

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

February 15, 2022, Tuesday, 7 p.m.

LOCATION:

This meeting will take place remotely in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e) *et seq.* (AB 361) and Resolution 22-01, adopted by the Board on January 20, 2022. Members of the public can 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>

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 of the public may provide electronic comments by Monday, February 14, 2022, by 4:00 p.m. to mmiller@HabitatAuthority.org. Please label the email in the subject heading as “Public Comments.” Public comments may also be verbally heard during item III of the meeting.

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

AGENDA

- I. Call to order.
- II. Roll call.
- III. Public comments.

- IV. Discussion regarding Los Angeles County supervisorial redistricting and implications for the Authority.

- V. Appreciation for former Advisory Committee members Chuck Lawrence, Karen Chang, John Houser and Gina Natoli, and possible discussion.

- VI. Discussion of election procedures and possible action regarding election of CTAC Chair and Vice Chair, and selection of Board Liaison.

- VII. Approval of Minutes for the December 14, 2021, Regular Meeting.
- VIII. Standing Reports:
 - a) Report by Board Liaison on December 16, 2021, and January 20, 2022, Authority Board meetings.
 - b) Report from social media subcommittee.
 - c) Committee Member feedback from the public as it relates to the Habitat Authority.
- IX. Discussion, receive and file November and December 2021 and Second Quarterly 2021-2022 Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) Ranger Reports.
- X. 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.
- XI. Receive and file update on Authority Workplan.
- XII. Discussion, Committee members' statements, Executive Director's comments, responses or questions.
- XIII. Adjournment and announcement of next meeting.

The Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority is a public entity established pursuant to the Joint Exercise of Powers Act by agreement between the City of Whittier, Los Angeles County, and Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County. Regular meetings of the Citizens Technical Advisory Committee are scheduled for the Tuesday before the third Thursday of every month. NOTE: 72 hours prior to Citizens Technical Advisory Committee meetings, the entire Citizens Technical Advisory Committee agenda package is available for review, along with any meeting-related writings or documents provided to a majority of the Committee members after distribution of the agenda package, at the Authority's website, www.habitatauthority.org. Questions about any agenda item can be addressed to Andrea Gullo, Executive Director, 562.945.9003. NOTE: Members of the public may address the Committee on any item shown on the agenda. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, if you require a disability related modification or accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please call Melissa Miller at the Habitat Authority office 562.945.9003, at least 48 hours prior to this meeting.

MEMORANDUM

Meeting Date: February 15, 2022

To: Citizens Technical Advisory Committee

Prepared by: Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Agenda Item IV. Discussion regarding Los Angeles County supervisorial redistricting and implications for the Authority.

Background:

This is an informational item.

On December 15, the Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC) adopted new boundaries for Los Angeles County supervisorial districts. New maps take effect 30 days after being filed with the County Registrar-Recorder, unless challenged by a referendum. However, on December 7, 2021, the County Board of Supervisors took action in part declaring that on the first business day following December 15, 2021, or the date of the adoption and filing of the redistricting plan by the CRC, constituent services will be provided to County residents in accordance with the new redistricting plan. The action included that new district boundaries will be adhered to unless alternate boundaries are set by court order, or unless otherwise required by law. The new map, attached, indicates that Supervisorial District 1 joins District 4 as being within the Authority's jurisdiction.

In accordance with Section 5.1c of the Authority joint powers agreement (excerpt attached), the Supervisorial District that contains the Puente Hills Landfill appoints a member of the Hacienda Heights Improvement Association that sits on the Authority four-member Board of Directors. The joint powers agreement also permits the Supervisor to appoint the Board Member Alternate. Those positions were held by the Chair of the Board, Mike Hughes, and his alternate, Joan Licari, both of whom were initially appointed and recently removed by the Supervisor of District 4. The new supervisorial district boundaries now result in these positions being under the purview of District 1.

Additionally, Section 2.1(a) of the Authority Resolution 97-01 creating the Authority's nine-member Citizen's Advisory Committee reads as follows:

Those Committee members appointed by the [Authority] from the unincorporated portion of the County of Los Angeles shall first be approved by the supervisor representing the supervisorial district which includes the Subject Jurisdiction.

Initially, the Supervisor of District 4 appointed three of the Authority's Advisory Committee members, and in January requested that the Authority Board remove her appointees. In January the Authority Board removed the three appointees from Hacienda Heights. District 1 has been advised and is expected to fill these positions.

An introductory meeting was held January 7, 2022, between Vice Chair Sulic, former Chair Hughes, Authority staff and District 1 staff. Information was provided to District 1 about the Authority and follow up conversations have occurred regarding their appointments to the Authority Board and Advisory Committee.

Additional Background:

See the attached staff report from November 2021.

Fiscal Impact:

None.

