

**MEETING AGENDA  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY  
Endowment Provided by the Puente Hills Landfill**

**The regular meeting of the Board of Directors, July 17, 2025, at 3 pm** will take place in-person and also available for remote access.

Members of the public can observe and participate in the meeting as follows:

In-person: **Joint Administration Office of the County  
Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County  
1955 Workman Mill Road, Whittier, California 90601**

**Location:** Room information to be provided at 1955 Workman Mill Road on the day of the meeting.

And remotely for members of the public via Zoom by joining at this address:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3397206095>  
Zoom ID **339 720 6095**

***PUBLIC COMMENTS: Members of the public may provide electronic comments by 3 p.m. on Wednesday, July 16, 2025, before the meeting to [info@HabitatAuthority.org](mailto:info@HabitatAuthority.org). Please label the email in the subject heading as “Public Comments”. Public comments may also be verbally heard during item #1 of the meeting, either in person or via Zoom.***

Agency	Director	Alternate
County of Los Angeles	SULIC, Chair	YOKOMIZO
City of Whittier	PACHECO, Vice Chair	MARTINEZ
Hacienda Heights Improvement Association	GARCIA	MONARES
Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County	FERRANTE	REVILLA

The Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority is a public entity established pursuant to the Joint Exercise of Powers Act by agreement with the City of Whittier, County of Los Angeles, and Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts. Questions about any agenda items can be directed to Andrea Gullo, Executive Director, at 562.945.9003.

72 hours prior to Board of Directors meetings, the entire Board of Directors agenda package is available for review, along with any meeting-related writings or documents provided to a majority of the Board members after distribution of the agenda package, at [www.HabitatAuthority.org](http://www.HabitatAuthority.org). In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, if you require a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please call Carlos Zelaya 562.945.9003 at least 48 hours prior to meeting.

Pursuant to Section 54954 of the Government Code the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Authority), a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Authority will be held at the call of the Chair of the Authority at the above time and place for the purpose of:

1. Receipt of Public Comments. Members of the public may address the Board of Directors on any topic within the jurisdiction of the Habitat Authority, or any item on the agenda.
2. Report by Authority's Citizens Technical Advisory Committee.
3. Consent Calendar:
  - a. Approval of Authority Meeting Minutes of June 23, 2025.
  - b. Receive and file Authority's Portfolio Earnings Report and Custom by Instrument Type for June 2025 prepared by the County of Los Angeles Treasurer and Tax Collector.
4. Presentation, discussion, receive and file end of the year Authority workplan for fiscal year 2024-25.
5. Discussion regarding Riverside County's closure of open space and trails due to hazardous fire conditions.
6. Discussion and direction to staff regarding encroachments on Authority property.
7. Pending litigation – Initiation of litigation in one case. A closed session will be held, because the Board of Directors has decided or is deciding whether to initiate litigation. (This item can be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(c), (d)(4).)
8. Instruction to negotiators on property negotiations for Assessor Parcel Number 8267-013-006. Negotiating parties include Board Chair, Executive Director, and property representative Joseph Lee. (This item can be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 regarding real estate negotiations.)
9. Board Members' statements, responses, questions or directions to staff, and Executive Director's comments.
10. Adjournment and announcement of next meeting.

**DRAFT Minutes of Special Meeting – June 23, 2025**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**PUEENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY**

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This meeting was held at the Joint Administration Office of the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County: 1955 Workman Mill Road, Whittier, CA 90601

And remotely for members of the public via Zoom at this address:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3397206095>, Zoom ID 339 720 6095

At 9:36 a.m., the meeting was called to order, and a roll call was taken.

From Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County:

Present: Robert Ferrante, Director

From County of Los Angeles

Present: Ivan Sulic, Chair

From City of Whittier:

Present: Councilmember Mary Ann Pacheco, Vice Chair

From Hacienda Heights:

Present: Cassandra Garcia, Director

Authority representatives present:

Andrea Gullo, Authority Executive Director

Michelle Mariscal, Authority Ecologist

Elena Gerli, Esq., Burke, Williams, Sorensen LLP, Authority Counsel

Cathy Houwen, CTAC's Board Liaison

Kenn Hughes, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, Deputy Chief Ranger

Carlos Zelaya, Program Analyst

**1. RECEIPT OF PUBLIC COMMENTS. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ADDRESS THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON ANY TOPIC WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE HABITAT AUTHORITY, OR ANY ITEM SHOWN ON THE AGENDA.**

Steve Huber from Whittier Area Audubon provided an update on the Beginners Bird Walk. Two CTAC members were a part of the walk. The bird walk will cease for the summer and restart in September.

**2. REPORT BY AUTHORITY'S CITIZENS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

Liaison to the Board, Cathy Houwen, provided a report for the June 17, 2025, CTAC meeting.

**DRAFT Minutes of Regular Meeting – June 23, 2025**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**PUEENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY**

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**3. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

- A. Approval of Authority Meeting Minutes of May 15, 2025.**
- B. Receive and file Authority’s Portfolio Earnings Reports and Custom by Instrument Type for May 2025 prepared by the County of Los Angeles Treasurer and Tax Collector.**

Vice Chair Pacheco motioned to approve items A and B. Director Ferrante seconded the motion and, in a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**4. VERBAL UPDATE FROM DEPUTY CHIEF RANGER HUGHES REGARDING RANGER AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (MRCA).**

A verbal update and presentation was provided by Deputy Chief Ranger Hughes from the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

**5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE THE THIRTY-FIFTH AMENDMENT OF THE OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (MRCA) FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION SERVICES EXTENDING THE TERM AN ADDITIONAL YEAR FROM 7/1/25 TO 6/30/26 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$592,800.**

Director Garcia motioned to approve the authorizing the execution of the thirty-fifth amendment of the open space management agreement with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority in the amount of \$592,800. Vice Chair Pacheco seconded the motion, and, in a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**6. DISCUSSION AND ADOPTION OF AUTHORITY RESOLUTION NO. 2025-03, APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS FOR THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY WILDFIRE PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR PUEENTE HILLS FIRE RESILIENCY PROJECT.**

Director Ferrante motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2025-03, approving the application for the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Wildfire Prevention Program for Puente Hills Fire Resiliency Project. Vice Chair Pacheco seconded the motion, and, in a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**7. REPORT FROM BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ESTABLISHING A FISCAL OVERSIGHT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ASSOCIATED WITH THE COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT NO. 2024-01, INCLUDING APPROVAL OF AUTHORITY RESOLUTION NO. 2025-\_\_,**

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**PUEENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY**

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**ASSOCIATED FACT SHEET AND DOCUMENTS.**

Executive Director Gullo explained that resolution numbers will be assigned when the resolution is approved by the Board of Directors.

