

**PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY
CITIZENS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
*Endowment Provided by the Puente Hills Landfill***

April 15, 2024, Monday, 7 p.m.

The special meeting will take place in-person. Members of the public can observe and participate in the meeting in person.

LOCATION:

Palm Park: 5703 Palm Avenue, Whittier, CA 90601.

Catherine Houwen, Vice Chair	La Habra Heights
Adam Nazaroff	La Habra Heights
Roy Francis	La Habra Heights
Shelley Andros, Chair	Whittier
Janis Cavanaugh	Whittier
Michelle Pekko-Seymoure	Whittier
Matthew Liang	County of Los Angeles
John Ford	County of Los Angeles
Bryan Coreas	County of Los Angeles

Members of the public may provide electronic comments by Monday, April 15, 2024, by 12:00 p.m. to info@habitatauthority.org. Please label the email in the subject heading as “Public Comments.” Public comments may also be verbally heard during item III of the meeting.

72 hours prior to Citizens Technical Advisory Committee meetings, the entire Citizens Technical Advisory Committee agenda package is available for review, along with any meeting-related writings or documents provided to a majority of the Committee members after distribution of the agenda package, at the Authority’s website, 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 Andrea Gullo at 562.945.9003, at least 48 hours prior to meeting.

Pursuant to Section 54956 of the Government Code, the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Authority) will hold a special meeting of the Citizens Technical Advisory Committee (CTAC) at the above time and location for the purpose of:

AGENDA

- I. Call to order.
- II. Roll call.
- III. Public comments.
- IV. Approval of Minutes for the March 26, 2024, Special Meeting.
- V. Standing Reports:

- a) Report by the Board Liaison on previous month's Authority's Board of Directors meeting.
 - b) Social Media report.
 - c) Committee Member feedback from the public as it relates to the Authority.
- VI. Discussion, receive and file January and February 2024 Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) Ranger Reports.
- VII. Presentation by Authority consultant, TeamCivX, and discussion regarding community opinion survey results processed by Authority consultant Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates.
- VIII. Closing remarks (Comments/questions from Committee Members and/or Executive Director).
- IX. Adjournment and announcement of the next meeting.

The Puente Hills Habitat Preservation 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. Regular meetings of the Citizens Technical Advisory Committee are scheduled for the Tuesday before the third Thursday of every month. Questions about any agenda item can be addressed to Andrea Gullo, Executive Director, 562.945.9003.

Draft Minutes
 PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY
 CITIZENS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 March 26, 2024

The special meeting of the Citizens Technical Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, March 26, 2024, at Palm Park, 5703 Palm Ave, Whittier, CA 90601.

I. CALL TO ORDER.

Chair Andros called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL.

A roll call was taken, and there was a quorum at this time.

Members Present: Bryan Coreas	County of Los Angeles
Matthew Liang	Couty of Los Angeles
Adam Nazaroff	La Habra Heights
Catherine Houwen, Vice Chair	La Habra Heights
Michelle Pekko-Seymour	Whittier
Dr. Janis Cavanaugh	Whittier
Shelley Andros, Chair	Whittier

Members Absent: Roy Francis	La Habra Heights
John Ford	County of Los Angeles

Authority Representatives Present:

Andrea Gullo, Executive Director
 Michelle Mariscal, Ecologist
 Marlyn Barajas, Program Analyst

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Steve Huber, Vice President of Whittier Area Audubon, mentioned new bird sightings at Sycamore Canyon as Spring is rolling in during their monthly Bird Walk, including two active redtail hawk nests. It was also announced that the next monthly Bird Walk is on April 13, 2024. Also, Huber offered to take the Habitat Authority staff, CTAC, and volunteers on a Bird Walk on a day of their choosing. During this discussion, Executive Director Gullo mentioned to Steve Huber that he may also lead the Habitat Authority's monthly hikes if he would like to.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE FEBRUARY 13, 2024, REGULAR MEETING.

Member Nazaroff motioned to approve these minutes as drafted. Vice Chair Houwen seconded the motion, and in a vote, the motioned passed unanimously.

V. STANDING REPORTS:

a. REPORT BY BOARD LIAISON ON PREVIOUS MONTH'S AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING.

Vice Chair Houwen, Board Liaison, provided this report.

b. SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT.

Program Analyst Barajas mentioned growth in followers on the Habitat Authority's Instagram platform. She also highlighted two short PSA videos of the Habitat Authority by Biola University students. These videos can be found on the Habitat Authority's social media platforms.

Member Cavanaugh suggested using a talking deer to create a Habitat Authority PSA.

c. COMMITTEE MEMBER FEEDBACK FROM THE PUBLIC AS IT RELATES TO THE AUTHORITY.

Member Cavanaugh mentioned attending a Friends of the Whittier Hills (FOWH) Board meeting at Lee Willard's home. She stated that FOWH is supportive of the Habitat Authority. Additionally, she mentioned that FOWH is looking into tabling at LA County Sanitation Districts Earth Day event on April 13, 2024. Also, Member Cavanaugh mentioned that Lee Willard asked Executive Director Gullo and Bob Henderson to be dual speakers at the annual Friends of the Whittier Hills meeting on April 28, 2024. Lastly, she mentioned that FOWH is looking for ways to recruit young people.