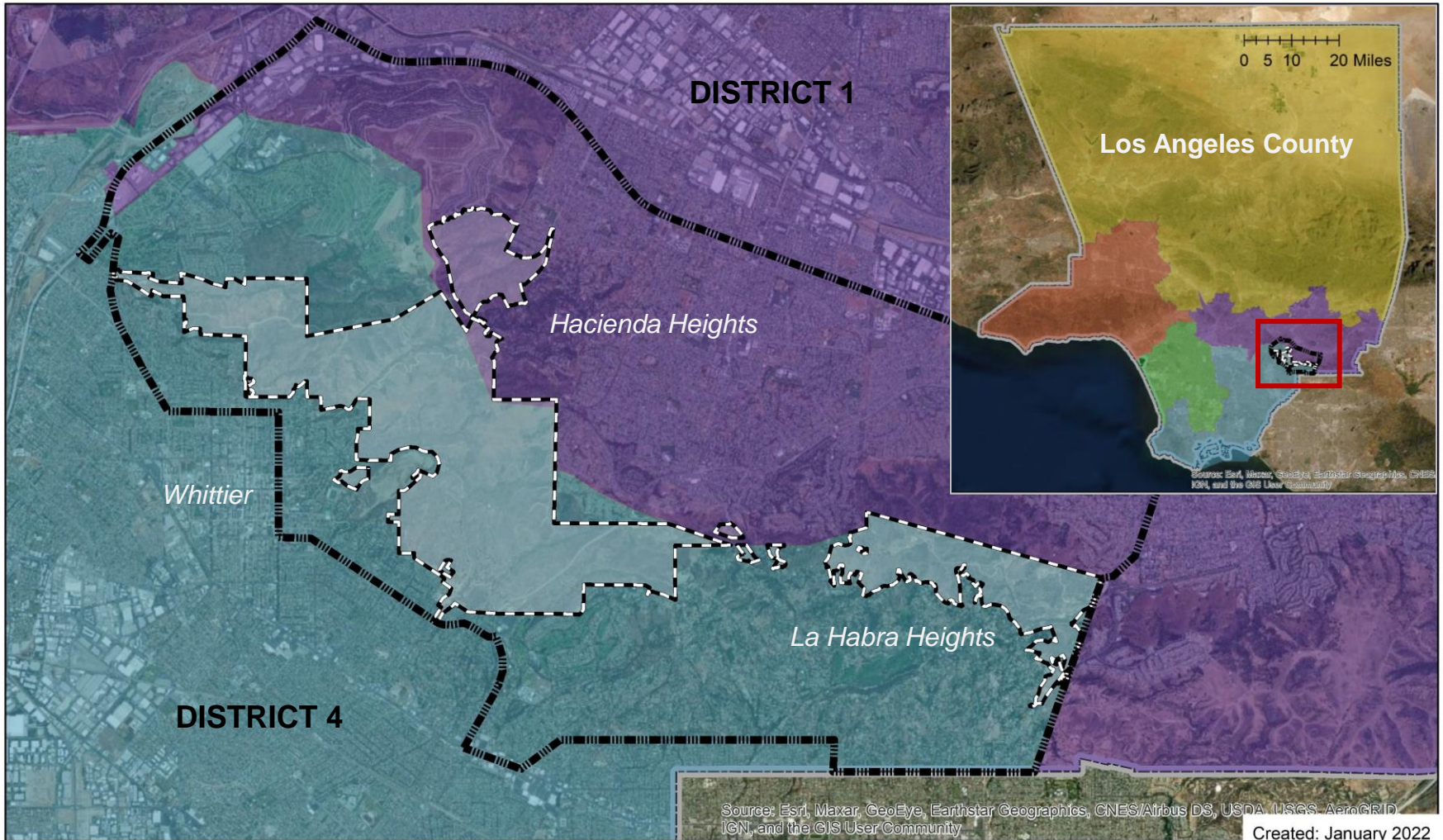
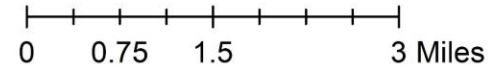
Recommendation: This is an informational item.

Attachments:

Jurisdiction and Supervisorial Districts Map

Excerpt of JPA

November staff report



Legend

Supervisorial District	3	Puente Hills Preserve boundary
1	4	Habitat Authority Jurisdictional Boundary
2	5	Los Angeles County

Parties to this Agreement. District, County, and Whittier each possesses the powers referred to below.

SECTION 4 TERM:

4.1 This Agreement in its original form became effective on February 15, 1994, and as amended, will become effective on the date that it is fully executed by all Parties and will terminate by mutual agreement of the Parties.

SECTION 5 ORGANIZATION:

5.1 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Authority shall be governed by a Board of Directors (Board) composed of four directors.

- (a) One director shall be appointed by the Board of Directors of District and shall at the time of appointment be a director or employee of District.
- (b) One director shall be appointed by the County, and shall be an employee of the County of Los Angeles.
- (c) One director shall be appointed by the Supervisor representing the supervisorial district which geographically includes the Puente Hills Landfill and shall be a member of the Hacienda Heights Improvement Association throughout his or her term as director.

- (d) One director shall be appointed by the City Council of Whittier and shall, at the time of appointment, be a member of the City Council, or shall be his or her Whittier City Council approved designee.

The City Council of Whittier, County, the appointing Supervisor and District Board of Directors may appoint alternate directors to act as directors of the Board during a director's absence, if the director is absent for three or more consecutive regular meetings, or is unable or refuses to act. The term of each director and alternate shall be at the will of the appointing body or Supervisor. Each alternate shall possess the qualifications required of the director for whom he or she acts as alternate.

The Board shall make all discretionary decisions not delegated to the officers by resolution or Board direction.

Directors shall receive no compensation but shall be entitled to be reimbursed for all expenses approved by the Board as reasonably incurred in fulfilling their responsibilities.

Vacancies on the Board shall be filled by the Party or supervisor that originally appointed the vacating Director.

