



Nature News

Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority

From the Director's Desk

By: Andrea Gullo, Executive Director, Habitat Authority

The Habitat Authority has many exciting things to report. First, the draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) is being created to guide preservation and management activities. Anyone with an interest in the hills is invited to review and comment on the draft RMP by attending one of the public meetings. Please see Page 2 for more information about the document and meetings.

More exciting news to report is the arrival of new office staff. Melissa Miller has come on board as Administrative Assistant and Suzanne Avila as Interpretive Programs Coordinator. Melissa is responsible for

the day-to-day tasks of supporting and managing the office. Suzanne will be creating and managing volunteer programs and providing outdoor educational opportunities for local school groups, families and other community groups, as well as assisting rangers with community outreach and educational efforts regarding coexisting with urban wildlife. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact her at savila@habitatauthority.org. The Habitat Authority is pleased to welcome both to our team!

Lastly, the Habitat Authority is busy improving trailheads for Preserve visitors.



Welcome Melissa Miller and Suzanne Avila

Just reopened in February, the 2-mile loop trail at the Arroyo Pescadero Trailhead off of Colima Road was repaired from severe storm damage in 2005. Also, the Hacienda Hills Trailhead parking lot is undergoing repairs. In the meanwhile, parking is available on the street and the trailhead is still open for visitor use. Enjoy springtime in our hills!

Life on the Trails

By: Suzanne Avila, Interpretive Programs Coordinator

The National Weather Service (NWS) is predicting that winter 2007 could be the driest in recorded history in the Los Angeles region since record keeping began in 1877. Only 3.21 inches of rain has fallen on the Los Angeles region since July 1, 2006. The driest rainfall season at the Los Angeles Civic Center was 1960-61, when only 4.85 inches of rain were recorded. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration suggests that a La Niña climate pattern is emerging in the Pacific, continuing drought conditions. The prolonged dry spell creates abnormal factors on our trails. Gusty Santa Ana winds persist, contributing to a long fire season. Insect population and migration are reduced due to lack of moisture. Even native California plants are suffering under the dry conditions, as drier, brown leaves are present in

drought resistant plants. Just a reminder that all Habitat Authority trails are open from sunrise to sunset, except during extreme or hazardous weather conditions. All trails are closed 48 hours after rain and on fire hazard days. Updated trail information is available by calling (562) 945-9003, ext. #5.

Source: *Help Wanted: Rainmaker*, March 6, 2007, LA Times; National Weather Service April 25, 2007; www.weather.gov/losangeles.

May 2007

Inside this issue:

New Office Staff	1
Life on the Trails	1
Resource Management Plan	2
Wildlife Underpass	3
May Schedule of Events	3
Ranger on Duty	3
Living with Wildlife	4

Special points of interest:

- 2007 Possibly Driest Winter in Recorded History.
- RMP Public Input Sought – May 15 and May 16, 2007.
- Safe Wildlife Passage.
- Eyes and Ears on our Trails.
- Preventing Coyote Interactions.



Puente Hills Landfill
Native Habitat Preservation Authority
7702 Washington Avenue
Suite C
Whittier, CA 90602
www.habitatauthority.org

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

DRAFT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

May 15, 2007, Tuesday, 6:30 pm
Orange Grove Middle School
14505 Orange Grove, Hacienda Heights

& May 16, 2007, Wednesday, 6:30 pm
Whittier City Hall
13230 Penn Street, Whittier

The Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) is a government park agency. The Habitat Authority is dedicated to the acquisition, restoration, and management of open space in the Puente Hills for preservation of the land in perpetuity, with the primary purpose to protect the biological diversity. Additionally, the agency will endeavor to provide opportunities for outdoor education and low-impact recreation.

The Habitat Authority is currently in the process of preparing a Resource Management Plan (RMP) to guide the preservation and recreational uses of land managed and/or owned by the Habitat Authority. The main components of the draft RMP include habitat restoration, fuel modification management, a trails plan, an interpretive element and cultural resource management all within the Puente Hills.

The purpose of this meeting is to receive public comment on the draft RMP and accompanying environmental document. Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) has been prepared. The draft RMP and the MND are available online by visiting www.habitatauthority.org. Also, the documents are available at the following libraries:

Whittier Public Library
7344 Washington Ave.
Whittier, CA 90602

Hacienda Heights Library
16010 La Monde St.
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745

A meeting certifying the IS/MND and adopting the RMP will take place at a later date. Written public comments are due by June 7, 2007 to Andrea Gullo at agullo@habitatauthority.org or by mailing to Andrea Gullo, Habitat Authority, 7702 Washington Avenue, Suite C, Whittier CA, 90602.

Pursuant to Section 54956 of the Government Code, the Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) will hold a public meeting. The Habitat Authority is a public entity established pursuant to the Joint Exercise of Powers Act by agreement between the City of Whittier, Los Angeles County, and Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County. Questions about the meeting can be addressed to Andrea Gullo, Executive Director, 562.945.9003. NOTE: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, if you require a disability related modification or accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please call Habitat Authority office, Melissa Miller, 562.945.9003, at least 48 hours prior to this meeting.

