Wainscoat. “I hope other decision makers will follow suit and pass similar measures to keep their communities safe.”

## Residents learn about birds during nature walk

**City's Audubon Society has sponsored monthly excursion for 20 years**

By [Mike Sprague](#) | [msprague@scng.com](mailto:msprague@scng.com) | Whittier Daily News

PUBLISHED: April 9, 2022 at 12:26 p.m. | UPDATED: April 9, 2022 at 12:26 p.m.

A small group learned a little more about bird life [when they took a walk](#) on Saturday, April 9, through Sycamore Canyon in the Whittier hills.

The monthly walk was hosted by the Whittier Area Audubon Society. It has offered the event for more than 20 years.

“We call it a beginner’s bird walk open to anyone to learn about bird life,” said Steve Huber, president of the Whittier Area Audubon Society.

“It’s also what you might call citizen science because we are keeping track of what we see posting on sites like eBird,” Huber said. “We are documenting the quantity of species we see and any behaviors we see, like nesting behaviors.”



*From left, Steve Huber, Linda Leroy and Letty Brooks look up at birds. The Whittier Area Audubon Society took people on a Beginner Bird Walk on the Sycamore Canyon Trail on Saturday in Whittier.*

*PHOTOS BY JOHN MCCOY*



*A California towhee is seen next to the trail. The Whittier Area Audubon Society took a Beginner Bird Walk on the Sycamore Canyon Trail on Saturday. (Photo by John McCoy, Contributing Photographer)*



**Photos from online version:**



*A female Nuttall's woodpecker is seen along the trail. The Whittier Area Audubon Society took a Beginner Bird Walk on the Sycamore Canyon Trail on April 9, 2022 in Montebello, CA. (Photo by John McCoy, Contributing Photographer)*



*Edwin Menendez stands next to wild mustard while looking at birds. The Whittier Area Audubon Society took a Beginner Bird Walk on the Sycamore Canyon Trail on April 9, 2022 in Whittier, CA. (Photo by John McCoy, Contributing Photographer)*



*The Whittier Area Audubon Society took a Beginner Bird Walk on the Sycamore Canyon Trail on April 9, 2022 in Whittier, CA. (Photo by John McCoy, Contributing Photographer)*



## America's most exciting new park hides a hideous highway

The Presidio Tunnel Top is a \$118 million park that sits on top of a highway in San Francisco.

03-29-22 *By Elissaveta M. Brandon*



[Image: courtesy James Corner Field Operations]

Here's a noncontroversial opinion. Highways, especially those that run through the heart of a city, kind of suck.

After 75 years of use, San Francisco's Doyle Drive had become seismically unsafe. Connecting the Golden Gate Bridge with the rest of the city, the elevated roadway couldn't exactly be torn down like other highways around the country (including San

Francisco's former Embarcadero Freeway, which ran

along the waterfront). But the city had another idea: What if part of the highway was buried under tunnels, and then parks were built on top of them?

The new Presidio Parkway opened in 2015 with two sets of tunnels, located about a mile from one another. Now, both parks are almost ready. Opening on April 23, the Battery Bluff Park will offer 6 acres of parkland with over 50,000 native plants on top of the first set of tunnels. The project's real star,



[Image: courtesy James Corner Field Operations]

however, is the Presidio Tunnel Top—a \$118 million park that sits on top of the second set of tunnels and creates a bridge over the highway. When it opens in July, the park will reconnect the Presidio neighborhood to the city's waterfront, marking it the first time pedestrians can cross over to the other side in almost 100 years.



Aerial Presidio view of the Marina approach to the Golden Gate Bridge, circa 1935 [Photo: San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library/courtesy Presidio Trust]

When a highway runs through a landscape, it divides that landscape in two, making it challenging and sometimes even impossible for pedestrians ([and animals](#)) to cross from one side of the highway to the other. This becomes particularly problematic when a highway splits an urban landscape. From [Tulsa](#) to Nashville to New Orleans, such highways often plowed through Black and brown neighborhoods, demolishing homes and dividing communities.