Director Garcia motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2025-04 (as assigned), establishing a Fiscal Oversight Advisory Committee associated with the community facilities district No. 2024-01, and the associated fact sheet and documents. Vice Chair Pacheco seconded the motion, and, in a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING AUTHORITY PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS.**

The Board discussed the matter and directed staff to return this item for consideration at a future Board meeting.

**9. HOLD PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING VACANCIES, RETENTION EFFORTS, AND ANY NECESSARY ACTIONS IN COMPLIANCE WITH ASSEMBLY BILL 2561.**

The hearing opened at 10:33 a.m. Executive director Gullo provided a report to the Board on the item. Counsel Gerli stated that the Assembly Bill 2561 is to make sure agencies are tracking and presenting information on job vacancies on an annual basis. No public comments were provided regarding this matter. The public hearing closed at 10:36 a.m.

Vice Chair Pacheco motioned to receive and file staff's report. Director Ferrante seconded the motion, and, in a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING AUTHORITY WORKPLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-26.**

Director Garcia motioned to adopt the Authority Workplan as written for fiscal year 2025-2026. Director Ferrante seconded the motion, and, in a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING AUTHORITY BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-26.**

Director Ferrante motioned to approve the authority budget for fiscal year 2025-2026. Director Garcia seconded the motion, and, in a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**12. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION APPROVING AUTHORITY RESOLUTION NO. 2025-\_\_ ENTITLED ESTABLISHING THE SALARY, BENEFITS AND MANAGEMENT FOR EMPLOYEES.**

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Vice Chair Pacheco motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2025-05 (as assigned), establishing the salary, benefits, and management for employees. Director Ferrante seconded the motion, and, in a vote, the motion passed with three yeas, zero nays. Director Garcia was absent.

**13. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING APPROVING AUTHORITY  
RESOLUTION NO. 2025-\_\_ DECLARING JUNE AS PRIDE MONTH.**

Vice Chair Pacheco motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2025-06 (as assigned), declaring June as Pride Month. Director Ferrante seconded the motion, and, in a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**14. DISCUSSION AND POSIBLE ACTION REGARDING APPROVING AUTHORITY  
RESOLUTION NO. 2025-\_\_ DECLARING JULY AS PARKS MONTH.**

Director Ferrante motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2025-07 (as assigned), declaring July as Parks Month. Director Garcia seconded the motion, and, in a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**15. DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION TO STAFF REGARDING ENCROACHMENT ON  
AUTHORITY PROPERTY.**

Direction was provided to return this item to the Board with updates.

**Closed Session items:**

**16. PENDING LITIGATION – INITIATION OF LITIGATION IN TWO SEPARATE  
CASES. A CLOSED SESSION WILL BE HELD, BECAUSE THE BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS HAS DECIDED OR IS DECIDING WHETHER TO INITIATE  
LITIGATION. (THIS ITEM CAN BE HEARD IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO  
GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9(C), (D)(4).)**

**17. INSTRUCTION TO NEGOTIATORS ON PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS FOR  
ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBER 8267-013-006. NEGOTIATING PARTIES INCLUDE  
BOARD CHAIR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND PROPERTY REPRESENTATIVE  
JOSEPH LEE. (THIS ITEM CAN BE HEARD IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO  
GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.8 REGARDING REAL ESTATE  
NEGOTIATIONS.)**

At 11:00 a.m. Chair Sulic adjourned to closed session for discussion of items 16 and 17. At 11:26 a.m. Chair Sulic moved to end the Closed Session, and the Open Session recommenced. Items 16

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**PUEENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY**

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and 17 were discussed and no reportable action was taken.

**18. BOARD MEMBERS' STATEMENTS, RESPONSES, QUESTIONS OR DIRECTIONS TO STAFF, AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS.**

Director Ferrante announced a groundbreaking ceremony on the upcoming Saturday for the Puente Hills Landfill Park.

Chair Sulic stated that he will be adding to the next agenda a discussion of Riverside County's trail closures for fire season.

The Board requested that a future agenda item for discussion focus on Los Angeles County's request for medical helicopter landing in the Preserve.

An announcement was made regarding the Authority's July 4<sup>th</sup> extra wildfire safety patrol and volunteer help.

An announcement was made regarding staff's upcoming presentation to the Whittier Soroptimists, and a recent presentation during the City of Whittier's virtual Wildfire Hazard Zoning meeting.

An announcement was made regarding updates to the agency's website Wildfire Preparedness page.

**19. ADJOURNMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEXT MEETING.**

There being no further comments, or business to be discussed, Board Secretary Carlos Zelaya announced the next meeting scheduled for July 17 and Chair Sulic adjourned the meeting at 11:41 a.m.

*Approved:*

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*Ivan Sulic, Board Chair*

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*Carlos Zelaya, Program Analyst, Board Secretary*



**ELIZABETH BUENROSTRO GINSBERG**  
TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR**

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street, Room 437  
Los Angeles, California 90012  
Telephone: (213) 974-3385 Fax: (213) 626-1701  
ttc.lacounty.gov and propertytax.lacounty.gov

Board of Supervisors  
**HILDA L. SOLIS**  
First District  
**HOLLY J. MITCHELL**  
Second District  
**LINDSEY P. HORVATH**  
Third District  
**JANICE HAHN**  
Fourth District  
**KATHRYN BARGER**  
Fifth District

July 9, 2025

Andrea Gullo, Executive Director  
Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority  
7333 Greenleaf Avenue, First Floor  
Whittier, CA 90602

Email: [agullo@habitatauthority.org](mailto:agullo@habitatauthority.org)

Dear Andrea Gullo:

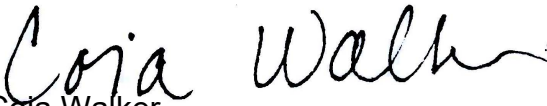
**PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY  
MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORTS**

Enclosed are the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority Portfolio Income Report (Earnings Report), Custom Position Report, Purchase Detail Report, and Chronological Report for the month ended June 30, 2025, for your review and reference.

