FINAL INITIAL STUDY/
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

PUENTE HILLS LANDFILL NATIVE HABTIAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

State Clearinghouse Number: 2007051046

Prepared by:

LSA

July 2007

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines, this Initial Study (IS) has been prepared as documentation for a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the proposed Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority Resource Management Plan (proposed project or RMP). This IS includes a description of the proposed project, location of the project site, project sponsors, evaluation of the potential environmental impacts, findings from the environmental review, and proposed mitigation measures to reduce to less than significant levels or avoid impacts on the environment.

The project area is located at the eastern edge of Los Angeles County (County) and consists of undeveloped land located within the Cities of Whittier and La Habra Heights and the unincorporated areas of Hacienda Heights and Rowland Heights. The project area extends from Harbor Boulevard at the east to the intersection of Interstate 605 and State Route 60 at the west (Figures 1 and 2).

The Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) is proposing to adopt a Resource Management Plan (RMP) to guide the long-term management for the Habitat Authority's lands (Preserve). The Preserve encompasses 3,860 acres of recovering wilderness land owned by the Habitat Authority, City of Whittier, and the Sanitation District of Los Angeles County. The RMP will be the primary management document for the Preserve, providing a defined vision and mission, long-term goals and objectives, and management guidelines. It will guide the Habitat Authority on future policy, land use, budget, and capital improvement decisions relating to the Preserve. The major goals are to preserve, maintain, and enhance the Preserve. A sampling of the many objectives in the RMP intended to accomplish the goals are to enhance wildlife habitats, develop vegetation management practices, and provide safe, low-impact recreational opportunities and public access.

This IS/MND has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA), as amended (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.), and the State CEQA Guidelines for Implementation of CEQA (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15000 et seq.). Under the requirements of CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines, the Habitat Authority is the Lead Agency for environmental review and must evaluate the environmental effects of the RMP. The intent of this IS/MND is to inform the Habitat Authority's Board of Directors, local agencies, and the general public of the potential environmental impacts that may be associated with the implementation, construction, or operation of the improvements/programs identified in the RMP and to identify appropriate feasible mitigation measures that may be adopted to reduce or eliminate these impacts. The IS/MND is circulated for public review by responsible and affected agencies and interested parties prior to any action on the RMP. The IS/MND and any comments received on the IS/MND are forwarded to the Habitat Authority Board for their review. As part of its consideration of the RMP, the Habitat Authority Board must review and approve the IS/MND prior to taking any action on the RMP.

1.2 FINDINGS OF THIS INITIAL STUDY

Pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines, this IS has been prepared to determine whether implementation of the proposed project will result in significant environmental impacts that would require mitigation or the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) if significant impacts cannot be avoided.

This IS is based on an Environmental Checklist form, as suggested in Section 15063(d)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines. The completed form is found in Section 3.0 of this IS/MND. It contains a

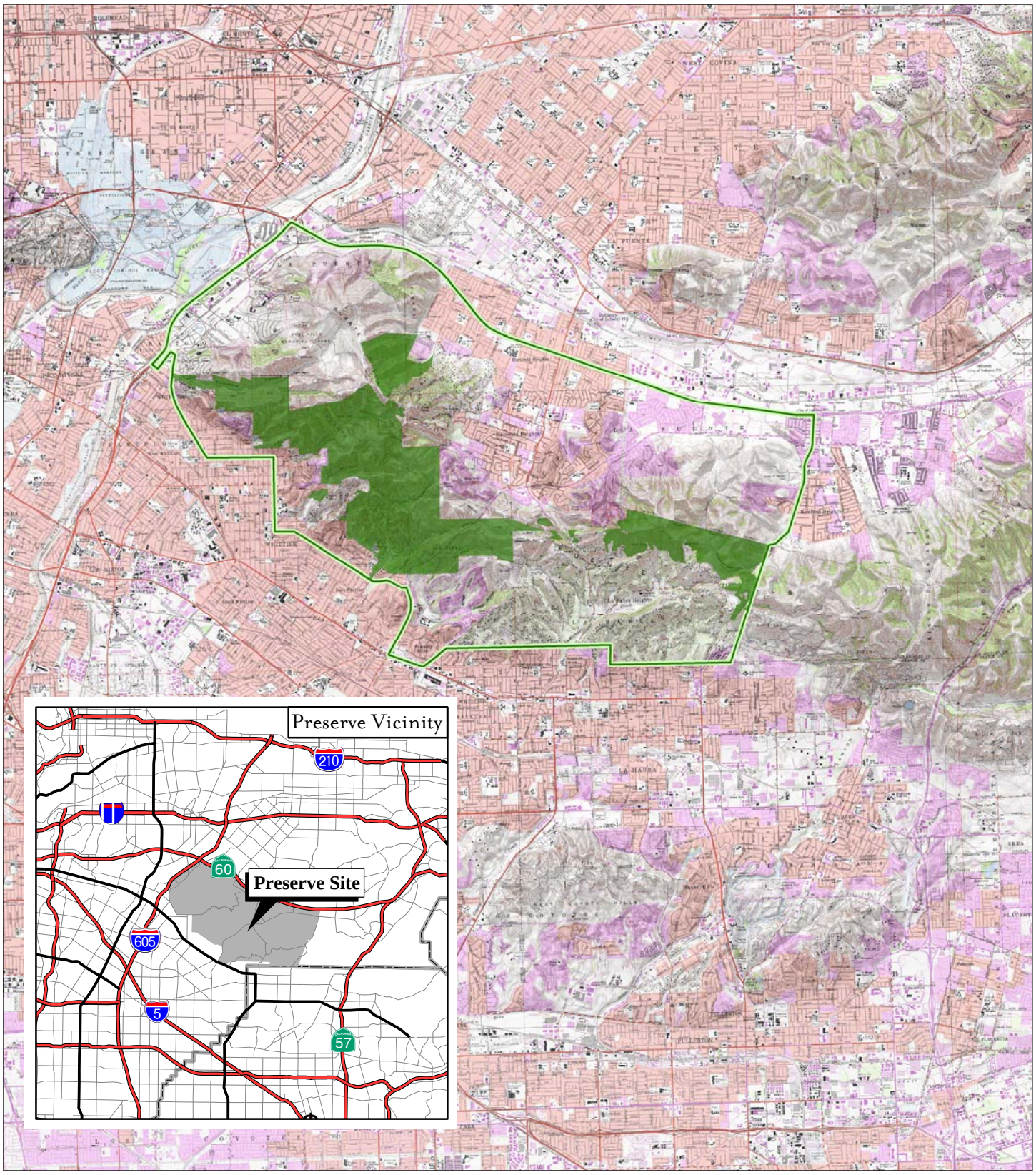

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FIGURE 1

Puente Hills Landfill
Native Habitat Preservation Authority

CEQA Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration

Preserve Location

Preserve Boundary

Habitat Authority Jurisdiction Boundary

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FEET

SOURCE: USGS 7.5' QUAD - ANAHEIM, BALDWIN PARK, EL MONTE, LA HABRA, LOS ALAMITOS, ORANGE, SAN DIMAS, WHITTIER, YORBA LINDA (1981), CALIF.

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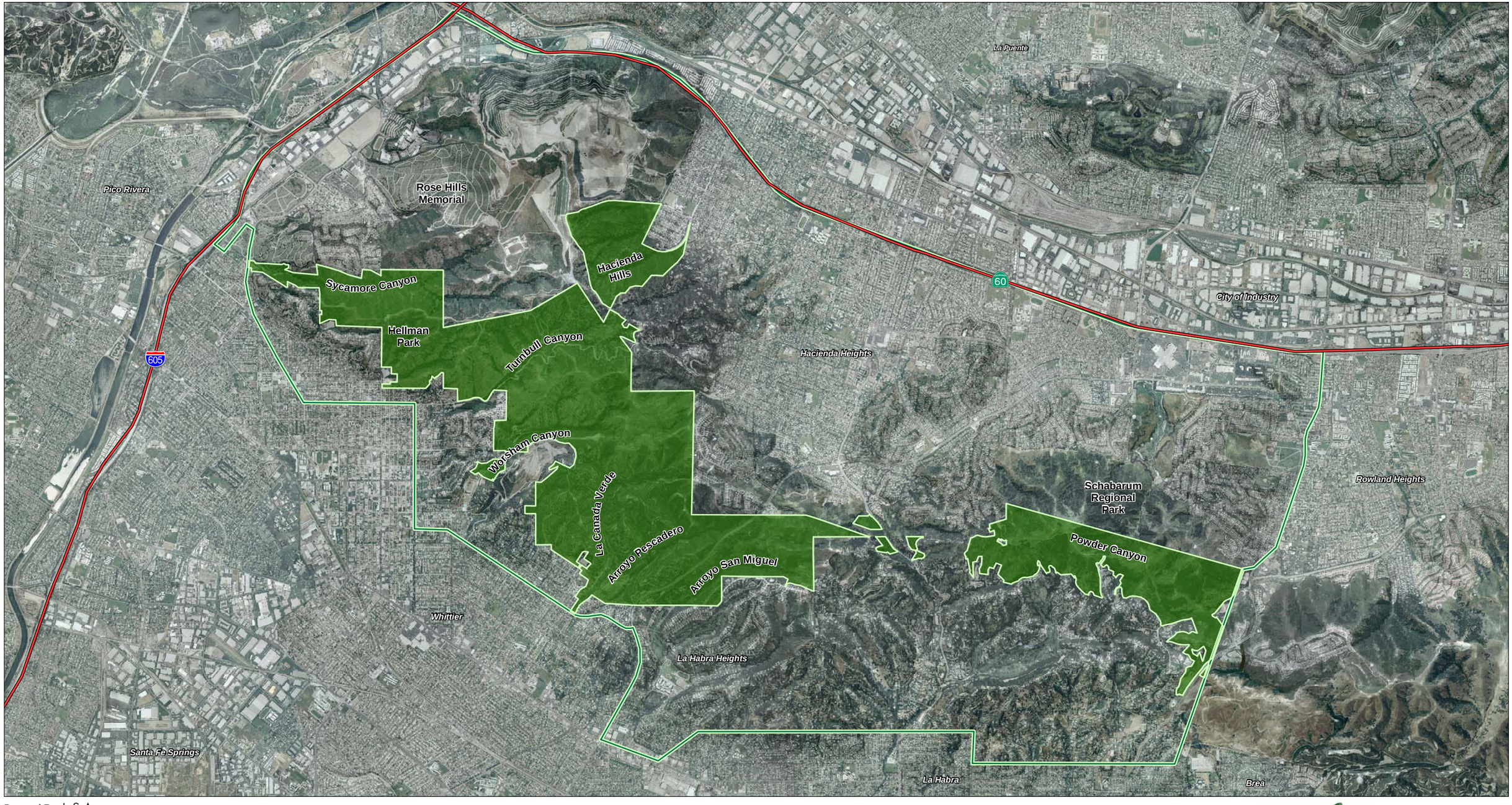

Prepared By: L S A

FIGURE 2

Puente Hills Landfill
Native Habitat Preservation Authority

CEQA Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration

Preserve Overview

Preserve Boundary

Habitat Authority Jurisdiction Boundary

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SOURCE: Image-EagleAerial (2003)

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series of questions regarding the proposed project for each of the listed environmental areas. The form is used to evaluate whether there are any significant environmental effects associated with implementation of the proposed project and, if there are, whether mitigation measures can be attached to the project to lessen to insignificant levels or avoid such impacts.

Section 3.0 provides an explanation for each answer indicated on the form. The form and accompanying evaluation provide the information and analysis upon which the Habitat Authority may make its determination as to whether an EIR must be required for the project. The form is used to review the potential environmental effects of the proposed project for each of the following areas:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Hazards
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation/Traffic
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Mandatory Findings

1.3 EXISTING DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Section 15150 of the State CEQA Guidelines permits an environmental document to incorporate by reference other documents that provide relevant data.

The documents outlined in this section are hereby incorporated by reference, and the pertinent material is summarized throughout this IS/MND, where that information is relevant to the analysis of potential impacts resulting from the project. Any document incorporated by reference is available for review at the Habitat Authority. The following were used as source documents in preparing the responses to the Environmental Checklist in Section 4.0; the reference numbers indicated below have been incorporated into the text.

1. *Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority Resource Management Plan, March 2007.*
2. *Los Angeles County General Plan, 1993.*
3. *Los Angeles County Code, updated through March 2007.*
4. *Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Department of Conservation, 2004.*
5. *USGS California 7.5 Minute Quadrangles – Anaheim, Baldwin Park, El Monte, La Habra, Los Alamitos, Orange, San Dimas, Whittier, Yorba Linda.*
6. *California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), California Scenic Highway Program, 1999* (http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic/cahisys.htm)
7. *Eagle Aerial 2003.*
8. *City of Whittier General Plan, 1993*

9. *City of La Habra Heights General Plan, 2004*
10. *Hacienda Heights Community Plan, 1978*
11. *Rowland Heights Community Plan, 1981*
12. *California Department of Conservation Division of Mines and Geology. State of California Seismic Hazard Zones Whittier Quadrangle (March 1999) and LaHabra Quadrangle (April 1998).*
13. *Los Angeles County Regional Water Quality Control Board. Water Quality Control Plan: Los Angeles Region Basin Plan for the Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, 1994.*
14. *State of California Division of Land Resource Protection Williamson Act Program* (http://www.consrv.ca.gov/DLRP/lca/index.htm)
15. *California Department of Fire and Forestry Protection Statewide Fire Hazard Severity Zones Map, 1985*
16. *State of California Office of Earthquake Engineering California Seismic Hazard Map, 1996*

1.4 CONTACT PERSONS

The Lead Agency for the IS for the proposed project is the Habitat Authority. Any questions regarding the preparation of this IS, its assumptions, or its conclusions should be referred to the following CEQA contact person:

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2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 PROJECT SITE

The study area encompasses 3,860 acres of undeveloped land managed by the Habitat Authority. These lands (Preserve) are a collection of properties that are owned by the Habitat Authority, City of Whittier, and the Sanitation District of Los Angeles County. Bordered by development on three sides, the Preserve is located between the conserved lands of the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area to the west and a combination of private unpreserved and public reserved lands of Chino Hills State Park and Cleveland National Forest to the east. The Preserve functions as a habitat linkage between these lands.

The landscape of the Preserve consists of topography characterized by steep hillsides surrounding deep canyons. Major canyons include Sycamore Canyon, Turnbull Canyon, Worsham Canyon, and Powder Canyon. The more gently rolling areas surround Colima Road near Arroyo Pescadero. Most hilltops range from 700 feet above mean sea level (amsl) to just over 1,300 feet amsl and decrease into the low-lying drainages varying from 400 feet amsl to 600 feet amsl.

The Preserve supports many of the typical and unique landscapes of California - coastal sage scrub, chaparral, native and nonnative grassland, oak woodland, walnut woodland, and riparian woodland – and sustains important habitat for a number of native animal species, including the coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica*), cactus wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*), mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), and mountain lion (*Puma concolor*). One of the Preserve's most important functions is to provide a portion of the connection for the natural community between the San Gabriel River and Cleveland National Forest to the east.

Located in a metropolitan region of nearly 20 million people, increasingly surrounded by urban development, and close to downtown Los Angeles, the Preserve provides unique natural resources in a setting not found in the highly urbanized Los Angeles region. The Preserve showcases natural resources by providing a range of recreation opportunities and activities, including hiking, jogging, mountain biking, horseback riding, nature appreciation, and wilderness education. Due to the size of the Preserve and the number of access points, baseline data regarding Preserve usership is limited. However, a user survey was conducted during two weekdays and two weekend days during October 2005 (Appendix A of the RMP) to collect information on user demographics and user attitudes towards resource conservation, Preserve management, and trail use. By projecting these four days to the rest of the month, surveyors estimated 6,870 users per month (approximately 82,440 visitors annually). Visitors access the Preserve using various modes, including private automobile, bicycle, on foot, and on horseback. Survey results indicate that Preserve visitors are primarily local with the vast majority of visitors coming from the four or five zip codes surrounding the Preserve.

Most lands within the Preserve were historically part of the Rancho La Puente, granted to William Workman and John Rowland in 1845. These men and their descendants worked the land for decades, raising cattle and sheep, growing wheat, selling wool, and cultivating grapes and fruits for brandies and wines. In the early 20th century, cattle and sheep ranching gave way to avocado and walnut

groves and citrus orchards. But, in the post-World War II building boom, most of the land located on the original rancho was sold and developed, forming the communities of Hacienda Heights, City of Industry, and La Puente. Other areas continued to be used for agriculture and cattle and sheep grazing until the 20th century development of the petroleum industry. As a result of initial productive exploration, large swaths of the area in and around the Puente Hills were developed as oil fields and oil wells, with many continuing to operate today. In the early 20th century, the La Puente Valley was the site of considerable industrial development in the oil industry, as well as in the banking and commercial industries. This trend continued to the present, with increasing suburbanization and commercial and industrial development.

2.2 SURROUNDING LAND USES

The project area is located at the eastern edge of Los Angeles County (County) and consists of undeveloped land located within the Cities of Whittier and La Habra Heights and the unincorporated areas of Hacienda Heights and Rowland Heights. The project area extends from Harbor Boulevard at the east to the intersection of Interstate 605 and State Route 60 at the west (Figures 1 and 2).

The project area is almost completely surrounded by urban development, except for the undeveloped lands east of the Preserve and west of Chino Hills State Park and Whittier Narrows to the northwest. The extreme topographic and geologic elements in the Preserve made these lands less desirable for development. Development consists primarily of suburban, single-family residential development associated with the surrounding communities. Industrial development in the City of Industry lies to the north of State Route 60. Whittier College is located to the south near Worsham Canyon.

Rose Hills Memorial Park owns a large area in the northwestern Puente Hills, between the City of Whittier and Hacienda Heights. Some of this land has been developed as a cemetery, while other portions are undeveloped. The Puente Hills Landfill is located northeast of the Rose Hills Memorial Park and adjacent to the Preserve. Savage Landfill, owned by the City of Whittier, is located adjacent to the middle southern portion of the Preserve. Two golf courses, Friendly Hills Country Club in Whittier and Hacienda Golf Club, in La Habra Heights, are near to the Preserve, as well.

Chino Hills State Park is located southeast of the Preserve. Other major recreation facilities located near the Preserve include Schabarum Regional Park and Pathfinder Park. Schabarum Regional Park, owned and managed by the County of Los Angeles, is just north of Powder Canyon in the eastern part of the Preserve and contains an equestrian center, restrooms, ample parking, picnic tables, and a network of trails (Figure 2). Pathfinder Park, also owned and managed by the County of Los Angeles, lies east of Powder Canyon and contains multiple lighted tennis courts and baseball diamonds, a lighted basketball court, conference facilities, a large picnic area with barbecues, and a 1.5 mile walking trail.

Access to the Preserve is available through a network of regional and local roadways, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Regional access to the Preserve is provided via two major freeways: Interstate 605 (running northeast and southwest) and State Route 60 (running east and west). Local access to the Preserve is provided from Colima Road, Workman Mill Road, Harbor Boulevard, Turnbull Canyon Road, Skyline Drive, East Road, Fullerton Road, and Hacienda Boulevard. Several of these roadways provide preferential bicycle lanes. A dedicated public segment of the key regional Schabarum Trail (Skyline Trail)/San Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail follows the Preserve's backbone

ridge, providing pedestrian, equestrian, and bicycle access. Numerous abandoned oil field roads and unpaved trails are used informally by the public to gain access to the Preserve.

2.3 PROPOSED PROJECT

In its role as land manager, the Habitat Authority desires to maintain and enhance the biodiversity of the Preserve by overseeing edge effects from nearby urbanization and ensuring that the land continues to be a viable habitat linkage. The RMP has been developed with a set of management goals and actions to ensure the long-term protection of the Preserve's natural and cultural resources.

2.2.1 Purpose of the RMP

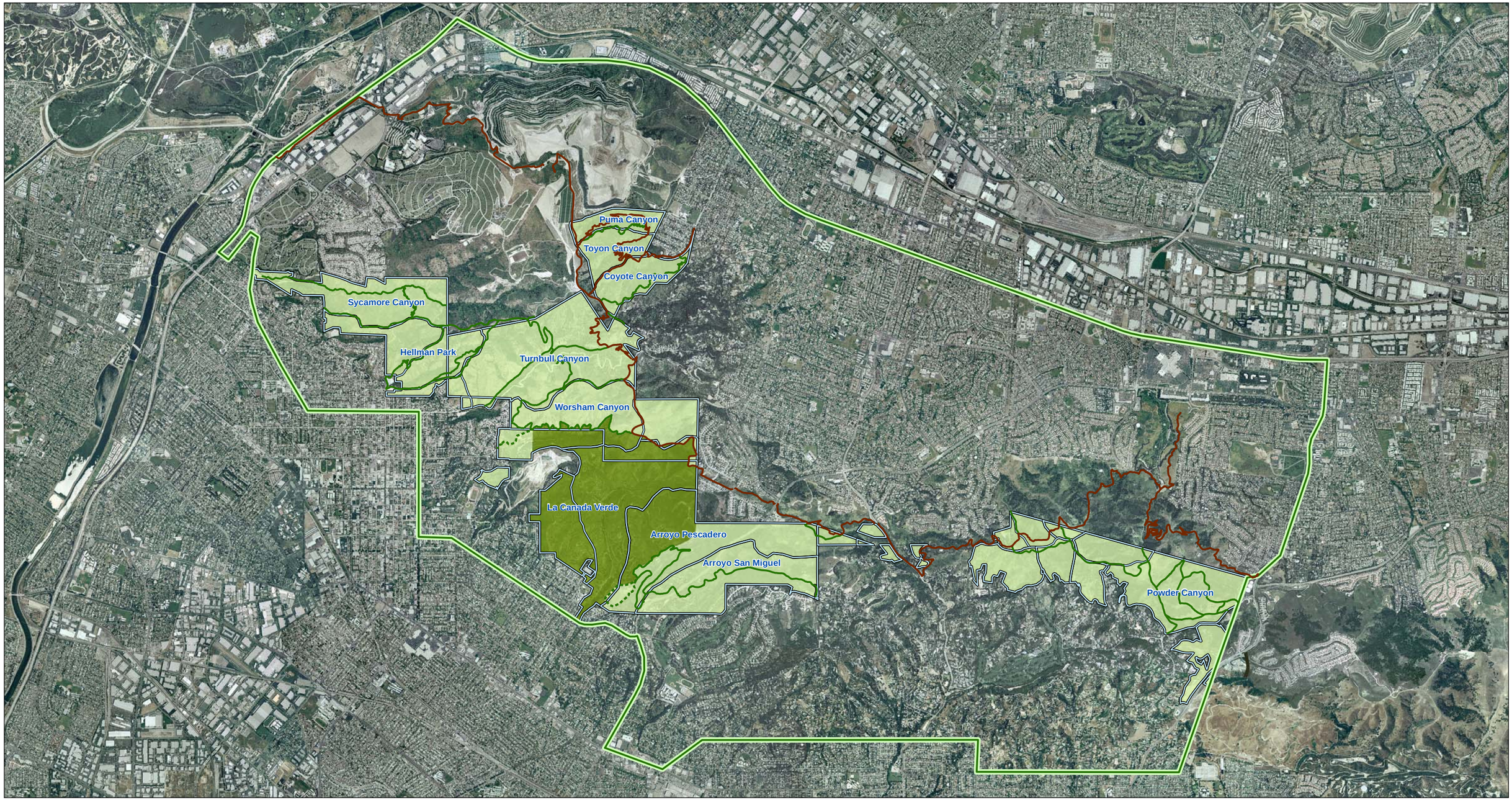
The purpose of the RMP is to provide a comprehensive, long-term management plan for the Preserve. The RMP will serve as a clear and realistic blueprint for how the Preserve will be managed for the next several decades and will guide the Habitat Authority on future policy, land use, budget, and capital improvement decisions relating to the Preserve. The fundamental objective for the RMP is to identify the best framework to manage, protect, and enhance the natural resource values of the Preserve while providing safe recreational and educational opportunities to the public. The major plan objectives are to enhance wildlife habitats, develop vegetation management practices, and provide safe, low-impact recreational opportunities and public access.

2.2.2 Management Zones

The RMP has been developed to guide the Habitat Authority in land use planning, such as public use, and prioritize resource management activities in the Preserve. The RMP divides the total acreage of the Preserve into two management zones: Preservation and Core Habitat (Figure 3). Management Zones are based on geographic relationships; resource values; ecological parameters; management issues, goals, or objectives; types and intensities of land use; or visitor use and experiences.

Preservation Zone
A Preservation Management Zone preserves habitat values along with compatible recreational and access uses. This designation would allow for passive, low impact recreation. Within this zone, some trails may be designated or signed for specific uses such as hiking only, or excluding other uses such as dogs, horses, or cyclists. All recreational uses are limited to trails unless specifically signed or otherwise designated. In addition, areas labeled as Preservation would be closed to the public for safety issues (landslides, threat of wildfire, or other health and safety issues) or closures to protect natural habitats and sensitive, threatened, endangered or locally rare breeding birds or other wildlife. These closures may consist of limiting activities of users, such as, hiking, biking, horseback riding, or dog walking. Closures would be determined by reasonable biological information or the occurrence of other natural events.

Core Habitat Zone
A Core Habitat Management Zone includes, but is not limited to, those areas that have not been opened to the public, and would generally remain off-limits for the sole purpose of providing undisturbed habitat for wildlife which contributes to sustaining the overall ecological health of the Preserve. Core Habitat is generally defined as an area that can sustain a population of plants or animals. These areas provide food, shelter, a place to safely reproduce, and depending on how large the habitat, a place for young to disperse. Other areas that could be considered core habitats are those



Prepared By: L S A

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Los Angeles County Schabarum (Skyline) Trail

Trail Plan

Trail Network

New Trail

Habitat Authority Jurisdiction Boundary

Watersheds (Rough Approximations)

Land Use Designation

Preservation

Core Habitat

FIGURE 3

Puente Hills Landfill
Native Habitat Preservation Authority

CEQA Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration

Core Habitat and Preservation Management Zones

SOURCE: Aerial-EagleAerial (2003)

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that support listed species, riparian areas, or other specifically designated areas**.** Permissible activities include authorized biological survey and some restoration and/or invasive species removal, but no unsupervised public access.

The designated Core Habitat is an area called La Cañada Verde which is north and west of the Arroyo Pescadero Trailhead. This area currently provides undisturbed breeding habitat for wildlife and native vegetation which is recovering in the absence of human disturbance.

2.2.3 Goals

The RMP includes goals and objectives that are intended to implement the vision and mission of the Habitat Authority. A compendium of all RMP objectives is contained in Appendix A of this Initial Study for reference. RMP goals are listed below.

BIO-1: Acquire remaining open space that strengthens the ecological functioning of the Preserve.

BIO-2: Reduce risk of wildfires and property loss along the wildland urban interface.

BIO-3: Maintain all populations of native plants and wildlife with special emphasis on management of locally uncommon, sensitive, federally-threatened or endangered species and other sensitive resources.

BIO-4: Enhance and restore degraded habitats in the Preserve.

BIO-5: Implement monitoring programs designed to identify ecosystem threats and guide adaptive management of the Preserve by tracking the health, function, and integrity of habitats and ecological processes.

BIO-6: Encourage university-level research to address unanswered fundamental biological questions.

BIO-7: Develop an in-house data storage and analysis system.

CULT-1: Protect and preserve important cultural resources.

CULT-2: Preserve and interpret the remains of the Whittier Oil Field as a significant historic site for the education and enjoyment of Preserve visitors.

CULT-3: Follow established protocol if human remains are encountered during ground-disturbing activities in the Preserve.

CULT-4: Record, identify and preserve paleontological resources if found on the Preserve.

USE-1: Provide a trail system that protects natural resources of the Preserve.

USE-2: Enforce protection of the varied resources and promote an enjoyable and safe environment for visitors.

USE-3: Create a trail system that provides a broad public benefit by accommodating diverse uses and user abilities, consistent with the purposes of the Habitat Authority.

USE-4: Accommodate parking, access points, and trail amenities that maintain the natural character of the land, enhance resource protection and contribute to the enjoyment of open space.

INTERP-1: Enhance public stewardship of the Preserve, appreciation of the value of the Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority, conservation issues in general, and the property's significance within the Los Angeles basin consistent with the biological objectives of the Preserve.

INTERP-2: Provide a trail system that promotes and enhances public enjoyment and appreciation of the natural, cultural and scenic resources.

VISUAL-1: Protect and enhance views and distinctive landscape features that contribute to the setting, character and visitor experience of the Preserve.

MAINT-1: Maintain facilities on the Preserve to ensure that biological resource values are maintained and that management activities are supported.

MAINT-2: Remove litter, trash and debris that may attract nonnative wildlife and reduce the aesthetic values of the Preserve.

MAINT-3: Establish facilities to enhance appreciation and encourage research about the natural resources of the Preserve.

2.2.4 Proposed Management Actions

Proposed management of the Preserve will remain consistent with the Habitat Authority's mission and vision for the Preserve. As such, the Habitat Authority will protect and preserve the native habitat in the Preserve for the benefit of its natural resources. That Habitat Authority will continue to provide outdoor education and low-impact recreation consistent with resource protection goals. A summary of the management actions proposed in the RMP is provided below.

Property Acquisition. Land acquisition provides the Habitat Authority with opportunities to work toward protecting key parcels necessary to ensure the connectivity and biological integrity of the wildlife movement corridor and to address key management issues. Land would be strategically acquired when the opportunity arises, particularly in natural areas threatened by development. The Habitat Authority would acquire properties that are contiguous to the Preserve from willing sellers for the purposes of protecting natural, cultural, and visual resources. The Habitat Authority would utilize the Acquisition Prioritization Criteria adopted by the Board in October 2004 to assist in making investment decisions. The acquisition criteria, in order of importance, include: 1) wildlife corridors/habitat linkages; 2) ecological value; 3) restoration factors; and 4) opportunity for joint recreational use.

Fire Management and Fuel Modification. The proximity of residential development to the Preserve creates the need to consider wildfire safety within the Preserve and in surrounding

communities. Fire management is also an important tool in maintaining and restoring native vegetation and control of invasive exotic plant species.

The Habitat Authority would implement a Fuel Modification Plan as part of the RMP, as required by the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACFD). In addition, the Habitat Authority would work with county and city planners to include fuel modification zones associated with future adjacent private development projects be contained within the project footprint of the proposed project, rather than within the Preserve.

A Fire Management Plan would be prepared for the Preserve by working with appropriate agencies such as CDFG, USFWS, and county and city fire departments. The plan would address all aspects of wildfire planning, including prevention, pre-suppression, and suppression. Prior to development of a long-term Fire Management Plan, the Habitat Authority would continue existing fire prevention methods required by the City of La Habra Heights and LACDF at the urban-wildland interface.

Biological Monitoring and Data Keeping
Monitoring and targeted studies for the Preserve would be designed to assist management decision-making. Monitoring would allow the Habitat Authority to measure resource condition and responses of the resource to anthropomorphic and natural perturbations. The Habitat Authority would maintain a database and maps of plant and animal species observed in the Preserve by Habitat Authority personnel and by other resource agencies and the public.