MEMORANDUM

Meeting Date: November 16, 2021

To: Citizens Technical Advisory Committee

Prepared by: Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Agenda Item: **XIII. Update and discussion regarding redistricting efforts of Los Angeles County Supervisorial Districts as it relates to the Authority.**

Background:

According to Los Angeles County's website, every ten years supervisorial districts must be redrawn in Los Angeles County so that each district is reasonably equal in population. Redistricting in Los Angeles County in 2021 is being conducted by the 14-member Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC) that is independent of the Board of Supervisors. They will redraw the districts based on data collected during the 2020 U.S. Census, the boundaries of which will be in effect for the next ten years.

The CRC's final supervisorial district map must be in accordance with the following criteria:

- Districts will be reasonably equal in total resident population – about 2 million each.
- Districts shall comply with the Federal Voting Rights Act.
- Districts must be geographically connected.
- Districts should be drawn so as to minimize dividing cities, neighborhoods, or communities of interest.

The Commissioners voted on October 28, 2021 to move four draft maps (Options A, B, C and D) forward for further public input and discussion. Those maps are attached for your information. There have been several public hearings to date, and there will be more in November to solicit reactions to the current options. On December 15, 2021, the CRC will vote on and adopt the final map. Once finalized, the CRC will file the Final Redistricting Plan with the County Registrar-Recorder. Unless the plan is subject to a referendum petition, it will take effect 30 days after it is filed.

More information can be found at the following website: *redistricting.lacounty.gov*.

There will be further discussion at the Authority meeting about possible implications for this agency.

Recommendation: None.

Fiscal Impact: Unknown at this time.

Attached: Fact sheet and maps.

MEMORANDUM

Meeting Date: February 15, 2022

To: Citizens Technical Advisory Committee

Prepared by: Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Agenda Item VI. Discussion of election procedures and possible action regarding election of CTAC Chair and Vice Chair, and selection of Board Liaison.

Background:

On February 28, 2013, at the Advisory Committee's recommendation, the Board of Directors approved the attached Advisory Committee election policies. The Chair and Vice Chair positions are rotational and elections to the positions occur annually during the first month of the calendar year. This year an Advisory Committee Member from La Habra Heights is scheduled to fill the Chair position, and a member representing the County is scheduled to fill the Vice Chair position. Please see the attached rotation schedule of officers.

The Advisory Committee did not have a meeting in January 2022, so elections are scheduled to occur in February. However, due to there being vacancies on the Advisory Committee, proposed for the Advisory Committee's consideration are the options to delay the elections, or delay the election of only the Vice Chair position, until April. This delay would give the Supervisor of District 1 additional time to propose members for appointment by the Authority's Board of Directors at their March meeting.

Also, coupled with the elections of officers is the most opportune time for the Advisory Committee to identify a Board Liaison for the group. This position has historically been filled either by the Advisory Committee Chair, or by the member designated by the Committee to present actions and thoughts of the Committee at the Board of Directors' meetings.

Recommendation: Delay elections and appointment of Board Liaison.

Attachments:

Election policies

Rotational schedule of officers



Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority

Endowment Provided by the Puente Hills Landfill

Citizens Technical Advisory Committee Election of Officers Policy

1. The CTAC's chair and vice-chair positions (the positions) shall have a standard term limit of one year. Members may be elected to hold these positions in the future but not in consecutive calendar years, except as described in section 3 below.
2. The positions shall rotate by communities represented on the CTAC. Starting in the year 2013 a CTAC member representing La Habra Heights shall be elected to hold the chair position, following the year afterwards by a member from the unincorporated communities of Los Angeles County (either Hacienda Heights or Rowland Heights), and followed by a member from the City of Whittier. Starting in 2013, the vice-chair position shall be a member from the unincorporated communities of Los Angeles County, followed the next year by a member from the City of Whittier, and then by a member from La Habra Heights.
3. If a vacancy occurs with the positions, the CTAC shall vote at the next meeting to fill that position with a member from which community the position was held. In the event that a community member representing that of the current position is unavailable to be elected to fill the vacancy, then the succeeding community in the rotation will be eligible for election into that vacant position, as well as be eligible for re-election at the next first meeting of the calendar year. The objective is to not have any position held by the same community for two consecutive years, but not be shorter than one year in length. Should the chair position change representative communities then the vice-chair position shall rotate community representatives as well.
4. Should no member decide to make themselves available for election, the current officer shall continue to hold that position until a replacement officer is elected even if the officer's term expires.
5. The CTAC is eligible to elect any member to the positions out of rotation order if it acts by a majority in the belief that the interests of the Authority will be best served in that manner.

The above policy is compatible with Authority Board Resolution 97-01 that established the CTAC. Section 2f of the Resolution authorizes annual elections of officers, the positions, to occur in the first meeting of the calendar year. Specifically, the proposed term limits and rotation schedule of the positions are not in conflict with the Resolution as each year the election



of officers would be limited to a candidate pool of up to three members representing the community that is eligible to hold the positions according to the rotation schedule. The Resolution allows for a re-election of officers, which would be the case should a member be re-elected to a position in a non-consecutive year of holding that position, or in the special case of a member who has filled a vacant position the previous year.

For example, if La Habra Heights' representative as chair is no longer available in May to hold the position, then at the June CTAC meeting a vote shall occur to elect a different La Habra Heights representative to that position. If no other La Habra Heights member is available to fill that position, then a CTAC member from unincorporated Los Angeles County shall be elected to the position of chair. With this being the case, the vice-chair position will need to rotate to the next representative community, the City of Whittier. In January of the next year, the County CTAC chair member will be eligible for re-election to the chair position, or another member from the County will be eligible for election to the chair position. The same logic applies for the vice-chair position.