Aerial Presidio view of the Marina approach to the Golden Gate Bridge, circa 1935 [Photo: San Francisco History

Center, San Francisco Public Library/courtesy Presidio Trust]

In San Francisco, the context is a little different. Starting in 1776, and for the next 218 years, the Presidio was used as a military base by the Spanish, Mexican, and U.S. armies. Stretching all the way to





Where once there were none, now there are three ways for pedestrians to get from the Presidio neighborhood to the waterfront. You can follow a winding promenade along the embankment and marvel at sweeping views of the San Francisco Bay and the Marin headlands. Or, you can also go down a series of terraced lawns to sit on. “It is meant to be a large piece of social furniture looking out at the



view,” says Richard Kennedy, a senior principal at James Corner Fields Operation. And if neither the promenade nor the steps speak to you, you can follow an ADA-accessible ramp, or a stairway, down to the water—where the designers have created a giant playground, complete with tree trunks, boulders, and rope swings.

[Image: courtesy James Corner Field Operations]

Inevitably, building a park on top of a tunnel required a healthy dose of engineering. Kennedy explains that the tunnels were engineered to support a limited amount of weight. Soil can be quite heavy, so the architects interspersed it with a lightweight foam in strategic places around the park. (A digital model helped them keep track of the overall weight and adjust it accordingly.)

To remedy the noise from the highway below, they designed a set of noise barriers, wrapped them in willow branches to simulate a wooden fence, and built them on the edge of the park. And since building in San Francisco comes with a host of seismic requirements (literally!), they took a page from the way the highway was built to make the park earthquake-proof. Kennedy explains that CalTrans bore a dense network of 40-foot holes into the ground, then filled them with gravel. If the ground shakes, the soil will liquefy and the gravel will hold it together. “It’s one of these invisible innovations that make parks like this possible,” says Kennedy.



[Image: courtesy James Corner Field Operations]



The resulting Presidio Tunnel Top may be one of the most engineered parks ever built, but similar ideas have been used before. In Seattle, the Freeway Park was built in 1976 to reconnect the city’s downtown neighborhoods, which had been divided by I-5. (It’s currently getting [a \\$10 million makeover.](#)) And in Denver, a 57-year-old viaduct is now being replaced with a lower highway, with a [4-acre park](#) nearby.

[Image: courtesy James Corner Field Operations]

These strategies can help other cities rethink existing highways, but Kennedy says the principle can be applied to future infrastructure, too. “[A highway] shouldn’t be a barrier, it can be a public asset, even an ecological asset,” he says. “This becomes a model for other cities to say, ‘If they can do it, we can do it.’”

## Winston Vickers' research aims to give local mountain lions a fighting chance



*While the former Anaheim veterinarian is now based at UC Davis, Winston Vickers' primary research work focuses on the mountain lions of the Santa Ana Mountains. In 2019, a CalPoly study he helped launch a study of possible wildlife crossings at the I15 Freeway that could be key to the cats' long-term survival. (File Photo by Mark Rightmire, Orange County Register/SCNG)*

By [Michaela Haas](#) | [info@michaelahaas.com](mailto:info@michaelahaas.com) |

PUBLISHED: March 24, 2022 at 12:32 p.m. | UPDATED: March 24, 2022 at 12:36 p.m.

Winston Vickers might have one of the most suspenseful screen feeds in the state: His team has installed dozens of strategically placed cameras in the Orange County backcountry to track where mountain lions roam. As we speak, he is waiting for a mountain lion to approach the deer carcass one of the four biologists on his team laid out in the Santa Ana Mountains. They are hoping to lure a cougar with a free meal so that Vickers can collar it with a GPS tracker.

Director of the California Mountain Lion Project at UC Davis' Wildlife Health Center, Vickers, 68, is one of the most experienced cougar experts in the U.S. He raves about his close encounters with the majestic predators.

“When you handle them, oh my gosh, look at their claws and those teeth! They weigh about the same as me,” the tall and trim gray-haired researcher says with playful envy in his voice, “but holy smokes, unlike me, they’re all muscle!”

His research focus has an ominous background: Just as their neighbors in the Santa Monica Mountains, the survival of mountain lions in Orange County is threatened by inbreeding, car crashes and rodenticide.

“Cars and roads, in a nutshell, are the main cause of their deaths,” Vickers says via Zoom from his office.