A Joint Powers Agency created pursuant to California Government Code §6500 *et seq.*

7702 Washington Avenue, Suite C, Whittier, CA 90602 • Phone: 562 / 945 - 9003 • Fax: 562 / 945 - 0303

Schedule of Events

- May 12, 2007 – Saturday, Founder's Day, City of Whittier. Parade and entertainment.
- May 15, 2007 – Tuesday, Draft RMP Public Meeting, Orange Grove Middle School, 14505 Orange Grove Avenue, Hacienda Heights, California, 91745. 6:30 pm.
- May 16, 2007 – Wednesday, Draft RMP Public Meeting, Whittier City Hall, 13230 Penn Street, Whittier, California, 90602. 6:30 pm.
- May 19, 2007 – Saturday, Avocado Festival, City of La Habra Heights. Outdoor festival and emergency fair. 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. The Park.

Successful, Safe Passage for Wildlife

One of the goals of the Habitat Authority is the preservation of a contiguous wildlife corridor. Wildlife movement is important to ensure a healthy functioning ecosystem by allowing for species to find food, water, shelter and mates, and to mark and defend territories. Also, movement ensures genetic diversity within species populations that is critical for their survival. Scientific studies concluded bobcats in the hills were not traversing Harbor Boulevard, putting their population at risk. Los Angeles County, California State Parks, and the Habitat Authority in partnership acquired grant funds to build and open the Harbor Boulevard Wildlife Underpass last summer, and animals took to it right away! The underpass has regional significance in that it is the first wildlife underpass built in Los Angeles County and is vital to the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor open space area which extends some 31 miles from the Whittier Narrows area in the west to the Cleveland National Forest at Coal Canyon eastward into Orange County. The Habitat Authority continues to monitor and survey the number of species that utilize the underpass. To date, deer, coyotes, and bobcats have been detected crossing safely under the road.



Deer using Harbor Blvd Wildlife Underpass

The underpass has regional significance in that it is the first wildlife underpass built in Los Angeles County and is vital to the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor open space area which extends some 31 miles from the Whittier Narrows area in the west to the Cleveland National Forest at Coal Canyon eastward into Orange County. The Habitat Authority continues to monitor and survey the number of species that utilize the underpass. To date, deer, coyotes, and bobcats have been detected crossing safely under the road.

Mission Statement:

The Habitat Authority is dedicated to the acquisition, restoration, and management of open space in the Puente Hills for preservation of the land in perpetuity, with the primary purpose to protect the biological diversity. Additionally, the agency will endeavor to provide opportunities for outdoor education and low-impact recreation.

Ranger on Duty By: Deputy Chief Ranger Hughes

Occasionally, the Rangers that patrol Habitat Authority properties are tasked with removing random dumpings and cleaning off graffiti along our trails and all major roads that border our properties. Citations for these types of violations are as high as \$1,000 for each violation. Although our Rangers are working diligently to stop these illegal activities, we welcome your help in providing extra eyes and ears on our properties – *only if it is safe to do so*. If you witness any dumping,



Emergency Ranger Services
(562) 698-1446

graffiti, or any other type of vandalism along our trails and properties,

please write down the vehicle license plate number (if possible), time and place of incident, and call Emergency Ranger Services dispatch at (562) 698-1446 and describe the incident. *Again, only do so if safe conditions exist.* If you are ever in any kind of danger, it is best to remove yourself from that situation and then make the call. Together, we can keep our trails safe and clean for all to enjoy.



Puente Hills Landfill
Native Habitat Preservation Authority
7702 Washington Avenue
Suite C
Whittier, CA 90602
www.habitatauthority.org

Phone: 562-945-9003

Don't forget to visit our website for
updated information at:

www.habitatauthority.org

Trail Access • Park Management

Natural Resource Management

Outreach • Living on the Urban Edge

See inside for **PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE**
announcing
draft Resource Management Plan

Living With Wildlife

By: Suzanne Avila, Interpretive Programs Coordinator

Coyotes are native to Southern California, many making their homes in our local hills and open spaces. Coyotes are a grayish or tawny brown, with a black tip on the tail. They have large pointed ears and a narrow muzzle. Average weight of a coyote is 20-50 pounds and average height is about 2 feet. Hunting both day and night, coyotes eat fresh and spoiled mammals and fish, birds, insects and reptiles, as well as eggs, fruits and vegetables. They prefer deer, rabbits, ground squirrels and other small rodents, and play an important role in the reduction of populations of these animals. Coyotes can be either social or solitary, hunting alone, with a mate, or with a family pack. The average life span in the wild is five years. Coyotes may sometimes develop a coopera-

tive relationship with a badger or a crow. Unfortunately they see this same opportunity with people. When people feed coyotes, these wild animals quickly become accustomed to humans, and lose their natural, instinctive fear. With more vocalizations than any other North American mammal, the coyote is heard more often than seen, howling at night with a high quavering cry. Coyotes travel at speeds up to 40 miles per hour, and have great endurance.

Preventing coyote interactions:

- Bring your pets indoors at night, when coyotes are most active.
- Clear away bushes and dense weeds near your home where coyotes find



cover and smaller prey to feed on.

- Cover garbage cans and secure their lids.
- Remove all sources of food in your backyard, including pet food and fallen fruit from trees.

For more tips, visit

www.habitatauthority.org

Source: "On the Edge" Coalition Partners.