Should you have questions, you may contact Ms. Sona Kyupelyan, Assistant Operations Chief, of my staff at (213) 584-1269, or [skyupelyan@ttc.lacounty.gov](mailto:skyupelyan@ttc.lacounty.gov)

Very truly yours,

**ELIZABETH BUENROSTRO GINSBERG**  
Treasurer and Tax Collector

  
Coia Walker  
Operations Chief

CW:SK:pl

Enclosures

c: [czelaya@habitatauthority.org](mailto:czelaya@habitatauthority.org)





# Income Report - PHHPA

06/01/2025 - 06/30/2025

# Specific Purpose Invest Agg (299402)

Dated: 07/01/2025

SPI

Original Lot ID	Detailed Description	CUSIP	Coupon Rate	PAR Value	Interest/Dividend Received	Accretion Income	Amortization Expense	Interest Income	Net Gain/Loss	Net Income
821801196	FREDDIE MAC 2.000 08/27/43 '25 MTN	3134GWSD9	2.000	9,500,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,833.33	0.00	15,833.33
821801198	FED FARM CR BNKS 2.500 07/29/41 '25	3133EMW65	2.500	22,675,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	47,239.58	0.00	47,239.58
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\* Grouped by: Aggregate Accounts.   \* Groups Sorted by: Aggregate Accounts.   \* Filtered By: LA Fund Number = "PHHPA".   \* Weighted by: Ending Market Value + Accrued.   \* Holdings Displayed by: Lots without MMF Collapse.



# Custom Position Report - PHHPA

As of 06/30/2025

## Specific Purpose Invest Agg (299402)

Dated: 07/01/2025

SPI

Original Lot ID	Detailed Description	CUSIP	Coupon Rate	Final Maturity	Purchase Yield	PAR Value	Amortized Cost	Historical Cost	Net Accumulated Amortization/Accretion
821801198	FED FARM CR BNKS 2.500 07/29/41 '25	3133EMW65	2.500	07/29/2041	2.500	22,675,000.00	22,675,000.00	22,675,000.00	0.00
821801196	FREDDIE MAC 2.000 08/27/43 '25 MTN	3134GWSD9	2.000	08/27/2043	2.000	9,500,000.00	9,500,000.00	9,500,000.00	0.00
---	---	---	2.352	03/10/2042	2.352	32,175,000.00	32,175,000.00	32,175,000.00	0.00

\* Grouped by: Aggregate Accounts.   \* Groups Sorted by: Aggregate Accounts.   \* Filtered By: LA Fund Number = "PHHPA".   \* Weighted by: PAR Value.   \* Holdings Displayed by: Lots without MMF Collapse.



# Purchase Detail Report - PHHPA

06/01/2025 - 06/30/2025

# Specific Purpose Invest Agg (299402)

Dated: 07/01/2025

LA Fund Number	Original Lot ID	Description	Settle Date	Final Maturity	Coupon Rate	PAR Value	Principal	Purchased Accrued Income	Settlement Amount
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\* Grouped by: Aggregate Accounts.   \* Groups Sorted by: Aggregate Accounts.   \* Filtered By: Settle Date  $\geq$  06/01/2025 and Settle Date  $\leq$  06/30/2025 and LA Fund Number = "PHHPA".   \* Weighted by: Ending Market Value + Accrued.   \* Holdings Displayed by: Lot.

\* Purchased Accrued Income = -[Purchased Accrued Income], Summary Calculation: Sum.   \* Settlement Amount = [Ending Original Cost]+(-[Purchased Accrued Income]), Summary Calculation: Sum.



# Chronological Report - PHHPA

06/01/2025 - 06/30/2025

## Specific Purpose Invest Agg (299402)

Dated: 07/01/2025

LA Fund Number	Original Lot ID	Detailed Description	Settle Date	Final Maturity	Change In Current FV	Purchases	Maturities/Redemption	Purchased Accrued Interest	Coupon Payment
---	---	---	---	---	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

\* Filtered By: LA Fund Number = "PHHPA" and Cash Affecting Amount = 0.00.   \* Weighted by: Absolute Value of Principal Amount.   \* MMF transactions are collapsed.   \* Trade transactions are expanded.   \* Cash Entry transactions are expanded.

\* Change In Current FV = (IF([Transaction Type]='Buy'),[Original Units],0)+(IF([Transaction Type]='Maturity'),[Original Units],0), Summary Calculation: Sum.   \* Purchases = IF([Transaction Type]='Buy'),[Original Units],0, Summary Calculation: Sum.   \* Maturities/Redemption = IF([Transaction Type]='Maturity'),[Original Units],0, Summary Calculation: Sum.

Puente Hills  
Habitat Preservation Authority  
Endowment Provided by the Puente Hills Landfill

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4

MEMORANDUM

**Date:** July 17, 2025

**To:** Board Members

**From:** *Andrea Gullo*  
Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

**Subject:** Presentation, discussion, receive and file fiscal year 2024-25 Authority workplan and activities.

Recommendation:

That the Board receive and file 2024-25 workplan and activities.

Background:

Attached is the Authority's end-of-the-year update of the agency workplan for fiscal year 2024-25, its summary notes, and the Restoration Workplan. The format of the agency workplan in general does not reflect routine day to day and core functions of staff's time which essentially support the mission of the agency. Due to workload, a prolonged staff vacancy, unexpected happenings, and circumstances beyond control, progress on a few of these items is not at the level previously estimated or anticipated.

The highlights of the agency workplan are: Measure PH passed, 16 presentations, 3 open houses, anniversary celebration, closed out two grants, and was awarded two grants (\$9,000 and \$4.9 million).

The Authority workplan and day-to-day Authority mission-driven tasks are in accordance with the attached Authority's Strategic Planning Guidelines, which set priorities for the agency core functions. Below are year-end highlights of four of the agency's core functions: outreach and involvement, resource management, preserve management and administration.

Public Outreach and Involvement:

Per the Authority's Strategic Planning Guidelines, the agency has historically been committed to providing high quality opportunities for outdoor learning and community involvement. For FY 24-25, as in recent years, outdoor education and interpretive programming<sup>1</sup> were not prioritized, and outdoor school programs did not occur at previous levels due to ongoing staff vacancies.

Currently there are approximately 20 engaged volunteers that the Authority has retained since cutting programs due to the pandemic and losing staff due to financial challenges. The Habitat Authority engages several types of volunteers, including Docents, Trail Watchers, and day-of-

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<sup>1</sup> Interpreters connect visitors to important natural, cultural, and historical resources at parks and anywhere that people come to learn about places. The National Association for Interpretation defines interpretation as "a mission-based communication process that forges emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the audience and the meanings inherent in the resource."

event helpers. In FY 24-25, the Habitat Authority tracked 740 volunteer hours, representing and in-kind value of approximately \$29,707. Chart A, below, illustrates the volunteer hours donated over the past five years and a summary since FY 2010-11. Volunteer participation this past year primarily included bi-weekly hikes in Powder Canyon and trail watching. In years past, volunteer participation primarily included summer outdoor education for toddlers, outdoor educational programming for elementary school students, and a variety of specialized events. The first volunteer docent training effort was in the spring of 2009. Since record keeping began in fiscal year 2010-11, approximately 28,475 volunteer hours have been tracked, equating to approximately \$824,352 in value to the Authority's efforts.