Habitat Enhancement/Restoration
The RMP includes a Habitat Restoration Plan that provides guidance on restoring degraded and disturbed habitats throughout the Preserve. While the Habitat Restoration Plan provides technical information on existing conditions within the Preserve and restoration methods, it is programmatic in nature. The Habitat Restoration Plan is organized by the analyses of existing conditions, restoration criteria and priority, restoration application, restoration techniques, planting and seeding palettes, and performance standards and monitoring. Preliminary restoration priorities for the Preserve are depicted in Figure 4. Using the Habitat Restoration Plan as a guide, the Habitat Authority would:

- Develop specific plans for individual restoration sites, using the information and guidelines provided in the Habitat Restoration Plan as well as new information developed through adaptive management.
- Assess, control, manage, and eradicate invasive exotic species as appropriate and needed to protect Preserve resources in accordance with the guidelines contained in the Habitat Restoration Plan.

Habitat restoration activities would include closing and restoring approximately 16 miles of trails to protect natural resources in the Preserve, consistent with adequate funding and staffing. Trail decommissioning and restoration priority would be given to trails in the more biodiverse areas of the Preserve, such as Sycamore and Turnbull canyons.

Wildlife Corridor Maintenance/Enhancement
In the July 2005 study entitled *Maintaining Ecological Connectivity Across the "Missing Middle" of the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor*, the Conservation Biology Institute (CBI) suggested

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FIGURE 4

Preserve Boundary

Restoration Priorities

- Low Restoration Priority
- Medium-Low Restoration Priority
- Medium Restoration Priority
- Medium-High Restoration Priority
- High Restoration Priority

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Puente Hills Landfill
Native Habitat Preservation Authority

CEQA Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration

Overall Restoration Priorities

SOURCE: Aerial-EagleAerial (2003)

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wildlife crossing improvements to address corridors in the Preserve. These recommendations have been included in the RMP and are as follows:

- **Harbor Boulevard.** Maximize the effectiveness of the wildlife tunnel by actions such as acquiring the rights to install fencing along both sides of the tunnel to direct wildlife and by planting vegetation on either side to provide cover to wildlife.
- **Hacienda Boulevard.** Add wing fencing and screening vegetation on the western end to help guide wildlife into the existing equestrian tunnel and provide cover. Consider ways in which to enlarge the tunnel to increase wildlife usage. Consider the construction of a wildlife overpass (a vegetated wildlife bridge) over the road to utilize the steep slopes on either side. Strive to acquire parcels in the narrow, constricted portion of the corridor between Powder Canyon and Hacienda Boulevard. Explore other alternative measures to avoid, minimize, or reduce wildlife road kill.
- **Colima Road.** Add screening vegetation around the Colima Service Tunnel and limit disturbances in the vicinity of the tunnel (*e.g.*, artificial lighting, recreation uses) between sunset and sunrise, when wildlife most utilize this corridor. Consider the construction of a wildlife overpass over the road to utilize the steep slopes on either side. Explore other alternative measures to avoid, minimize, or reduce wildlife road kill.

Cultural Resources Management

Recommended management actions for cultural resources within the Preserve are described below.

- For any cultural resource work conducted within the Preserve, a Los Angeles County certified archaeologist should prepare a Research Design that identifies research strategies to be implemented during the research program. A review team of cultural resource professionals should establish research priorities for the Preserve, and cultural resource work within the Preserve should be designed to address these priorities.
- Monitoring of any project that involves earth disturbing activities in culturally rich soils should be conducted by a trained archaeologist under the supervision of a Los Angeles County Certified Archaeologist. Artifacts unearthed during this construction should be collected with provenience information when available.
- When sites and/or isolates are located, they should be recorded on California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 series forms. Location data should be recorded using a handheld GPS unit. Site updates, including photos and maps, should be completed for previously documented sites that are reevaluated. Surface collection is recommended for any materials encountered if the site appears to be threatened by natural or human factors.
- When the significance of a site is unknown, a Los Angeles County certified archaeologist should conduct test excavations at those sites to determine if they are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and/or the California Register of Historical Resources. The archaeologist shall provide recommendations for further action based on the findings of test level excavations.
- Implement an emergency response plan for sites that have been exposed for any reason. When cultural resources, including artifacts or features are encountered, either during a planned patrol or in another unexpected manner, a Los Angeles County certified archaeologist should be

consulted. The certified archaeologist will both recommend and, with Habitat Authority approval, implement mitigation measures that are appropriate for the impacts to the sites.

Paleontological Resources Management
Recommended management actions for paleontological resources within the Preserve are described below.

- Prior to any proposed ground disturbing activities within the Preserve, conduct a paleontological assessment survey under the direction of a County-certified paleontologist to identify both the rock types present in the area and the potential for significant fossil resources to be discovered.
- If significant fossils are identified, they should be scientifically salvaged prior to initiation of construction activities. A County-certified paleontologist should develop a paleontological resources impact mitigation program (PRIMP) consistent with guidelines developed by the Society of Vertebrate Paleontologists (SVP 1995) to direct resource monitoring of excavations in order to collect and properly curate any fossils that may be discovered during the ground-disturbing activities.
- When fossil localities are identified, they should be recorded on fossil locality sheets that will document important information about the find such as temporary field number, tentative identification of the find(s), description of the sediments, formation name, location within the Preserve, elevation, and GPS location information. Every effort should be made to preserve the site in situ for future generations. Collection is recommended for any materials encountered if the fossil appears to be threatened by natural or human factors.
- Implement an emergency response plan for sites that have been exposed for any reason. When paleontological resources are encountered, a Los Angeles County certified paleontologist should be consulted. The certified paleontologist will recommend mitigation measures that are appropriate for the impacts to the locality.

View Protection
The Preserve represents a significant visual and scenic resource within the region, offering hilltop and canyon vistas from local roadways, hiking trails, and other scenic overlooks, as well as, panoramic views from the Preserve property of the Los Angeles Basin with mountains, the ocean, and the downtown Los Angeles skyline in the distance. In order to protect this resource, the Habitat Authority would work with local or appropriate jurisdictions in the land use planning and development process to protect key views in the Preserve from existing and future visual and light intrusions from surrounding development. Specific actions aimed at preserving the visual quality of the Preserve include:

- Coordinate protection and enhancement of visual resources in the Preserve with efforts to enhance Preserve holdings through land acquisition and restoration.
- Use native plantings to visually buffer developed areas, enhance visual quality and integrate with the surrounding native landscape.
- Locate site structures (e.g. restrooms and interpretive kiosks) to be sensitive to scenic views from and into the Preserve.

Trail Plan
The Habitat Authority has committed to offering access and recreational opportunities to the public that are consistent with habitat protection. There are an estimated 60 miles of roads and trails in the Preserve, including the Los Angeles County Schabarum Trail, authorized or permitted use trails, fire and utility access roads, and visitor-created unauthorized trails and shortcuts.

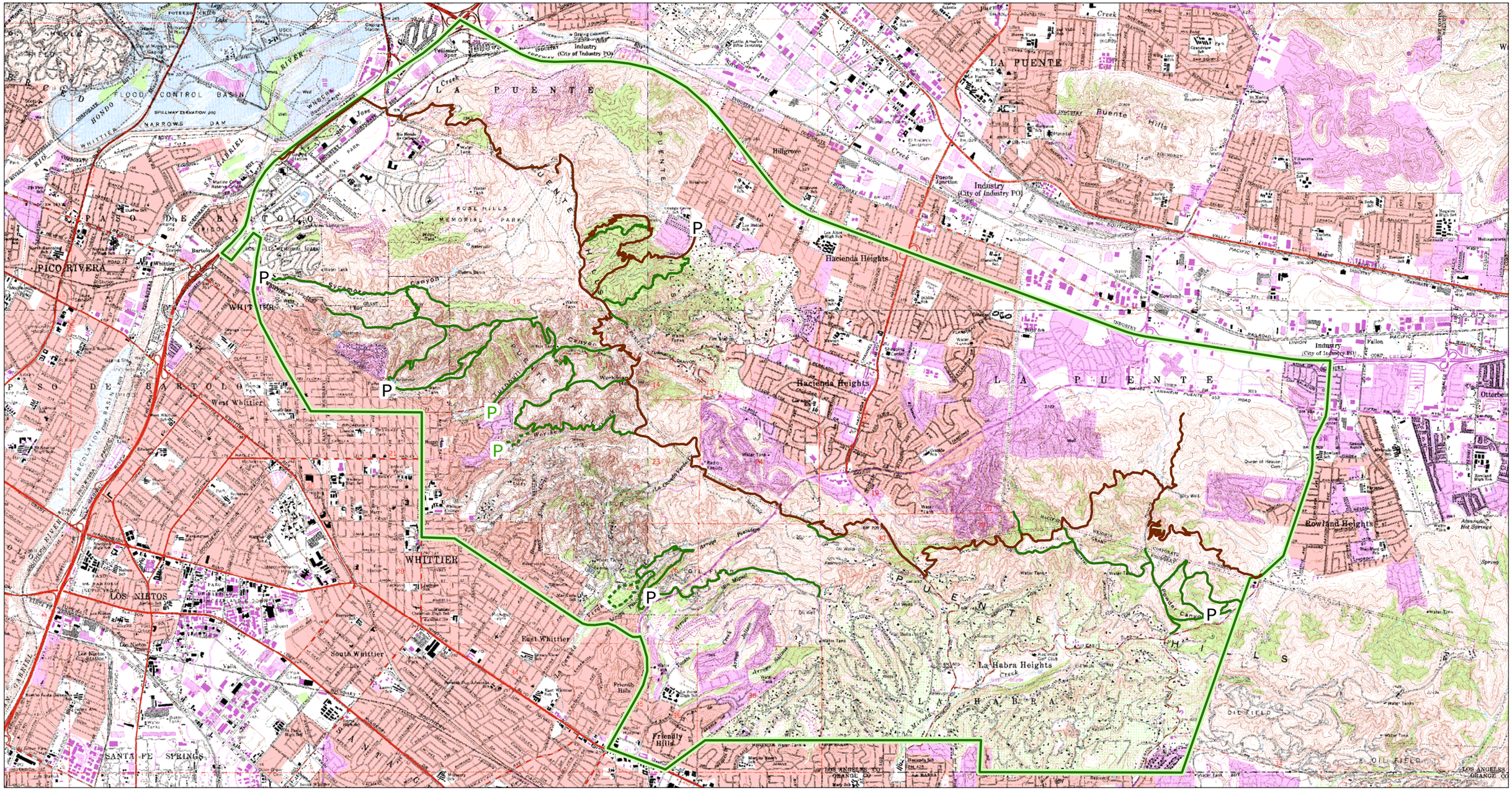
To be consistent with the mission and intent of the Preserve, public access must be restricted in areas that are unsafe or inappropriate for users, including sites where conflicts with wildlife may occur, where conditions are degraded, and where it is necessary to minimize impacts to sensitive habitat for conservation or restoration. The Proposed Trail Plan focuses on closing and restoring approximately 16 miles of trails to protected natural resources in the Preserve (Figure 5). In addition, the Trail Plan will also implement Best Management Practices (BMPs), design standards, and maintenance and management strategies for improving the proposed network of roads and trails and minimizing their impacts on natural resources.

While establishing new trails is not a priority, the Habitat Authority is exploring the following enhancements to improve access and provide variety:

- A new loop trail (approximately 3,881 feet) near the Arroyo Pescadero access point at Colima Road;
- New trailhead facilities and a connector trail (approximately 1,967 feet) at Hadley Road near Worsham Canyon;
- A new trailhead facility and parking lot at Turnbull Canyon Road; and
- A connector trail (approximately 691 feet) in Turnbull Canyon northwest of Workman Hill.

Figure 5 shows the potential locations for these proposed improvements and the proposed 46-mile Preserve trail network. The exact locations and design specification for these facilities have not yet been determined. Proposed trail facilities (trails and trailheads) have been evaluated programmatically in this Initial Study. These improvements may be subject to subsequent environmental review once details regarding siting and design are known. However, per the goals and guidelines in the RMP, construction or placement of parking areas, trailheads, trail expansions, and other facilities would be carefully sited so as to minimize impacts to Preserve resources.

Interpretive Program
The Habitat Authority would develop a Comprehensive Interpretive Plan for the Preserve to convey information about the Habitat Authority and the nature of the land it was established to protect. The Interpretive Plan would integrate new facilities, interpretive trails, interpretive displays, and public programs into the already existing framework of interpretive tools and activities that the Habitat Authority employs. As part of the Comprehensive Interpretive Plan, the Habitat Authority would provide interpretive kiosks at key points within the Preserve and possible develop a visitor center and/or office facility for the Preserve. As with proposed recreational facilities, the exact location and design specifications for proposed interpretive facilities have not yet been determined. Proposed interpretive facilities have been evaluated programmatically in this Initial Study. These facilities, particularly the visitor center/office facility, would be subject to subsequent environmental review once details regarding siting and design are known.



Prepared By: L S A
In collaboration with:

Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program

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FEET

P Existing Parking Lots

P Proposed Parking Lots

Habitat Authority Jurisdiction Boundary

Los Angeles County Schabarum (Skyline) Trail

Trail Plan

Trail Network

New Trail

FIGURE 5

Puente Hills Landfill
Native Habitat Preservation Authority

CEQA Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration

Trail Plan

SOURCE: USGS 7.5' QUAD - BALDWIN PARK, EL MONTE, LA HABRA, WHITTIER (1981), CALIF.; Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program

I:\PUE430\GIS\Maps\CEQA Initial Study\Figure5_ProposedTrailPlan_.mxd (07/31/2007)

Erosion and Sediment Control Measures
Wind, water, and human land use practices have resulted in severe erosion in parts of the Preserve. Roads, trails, and unvegetated areas along steep slopes are the most susceptible to erosion. On-site areas that are subject to severe erosion would be evaluated and erosion/sediment control practices would be selected and installed, as appropriate.

The following BMPs would be considered, designed, and implemented on a site specific basis:

- Interceptor berms or wattles at the top of slope to divert and dissipate runoff away from unstable or denuded areas.
- Properly designed culverts and drains that avoid concentration of runoff.
- Vegetation (preserved and/or planted)
- Mulch (straw, wood chips, hydromulch, erosion control blankets, etc.)
- Contour wattles, rolling dips or water bars to slow down and divert runoff on steep slopes, trails, and roads.
- Gravel filters, sand bags, permeable dams, etc. for filtering sediment out of runoff.
- Sediment traps/basins at the base of slopes to allow soil particles to settle out and to attenuate runoff peaks.

All BMPs would be monitored and maintained to ensure proper function. Trees and vegetation to be preserved should be located and flagged, with access areas identified. As practicable, they should be inspected regularly and after each rainfall event. In addition, the Habitat Authority would prepare and implement a trail maintenance and monitoring system to correct unsafe trail conditions, repair environmental damage, and restore the trail to desired conditions.

Security Measures
As a result of the Preserve's size and location within a densely populated metropolitan area, there are numerous entry points from adjacent neighborhoods into the Preserve. Some of these entry points are unauthorized, "end of street" access points used to gain access to the Preserve, while others are informal entries without developed trailhead facilities. Boundaries are periodically patrolled by ranger staff in order to protect Preserve resources and public safety. The Habitat Authority would enforce Preserve boundaries by maintaining property fencing and access points. The following management actions are proposed:

- Identify portions of the Preserve where fencing may be needed. Fencing would probably be installed or reinforced in areas adjacent to residential lots, roads, and other level areas. Fencing should be maintained as needed and monitored annually.
- Establish property signs along the Preserve boundary and at each access point, identifying the area as a Preserve and providing directions for access and contact information.
- Maintain all existing fencing and locked gates and establish a list of persons with keys to the Preserve.
- Establish permanent markers for Preserve boundaries, when appropriate, or fencing that allows for wildlife movement.

2.4 DISCRETIONARY ACTIONS

The following discretionary actions are required for project approval:

- Approval of the Resource Management Plan (RMP)

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- ❑ Aesthetics
- ❑ Agricultural Resources
- ■ Air Quality
- ■ Biological Resources
- ■ Cultural Resources
- ■ Geology/Soils
- ❑ Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- ■ Hydrology/Water Quality
- ❑ Land Use/Planning
- ❑ Mineral Resources
- ■ Noise
- ❑ Population/Housing
- ❑ Public Services
- ■ Recreation
- ■ Transportation/Traffic
- ❑ Utilities/Service Systems
- ■ Mandatory Findings of Significance

DETERMINATION. (To be completed by the Lead Agency.)
On the basis of this initial evaluation:

❑ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

■ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

❑ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

❑ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

❑ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

_____ _____ 5-7-07

Andrea Gullo, Executive Director — Date
Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the reference information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault-rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g.., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).

2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.

3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from "Earlier Analyses," as described in (5) below, may be cross-referenced).

5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
   a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
   b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
   c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.

9) The explanation of each issue should identify:
   a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
   b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS CHECKLIST

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. AESTHETICS. Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	❑	❑	■	❑
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway?	❑	❑	❑	■
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	❑	❑	■	❑
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	❑	❑	❑	■

Existing Setting:

Since it contains elevations above the surrounding urban area, the Preserve represents a significant visual and scenic resource within the region offering panoramic views of the Los Angeles Basin with mountains, the ocean and the downtown Los Angeles skyline in the distance. Situated in the midst of a highly developed region, the Preserve includes a variety of hillside and canyon landscapes from the solitude of Powder Canyon and the rugged Turnbull Canyon, to the meandering walk with the creek and beautiful trees of Sycamore Canyon. In contrast, the former uses of the site have been highly destructive and degrading of the natural scene, including 100 years of oil production and cattle grazing. These operations have resulted in the location of numerous oil well service roads with highly visible cut/fill slopes and huge fields of invasive species.

Discussion:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

Less than Significant. The RMP proposes minimal construction of kiosks, small parking lots and a small visitor center/office as well as maintenance and improvement of designated trails and access roads within the Preserve. Facilities that would be constructed as a result of implementation of the Plan have the potential to adversely affect the existing scenic quality and character by impacting scenic vistas, both into and from the Preserve, but are not expected to substantially damage scenic resources. Kiosks containing interpretive materials will be very small in size and located at trail heads. Parking lots will be small and located adjacent to existing roadways. For emergency and maintenance purposes, existing roads within the Preserve will be maintained from time to time. Maintenance may consist of periodic clearing, pavement patching, and minor restoration of erosion damage to existing road bed. The RMP

contains management actions to protect and preserve visual resources from the Preserve including: working with local jurisdictions in the land use planning and development process to protect key views; coordinating protection and enhancement of visual resources with land acquisition efforts; using native plantings to visually buffer developed areas; and locating site structures to be sensitive to scenic views (Section 6.5 of the RMP). Implementation of these management actions would ensure that facilities are sited appropriately to minimize visual impacts. Further, by protecting and enhancing natural habitats, the RMP would improve existing disturbed scenic vistas**.**

b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway?

No Impact. There are no State designated scenic highways in the vicinity of the project site [6].

c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?

Less than Significant. The visual quality and character of the project site is diverse, ranging from steep hillsides and deep canyons to residential development. As described above in Response I(a), the development of additional facilities is not expected to degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site. The RMP contains goals and guidelines designed to protect and enhance the Preserve's visual resources through working with local jurisdictions in the land use planning and development process to protect key views; coordinating protection and enhancement of visual resources with land acquisition efforts; using native plantings to visually buffer developed areas; and locating site structures to be sensitive to scenic views (Section 6.5 of the RMP). Implementation of management actions pertaining to visual resources described in Section 6.5 of the RMP would benefit the existing visual character and quality of the site and its surroundings.

d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

No Impact. There are currently no sources of light and glare or nighttime lighting present on-site. Implementation of the RMP would not create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area. New facilities proposed as part of the RMP would include trailhead facilities, parking areas, trails, visitor center, informational kiosks, and fencing. Use of the Preserve after dark is prohibited, therefore, no lighting is proposed for these facilities. As potential light and glare and lighting impacts would be the same as currently occur on-site, there are no impacts.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
II. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to a non-agricultural use?	❑	❑	❑	■
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	❑	❑	❑	■
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use?	❑	❑	❑	■

Existing Setting:

According to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Department of Conservation (2004), there is no designated Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance in the project area. No agricultural resources are located on or near the project site, which currently contains predominantly resource conservation uses and residential development.

Discussion:

a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance?

No Impact. No designated agricultural resources by the NCRS are located on or near the project site [4]. Therefore, implementation of the Plan would not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland) to a non-agricultural use.

b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

No Impact. Much of the project site falls within the planning and zoning jurisdiction of Los Angeles County. The properties are zoned for light agriculture; however, the County's agricultural zones allow residential construction as the primary use with agriculture uses taking an almost accessory use position. Since the RMP would preserve open space, it would not conflict with current zoning provisions. Since the County has never accepted Williamson Act provisions and no Williamson Act contracts pertaining to the project site [14] are possible, the RMP would not conflict with a Williamson Act contract.

c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use?

No Impact. The study area primarily consists of resource conservation land. Changes to the existing environment within the study area would not lead to conversion of farmland either directly or indirectly because adjacent land is developed primarily with single family residences. There is a small agricultural operation on an adjacent property that would not be affected by the project [7]. The project does not provide increased roadway capacity and would not facilitate conversion of agricultural land in areas adjacent to the Preserve. Therefore, the proposed project would not lead to conversion of existing farmland.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
III. AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	❑	❑	❑	■
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	❑	■	❑	❑
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or State ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	❑	❑	■	❑
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	❑	❑	■	❑
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	❑	❑	■	❑

Existing Setting:

The Puente Hills are located within the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB), bounded by the Pacific Ocean on the west and the San Gabriel, San Bernardino, and San Jacinto Mountains on the north and east. Within the SCAB, ambient air quality standards for ozone, carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), particulate matter (PM_{10}, $PM_{2.5}$), and lead (Pb) have been set by both the State of California (State) and the federal government. The State has also set standards for sulfate and visibility. Because the SCAB is currently designated non-attainment for ozone, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5,}$ the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is charged with preparing an updated Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) for 2007. The AQMP describes air pollution control strategies to be implemented by public and private entities.

Existing sources of pollutants from natural and human activities occurring within the Preserve include: 1) fugitive dust from maintenance activities (*i.e.*, grading service roads, trails, and fuel breaks), 2) emissions associated with visitor vehicle trips to and from the Preserve, 3) particulates and greenhouse gas emissions from wildland fires that occasionally occur within the Preserve, and 4) pollutants from remaining oil extraction activities. Oil extraction activities have mostly ceased with inclusion of these properties into the Preserve.

As described in Section 2.1, the Preserve is currently used by approximately 82, 500 visitors annually (based on the results of the user survey which indicated approximately 6,870 users per month)/ The User Survey results (Appendix A of the RMP) indicate that users primarily do not come from great distances as survey results at all trailheads, except for Turnbull Canyon, reflected only four or five zip codes within the vicinity of the Preserve . The use of the Preserve by local residents is further supported by the mean number of visits per month (9.1 per visitor) identified by the survey. On average, 75% of users arrived via private automobile while the other 25% primarily walked or biked to the Preserve. Survey results identified a strong correlation between trailhead and transportation used to access the Preserve. The percentage of users walking to the Preserve is higher at local trailheads such as Hacienda Hills (46%) or Hellman Park (18%). At Turnbull Canyon, approximately 25 percent of the visitors arrive by bicycle.

Discussion:

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

No Impact. The proposed project is a RMP that provides management actions to protect and enhance natural, cultural, and visual resources and allows for passive recreation use. Limited new facilities are proposed as part of the RMP to maintain/enhance the biological resources within and manage public access to the Preserve. Planned habitat restoration activities would require closure of numerous existing trails resulting in a net reduction in recreational facilities in the Preserve. Given that 1) the area proximate to the Preserve is developed; 2) current Preserve users are primarily local residents; 3) a significant portion of the visitors are walking or riding to the Preserve; and 4) the intent of the RMP is to manage/restore natural resources and maintain the existing recreational opportunities not to facilitate/increase use of the Preserve, use of the Preserve is not expected to increase beyond existing levels.

Implementation of the RMP is not expected to result in increased visitation to the Preserve nor an associated increase in the number of car trips to the project site. Vehicle emissions associated with use of the Preserve would be similar to what occurs today under existing conditions. Vehicle emissions assigned to existing conditions would have been included in the emissions calculations for the 2003 AQMP and therefore, implementation of the RMP would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the 2007 AQMP.

b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?

Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated. Air pollutant emissions associated with the proposed project would occur over the short term in associated with construction activities, such as grading and vehicle/equipment use. No long-term emissions would result from the proposed project.

Long Term (Operational) Emissions. Long-term air emissions impacts are associated with any change in permanent use of the project site by on-site stationary and off-site mobile sources that substantially increase vehicle trip emissions. There are no stationary sources associated with the proposed project. As described above in Response III(a), the potential pollutant emissions associated with motor vehicles accessing the Preserve would be similar to what occurs today as

part of ongoing maintenance and recreational activities. Therefore, no additional long-term emissions would result from implementation of the proposed project.

Short-Term (Construction) Emissions. Air pollutant emissions associated with the proposed project would occur over the short term associated with facility construction (trails, trailheads, visitor center/office, and informational signage), habitat restoration activities, and fuel modification/fire management activities. Construction activities could generate exhaust emissions that would affect local air quality.

Construction activities could generate combustion emissions from utility engines, on-site heavy duty construction vehicles, equipment hauling materials to and from the site, and motor vehicles transporting construction crews. Exhaust emissions during construction would vary daily as construction activity levels change. The use of construction equipment would result in localized exhaust emissions. Due to the limited extent of development proposed (trail closure, rehabilitation or creation/habitat restoration/trailhead establishment), the projected short-term emissions of criteria pollutants as a result of project construction are expected to be below emissions thresholds established by the SCAQMD.

Fugitive dust emissions are associated with excavation, land clearing, exposure, and cut-and-fill operations. Dust generated daily during construction would vary substantially, depending on the level of activity, the specific operations, and weather conditions. On a limited basis, nearby sensitive receptors and on-site workers may be exposed to blowing dust, depending on the prevailing wind. The project contractor would be required to comply with SCAQMD Rule 403, to reduce fugitive dust emissions. With implementation of SCAQMD requirements, such as frequent watering (i.e., minimum twice a day), fugitive dust emissions from construction activities are expected to be reduced to less than significant levels.

Mitigation Measure AIR-1: Contractor shall comply with SCAQD Rule 403 as follows:

- Moisten soil and debris not more than 15 minutes prior to excavation or movement.
- Apply environmentally safe chemical stabilizers to disturbed areas (*i.e.*, graded areas or areas subject to erosion from wind or water) within 5 days of completing grading or apply dust suppressants or vegetation sufficient to maintain a stabilized surface.
- Water exposed surface areas at least twice a day under calm conditions or as often as needed on windy days or during dry weather in order to maintain a surface crust and prevent the release of visual emission of dust from the construction site.
- Cease grading operations when wind speeds exceed 25 miles per hour if dust is being generated and cannot be controlled by watering alone.
- Provide street sweeping, as needed, on adjacent roadways to remove dirt, mud, and/or debris dropped from construction vehicles entering or leaving the project site.
- Maintain a minimum of 2 feet of freeboard capacity on all trucks hauling dirt, debris, and/or construction materials to and from the construction site.
- Mobile heavy equipment (*e.g.*, bulldozers, haul trucks) on unpaved surfaces shall be limited to an on-site speed that avoids fugitive dust impacts off site.

c) *Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or State ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?*

Less than Significant Impact. As discussed in Response III(b), no exceedance of the SCAQMD criteria pollutant emissions thresholds would be anticipated either during operation or construction of the proposed project. The projected short-term emissions of criteria pollutants as a result of project construction are expected to be below emissions thresholds established for the region, complying with SCAQMD Rule 403. As the proposed project would result in similar long-term emissions such as occur under existing conditions and short-term construction emissions would be below SCAQMD thresholds with compliance with SCAQMD Rule 403, the proposed project's contribution to cumulative emissions of criteria pollutants is considered less than significant.

d) *Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?*

Less than Significant Impact. Sensitive receptors adjacent to the project area include Preserve users and neighboring residents. As described in Responses III(a) and III(b) above, implementation of the proposed project is not expected to result in increased visitation to the Preserve nor an associated increase in the number of car trips to the project site. Vehicle emissions associated with use of the Preserve would be similar to what occurs today under existing conditions. There may be redistribution of the existing trips associated with recreational users due to closure of existing unauthorized trails and new trailhead development at Turnbull and Worsham Canyons. Air pollutant emissions are anticipated to be the same as currently occurs and potential exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations is considered less than significant.

Construction of proposed recreation and interpretive facilities may expose surrounding sensitive receptors to airborne particulates and fugitive dust as well as a small quantity of construction equipment pollutants (i.e., diesel-fueled vehicles and equipment). As described in Response III(b) above, impacts would be below peak-day pollution threshold criteria and would be of short duration. In addition, construction contractors would be required to implement measures to reduce or eliminate emissions by following standard construction practices in compliance with SCAQMD rules (as described in Response III(b), Mitigation Measure AIR-1). Therefore, sensitive receptors are not expected to be exposed to substantial long-term or short-term pollutant concentrations, and no significant air quality impacts would result from the proposed project.

e) *Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?*

Less than Significant Impact. Some objectionable odors may be generated from the operation of diesel-powered construction equipment and/or asphalt paving during construction of proposed facilities. However, these odors would be short term in nature and would not result in permanent impacts to surrounding land uses, including sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the project site. Air pollutant emissions are anticipated to be the same as currently occurs and long-term exposure of sensitive receptors to objectionable odors is considered less than significant.

Therefore, no significant impacts related to objectionable odors would result from the proposed project.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	❑	■	❑	❑
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	❑	■	❑	❑
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	❑	■	❑	❑
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	❑	❑	❑	■
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	❑	❑	❑	■
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan?	❑	❑	❑	■

Affected Environment:

As part of the RMP, available literature and site specific survey data was reviewed to develop a resource baseline and subsequent prescriptions. When necessary, new surveys were conducted to address known data gaps. The information on biological resources contained in the RMP (Section 3.0) is summarized below.

Vegetation: The vegetation within the Preserve is a complex mosaic of different habitat types. A substantial number of habitat types. A substantial number of the vegetation communities within the Preserve are unique to coastal Southern California and are considered sensitive. These vegetation communities often support sensitive, threatened, or endangered wildlife species threatened by urban development in the Southern California region. These Preserve habitats represent a substantial

addition to protect lands region wide and significantly contribute to the conservation of biodiversity. Some areas impacted by human activities represent important habitat for many native species, while other areas need management to improve the habitat quality of the vegetation. Nine major vegetation types, composed of 61 distinct vegetation communities, have been identified within the Preserve. A total of 35 of these communities are considered sensitive by State and/or local agencies. The primary vegetation types in the Preserve, listed with total acreage, are as follows:

- Coastal Sage Scrub (845.31 acres)
- Chaparral (975.91 acres)
- Grassland (1,224.19 acres)
- Riparian (143.55 acres)
- Woodland (296.85 acres)
- Cliff and Rock (0.58 acres)
- Agriculture (15.54 acres)
- Developed and Disturbed (299.23 acres)

Wildlife: Preserve surveys conducted in 2005 and 2006 (LSA 2005a, b, c; Remington 2006) documented the presence of numerous native species: 12 dragonflies and damselflies, 38 butterflies, 4 amphibians, 9 reptiles, 124 birds, and 30 mammals. Several nonnative species were documented as well. Many of the Preserve's wildlife species are habitat generalists that use a range of habitats.

Threatened, Rare or Endangered Species: For purposes of this discussion, the term "sensitive species" refers to those plants and animals occurring, or potentially occurring, on the property and designated as endangered or rare by federal or State agencies, or of current local, regional, or State concern. These are species that are rare, locally restricted, or declining in a significant portion of their range. The Preserve serves a vital role in the conservation of these species and habitats in southwestern California. Preservation of large blocks of open space increases the probability that the populations of these species will remain relatively stable and that more drastic conservation measures will not be necessary.

