



Puente Hills Landfill
Native Habitat Preservation Authority

For Immediate Release

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Hacienda Hills Trailhead Opening Ceremony, September 22nd

The Hacienda Hills Trailhead has been beautified and renovated by the Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority). The trailhead is located at the intersection of 7th Avenue and Orange Grove Avenue in Hacienda Heights. The trailhead opening on Thursday, September 22nd is free and open to the public.

Before Construction, there used to be no developed trailhead for recreationists in the nearby area. With the new trailhead, access will be afforded to equestrians, hikers, non-motorized bikes, and physically challenged individuals from sunrise to sunset.

The trailhead will have parking, interpretive signs and panels about the history, flora and fauna of the area, a restroom, an improved entrance trail, benches, and native plant landscaping. The project also involves creating a drainage bio-swale that will have an added benefit of beautification, reducing flooding and erosion. In addition, the project will enhance access to the County's Schabarum Trail, also designated as the National Park Service's historic recreational route of Juan Bautista de Anza. The main entrance trail has been named by the Habitat Authority as the Ahwingna Trail after a nearby historic village of the Tongva. The community of the Ahwingna may have served as a provincial 'capital' for several Gabrielenos communities.

The plans were designed with community input from a series of design meetings held in September 2003. Local high school students from Los Altos High School put their personal touch on the project by designing the decorative entrance gates. The three gates were designed by Bryant Koshu, Stenya Goncharenko and Christina Chang - all students from Ellen Marron's AP Studio Art Class, Grades 10-12. The Habitat Authority has contracted with Artist, Brett Goldstone, to then take these students' masterpiece designs and create them exactly as they are drawn into wrought iron gates. These gates are the first welcome for all visitors to the trailhead.



The County of Los Angeles is partnering with the Habitat Authority in this project. Supervisor Don Knabe has helped this project come to fruition. The Habitat Authority has contracted with a local government park agency, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, for landscape architectural design services for this project.

The project cost \$872,000. A grant in the amount of \$231,739 was provided by a state park agency, the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, while the remaining cost was funded directly by the Habitat Authority.

The Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority is a joint powers authority with a Board of Directors consisting of the City of Whittier, County of Los Angeles, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, and Hacienda Heights Improvement Association. The Authority came into existence in 1994 as mitigation for the Puente Hills Landfill. The purpose of the Authority is to acquire, restore and maintain open space in the Puente Hills as a permanent protection for the native habitat and to give special consideration to Hacienda Heights. Currently the Authority manages 3,850 acres of natural areas.

For more information about the Habitat Authority visit www.habitatauthority.org.

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