Chart B, below, illustrates a truncated compilation of estimated participants reached from outreach efforts since 2001. Records from the years 2020 to present are primarily estimates due to reduced staff capacity to track as accurately as had been done in the past. Over 880 visitors to the Preserve were offered docent lead hikes during FY 24-25.

Historical Volunteer Time (Chart A)						
Fiscal Year	Docent Hours	Trail Watch Hours	Other Hours	Total	Hourly Rate	Total Value
20-21	22	415	313	750	\$33.61	\$25,207.50
21-22	23	453	414	890	\$35.56	\$31,648.40
22-23	80	298	193	571	\$37.32	\$21,309.72
23-24	356	180.4	555	1,091.6	\$38.61	\$42,148.22
24-25	394.5	181.1	164.5	740.1	\$40.14	\$29,707.61
Totals Since FY 10-11						
Hours		28,475		Estimated Cost		\$824,352.97
source for hourly rate: Independentsector.org						

<b>Historic Participants Reached (Chart B)</b>					
<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Hills Alive-students</b>	<b>Jr. Ranger-students</b>	<b>Total Students</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>ALL Outreach (estimated) TOTAL</b>
2001-2007/08		3769			3769
<i>Other years are not shown</i>					
2018/19	966	353	1,319	1,059	2,378
2019/20	741	556	1,297	711	2,008
2020/21	-	-	-	35	35
2021/22				19	19
2022/23				139	139
2023/24				711	711
<b>2024/25</b>				<b>884</b>	<b>884</b>
<b>Totals since 2001</b>	<b>10,358</b>	<b>9,274</b>	<b>15,863</b>	<b>14,495</b>	<b>37,470</b>

Resource Management:

We are committed to promoting and protecting biodiversity in the Preserve. Main ecological activities this past year included beginning the Metro Heights in-lieu fee mitigation project, obtaining regulatory agency sign-off certifying completion of the Monterey and Southern California Edison mitigation projects, and submitting a manuscript for publication in collaboration with Whittier College. Restoration projects are on schedule and budget, and at the end of FY 24-25, 37 acres were being restored. To date 285 acres in the Preserve have been fully restored. Attached is a detailed end-of-the-year restoration workplan report. Below is a summary of the revenue and acreage from the restoration program. Overall, the mitigation restoration program has attracted between \$20 to \$30 million of outside funding for the hills.

<b>Habitat Restoration</b>	<b>Implemented By</b>	<b>Fees Received from 2002 to present*</b>	<b>Acreage Ongoing</b>	<b>Acreage Complete</b>	<b>Total</b>
Restoration	Habitat Authority	not applicable	1.6	125.4	127
Mitigation	Habitat Authority (ILF)	\$3,446,093	35.3	84.7	120
Mitigation	Outside Entity (PIM)	\$1,083,550	0	74.8	74.8
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$4,529,643</b>	<b>36.9</b>	<b>284.9</b>	<b>321.8</b>

*\*Fees include mitigation access, administration, and management*

Preserve Management:

While protecting biodiversity remains the primary priority, the Authority is also committed to offering low-impact recreational opportunities so long as they are balanced with long-term ecological sustainability. Preserve management and safety was primarily accomplished via the various grant programs, fuel clearance, routine trailhead maintenance, trail repairs and the ranger/park services contract with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA).

Administration/General Operations:

The Habitat Authority operates with minimal staffing and professional services support, employing only three full-time staff members. The Program Analyst position was vacant for over four months until filled in April. To supplement internal staffing, the Habitat Authority contracts with the City of Whittier for personnel services and with the County of Los Angeles for financial and investment support. Legal services are also obtained through contractual agreements. During the past fiscal year, the Habitat Authority executed 15 new contracts and four contract amendments to support its obligations and project implementation. Additionally, staff issued 11 special use permits this past year.

Staff continues to maintain organizational capacities and equipment for operations. Operations include but are not limited to document retention, accounts payable, technology services, the website, public records requests, vehicle and housing upkeep, insurance, audits, accounting services, and personnel services. Furthermore, over 478 payment request memos (a 58% increase from five years prior) were made to Los Angeles County (the Authority's Controller) and at least an additional 12 were made to City of Whittier to facilitate payment of credit card

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costs. Also, this year we facilitated the internal accounting transition process to QuickBooks. Lastly, unique website active users was at 40.3K, and of that amount 36.2K were new users.

The Authority strives to provide friendly and responsive service to the community. Staff responded to a variety of inquiries from local residents, addressing specific concerns as well as general inquiries related to trail hours and similar topics. Several house calls were made by rangers and staff when necessary, and many additional calls to the ranger emergency services phone number were fielded by the MRCA.

Fiscal Impact:

None.

Attachments:

End of Year update FY 24-25 agency workplan

End of Year Summary of workplan

End of Year update FY 24-25 restoration update

Authority's Strategic Planning Guidelines



	GOAL	Resp. Party	** Priority Level (1-3)	Est. Completion Date	Update Approx. % Complete	Board Approval Date	Cost / Funding
1	Heli-hydrant project	Board,staff, Attorney	1	Ongoing	90%	direction provided sprg/smmr 2021	
2	Implement CalFire Grant	Staff, Rngr	1	3/30/2025	100%	5/20/2021	CalFire
3	Implement RMC Round 2 Grant	Staff, Rngr	1	3/30/2025	100%	4/21/2022	RMC
4	Address funding issues and community outreach	ED, Brd subcom., Board, CTAC	1	Ongoing	Ongoing	11/17/2022	Access Fee Reserves/ Operations/Excess mitigation funds
5	Plan and host 30th Anniversary	Board and staff	1	9/21/2024	100%	1/18/2024	
6	Seek M&S funding reimbursement Fys 21-22, 22-23, 23-24	ED, Projct Analyst	1	Ongoing	66%	7/15/2021, 6/30/2022, 5/25/2023	County
7	Administer Caltrans grant	ED, Projct Analyst	1	2026 or earlier	83%	5/25/2023	Caltrans
8	Seek additional grant funding (fuel clearance, gate installation, acquisition, etc.)	ED, staff	2	Ongoing	Ongoing		
9	Repair Authority residences	ED, Rgr	3	6/30/2026	60%	direction provided in spring 2021, and 2024	State funds through Caltrans
10	Process new mitigation opportunities as they arise.	ED, Ecol	3	Ongoing	Ongoing	7/15/2021	Mitigation funding
11	Repair Arroyo Pescadero gate and Hacienda Hills Trailhead railing	ED	3	TBD	0%	7/15/2021, 5/25/2023	Access Fee Reserves/ State funds through Caltrans
12	Revise Authority trailhead rules signs	Staff, Rngrs, CTAC, Board, NPS	3	TBD	5%	6/30/2022	Operations/ possible RMC grant
13	Hire Naturalist to coordinate volunteers	ED	3	TBD	0%	6/30/2022	Operations