Sensitive Plant Species
The Preserve supports several sensitive plant species (Appendix B). Sensitive plant species were assessed based on the classification criteria of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS). Stands of Southern California black walnut, a CNPS List 4 (Watch List) species, occur in Powder Canyon and between Puma and Toyon Canyons in the Hacienda Hills area. In addition, the Preserve supports Coulter's matilija poppy *(Romneya coulteri)*, a CNPS List 4 species, and Plummer's mariposa lily *(Calochortus plummerae)*, a CNPS 1B (Rare, Threatened, or Endangered) species. Coulter's matilija poppy can occur in a variety of habitats including alluvial fan sage scrub, sycamore woodland coastal sage scrub, and chaparral. This species has been observed on a slope of Whittier College just outside of the Preserve limits. However, it is not known if this occurrence is a native occurrence or if it was planted as landscaping. Plummer's mariposa lily is found in coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitats. This species was historically documented within the Preserve and identified within Toyon Canyon (BonTerra) and within Turnbull Canyon in 2000 (LSA 2000). The 2005 survey documented 34 new

occurrences, primarily in the northern portion of the Preserve, with abundances ranging from 1 to 100 individuals (LSA 2006).

Two sensitive species occur in Turnbull Canyon: Catalina mariposa lily *(Calochortus catalinae)* (CNPS LIST 4) and Robinson's peppergrass *(Lepidium virginicum* var. *robinsonii)* (CNPS List 4). Catalina mariposa lily was identified within an area of needlegrass grassland and Robinson's peppergrass was identified in an area of nonnative annual grassland in the northwestern portion of Turnbull Canyon.

In addition, two endangered species occur in the region: Braunton's milkvetch *(Astragalus brauntonii)* and California orcutt grass *(Orcuttia californica).* Braunton's milkvetch is found on carbonate soils associated with a variety of habitats including coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and grasslands. This species typically flourishes in the first years after fires and/or site disturbances, and can therefore be extremely difficult to detect. California orcutt grass occurs in vernal pools in valley grassland below 2,000 feet in elevation.

Sensitive Wildlife Species
At least 30 sensitive species have been recorded on the Preserve (Appendix C). The federally threatened coastal California gnatcatcher is one listed bird species that is known to be a resident in the Preserve. In 2005, at least three gnatcatcher pairs were present in the restoration area east of Colima Road and one pair was found in lower Sycamore Canyon; scattered single birds observed late in the season are best considered wandering juveniles (LSA 2005a). Gnatcatchers are most often found in coastal sage scrub habitat, as are other sensitive species such as the cactus wren, Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow, and San Diego desert woodrat.

Other listed species recorded in the Preserve include the wide-ranging peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus)* and the least Bell's vireo. The vireo is a riparian specialist that was recorded in Sycamore Canyon in 2005 (LSA 2005c) and may nest in the Preserve occasionally. Other sensitive species primarily using riparian habitats include the western red (*Lasiurus blossevillii)* and hoary bats, California yellow warbler (*Dendroica petechia brewsteri*) and yellow-breasted chat. The State listed willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*) migrates through the Preserve, with the federally listed subspecies *extimus* (i.e., southwestern willow flycatcher) nesting in extensive bottomland habitat only 15 miles to the east in the Prado Basin.

Grasslands are the preferred habitat for sensitive species such as the western spadefoot, white-tailed kite, northern harrier, loggerhead shrike, and California horned lark, but most of the nonlisted sensitive species of the Preserve are found in a range of habitats. Reptiles, such as the coastal western whiptail and northern red-diamond rattlesnake, are most common in chaparral and coastal sage scrub, but also range into grassland, riparian, and woodland. Raptors are generally associated with grasslands, but most (e.g., the white-tailed kite) require woodlands for nesting. Other raptors, such as Cooper's hawk, are most closely associated with woodlands, but also forage in all other habitats. Some bat species have restrictive roosting needs but forage over large areas. A number of sensitive bat species potentially occur in the Preserve; most are confined to woodlands, cliffs, or structures for roosting, but range more widely when foraging.

Sensitive Habitats
Habitats are considered to be sensitive biological resources based on (1) federal, State, or local laws regulating their development; (2) limited distributions; and/or (3) the habitat requirements of sensitive plants or animals occurring on site. Biologists identified five primary plant communities considered sensitive by State and/or local agencies; these communities occur with varied abundance and in ecotones or mixtures, of various other habitat types on site. Regardless of the mixture, or ecotone, these habitats are considered sensitive. In addition, wetlands and waters of the United States are considered sensitive by both federal and State agencies. Sensitive habitats identified in the Preserve include: coastal sage scrub, coast live oak woodland, willow riparian, southern sycamore riparian woodland, needlegrass grassland, riparian herb, and walnut woodland.

Wildlife Movement and Corridors
Increased development surrounding the Puente-Chino Hills, including those areas adjacent to the Preserve, has threatened to break up the connectivity of the area, resulting in isolated islands of habitat that would inhibit the movement of wildlife and plant seeds, and increase the risk for local extinctions. Habitat fragmentation consequently threatens the viability of these remaining natural resources. Large areas of habitat or narrower linkages of habitat between expanses of open space are necessary to provide movement opportunities for wildlife. Movement serves to facilitate the geographic distribution of genetic material, thus maintaining a level of variability in the gene pool of an animal population. Influxes of animals from nearby larger populations contribute to the genetic diversity of a local population, helping to ensure the population's ability to adapt to changing environmental conditions. Many plant species that depend on relatively sedentary insects for pollination also benefit from habitat linkages that allow for genetic exchange and dispersal. Reduced insect movement due to habitat fragmentation results in reduced genetic vigor in those plants. Likewise, plant seeds and propagules can be transported via the feces, fur, or feathers of birds or mammals.

The Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor extends approximately 31 miles south from the San Gabriel River to the Cleveland National Forest in the Santa Ana Mountains. The corridor is of high significance in the densely urbanized Los Angeles Basin where open space is very limited. Encroaching development and busy roads that bisect the corridor are resulting in an impediment to wildlife movement. A considerable amount of habitat fragmentation has already occurred in the hills. Nevertheless, the largest remaining carnivore in the region (the mountain lion) is still known to use the Coal Canyon corridor that connects the Santa Ana Mountains to Chino Hills State Park and to pay an occasional visit to the Puente Hills. An important function of the Habitat Authority and the Preserve, and a goal of the RMP is to effectively preserve and enhance habitat to maintain or improve the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor.

Discussion:

a) *Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?*

Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated. As described above, plant and animal species that are identified as candidate, sensitive, or special status species have been found in and around the project site. Although the RMP proposes to improve wildlife habitat

through the enhancement of natural communities on the project site, construction or placement of parking areas, trailheads, trail expansions, and restroom and other facilities could impact protected species. Implementation of RMP goals and guidelines would ensure that the locations for any of these facilities would be carefully chosen so as to minimize impacts to special status species. Avoidance of sensitive species would be a primary consideration in the siting of any recreational trails, trailheads and other facilities. The closure of certain trails, particularly unauthorized trails in Turnbull Canyon, would benefit special status species by moving human traffic and impacts away from especially sensitive resources. Minimal impacts to listed threatened or endangered species associated with development of proposed facilities would be outweighed by the benefits of RMP implementation to habitat for such species, and would be subject to appropriate approvals as described in the following mitigation measure.

Mitigation Measure BIO-1: Prior to construction of any new trailheads, trails, or other facilities, an assessment of potential specific effects on candidate, sensitive or special status species shall be performed in consultation with applicable resource agencies. If there are any potential impacts to special status species, appropriate authorizations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer, California Department of the Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service shall be obtained. It is expected that any such impacts will be relatively minor, and any mitigation required by the agencies can be accomplished through enhancement of existing resources within the Preserve.

b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated. Sensitive natural communities such as coastal sage scrub, coast live oak woodland, willow riparian woodland, and needlegrass grassland are located within the Preserve. Construction or placement of parking areas, trailheads, trail expansions, and other facilities could result in the removal of small amounts of sensitive habitat. However, implementation of RMP goals and guidelines would ensure that the locations for any of these facilities would be carefully chosen so as to minimize impacts to sensitive habitats. Avoidance of sensitive habitats would be a primary consideration in the siting of any recreational trails, trailheads and facilities. Minimal impacts associated with development of proposed facilities would be outweighed by the benefits to native habitats resulting from implementation of the proposed project, e.g., through enhancement of native vegetation, removal of some trails, and trail maintenance and management. . Any minor impacts that are subject to jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or California Department of Fish and Game would be addressed through compliance with Mitigation Measures BIO-1 and BIO-2.

c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally-protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated. As with other sensitive natural communities described above, construction or placement of parking areas, trailheads, trail expansions, and other facilities could result in minor effects to wetlands and other jurisdictional

waters. However, preservation of these features is a high priority, and implementation of RMP goals and guidelines would ensure that the locations of any of these facilities would be carefully chosen so as to avoid or minimize these impacts. Minimal impacts associated with development of proposed facilities would be outweighed by the benefits to wetlands and other jurisdictional waters, and would be subject to appropriate approvals as described in the following mitigation measure.

> **Mitigation Measure BIO-2:** Prior to construction of any new trailheads, trails, or other facilities, a jurisdictional determination shall be performed, and if there are any impacts to jurisdictional waters, appropriate authorizations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer, California Department of the Fish and Game and Regional Water Quality Control Board shall be obtained. It is expected that any such impacts will be relatively minor, and any mitigation required by the agencies can be accomplished through enhancement of existing resources within the Preserve.

d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

No Impact. Implementation of the RMP, which proposes the development of additional recreational and interpretive facilities, would have only minor effects on the movement wildlife species. These will be more than offset by the RMP goals and guidelines to protect and enhance wildlife corridors, e.g., through enhancement of native vegetation, removal of some trails, and trail maintenance and management.

e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

No Impact. RMP contains goals and policies to protect and preserve unique and fragile habitat areas and enhance degraded natural areas. Full implementation of the RMP would be consistent with applicable State, federal, and local policies protecting natural resources, through acquisition of any necessary approvals, such as grading/construction permits and authorizations from resource/regulatory agencies.

f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan?

No Impact. No approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plans apply directly to the project area. Therefore, implementation of the RMP would not conflict with the provisions of habitat conservation plans. In some cases, habitat mitigation for projects outside the Preserve will occur on Habitat Authority land. In some of these cases, the habitat mitigation may be associated with a specific off-site Habitat Conservation Plan, and would be consistent with the RMP goals for habitat enhancement.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines?	❑	■	❑	❑
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines?	❑	■	❑	❑
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	❑	■	❑	❑
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	❑	■	❑	❑

Existing Setting:

A cultural resource assessment consisting of a records search, survey, and report were conducted as part of the RMP to protect and manage cultural resources within the Preserve. The purpose of the cultural resources assessment was to identify any cultural resources in the Preserve that may be impacts by future construction, maintenance, or improvements to the property.

Cultural Resources. An archaeological resources assessment was conducted that consisted of a records search and field survey. The results of the records search indicate that there are 12 archaeological resources recorded within one-half mile of the Preserve, although no cultural resources have been recorded within the Preserve itself. No properties are listed on the National Register, California Register, California Historical Landmarks, California Points of Historical Interest, or Historic Properties Directory.

The field survey resulted in the identification of nine previously undocumented cultural resources within the Preserve. LSA evaluated all of the identified resources under California Register Criteria. Of the nine documented cultural resources, it was recommended by LSA that only the remains of the Whittier Oil Field (19-003341) located on the southern slope of the Puente Hills immediately east of the City of Whittier are eligible for inclusion in the California Register. The Whittier Oil Field has made a significant contribution of the broad patterns of the history of California and the United States. The essential physical features of the oil field with regard to location, setting, association, and feeling still exist and there is minimal loss of integrity. LSA recommends that this site is eligible for inclusion in the California Register.

Paleontological Resources. No surficial paleontological resources were identified during field survey. However, the Preserve is underlain by Cenozoic sediments of the Puente, Fernando, Coyote Hills, and La Habra formations. The Puente, Coyote Hills, and La Habra formations are known to contain extensive fossils of marine and terrestrial plants, invertebrates, and vertebrates. These Formations are considered to have a High Sensitivity in regard to their potential for containing fossils.

Recent alluvial sediments, filling the valley bottoms of the Preserve, are considered to have a Low Sensitivity since they were deposited after the Pleistocene.

The results of the locality search indicate that no vertebrate fossil localities have been documented directly within the Preserve boundaries. However, the same sedimentary deposits that occur within the Preserve are also found nearby. The closest fossil vertebrate localities are all from around the Puente Hills Landfill immediately north of the Preserve. Localities here have produced a suite of fossil marine vertebrates, including great white shark, herring, hake, lanternfish, mackerels, swordfish, flounder, and whale. In the Puente Formation, also near the Puente Hills Landfill, a specimen of fossil whale was found.

Discussion:

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines?

Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated. The resource assessment and field survey identified 12 archaeological resources in close proximity to the Preserve and nine cultural resources within the Preserve boundary. One resource, the remains of the Whittier Oil Field, is located within the project area and is eligible for the California Register. The goal of the Habitat Authority should be to allow the definitive elements of the oil field to remain in place and the site area to be passively managed. Section 6.3.3 of the RMP identified numerous actions to identify and protect cultural resources including: review of Sacred Lands files, development of a research design for resources within the Preserve, establishment of an interpretive display related to the Whittier Oil Field, monitoring of earth-disturbing activities, recordation of new sites/isolates, evaluation of new sites for eligibility to the California Register, development and implantation of an emergency response plan for sites exposed as a result of natural factors.

If the Habitat Authority must alter the Whittier Oil Field (19-003341), through removal/alteration of roads, well pads, or markers, documentation of the resource would be required. Given the limited extant features of the oil field, documentation of existing features (roads, pads, and markers) and the historical background of the site and context related to oil production on-site and Southern California would record the research potential of the site. Implementation of the following mitigation measure would reduce potential impacts to a level below significance.

> **Mitigation Measure CULT-1:** If the Habitat Authority finds it necessary to alter any of the qualities of the historic Whittier Oil Field (19-003341), such as the roads, well pads, or markers, that make it eligible, for the California Register, the Habitat Authority shall retain a qualified historian to document the resource prior to any grading activities within the oilfield. This documentation should include but is not limited to additional research, detailed mapping, HAER level photo documentation, and possible interviews with persons knowledgeable as to the workings of the historic oil field.

It is also possible that additional historical or archaeological resources could be discovered during ground disturbing activities associated with construction of new trails and/or trailhead

facilities. However, implementation of the following mitigation measure would reduce potential impacts to unknown cultural resources to a level below significance.

Mitigation Measure CULT-2: During construction activities, a qualified archaeologist shall be consulted if additional unknown historical or archaeological resources are discovered during improvements or routine maintenance within the Preserve. The archaeologist shall evaluate the find pursuant to the CEQA guidelines and make recommendations for its treatment.

Mitigation Measure CULT-3: Should sensitive areas that are currently obscured by vegetation be cleared, a cultural resources survey shall be performed immediately after, or as close to that time as possible, when ground visibility would be at it's highest.

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines?

Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated. See discussion V(a) above.

c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated. There are no known paleontological resources, or unique geologic features or sites within the Preserve. However, the Preserve is underlain by sedimentary formations that are considered to have a High Sensitivity in regard to their potential for containing fossils. It is possible that previously unknown paleontological resources could be discovered during ground disturbing activities associated with construction of new trails and/or trailhead facilities. However, implementation of the following mitigation measure would reduce potential impacts to unknown paleontological resources to a level below significance.

Mitigation Measure CULT-4: If any paleontological resources are encountered during ground-disturbing activities in the project area, activities in the immediate area of the find shall be halted and the discovery assessed. The Habitat Authority shall contact a qualified paleontologist to recommend appropriate mitigation measures pursuant to guidelines developed by the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP) and a standard Paleontological Resource Impact Mitigation Program (PRIMP) for treatment of the resources will be developed and followed.

d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated. There are no known human remains within the Preserve area. However, it is possible that human remains could be disturbed as a result of ground disturbing activities associated with habitat enhancement/restoration activities or construction of new trails, trailhead facilities, or visitor center. Implementation of the following mitigation measure would reduce potential impacts to a level below significance:

Mitigation Measure CULT-5: If human remains are encountered, work within 25 feet of the discovery shall be redirected and the County Coroner notified immediately. At the same time, an archaeologist shall be contacted to evaluate the situation. Project personnel shall not collect or move any human remains and/or associated materials. If the human remains are of Native American origin, the Coroner must notify the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours of identification. The Native American Heritage Commission will identify a Native American Most Likely Descendent (MLD) to inspect the site and provide recommendations for the proper treatment of the remains and associated grave goods. Upon completion of the evaluation, a report shall be prepared documenting the methods and results, as well as recommendations for treatment of human remains and any associated cultural materials, as appropriate and in coordination with the recommendations of the MLD. The report shall be submitted to the Habitat Authority, local agency with jurisdiction over the project and the South Central Coastal Information Center, as required by law.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:				
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	❑	❑	■	❑
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	❑	❑	■	❑
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	❑	❑	■	❑
iv) Landslides?	❑	■	❑	❑
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	❑	❑	■	❑
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	❑	■	❑	❑
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	❑	❑	■	❑
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	❑	❑	❑	■

Existing Setting:

The Puente Hills make up the western part of the more extensive Puente-Chino Hills, located at the northern end of the Peninsular Ranges Geomorphic Province. The San Gabriel Valley is to the northwest, with the San Bernardino Valley to the northeast, and the Los Angeles Basin to the south.

The Preserve lies in what is defined as the Puente Formation on the extreme southeastern edge of the Los Angeles Basin, in the Puente Hills south of the San Gabriel Mountains. The Puente Formation was formed as part of a long and continuous process. During the Cretaceous Period (144 to 65 million years ago), the North American plate and other oceanic plates of the Pacific slowly converged to form

the Sierra Nevada and Peninsular Ranges. The Puente Hills are located at the northern end of the Baja California Peninsular Range. Uplifting of the Puente Hills occurred along the Whittier-Elsinore Fault and the Puente Hills Blind Thrust Fault. This fault is considered blind because it is buried deep beneath the alluvium and does not rupture all the way up to the ground surface. The late Micocene, marine, Puente Formation is divided into four members: the La Vida Member, predominantly siltstones; the Soquel Member, predominantly sandstones; the Yorba Member, predominantly siltstones; and the Sycamore Canyon Member, predominantly sandstones. For more information on the geology of the Preserve, see Section 2.3.1 in the RMP.

The Preserve contains several soil series that support different types of vegetation. To understand the relationship between soil type and plant communities, representative soils within the Preserve were analyzed to determine correlations between soil type and habitats, including weedy exotic plant communities. Analysis of the soils occurring in the Preserve began with a review of the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Soil Taxonomy (1999) and Report and General Soil Map, Los Angeles County (1969).

The General Soil Map designates associations of two or more soil series. A soil association is a group of defined and named taxonomic soil units occurring together in a characteristic pattern in a geographic area. Thirteen specific soil series occur in the Preserve with six soil associations: Altamont Diablo (9-30 percent slopes) (341 acres); Altamont Diablo (30-50 percent slopes) (1,175 acres); Hanford (618 acres); Mocho Sorrento (16 acres); Perkins-Rincon (374 acres); and San Andreas-San Benito (1,266 acres). For more information on the soils of the Preserve, see section 2.3.2 in the RMP.

Discussion:

a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42; ii) Strong seismic ground shaking; iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction; iv) Landslides?

i) Fault Rupture.

Less than Significant Impact. There is a potential for fault rupture within the Preserve. As described above, the nearest fault considered active by the California Geological Survey is the Whittier-Elsinore fault. The maximum credible earthquake along the Whittier-Elisnore fault is 7.5 (Richter scale). The Puente Hills Blind Thrust Fault is also located in the vicinity of the Preserve. This fault is considered blind because it is buried deep beneath the alluvium and does not rupture all the way up to the ground surface. The Puente Hills Fault is currently under investigation by the Office of Earthquake Engineering [16]. As there are no structures for human habitation proposed as part of the RMP, special seismic design standards are not required. Potential impacts to future Preserve users during seismic events would be similar to existing conditions and is considered less than significant.

ii) Groundshaking

Less than Significant Impact. Fault movement from these faults could cause groundshaking in the study area. As there are no structures for human habitation proposed as part of the RMP, special seismic design standards are not required. Potential impacts to future Preserve users during seismic events would be limited to ground shaking experienced at grade along Preserve trails, similar to existing conditions and is considered less than significant.

iii) Ground Failure and Liquefaction.

Less than Significant Impact. According to the California Geological Survey [12], the possibility for hazard from ground failure or liquefaction is generally low within the Preserve. Therefore, the liquefaction potential is considered less than significant.

iv) Landslides.

Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated. The Los Angeles County General Plan "Seismic Zones" map identifies certain areas of the Preserve as having "high landslide potential: includes areas of high landslide potential." While the RMP contains goals and guidelines to ensure appropriate location of proposed facilities, development and expansion of recreational and interpretive facilities could expose visitors to impacts related to landslides, a condition that exists under current conditions. Implementation of Mitigation Measure GEO-1, described below, would reduce potential impacts to less than significant levels.

> **Mitigation Measure GEO-1:** Prior to approval of the plans for specific facilities, as needed and where appropriate, a geotechnical study shall be completed by an engineering geologist or equivalent to evaluate surface soil conditions. This report shall include slope geometrics, performance of a geotechnical review of final design documents, and provision of oversight by a geotechnical engineer during construction (as appropriate). The contractor shall incorporate the recommendations of the geotechnical study into the design for all structures/trails proposed at the site.

b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

Less than Significant. Implementation of the RMP, which includes the additional development of recreational and interpretive administrative facilities, would include grading activities that could result in soil erosion. Exposed soils are considered erodible when subjected to concentrated surface flow or wind. Soil erosion and loss of topsoil would be minimized through compliance with SCAQMD Rules 403 (Mitigation Measure AIR-1) and implementation of Best Management Practices (Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1). See Responses III(b) and VIII(a) for further discussion of soil erosion and loss of topsoil.

c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated. As described above, the possibility for hazard from landslide is moderate to high within certain areas of the Preserve [Section VI(a)(iv)] and liquefaction is low [Section VI(a)(iii)]. The conditions related to lateral spreading, subsidence or collapse are not known as this time. The potential for these conditions would be considered during the design of proposed facilities. Implementation of Mitigation Measure GEO-1, described above, would ensure that unstable soil conditions would be remediated as part of the design and construction of proposed facilities.

d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?

Less than Significant Impact. According to the soil surveys reviewed [1], some of the soil associations have expansive qualities. Expansive soils shrink and swell as a result of moisture changes than can cause heaving and cracking of slabs-on-grade, pavements, and structures founded on shallow foundations. Any construction activities associated with proposed construction would be subject to the engineering and building standards set forth in the Uniform Building Code (UBC). If native soil materials or soil conditions do not meet these standards, fill material meeting the specific standards would be imported for the project. This impact is considered less-than-significant.

e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?

No Impact. No new septic tanks or septic systems are proposed as part of the RMP. Currently, several of the structures have septic systems. One is planned to be switched to the public sewer system in the near future and other structures may also be switched to the public sewer system in the future. Existing facilities within the Preserve are connected to the public sewer system. Sewers are generally available to serve the project area and any new facilities proposed as part of the RMP. The RMP will have no impacts to soil conditions related to septic tanks or alternative wastewater treatment systems.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VII. HAZARDS. Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	❑	❑	❑	■
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	❑	❑	■	❑
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	❑	❑	❑	■
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	❑	❑	■	❑
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	❑	❑	❑	■
f) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	❑	❑	❑	■
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	❑	❑	■	❑
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	❑	❑	■	❑

Discussion:

a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

No Impact. There are currently no hazardous materials stored on-site or transported/disposed of off-site. Implementation of the RMP would continue/expand upon the existing habitat enhancement and restoration and recreational activities and would not require the routine use,

transport, or disposal of hazardous materials. Limited quantities of herbicides would be used on-site as part of the exotic vegetation removal program. These herbicides are not generally expected to be stored on-site, however, if they are retained on-site, they will be stored consistent with local and State regulations. Therefore, there are no impacts related to these hazardous waste concerns.

b) *Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?*

Less than Significant Impact. Limited quantities of herbicides would be used on-site as part of the exotic vegetation removal program. These herbicides are not generally expected to be stored on-site, however, if it is retained on-site it will be stored consistent with local, State regulations.

Construction of proposed facilities may involve the use of limited quantities of chemical agents, solvents, paints, vehicle fuel, and other hazardous materials. All use of hazardous materials during construction must comply with existing government regulations; thus, the potential for public exposure to upset and accident conditions related to hazardous materials is considered less than significant.

c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

No Impact. There are two schools within one-quarter mile of the Preserve: Mar Vista School (8036 S. Ocean View Ave., Whittier) and Orange Grove Middle School (1405 Orange Grove Ave., Hacienda Heights). As described in Section VII(a), implementation of the RMP would not involve the emission or handling of hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste that could potentially impact existing or proposed schools within one-quarter mile of the project site.

d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

Less than Significant Impact. The project site could be located on the list of hazardous materials sites prepared pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 due to historic oil extraction activities. Oil wells existing at the time of purchase of the Chevron property by the City of Whittier were shut-down and sealed in accordance with California Division of Oil and Gas procedures. Matrix Oil is still operating in the Preserve under a lease in accordance with applicable state and federal regulations. There is a potential to encounter unknown hazardous materials during implementation/construction of actions outlined in the RMP. If such materials are discovered, work would be stopped and appropriate state regulations regarding remediation would be followed. This impact is considered less than significant.

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

No Impact. The El Monte airport is located approximately five miles north of the project site. The project site is not located within the boundary of any airport land use plan and would therefore not result in a safety hazard for people using the project area.

f) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

No Impact. The project is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip [7] and would therefore not result in a safety hazard for people using the project area.

g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

Less than Significant Impact. The City of Whittier has identified Colima Road as a designated evacuation route. No other roads in the vicinity of the Preserve have been designated. Implementation of the RMP would not substantially alter Colima Road or any other roads or infrastructure comprising emergency response or evacuation routes. As described in Response III(a), the number of vehicle trips accessing the Preserve would be similar to the number of trips occurring today. Implementation of the RMP would not interfere with traffic on local roadways since the number of trips to and from the Preserve would not generate a substantial number of new vehicle trips and would not affect the existing or future traffic load and capacity of local roadways. Development of proposed trailhead facilities with associated parking may facilitate emergency response/evacuation by reducing the number of cars parked on neighborhood streets adjacent to the Preserve boundary. This concentration of users to designated trailhead facilities would also allow for a coordinated evacuation of the Preserve during an emergency, thereby, improving the situation over current conditions where these facilities are spread throughout the community. Potential impacts related to impairment of emergency response plans and evacuation routes are considered less than significant.

h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?

Less than Significant Impact. The proposed project area is a wildland preserve and is currently subject to potential wildland fires. The proposed RMP includes limited new recreational facilities and does not involve construction of residential or commercial areas or any structures for human occupation. Further, the RMP contains policies aimed at reducing wildland fire risk by managing vegetation growth, maintaining fuel modification areas, and adopting a Fire Management Plan. As described in Section 6.2.2 of the RMP, these policies would substantially improve the urban/wildlife interface between the Preserve and existing and future residential uses adjacent to the Preserve, substantially reducing the potential for extensive damage related to wildfires within the Preserve from existing conditions.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	❑	■	❑	❑
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	❑	❑	■	❑
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	❑	❑	❑	■
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	❑	❑	❑	■
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	❑	❑	■	❑
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	❑	■	❑	❑
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	❑	❑	❑	■
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	❑	❑	❑	■
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding of as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	❑	❑	❑	■
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	❑	❑	■	❑

Existing Setting:

Hydrology. The Puente Hills are part of the San Gabriel River Watershed, which covers approximately 640 miles of land and is bounded by the San Gabriel Mountains to the north, most of San Bernardino/Orange County to the east, the division of the Los Angeles River from the San Gabriel River to the west, and the Pacific Ocean to the south. Major tributaries to the San Gabriel River include Walnut Creek, San Jose Creek, Coyote Creek, and numerous storm drains. The Coyote Creek Watershed drains approximately 150 square miles in southeastern Los Angeles County. Southern portions of the Preserve along Whittier and Powder Canyon are located within this watershed. Minor tributaries located within the Preserve include La Cañada Verde Creek, Arroyo Pescadero, Arroyo San Miguel, Tacobi Creek, Arroyo Jalisco, Arroyo Salinas, Leffingwell Creek, LaMirada Creek, and unnamed drainages in Powder Canyon.

There is a well developed system of catch basins either in or adjacent to the Preserve intended to protect the surrounding residential communities. One such major structure exists in the City of Whittier at the southern mouth of Turnbull Canyon, and another on the Hacienda Heights side at the Hacienda Hills trailhead. Typically winter storms deposit debris and eroded soil from the Preserve into these basins. In a yearly procedure occurring before the rains, the Department of Public Works Flood Control Division empties these basins of solid material to local landfills.

The San Gabriel River is part of an extensive network of channels, dams, and spreading grounds used for flood control and water conservation. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (LADPW) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) are the two primary agencies for operating these facilities. The Preserve is located just west of the Whittier Narrows, a low point between the Punted Hills and Merced Hills that forms the southern boundary of the San Gabriel River Valley. The Whittier Narrows Dam, the largest flood control facility on the San Gabriel River, is operated by the Corps to regulate flows from the San Gabriel River to the Rio Hondo for flood control and water conservation. Portions of the flow from the San Gabriel River are conveyed to the Rio Hondo by a manmade channel known as Lario Creek or Zone 1 Ditch. Flood flows from the San Gabriel River are stored temporarily behind the dam, and controlled releases are made to the Rio Hondo and/or San Gabriel River. Flows in excess of the capacity of the San Gabriel River that cannot be stored behind the dam are discharged to the ocean.

The existence of fissures within the Puente Hills has allowed groundwater to rise to the surface, resulting in natural springs. Areas in Sycamore Canyon and Worsham Canyon still yield surface water today. Due to the local geology, other natural springs are likely to exist in the Preserve.

The presence of water in these streams and creek course keeps soils moist and supports a vegetation makeup different from the surrounding drier upland area. Riparian habitats include everything from riparian herb habitat to willow and mulefat scrub to sycamore riparian woodland and coast live oak riparian forest. Riparian trees and shrubs are tolerant of long periods of surface waters and/or saturated soil conditions along a stream corridor and also have the ability to tap into deeper zones of soil moisture during the dry season. Although this unique community accounts for less than 1 percent of California's total forest acreage, it supports one of the most diverse ecological communities of plants and animals.

Water Quality. In 1994, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) approved the *Water Quality Control Plan: Los Angeles Region Basin Plan for the Coastal*

Watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties (Basin Plan), a document designed to "preserve and enhance water quality and protect the beneficial uses of all regional waters." The Basin Plan designates beneficial uses, provides a list of impairments degrading the water quality, and offers programs to protect waters in the region.

Beneficial uses are defined as "uses of water identified in State and regional water quality control plans that must be achieved and maintained." These uses include recreation, groundwater recharge, and wildlife habitat, among others. Impairments to water quality adversely affect beneficial uses and can be classified as nonpoint or point sources. Nonpoint sources are sources of pollution that have no direct origin, whereas, source pollution is a known source. Because the Preserve is largely in an undeveloped state, pollution sources that may originate within the Preserve would generally be considered nonpoint sources.

