



Puente Hills Landfill
Native Habitat Preservation Authority

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Volunteers in the Hills

Puente Hills Preserve launches over a dozen newly trained Trail Watch volunteers that will provide general assistance to Preserve visitors while enhancing their safety and experience outdoors.

In an expansion of the Preserve's commitment to community service on March 27, 2010 the Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) will deploy 15 newly trained Trail Watch volunteers. Volunteers will monitor trails during daylight hours and be available to assist Preserve visitors if needed with trail directions, first aid, water or to provide other general assistance. Trail Watch members may do so while walking, running, riding a bicycle or a horse and are committed to a minimum of 4 hours of service a month. This is the first time hikers have joined the Trail Watch team. The training program was recently improved and revamped by Helen Cohen, the Habitat Authority's Interpretive Programs Coordinator.

"This is a great program that promotes trail safety and provides hands-on volunteer opportunities," says Whittier's Mayor, Bob Henderson, and Chairman of the Habitat Authority.

The volunteers have received 12 hours of training including CPR and First Aid certification, to assist Preserve visitors with safety and first aid when necessary, and are knowledgeable of trail information and resource protection.

Trail Watch volunteers can be identified by a volunteer uniform consisting of an official Habitat Authority sage green polo, khaki pants, an orange backpack with the words "Trail Watch" across it in large black letters and an official "Trail Watch" photo identification badge. Volunteers carry cellular phones with Ranger contact information for use during emergency and non-emergency situations.

A Joint Powers Agency created pursuant to California Government Code §6500 *et seq.*
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“Not only will these volunteers enhance trail users’ experiences by being available help people when needed, they will create an extra layer of comfort and security for many by just being extra sets of eyes and ears for Rangers on the trails.” says Chief Deputy Ranger, Kenn Hughes, with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, contracted by the Habitat Authority to provide rangers services in the hills.

“Our vision for the Habitat Authority is to create a strong and wide network of community stewards of the hills for generations to come,” says Andrea Gullo, Habitat Authority Executive Director.

If you are you are interested in becoming a member of the Trail Watch fill out an application available online at www.habitatauthority.org.

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The Habitat Authority is a government park agency which manages 3,869 acres of hillsides in Whittier, Hacienda Heights and La Habra Heights. 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.

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