**UPDATE SUMMARY, FY24-25 EOY**

	<b>GOAL</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1	Heli-hydrant project	In progress of completing agreement.
2	Implement CalFire grant	Started fall of 2021. Received grant amendment. Completed. Goats grazed 27-36 acres for two years, contractors cleared over 137 acres of urban wildland interface and access routes for two years, removed over 320 hazardous trees.
3	Implement RMC Grant (2)	Started fall of 2022. Received grant amendment. Completed. Goat grazed 11-30 acres for two years, contractors cleared over 67 acres for defensible space, 1.9 acres of habitat enhanced.
4	Address funding issues and community outreach	Conducted extensive outreach and educated the community before Meaasure PH and continued outreach afterwards. Held 3 open houses, 16 presentations, completed a community mailer, social media and newsletter publications ongoing.
5	Plan and host 30th Anniversary	Held event in September. Completed.
6	Seek M&S funding reimbursement Fys 21-22, 22-23, 23-24	Submitted reimbursement request for FY 21-22 for city properties. FY 22-23 and 23-24 submittals to city are partially completed. Submitted first phase of FY 22-23 and 23-24 reimbursement for PHHPA Turnbull property request to the County.
7	Administer Caltrans grant	Ongoing.
8	Seek additional grant funding (fuel clearance, gate installation, acquisition, etc.)	Received Hills For Everyone \$9,000 grant. Received RMC grant \$4.9M
9	Repair Authority residences	Delayed due to workload and funding assessment.
10	Process new mitigation opportunities as they arise.	Ongoing.
11	Repair Arroyo Pescadero gate and Hacienda Hills Trailhead railing	Delayed due to workload.
12	Revise Authority trailhead rules signs	Delayed due to staff workload and coordination with National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program. Reached out to NPS.
13	Hire Naturalist to coordinate volunteers	Delayed due to staff workload.

*June/30/2025*

**Restoration Work Plan  
End of the Fiscal Year Update**

<b>SUMMARY:</b>					
Overall (Habitat Authority and Mitigation) restoration projects (includes mitigation restoration, habitat restoration, and enhancement/weeding):					
36.9 acres ongoing					
284.8 acres completed					
321.7 acres total					
<b>Habitat Authority Restoration Projects:</b>					
<b><u>Restoration - 0.75 acres Ongoing, 64.33 acres Complete, 65.08 acres Total</u></b>					
<b>Ongoing Projects</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Original Completion Date</b>	<b>Estimated Completion Date</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Peppergrass Restoration (0.75 ac)	Planting cactus, seeding and maintenance	Spring 2019	Spring 2027	Ongoing	Additional restoration efforts are anticipated contingent upon future RMC grant funding.
<b><u>Enhancement/weeding - 0.8 acres Ongoing, 61.1 acres Complete, 61.9 acres Total</u></b>					
Ongoing projects include hand weeding a portion of the former OCWR mitigation area. Completed projects woody invasive removal along Turnbull Canyon Trail and within the Canlas parcel restoration area, invasive removal at the Hacienda Hills Trailhead, and weeding of the Hacienda Hills bioswale. General weed removal efforts,					
<b><u>HABITAT AUTHORITY RESTORATION PROJECTS SUMMARY</u></b>					
1.6 ACRES ONGOING					
125.4 ACRES COMPLETE					
127 ACRES TOTAL					
<b>Mitigation Projects:</b>					
<b><u>Outside Entity Implementing (0 acres Ongoing, 74.8 acres Complete, 74.8 acres Total)</u></b>					
<b>Completed Projects</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Original Completion Date</b>	<b>Estimated/Actual Completion Date</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Monterey Park Marketplace</b>					Conservation Easement recorded
15 ac CSS (Powder Canyon)	Site Preparation	Fall 2017		Complete	Grazing conducted Oct-Nov 2017
	Temporary Irrigation	Fall 2017		Complete	
	Grow & Kill*	Fall 2019	Winter 2018	Complete	One year of weed abatement; Feb
	Planting*	Winter 2019	Spring 2019	Complete	March - April 2019
	Hydroseeding*	Winter 2019	Spring 2019	Complete	

\*Original completion dates assume two years of grow and kill cycles

**Restoration Work Plan**  
**End of the Fiscal Year Update**

	Maintenance*	Spring 2025	Spring 2024	Complete	
	Final performance monitoring	Winter 2025	Winter 2024	Complete	Project signoff rec'd Feb 2025
<b>Habitat Authority Implementing (35.3 acres Ongoing, 84.7 acres Complete, 120 acres Total)</b>					
<b>Ongoing Projects</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Original Completion Date</b>	<b>Estimated/Actual Completion Date</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Turnbull Riparian Restoration</b>					
1.35 ac Riparian (Turnbull Canyon)	Seeding and maintenance	Fall 2017 (Original mitigation project)	Fall 2025	Ongoing	Formerly Permittee Implemented Mitigation (PXP/Sentinel); transferred to Habitat Authority in 2021
<b>Olinda (OCWR2)</b>					
19.86 ac CSS (Arroyo San Miguel)	Site Preparation	Fall 2018		Complete	Conservation Easement recorded
	Temporary Irrigation install	Fall 2018		Complete	
	Grow & Kill*	Fall 2020		Complete	
	Planting*	Winter 2020	Spring 2021	Complete	
	Hydroseeding*	Winter 2020	Spring 2021	Complete	
	Maintenance	Spring 2026		Ongoing	Currently in maintenance year 4
	Final performance monitoring report	Winter 2026		Planned	Project signoff expected by February 2027
<b>Brea 57 / Lambert</b>					
2.1 ac CSS (Powder Canyon)	Site Preparation	Fall 2019		Complete	Conservation Easement recorded
	Temporary Irrigation install	Fall 2019		Complete	
	Grow & Kill*	Fall 2021		Complete	
	Planting*	Winter 2021		Complete	
	Hydroseeding*	Winter 2021		Complete	
	Maintenance	Spring 2027		Ongoing	Currently in maintenance year 3
	Final performance monitoring report	Winter 2027		Planned	Project signoff expected by February 2028
<b>Metro Heights</b>					
12 ac CSS (Powder Canyon & Arroyo San Miguel)	Site Preparation	Fall 2024		Complete	Project broke ground Oct 2024