The Basin Plan details impaired water bodies within the region. None of the drainages within the Preserve are specifically listed as impaired; however, runoff from the Preserve ultimately drains into two drainages that are listed: Coyote Creek and the lower reaches of the San Gabriel River. Some of the impairments listed in the Plan include: coliform, toxicity, dissolved copper, zinc, and selenium, among others. Off-site sources of pollution may also impact the Preserve. The most significant is storm and nuisance runoff entering Sycamore Canyon, potentially from the Rose Hills Memorial Park. Both landscaping and ongoing agricultural uses may result in loading of nutrients, pesticides, and other unknown constituents into Sycamore Canyon.

Discussion:

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?

Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.

Long-Term Impacts. Primary activities on-site which currently have the potential to impact downstream water quality are domestic animal waste and unauthorized trail use. The Habitat Authority currently requires that park patrons pick up after their dogs, but does not require clean up for horse manure. Rangers enforce Preserve trail rules to minimize the creation of unauthorized trails in inappropriate areas, and erosion problems are quickly repaired to minimize sediments entering drainages.

RMP policies to enhance and protect natural landscapes and open space areas could potentially result in beneficial impacts to water quality due to higher levels of the cleansing effects of vegetation. Implementation of the Trail Plan will minimize the effects of unauthorized trail use (*i.e.,* building new trails and going off trail) and facilitate coordination with Southern California Edison (SCE), the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACFD), and the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation on how to maintain roads and trails properly.

Operation of new facilities associated with the proposed project would have little potential for substantially increasing pollutant levels in local runoff because only a negligible amount of impervious surface (*i.e.,* foundations/slabs for restrooms, interpretive kiosks, small trailhead parking lots, and the visitor center) is associated with the proposed project and the habitat enhancement/restoration activities would further stabilize soil conditions, reducing erosion.

New trails would be composed of graded earth, which allows for infiltration of storm water, and would be designed and constructed using BMPs to minimize the potential for erosion and sedimentation of area waterways. Some closed trails will be actively revegetated improving soil stabilization and reducing potential soil erosion. There will be a net decrease in trail miles from 60 miles to 46 miles, providing an overall increase in vegetation within the Preserve.

New parking areas at proposed trailheads would be small and located adjacent to existing roadways. Parking areas would be composed of decomposed granite or paving. Use of decomposed granite would promote stormwater infiltration and prevent runoff. Paved parking areas in excess of 5,000 square feet (or 25 spaces) would require implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) in compliance with the requirements of the Los Angeles County Standard Urban Stormwater Mitigation Plan (SUSMP). According to the SUSMP (2002), such projects will incorporate minimum required BMPs as well as any additional BMPs required by local ordinances or codes (see below). The Habitat Authority would be required to adopt the requirements set forth in the SUSMP as part of the specific project plan.

Additionally, the number of vehicles using trails would be limited to SCE maintenance vehicles and Habitat Authority personnel or contractor vehicles, and deposition of constituents that may affect storm water quality would be limited. This condition would be the same as or less than the current condition as the total trail mileage would actually be reduced with implementation of the RMP.

The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWCQB) has issued a Municipal Storm Water and Urban Runoff Permit (County permit) for Los Angeles County in 2001. The County and all incorporated cities therein, except the City of Long Beach, are co-permittees. The County permits outlines measures that the Permittees must comply with minimize pollutant discharge in their jurisdiction. This project is not a significant redevelopment or development project, as defined by the County of Los Angeles Municipal Storm Water and Urban Runoff permit (County Permit). Therefore, there are no special requirements for improvements and maintenance activities identified in the RMP under the County permit. Future facilities and activities would need to be constructed/conducted consistent with all applicable erosion control ordinances established by the County of Los Angeles and/or cities with jurisdiction over the Preserve, as set forth in Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1. With implementation of the RMP siting and maintenance policies and compliance with the Storm Water Ordinances of the County of Los Angeles and the cities of La Habra Heights and Whittier, potential water quality impacts are considered less than significant.

Short-Term Impacts. During construction of proposed recreational and interpretive facilities, it is possible that some discharge of sediments and pollutants might occur into surface waters from the use of construction equipment and as a result of excavation and construction activities. The project is subject to the requirements of the State General Construction Activity National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit during construction. As required, a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) would be prepared for the project as indicated in Mitigation Measure HYDRO-2. The SWPPP would identify construction BMPs to be implemented as part of the proposed project to reduce impacts to water quality during construction. With implementation of Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1, impacts related to waste

discharge requirements and water quality standards would be reduced to less than significant levels.

Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1: Prior to initiation of any grading associated with development projects and maintenance activities, as identified in the RMP, the contractor or Habitat Authority shall identify the appropriate erosion control measures that shall be incorporated into the design plans for the proposed improvement or maintenance activity. Appropriate measures set forth in the Municipal Codes for the County of Los Angeles, (Chapter 12.80), City of Whittier (Chapter 8.36) and City of La Habra Heights (Chapter 4.16)

Mitigation Measure HYDRO-2: Prior to any grading associated with Development projects and maintenance activities, as identified in the RMP, the contractor or Habitat Authority shall submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to the State Water Resources Board. A storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) shall be developed for implementation to control erosion and sedimentation and protect water quality, both during and after construction. Such a plan shall include:

- Specific and detailed Best Management Practices (BMPs) designed to mitigate construction-related pollutants and reduce erosion of exposed soil. Specific and detailed BMPs included in the SWPPP shall include practices to minimize the contact of construction materials, equipment, and maintenance supplies (e.g., fuels, lubricants, paints, solvents, adhesives) with storm water. The SWPPP shall specify properly designed centralized storage areas that keep these materials out of the rain. Soils and dust stabilization control measures will be implemented to reduce soil erosion and control dust. If feasible, grading should not be performed during the rainy season. If grading must be conducted during the rainy season, the primary BMPs selected shall focus on erosion control to keep sediment on site.
- A construction site supervisor, contract manager, contract inspector or another appropriate individual shall be assigned specific responsibility for ensuring BMPs and other conditions are met and monitor results as needed and required.

Documentation of the filing of the NOI and acceptance of the SWPPP from the SWRB shall be provided to the Habitat Authority prior to initiation of grading activities.

b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?

Less than Significant Impact. The RMP does not propose construction of large areas of impervious surfaces that would prevent water from infiltrating into the groundwater system nor does the project result in direct additions or withdrawals to existing groundwater. Potable water, if provided, will be made available to all trailheads via existing lines in adjacent local

streets and no groundwater will be used for this purpose. Therefore, potential impacts to groundwater supplies or groundwater recharge are considered less than significant.

c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?

No Impact. As described above, there are numerous drainages within the Preserve. None of the proposed improvements (new trails/trailheads/interpretive facilities) would be constructed in a manner which would alter the course of any drainage which results in substantial erosion or siltation. Through the siting policies outlined in the RMP, avoidance of sensitive resources such as drainages is a priority consideration when locating any future facilities. Furthermore, implementation of the habitat restoration and protection goals of the RMP would restore hydrological systems and natural communities within the Preserve and so would not substantially alter existing drainage patterns in ways that would jeopardize resources within the existing watersheds which could result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site.

d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?

No Impact. Implementation of the project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, which would result in flooding on- or off-site. See Responses VIII(a) and VIII(c).

e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

Less than Significant Impact. Flood control facilities exist and will continue to be maintained at the mouths of the canyons with head waters in the Preserve; and, these systems are fully maintained by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works and the City of Whittier, with overall responsibility for flood control measures in the region. These structures have protected the downstream residential communities consistently through capital storms that have affected the area of the Preserve. Also, the RMP does not propose the construction of large areas of impervious surfaces and the amount of off-site runoff is expected to be the same or less than existing conditions since the construction of foundations for additional restrooms, interpretive kiosks, small parking lots and a visitor center would generally be offset by the use of BMPs. In addition, numerous cleared or graded areas and some decommissioned trails/oil field roads are planned to be re-vegetated further reducing the amount of runoff. The preservation and enhancement of upland areas and riparian habitats as proposed in the RMP would decrease runoff after large precipitation events, benefiting the existing stormwater drainage system and reducing polluted surface runoff. Restoration of native upland vegetation will provide a better system of branches and roots to hold highly erosion-prone soil in place. The wetland/riparian vegetation would assist in filtering storm flows prior to entering the flood control facilities. Given the limited nature of the improvements on-site and habitat enhancement/restoration activities associated with the RMP, the future quantity of off-site

runoff is expected to be similar to or less than existing conditions and potential impacts are considered less than significant.

f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?

Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated. Implementation of the RMP would not substantially degrade water quality. As described in Response VIII(a), policies to enhance and protect natural landscapes and open space areas could potentially result in beneficial impacts to water quality standards due to the cleansing effects of vegetation. Operation of proposed recreation and interpretive facilities would result in a minimal increase in impervious surface and would actually reduce the overall trail mileage within the Preserve. Given the limited nature of the improvements on-site and habitat enhancement/restoration activities associated with the RMP, the quality of runoff would be improved and potential impacts are considered less than significant.

Construction of proposed facilities could potentially degrade water quality during project construction. However, implementation of Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1 would reduce potential construction impacts to less than significant levels.

g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?

No Impact. A 26,688 square foot portion of the Preserve associated with a segment of the drainage that flows through Turnbull Canyon is designated as a 100-year flood hazard area. However, the proposed project does not involve the construction of any housing in the Preserve.

h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?

No Impact. A 26,688 square foot portion of the Preserve associated with a segment of the drainage that flows through Turnbull Canyon is designated as a 100-year flood hazard area. However, the proposed project does not include the construction of any structures in this area that could impede or redirect flows or change existing flood conditions.

i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding of as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?

No Impact. The Whittier Narrows Dam is located northwest of the project site. It is west of the San Gabriel River flood control channel and SR-605. The dam holds 9.75 million gallons of water. According to the City of Whittier General Plan, inundation from flood water released from the Whittier Narrows Dam includes a limited area of low populated areas in the northwest corner of Whittier and does not encroach into the Preserve area.

j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

Less than Significant Impact. There are no impacts related to seiche and tsunami given that there are no large bodies of water in close proximity to the project area and the coast is over 30 miles from the Preserve. Although topography is steep within the project area, there have been no know mudflows. The proposed RMP does not alter the existing terrain in a manner that could create mudflows and, therefore the potential impacts are considered less than significant.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	❑	❑	❑	■
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	❑	❑	❑	■
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	❑	❑	❑	■

Existing Setting:

The Preserve is almost completely surrounded by urban development except for undeveloped lands east of the Preserve and west of Chino Hills State Park and Whittier Narrows to the northwest. Development consists primarily of suburban, single-family residential development associated with the surrounding communities of Whittier, La Habra Heights, Hacienda Heights, and Rowland Heights. Industrial development in the City of Industry lies to the north of State Route 60. Whittier College is located to the south near Worsham Canyon. Approximately 1,756 acres of the Preserve lie within the corporate boundaries of the City of Whittier; 721 acres lie with the City of La Habra Heights; and, the remaining 1,383 acres are in unincorporated lands of the communities of Hacienda Heights and Rowland Heights, with land use jurisdiction under the control of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

A small portion of the Preserve is designated as Significant Ecological Areas (SEA) – Turnbull Canyon. The remainder is designated Hillside Management Area in the Los Angeles County General Plan (1993). According to the General Plan, "Within SEAs, the following activities are considered compatible by definition: regulated scientific study; passive recreation including wildlife observation and photography; and limited picnicking, riding, hiking, and overnight camping." In addition, other uses, including residential, minor commercial, public and semi-public, agricultural, and extractive uses may be allowed as determined by a detailed biological survey and conditioned, as necessary to ensure protection of identified ecological uses.

While the General Plan allows for limited urban hillside development, most Hillside Management Areas fall within the non-urban land use classification. Permitted uses within non-urban Hillside Management Areas include: "recreation; non-urban residential uses; limited commercial and highway-oriented uses serving local residents and travelers; and certain industrial, extractive, agricultural, and public uses which by their nature can appropriately be located in remote hillside areas."

The developed portion of the City of Whittier is located south of the Preserve and to the west, with Turnbull Canyon Road, Greenleaf and Colima Road providing local access to the Preserve. Open

space and natural resources in the Whittier planning area are concentrated in the Puente Hills. The City's General Plan (1993) recognizes the value of the hills and encourages the City to actively participate in planning for their future and exploring ways to preserve them. The General Plan designates a portion of the Sycamore Canyon region of the Preserve as Hillside Residential and Open Space. The Hillside Residential designation allows for the development of up to three dwelling units per acre. However, the City is committed to working with property owners and government agencies to promote the preservation of as much of the Puente Hills as possible for both passive and active recreation.

The City of La Habra Heights is located south of the Preserve near Powder Canyon. The City's General Plan (2004) attributes the Open Space-Conservation (O-3) land use designation to the approximately 700 acres owned by the Habitat Authority located within the City's jurisdiction. The O-3 land use designation applies to those areas reserved for resource and habitat protection, specifically devoted to conservation of natural vegetation and wildlife associated with the natural environments of the Puente Hills Region. The General Plan also designates a portion of Powder Canyon as the Puente Hills SEA.

The Community of Rowland Heights is located just east of the Preserve and Schabarum Regional Park, while the Community of Hacienda Heights is located north and east of the Preserve around Hacienda Boulevard. Both community plans designate portions of the Preserve as SEAs and affirm that development within these areas would be subject to the requirements of the Los Angeles County General Plan in addition to the policies contained within the applicable community plan. Suitable land uses permitted in these areas, per the Hacienda Heights Community General Plan (1978), include passive recreation, regulated scientific study, and where compatible, extremely low density residential uses. The Rowland Heights Community General Plan (1981) designates parks, riding and hiking trails, passive recreation, scientific study, oil production, agriculture, and utility easements as appropriate uses of these areas.

Discussion:

a) Physically divide an established community?

No Impact. The Preserve is largely bounded by urban and rural residential development (Figure 2). However, no established communities are located within the Preserve. Therefore, implementation of the RMP would not divide an established community.

b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

No Impact. As described above, the Preserve is identified in the Los Angeles County General Plan (1993) as SEA and Hillside Management Area. Goals, objectives, and management actions included in the RMP are designed to protect and enhance natural, cultural and visual resources within the Preserve and are compatible with the policies in the Los Angeles County General Plan.

Similarly, the cities of Whittier and La Habra Heights and the communities of Hacienda Heights and Rowland Heights recognize the value of the Preserve as an open space area and have designated it as such. Goals, objectives, and management actions included in the RMP would also be compatible with the planning objectives of these surrounding communities.

c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?

No Impact. The project site is not subject to a habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan. See Response IV(f).

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
X. MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State?	❑	❑	❑	■
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	❑	❑	❑	■

Existing Setting:

According to the Los Angeles County General Plan, there is a known local mineral resource area within the Preserve boundaries. No known State-designated mineral resource areas have been identified within the Preserve. The area, however, has a long history of oil extraction and gravel quarry operations. The Whittier Oil Field was in operation up to the sale of the property to the City in 1995. Historic quarry operations in the Sycamore Canyon began in 1912.

Discussion:

a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State?

No Impact. No mining is proposed and implementation of the RMP would have no affect on known mineral resources of local or Statewide significance. The RMP would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of California. Gravel operations ceased as a result of the availability of better quality materials from other areas adjacent to the San Gabriel River; and, oil production mostly ceased as a result of the high cost and difficulty of extracting the remaining oil from strata that had been mined since the early 20th Century.

b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?

No Impact. See Section X(a).

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XI. NOISE. Would the project result in:				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	❑	■	❑	❑
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?	❑	❑	■	❑
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	❑	❑	❑	■
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	❑	❑	■	❑
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	❑	❑	❑	■
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	❑	❑	❑	■

Existing Setting:

Primary noise sources within the Preserve include traffic along neighboring roadways, airplanes flying overhead, construction, and minimal noise associated with recreation use of the Preserve. For visitors, noise coming from outside the park is limited to those locations proximate to major routes parallel or cross the Preserve. For neighbors, noise coming from inside the Preserve is generally the result of visitors congregating at popular trailheads and traffic parking on residential streets.

Discussion:

a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated. The proposed project provides management actions to protect and enhance natural, cultural, and visual resources and allows for passive recreation use. Long term use of the project site would continue to be resource conservation and passive recreation. Continuation of these ongoing activities would not generate high ambient noise levels. Ambient noise associated with recreation use of the Preserve (i.e., talking, closing car doors) would be as it is under current conditions. Limited additional facilities are proposed as part of the RMP. However, habitat restoration activities would result in a net reduction in recreational facilities in the Preserve. As described in

Response III(a), implementation of the RMP is not expected to result in increased visitation to the Preserve nor an associated increase in the number of car trips to the project site, thus changes to ambient noise levels along local streets leading to the Preserve's trailheads are not expected. Land uses adjacent to future trailhead locations (Turnbull and Worsham Canyons) may experience a noticeable short term increase in noise levels associated with visitors to the Preserve parking their cars, similar to what occurs at other existing trailheads. Implementation of the following mitigation measure would reduce potential noise impact adjacent to these trailheads to a level below significance. No substantial long-term increase in ambient noise levels is expected as a result of project implementation.

> **Mitigation Measure NOISE-1:** The Habitat Authority shall consider potential noise impacts to adjacent land uses when determining the appropriate location for future trailhead facilities at Turnbull and Worsham Canyons. Such facilities shall be sited to ensure that potential ambient noise associated with recreation use of the Preserve is minimize to the greatest extent feasible and to meet local noise standards. Consideration of the placement of restrooms, interpretive facilities or other noise generating uses away from existing residences would be one consideration during final design. Future trailhead designs shall be reviewed and approved by the Habitat Authority.

Construction of proposed recreation and interpretive facilities would require minor excavation and earthwork activities and could generate noise levels that exceed established standards. Although these activities could result in infrequent periods of high noise, this noise would not be sustained and would occur only during the temporary construction period. No pile driving or other construction activity that would generate very high noise levels or ground borne vibration would occur within the project site.

The Los Angeles County Noise Ordinance (Section 12.08.440) establishes the maximum permissible construction noise levels at affected structures for residential and business uses and regulates the timing of construction activities. According to the Los Angeles County Noise Ordinance, construction activities shall not occur between weekday hours from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., or at any time on Sundays or holidays, such that the sound creates a noise disturbance across a residential or commercial real-property line. Compliance with applicable provisions of the Los Angeles County Noise Ordinance would reduce potential impacts related to construction noise to less than significant levels.

b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?

Less than Significant Impact. Construction of additional recreation and interpretive facilities would not require construction activities that would generate excessive ground borne vibration, such as pile driving. The level of construction would be limited to minor grading to prepare areas for habitat enhancement/restoration, construction of parking lots, minor structures and signage at trailheads and interpretive kiosks/signage within the Preserve. Impacts related to ground borne vibration and noise are considered less than significant.

c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

No Impact. As described in Response XI (a) above, the proposed project, once complete, would not result in increased visitation to the Preserve or an associated increase in the number of car trips to the project site. Ambient noise associated with recreation use of the Preserve would be as it is under current conditions. Development of trailheads with off-street parking areas may actually reduce ambient noise by reducing the number of cars parking on residential streets. Land uses adjacent to future trailhead locations (Turnbull and Worsham Canyons) may experience a noticeable short term increase in noise levels associated with visitors to the Preserve parking their cars, similar to what occurs at other existing trailheads. Implementation of Mitigation Measure NOISE-1 would reduce potential noise impact adjacent to these trailheads to a level below significance. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in a permanent increase in ambient noise levels above levels existing without the project.

d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

Less than Significant Impact. Construction of the project would temporarily increase ambient noise levels in the project vicinity. As described in Response XI(a), impacts resulting from temporary construction noise could be mitigated to a less-than-significant level through compliance with the Los Angeles County Noise Ordinance.

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

No Impact. The project site is not located within an airport land use plan or within 2 miles of a public airport or public use. The nearest airport, El Monte Airport, is located approximately 5 miles to the north. Implementation of the RMP would not be affected by operations at El Monte Airport.

f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

No Impact. The project site is not located within five miles of a private airstrip. Implementation of the RMP would not be affected by operations associated with a private air strip.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	❑	❑	❑	■
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	❑	❑	❑	■
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	❑	❑	❑	■

Existing Setting:

The proposed project site is located in an urban area and is largely surrounded by residential development. Development within the Preserve is limited to recreational and management facilities (*i.e.*, trailheads, trails, small parking areas, interpretive and directional signage, an administrative office, and an equestrian ring) and several structures.

Discussion:

a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

No Impact. The proposed RMP does not propose new homes or businesses, and would not require the extension of roads and other infrastructure into previously undeveloped areas. Minimal development, proposed as part of the RMP would not induce population growth, but would further the preservation goals of the Habitat Authority and improve visitor access to the Preserve. Therefore, implementation of the RMP would not result in substantial population growth in the area.

b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

No Impact. Permanent housing for Preserve rangers is located within the Preserve and would remain in place. Implementation of the RMP would not displace existing housing or residents.

c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

No Impact. See Section XII(b) above.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES.				
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	❑	❑	❑	■
Police protection?	❑	❑	❑	■
Schools?	❑	❑	❑	■
Parks?	❑	❑	❑	■
Other public facilities?	❑	❑	❑	■

Existing Setting:

The proposed project would be located in an area that is already served by public service systems. Fire protection and emergency response services for the project site are provided by the Los Angeles County Fire Department and the City of La Habra Heights Fire Department. Fire stations in the vicinity of the Preserve are located at: 12006 Hadley Street, Whittier; 7733 Greenleaf Avenue, Whittier; 2691 S. Turnbull Canyon Rd, Hacienda Heights; and 1245 Hacienda Road; La Habra Heights. In addition, Preserve rangers have a quick response capability to put out spot fires.

Preserve rangers, the Los Angeles County Sheriff and Whittier Police Department, provide police protection services to the project site and the surrounding vicinity. The Whittier Police Department is located at 7315 Painter Avenue in Whittier.

Discussion:

a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services: Fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, other public facilities?

No Impact. As described above, fire protection and emergency response services for the project site and surrounding vicinity are provided by the Preserve rangers and the respective fire departments of each municipality in the area. In contrast to the period when the properties

were owned privately, the Preserve rangers oversee activities in the Preserve on a 24 hour a day basis. As described in Response VII(h), the RMP contains policies aimed at reducing wildland fire risk by managing vegetation growth, maintaining fuel modification areas, and adopting a Fire Management Plan. As described in Section 6.2.2 of the RMP, these policies would substantially improve the urban/wildlife interface between the Preserve and existing and future residential uses adjacent to the Preserve, substantially reducing the potential for extensive damage related to wildfires within the Preserve from existing conditions.

No Impact. Preserve rangers and respective municipal police departments provide police protection services to the project site and surrounding vicinity. The RMP recommends the provision of additional ranger staff to patrol the Preserve, as well as additional fencing and signing to delineate and secure Preserve boundaries. Implementation of these recommendations could potentially reduce the need for police protection services by reducing trespassing and illegal activities within the Preserve.

No Impact. Because the RMP would not result in any local or regional population increase, implementation of the project would not require construction of new schools, or result in schools exceeding their capacities.

No Impact. The RMP proposes to enhance existing Preserve recreation facilities and provide limited new recreational facilities. No additional demand for park facilities would be generated as a result of the proposed project.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIV. RECREATION.				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	❑	❑	❑	■
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	❑	■	❑	❑

Existing Setting:

While the primary purpose of the Preserve is habitat preservation and enhancement, the Preserve does provide passive recreation opportunities for local residents and visitors. The Preserve currently provides approximately 60 miles of trails for public access and recreation. Existing trailheads are located at Workman Mill Road, Hellman Park, Hacienda Hills (7th Avenue and Orange Grove Avenue), Arroyo Pescadero, and Powder Canyon. Trailheads provide a range of visitor facilities including: parking, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access, horse stopovers, restrooms, and interpretive kiosks. The Arroyo Pescadero trailhead also has a rammed-earthen amphitheater for use as an environmental outdoor classroom or rest area for hikers. The Powder Canyon trailhead provides equestrian staging and a warm-up ring.

Discussion:

a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

No Impact. The proposed project will have no impact on existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities since the Preserve provides recreational facilities and does not generate demand for such uses.

b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated. The proposed project is, in part, a recreation facility. Potential adverse effects on the environment have been addressed in this Initial Study. Implementation of the mitigation measures described in this Initial Study would reduce potentially adverse physical environmental impacts to the Preserve to less than significant levels.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC. Would the project:				
a) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	❑	❑	■	❑
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency on designated roads or highways?	❑	❑	■	❑
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	❑	❑	❑	■
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	❑	❑	■	❑
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	❑	■	❑	❑
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	❑	❑	■	❑
g) Conflict with adopted polices, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	❑	❑	❑	■

Existing Setting:

The project area is located at the eastern edge of Los Angeles County (County) and consists of undeveloped land located within the Cities of Whittier and La Habra Heights and the unincorporated areas of Hacienda Heights and Rowland Heights. The project area extends from Harbor Boulevard at the east to the intersection of Interstate 605 and State Route 60 at the west.

Access to the Preserve is available through a network of regional and local roadways, and bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Regional access to the Preserve is provided via two major freeways: Interstate 605 (running northeast and southwest) and State Route 60 (running east and west). Local access to the Preserve is provided from Colima Road, Workman Mill Road, Harbor Boulevard, Turnbull Canyon Road, Skyline Drive, East Road, Greenleaf Ave., Fullerton Road, and Hacienda Boulevard. Several of these roadways provide preferential bicycle lanes.

The Park Visitor User Survey (Appendix A of the RMP) indicates that a total of 916 visitors were counted over a four day period (two weekdays and two weekend days) at five Preserve entrances – Hacienda Hills Trailhead, Arroyo Pescadero Trailhead, Turnbull Canyon, Powder Canyon Trailhead,

and Hellmann Park Trailhead. The survey did not capture Preserve visitors accessing the Preserve via unauthorized, end of street access points or via trails from other areas (*i.e.* Schabarum Park). Neighborhood residents have expressed concern that people park on local streets in order to gain unauthorized access.

Discussion:

a) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?

Less than Significant Impact. Implementation of the RMP would not interfere with traffic on local roadways since the number of trips to and from the Preserve would not generate a substantial number of vehicle trips and would not affect the existing or future traffic load and capacity of local roadways. The number of vehicle trips accessing the Preserve would be similar to the number of trips occurring today. This impact is considered less than significant. Implementation of the proposed RMP would not result in a substantial increase in total vehicle trips such that local roads would be negatively impacted operationally. Also, the existing users generally are accessing the Preserve outside of the AM and PM weekday peak hours and on the weekends; times when the local circulation system is less congested. As the type of new facilities proposed in the Preserve are limited and the number of vehicle trips accessing the Preserve is anticipated to be similar to the number of trips occurring today. There would be a beneficial redistribution of these trips due to the elimination of unauthorized access (through the fencing program) and the construction of up to two new trail heads. This impact is considered less than significant.

b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency or designated roads or highways?

Less than Significant Impact. See Response XV(a).

c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?

No Impact. The RMP does not proposed any structures that would interfere with air traffic patterns; nor is it expected to increase visitation to the Preserve, thereby increasing traffic levels. There is no impact to air traffic.

d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

Less than Significant Impact. Implementation of the RMP would improve safety within the Preserve. Closure of 16 miles of unauthorized trails within the Preserve would enhance the safety of the Preserve trail system by eliminating dangerous short-cuts and steep grades. Trail facilities would be maintained and improved consistent with Preserve safety standards. The provision of additional property fencing and signage, as outlined in the RMP, would secure Preserve boundaries and alert Preserve visitors to potentially dangerous conditions (i.e., roadway crossings, entry onto private property, steep slopes or other dangerous conditions).

e) Result in inadequate emergency access?

Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated. Implementation of the RMP would not alter roads or other infrastructure comprising emergency access routes on the local streets adjacent to the Preserve. The location and design of trailhead facilities proposed as part of the RMP have not yet been determined. Implementation of the following mitigation measure would ensure that trailhead facilities would provide adequate emergency access.

> **Mitigation Measure TRAFFIC-1:** All future trail head facilities shall be designed to accommodate emergency and fire suppression vehicles requirements such that adequate area is provided for police and fire access during emergencies. Future trailhead designs shall be reviewed and approved by the Habitat Authority.

f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?

Less than Significant Impact. Implementation of the RMP is not expected to result in increased visitation to the Preserve nor an associated increase in the number of car trips to the project site. Additional parking capacity is proposed as part of the RMP at Turnbull and Worsham Canyons to satisfy existing demand and alleviate existing impacts to neighborhood residents from visitors parking on residential streets to utilize unauthorized trails into the Preserve.

g) Conflict with adopted polices, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?

No Impact. The Preserve provides facilities for walking and bicycling and connects to adjacent recreational facilities (*i.e.,* Schabarum Park, Hellman Park) and regional trails (*i.e.,* Schabarum Trail/Skyline). Trailheads provide opportunities for local residents to access the Preserve on foot or bicycle. The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and Foothill Transit provide transit services to or near existing trailheads. While the exact locations for proposed trailheads have not been determined, transit service is available in the vicinity of both Turnbull Canyon and Worsham Canyons, where trailheads are proposed.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	❑	❑	■	❑
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	❑	❑	■	❑
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	❑	❑	■	❑
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	❑	❑	❑	■
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	❑	❑	■	❑
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	❑	❑	■	❑
g) Comply with federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	❑	❑	❑	■

Existing Setting:

The Preserve is a wildland area with limited existing and proposed improvements, including trails, trailheads, restrooms, parking areas, fencing, and interpretive signage. Farmers, ranchers, and oil corporations carved numerous trails and roads through the site to provide access to remote site from their facilities located at lower elevations. Utility companies including Southern California Edison (SCE), local water districts, fire departments and others have also constructed service roads for access to transmission lines that traverse the area and for fire protection.

Water companies that service the Preserve area include: Suburban Water Systems, San Gabriel Valley Water Company, and the La Habra Heights Water District. SCE provides electricity to the project area. Natural gas is provided by the Sempra Energy Company via its subsidiary, Southern California Gas Company (SCG). Two landfills are adjacent to the Preserve, the Puente Hills Landfill and Savage Landfill.

Discussion:

a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?

Less than Significant Impact. Implementation of the RMP would result in the construction of two new trailheads and, potentially, a visitor center/office and installation of interpretive kiosks, directional signage and boundary fencing. Trailhead facilities could include: parking, restrooms, water fountains, and interpretive facilities. These facilities would be located adjacent to existing roadways and connected to existing public service systems, including local sewer. Trailhead facilities would be serviced with portable sanitary devices. One ranger residence is planned to connect to the public sewer system and discontinue its septic system. The relatively small amount of wastewater generated from these structures can be accommodated by local sanitary sewer treatment systems or portable sanitary system and would not exceed the wastewater treatment requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

b) *Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?*

Less than Significant Impact. As described in Response XVI(a) above, implementation of the RMP would result in the construction of two new trailheads and potentially, a visitor center. These facilities would be located adjacent to existing roadways and connected to existing public service systems, including water and sewer. As described in Response III (a), implementation of the RMP is not expected to increase visitation to the Preserve or to increase demand for water or wastewater treatment. Land uses proposed in the RMP would not require large amounts of water or produce large amounts of wastewater. Demand for water and wastewater treatment would be the same as occurs under existing conditions. Implementation of the project would not exceed the capacity of existing water and wastewater treatment facilities that would serve the project and are considered less than significant.

c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

Less than Significant. As described in Response VIII(a), RMP policies to enhance and protect natural landscapes and open space areas could potentially result in beneficial impacts to water quality due to higher levels of the cleansing effects of vegetation. Implementation of the Trail Plan will minimize the effects of unauthorized trail use (*i.e.*, building new trails and going off trail) and facilitate coordination with Southern California Edison (SCE), the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACFD), and the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation to maintain roads and trails properly.

