



Puente Hills Landfill
Native Habitat Preservation Authority

For Immediate Release

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Fire Season Safety

With summer comes the heat. Native plants go dormant and the Puente Hills turn golden for the hot months until the rains come and they turn to the lush green and flowers you see in the spring.

The Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) is a government park agency which manages 3,850 acres of hillsides in Whittier, Hacienda Heights and La Habra Heights. The Habitat Authority contracts with another government agency, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for ranger services. The rangers patrol the hills and keep them safe and clean for visitors. They are trained in wildland firefighting among many skills and duties.

Recently the rangers have been receiving questions on the subject of trail closures due to red flag warnings.

Red flag warnings are issued by the National Weather Service <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/> when they predict that local weather will exhibit Santa Ana Conditions which include gusty winds and very low humidity. It is advised that citizens living in brush areas should take appropriate precautions. These precautions, as issued by the Los Angeles County Fire Department (<http://www.lacofd.org/>), include but are not limited to the following:

- Report any sign of smoke immediately to your local fire department.
- Use extreme caution when operating spark or flame producing machinery in brush areas.
- Report any suspicious activity to law enforcement.

These trail closures on red flag warning days are not only for the safety of the local residents, but also to ensure that there is no damage to the existing habitat. Trails are also closed 48 hours after heavy rain fall to prevent any trail damage. To get information on



trail closures and conditions before you go on a hike or bike ride in the hills please call **(562) 945-9003** or Emergency Ranger Services at **(562) 698-1446**.

The Habitat 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 Habitat Authority came into existence in 1994 as mitigation for the Puente Hills Landfill. It 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.

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

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