Member Coreas asked about the Habitat Authority's presentation to the Whittier Museum on February 27. Executive Director Gullo mentioned that it was good outreach because a few attendees had not heard of the Habitat Authority before the presentation.

Member Liang commented on Executive Director Gullo speaking at HHIA and mentioned that the speaking engagement went well.

VI. RECEIVE AND FILE THE AUTHORITY'S FISCAL YEAR 2023-24 MID-YEAR BUDGET REPORT.

Executive Director Gullo gave a report. After discussion the item was received and filed.

VII. DISCUSSION REGARDING COMMUNITY OPINION SURVEY PERFORMED BY AUTHORITY CONSULTANT FAIRBANK, MASLIN, MAULLIN, METZ & ASSOCIATES.

Executive Director Gullo provided this report. She briefed the Committee on the recent community opinion survey results performed by Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates. In her report, she mentioned the results were resilient and stable with modest improvement compared to the last community opinion survey, and that these results show a path forward.

VIII. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD TO ADVANCE A COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT FORMATION, WITH APPROVAL FOR NEXT STEPS AND ELECTION PREPARATION INCLUDING APPROVAL OF THE BOUNDARY MAP.

Executive Director Gullo provided this report. There was discussion.

Member Cavanaugh motioned to approve to recommend to the Board to advance a Community Facilities District Formation, with the approval for next steps and election preparation including approval of the boundary map. Member Liang seconded the motion, and a vote the motioned passed unanimously.

IX. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD REGARDING PILOT PROGRAM FOR PROVIDING DOG WASTE BAGS AT ARROYO PESCADERO TRAILHEAD.

Ecologist Mariscal provided this report. The data collected from the pilot program was unclear as to whether providing dog waste bags at the start of the trailhead reduced dog waste on the trail.

Member Cavanaugh motioned to recommend to the Board that the remaining purchased dog waste bags continue to be provided at the Arroyo Pescadero trailhead and for staff to continue to qualitatively observe whether trail behaviors change over the course of the next few months while the remaining dog waste bags are provided. Member Liang seconded the motion, and there was discussion. This motion was amended.

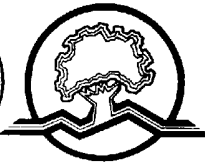
Member Cavanaugh motioned to recommend to the Board that the remaining purchased dog waste bags continue to be provided at the Arroyo Pescadero Trailhead until they are depleted. Member Liang seconded the motion, and in a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

X. CLOSING REMARKS (COMMENTS/QUESTIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND/OR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR).

Executive Gullo mentioned the Habitat Authority will table at the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts' Earth Day event on April 13 and the Habitat Authority's own Earth Day event on April 20, 2024.

XI. ADJOURNMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEXT MEETING.

There being no further comments or business to be discussed, Chair Andros adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is on April 16, 2024.



February 29, 2024

**Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority
Ranger and Park Staff Services Activities for January and February 2024**

- The MRCA contract provides approximately 82 hours weekly of ranger and park staff services.
- Continued general patrol for: providing visitor information, identifying hazardous conditions and correcting illegal activity. Open and close trailhead gates daily.
- Continued general maintenance for: graffiti removal, vandalism repair, litter and dumping removal, fence and gate repairs, sign installations and repairs and trail maintenance.
- Attended the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) Board meetings.
- Participated in our ranger monthly management meeting.
- Participated in the Habitat Authority Open House event in Whittier.
- Monitoring the dead tree removal project in Whittier and La Habra Heights.
- Responded to a fire in the Whittier Hills above Worsham Canyon. L.A. County Fire extinguished it quickly. About 75 feet x 75 feet. No damage to native brush. Cause unknown.
- Monitored a permitted filming project at Powder Canyon.
- Inspected the status of an encroachment on Skyline Drive. Reported to Habitat Authority staff.
- Met with Habitat Authority staff and the contractors working on the Sycamore house. Monitor the work periodically. Purchased the blinds for all the windows.

- Continue to check and re-post trail closure signs and rope-fence at unauthorized trails and restoration areas in Turnbull Canyon, Worsham Canyon, Powder Canyon and Hellman Park.
- Picked up dumping including:
 - Tree branches at Hellman Park.
 - Debris along Fullerton Road.
 - Sofa at Arroyo San Miguel.
- Continue to notify the Habitat Authority staff of all unsuccessful animal road crossings that are observed at or near Habitat Authority property. During the months of January and February no animals were observed.
- Continue to monitor the Harbor underpass. No activity to report.
- Due to safety concerns and overcrowding at the Turnbull Canyon entrance, we previously worked with the owner of the property and Whittier Police Department to secure the vacant lot that is next to the entrance. The lot needed to be re-secured twice in December and twice in January.
- Continue monitoring the surveillance cameras at various trailheads in attempt to catch the vehicle break-in perpetrators. We are also coordinating with Whittier Police and L.A. County Sheriff. One subject was arrested at Sycamore Canyon. He is connected to several vehicle break-ins.
- Responded to several calls for cars broken into at Sycamore Canyon.
- Responded to a vehicle broken into at Hacienda Hills Trailhead.
- Installed additional "Please Do Not Leave Valuables In Your Car" signage at Sycamore Canyon.
- Continue to contact the Los Angeles County Department of Street Maintenance regarding the graffiti along Turnbull Canyon Road.
- Removed a rope swing in Dark Canyon.
- Observed the new lights at the Murphy Ranch Ball Field across from Arroyo Pescadero. Sent photos to Habitat Authority staff.
- Cleaned all the drains throughout the Preserve prior to the rain.