Operation of new facilities associated with the proposed project would have little potential for substantially increasing pollutant levels in local runoff because only a negligible amount of impervious surface (*i.e.*, foundations/slabs for restrooms, interpretive kiosk and the visitor center) is associated with the proposed project and the habitat enhancement/restoration activities would further stabilize soil conditions, reducing erosion. New trails would be composed of graded earth, which allows for infiltration of storm water, and would be designed

and constructed using BMPs to minimize the potential for erosion and sedimentation of area waterways. Closed trails will be revegetated improving soil stabilization and reducing potential soil erosion. There will be a net decrease in trail miles from 60 miles to 46 miles, providing an overall increase in vegetation within the Preserve.

Implementation of the RMP would create limited new impervious surface but would provide an overall increase in vegetation within the Preserve to trap and filter runoff. There would be no net increase in runoff associated with implementation of the RMP; therefore, no new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities would be required to accommodate the proposed project.

d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?

No Impact. Currently, potable water is provided to three existing trailheads (Arroyo Pescadero, Hacienda Hills, and Powder Canyon) and four structures located within the Preserve. Also, a few additional potable water sources may be added to existing and/or future trailheads or structures. Implementation of the RMP is not expected to result in increased visitation to the Preserve and demand for potable water would be the same as occurs under existing conditions. Therefore, existing water supplies are expected to be sufficient to serve the proposed project.

e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

Less than Significant Impact. See XVI(a) above.

f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?

Less than Significant Impact. Implementation of the RMP would not result in the generation of amounts of solid waste that are greater than occurs under existing conditions given that the number of users would remain the same and the types of solid waste deposited would generally be limited (food and beverage containers, paper, etc.). The project would generate a similar amount of solid waste as occurs today and is currently served by a landfill that could accommodate waste produced by park users.

g) *Comply with federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?*

No Impact. The Authority currently places receptacles for recyclable waste at existing trail heads, and Preserve managers contract with appropriate entities for the removal and processing of recyclable waste. As part of ongoing operations in the Preserve, the Authority complies with federal, State, and local statutes related to solid waste recycling.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.				
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	❑	■	❑	❑
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	❑	❑	■	❑
d) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	❑	■	❑	❑

a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated. As described in the sections above, all environmental effects were determined to be less than significant or reduced below levels of significance with mitigation. The RMP proposes to develop additional recreation and interpretive facilities (*i.e.,* parking areas, trailhead facilities, trail expansion, interpretive kiosks, and visitor center/office that could affect the environment. However, the RMP contains goals and guidelines to ensure that such facilities would be sited appropriately to minimize impacts to biological and cultural/paleontological resources.

The RMP provides management actions to protect and enhance the Preserve's natural habitats, cultural resources and scenic qualities. Therefore, implementation of the project would enhance the environmental values of the site and would result in a net benefit to existing wildlife habitats and populations and plant and animal communities and cultural/paleontological resources that are protected under State and federal law.

b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)

Less than Significant. The Preserve was established to offset environmental effects of other approved projects, namely Puente Hills Landfill. The RMP, itself, would result in a net benefit to cumulative impacts given the avoidance/minimization policies set forth in the plan which protect biological, cultural and visual resources and enhance/improve sensitive habitat on-site, wildlife movement within the Puente Hills and water quality within the project area's watershed. The proposed project's contribution to cumulative impacts within the Puente Hills is considered beneficial and less than significant.

c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated. The construction of recreational areas and the restoration of natural systems on the site would allow for outdoor recreation uses, educational opportunities, and nature appreciation, and would generally have a beneficial effect on human beings. Short term construction noise and air quality effects would be mitigated through compliance with local noise ordinances and SCAQMD requirements (Mitigation Measures AIR-1 and NOISE-1).

5.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

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HABITAT AUTHORITY

Andrea Gullo, Executive Director
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6.0 ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATED TERMS

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
amsl	above mean sea level
Basin Plan	Los Angeles Region Basin Plan for the Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties
BMPs	Best Management Practices
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CBI	Conservation Biology Institute
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CO	Carbon Monoxide
County	County of Los Angeles, California
DPR	California Department of Parks and Recreation
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
Habitat Authority	Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority
IS	Initial Study
LACFD	Los Angeles County Fire Department
LADPW	Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
LSA	LSA Associates, Inc.
MLD	Most Likely Descendent
MND	Mitigated Negative Declaration
NO_2	Nitrogen Dioxide
Pb	Lead
$PM_{2.5}$	Particulates less than 2.5 microns in diameter
PM_{10}	Particulates less than 10 microns in diameter
Preserve	Habitat Authority's lands
PRIMP	Paleontological Resources Impact Mitigation Program
RWCQB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
RMP	Resource Management Plan
SCAB	South Coast Air Basin
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SCE	Southern California Edison
SEA	Significant Ecological Area
SO_2	Sulfur Dioxide
State	State of California
SVP	Society of Vertebrate Paleontology
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
Corps	United States Army Corps of Engineers
UBC	Uniform Building Code
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service

APPENDIX A

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

APPENDIX A

RMP GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In response to the Mission and Vision Statements contained within the Resource Management Plan (RMP), the following goals and objectives outline a management framework designed to protect and restore the Preserve's natural resources. Goals and objectives are necessary to perpetuate the Preserve's important natural, cultural, scenic, and recreation values and to respond to threats to those values.

The goals and objectives are divided into biological resources, cultural resources, public use, interpretive, visual resources and aesthetics, and facility maintenance elements and form the basis for the management and monitoring actions described in the RMP. A biological goal is a statement of intended outcome of management based on the feasibility of enhancing, maintaining, or restoring species populations and habitat. A public use goal is the statement of the type and level of public use compatible with biological goals. Objectives state the intended results for management actions that promote the resource, interpretation, and maintenance goals for the Preserve. While the achievement of goals and objectives will be based on the availability of agency resources such as personnel and funding, priority spending of available resources will be in alignment with the Vision and Mission Statements of the Habitat Authority.

Biological Resources Element

Goal

BIO-1: Acquire remaining open space that strengthens the ecological functioning of the Preserve.

Objectives

BIO-1.1 Identify the remaining private and public open space properties surrounding the Preserve. Prioritize the parcels based on the quality of the biological resources and functions they support. Periodically update the information as necessary.

BIO-1.2 Evaluate offsite areas not owned by the Habitat Authority as connection routes to the lands owned or managed by the Habitat Authority for large mammals to minimize constraints to large mammal movement within the Preserve. The 31-mile Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife movement corridor extends from Whittier Narrows

east to the Cleveland National Forest. The lands owned or managed by the Habitat Authority are surrounded by residential development on three sides. To maintain the integrity of the wildlife movement corridor, it is critical that it is connected to other habitat areas to the east and that adjacent or new development does not impede wildlife movement within the Preserve.

BIO-1.3 Acquire properties that complement the preservation goals of the Preserve. Potential properties for acquisition may support preservation of cultural or visual resources, may contain access opportunities that compliment the purpose of the Preserve, or may contain especially valuable habitat or restoration opportunities.

BIO-1.4 Collaborate with other regional conservation groups on available land acquisition.

Goal BIO-2: Address risk of wildfires along the wildland urban interface.

Objectives

BIO-2.1 Prepare a Wildfire Management Plan. Collaborate with City and County fire jurisdictions to prepare a wildfire management plan that is compatible with biological goals and the safety and well-being of the surrounding residential communities.

BIO-2.2 Integrate fire safety and vegetation management. Collaborate with the local fire jurisdictions on different strategies that are available to maintain diverse plant composition such as thinning certain vegetation or other measures.

BIO-2.3 Strongly encourage all new development adjacent to the Preserve to accommodate all fuel modification within the footprint of the development site. Review offsite development proposals and coordinate with lead agencies to ensure that potential fuel modification impacts to the Preserve are eliminated, minimized, or adequately addressed and mitigated.

Goal BIO-3: Maintain all populations of native plants and wildlife with special emphasis on management of locally uncommon, sensitive, federally-threatened or endangered species and other sensitive resources.

Objectives

BIO-3.1 Protect and maintain coastal sage scrub breeding habitat for the federally-threatened coastal California gnatcatcher and other scrub species.

BIO-3.2 Protect and maintain breeding habitat for the western spadefoot toad.

BIO-3.3 Protect and maintain populations of sensitive, threatened, or endangered plant species.

BIO-3.4 Protect and maintain nesting and foraging habitat for sensitive, threatened, or endangered raptor species.

BIO-3.5 Protect and maintain nesting and foraging habitat for Indicator Species, defined as locally uncommon or declining species in Los Angeles County.

BIO-3.6 Protect and maintain all native vegetation communities paying special attention to sensitive vegetation types such as walnut woodland, oak woodland, coastal sage scrub, riparian communities, and native grassland.

BIO-3.7 Encourage new development adjacent to the Preserve to provide an appropriate buffer zone on the development site to minimize edge effects. Promote additional methods to minimize potential edge effects with new and existing urbanization.

Goal BIO-4: Enhance and restore degraded habitats in the Preserve.

Objectives

BIO-4.1: Implement a habitat restoration plan (as in Appendix N). Determine restoration priorities based on weed and soil associations, percent slope, size of weed infestation, proximity to roads and trails, proximity to existing restoration, wildlife connectivity, or other criteria consistent with the Preserve Mission and Vision.

BIO-4.2 Abandon all unauthorized trails and roads within the Preserve to improve the quality of habitat for wildlife.

BIO-4.3 Explore the use of selective fuel reduction to increase native vegetation, maintain a diverse age structure, and restore biotic and abiotic processes to the vegetation community.

BIO-4.4 Monitor the spread or invasion of exotic species in the Preserve and develop appropriate management responses.

BIO-4.5 Develop a long-term invasive exotic plant management plan.

Goal BIO-5: Implement monitoring programs designed to identify ecosystem threats and guide adaptive management of the Preserve by tracking the health, function, and integrity of habitats and ecological processes.

Objectives

BIO-5.1 Monitor all native habitat types within the Preserve to assess their condition and to document any changes that are a result of specific management recommendations.

BIO-5.2 Monitor key ecological processes to interpret biological changes and responses to management measures.

BIO-5.3 Document the status of locally uncommon, sensitive, threatened or endangered species and other sensitive or special status resources within the Preserve in order to prioritize management actions and to assess the effectiveness of management actions.

BIO- 5.4 Monitor the effects of urban runoff and soil deposition from surrounding areas on the Preserve.

BIO-5.5 Continue to implement measures to restore habitat and improve habitat quality along with enforcement of existing park rules designed to reduce nutrient loading and sedimentation potentially impacting beneficial uses in the watershed.

Goal BIO-6: Encourage university-level research to address unanswered fundamental biological questions.

Objectives

BIO-6.1 Facilitate focused research projects.

Goal BIO-7: Develop an in-house data storage and analysis system.

Objectives

BIO-7.1 Develop a centralized data management system that interfaces with regional and statewide biological database systems (e.g. BIOS).

Cultural Resources Element

Goal CULT-1: Protect and preserve important cultural resources.

Objectives

CULT-1.1 For internal use, maintain maps of all cultural and paleontological sites. Monitor these sites to ensure that they are not harmed. Protect these sites using generally accepted methods of preservation.

CULT-1.2 Perform cultural resources surveys in sensitive areas that are currently obscured by vegetation if there is a fire or other activity where the ground visibility becomes clear.

CULT-1.3 Allow local Tongva/Gabrieleno tribes to use these sites if compatible with the RMP.

Goal CULT-2: Preserve and interpret the remains of the Whittier Oil Field as a significant historic site for the education and enjoyment of Preserve visitors.

Objectives

CULT-2.1 Allow the definitive elements of the oil field to remain in place and be passively managed.

Goal CULT-3: Follow established protocol if human remains are encountered during ground-disturbing activities in the Preserve.

Objectives

CULT-3.1 Comply with State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 which states that no further disturbance should occur at a site until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98.

Goal CULT-4: Record, identify and preserve paleontological resources if found on the Preserve.

Objectives

CULT-4.1 A paleontologist who is on the County of Los Angeles list of certified paleontologists should be retained and remain on site during all rough grading and other significant ground-disturbing activities in paleontologically sensitive sediments, which include the Miocene Puente Formation, the Pliocene Fernando Formation, and the Pleistocene Coyote Hills and La Habra Formations. A paleontologist will not be required on site for excavation in Quaternary colluvial/alluvial sediments unless it is determined that these sediments do in fact contain paleontological resources. A paleontologist will not be required on site if excavation is only occurring in artificial fill.

Public Use Element

Goal
USE-1: Provide a trail system that protects natural resources of the Preserve.

Objectives

USE-1.1 Consistent with the Habitat Authority's purpose, abandon roads and trails if impacts on native habitat or other resources are discovered.

USE-1.2 Locate new trails away from sensitive habitat areas.

USE-1.3 Minimize riparian crossings to decrease disturbance of sensitive natural areas.

USE-1.4 Consistent with the Habitat Authority's purpose, make decisions to reconstruct or reroute existing trails and emphasize minimizing ground disturbance.

USE-1.5 Consistent with the Habitat Authority's purpose, provide diverse and interesting trail experiences to minimize unauthorized trails.

USE-1.6 Use best management practices in the design, construction, and maintenance of trails, including temporarily closing trails when needed.

USE-1.7 Implement trails in partnership with other public agencies, nongovernmental organizations and private landowners when feasible.

USE-1.8 Implement a trail system that is considerate of adjacent landowner interests as much as possible and consistent with protecting natural, visual, and cultural resources.

USE-1.9 Consistent with the Habitat Authority's purpose, continue efforts to close key gaps in the trail system and to create an interconnected system of public open spaces along the Schabarum Trail and from nearby communities of Whittier, Hacienda Heights, La Habra Heights, and Rowland Heights.

USE-1.10 Seek methods to establish partnerships among trail interest groups to improve cooperation on trail use, volunteer maintenance opportunities, and preservation of habitat consistent with the purpose of the Habitat Authority.

USE-1.11 Maintain trails in an environmentally sustainable manner by:

- Using natural materials
- Restoring damaged areas
- Reducing or avoiding the use of chemicals
- Minimizing disturbance of habitat
- Limiting runoff and grading

Goal USE-2: Enforce protection of the varied resources and promote an enjoyable and safe environment for visitors.

Objectives

USE-2.1 Consistent with the purpose of the Habitat Authority, encourage uses that acknowledge the natural and scenic beauty of the Preserve and facilitate enjoyment of the outdoor experience, as well as those that promote the safety of visitors. The Preserve rules outline appropriate uses and restrictions on the use of the Preserve.

Goal USE-3: Create a trail system that provides a broad public benefit by accommodating diverse uses and user abilities, consistent with the purposes of the Habitat Authority.

Objectives

USE-3.1 Consistent with its primary purpose, allow trail use on Preserve property.

USE-3.2 Permit use of fire protection roads by visitors on foot, on a bicycle, and with a horse, but limit any or all uses where the use is inconsistent with the Habitat Authority purpose.

USE-3.3 Discourage the use of trails that are not part of the system of maintained trails.

USE-3.4 Prohibit the use of motorized vehicles in open space, with authorized exceptions.

USE-3.5 Where reasonably feasible, provide access for people with disabilities within the context of the agency's purpose, policies, and legal requirements.

USE-3.6 Connect Preserve trails to regional trails where appropriate.

Goal USE-4: **Accommodate parking, access points, and trail amenities that maintain the natural character of the land, enhance resource protection and contribute to the enjoyment of open space.**

Objectives

USE-4.1 Rely primarily on public rights of way to provide parking capacity to serve trail users arriving by motorized vehicles.

USE-4.2 Seek to provide reasonable access points to eliminate excessive parking and avoid or minimize traffic to the surrounding community.

USE-4.3: Allow trail amenities such as, but not limited to:

- Informational displays and signs;
- Portable restrooms in areas with group use;
- Facilities to provide water and tie horses;
- Trash cans;
- Facilities to encourage the pickup and disposal of pet waste; and
- Potable water.

Interpretative Element

Goal
INTERP-1: Enhance public stewardship of the Preserve, appreciation of the value of the Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority, conservation issues in general, and the property's significance within the Los Angeles basin consistent with the biological objectives of the Preserve.

Objectives

INTERP-1.1 Provide high-quality educational and outdoor-learning opportunities.

INTERP-1.2 Provide opportunities for community involvement and education.

INTERP-1.3 Develop a public outreach and education program.

INTERP-1.4 Continue partnerships with other environmental and educational organizations for public outreach and education.

Goal
INTERP-2: Provide a trail system that promotes and enhances public enjoyment and appreciation of the natural, cultural and scenic resources.

Objectives

INTERP-2.1 Use signs, education and barriers to keep users on the trails.

INTERP-2.2 When feasible, produce an accurate and informative trail map for the public, with trail safety guidelines, that is accessible from the Habitat Authority's website.

INTERP-2.3 Provide trail users with accurate information on trail locations.

INTERP-2.4 Provide information to trail users that facilitates orientation, natural and cultural resource interpretation, code compliance, and appropriate trail etiquette.

INTERP-2.5 Educate trail users on the potential impacts that trail uses have on wildlife, cultural resources, and the environment.

INTERP-2.6 Promote volunteer participation in trail stewardship.

Visual Resources and Aesthetics Element

Goal
VISUAL-1: Protect and enhance views and distinctive landscape features that contribute to the setting, character and visitor experience of the Preserve.

Objectives

VISUAL-1.1 Expand interpretative opportunities associated with the visual and scenic resources of the Preserve.

VISUAL-1.2 Protect views from within the Preserve to outlying properties. Evaluate proposed projects surrounding the Preserve with a priority to retain the visual quality of the Preserve's undeveloped landscape.

VISUAL-1.3 Protect visitor experience of the Preserve from noise impacts.

Facility Maintenance Element

Goal
MAINT-1: Maintain facilities on the Preserve to ensure that biological resource values are maintained and that management activities are supported.

Objectives

MAINT-1.1 Maintain facilities and infrastructure, such as gates, fences, and roads.

MAINT-1.2 Maintain trailhead facilities and other structures that contribute to the integrity and value of the Preserve.

MAINT-1.3 Maintain Preserve trails by clearing brush and performing other maintenance.

Goal
MAINT-2: Remove litter, trash and debris that may attract nonnative wildlife and reduce the aesthetic values of the Preserve.

Objectives

MAINT-2.1 Establish responsibilities for removing trash and for regular collection at specific locations.

MAINT-2.2 Enlist the help of volunteers for clean-up events at the Preserve.

Goal MAINT-3: Establish facilities to enhance appreciation and encourage research about the natural resources of the Preserve.

Objectives

MAINT-3.1: Participate with other agencies to develop an interpretive center to relate the biological and educational goals of the Preserve to the community and the public.

MAINT-3.2: Develop guidelines for special or temporary use of the properties for activities such as special events or filming.

APPENDIX B

LIST OF SENSITIVE PLANT SPECIES

APPENDIX B

SENSITIVE PLANT SPECIES

Appendix B: Rare Plants in the Preserve

Species	Habitat and Distribution	Activity/Blooming Period	Status Designation[1]	Probability of Occurrence[2]
		LISTED SPECIES		
Braunton's milkvetch *Astragalus brauntonii*	Occurs in recently burned or otherwise disturbed soil areas (e.g., firebreaks) below 1,500 ft elevation in portions of Ventura, Los Angeles, and Orange Counties. Often found in limestone deposits, marine terraces, and other calcareous soils in association with chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and other brushy places.	February–June	Fed.: FE State: --- CNPS: 1B	**Moderate to High.** Perennial herb. PCR documenedt a high potential of occurring within Preserve where suitable habitat exists. However, LSA has not observed this species during previous surveys.
Thread-leaved brodiaea *Brodiaea filifolia*	Clay soils, usually associated with annual grassland; vernal pools often surrounded by shrubland habitat.	March–June	Fed.: FT State: CE CNPS: 1B	**Low to Moderate.** Potential of occurring within the Preserve where habitat exists per PCR document. However, LSA has not observed this species during previous surveys.
California Orcutt grass *Orcuttia californica*	Vernal pools in Ventura, Riverside, and San Diego Counties, Baja California; known from fewer than 20 locations; below 2,000 ft elevation.	April–June	Fed: FE State: CE CNPS: 1B	**Low.** Habitat appears unsuitable. LSA has not observed during previous surveys.
		UNLISTED SPECIES		
Coulter's saltbush *Atriplex coulteri*	Occurrence in Chino-Puente Hills region poorly known. Historical record for Chino Creek. Alkaline or clay soils in coastal sage scrub or valley and foothill grassland.	March–October	Fed.: --- State: --- CNPS: 1B	**Low.** No suitable habitat noted within the Preserve.
Catalina mariposa lily *Calochortus catalinae*	Heavy soil, on open grassy slopes and openings in brush, below 2,000 ft elevation in chaparral, coastal sage scrub, valley, and foothill grassland. San Diego County to San Luis Obispo County; Santa Catalina, Santa Cruz, and Santa Rosa Islands.	February–May	Fed.: --- State: --- CNPS: 4	**Observed.** Observed by LSA in spring 2000 and 2005 within Turnbull Canyon parcel.

[1] For a description of status designations, see Legend at the end of the table.
[2] Based on the following categories: Absent, Low, Moderate, High, and Observed.

Appendix B: Rare Plants in the Preserve

Species	Habitat and Distribution	Activity/Blooming Period	Status Designation[1]	Probability of Occurrence[2]
Plummer's mariposa lily *Calochortus plummerae*	Dry, rocky places, often in brush, below 5,000 ft elevation. Usually on granitic soils. Found in grassland chaparral, coastal sage scrub, yellow pine forest. Santa Monica Mountains to San Jacinto Mountains. Riverside, San Bernardino, Los Angeles, and Ventura Counties.	May–July	Fed: --- State: --- CNPS: 1B	**Observed.** Observed by LSA in spring 2000 and 2005 within Turnbull Canyon parcel.
Intermediate mariposa lily *Calochortus weedii* var. *Intermedius*	Dry, rocky, open slopes, often in chaparral, coastal sage scrub, valley, and foothill grassland below 2,000 ft elevation. Los Angeles, Orange, and Riverside Counties.	May–July	Fed.: --- State: --- CNPS: 1B	**Moderate.** LSA documented suitable habitat present within the Preserve boundaries. LSA has not observed during previous surveys.
False Payson's jewel flower *Caulanthus heterophyllus* var. *pseudosimulans*	Occurs on xeric, granite slopes in coastal sage scrub or chaparral	March–May	Fed: --- State : CSC CNPS: Local concern	**Low-Moderate.** Not recorded in Puente Hills, but expected to occur in the Preserve.
Southern tarplant *Centromadia parryi* ssp. *australis*	Occurs in alkali meadows, grasslands, and riparian herb habitats. Historically occurred in much of Los Angeles basin.	May–November	Fed: --- State: --- CNPS: 1B	**Low to Moderate.** Suitable habitat questionable within the Preserve. LSA has not observed this species during previous surveys.
Many-stemmed dudleya *Dudleya multicaulis*	Often on clay soils and around granitic outcrops in chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and grasslands; below 2,500 ft elevation. Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties.	May–July	Fed.: --- State: --- CNPS: 1B	**Observed.** Documented in the checklist of vascular plants of Whittier Hills, LA County. LSA has not observed this species during previous surveys.
Mesa Horkelia *Horkelia cuneata* ssp. *puberula*	Sandy or gravelly substrates with chaparral, cismontane woodland coastal scrub. Typically more inland than other subspecies, from San Diego County to Central California.	February–September	Fed: --- State: --- CNPS: 1B	**Low.** Not observed within Preserve boundaries; not documented as potentially occurring within Preserve vicinity. LSA has not observed this species during previous surveys.
Southern California black walnut *Juglans californica* var. *californica*	Occurs in grasslands, floodplains, and woodland habitats. The Chino-Puente Hills is a major center of distribution for this species.	March–May	Fed: --- State: --- CNPS: 4	**Observed** by Bon Terra (2004).
Coulter's goldfields *Lasthenia glabrata* ssp. *coulteri*	Marshes, playas, vernal pools, grassland; sea level to 3,000 ft elevation. Inland Southern California and along coast from San Luis Obispo County to Baja California.	February–June	Fed: --- State: --- CNPS: 1B	**Moderate.** LSA has not observed this species during previous surveys.
Robinson's pepper grass *Lepidium virginicum* var. *robinsonii*	Dry soils in coastal sage scrub and chaparral; typically below 1,500 ft elevation; southwestern California and Baja California.	January–July	Fed: --- State: --- CNPS: 1B	**Observed.** Observed by LSA in spring 2000 within Turnbull Canyon parcel.

Appendix B: Rare Plants in the Preserve

Species	Habitat and Distribution	Activity/Blooming Period	Status Designation[1]	Probability of Occurrence[2]
Orutt's linanthus *Linanthus orcuttii*	Chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest. Sometimes in disturbed areas, often in gravelly clearings; 1,060–2,000 m; Orange, Riverside and San Diego Counties into Baja California.	May–June	Fed: --- State: --- CNPS: 1B	**Low.** Not observed within Preserve boundaries, not documented as potentially occurring within the Preserve vicinity. LSA has not observed this species during previous surveys.
Small-flowered microseris *Microseris douglasii* var. *platycarpa*	Found in claysoils. Recorded from Chino Hills in the Diamond Ranch area.	March–May	Fed: --- State: --- CNPS: 4	**Low-Moderate.** Habitat appears suitable. LSA has not observed this species during previous surveys.
Prostrate navarretia *Naverretia prostrata*	Alkaline soils in grassland or in vernal pools. Los Angeles and western San Bernardino Counties to Monterey County.	April–July	Fed: --- State: --- CNPS: 1B	**Low.** Not observed within Preserve boundaries; not documented as potentially occurring within the Preserve vicinity. LSA has not observed this species during previous surveys.
Golden-rayed pentachaeta *Pentachaeta aurea*	Occurs in grassland and coastal sage scrub. Recorded from the Santa Monica Mountains and Orange County.	March–July	Fed: --- State: --- CNPS: 4	**Moderate.** Although not recorded from the Preserve, it is poorly documented, and habitat on site appears suitable. LSA has not observed this species during previous surveys.
Brand's phacelia *Phacelia stellaris*	Open areas within coastal scrub, typically below 4,500 ft.	March–June	Fed: --- State: --- CNPS: 1B	**Moderate.** LSA documented that suitable habitat is present within the Preserve boundaries. LSA has not observed this species during previous surveys.
Parish's gooseberry *Ribes diveracatum* var. *parishii*	Riparian woodlands. This plant is known from Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties and is thought to be extinct.	Deciduous shrub; blooms February–April	Fed: --- State: --- CNPS: 1B	**Low.** Not observed within the Preserve boundaries; not documented as potentially occurring within the Preserve vicinity. The last known occurrence of this species was in San Bernardino County in 1917. LSA has not observed this species during previous surveys.
Coulter's matilija poppy *Romneya coulteri*	Occurs in alluvial fan sagescrub, sycamore woodland coastal sage scrub, and chaparral.	March–July	Fed: --- State: --- CNPS: 4	**Observed** by Bon Terra on Whittier College parcel (2004). However, not known if this is a native occurrence.
Southern skullcap *Scutellaria bolanderi* ssp. *austromontana*	Gravelly soils and streambeds in chaparral, woodland and coniferous forests; 1,000–6,000 ft elevation. Known from Riverside and San Diego Counties; extirpated from San Bernardino County; status unknown in Los Angeles County.	June–August	Fed: --- State: --- CNPS: 1B	**Low.** Not observed within Preserve boundaries; not documented as potentially occurring within the Preserve vicinity. Only source of information for this occurrence is site name noted by Jepson in "A Flora of California" (1943). Identification of this occurrence is questionable. LSA has not observed this species during previous surveys.

Legend: Status Designation

FEDERAL STATUS

FE Federally listed as Endangered.

FT Federally listed as Threatened.

STATE STATUS

CE State listed as Endangered.

CNPS LISTING

1A	List of plants that are presumed extinct in California.
1B	List of plants that are considered by the CNPS to be Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and elsewhere.
2	List of plants that are considered by CNPS to be Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, but more common elsewhere.
3	CNPS review list of plants suggested for consideration as Endangered but about which more information is needed.
4	CNPS watch list of plants of limited distribution, whose status should be monitored.

APPENDIX C

LIST OF SENSITIVE WILDLIFE SPECIES

APPENDIX C

SENSITIVE WILDLIFE SPECIES

Species	Habitat and Distribution	Activity/Blooming Period	Status Designation[1]	Probability of Occurrence[2]
SPECIES LISTED OR PROPOSED FOR LISTING				
BIRDS				
American peregrine falcon *Falco peregrinus anatum*	Widespread, but scarce and local throughout North America. Nests on buildings and bridges in the L.A. Basin.	Year-round	Fed.: --- State: CE CFP	**Observed.** One was seen just west of Harbor Blvd. in October/November 2005.
Southwestern willow flycatcher *Empidonax traillii extimus*	Rare and local breeder in riparian habitat usually with standing water, in the southwestern U.S. and (formerly?) northwestern Mexico. Winters in Central and South America.	May–September	Fed.: FE State: CE	**Low.** Willow flycatchers observed in the Preserve during migration periods (Cooper 2000; LSA 2000) probably represent the subspecies *E.t. Brewster* (little willow flycatcher). The southwestern willow flycatcher nests in the Prado Basin, but nesting habitat in the Preserve appears to be unsuitable.
Coastal California gnatcatcher *Polioptila californica californica*	Coastal sage scrub; occurs only in cismontane southern California and northwestern Baja California in low-lying foothills and valleys.	Year-round	Fed.: FT State: CSC	**Observed.** At least three pairs present in 2005 (LSA 2005a).
Least Bell's vireo *Vireo bellii pusillus*	Formerly occurred in well-developed riparian areas from north-central California to Baja California. Now absent from the northern portion of its range, but populations in southern California are growing rapidly in response to intense management efforts. Winters in western Mexico.	April–September	Fed: FE State: CE	**Observed.** A single male was found in Sycamore Canyon in 2005 (LSA 2005c).

[1] For a description of status designations, see Legend on last page.

[2] Based on the following categories: Absent, Low, Moderate, High, Observed.