Advisory Committee Chair and Vice Chair Rotation Schedule

Notes

Year	Chair Region	Held By	Vice Chair Region	Held By
2013	LHH	Cathy Houwen	LA County	Gina Natoli
2014	LA County	Gina Natoli	Whittier	April Garbat
2015	Whittier	April Garbat	LHH	Cathy Houwen
2016	LHH	Cathy Houwen	LA County	Richard Lacy
2017	LA County		Whittier	
2017	Whittier	Shelley Andros	LHH	Cathy Houwen
2018	Whittier	Shelley Andros	LHH	Cathy Houwen
2019	LHH	Cathy Houwen	LA County	Karen Chang
2020	LA county	Karen Chang	Whittier	Ray Wong
2021	Whittier	Chuck Lawrence	LHH	Roy Francis
2022	LHH		LA County	
2023	LA county		Whittier	
2024	Whittier		LHH	
2025	LHH		LA County	
2026	LA county		Whittier	
2027	Whittier		LHH	

1

2

3

Notes:

- 1 No meeting: Feb, March or April
- 2 May meeting elections, no County representative on CTAC
- 3 No January meeting, and no County representatives in February

DRAFT Minutes
PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY
CITIZENS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
December 14, 2021

This meeting took place remotely in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e) et seq. (AB 361) and Resolution 21-04, adopted by the Board of Directors on November 22, 2021. 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/82080869555> Meeting ID: 820 8086 9555

- Or - Phone by joining at these numbers: +1 (669) 900 6833, +1 (346) 248 7799
Meeting ID: 820 8086 9555, Find your local number:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82080869555>

The regular meeting of the Citizens Technical Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, December 14, 2021, via video and telephonically.

I. CALL TO ORDER.

The Chair, Charles Lawrence, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL.

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

Members Present:	Shelley Andros	Whittier
	Charles Lawrence, Chair	Whittier
	Ray Wong	Whittier
	Gina Natoli	County of Los Angeles
	Karen Chang	County of Los Angeles
	John Houser	County of Los Angeles
	Roy Francis, Vice Chair	La Habra Heights
	Catherine Houwen	La Habra Heights
	Adam Nazaroff	La Habra Heights

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

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Steve Huber reported that during Whittier Area Audubon's walk at Sycamore Canyon this past Saturday, 36 different species of birds were seen, including a peregrine falcon which is somewhat unusual.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE NOVEMBER 16, 2021, REGULAR MEETING.

Vice Chair Francis motioned to approve these minutes as drafted. Member Houwen seconded this motion, and in a roll call vote the motion passed with Members Chang, Houser and Wong abstaining.

V. STANDING REPORTS:

a. REPORT BY BOARD LIAISON ON NOVEMBER 22, 2021, AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING.

Regarding the Board's November 22 meeting, Member Houwen reported that:

- the Board approved the funding needs of the Authority and directed the Board's subcommittee to pursue the exploration of funding fire prevention and safety, and natural resource management needs, with staff preparing estimates for additional needs and submitting for possible state funding;
- the Board expressed support for the City of Whittier's possible People Mover Project, and directed staff to continue to attend related stakeholder meetings;
- the Board authorized the Executive Director to execute the non-bid contract with Nakae and Associates for landscape maintenance services in an amount of \$20,000;
- the Board authorized the Executive Director to execute the non-bid contract with Nakae and Associates for native landscaping to implement the Turnbull Canyon habitat enhancement project in the amount of \$41,179; and
- the Board asked that staff draft a follow-up letter regarding Los Angeles County's General Plan Update to the Safety Element, alerting them to the

unexplained omission of a substantial area from the very-high-fire-safety-hazard zone contiguous to the Harbor Boulevard Wildlife Underpass.

b. REPORT FROM SOCIAL MEDIA SUBCOMMITTEE.

Member Andros reported that postings to the Authority's social media channels continues as usual.

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

Member Houwen reported that last week she provided the La Habra Heights City Council with an update regarding the Authority's activities.

Member Natoli joined the meeting during this item.

VI. DISCUSSION, RECEIVE AND FILE OCTOBER 2021 MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (MRCA) RANGER REPORT.

Deputy Chief Ranger Hughes reviewed this report, and there was discussion. The Committee received and filed this report.

VII. DISCUSSION, RECEIVE AND FILE AUTHORITY COMMENT LETTER TO THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES REGARDING THEIR GENERAL PLAN UPDATE TO THE SAFETY ELEMENT.

Ecologist Mariscal reviewed this item. In responding to a question about the process of submitting letters, Member Natoli stated that with letters such as this it is also helpful to send a related letter to Los Angeles County Supervisor Hahn and her local staff, for assistance in getting the Authority's concerns addressed. The Committee received and filed this letter.

VIII. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGARDING AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A NON-BID CONTRACT WITH SAGE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP FOR GOAT-GRAZING SERVICES IN TURNBULL CANYON IN THE AMOUNT OF \$76,894. THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED BY A GRANT FROM CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION.

Ecologist Mariscal reviewed this item, and stated that Sage Environmental Group is recommended as a non-bid contract because the proposed contractor is known to possess the needed experience and professional qualifications that are more satisfactory and economical for Authority purposes as explained further in the staff report. There was little discussion.