According to his count, roughly 20 to 25 mountain lions live in the Santa Ana Mountains, and a few get killed each year in crashes. His cameras catch thousands of hikers who trek through these mountains or Orange County parks every year, unaware that a puma might be watching them. But the territory of roughly 2,000 square miles is hemmed in by major freeways and encroaching urban development.

“Especially the I-15 is a very substantial barrier to the lions’ movement.” Vickers has documented several mountain lions reaching the freeway, sitting for hours as cars and trucks speed past, and then turning around because they don’t dare to cross. Therefore, inbreeding is a growing problem — already, some newborns in OC show deformities such as kinked tails, and Vickers was instrumental in a recent study which discovered that 93 percent of the males’ sperm is abnormal.

“There’s a race to the bottom,” he says.

Along with other experts, he estimates that the mountain lions will be locally extinct by 2050 if the state does not take drastic measures to help them survive.

Vickers grew up on a cattle farm in the Ozarks, the son of a country vet. “We treated every creature, small and large, from cats to cows.” He describes himself as an outdoorsy kid, “always fishing and hunting and canoeing.” He vowed not to follow in his father’s footsteps but after a few semesters of studying engineering, the call of the wild was too strong, and he switched to veterinary medicine after all.

“What my dad really gave me was appreciation for animals and caring about their welfare.”

Vickers became a vegetarian when he started to work as a veterinarian, “because I couldn’t really see the value of working so hard to save the life of one cow only to then kill it for a steak.”

He worked as a regular vet in Arkansas and California for nearly two decades while also accepting every chance to treat wildlife. His fascination with big cats even led him all the way to Nepal to study snow leopards. A second degree in epidemiology at UC Davis inspired him to join the Mountain Lion Project there in 2002. Initially, the vets had started out researching the endangered bighorn sheep in Anza Borrego State Park and considered mountain lions a threat to them.



*A remote camera, placed at hair snare sites, captured this mountain lion. (Photo courtesy of the UC Davis Wildlife Health Center)*

“We were soon shocked to find that the mountain lions had an unusually high mortality rate,” Vickers remembers. Thus, the researchers started tracking mountain lions, accumulating 20 years of detailed knowledge about the reclusive animals, “and the data has become valuable for conservation to show their most important habitats and corridors.”



Vickers is among those calling for wildlife crossings over major freeways so that the local mountain lions can mix and mate with peers from neighboring habitats. In the Santa Monica Mountains, Caltrans will break ground this month for the world's biggest wildlife overpass, the so-called Liberty Crossing over the busy 101. The new bridge will cost a whopping \$88 million. The sum sounds outrageous until one considers the alternative: In the last three years, wildlife crashes in California have cost more than \$1 billion. Wildlife crossings have proven to reduce fatal deer collisions by 98.5% in Utah and nearly 90% in Colorado. Apex predators like pumas also act as "ecological brokers," a recent study found, and play "an outsize role" for the health and biodiversity of their territories.

Vickers hopes he can convince the state and conservationists to add several smaller crossings in Orange County as well and improve the small existing freeway underpass near Temecula Creek. He soon will start meeting with experts and engineers from Caltrans, the Nature Conservancy, National Park Service and other organizations to determine the best designs and locations for crossings "to help as many species as possible. Mountain lions have become the poster child, but the barriers affect many other animals, including birds that don't like to fly over freeways."

As a scientist, he supplies the data, but he also understands his job to advocate for the animals with locals. Though California is the only U.S. state that made hunting mountain lions illegal, the animals are not just brought down by their genes but also by guns.

"The second leading cause of death is people shooting them because they've killed their goat, their dog or their chicken," Vickers says. "I care a lot about these animals, too, but I hate to see the mountain lions die as a result."

He considers almost all of these attacks preventable. "For me, it's about educating owners on how to protect their animals from coyotes, mountain lions or bobcats."

Acknowledging that "it's hard to get people to change their behavior and spend money to build a barn or a secure cage for their animals at night," he focuses on young people. "Educating the young when they're at the formative stage on how to protect animals, hopefully, that's a long-term solution."

When asked what fascinates him the most about the charismatic cougars, he raves about their resilience.

"Despite dramatic persecution, they have been the most successful of the big carnivores to persist," he says, with awe in his raspy voice. "You just have to admire their ability to continue to exist against all odds."