\*Original completion dates assume two years of grow and kill cycles

**Restoration Work Plan  
End of the Fiscal Year Update**

	Temporary Irrigation install	Fall 2024		Complete	
	Grow & Kill*	Fall 2026		Ongoing	
	Conservation easement-survey and record	Winter 2026		Planned	Shall be recorded within 2 years of mitigation agreement effective
<b>Ongoing Projects (continued)</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Original Completion Date</b>	<b>Estimated/Actual Completion Date</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Comments</b>
	Planting & Hydroseeding*	Winter 2026		Planned	
	Maintenance	Spring 2032		Planned	
	Final performance monitoring report	Winter 2032		Planned	
<b>Completed Projects</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Original Completion Date</b>	<b>Estimated/Actual Completion Date</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>SCE</b>					Conservation Easement recorded
60 ac CSS (Powder Canyon)	Site Preparation	Fall 2016		Complete	Sept 2016-Dec 2018
	Temporary Irrigation install	Fall 2016		Complete	
	Grow & Kill*	Fall 2018	Winter 2018	Complete	
	Planting*	Winter 2018	Spring 2019	Complete	Fall 2018-Spring 2019
	Hydroseeding*	Winter 2018	Spring 2019	Complete	Fall 2018-Spring 2019
	Maintenance	Spring 2024		Complete	
	Final performance monitoring report	Fall 2024		Complete	Project signoff rec'd Dec 2024 (CPUC) and Jan 2025 (USFWS)
<b><u>MITIGATION PROJECTS SUMMARY</u></b>					
	35.3 ACRES ONGOING				
	159.4 ACRES COMPLETE				
	194.7 ACRES TOTAL				

\*Original completion dates assume two years of grow and kill cycles

**PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY**  
**Endowment Provided by the Puente Hills Landfill**  
**Strategic Planning Guidelines**

**1. Administration and General Operations**

*Goal A: Create effective financial and operational forecasts.*

*Goal B: Develop and maintain organizational capacities for operational needs.*

**2. Acquisition**

*Goal A: Add acreage to strengthen existing habitat areas.*

*Goal B: Ensure linkage to eastern habitat area.*

Priority of Acquisitions:

High Priority

- Dark Canyon
- Linkage area at Hacienda Boulevard and restricted “Corridor” between Powder Canyon and former Unocal property

Priority

- Additional open space to strengthen existing habitat areas

Other

- Opportunity purchases

**3. Preserve Management**

*Goal A: Provide adequate public safety and management services.*

*Goal B: Offer access and recreational opportunities for the public benefit, balancing with ecological sustainability.*

*Goal C: Facilitate various maintenance projects that benefit the Preserve.*

**4. Public Outreach, Education and Involvement (Interpretation)**

*Goal A: Provide high-quality educational and outdoor learning opportunities.*

*Goal B: Provide opportunities for community involvement.*

**5. Resource Management**

*Goal A: Promote and protect biodiversity as well as natural and cultural resources.*

*Goal B: Promote management practices that protect ecological health of the environment.*

*Goal C: Address various projects that have the potential to negatively affect the Preserve, and work to avoid, minimize or mitigate their impacts.*

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Habitat Preservation Authority  
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AGENDA ITEM NO. 5

MEMORANDUM

**Date:** July 17, 2025

**To:** Board Members

**From:** *Andrea Gullo*  
Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

**Subject:** Discussion regarding Riverside County's closure of open space and trails due to hazardous fire conditions.

Recommendation:

This is a discussion item.

Background:

At their May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors approved the closure of six hiking areas (Exhibit A) in unincorporated areas of Riverside County following a request from CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Chief Bill Weiser. The areas, amounting to almost 64,000 acres, were selected for public safety and wildfire prevention based on factors such as increased risk of wildfire, relatively high traffic by recreationalists, and rugged terrain or topography that would make emergency response difficult. Of the six identified locations, all are now completely closed to recreation except for two: Ramona Bowl, which is open daily for recreational use from sunrise until 12:00 PM; and Whitewater Canyon near Cabazon, where the closure only applies to the surrounding hills used for hiking. Public access to the Whitewater Preserve, managed by the Wildlands Conservancy, and the Whitewater River remain open to visitors. The closure went into effect June 15<sup>th</sup> and will remain until further notice per a press release issued by CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Department (Exhibit B). Those violating the closure order may be subject to a minimum fine of \$100 for first-time offenses. Similar closures have previously been approved in Riverside County, including in at least 2024, 2023, 2022, and 2017.

The areas identified for closure in Riverside County are significantly larger and more remote than the Puente Hills Preserve. In contrast, Los Angeles County and the Santa Monica Mountains typically do not close recreational areas during hazardous fire conditions, likely in part due to the substantial cost of enforcement and patrolling.

When considering trail closures, there are two primary perspectives: one view suggests that maintaining public access promotes safety, as the presence of responsible users—acting as “eyes and ears”—can help deter illegal activity. The other holds that restricting access may reduce unlawful behavior by limiting opportunities for it to occur. Enforcement of trail closures when porous trail access conditions exist is a challenge. Law abiding visitors may obey signage, while security guards may be required to gain

full compliance. To address concerns about after-hours use and potential illegal activity, the installation of a gate at Turnbull Canyon Trail would help. However, porous conditions would remain throughout the Preserve. Currently, the Preserve is closed during red flag conditions when fire risk is most elevated. Should the Board choose to consider additional closures, it is recommended to consider gate and enforcement costs, as well as engagement in multi-agency collaboration, including the Los Angeles County Parks Department in part because trails are interconnected, and the Los Angeles County Fire Department. Furthermore, careful consideration of the grant and lease agreements that govern Preserve properties is recommended. These agreements have guidelines regarding public access in part as follows:

Section 3.9.1 of the Los Angeles County Proposition A Grant Administration Manual (GAM):

M&S Funds recipients must notify RPOSD when grant-funded facilities must be closed or restricted (partially or in its entirety) by an authorized agency due to health and safety risks, natural disasters, and acts of God.

From the Los Angeles County Measure A GAM:

Page 46: RPOSD must be notified in writing if there are ever any changes or impacts to the Measure A-funded project that will change the public's ability to access facility or project site. Including when the facility is closed or restricted from public use and access due to health and safety reasons including fire, flood, earthquake, or other natural disasters.

Page 15: Good Standing is required of all grantees to have payment requests processed and receive any grant funds from RPOSD. Good Standing is achieved and maintained when a grantee is in compliance with all requirements stated in the guidelines, policies, and procedures of RPOSD for both Proposition A and Measure A.