Member Natoli motioned to recommend to the Board of Directors that they approve this non-bid contract with Sage Environmental Group in the amount of \$76,894 and authorize the Executive Director to execute this contract. Member Houser seconded this motion, and in a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

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

Chair Lawrence asked if any further information has been obtained from Mr. Hoffman about the possibility of installing weather stations in the Preserve, and Executive Director Gullo replied that so far no additional details or proposal have been provided to or obtained by staff.

He also thanked staff and Authority Volunteer Bruce Everett for the copies of the calendar Volunteer Everett donated again this year.

Executive Director Gullo advised that, due to the timing of the month of January, the Committee may not be able to meet virtually before the Board's next meeting, in compliance with California Assembly Bill 361's provisions. She will provide further scheduling details closer to the time of the next meeting, which is anticipated to again be held virtually, given the continuing community health concerns.

She also reported that the proposed redistricting map for Los Angeles County is being considered for approval tomorrow, and could affect the representation on both the Committee and the Board of Directors.

X. ADJOURNMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING.

There being no further comments, or business to be discussed, Chair Lawrence adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting date is January 18, 2021, although Assembly Bill 361 requirements could entail rescheduling.



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

December 31, 2021

**Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority
Ranger Services Activities for November and December 2021**

- Continued general patrol for: providing visitor information, identifying hazardous conditions and correcting illegal activity.
- Continued general maintenance for: graffiti removal, vandalism repair, litter and dumping removal, fence and gate repairs, sign installations and repairs and trail maintenance.
- Met with Habitat Authority staff and Mariposa regarding the tree removal project.
- L. A. County Pico Rivera Sheriff Station sent a nice email commending Ranger Laura Just for her presentation that she gave them.
- Attended the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) Board meeting and the Citizens Technical Advisory Committee meeting.
- Secured the windows and doors to the back house at Sycamore Canyon.
- Participated in our ranger monthly management meeting.
- Attended the monthly Habitat Authority Volunteer meeting.
- Participated in the Hacienda Heights Improvement Association monthly meeting.
- Completed our annual Fire and Law Enforcement refresher training.
- Monitored the installation of the new roof in La Habra Heights.
- Continue to monitor the contractors installing the Heli-hydrant at the Diaz Property in La Habra Heights.
- Continue to monitor the Harbor underpass. No activity to report.
- Responded to a fire on Rose Hills property. The fire did not reach Habitat Authority property.

- Picked up dumping including:
 - Debris at Arroyo Pescadero.
- Continue to notify the Habitat Authority staff of all unsuccessful animal road crossings that are observed at or near Habitat Authority property. During the month of December the following animals were observed.
 - Coyote on Colima Rd.
 - Coyote on Beverly Dr.
 - Skunk on East Rd.
- Found a dead hawk on Dark Canyon trail in Sycamore Canyon. Unknown cause of death.
- Removed locks from the Draper Drive entrance gate.
- Continue to pick up dog defecation at all the trailheads.
- Assisted Habitat Authority Ecologist install post on Quaker property for a wildlife camera.
- Met with California Arborist for the second cutting for fuel modification.
- Attended the Habitat Authority holiday party.
- Discovered a new encroachment on Skyline Drive. Continue working with the owner to resolve it.
- Discovered an encroachment on Gotera Drive. Working with the owner to resolve it.
- Worked with contractor to remove a large dead tree at Aurora Crest Dr.
- Continue to patrol the SCE, Brea 57 site and Monterey mitigation sites in Powder Canyon and the Olinda site in Arroyo San Miguel.
- Due to safety concerns and overcrowding at the Turnbull Canyon entrance this summer we worked with the owner of the property and Whittier Police Dept. to secure the vacant lot that is next to the entrance. We had to re-secure the chain once in November.
- Continue monitoring the surveillance cameras at various trailheads in attempt to catch the vehicle break-in perpetrators. We are also coordinating with Whittier Police and L.A. County Sheriff.
- Continue to contact the Los Angeles County Department of Street Maintenance regarding the graffiti along Turnbull Canyon Road.

- Cleaned all the drains throughout the Preserve prior to the rain.
- The Preserve was closed several days in December due to rain.
- Removed a large tree stump, branches and rocks that fell on Fullerton Road during the rain.
- Removed a large sumac tree that fell on the Hacienda Hills Trailhead service road.
- Dealt with various violations including:
 - In the Preserve after hours at Sycamore Canyon, Hacienda Hills, Powder Cyn., Hellman Park and Arroyo Pescadero.
 - Parking violations at Arroyo Pescadero, Hacienda Hills Trailhead, Sycamore Canyon and Ford property.
 - Bikes in Sycamore Canyon
 - Dogs in Sycamore Canyon
 - Hikers in Turnbull Canyon and Powder Canyon after rain.
 - Loud music in the Hacienda Hills.
 - Smoking marijuana at Arroyo Pescadero.
 - Alcohol in Turnbull Canyon.
 - Littering in Turnbull Canyon.
 - Warn and advise electric bikes in Powder Canyon and Hacienda Hills.
 - Dogs off leash in Turnbull Canyon.
 - Bikes in Arroyo Pescadero.
 - Bikes in Powder Canyon and Turnbull Canyon after hours.
- Received several calls during the months of November and December to our 24-hour ranger emergency services number including:
 - Hikers locked in at Hacienda Hills Trailhead
 - Inquiring where to park to hike Hellman Park
 - Hikers locked in at Hellman Park
 - Inquiring where to park to hike Turnbull Canyon
 - Inquiring if dogs are allowed at Sycamore Canyon
 - Inquiring when Sycamore Canyon opens
 - Found keys at the Hacienda Hills Trailhead
 - Injured owl in Whittier
 - Calling to confirm the trails are closed due to rain
 - Several calls inquiring if the trails are open
- Continue to check and re-post trail closure signs and rope-fence at unauthorized trails and restoration areas in Turnbull Canyon, Worsham Canyon, Powder Canyon and Hellman Park.
- Continue to conduct perimeter patrols of all property for fence damage, illegal access points, rope swings, and encroachments.