Species	Habitat and Distribution	Activity/Blooming Period	Status Designation[1]	Probability of Occurrence[2]
Swainson's hawk *Buteo swainsoni*	Open country; nesting in interior western North America and wintering primarily in South America.	Spring and fall	Fed.: --- State: CT	**Observed.** Twelve migrating birds were seen over Turnbull Canyon on September 29, 1968.
SPECIES NOT LISTED NOR PROPOSED FOR LISTING				
INSECTS				
Monarch *Danaus plexippus*	Varied habitats throughout much of North and South America; milkweeds required for breeding.	Year-round	Fed.: --- State: CSA (wintering sites)	**Observed.** Probably regular on site (e.g., LSA 2000, 2005c), but presence of winter concentrations unknown.
AMPHIBIANS				
Coast Range newt *Taricha torosa torosa* (southern populations)	Southern populations are found on the coastal slope from Monterey to near the Mexican border. They generally inhabit mesic habitats such as oak woodland and require streams or pools for breeding.	Cooler months	Fed.: --- State: CSC	**Low.** Apparently unknown in the Puente Hills.
Western spadefoot *Spea hammondii*	Grasslands and occasionally hardwood woodlands; largely terrestrial but for breeding requires rainpools or other ponded water for 3+ weeks; burrows in loose soils during dry season; Central Valley and foothills, coast ranges, inland valleys to Baja California.	October–April	Fed: --- State: CSC	**Observed.** One found in 2005 (LSA 2005c).
REPTILES				
Southwestern pond turtle *Actinemys marmorata pallida*	Permanent or nearly permanent water in a wide variety of habitat types; requires basking sites such as partially submerged logs, rocks, or open mud banks. Central California to northwestern Baja California.	Year-round	Fed: -- State: CSC	**Low-Moderate.** Aquatic habitat within the Preserve may not be adequate.
San Diego banded gecko *Coleonyx variegatus abbotti*	Chaparral, coastal sage, and desert habitats (often with rocks) from southwestern California to northern Baja California Sur.	Year-round, but primarily the warmer months.	Fed.: --- State: CSA	**Low.** Unknown from the Puente Hills and habitat quality is probably marginal.

Species	Habitat and Distribution	Activity/Blooming Period	Status Designation[1]	Probability of Occurrence[2]
San Diego horned lizard *Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillii*	Wide variety of habitats including coastal sage scrub, grassland riparian woodland; typically on or near loose sandy soils; coastal and inland areas from Ventura County to Baja California.	April–July	Fed.: -- State: CSC	**High.** Habitat appears suitable but none found by LSA (2005c).
Coastal western whiptail *Aspidoscelis tigris multiscutatus*	Wide variety of habitats including coastal sage scrub, sparse grassland and riparian woodland; coastal and inland valleys and foothills; Ventura County to Baja California.	April –August	Fed.: --- State: CSA	**Observed.** Documented by Haas, et al. (2002) and LSA (2005c).
Silvery legless lizard *Anniella pulchra pulchra*	Inhabits loose soil and humus from central California to northern Baja California.	Year-round	Fed: -- State: CSC	**Low-Moderate.** On site habitat may be unsuitable.
Coastal rosy boa *Lichanura trivirgata rosafusca*	Inhabits rock outcrops and rocky shrublands from southwestern California to northern Baja California.	Warmer months	Fed: -- State: CSC	**Low.** Generally rare and local in the region, apparently unrecorded in the Puente-Chino Hills.
San Bernardino ringneck snake *Diadophis punctatus modestus*	Under surface objects along drainage courses, in mesic chaparral and oak and walnut woodland communities. Moist habitats of southwestern California from about Ventura to Orange Counties.	Year-round	Fed: -- State: CSA	**Observed.** Documented by Haas, et al. (2002) in the Whittier Hills.
Coast patch-nosed snake *Salvadora hexalepis virgultea*	Coastal chaparral, washes, sandy flats, and rocky areas from San Luis Obispo County to northwestern Baja California.	Year-round	Fed: -- State: CSC	**Moderate.** Habitat appears suitable and the species is known to occur in the Chino Hills.
Two-striped garter snake *Thamnophis hammondii*	Highly aquatic; found only in or near permanent sources of water, such as streams with rocky beds supporting willows or other riparian vegetation. Ranges from Monterey County to Baja California Sur.	Diurnal year-round	Fed.: --- State: CSC	**Low.** Habitat generally unsuitable; apparently unrecorded in the Puente Hills.
Northern red diamond rattlesnake *Crotalus ruber ruber*	Coastal sage scrub, open chaparral, and woodland; occasional in grassland and cultivated areas. Prefers rocky areas and dense vegetation. Los Angeles County south to Baja California Sur.	Mid-spring to mid -fall	Fed.: --- State: CSC	**Observed.** Documented by Haas, et al. (2002) and LSA (2005c).
BIRDS				
White-tailed kite *Elanus leucurus*	Open country in South America and southern North America.	Year-round	Fed: --- State: CSC	**Observed.** Observed by TeraCor Resource Management (2002), (Cooper 2000), and LSA (2005c).
Northern harrier *Circus cyaneus*	Open country in the Temperate Zone worldwide.	Year-round	Fed: --- State: CSC (nesting)	**Observed.** Observed by TeraCor Resource Management (2002, (Cooper 2000), and LSA (2005c).
Cooper's hawk *Accipiter cooperi*	Primarily forests and woodlands throughout North America.	Year-round	Fed.: --- State: CSC (nesting)	**Observed.** Widespread breeder in the Puente Hills (Cooper 2000).

Species	Habitat and Distribution	Activity/Blooming Period	Status Designation[1]	Probability of Occurrence[2]
Ferruginous hawk *Buteo regalis*	Open country in western North America; north to Canada in summer and south to Mexico in winter.	Fall and winter	Fed: -- State: CSC	**Low to Moderate.** Although the habitat within the Preserve appears suitable, this species is apparently unrecorded in the Puente Hills.
Golden eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*	Generally open country of the Temperate Zone worldwide. Uncommon resident in southwestern California.	Year-round	Fed: --- State: CSC	**Observed.** No nesting, but foraging birds occasionally visit the region (Cooper 2000).
Merlin *Falco columbarius*	Open country; breeds in the Holarctic Region and winters south to the tropics. Rare fall migrant and winter visitor to southernwestern California.	Fall and winter	Fed: --- State: CSC	**Observed.** Reported by Larry Schmahl (pers. comm.) and LSA (2005c).
Prairie falcon *Falco mexicanus*	Open country in much of North America.	Year-round	Fed: --- State: CSC (nesting)	**Low to Moderate.** Apparently unrecorded in the Puente Hills, but foraging birds may occasionally visit.
Burrowing owl *Athene cunicularia*	Open country in much of North and South America.	Year-round	Fed: --- State: CSC (burrow sites)	**Observed.** Recorded at Sycamore Canyon in 1999 and at Arroyo San Miguel in 2006 but probably only a rare visitor (Cooper 2000, Henderson pers. comm.. 2006).
Long-eared owl *Asio otus*	Scarce and local in forests and woodlands throughout much of the Northern Hemisphere.	Year-round	Fed: --- State: CSC (nesting)	**Low.** Apparently unrecorded in the Puente Hills, but occasional visitors are possible.
Short-eared owl *Asio flammeus*	Open country, usually with tall grass, in scattered regions around the Northern Hemisphere.	Fall through spring	Fed.: --- State: CSC (nesting)	**Low.** Apparently unrecorded in the Puente Hills, but occasional visitors are likely.
Costa's hummingbird *Calypte costae*	Primarily deserts, arid brushy foothills, and chaparral in the southwestern United States and northwestern Mexico.	Spring through fall.	Fed.: --- State: CSA (nesting)	**Observed.** Widespread; documented by Cooper (2000) and LSA (2000, 2005c).
Allen's hummingbird *Selasphorus sasin*	Chaparral, open oak woodland riparian woodland and residential areas on the breeding grounds from southwestern Oregon to southwestern California; primarily montane woodland on the wintering grounds in central Mexico.	Spring through fall.	Fed.: --- State: CSA (nesting)	**Observed.** Widespread; documented by Cooper (2000) and LSA (2000, 2005c).
Loggerhead shrike *Lanius ludovicianus*	Open country in much of North America, but declining in many areas, including southwestern California.	Year-round	Fed: --- State: CSC	**Observed.** Local; documented by Cooper (2000) and LSA (2000).
California horned lark *Eremophila alpestris actia*	Open grasslands and fields, agricultural areas from northern coastal California to northwestern Baja California.	Year-round	Fed: -- State: CSC	**Observed.** Documented by Cooper (2000) in the Whittier Hills (formerly) and south of Rowland Heights.

Species	Habitat and Distribution	Activity/Blooming Period	Status Designation[1]	Probability of Occurrence[2]
Oak titmouse *Baeolophus inornatus*	Primarily oak woodland from southern Oregon to southern Baja California Sur.	Year-round	Fed.: --- State: CSA	**Observed.** Still present in the Powder Canyon area but apparently extirpated elsewhere in the Puente Hills (Cooper 2000).
Coastal cactus wren *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*	The coastal population inhabits cactus scrub from southern Ventura County and southwestern San Bernardino County to northwestern Baja California.	Year-round	Fed.: ---- State: CSC	**Observed.** Documented by Cooper (2000), LSA (2000, 2005c), and TeraCor Resource Management (2002).
California thrasher *Toxostoma redivivum*	Primarily chaparral and riparian woodland from northern California to northwestern Baja California.	Year-round	Fed.: --- State: CSA	**Observed.** Widespread; documented by Cooper (2000) and LSA (2000, 2005c).
California yellow warbler *Dendroica petechia brewsteri*	Riparian woodland while nesting in the western U.S. and northwestern Baja California; more widespread in brushy areas and woodlands during migration and winter, when occurring from western Mexico to northern South America.	April−September	Fed.: --- State: CSC (nesting)	**Observed.** Birds observed by Cooper (2000) and LSA (2000, 2005c) but possibly not nesting.
Yellow-breasted chat *Icteria virens*	Nests in riparian situations across much of North America, but extirpated from many areas; winters in Central America.	April−August	Fed: --- State: CSC (nesting)	**Observed.** Local; documented by Cooper (2000) and LSA (2000, 2005c).
Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow *Aimophila ruficeps canescens*	Steep, rocky coastal sage scrub and open chaparral habitats, particularly scrubby areas mixed with grasslands. From Santa Barbara County to northwest Baja California.	Year-round	Fed.: -- State: CSC	**Observed.** Widespread; documented by Cooper (2000) and LSA (2000, 2005c).
Chipping sparrow *Spizella passerina*	Primarily open forests and woodlands, more widespread in winter; breeds throughout much of North America and winters from the southern United States to Central America.	Year-round	Fed.: --- State: CSA nesting	**Low.** Occurs in winter, but apparently does not nest in the Puente-Chino Hills (Cooper 2002, LSA 2005c).
Black-chinned sparrow *Spizella atrogularis*	Breeds in chaparral, sagebrush, and arid scrub in the southwestern U.S. and northwestern Mexico and winters primarily in Mexico.	March through August	Fed.: --- State: CSA nesting	**Observed.** Documented by Cooper (2002).
Lark Sparrow *Chondestes grammacus*	Open situations with scattered bushes or trees. Breeds throughout much of western North America and winters from the southern United States to southern Mexico.	Year-round	Fed: --- State: CSA	**Observed.** Documented by Cooper (2000), but only in areas east of the Whittier Hills. Non-breeding birds were recorded by LSA (2005c).
Bell's sage sparrow *Amphispiza belli belli*	Occupies chaparral and coastal sage scrub from west central California to northwestern Baja California.	Year-round	Fed.: --- State: CSC	**Low.** Apparently does not reside in the Puente-Chino Hills (Cooper 2000, 2005c).
Tricolored blackbird *Agelaius tricolor*	Open country in western Oregon, California, and northwestern Baja California.	Year-round	Fed.: -- State: CSC (nesting)	**Moderate-High.** Known to nest in Tonner Canyon and may do so occasionally in the Puente Hills (Cooper 2000).

Species	Habitat and Distribution	Activity/Blooming Period	Status Designation[1]	Probability of Occurrence[2]
Lawrence's goldfinch *Carduelis lawrencei*	Oak woodland chaparral, riparian woodland and other habitats in arid regions, but usually near water; from northern California to northern Baja California, but periodically wandering throughout much of western North America.	Primarily spring and summer.	Fed.: --- State: CSA (nesting)	**Observed.** Apparently very scarce in the Puente Hills under normal circumstances (Cooper 2000, LSA 2005c).
MAMMALS				
Yuma myotis *Myotis yumanensis*	Varied habitats in western North America.	Warmer months	Fed.: -- State: CSA	**Observed.** Documented by Remmington (2006).
Western small-footed myotis *Myotis ciliolabrum*	Varied habitats throughout much of North America.	Warmer months	Fed.: -- State: CSA	**Moderate.** Habitat probably suitable.
Western red bat *Lasiurus blossevillii*	Forages over a wide range of habitats, but generally roosts in woodlands and forests. Ranges from southwestern Canada through the western United States and Middle America to South America.	Year-round; primarily warmer months	Fed.: --- State: CSA	**Observed.** Documented by Remmington (2006).
Western yellow bat *Lasiurus xanthinus*	Varied habitats, but usually near water; often associated with palm trees. Southwestern United States to southern Mexico.	Year-round; primarily warmer months	Fed.: --- State: CSA	**Observed.** Documented by Remmington (2006).
Hoary bat *Lasiurus cinereus*	Widespread in North America (and Hawaii), with habits similar to the western red bat.	Primarily winter months	Fed.: --- State: CSA	**Observed.** Documented by Remmington (2006).
Pallid bat *Antrozous pallidus*	Varied habitats in western North America.	Warmer months	Fed.: -- State: CSC	**Observed.** Documented by Remmington (2006).
Pocketed free-tailed bat *Nyctinomops femorosaccus*	Varied habitats but usually associated with high cliffs or rocky areas; southwestern North America.	Warmer months	Fed.: --- State: CSC	**Observed.** Documented by Remmington (2006).
Western mastiff bat *Eumops perotis*	Ranged historically throughout much of the southwestern United States and northwestern Mexico. In California, most records are from rocky areas at low elevations where roosting occurs primarily in crevices.	Warmer months	Fed.: -- State: CSC	**Observed.** Documented by Remmington (2006).
San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit *Lepus californicus bennettii*	Open country of coastal southern California and northern Baja California.	Year-round	Fed.: -- State: CSC	**Moderate.** Two reports identify suitable habitat and a potential for this species to occur within the vicinity of the Preserve. However, this species is now rare and local in the area.

Species	Habitat and Distribution	Activity/Blooming Period	Status Designation[1]	Probability of Occurrence[2]
Northwestern San Diego pocket mouse *Perognathus fallax fallax*	Open habitat on the Pacific slope from southwestern San Bernardino County to northwestern Baja California.	Year-round	Fed: -- State: CSC	**Low.** May be restricted to areas from the Chino Hills south and east. However, two reports identify suitable habitat for this species in the vicinity of the Preserve.
Southern grasshopper mouse *Onychomys torridus ramona*	Primarily scrub habitats of southwestern California and northwestern Baja California.	Year-round	Fed.: -- State: CSC	**Low.** Two reports identify suitable habitat and a potential for this species to occur within the vicinity of the Preserve, but the species is now extremely rare in southwestern California.
San Diego desert woodrat *Neotoma lepida intermedia*	Frequents poorly vegetated arid lands and is especially associated with cactus patches. Occurs along the Pacific slope from about San Luis Obispo County to northwest. Baja California.	Year-round	Fed.: -- State: CSC	**Observed.** Documented by LSA (2003c)**.**
Ringtail *Bassariscus astutus*	Woody and rocky areas of the southwestern U.S. and most of Mexico.	Year-round	Fed.: -- State: CFP	**Low.** Not found during mammal movement studies; may no longer be present in the Puente Hills.
American badger *Taxidea taxus*	Occurs throughout much of North America. Primary habitat requirements seem to be sufficient food and friable soils in relatively open uncultivated ground in grasslands, woodlands, and desert.	Year-round	Fed.: -- State: CSA	**Observed.** One found dead on Colima Road in 2006.

Legend: Status Designation

FEDERAL STATUS

FE	Federally listed as Endangered.
FT	Federally listed as Threatened.
PE	Federally proposed as Endangered.
PT	Federally proposed as Threatened.

Note: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has recently revised its classification system for candidate taxa (species, subspecies, and other taxonomic designations), as described below.

C	Certain species formerly designated as "Category 1" (C1) and a few "Category 2" (C2) candidates for federal listing are now known as "Candidate." Refers to taxa for which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has sufficient information available to support a proposal to list as Endangered or Threatened. Issuance of the proposal(s) is anticipated, but precluded at this time.
**	Species formerly designated as "Category 1" (C1) or "Category 2" (C2) candidates for federal listing; not designated presently as "Candidate" species, these C1 and C2 designations have been discontinued by the USFWS. The State now refers to these taxa as "Species of Concern."
C3a	Species considered to be extinct.
C3b	Former federal candidate for listing as Endangered or Threatened, but which is not believed by the Service to represent a distinct taxa meeting the Endangered Species Act's definition of a "species." Species taxonomically invalid.
C3c	Former federal candidate for listing as Endangered or Threatened, but which has been determined by the Service to be too widespread and/or not threatened at this time.

STATE STATUS

CE	State listed as Endangered.
CT	State listed as Threatened.
CR	State listed as Rare.
CFP	California Fully Protected. Species legally protected under special legislation enacted prior to the California Endangered Species Act.
CCE	State candidate for listing as Endangered.
CCT	State candidate for listing as Threatened.
CSC	California Species of Special Concern. These are taxa with pops. declining seriously or otherwise highly vulnerable to human developments.
CSA	Species included on the California Department of Fish and Game's list of "Special Animals" of California. No specific designation assigned.

APPENDIX D

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

APPENDIX D

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

This Mitigation and Monitoring Reporting Program (MMRP) has been formulated based upon the findings of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) prepared for the Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) Resource Management Plan (RMP). The MMRP lists mitigation measures recommended in the IS/MND for the proposed project and identifies mitigation monitoring requirements. This MMRP has been prepared to comply with the requirements of State law (Public Resources Code Section 21081.6). State law requires the adoption of an MMRP when mitigation measures are required to avoid significant impacts. The MMRP is intended to ensure compliance during implementation of the project. Responsibility for ensuring successful implementation of the MMRP lies with the Habitat Authority, representing the Lead Agency for the project under CEQA.

Environmental monitoring will be required during implementation of the RMP. Prior to, and during construction, mitigation monitoring shall minimize potential impacts to environmental resources. Monitoring is also necessary to ensure and verify implementation of the mitigation measures prescribed in the IS/MND. Compliance with mitigation measures can be documented in the project file through written reports, accompanied by project photos where necessary. Post construction monitoring of revegetation and other plan projects can be documented by yearly reports, on a schedule determined by the RMP. Depending on the complexity of the post construction mitigation effort, tasks will be carried out by Habitat Authority staff or technical experts under contract to the Habitat Authority. Post construction monitoring is typically conducted for three to five years, depending on permit requirements and success criteria.

The MMRP is organized in a matrix. The first column identifies the mitigation measure. Included with each mitigation measure is a short summary of the specific action needed to fulfill the mitigation measure as well as the milestone date and the agency/agencies responsible for mitigation monitoring.

Mitigation Measures	Specific Action	Mitigation Milestone	Responsible Monitoring Party
III. AIR QUALITY			
Mitigation Measure AIR-1: Contractor shall comply with SCAQD Rule 403 as follows: • Moisten soil and debris not more than 15 minutes prior to excavation or movement. • Apply environmentally safe chemical stabilizers to disturbed areas (*i.e.*, graded areas or areas subject to erosion from wind or water) within 5 days of completing grading or apply dust suppressants or vegetation sufficient to maintain a stabilized surface. • Water exposed surface areas at least twice a day under calm conditions or as often as needed on windy days or during dry weather in order to maintain a surface crust and prevent the release of visual emission of dust from the construction site. • Cease grading operations when wind speeds exceed 25 miles per hour if dust is being generated and cannot be controlled by watering alone. • Provide street sweeping, as needed, on adjacent roadways to remove dirt, mud, and/or debris dropped from construction vehicles entering or leaving the project site. • Maintain a minimum of 2 feet of freeboard capacity on all trucks hauling dirt, debris, and/or construction materials to and from the construction site. • Mobile heavy equipment (*e.g.*, bulldozers, haul trucks) on unpaved surfaces shall be limited to an on-site speed that avoids fugitive dust impacts off site.	Comply with SCAQMD Rule 403	During construction activities	Habitat Authority
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES			
Mitigation Measure BIO-1: Prior to construction of any new trailheads, trails, or other facilities, an assessment of potential specific effects on candidate, sensitive or special status species shall be performed in consultation with applicable resource agencies. If there are any potential	Consult with applicable resource agencies and obtain appropriate authorizations, as	Prior to construction activities	Habitat Authority

Mitigation Measures	Specific Action	Mitigation Milestone	Responsible Monitoring Party
impacts to special status species, appropriate authorizations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer, California Department of the Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service shall be obtained. It is expected that any such impacts will be relatively minor, and any mitigation required by the agencies can be accomplished through enhancement of existing resources within the Preserve.	needed.		
Mitigation Measure BIO-2: Prior to construction of any new trailheads, trails, or other facilities, a jurisdictional determination shall be performed, and if there are any impacts to jurisdictional waters, appropriate authorizations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer, California Department of the Fish and Game and Regional Water Quality Control Board shall be obtained. It is expected that any such impacts will be relatively minor, and any mitigation required by the agencies can be accomplished through enhancement of existing resources within the Preserve.	Perform a jurisdictional determination and obtain appropriate authorizations, as needed.	Prior to construction activities	Habitat Authority
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES			
Mitigation Measure CULT-1: If the Habitat Authority finds it necessary to alter any of the qualities of the historic Whittier Oil Field (19-003341), such as the roads, well pads, or markers, that make it eligible, for the California Register, the Habitat Authority shall retain a qualified historian to document the resource prior to any grading activities within the oilfield. This documentation should include but is not limited to additional research, detailed mapping, HAER level photo documentation, and possible interviews with persons knowledgeable as to the workings of the historic oil field.	Retain a qualified historian to document the historic Whittier Oil Field site.	Prior to construction activities	Habitat Authority
Mitigation Measure CULT-2: During construction activities, a qualified archaeologist shall be consulted if additional unknown historical or archaeological resources are discovered during improvements or routine maintenance within the Preserve. The archaeologist shall evaluate the find pursuant to the CEQA guidelines and make recommendations for its treatment.	Consult a qualified archaeologist if additional unknown resources are discovered	During construction activities	Habitat Authority
Mitigation Measure CULT-3: Should sensitive areas that are currently obscured by vegetation be cleared, a cultural resources survey shall be performed immediately after, or as close to that time as possible, when	Conduct a cultural resources survey	Prior to construction activities	Habitat Authority

Mitigation Measures	Specific Action	Mitigation Milestone	Responsible Monitoring Party
ground visibility would be at it's highest.			
Mitigation Measure CULT-4: If any paleontological resources are encountered during ground-disturbing activities in the project area, activities in the immediate area of the find shall be halted and the discovery assessed. The Habitat Authority shall contact a qualified paleontologist to recommend appropriate mitigation measures pursuant to guidelines developed by the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology (SVP) and a standard Paleontological Resource Impact Mitigation Program (PRIMP) for treatment of the resources will be developed and followed.	Consult a qualified paleontologist if paleontological resources are encountered	During construction activities	Habitat Authority
Mitigation Measure CULT-5: If human remains are encountered, work within 25 feet of the discovery shall be redirected and the County Coroner notified immediately. At the same time, an archaeologist shall be contacted to evaluate the situation. Project personnel shall not collect or move any human remains and/or associated materials. If the human remains are of Native American origin, the Coroner must notify the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours of identification. The Native American Heritage Commission will identify a Native American Most Likely Descendent (MLD) to inspect the site and provide recommendations for the proper treatment of the remains and associated grave goods. Upon completion of the evaluation, a report shall be prepared documenting the methods and results, as well as recommendations for treatment of human remains and any associated cultural materials, as appropriate and in coordination with the recommendations of the MLD. The report shall be submitted to the Habitat Authority, local agency with jurisdiction over the project and the South Central Coastal Information Center, as required by law.	Adhere to statutory requirements for handling the discovery of human remains.	During construction activities	Habitat Authority
IV. GEOLOGY AND SOILS			
Mitigation Measure GEO-1: Prior to approval of the plans for specific facilities, as needed and where appropriate, a geotechnical study shall be completed by an engineering geologist or equivalent to evaluate surface soil conditions. This report shall include slope geometrics, performance of a geotechnical review of final design documents, and provision of oversight by a geotechnical engineer during construction (as appropriate). The contractor shall incorporate the recommendations of the geotechnical	Conduct a geotechnical study	Prior to construction activities	Habitat Authority

Mitigation Measures	Specific Action	Mitigation Milestone	Responsible Monitoring Party
study into the design for all structures/trails proposed at the site.			
VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY			
Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1: Prior to initiation of any grading associated with development projects and maintenance activities, as identified in the RMP, the contractor or Habitat Authority shall identify the appropriate erosion control measures that shall be incorporated into the design plans for the proposed improvement or maintenance activity. Appropriate measures set forth in the Municipal Codes for the County of Los Angeles, (Chapter 12.80), City of Whittier (Chapter 8.36) and City of La Habra Heights (Chapter 4.16)	Identify and incorporate appropriate erosion control measures	Prior to construction activities	Habitat Authority
Mitigation Measure HYDRO-2: Prior to any grading associated with Development projects and maintenance activities, as identified in the RMP, the contractor or Habitat Authority shall submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) to the State Water Resources Board. A storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) shall be developed for implementation to control erosion and sedimentation and protect water quality, both during and after construction. Such a plan shall include: o Specific and detailed Best Management Practices (BMPs) designed to mitigate construction-related pollutants and reduce erosion of exposed soil. Specific and detailed BMPs included in the SWPPP shall include practices to minimize the contact of construction materials, equipment, and maintenance supplies (e.g., fuels, lubricants, paints, solvents, adhesives) with storm water. The SWPPP shall specify properly designed centralized storage areas that keep these materials out of the rain. Soils and dust stabilization control measures will be implemented to reduce soil erosion and control dust. If feasible, grading should not be performed during the rainy season. If grading must be conducted during the rainy season, the primary BMPs selected shall focus on erosion control to keep sediment on site. o A construction site supervisor, contract manager, contract inspector or another appropriate individual shall be assigned specific responsibility for ensuring BMPs and other conditions are met and monitor results	Submit a Notice of Intent to the State Water Resources Board Develop and implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)	Prior to construction activities Prior to and during construction activities	Habitat Authority Habitat Authority

Mitigation Measures	Specific Action	Mitigation Milestone	Responsible Monitoring Party
as needed and required. Documentation of the filing of the NOI and acceptance of the SWPPP from the SWRB shall be provided to the Habitat Authority prior to initiation of grading activities.			
XI. NOISE			
Mitigation Measure NOISE-1: The Habitat Authority shall consider potential noise impacts to adjacent land uses when determining the appropriate location for future trailhead facilities at Turnbull and Worsham Canyons. Such facilities shall be sited to ensure that potential ambient noise associated with recreation use of the Preserve is minimize to the greatest extent feasible and to meet local noise standards. Consideration of the placement of restrooms, interpretive facilities or other noise generating uses away from existing residences would be one consideration during final design. Future trailhead designs shall be reviewed and approved by the Habitat Authority.	Site trailhead facilities to minimize noise impacts to adjacent land uses	Prior to construction activities	Habitat Authority
XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC			
Mitigation Measure TRAFFIC-1: All future trail head facilities shall be designed to accommodate emergency and fire suppression vehicles requirements such that adequate area is provided for police and fire access during emergencies. Future trailhead designs shall be reviewed and approved by the Habitat Authority.	Design trailhead facilities to accommodate emergency and fire suppression vehicles	Prior to construction activities	Habitat Authority

APPENDIX E

PUBLIC REVIEW COMMENTS

Charro ~ Equestrian Joint Council
Avocado Heights ~ Bassett ~ La Puente ~ Pellissier Village ~ Pico Rivera ~ South El Monte ~ El Monte
Box 90094, City of Industry, CA 91715-0094

June 7, 2007

Andrea Gullo
Executive Director
Puente Hills Landfill
Native Habitat Preservation Authority
7702 Washington Avenue, Suite C
Whittier, CA 90602

Dear Ms. Gullo

SUBJECT: DRAFT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Overview

The primary concern of the Charro ~ Equestrian Joint Council (CEJC) is effective access to the Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority (NHPA) area and available trails for all the hikers, bicyclists and equestrians who are currently using the area. The Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) and the public presentation made at the May 15, 2007, Public Meeting regarding trails in the area and accesses to the trails was very restrictive. Further, public discussion identified that the Board had been purposely vague regarding the true specifics of the plan for the trails and accesses. The Chairman of the Board, Whittier Councilman Bob Henderson, admitted at the public meeting that the board did not want the trails and accesses clearly identified. Essentially, this approach has violated the Board's legal responsibility to hold an open forum regarding the RMP. The CEJC insists that the comment period be extended in order to revisit the issue of available access and trails with all the current users of the area.

An open forum will include clear identification of all current accesses and trails on an area map. Each of the accesses and trails should be lettered and numbered as appropriate for discussion purposes. This information should be presented during another public meeting and also be made available on line. After presentation to the public, a follow up meeting, at least two weeks later, should be held to allow a viable discussion with all the users.

The NHPA must recognize that their mandate is to preserve the open space for natural habitat, wild life and use by the populace. The RMP should be all inclusive of these goals. We recognize that public access brings with it all the potential problems created by people. However, the ultimate goal of this RMP should be the education of the populace toward their acceptance of ownership responsibility of the natural preserve which has been saved for them as part of our heritage.

This preserve should not be a cloistered museum with one freeway-like trail through the center. The trails should be maintained in their current arrangement and enhanced in the future. All current accesses should be maintained and more accesses around the perimeter of the preserve should be developed.

Accesses

All accesses should remain open and more should be developed around the perimeter of the preserve. All accesses should have some parking available. As many accesses as possible should have sufficient room to accommodate horse trailers. All accesses should have restrooms, drinking fountains, watering troughs and hitching posts.

Multiple accesses around the full perimeter of the preserve are important to maintain the full value of the preserve. Small groups entering and leaving from many points will give the area the appropriate wilderness feeling. Limited accesses to the preserve will require large parking areas and will serve to cause unacceptable freeway-like congestion at the few access points. Limiting access points and the difficulties that will cause will also serve to artificially restrict use of the preserve which is unacceptable.

Trails

All the historically used trails throughout the area should be maintained. Many trails of various sizes will preserve the wild nature of the area for the users. Eliminating trails will only serve to create unacceptable congestion on the remaining trails and *detract from* the natural experience which the preserve is meant to promote.

All trails should be further developed for the purpose of effective year around use. Trails should be surfaced with Decomposed Granite to resist erosion. Trails should have the surfaces enhanced through an on-going process but should remain at the general width they currently have. This strategy again will enhance the natural feel of the area for the broad spectrum of users.

Where a trail crosses a "Blue Line Stream" or a seasonal water course, a simple steel and timber bridge must be placed at the crossing to eliminate erosion and degradation of water quality in the run off from the preserve. A long term plan to replace the bridges in the future with bridges made of river rock or other local natural materials would enhance the wilderness experience of the area.

Rest areas should be placed at various locations along the trails with restrooms, drinking fountains, watering troughs, hitching posts, seating areas and shade. These areas should have appropriate informational signage designed to educate and encourage acceptance of ownership by the visitors. Wildlife watering sites should be enhanced or created as necessary away from those rest areas on the trails. Creating dedicated wildlife watering sites will help to keep the visitors on the trails safe from confrontations with wildlife.

Conclusion

The Comment Period for the RMP must be extended to allow meaningful discussion regarding accesses and trails with all the users. The CEJC is especially concerned about this issue because the area has been historically equestrian in nature *since the days* of the

Californio Ranchos. We wish to remind the Board that the preserve is surrounded by County Equestrian Districts and horse keeping facilities whose riders utilize the trails in the preserve on a daily basis.