Management Agreement and Covenant Running with the Land between the County of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Flood Control District and the Habitat Authority. (Hacienda Hills Trailhead)

The term of this agreement is 50 years, and is active to February 2055. The agreement states, "*Habitat Authority shall have the right to close the property to the general public only in cases where public health and safety is of concern, including rules for fire closure and other emergencies, which are consistent with the policies of the Los Angeles County Fire Department.*"

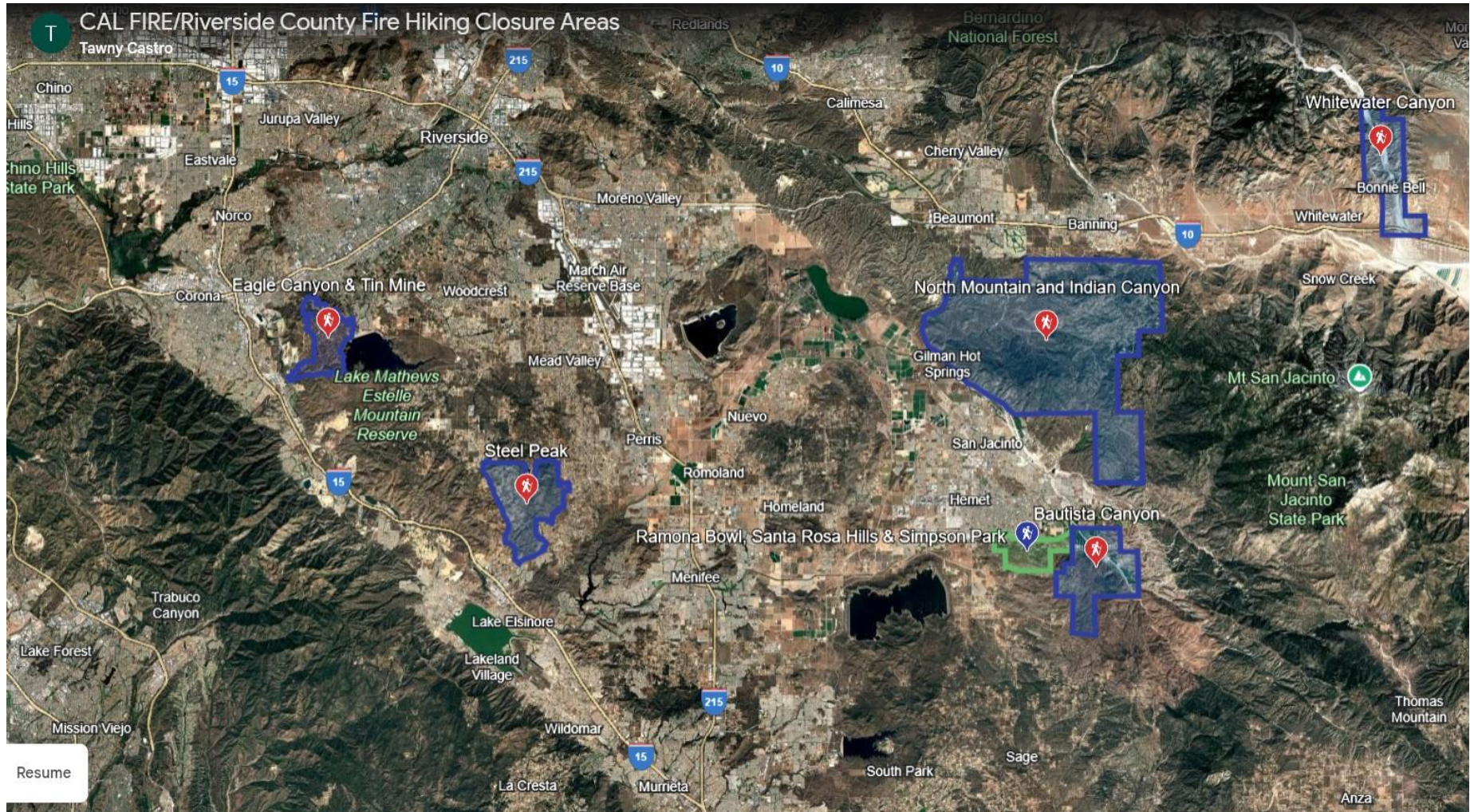
Attachments:

Map of hazardous fire risk closure areas (Exhibit A)

CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Dept. Press Release dated June 9, 2025 (Exhibit B)



## Exhibit A



**CONTACT:**

Public Affairs and Community Education Bureau  
Phone: (951) 940-6985  
Email: RRUPIO@fire.ca.gov

**CAL FIRE/RIVERSIDE COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT**

210 West San Jacinto Avenue  
Perris, CA 92570  
www.rvcfire.org

# PRESS RELEASE

## FIRE CHIEF CLOSES HAZARDOUS HIKING AREAS THROUGHOUT RIVERSIDE COUNTY

RELEASE DATE: June 9, 2025

**PERRIS, CA** – CAL FIRE/Riverside County Fire Chief Bill Weiser recently received approval from the Riverside County Board of Supervisors to close six hazardous hiking areas throughout the region effective June 15, 2025. The closures will remain in effect until further notice in the following areas:

- Eagle Canyon/Tin Mine (east of Corona)
- Steel Peak (north of Lake Elsinore)
- Bautista Canyon (southeast of Hemet)
- North Mountain (south of Banning, north of San Jacinto)
- Whitewater Canyon (east of Cabazon)
- Ramona Bowl (south of Hemet) \*Open daily from sunrise until 12:00 P.M.

"In the interest of public safety and wildfire prevention, access to these hiking areas is temporarily restricted to protect nearby communities and reduce the likelihood of catastrophic fire events," stated Fire Chief Weiser.

Riverside County Ordinance 787.9 restricts public access to these identified hazardous fire areas unless private party access is required. Public roadway travel is permitted, providing travel is confined to those surfaces within hazardous fire area. Those violating the ordinance may be subject to a minimum fine of \$100 for first-time offenses.

Future closures may be implemented based upon weather conditions, fuel moisture and increased fire threats. Maps for each of the affected areas can be located at <https://tinyurl.com/hikingclosures>.

For additional information on the areas closed to the public, please contact the Public Affairs and Community Education Bureau at 951-940-6985.

###



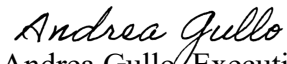
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AGENDA ITEM NO. 6

MEMORANDUM

**Date:** July 17, 2025

**To:** Board Members

**From:**   
Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

**Subject:** Discussion and direction to staff regarding encroachments on Authority property.

Recommendation:

That the Board receive and file, or provide direction to staff.

Background:

Attached for your review is the staff report from the Authority's June Board meeting. Below is a recap and update on the matter discussed in June:

- Recap: La Habra Heights: On June 9, 2025, and again in early July, a letter was mailed to a resident with aerial imagery illustrating that a road has been graded on adjacent Authority property and photographs that show vehicles that presumably used the graded roads on the Habitat Authority property to access the resident's backyard. We have asked the resident to remove all encroachments and return land alterations to their original conditions no later than July 31, 2025. The letter also detailed enforcement steps of the Habitat Authority's ordinance regarding encroachments.
- Update: On July 8, Deputy Chief Ranger Hughes met with the resident to begin discussions and resolutions. Staff plans to make a site visit before the Board meeting. There will be an update at the meeting.