- Recovered a stolen vehicle in Turnbull Canyon.
- Continue to work closely with Executive Director Andrea Gullo on various projects and assignments as requested.

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

Sincerely,

K E Hughes

Kenn Hughes
Deputy Chief Ranger



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Franklin Canyon Park
2600 Franklin Canyon Drive
Beverly Hills, California 90210
Phone (310) 858-7272 Fax (310) 858-7212

December 31, 2021

**Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority
2021-2022 Second Quarter Ranger contacts report**

The following list is the number of people that the rangers have contacted for illegal activity at the various locations.

QUARTERS	* Hacienda Heights				** La Habra Heights				*** Whittier				TOTAL			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Parking Violations	19	27			20	31			21	24			60	82	0	0
Bicycle Activity	4	6			10	8			8	7			22	21	0	0
Dogs Off Leash	6	2			2	2			6	2			14	6	0	0
In park after hour	12	18			13	21			54	46			79	85	0	0
Vehicles off-road	0	0			0	0			0	0			0	0	0	0
Alcohol	8	4			0	0			8	4			16	8	0	0
Marijuana	4	0			0	0			4	4			8	4	0	0
Smoking / Fire	0	0			0	0			0	0			0	0	0	0
Vehicle code violations	0	0			0	0			0	0			0	0	0	0
Trespass / Off Trail	0	0			0	0			0	0			0	0	0	0
Other	15	14			2	25			5	31			22	70	0	0
TOTAL	68	71	0	0	47	87	0	0	106	118	0	0	221	276	0	0

* **Hacienda Heights Property includes** : Ford property, Canyons 6, 7 & 8, Mallas property, and the Turnbull Canyon properties.

** **La Habra Heights Property includes** : All properties from Harbor Blvd. in the East to the Davies property in the West at the Whittier property line at the end of Punta Del Este.

*** **Whittier Property includes** : Arroyo Pescadero, Arroyo San Miguel, Worsham Canyon, Sycamore Canyon, Hellman Park, McFarland, Bowen, Childs/Hall, Canlas, and the Olaerts property.

First quarter: July, August, September; **Second quarter:** October, November, December; **Third quarter:** January, February, March; **Fourth quarter:** April, May, June.

All violators contacted are either issued citations, or warned and advised.

"Other" category includes: drugs, paintball guns, bow and arrows, littering, defacing property, in the park after rain, vending, loud music, no masks for Covid, and curfew.

A local public agency exercising joint powers of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Conejo Recreation and Park District, and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District pursuant to Section 6500 et seq. of the Government Code.

Outreach has been suspended due to the pandemic and budget constraints.

The following list is the number of people that the rangers have contacted through outreach programs.

QUARTERS	NUMBER OF PEOPLE				TOTAL
	1	2	3	4	
Jr. Ranger program	0	0	0	0	0
Presentations	0	0	0	0	0
Events	0	0	0	0	0
Organized work programs	0	0	0	0	0
Juveniles from community service	0	0	0	0	0
Hikes	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0

The Jr. Ranger programs are typically presented to students at: La Colima Elementary School in Whittier, Meller Elementary School in Pico Rivera, El Portal Elementary School in La Habra, Los Robles Academy Elementary School in Hacienda Heights, Hoover Elementary School in Whittier, and Macy Elementary School in La Habra, as well as several Girl Scout Troops from the surrounding areas.

Events typically include: Hacienda Heights 4th of July parade, Whittier Uptown Holiday Parade, La Habra Heights Avocado Festival, Whittier Founders Day, Earth Day, the City of Whittier SKILLS Foundation Event, and the Los Angeles County Fair.

Organized work programs include the Los Angeles County Fire Camp Crews.

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

Sincerely,



Kenn Hughes
Deputy Chief Ranger

MEMORANDUM

Meeting Date: February 15, 2022
To: Citizens Technical Advisory Committee
Prepared by: Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Agenda Item X. 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.

Background:

The National Parks Service's Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program offers free technical assistance for locally led conservation and outdoor recreation projects. The program assists communities and public land managers in projects such as evolving climate resiliency strategies; developing or restoring parks, conservation areas, rivers, and wildlife habitats; and creating outdoor recreation opportunities and programs that engage future generations in the outdoors.

The RTCA application deadline is March 1. For the Advisory Committee's consideration is an application to this program to assist the Authority in developing a Strategic Signage Update Program. Essentially, this would be an audit of our existing signage, guidelines on messaging content and method, and recommendations for implementation. This project is listed as a possible long-term Authority workplan item.