Also of importance is that the trails throughout the preserve are part of the greater trail system in our area which is being enhanced by the County and the Emerald Necklace Coalition. The RMP must recognize this and enhance the trails experience in the preserve at the same time.

The CEJC looks forward to a successful partnership with the Board to develop and enhance the preserve for the greater good of all.

Very truly yours,

Don C. Moss
Secretary
Charro ~ Equestrian Joint Council

c: Fax
Gloria Molina, First District Supervisor
Don Knabe, Fourth District Supervisor

Duncan McKee
738 S. 3rd Avenue
Avocado Heights, Ca. 91746
Tele. (626) 330-5123

6/3/07
Andrea Gullo
Puente Hills Landfill Native
Habitat Preservation Authority
7702 Washington Avenue, Suite C
Whittier. CA 90602

Dear Andrea Gullo:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority Resource Management Plan and the MND, on behalf of the communities of Avocado Heights, Bassett, unincorporated La Puente and North Whittier. We request that this letter be admissible in any and all potential future proceedings, including court. LSA Associates, Inc. has done an excellent job in creating these documents and making them available to us. We are extremely grateful to the Habitat Authority for their monumental accomplishment in such a relatively short period of time against such great obstacles. The plan and supporting documents are so well written that those responsible must be commended. We do have several concerns about the priorities and the seemly negative stance when it comes to bicyclists and equestrian use of the trails. In addition, we are certain that some areas may require limiting access to protect sensitive areas but; it seems to us that 23 miles of existing trails that are used by hikers, bikers and equestrians, is a bit excessive. We hope that Sycamore Canyon is not one of the trails that that is going to be closed from public access. We are also very concerned about the lack of a readable map indicating specific areas and trails that are proposed for limited access. This inhibited our ability to more specifically comment.

I have personally hiked the habitat from the Rio Hondo area to Rowland Heights for over 40 years. To suddenly hear that you are considering "limiting public access" is of great concern to us. Although we trust the Habitat Authority to do the right thing and that they know what is best for the long-term sustainability of the habitat, we must express that we are in favor of increasing trails for low impact public enjoyment and we urge the Habitat Authority to be certain that we move forward instead of backwards. My educational background and many years of experience in the commercial production of draught tolerant plant material for Mediterranean climates has shown me the durability of many of the species documented in the area. High priority should be given to the removal of invasive non-native species. Thank again for all the hard work and excellent things that you are doing.

Sincerely

Duncan McKee

RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY

Governing Board of the Conservancy

Dan Arrighi, Chair
Central Basin Water Association

Linda Adams
Secretary
California Environmental Protection Agency

Denis Bertone
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

Mike Chrisman
Secretary for Resources
Resources Agency

David De Jesus
San Gabriel Valley Water Association

Michael C. Genest
Director
Department of Finance

Dean Grose
Orange County Division of the League of California Cities

Enid Joffe
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

Gloria Molina
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

Patrick O'Donnell
City of Long Beach

Ed Wilson
Gateway Cities Council of Governments

Vacant
Orange County Division of the League of California Cities

Vacant
Environmental Public Member

Ex Officio Members

Ruth Coleman
Director
Department of Parks and Recreation

John Donnelly
Executive Director
Wildlife Conservation Board

Alex Dornstauder
District Engineer, Los Angeles District
US Army Corps of Engineers

Bryan Speegle
Orange County Executive Office

Thomas M. Stetson
San Gabriel River Water Master

Bernie Weingardt
Angeles National Forest
US Forest Service

Donald Wolfe
LA County Public Works

Executive Officer
Belinda Faustinos

June 1, 2007

Andrea Gullo
Executive Director
Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority
7702 Washington Ave, Suite C
Whittier, CA 90602

Re: Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority Draft Resource Management Plan Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

Dear Ms. Gullo:

The Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) is grateful for the opportunity to provide comments on the Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority Draft Resource Management Plan Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration. The San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, or Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) was established as an independent State agency within the Resources Agency of the State of California to preserve urban open space and habitats in order to provide for low-impact recreation and educational uses, wildlife and habitat restoration and protection, and watershed improvements.

The RMC recommends adoption of the Draft Resource Management Plan Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration by the Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority). The RMC has reviewed the Draft Resource Management Plan and has the following comments: The Resource Management Plan is comprehensive and will be a useful tool in the management of the Habitat Authority's lands. The goals and objectives are far ranging and allow for appropriate access and use of the preserve by the community. The Resource Management Plan also supports the biological and cultural resources by enlarging, protecting and strengthening of these resources through implementation of the full set of goals and objectives. The Public Use Element goals and objectives are very worthy of implementation and in their current configuration allow for protection of the most sensitive of biological resources while taking into account the safety and education of the community, we strongly support these elements of the Draft Resource Management Plan Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration.

900 S. Fremont Ave., Annex, 2nd Floor • P.O. Box 1460 • Alhambra, CA 91802-1460
Phone: (626) 458-4315 • Fax: (626) 979-5363 • E-mail: bfaustinos@rmc.ca.gov
www.rmc.ca.gov

The RMC supports the goals and objectives of the plan. We look forward to seeing the adoption and implementation of the Habitat Authority's Resource Management Plan exemplifying healthy watershed planning and sustainability. Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions on these comments.

Sincerely,

Belinda V. Faustinos

Belinda V. Faustinos
Executive Officer

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Pacific West Region
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700
Oakland, California 94607- 4807

IN REPLY REFER TO:

June 7, 2007

Bob Henderson, Chair
Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority
7702 Washington Avenue, Suite C
Whittier, CA 90602

Dear Mr. Henderson:

The National Park Service (NPS) congratulates the Habitat Authority on the completion of a draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preserve. Over the last 20 years, 3,860 acres of southern California's unique coastal sage scrub, grasslands, oak and walnut woodlands have been conserved through this ongoing collaboration between the City of Whittier, County of Los Angeles, its Sanitation Districts and the Hacienda Heights Improvement Association. Your success in achieving land acquisition goals is commendable. Building upon the understanding of these resources, developing stewardship and engagement programs are important ancillary roles that are presently undertaken by the Habitat Authority. These efforts will help sustain your achievements in the community, over time.

The RMP addresses natural, cultural and recreational resources, and management goals and objectives for the Preserve's future. The RMP describes the challenges that you face in the immediate and distant future. The work you are doing is very important, fulfilling a need to protect and restore the natural resources and open space in southeast Los Angeles County.

NPS is privileged to have provided assistance to your effort by conducting a trail assessment process through the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, with members of the Citizens Technical Advisory Committee, your consulting team at LSA and staff. As now proposed, the RMP would authorize 30 miles of recreational trails over a network of pre-existing roads and access easements, augmenting the 17- mile Schabarum Trail, a regional link in the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. The additional trail mileage will provide much needed recreational access and enjoyment to residents of and visitors to the region. NPS appreciates your dedication in building upon the local network of parks, places, and open spaces that enhance the protection and understanding of America's heritage and resources, and provide close- to- home recreational opportunities for the community.

Sincerely,

Jim Donovan, A.I.C.P.
Community Planner

WILDLIFE CORRIDOR CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

407 W. IMPERIAL HWY. SUITE H. PMB 230. BREA, CALIFORNIA 92821
TELEPHONE: (310) 589-3230
FAX: (310) 589-2408

BOB HENDERSON
CHAIR
CITY OF WHITTIER

GLENN PARKER
VICE-CHAIR
PUBLIC MEMBER
ORANGE COUNTY

JOHN BEAUMAN
CITY OF BREA

HOWARD VIPPERMAN
CITY OF LA HABRA HEIGHTS

JACK TANAKA
CITY OF DIAMOND BAR

GARY WATTS
CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

MICHAEL HUGHES
PUBLIC MEMBER
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

ELIZABETH CHEADLE
SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS
CONSERVANCY

DICKIE SIMMONS
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

May 29, 2007

Andrea Gullo, Executive Director
Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority
7702 Washington Avenue, Suite C
Whittier, California 90602

Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority Draft Resource Management Plan Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declaration

Dear Ms. Gullo

The Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority (WCCA) was established to provide for the proper planning, conservation, environmental protection, and maintenance of the habitat and wildlife corridor between the Whittier-Puente Hills and the Cleveland National Forest in the Santa Ana Mountains. WCCA recommends adoption of the subject Resource Management Plan and Mitigated Negative Declaration by the Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority). It appears that the Resource Management Plan is quite comprehensive and will be useful in guiding the management of the Habitat Authority's lands. WCCA supports the goals and objectives of the plan. For example, WCCA supports goals such as Goal BIO-1, to acquire remaining open space that strengthens the ecological functioning of the Preserve and Goal BIO-4, to enhance and restore degraded habitats in the Preserve. Also, objectives such as Objective BIO-2.1, to prepare a Wildfire Management Plan, are worthy of implementation.

Please keep us informed of relevant management activities in the Preserve. If you have any questions, please contact Juci Tamasi of our staff at the above address, or by phone at (310) 589-3200, ext. 121.

Sincerely,

Glenn Parker
Acting Chairperson

May 16, 2007

To: Andrea Gullo
PHLNHPA

From: Stephen Blagden
2118 Citron Rd
La Habra Heights

By: Postal mail and email

Re: Comments to draft Resource Management Plan

Ms. Gullo,

In Section 1.4.2, where brief histories of communities are described, one of La Habra Heights would be appropriate.

In Section 5.3.1, Bio Goal 1.3, "compliment" should be "complement".

Section 6.4.3 proposes a Visitor Center. Given limited current and future funds, that money could be put to better use acquiring property, or enhancing the endowment. Wherever it would go would also likely degrade the area.
Please describe how the Mission, described in Section 1.2.2, has been fulfilled, leaving leftover funds that will finance a Visitor Center, or what outside targeted funds have been identified to build, staff and maintain the Visitor Center for an extended period of time.

Section 6.6.2 calls for possible closure of trails during the rainy season to prevent erosion.
Closure of trails during periods of extreme fire danger should also be required in the Plan, specifying who makes that determination and, possibly, what factors are used.
Most fires are caused by careless people. A fire in the Preserve not only harms plants and animals, it also generates negative publicity that points to the Preserve itself as an alleged danger.

Section 6.7 states that after funding ends in 2013, projects, activities, and/or programs will be limited, and minimum access and provisions for safety will be served.
Cutting back on some projects, activities, and/or programs now will provide more funding for the future.

On Page 269 in the Appendix, at the Arroyo Pescadero section, it should say "La Habra Heights" in place of "La Habra".

Other Areas of Need

1. Since it is primarily an electronic document, it would be useful, helpful, and fulfilling of the educational goal for the Plan to have pictures of the plants and animals mentioned in the Plan, or as many as practicable.

2. Signs and other manmade features should be minimized to prevent graffiti targets and associated maintenance costs.

3. The Habitat Authority owns several houses that came with purchased property that the Plan needs to address. Financial and mission analysis should be done to see whether it is better to sell the houses with strict, clear, and redundant restrictions and conservation easements and use the proceeds to buy more property; remove all structures to reduce long term operating costs and remove edge effects; or rent the houses to staff or others at amounts that provide for short and long term maintenance, and management costs. with strict and clear restrictions on use that minimize habitat impacts. If the rental, in fee or in kind, option is chosen, at some point, the structure will not be financially viable. The Plan should address what happens at that time. Will a demolition fund be established? Will the house have to be sold? Will conservation and use restrictions be in place for those outcomes?

4. The Plan needs a Finance Section. There is a lot to do. Many projects, activities, and/or programs are mentioned along with the need for additional acquisitions. All are competing for limited funds. There is a method of prioritizing acquisitions, but no hierarchy of overall spending goals.

What is the proposed budget?
How is funding currently and proposed to be allocated?

Payroll and fixed costs are a limiting factor on the mission. How does the Plan propose to minimize those to achieve the greater goals?

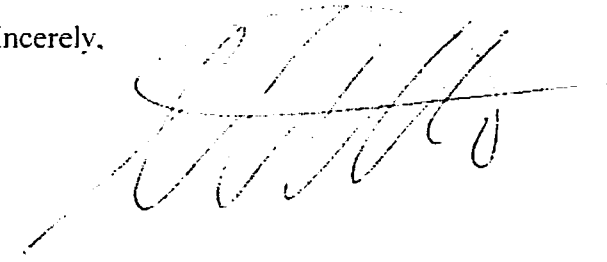
Lacking specific outside targeted grants, it is better, and in keeping with the Habitat Authority's stated mission, to buy land and leave restoration for later.
Once land is lost to development it is essentially lost forever. However, if land is purchased, there is always hope for future restoration funding.

Only when a proposed Budget is produced, will decision makers and the Public be able to make informed comments.

5. Section 6.7 states that after 2013 all assets will be transferred to an appropriate public agency. The media regularly report of parkland to be used for roads, active recreation, low-income housing, utilities, traded, sold, or other uses likely unintended by the founders.

What steps, legal or otherwise, have been, or will be, taken to preserve, protect and encumber the Preserve against future threats or desires to convert the land to other uses?
Is there a separate legal endowment, which will grow each year, to defend against and deter those threats? Please explain. A separate legal endowment eliminates conflicting choices of one large endowment, such as, "should we defend against this threat or maintain the trails?" Of course, a developer could have a tactic to burn through the fund and leave the land helpless.

Sincerely,



Andrea Gullo

From: DSings4Joy@aol.com

Sent: Sunday, May 13, 2007 10:57 AM

To: agullo@habitatauthority.org; DSings4Joy@aol.com; virginia4ten@juno.com; Codymontana422@msn.com; GogetthemSassy@aol.com; surftaxi@msn.com; hmaggio@magcodrilling.com; TwinkCK13@aol.com; maujds@earthlink.net

Subject: La Habra Heights Trail Closures

Dear Ms. Gullo,

I am unable to attend the meetings this Tuesday and Wednesday evenings concerning the 4,000 acres which is owned by the Native Habitat Authority. I am deeply concerned about possible trail closures in this area. All established trails should remain open to equestrians and hikers alike. A bridge could be built over any blue line stream in the area at a relatively low cost, minimizing impact to the environment.

As an equestrian living in Los Angeles County, I sincerely appreciate the few places that we have left to ride. Equestrians have a deep love of the outdoors and treasure every moment of our recreational opportunities with our equine companions. It *is* possible fo wildlife and recreational opportunities to coexist. I am not in favor of the extreme movement to close trails to hikers and equestrians under the misconception that wildlife will not flourish unless such trail closures occur. Open spaces in which to recreate are vital to "recharging our batteries" in our crowded urban/suburban fast-paced lives.

Darlene McGrady
California State Horsemen's Assoc.
President - Region 7 - Los Angeles County

See what's free at AOL.com.

To: Andrea Gullo, Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority

Re: Mitigated Negative Declaration

Date: June 5, 2007

We want to express our opposition to part of the resource management plan. We agree with the report that the Preserve needs to be managed in a way that protects plant and animal species. However, we disagree with closing miles of trails. The trails are enjoyed by pedestrians, cyclists, and equestrians. Having many miles of trails speaks to the versatility of the Preserve. Do not limit the public's access to a couple of miles of trails. If certain trails are closed, we recommend that the Board opens an equal amount. Seeing the hills at a distance is a waste of land use.

Be advised, that we formally petition the right to appeal the board's decision, if necessary, before any judicial proceedings. Thank you.

Guillermo Jimenez & Blanca A. Aranda
13737 Starhill Lane,
Avocado Heights, CA 91746

Petition Against
Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority
Management Plan

We want to express our opposition to part of the resource management plan that closes miles of trails for public use. As equestrians, pedestrians, and cyclist, we view this action as a curtailing of our right to recreate in nature. Horses, people, and bikes travel upon defined trails, fire roads, and the like. We believe that there are ample opportunities and conditions for animal and plant life to flourish.

We petition the right to appeal the Board's decision and authorize this petition to be used as testimony.

Name	Address	Phone Number
1. ERNEST A. PRIETO JR.	1824 PARKWAY DR. SO. EL MONTE CA. 91733	626 7125136
2. Fernando E. Valliviesso	13776 STARHILL AVOCADO HTS. 91746	626 333-3217
3. Guillermo Jimenez	13737 starhill Ln. Avocado Heights, CA 91746	626 330-0691
4. Blanca A. Aranda	"	"
5. [illegible] Casillas	1060 E Hill St Long Beach CA, 90806	(562) 591-1289
6. Fernando Valliviesso	13776 Starhill Lane La Puente CA, 91746	626 252 9460
7. LUIS RENDON	SO EL MONTE CA 91733	(626)422-9272
8. Claudia Hill	SO. El Monte, CA 91733	626-448-0946
9. Maria J. DelaTorre	1817 Parkway, El Monte, CA.	626-688-5640
10. JAMES PLACENCIA	11539 THINES SO. EL MONTE	626-579-1440 91733
11. Beverly Watson	898 3rd Ave La Puente, CA	91746
12. Celia DAVID PENA	802 S. 3rd Ave LA PUENTE CA	91746
13. JOHN R. STITES	804 S. 3RD AVE AVOCADO HEIGHTS	91746
14. ROBIN M. STITES	804 S. 3RD AVE AVOCADO HTS	91746

Andrea,
I am e-mailing these letters to you and also sending them snail-mail.
The e-mail does NOT have a copy of the map, so you'll have to wait for the mail to arrive to follow one of the letters.

Wynn Harter
(626) 333-7088

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• TRUCK HARDWARE AND ACCESSORIES •
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TELEPHONE (213) 749-5095 • FAX (213) 749-2859
www.pmtw.com email: wynn@pmtw.com

June 4, 2007

Andrea Gullo
Habitat Authority
7702 Washington Ave, Suite C
Whittier, CA 90602

Andrea,
I attended both meetings in Hacienda Heights on May 15th and 16th, 2007. I wanted to make sure that there would be a process in place that trail-users could use to petition the closing of a trail or area. I was assured that specific questions could be brought to the meetings of the Habitat Authority.

I asked that any signs put up by the Habitat Authority have a unique location number on it so trail-users can more easily report problems (fire, vandalism) or ask for emergency assistance. Also, any discussion about a trail or area will be easier if everyone knows the exact location in question.
I recommended that each sign have some common-sense locating system, for example Schabarum 1.2mi would be a sign 1.2 miles from the Schabarum parking lot.

Wynn Harter

Wynn Harter
3118 Gotera Dr.
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745
(626) 333-7088
Work (213) 749-5095

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www.pmtw.com email: wynn@pmtw.com

June 4, 2007

Andrea Gullo
Habitat Authority
7702 Washington Ave, Suite C
Whittier, CA 90602

I would like you to consider allowing the continued use of the following horse and pedestrian trails in the area south of Schabarum Park and generally north of the new warm-up arena off of East Road.

Please refer to the enclosed map.
Black lines represent paved roads, orange lines represent dirt roads, and red lines represent horse and pedestrian trails. The trails that I will describe have been used for many years (probably generations) and are generally well cut and free of erosion.

#1) This trail allows access from the warm-up arena off East Road to the network of dirt roads behind the Roland Water Company and north towards Schabarum Park.

#2) This trail is steep and usually overgrown. Very few people even know it exists. Some of us "old-timers" have been riding this trail for 20 years.

#3) This trail connects the warm-up arena area with the network of dirt roads. It is rarely used because it is challengingly steep. There is a well cut rocky trail at the top of the steep part that is particularly picturesque.

4) This trail originates at the 5-way intersection south of Ray's Equestrian Center. The upper end of the trail can link to the top of the switch-back trail or go to the top of the hill that overlooks the valley. This trail was used in the 90's as part of the horse rental trail ride.

5) The top of the switch-back trail has a well cut trail that goes to the top of the hill (beautiful view). Continue south-east along the ridge with licorice (anis) plants to the white water tower that is above Trail View Park. Options: circle the water tower clock-wise and join the dirt road that crosses the paved road (access to the water tower). OR circle the water tower counter clock-wise and go into the meadow that is south of the water tower. You can either cross the meadow (trail #6 on the map) or continue south east past an old disc and join the dirt road near the top of trail #2.

#6) This trail from the "hair-pin" turn to the white water tower has been used for years and years.

#7) You can reach the top of the tall hill (top of the switch-backs) from the two towers using this trail.

#8) There are two towers with a "turn-around" for vehicles at the end of the dirt road that passes in back of the Roland Water Company. A small trail links the "turn-around" area with the dirt road that (on the east) comes out on Fullerton Road near the under-crossing tunnel.

All of these trails have been used for years and have not caused erosion. I feel that part of the horse-back experience is being able to ride in wilderness areas. I have enjoyed these trails for years and hope to be able to continue using them.

Wynn Harter

Wynn Harter
3118 Gotera Dr.
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745
(626) 333-7088
Work (213) 749-5095

AERA

June 13, 2007

Puente Hills Landfill
Native Habitat Preservation Authority
Attn: Andrea Gullo
7702 Washington Avenue, Suite C
Whittier, CA 90602

DRAFT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
PUENTE HILLS LANDFILL
NATIVE HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY

Dear Andrea:

This letter is in response to the Draft Resource Management Plan ("RMP") that has been issued for the lands within the Jurisdiction of the Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority (the "Habitat Authority"). As you know, Aera owns land immediately to the east of the Habitat Authority's Preserve (the "Aera Property"), which property is directly or indirectly mentioned several times in the RMP. The Habitat Authority was also provided with a copy of a recent Notice of Preparation ("NOP") dated May 2, 2007 regarding a project proposed for the Aera Property (the "Aera Project").

With this background in mind, our comments on the RMP are focused primarily on the Wildlife Movement Corridor discussion on pages 51-53, and Figure 9 on page 52.

1) Citing the Conservation Biology Institute's "Missing Middle" report, the RMP states on page 51 that *"encroaching development and roads that bisect the Corridor impede wildlife movement and increase mortality..."*. Supporting this statement, the map on Figure 9 shows an outdated version of the Aera Project with a road alignment that connects from Harbor Blvd. to the SR-57 Freeway.

The recent NOP for the Aera Project proposes to eliminate the east-west connecting road for the express purpose of removing any impediment to the wildlife corridor. We therefore request that you update the "Figure 9" map to reflect the Aera Project road as it is now proposed. Further, the RMP should note the stated intent of the Aera Project to preserve and enhance a high-functioning wildlife corridor linkage through the Aera Property, and to set aside more than 1,600 acres, representing more than half of the Aera property, as open space.

2) Citing the same CBI report, the RMP goes further to suggest that the Aera Project *"could present the biggest threat to the functionality of the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor because it could potentially cut off habitat west of Chino Hills State Park, thus rendering this western portion of the corridor non-functional. Unconstrained development within the Corridor has the potential to seriously alter the functionality of the ecosystem within the Puente/Chino Hills."*

The commitment of the Aera Project to preserve a biologically viable wildlife corridor through the Aera Property is well-documented in the recent NOP and in all prior material and presentations

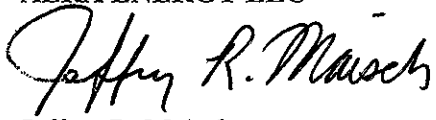
with which the Habitat Authority is familiar. As demonstrated most recently by the decision to pursue the "reduced road" alternative discussed above, our project has been intentionally designed to complement, not frustrate, the Habitat Authority's efforts to preserve connectivity through the Aera Property. In light of the considerable time and resources that have been expended to secure the future of the Corridor, we request that the term "(u)nconstrained development" be eliminated from the text and that the commitment of the Aera Project to the wildlife movement corridor be appropriately noted.

3) Section 5.2.1 on Page 74 contains the statement that "The connection to Chino Hills has not been secured because a large open space area between Powder Canyon and Chino Hills remains in private ownership." As discussed above, we believe it is appropriate to note the commitment of Aera Project to preserve and enhance connectivity through the Aera Property.

4) As further evidence of the degree of attention that the Aera Project has devoted to connectivity and wildlife movement issues, I have attached a memo from Glenn Lukos and Associates that contains excerpts from the Biota Report prepared for the Aera Project. This report concludes that the Project will have no significant negative impacts to wildlife movement.

We appreciate your invitation to comment and look forward to working with you as the process goes forward. Please feel free to contact me at (714) 577-8258 if you have any questions or need further information.

Very truly yours,
AERA ENERGY LLC



Jeffrey R. Maisch
Project Manager

MEMORANDUM

GLENN LUKOS ASSOCIATES

Regulatory Services

PROJECT NUMBER: 04720006BIOT

TO: Jeff Maisch

FROM: Tony Bomkamp

DATE: June 9, 2007

SUBJECT: Comments on Draft Resource Management Plan, Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority

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This memo responds to the discussion of the wildlife movement corridor in the captioned Draft RMP, and in particular several statements to the effect that the Aera project presents a threat to regional wildlife movement.

The Aera project has been designed in a manner that ensures that no potential impacts to wildlife movement, among all groups of organisms, will occur. Maintaining viable linkages through the Aera site has been a primary goal of the project since its inception. Below are excerpts from the Biota Report prepared for the project that found no significant impacts to wildlife movement. Importantly, you will note that we have divided wildlife movement into appropriate groups as discussion the broad concept of wildlife movement at the regional scale must consider that varying movement potential between and among different groups of organisms. For example, small mammals (e.g., mice, voles, etc.) are already precluded from movement from the Chino Hills environs to the Preserve by SR-57; whereas larger mammals such as coyotes or mountain lions are not so precluded. I believe it critical to address each of these groups separately as provided below.

1. Mountain Lion (*Puma concolor*)

Mountain lions require large home ranges, with the average home range of a female covering approximately 48 square miles and a male requiring up to 187.3 square miles (Chartier-Grable, 1997). In contrast, the portion of the Puente/Whittier Hills west of Harbor Boulevard covers approximately 15 square miles, meaning that at best it would account for less than 10-percent of a male's home range and a third of a female's home range.

Site surveys, extensive review of literature, and personal communications with experts on mountain lions in southern California indicate that mountain lion use of the Chino Hills to the southeast of the site is still fairly common. For example, URS (2001) found evidence of mountain lion use in Carbon Canyon, Soquel Canyon, Sonome Canyon and other un-named canyons to the east of Telegraph Canyon. Haas and Crooks (1999) report mountain lion sightings (by park rangers) and mountain lion scat from Chino Hills State Park and they also

report mountain lion sightings by oil field personnel in Tonner Canyon. A mountain lion collared by Beier (1993) was also reported in the Tonner Canyon area immediately adjacent to the project site.

Mountain lion use was not detected by Haas and Crooks west of Harbor Boulevard with the possible exception of the Sycamore Canyon area immediately south of Rose Hills and east of Interstate-605. As noted above, because the portion of the Puente Hills/Whittier Hills is largely isolated and only accounts for a small portion of a potential mountain lion home range, mountain lion use of the Puente Hills/Whittier Hills is expected to be very limited or occasional. Robinson (1999) summarizes newspaper reports regarding an injured mountain lion near Rio Hondo College in 1983 and a report of a mountain lion sighting in Whittier, north of Summit Drive, in 1990. Currently, the observations suggest that mountain lions are mostly distributed east of SR-57.

(a) Regional Movement

Historically, the Puente/Whittier Hills likely supported mountain lions; however, the area has been largely isolated and does not represent biologically important habitat that contributes meaningful area to home ranges for mountain lions. Therefore, while the project site represents a linkage that allows occasional visits by mountain lions to the Puente/Whittier Hills complex, this linkage is not essential for maintaining mountain lion populations in southern California. In fact, as a result of urbanization to the northwest of the subject property, occupation by mountain lions would result in increased conflicts with existing residential uses and increases in mountain lion mortality. These circumstances suggest that mountain lions should not be induced to migrate west of SR 57, and the project design does not include any features that would promote such movement. Nevertheless, the Landscape Linkage that connects the recently constructed Harbor Boulevard under crossing with the Tonner Canyon freeway bridge would allow for occasional mountain lion movement.

(b) Local Movement

The project site covers less than five square miles and exhibits minimal value for mountain lions due to limited connectivity. Local movement by mountain lions on the project presumes that it is part of a home range. No evidence of regular mountain lion use has been observed and local movement would not be affected by the proposed project.

(c) Corridor and Culvert Dimensions

Mountain lions will use corridors 328 to 525 feet wide if not longer than 1,640 feet while at least 1,312 feet may be required for longer corridors. Mountain lions have been observed using corridors that include golf courses, adjacent commercial and residential development, recreational trails and major freeways (LSA 2003). Mountain lions have been observed using culvert crossings as narrow as 8-10 feet in height and 10 feet in width but exhibiting heavy native vegetation on both sides of crossing (LSA 2003 and Ng. S.J. et al. 2004). As described above, the Landscape Linkage extends 1.7 miles and ranges in width from 500 feet to 8,450

feet for Proposed Project and 720 to 8,450 for Reduced Road Alternative. In addition, the linkage is characterized by 100 to 200 feet of elevation separation from the proposed residential development. Culvert crossings within proposed movement corridors will be a minimum of 8 to 10 feet in height. The culvert crossing required within the "crossover canyon" for the Proposed Project will measure at approximately 18 feet by 20 feet. The Reduced Road Alternative will not require a culvert.

2. Mule Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*)

Haas and Crooks (1999) recorded mule deer crossing between the project site and areas to the west of Harbor Boulevard and areas east of the site (i.e., Tonner Canyon). Similarly, PCR found evidence of mule deer on the site.

(a) Regional Movement

Haas and Crooks (1999) recorded mule deer, making safe at-grade crossings of Harbor Boulevard in the vicinity of Coyote Creek. They also detected mule deer movement at the Tonner Canyon under-crossing of SR-57 suggesting that mule deer could move between the project site and the Chino Hills environs. Such linkages suggest that potential regional movement between areas northwest of the site (i.e., Puente Hills/Whittier Hiils) and areas southeast of the site (Chino Hills) is possible under the existing condition. Design of the project includes a Landscape Linkage that would link the Harbor Boulevard South connection with the Tonner Canyon under-crossing in a manner that would allow for mule deer dispersal events. Therefore, there would be no significant impact to regional mule deer movement associated with the project.

(b) Local Movement

Local movement of mule deer would be maintained on the site through provision of northwest to southeast corridor as well as secondary corridors to the north to onsite and offsite open space areas. The project would result in no significant impact to local movement by mule deer within the project site or to areas immediately adjacent to the project site. As described above, the Landscape Linkage extends 1.7 miles and ranges in width from 500 feet to 8,450 feet for Proposed Project and 720 to 8,450 for Reduced Road Alternative. In addition, the linkage is characterized by 100 to 200 feet of elevation separation from the proposed residential development. Culvert crossings within proposed movement corridors will be a minimum of 8 to 10 feet in height. The culvert crossing required within the "crossover canyon" for the Proposed Project will measure at approximately 18 feet by 20 feet. The Reduced Road Alternative will not require a culvert.

(c) Corridor and Culvert Dimensions

Mule deer can simply cross over the proposed roads and do not require culverts; nevertheless, the recently constructed culvert beneath harbor Boulevard has been sized toaccommodate mule deer as well as all other large mammals addressed in this section

3. Bobcat

Bobcats were detected within the project site by PCR and are expected to use the site following development. Based on home range sizes, the site currently is capable of supporting multiple bobcats. The table provided below (Table 5-13) gives average home range size for bobcats and is adapted from Riley et al. (2003). Home ranges for bobcats, as is evident from the table below, vary substantially (as evidenced by the standard deviation, which in some cases exceeds the average). Similarly, Crooks cites bobcat home range sizes varying from 59 acres to 1,379 acres (2002). The referenced studies also considered the proportion of home ranges that include developed areas, with bobcat home ranges including up to nearly 13 acres of developed areas. As such, bobcats are considered intermediate in their sensitivity to habitat fragmentation in that they can exist in fragmented habitat is provided with adequate corridors and other habitat patches (Haas, et al. Final Study East Orange/Central Irvine Ranch Mammal Movement Study).