Below is a summary of an additional encroachment discovered.

- La Habra Heights: Authority representative and contractor, Deputy Chief Ranger Hughes visited an Authority property in June and discovered an encroachment from a neighboring resident. This resident has previously encroached. On July 3, 2025, a letter was mailed to the resident with aerial imagery and photos illustrating the encroachment involving storing supplies, equipment, and astro turf on Habitat Authority property. We have asked the resident to remove all encroachments no later than August 5, 2025. The letter also detailed enforcement steps of the Habitat Authority's ordinance regarding encroachments. An update will be provided to the Board at a later date regarding this matter.

Fiscal Impact:

Excluding staff, ranger and legal services time, there are no fiscal impacts identified at this time.

## Additional Materials

## Press Releases

# PRESS RELEASE: Whittier and Puente Hills Habitat Authority Unite for Fire Safety

**Post Date:** 06/27/2025 6:00 PM

### 20250627 - Whittier and Puente Hills Habitat Authority Unite for Fire Safety

#### City of Whittier and Puente Hills Habitat Authority Unite for Fire Safety

**Whittier, CA** — As cities across California prepare for a fire-prone Fourth of July, the City of Whittier is taking a proactive, people-powered approach to public safety. In addition to strict fireworks enforcement—with fines up to \$5,000 for violations—the City is partnering with the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority to activate a volunteer Fireworks Static Patrol.

Residents who sign up participate in a coordinated safety effort that includes a pre-holiday briefing and a dedicated patrol of Whittier's hillside trails and open spaces, areas particularly vulnerable to wildfires sparked by illegal fireworks. This boots-on-the-ground effort gives the community an active role in fire prevention and provides a real-time reporting mechanism for emergency response.

"Keeping our hills safe from fire danger is a shared responsibility," said Mayor Joe Vinatieri. "This partnership allows our residents to play a direct role in protecting Whittier and shows what's possible when cities and agencies work together toward public safety."

Whittier's approach highlights the value of interagency cooperation and grassroots prevention at a time when communities across California are grappling with increasingly destructive fire seasons. The City hopes the program can serve as a model for other jurisdictions looking to combine code enforcement, environmental stewardship, and civic volunteerism.

For additional information, please contact Assistant City Manager Shannon DeLong at (562) 567-9301 or [admin@cityofwhittier.org](mailto:admin@cityofwhittier.org).

###

[Return to full list >>](#)



Andrea Gullo  
Executive Director



## Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority

Endowment Provided by the Puente Hills Landfill

### MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Robert Ferrante  
Director Sanitation Districts of  
Los Angeles County

Cassandra Garcia  
Director  
Hacienda Heights

July 8, 2025

The Honorable Ali Saleh, Mayor/City of Bell &  
Elected Chair  
Rivers and Mountains Conservancy  
100 N. Old San Gabriel Canyon Road  
Azusa, California 91702

### Appreciation for the Puente Hills Fire Resiliency Grant

Dear Chair Saleh and Board Members:

Thank you very much for your agency's award of the Puente Hills Fire Resiliency Grant to the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority).

As wildfire seasons continue to increase in both duration and intensity, securing funding for proactive wildfire resiliency projects has become crucial to our agency. Support such as this enables us to implement comprehensive projects aimed at protecting facilities and the open space, reducing hazardous fuel loads, and strengthening wildfire prevention strategies—all in service of safeguarding surrounding communities and the irreplaceable natural resources of the Puente Hills Preserve under the Habitat Authority's stewardship.

This grant award means a great deal to the Habitat Authority. It represents a dynamic multi-pronged approach to wildfire preparedness and the ongoing protection of communities neighboring the Preserve. Your continued support of our agency's efforts is simply invaluable.

With Gratitude,

Ivan Sulic  
Chair of the Board of Directors

C:

Mark Stanley, RMC Executive Officer  
Habitat Authority Board of Directors and Advisory Committee  
Habitat Authority, Executive Director

Ivan Sulic  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 10, 2025

## **Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority Awarded \$4.9 Million Grant for Wildfire Resiliency**

*Whittier, CA* — In June, the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) was awarded \$4,977,000 in grant funding from the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC), a state agency. The funding will support the Habitat Authority's Puente Hills Fire Resiliency project, which aims to enhance wildfire safety for the Puente Hills Preserve and the surrounding communities of Whittier, La Habra Heights, Hacienda Heights and Rowland Heights.

The state funding is sourced from the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024, appropriations under Chapter 3 Wildfire and Forest Resilience. The three-year grant agreement, expected to be executed in August, has four primary tasks: A. Wildfire Prevention and Protection, B. Wildfire Prevention Planning, C. Biological Consulting & Contractor Oversight, and D. Acquisition.

Wildfire planning is multifaceted, encompassing everything from ignition prevention to emergency infrastructure and home hardening. This dynamic grant project will include exciting elements such as: home hardening for an agency facility; protective wrought iron boundary fencing at key locations; vegetation and hazardous tree clearance; habitat enhancement; equipment purchases including a flail mower, two 1,000 gallon mobile water trailers, and a 2,000 gallon water tender to be used for firefighting efforts; vegetation mapping; fire fuel modeling; land acquisition; and development of a permanent firebreak in the form of a trailhead.

Importantly, the grant allows the Habitat Authority to address critical wildfire resiliency activities that would otherwise not be covered under the agency's regular budget, which is funded in part by Measure PH. Letters of support for the grant were received from the City of Whittier, Sierra Club San Gabriel Valley Task Force, Friends of the Whittier Hills, and Hills For Everyone.

***"We are extremely grateful to the RMC for their funding of this critically important grant. This proactive project is a part of the Habitat Authority's ongoing commitment to wildfire preparedness for the benefit of the Preserve and the local communities for years to come."*** said Ivan Sulic, Chair of the Habitat Authority's Board of Directors.

***"This comprehensive grant provides us with the necessary additional resources needed to implement priority wildfire prevention and protection strategies, preserve natural habitats, and safeguard local communities. It's a win-win for the region."*** said Andrea Gullo, Habitat Authority Executive Director.

Since its establishment in 1994, the Habitat Authority has been committed to preserving and protecting the over 3,800 acres of natural habitats of the Puente Hills area, including Hacienda Hills, Turnbull Canyon, Sycamore Canyon, Hellman Park, Arroyo Pescadero, and Powder Canyon. The Habitat Authority offers vital benefits by preventing wildfires, preserving natural habitats, and providing recreational opportunities. <https://www.habitatauthority.org/> ##

***Media Contacts:*** *Ivan Sulic, Chair of the Board of Directors, 310.507.5022*  
*Andrea Gullo, Executive Director, 562.201.3581, [agullo@habitatauthority.org](mailto:agullo@habitatauthority.org)*