The goals for the proposed project would be to build consensus with participants in the project such as the Authority Advisory Committee, Board, volunteers and/or Friends of the Whittier Hills on the signage, and to create educational, informative and inspiring messaging to motivate stewardship, enhance the recreational experience, and reduce illegal activities. The requested outcomes would be a ready-to-go implementation plan with a graphics package, layout design of the new trailhead rules signage, and content design of a wayside display panel with recommended materials for its installation. Initial communications with the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy indicate possible grant funding could be available for implementation of the plan through Proposition 68.

The need for the project is trifold: a) provide capacity to create a wayside display in Sycamore Canyon toward which the Friends of the Whittier Hills would like to contribute approximately \$2,000; b) update trailhead rules signage for effectiveness and reduce sign pollution. According to rangers many trail users ignore the signage and violate rules which

are in place to protect them and the environment, so we would like to explore transitioning our rules signage to mostly universal icons as discussed by this Advisory Committee years ago; and c) help better orient trail users in the backcountry.

The impetus for this project came when Friends of the Whittier Hills offered funds towards creating a wayside display in Sycamore Canyon. Knowing that the Advisory Committee had previously expressed interest in redesigning trailhead rules signs, staff thought these main tasks could be rolled together in one application. Updating the trailhead rules signs had been put on hold in past years due to possible future changes to Preserve hours, so this would be addressed during the planning process.

The RTCA application requires contributions from partners. This could be in various forms such as monetary donations, participation on the planning team, or providing meeting space. The project is also expected to engage Authority volunteers to assist with the audit or gaining public input at trailheads. These community contributions from partners are expected to be attainable.

The Authority previously and successfully used the RTCA program between approximately 2006-2009 to develop all Authority trail maps and trail marker signage, and to assist with the Authority's Trail Plan.

Fiscal Impact:

Beyond requiring Authority staff and ranger time, this project would have no fiscal impact.

Recommendation: That the Advisory Committee recommend to the Board of Directors approval for submission of an application to the NPS RTCA program.

MEMORANDUM

Meeting Date: February 15, 2022

To: Citizens Technical Advisory Committee

Prepared by: Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Agenda Item XI. Receive and file update on Authority Workplan.

Background:

At the July 15, 2021 Board of Directors' meeting the Authority workplan was approved. The attached is a mid-year update. The attached workplan format eliminates routine day-to-day and core functions of staff's time which essentially support the mission of the agency.

Due to workload, unexpected happenings, and circumstances beyond our control, progress on a few of these items is not at the level previously estimated. Workload and unexpected happenings include redistricting, staff departure, drafting new purchasing policies, more detailed annual audit, closed session items, obtaining new accounting services, etc.

Recommendation: Receive and file.

Habitat Authority Workplan
FY 21-22

	GOAL	Resp. Party	** Priority Level (1-3)	Est. Completion Date	Approx. % Complete	Update Approx. % Complete	Board Approval Date	Cost / Funding
1	Survey and map remaining dead trees for grants	Ecol, Rgr	1	12/30/2021 <i>rev 6/30/22</i>	50%	80%	7/15/2021	Operations budget
2	Heli-hydrant project and mitigation	Board, staff, Attorney	1	Ongoing	70%	90%	direction provided sprg/smmr 2021	
3	Relocate office	Staff	1	30-Jul-21	35%	100%	5/20/2021	Operations
4	Administer RMC Grant(s)	Staff, Rngr	1	30-Jun-22	0%	50%	5/20/2021	RMC
5	Possible Implement CalFire Grant	Staff, Rngr	1	30-Mar-25	0%	5%	5/20/2021	CalFire
6	Seek M&S funding reimbursement FY 11-15 and 20-21	ED, Admin Assist	1	Oct. 30, 2021 <i>rev 5/31/22</i>	30%	50%	7/15/2021	Operations/County
7	Coordinate with Whittier and County for future of M&S funding implementation (Phase I FY 21-22, Phase II future FYs)	ED, Board, Attorney	1	Phs I 8-31-21, Phs II 12-31-21 <i>rev 6/30/22</i>	10%	20%	7/15/2021	Operations/County
8	Evaluate possibility of Community Facility District	Subcommittee, ED, Board	1	Ongoing <i>rev 3/17/22</i>	25%	75%	10/15/2020	Operations
9	Repair ranger residence	ED, Rgr	2	10/30/2021 <i>rev TBD</i>	15%	50%	direction provided in spring 2021	Emergency or Reserve funds
10	Process new mitigation opportunities as they arise.	ED, Ecol	3	Ongoing	Ongoing			Mitigation funding
11	Add website donate button linked to PayPal (after opening bank account)	ED	3	12/30/2021 <i>rev 6/30/22</i>	30%	50%	8/27/2015	Operations
12	Repair Arroyo Pescadero gate	ED	3					Emergency or Reserve funds

Revised (rev) dates in italics.