TABLE 5-13 HOME RANGES FOR BOBCATS

	Home Range (acres) (acres ± standard deviation)	% Developed Area in Home Range
Bobcats		
Males	786 ± 624	10.8
Females	380 ± 352	4.8
Adult males	742 ± 630	12.9
Adult Females	421 ± 441	1.4
Young Males	980 ± 693	2.0
Young Females	318 ± 186	9.6
Source: Glenn Lukos Associates, 2005.		

Haas and Crooks (1999) detected at least one bobcat occurrence on the west side of Harbor Boulevard in the vicinity of Coyote Creek based on scat observations. They also detected bobcat tracks along Tonner Canyon Road.

(a) Regional Movement

Haas and Crooks (1999) did not record bobcat crossings of Harbor Boulevard in the vicinity of Coyote Creek; however, such crossings are likely on an occasional basis. They also detected bobcat movement at the Tonner Canyon under-crossing of SR-57 suggesting that bobcats could move between the project site and the Chino Hills environs. Such linkages suggest that potential regional movement between areas northwest of the site (i.e., Puente Hills/Whittier Hills) and areas southeast of the site (Chino Hills) is possible under the existing condition. Design of the project includes a Landscape Linkage that would link the Harbor Boulevard South connection (with the recently constructed wildlife under-crossing) with the Tonner Canyon under-crossing in a manner that would allow for bobcat dispersal events. Therefore, there would be no significant impact to regional bobcat movement associated with the project.

(b) Local Movement

Local movement of bobcat would be maintained on the site through provision of northwest to southeast corridor as well as secondary corridors to the north to onsite and offsite open space areas. The project would result in no significant impact to local movement by bobcat within the project site or to areas immediately adjacent to the project site.

(c) Corridor and Culvert Dimensions

Various studies indicate that bobcats will use roadway underpasses (Lyren 2001, Ng. S.J. et al. 2004 and LSA 2004). Bobcats have been observed using drainage culverts as narrow as 8 feet in height and 7 feet in width but exhibiting heavy native vegetation on both sides of crossing (Ng. S.J. et al. 2004). A minimum 10-foot box culvert is recommended (LSA 2003), which is substantially smaller than the recently constructed under-crossing at Harbor Boulevard. As

described above, the Landscape Linkage extends 1.7 miles and ranges in width from 500 feet to 8,450 feet for Proposed Project and 720 to 8,450 for Reduced Road Alternative. In addition, the linkage is characterized by 100 to 200 feet of elevation separation from the proposed residential development. Culvert crossings within proposed movement corridors will be a minimum of 8 to 10 feet in height. The culvert crossing required within the "crossover canyon" for the Proposed Project will measure at approximately 18 feet by 20 feet. The Reduced Road Alternative will not require a culvert. Additionally, internal movement corridors, varying from 2,000 to 6,800 feet in length and from 200 feet to 957 feet in width, and vegetated with native cactus scrub, grassland, and oak and walnut savannah at varying densities will provide connectivity between core habitat preserves on-site.

4. Coyote

Coyotes were detected within the project site by PCR and are expected to use the site following development. Based on home range sizes, the site is capable of supporting multiple coyotes. The table provided below (Table5-14) gives average home range size for coyotes and is adapted from Riley et al (2003). Home ranges for coyotes, as is evident from the table below, vary substantially (as evidenced by the standard deviation, which in some cases exceeds the average). Similarly, Crooks cites home ranges for coyotes from as small as 161 acres to as large as 2,930 acres (2002). The referenced studies also considered the proportion of home ranges that include developed areas, which in many cases are nearly one quarter of a coyote's home range, indicating the affinity that coyotes exhibit for developed areas (particularly for foraging). Similarly, two studies of radio-tagged coyotes indicated that they move freely through urban landscapes and actually spend the bulk of their time within residential development areas including golf courses. Rodents and domestic/feral pets were common items in the coyote diet (Shargo 1988 and Middleton 1994).

TABLE 5-14
HOME RANGES FOR COYOTES

	Home Range (acres) (acres ± standard deviation)	% Developed Area in Home Range
Coyotes		
Males	1,511 ± 1,823	22.3
Females	695 ± 688	11.8
Adults	1,215 ± 1,693	15.6
Young Animals	1,024 ± 897	22.3
Source: Glenn Lukos Associates, 2005.		

Haas and Crooks (1999) detected multiple coyote occurrence on the west side of Harbor Boulevard in the vicinity of Coyote Creek based on scat observations. They also detected at-grade crossing of Harbor Boulevard. Haas and Crooks also detected coyote by means of camera, tracks and scat along Tonner Canyon Road.

(a) Regional Movement

Haas and Crooks (1999) recorded coyote crossings of Harbor Boulevard in the vicinity of Coyote Creek. They also detected coyote movement at the Tonner Canyon under-crossing of SR-57 suggesting that coyotes could move between the project site and the Chino Hills environs. Such linkages suggest that potential regional movement between areas northwest of the site (i.e., Puente Hills/Whittier Hills) and areas southeast of the site (Chino Hills) is possible under the existing condition. Design of the project includes the Central Landscape Linkage that would link the Harbor Boulevard South connection with the Tonner Canyon under crossing in a manner that would allow for coyote dispersal events. Therefore, there would be no significant impact to regional coyote movement associated with the project.

(b) Local Movement

Local movement by coyotes would be maintained on the site through provision of northwest to southeast corridor as well as secondary corridors to the north to onsite and offsite open space areas. The project would result in no significant impact to local movement by coyotes within the project site or to areas immediately adjacent to the project site.

(c) Corridor and Culvert Dimensions

Various studies indicate that coyotes will use roadway underpasses (Lyren 2001, Ng. S.J. et al. 2004 and LSA 2004). Coyotes have been observed using drainage culverts as narrow as 8 feet in height and 7 feet in width but exhibiting heavy native vegetation on both sides of crossing (Ng. S.J. et al. 2004). A ten-foot box culvert is recommended (LSA 2004), which is substantially smaller than the recently constructed under-crossing at Harbor Boulevard. As described above, the Landscape Linkage extends 1.7 miles and ranges in width from 500 feet to 8,450 feet for Proposed Project and 720 to 8,450 for Reduced Road Alternative. In addition, the linkage is characterized by 100 to 200 feet of elevation separation from the proposed residential development. Culvert crossings within proposed movement corridors will be a minimum of 8 to 10 feet in height. The culvert crossing required within the "crossover canyon" for the Proposed Project will measure at approximately 18 feet by 20 feet. The Reduced Road Alternative will not require a culvert. Additionally, internal movement corridors, varying from 2,000 to 6,800 feet in length and from 200 feet to 957 feet in width, and vegetated with native cactus scrub, grassland, and oak and walnut savannah at varying densities will provide connectivity between core habitat preserves on-site.

5. Gray Fox

PCR did not directly detect evidence of the gray fox; however, Haas and Crooks reported this species in the Coyote Creek area by based on scat observations.

(a) Regional Movement

Haas and Crooks (1999) recorded limited gray fox use of the Coyote Creek area and did not record crossings of Harbor Boulevard in the vicinity of Coyote Creek. They also detected gray fox movement at the Tonner Canyon under-crossing of SR-57 suggesting that gray fox could move between the project site and the Chino Hills environs. Such linkages suggest that potential regional movement between areas northwest of the site (i.e., Puente Hills/Whittier Hills) and areas southeast of the site (Chino Hills) is possible under the existing condition. Design of the project includes a movement corridor that would link the Harbor Boulevard South connection with the Tonner Canyon under-crossing in a manner that would allow for gray fox dispersal events. Therefore, there would be no significant impact to regional gray fox movement associated with the project.

(b) Local Movement

Local movement by the highly urban-adapted gray fox would be maintained on the site through provision of northwest to southeast corridor as well as secondary corridors to the north to onsite and offsite open space areas. The project would result in no significant impact to local movement by gray within the project site or to areas immediately adjacent to the project site.

(c) Corridor and Culvert Dimensions

Although data regarding corridor and culvert dimensions preferred by gray fox were not found in the literature review, they would be expected to require similar dimensions to bobcats and coyotes (LSA 2004). As described above, the Landscape Linkage extends 1.7 miles and ranges in width from 500 feet to 8,450 feet for Proposed Project and 720 to 8,450 for Reduced Road Alternative. In addition, the linkage is characterized by 100 to 200 feet of elevation separation from the proposed residential development. Culvert crossings within proposed movement corridors will be a minimum of 8 to 10 feet in height. The culvert crossing required within the "crossover canyon" for the Proposed Project will measure at approximately 18 feet by 20 feet. The Reduced Road Alternative will not require a culvert. Additionally, internal movement corridors, varying from 2,000 to 6,800 feet in length and from 200 feet to 957 feet in width, and vegetated with native cactus scrub, grassland, and oak and walnut savannah at varying densities will provide connectivity between core habitat preserves on-site.

6. Striped Skunk and Raccoon

PCR recorded evidence of the striped skunk and raccoon on the site. Haas and Crooks reported these species in the Coyote Creek area by based on track observations and at the Tonner Canyon under-crossing based on scat and track observations.

(a) Regional Movement

Haas and Crooks (1999) recorded use of the Coyote Creek area and the Tonner Canyon under-crossing suggesting that gray fox could move between the project site and areas of offsite open space. Such linkages suggest that potential regional movement between areas northwest of the

site (i.e., Puente Hills/Whittier Hills) and areas southeast of the site (Chino Hills) is possible under the existing condition. Design of the project includes a movement corridor that would link the Harbor Boulevard South connection with the Tonner Canyon under-crossing in a manner that would allow for dispersal events. Therefore, there would be no significant impact to regional striped skunk or raccoon movement associated with the project.

(b) Local Movement

Local movement by these highly urban-adapted species would be maintained on the site through provision of northwest to southeast corridor as well as secondary corridors to the north to onsite and offsite open space areas. The project would result in no significant impact to local movement by striped skunk or raccoon within the project site or to areas immediately adjacent to the project site.

(c) Corridor and Culvert Dimensions

Striped skunks have been observed using drainage culverts as narrow as 13 feet in height and 13 feet in width (Ng. S.J. et al. 2004). Raccoons have been observed using drainage culverts as narrow as 5 feet in height and 5 feet in width (Ng. S.J. et al. 2004). As described above, the Landscape Linkage extends 1.7 miles and ranges in width from 500 feet to 8,450 feet for Proposed Project and 720 to 8,450 for Reduced Road Alternative. In addition, the linkage is characterized by 100 to 200 feet of elevation separation from the proposed residential development. Culvert crossings within proposed movement corridors will be a minimum of 8 to 10 feet in height. The culvert crossing required within the "crossover canyon" for the Proposed Project will measure at approximately 18 feet by 20 feet. The Reduced Road Alternative will not require a culvert. Additionally, internal movement corridors, varying from 2,000 to 6,800 feet in length and from 200 feet to 957 feet in width, and vegetated with native cactus scrub, grassland, and oak and walnut savannah at varying densities will provide connectivity between core habitat preserves on-site.

7. Avifauna with Focus on California Gnatcatcher

As noted above, PCR identified up to three areas in the western half of the site that exhibit regular occupation by the California gnatcatcher. Further, as depicted on Figure 2-21, important populations of the California gnatcatcher occur to the southeast of the site (e.g., Tonner Hills). Small, widely distributed populations also occur in the Puente/Whittier Hills complex with a significant regional population further to the west in Montebello.

Several studies have documented dispersal by gnatcatchers. The majority of relocated banded juveniles are found within 3 km of banding location although longer distances (up to 16 km) have been documented (Braden 1992). The longest documented dispersal distance by an adult is 9 km (Atwood and Bontrager 2001). However, gnatcatcher distribution in isolated habitat patches suggest that maximum long-range dispersal could extend to nearly 22 km (Braden 1992, Mock and Bolger 1992, Galvin 1998, Bailey and Mock 1998, Atwood and Bontrager 2001). Dispersal across highly man-modified landscapes, including major highways

and residential development, occurs often (Bailey and Mock 1998, Galvin 1998, Lovio 1996, Haas and Campbell 2003, Atwood unpublished data). Additionally, natural and restored coastal sage scrub habitat along highway corridors has been documented to be used for foraging and nesting by gnatcatchers and may serve important dispersal functions (Famolaro and Newman 1998).

(a) Regional Movement

As noted for the mammalian species addressed above, the project design provides for a northwest to southeast Landscape Linkage that will also substantially enhance the connectivity for the California gnatcatcher across the site. This will be accomplished through creation of patches of "live-in" coastal sage scrub (minimum patch size of five acres) across the site within the planned regional landscape linkage, providing an "archipelago" of habitat patches that would substantially enhance the potential for regional dispersal of the California gnatcatcher between the Chino Hills environs and the Puente/Whittier Hills (See Figures ES-4 through ES-8). This archipelago reserve design is similar to landscape linkages approved in previous NCCP plans (e.g., Central/Coastal Orange County NCCP, Oceanside NCCP Subarea Plan, Rancho Palos Verdes NCCP Subarea Plan, San Diego South County NCCP Subarea Plan). Providing live-in habitat along the entire length of the landscape linkage will allow for gnatcatcher dispersal through the project site

(b) Local Movement

Creation of patches of "live-in" coastal sage scrub (minimum patch size of five acres) across the site providing an "archipelago" of functional connected habitat patches would also greatly enhance the potential for local dispersal of the California gnatcatcher among various patches on the site (See Figure ES-4 through ES-8). As described above, the Landscape Linkage extends 1.7 miles and ranges in width from 500 feet to 8,450 feet for Proposed Project and 720 to 8,450 for Reduced Road Alternative. In addition, the linkage is characterized by 100 to 200 feet of elevation separation from the proposed residential development and will be vegetated with coastal sage scrub "stepping-stones". Additionally, internal movement corridors, varying from 2,000 to 6,800 feet in length and from 200 feet to 957 feet in width, and vegetated with native cactus scrub, grassland, and oak and walnut savannah at varying densities will provide connectivity between core habitat preserves on-site.

Summary of Wildlife Movement Impacts

Regional (Landscape Linkage)

As detailed above, the proposed landscape linkage would not preclude or limit mountain lion movement. However, the open space west of Harbor Boulevard accounts for less than 10-percent of a single male's home range and a third of a single female's range. Therefore, the property does not represent a linkage between core populations. The project would not result in a potential reduction in mountain lion movement and is not considered significant.

Also as described above, the proposed landscape linkage would be sufficient for mule deer, bobcat, coyote, gray fox, striped skunk, raccoon, and avifauna movement, therefore impacts to mule deer movement are not considered significant.

Local (Movement Corridors)

The proposed movement corridors, vegetated with native vegetation and ranging from 2,000 to 6,800 feet in length and 200 to 957 feet in width, will provide for internal wildlife movement between open space preserves. The proposed movement corridors also exhibit elevational separation from proposed residential development providing a further buffer between wildlife and development. Therefore, although local wildlife movement will be altered, the Landscape Linkage and wildlife movement corridors are expected to maintain metapopulation dynamics, including genetic connectivity, between off-site open space areas and between on-site open space areas by providing the opportunity for immigration and emigration between existing populations. Therefore, the neither proposed project is expected to significantly impact wildlife movement.

In conclusion, we request that the RMP be revised to reflect the conditions proposed by the Aera development.

APPENDIX F

JULY 2007 HABITAT AUTHORITY STAFF REPORT

Puente Hills Landfill
Native Habitat Preservation Authority

MEMORANDUM

Date: July 26, 2007

To: Board Members

From: Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Subject: Agenda Item No. 5) Review and possible action certifying the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Resource Management Plan (RMP) which includes a Trails Plan and approving the final RMP.

Recommendation:
That the Board of Directors certify the environmental document and approve the Authority Resource Management Plan (RMP).

Background:
Attached for your convenience are materials mailed earlier in the month for your review. The environmental document and revised RMP were included in the previous mailing.

Authority Counsel has advised that staff's responses to comments on the Resource Management Plan be attached to the environmental document for filing with the state.

Also attached is a letter I wrote to the editor published in the Whittier Daily News and the San Gabriel Valley Tribune on July 10. It was written in response to a previous letter published on June 27, also attached.

Puente Hills Landfill
Native Habitat Preservation Authority

MEMORANDUM

Date: July 6, 2007

To: Board Members

From: Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Subject: **Upcoming Board agenda item:** Discussion and possible action recommending to the Board of Directors certification of the environmental document, Mitigated Negative Declaration, for the Authority Resource Management Plan (RMP), and adoption of the RMP.

Recommendation:
Recommend that the Board of Directors certify the attached environmental document and approve the Authority Resource Management Plan (RMP).

Background:
This information is being forwarded ahead of time to allow the Board additional time to review this matter.

The environmental document for the RMP was released on May 9, 2007, to receive public comments. The public comment period closed on June 7, 2007, and no comments regarding the environmental document were received. The next step in the process would be to certify the Mitigated Negative Declaration and then adopt the RMP. No significant changes were made to the RMP. Some minor grammatical changes were made, clarification was added for a few descriptions, and Figure 9 was changed. Please see attached disk of the final documents for review.

The Authority however received eleven comment letters on the draft RMP document, one of which was a fourteen-person petition opposing the RMP. If you would like a copies of these letters received, please contact staff. The following is a list of who sent comments:

1. National Park Service
2. Rivers and Mountains Conservancy
3. Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority
4. Stephen Blagden
5. Aera Energy

The following all stated concerns about trails closures (among various issues):

6. Wynn Harter (2)

7. Darlene McGrady, President, Region 7, CA State Horsemen's Association
8. Guillermo Jimenez & Blanca Aranda (14-person petition, opposing trail closure)
9. Don Moss, Secretary, Charro Equestrian Joint Council
10. Duncan McKee

The following is a summary of the comments and staff responses:
1. Recommends adoption of the RMP, and support the document.

Noted.

2. Concern over the closure of trails and other trail issues.

The Preserve was previously held in private ownership. Any trail use on those properties was most likely not authorized by the owners, and considered to be trespassing. Since the properties have been acquired for protection, the Habitat Authority would like to recognize the importance of the trails and solidify the use of the hills by developing a Trails Plan. Also, the Trails Plan is an effort to create a sustainable ecosystem, which involves balancing recreational demands with conditions conducive for healthy wildlife populations and their habitat. The Trails Plan promotes human and wildlife coexistence by promoting an environment where each can enjoy the resources of the hills without compromising value. The desired result will provide a healthy environment for future generations to enjoy. Once a plan is established, trails signs are planned to be posted so users can negotiate the hills better. However, signage could not be implemented without adopting a trails system.

The Habitat Authority is proposing to recognize 47 miles of trails, 17 of which is the Los Angeles County Schabarum Trail. This trail network provides recreational access within 3,860 acres. That's a ratio of 0.012 trail miles per acre (82 acres per mile of trail). The proposed ratio of trails to acreage in the Preserve is much higher than in surrounding comparable areas. Consider these other nearby parks for comparison: Chino Hills State Park - 60 miles, 12,589 acres, 0.0048 trail miles to acres (209 acres per mile of trail) ; Lake Perris State Recreation Area - 9 miles, 8,800 acres, 0.0010 trail miles to acres (977 acres per mile of trail); Topanga State Park - 36 miles, 11,000 acres, 0.0033 trail miles to acres (305 acres per mile of trail); Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area - 700 miles, 150,000 acres, 0.0047 trail miles to acres (214 acres per trail mile).

A trails evaluation process was established to identify these trails which began with mapping the existing trails. Trail data/mapping was based upon field studies in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology and Global Positioning System (GPS) units to record trail locations and extents. Trail location data was gathered in 2002 by Whittier College. National Park Service staff, Jim Donovan, supplemented the trail data in summer/fall 2003 and spring 2004. Based on his familiarity with the site, Jim Donovan was asked to lead the effort to go out in the field and collect information on the existing condition of these trails using an inventory form developed by Authority consultant LSA. He was assisted in the assessment effort by Habitat Authority staff; several members of

the Habitat Authority's Citizens Technical Advisory Committee; and LSA staff. LSA collated the data and created a comprehensive database of information for each trail segment, including estimated width, clearance, slope, surface, setting and condition, level of use, existing improvements, potential barriers, safety and scenic qualities. The trail assessment was then used with information from the biological resource inventory to identify potential issues of concern and to develop appropriate recommendations.

Areas identified to not be made official trails that would be maintained by the Habitat Authority were either not safe, too costly to maintain, redundant, incompatible with the environment, previously closed to the public, had no destination, or found unsuitable in some other way by the trails-evaluation team. The working map to illustrate these trails was not provided in part to not promote unsafe or hazardous trails that could be a liability for the agency.

Access points for the trailhead are limited to five with up to seven potential points so the rangers can promote a safe and clean environment as best possible. The Trails Plan includes Sycamore Canyon remaining open to the public. Should there be extreme weather conditions, providing warnings or executing safety measures is more manageable for the proposed amount of trailheads, but managing more than this for the existing Preserve boundaries is questionable. Furthermore, limiting access points concentrates human activity and minimizes surface ratio habitat fragmentation. Rest areas on the trails were considered, but not supported due to the area's propensity for vandalism and graffiti.

Trail signage will be discussed and implemented after approval of the Trails Plan. A goal will be to enhance the experience of the visitor in the hills. The Habitat Authority received comment about putting a unique location number on each sign, and this comment is appreciated and duly noted.

Bridges over blue-line streams will be considered when environmentally and economically feasible. Recently considered was an idea for a trail bridge on the former Unocal property east of Colima but this has proven to be too cost prohibitive, and would have caused negative environmental impacts requiring multiple regulatory agency permitting.

3. Specific Trails in Powder Canyon (Harter Comments)

Trails identified in the comment letter as #1 and #3 as being desirable are designated on the Trails Plan as remaining. The other trails identified in the comment letter as requesting to remain were not included in the Trails Plan either because they connected to unofficial trails in Schabarum Park that were not a part of a regular maintenance schedule by the County; they were outside of the Preserve's boundaries; or, they were too steep (in one case exceeding a slope of 20%), redundant, not frequently used, or not safe for visitors.

4. Request more time to for public discussion regarding the trails.

Two voluntary meetings were held, one in Whittier and one in Hacienda Heights, to introduce interested individuals to the documents. Notices for the meetings were posted at all trailheads and local libraries, and published in the local newspaper. Also, notices were mailed to residents within 500 feet of the Authority properties, as well as to the regular monthly mailing list and to those who have previously requested to be updated about the progress of the Resource Management Plan. Furthermore, notification was provided to La Habra Heights City Council at their May meeting. In addition, several emails to interested parties and groups were sent out. Additional notices were distributed through staff interaction with groups and individuals. The County of Los Angeles Parks Department was notified as well as biologists who participated in a biological workshop previously held to assist with development of the RMP. Staff is recommending that the public comment period not be extended.

5. Resource management suggestions: Support goals to restore degraded habitat and high priority should be given towards removal of non native species. Support RMP's suggestion for development of wildfire management plan.

Noted.

6. Aera Project Effect on Authority Properties

We appreciate the efforts to explain Aera's Project as it may relate to Authority lands and also appreciate consideration towards accommodating existing wildlife movement with this Project. We respectfully will delay further comment about the design and potential impacts to Authority properties until the draft environmental document is released for public comment. Figure 9 was changed, eliminating delineation of all potential road alignments associated with future development.

7. Supports allocating funds towards acquiring remaining open space.

Noted.

8. Add a financial section to the RMP.

Annual and long-term budgets are reviewed by the Board of Directors each fiscal year at meetings open to the public. The Board allocates spending based on the purpose and mission of the agency. The Board is committed to establishing an endowment to manage and protect the properties to the best of its ability.

9. What steps ensure that the land will be preserved against future threats or converted to other uses?

Much of the land is restricted from development by conservation easements. Property purchased by the Authority is required to be used as parkland in perpetuity. Most all other lands have been purchased with funding that only allows it to be used as recreational open space.

++++++++++

Also attached for the Board's review are notes from the two public meetings held in May regarding this project.

On July 3, 2007, the Citizen's Technical Advisory Committee (CTAC) held a meeting to discuss this project. There were three members of the public that spoke about trails. One of these people represented Fullerton Recreational Riders and asked for more public review time, and another asked for more information about the closed trails. There was considerable discussion by CTAC on this matter. They recommended that the Board adopt the environmental document as well as the RMP. They also recommended that the Board take appropriate action after reviewing public comments as to whether the Board would like to provide an extended public dialogue period for an additional month.

Board makes a difference

7-10-07 WDM

This is a response to recent allegations brought before the Los Nietos Board of Education, whereby residents of the district believe trustee member Grisel Vasquez now resides outside of the boundaries of the school district.

We members of the Board of Education of the Los Nietos School District have been chosen to represent the taxpayers and students who live within our district. As board members, this often means being faced with situations where we must make difficult decisions. What it boils down to is using good judgment when making decisions to do what is considered to be fair and right.

No doubt the allegations brought before the Board of Education with regards to my fellow trustee are serious. I feel in time the investigation that will take place will have an outcome that will be fair and right to her and to the community at large.

But let us not forget what has been accomplished in the two years since the last election. Changes have been made to our overall academic programs, which have raised achievement levels of our students at each grade level. We are now sending in growing numbers of eighth grade students to Washington D.C. each year.

We have reinstituted a music program at our middle school and have made it possible through the Heritage Arts Program by way of the city of Santa Fe Springs to unlock the creativeness of each student through a district arts program.

Our after-school intervention programs have seen an increase numbers of students and their parents wanting to learn all that is learnable.

The question has to be asked, has the Board of Education, our district staff, our students and their parents played a vital role in making a difference in the last two years? I would say yes! But there is much more that needs to be done.

Please remember the Los Nietos School District was founded in 1861 and is the oldest operating school district in the state of California.

Our buildings and infrastructure are in need of repair or modernization, which means we must move forward with a bond measure process to obtain the funding to make our schools strong learning communities that you will be proud to send students of today and tomorrow.

Please remember the board is made up of five individuals who care about other people's children. The serious allegations made against Trustee Vasquez was made on only one member of the board; the other four are there to continue on working on complexities that face our district.

Trust the Board of Education as a whole and the district staff; we will continue to make decisions that will benefit you and your children.

Art Escobedo, board member

Los Nietos School District

Santa Fe Springs

New trails plan

Over the past 10 years, the Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority, with the support of the community, has purchased a series of properties from private entities and made them available for public use. In addition to having a variety of access points, the Habitat Authority has since improved four new trailheads to increase public access points that were not in place previously. The Habitat Authority takes its responsibilities as a land steward seriously, and wants to keep the hills healthy for future generations to enjoy. To this end, after a multi-year public planning process, a Resource Management Plan - which includes a Trails Plan - was recently extensively circulated for public review.

The Preserve was previously held in private ownerships. Any trail use on those properties was most likely not authorized by all of the owners or didn't have guarantees that the trails would be maintained. The Trails Plan promotes human and wildlife coexistence by promoting an environment where each can enjoy the resources of the hills without compromising value.

The Habitat Authority is proposing to recognize 47 miles of trails, 17 of which is the Los Angeles County Schabarum Trail. This trail network provides recreational access within 3,860 acres. In other words, that's 82 acres per mile of trail.

A diverse trails evaluation team created a database of information for each trail segment, including estimated width, clearance, slope, surface, setting and condition, level of use, existing improvements, potential barriers, safety and scenic qualities. The trail assessment was then used with information from the biological resource inventory to identify potential issues of concern and to develop appropriate recommendations. Areas identified to not be made official trails were either not safe, too costly to maintain, redundant, incompatible with the environment, previously closed to the public, had no destination, or found unsuitable in some other way by the trails-evaluation team. After the Resource Management Plan and Trails Plan are completed, we look forward to making trails maps available for the community to better negotiate their way across the landscape.

Public open space in the Los Angeles metropolitan area is scarce. These hills were preserved because the surrounding communities wanted to protect this rare resource. The Preserve is a place for people to enjoy and a place where wildlife calls home. This planning process was inspired for the purpose in attempts to ensure this resource would remain functioning for all to enjoy for years to come.

Andrea Gullo

Executive Director

Habitat Authority

Whittier

Bilingualism a necessity?

I read the view about English-learning students. Am I missing something or is it just being left out?

In 1962 while in high school, I elected to take Spanish as a foreign language class. I had never heard it spoken but a girlfriend was going to take it, too. We ended up in two different styles of classrooms. Hers was given a book with the words and what they meant and how to use them in a sentence. My class was going to experiment with a new concept of learning from memory. There was no homework, nothing to take home and practice. I got stuck on stupid and never learned and flunked the course. My girlfriend fared better than I, able to speak and understand and received a passing grade.

Today as I watch the Spanish-speaking population gaining strength in keeping things in their favor, I have difficulty going about what used to be normal routine. At a grocery store in my neighborhood I have to look for a clerk that I know speaks English. Since the bulk of their business is done in Spanish I find myself feeling like a stranger in a foreign land.

Now back to these children being educated. If they are experiencing what I did - and I believe many are - there is no one in their homes who will learn English to help them.

I was listening to Bill Handel on the radio and he told his audience they would have to become bilingual if they wanted to succeed in business in Southern California. So that seems to imply that the English-speaking population are going to have to teach our children to speak their language whether they learn ours or not.

D. Ward

El Monte

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Greater access needed

6-27-07

Earlier this month, the Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Authority held a public meeting to discuss the public use of publicly owned, Whittier Hills. The meeting was a veiled attempt to demonstrate that the conservancy is even slightly interested in public input or permitting access to the public and demonstrated their stranglehold on the property by limiting access even further.

Did I mention that this is public park land, purchased with tax money and dumping fees?

Ever since the Authority has become the guardian of this open space, access has become more and more controlled and restricted. Their contempt for the public is evident even in their reports. This land is referred to as "habitat"

property or city property, never as public

property.

When these parcels were private, access was simple but not restricted in the legal sense. I used to be able to ride from my home in La Habra Heights to Whittier College, or Rio Hondo College, without riding on public streets. This includes horseback riding as well as mountain biking.

Never once in all of those years did I have an unfriendly encounter with someone telling me I could not use a trail or road on their property. Since the conservancy has purchased these properties for public use I have been told I can't use a trail or be in a particular area.

The conservancy is now moving ahead with restricting the public's access even more, reducing the number of trails by

23 miles - by one-third.

The claim is that hikers, mountain bikes and horses are destroying the

natural habitat and are responsible for erosion and the destruction of native species of plant. The Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Authority consists of approximately 3,860 acres. They claim this closure is necessary to protect native species. I find it suspicious that the

species that needs protecting grows only on existing trails and nowhere else in the 3,860 acres of closed open space.

The report states that there would not be any increase in fire danger because of the elimination of trails. However, they

are creating a greater fire hazard by

adding 23 miles of dry grasses and native species. This also restricts accessibility by fire resources.

While expanding the natural habitat means one thing to the conservancy, it means more dry brush to me and those living near the closed open space. Trails are made of dirt, and dirt doesn't burn.

During most fires, firefighters create firebreaks in order to contain fires. The conservancy is eliminating them. When was the last time the Whittier Hills burned?

I believe the conservancy is attempting to create a private reserve, accessible only to them, paid for by taxpayers without regard for the community's needs and without community wishes.

The fact that they are even considering closing park trails, for any reason, is

outrageous. They are not acting in the best interest of the community. Greater access should be created, not less.

Marjorie Beetlestone

La Habra Heights

Health care, yes; war, no

Our health-care costs have soared over the last several years.