** Board to review and provide direction on priority rankings.

UPDATE SUMMARY

	GOAL	Notes
1	Survey and map remaining dead trees for grants	Edits have been made to the existing survey, and is ready to go out to bid for the first of the two years. The implementation of the tree removals will be paid for with the CalFire grant.
2	Heli-hydrant project and mitigation	This project is ongoing. No mitigation is associated with this project.
3	Relocate office	Completed
4	Administer RMC Grant(s)	Staff has completed fall tree removals, and ordered a mower. The remaining portion of the grant is fuel clearance to be conducted in the spring/summer.
5	Possible Implement CalFire Grant	The CalFire grant was awarded and the agreement was executed in November. The goat grazing element of the project is being mobilized.
6	Seek M&S funding reimbursement FY 11-15 and 20-21	Staff continues to coordinate with the City of Whittier for FY 11-15, and they are working with the County on this reimbursement. Staff coordinated with the MRCA regarding FY 20-21 reimbursements and plans to focus on this in February.
7	Coordinate with Whittier and County for future of M&S funding implementation (Phase I FY 21-22, Phase II future FYs)	Staff continues to coordinate with the City of Whittier on Phase I which is allowing the Authority to spend Authority and City M&S funds on City property. The City is working with the County on this. Phase II is currently being addressed with the County and City. a) The City is seeking clarification to allow the Authority to get reimbursed using the City's allocated M&S funds for qualifying expenditures. b) The County updated its Grant Administrative Manual in January which prohibits the Authority from spending/transferring its M&S funds to another agency (last year's changes prohibited the Authority from spending its M&S funds on City property). This is a significant change and will have significant impacts to the operations budget which staff will be discussing with accountants in February. This will be brought to the Board once there is a more clear understanding of the financial impacts.
8	Evaluate possibility of Community Facility District	Significant progress has been made, and an update will be provided to the Board in March.
9	Repair ranger residence	The roof to one ranger residence is 95% completed; there is a backlog of availability on appropriately sized skylights. The remaining repairs will be able to be addressed with new membership in Sourcewell approved by the Board in January, and after there is a clearer understanding of the agency financial position by accountants.
10	Process new mitigation opportunities as they arise.	There has been an inquiry, but nothing further.
11	Add website donate button linked to PayPal (after opening bank account)	The IRS updated the agency name and address, and the bank account has been opened.
12	Repair Arroyo Pescadero gate	This can be accomplished through Sourcewell approved by the Board in January, but after a more clear understanding of M&S funds and the agency financial position.

Feb-22

Habitat Authority Workplan
Long Term

Possible Long Term Items							
1. Chair, Vice Chair and Executive Director meet with County's Chief Investment Officer or representative.							
2. Agency strategy and vision re-assessment.							
3. Agency staffing/operations assessment. The assessment could focus on identifying performance or resource gaps, inclusive of staffing, and would present recommendations if any that could provide an opportunity to improve the performance of work processes, reduce long-term costs, and help to ensure a high-functioning organization that adapts to current and future challenges.							
4. Prepare and submit application to NPS' Rivers Trails Conservation Assistance program (annually due in August) for assistance to revise rules and orientation signage.							
5. Seek grant funding to update all trailhead monument signs.							
6. Update agency website.							
7. Evaluate whether to change remaining Preserve hours to set times.							
8. Develop facility (including homes) maintenance schedule and budget.							
9. Update agency Resource Management Plan.							
10. Re-assess overall acreage for mitigation.							
11. Install Turnbull Canyon fence and/or other perimeter fencing.							
12. Record easement with Matrix Oil on Harbor Blvd. property.							
13. Issue trail license to the County for parts of the Ahwingna Trail.							

Not listed in any priority ranking.
Presented to Board July 15, 2021

Additional Materials

Southern California Edison faces \$550M in penalties for 5 wildfires

By [Associated Press](#) |

PUBLISHED: December 17, 2021 at 1:54 p.m. | UPDATED: December 17, 2021 at 10:11 p.m.

SAN FRANCISCO — California regulators approved a settlement Thursday placing more than half a billion dollars in fines and penalties on the utility Southern California Edison for its role in five wildfires in 2017 and 2018.

The penalties relate to the Thomas, Woolsey, Rye, Meyers and Liberty fires. The Thomas fire, which burned in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, is the eighth-largest fire in California history, burning more than 439 square miles, according to state fire officials. Meanwhile, the Woolsey Fire that also tore through Ventura County ranks as the eighth-most destructive fire in state history, destroying more than 1,600 structures.

Investigations found utility equipment sparked the fires.

Southern California Edison reached the settlement with the California Public Utilities Commission's safety and enforcement division; it was then approved by the five-member commission.

The utility's shareholders will pay a \$110 million penalty to the state's general fund and put \$65 million toward safety measures, according to the settlement. It also bars the utility from tapping ratepayers to cover \$125 million in claims related to insurance for the Thomas Fire and \$250 million for the Woolsey Fire.

California has seen increasingly destructive wildfires in recent years, made worse by climate change and drought. Utility equipment has been blamed for sparking some of the state's worst fires.

The CPUC's safety and enforcement division found the utility violated state safety regulations that govern design, construction and maintenance of overhead electrical lines and communication facilities. State regulators used a relatively new process to reach the agreement with the utility, bypassing a more formal investigation process. It resolves all claims by state regulators related to the fires.

Southern California Edison serves 15 million customers and is one of the state's three major investor-owned utilities. In signing the agreement, the utility is not admitting any fault.

SCE spokesman Ben Gallagher called the settlement "fair and reasonable."

He said it "puts one additional uncertainty behind us as the utility continues to implement its comprehensive wildfire risk mitigation measures."

Safety measures, to which the utility must put \$65 million of shareholder money, include things like system enhancements, community engagement and contributions to fire safety-focused nonprofits, according to the agreement.

The Rye Fire sparked in Santa Clarita, the Liberty Fire in Murrieta and the Meyers Fire in San Bernardino County all occurred in early December 2017.