- The Preserve was closed several days in January and February due to rain.
- Inspected the roads/trails after the rain for damage. Reported to staff. Caution taped around hazardous areas.
- Removed fallen branches blocking Powder Canyon Trail.
- Continue to refill the doggy bags at Arroyo Pescadero.
- Continue to pick up dog defecation at all the trailheads.
- Removed weeds around the parking lot at Arroyo Pescadero.
- Re-painted the red curbs around the parking lot at Arroyo Pescadero.
- Installed new “Do Not Block Fire Road “ and “No Dogs” signs at the top of Arroyo San Miguel.
- Searched for a reported possible homeless person at Arroyo Pescadero. Unable to locate.
- Continue to monitor, repair, replace the locks on all the access gates.
- Covered the graffiti in the tunnel under Colima in Arroyo Pescadero.
- Continue to patrol the SCE, Brea 57 site and Monterey mitigation sites in Powder Canyon and the Olinda site in Arroyo San Miguel.
- Dealt with various violations including:
 - In the Preserve after hours at Sycamore Canyon, Hellman Park, Hacienda Hills, Powder Cyn. and Arroyo Pescadero.
 - Parking violations at Arroyo Pescadero, Hacienda Hills Trailhead, Sycamore Canyon and Ford property.
 - Bikes in Sycamore Canyon and Arroyo Pescadero.
 - Motorcycle at the Ford property.
 - Dogs in Sycamore Canyon
 - Hikers in Turnbull Canyon and Powder Canyon after rain.
 - Loud music in the Hacienda Hills and Arroyo Pescadero.
 - Dogs off leash at Hacienda Hills and Arroyo Pescadero.
- Continue to conduct perimeter patrols of all property for fence damage, illegal access points, rope swings, and encroachments.

- Received several calls during the months of January and February to our 24-hour ranger emergency services number including:
 - Several calls for hikers locked in at Hellman Park.
 - Several calls inquiring if the trails are open after the rain.
 - Caller inquiring about putting a chain across the parking lot at night at Hacienda Hills Trailhead.
 - Several calls reporting their vehicle broken into at Sycamore Canyon.
 - Several calls for hikers locked in at the Hacienda Hills Trailhead.
 - Reporting a illegally parked car at the Hacienda Hills Trailhead.
 - Call from Whittier Police regarding a fire in the hills above Worsham Canyon.
 - Landscaper requesting access behind the Sycamore house.
 - Hikers locked in at the end of Orange Grove Ave.
 - Hiker at Sycamore Canyon Trailhead ran out of gas. He is waiting for his friend to bring him gas.
 - Reporting hikers jumping the fence at the Hacienda Hills Trailhead.
 - Requesting access to trim trees behind the homes at the Hacienda Hills Trailhead.
 - Caller in Whittier concerned about coyotes in his backyard.
 - Hiker with an injured foot in Turnbull Canyon needs assistance. Responded and transported her to her car.
 - Reporting people yelling at the Hacienda Hills Trailhead.
 - Horseback rider at Hacienda Hills Trailhead is locked in.
 - Resident in Whittier caught a opossum in his yard.
 - Resident in Whittier concerned about coyotes running around the neighborhood.
 - Whittier Water Dept requesting access at Hellman Park.
 - Resident in La Habra Heights reporting a deer stuck in their backyard.

- Continue to work closely with Executive Director Andrea Gullo on various projects and assignments as requested.

If you have any questions, or would like any additional information, please feel free to contact me anytime. Thank you.

Sincerely,

K E Hughes

Kenn Hughes
Deputy Chief Ranger

MEMORANDUM

Meeting Date: April 15, 2024
To: Citizens Technical Advisory Committee
Prepared by: Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Agenda Item VII. Presentation by Authority consultant, TeamCivX, and discussion regarding community opinion survey results processed by Authority consultant Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates.

Background:

In February 2024, the Board of Directors approved a contract with Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (FM3) in the amount of \$31,850 to conduct an opinion poll for the Authority regarding the agency's financial needs and general community perceptions on related matters. The poll has concluded, and the results were presented at the March Board meeting.

The Authority's consultant with TeamCivX, Joy Kummer, will present FM3's findings to the Committee at its meeting.

Recommendation:

Receive and file.

Additional Materials



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



Earth Day Celebration



When: Saturday, April 20, 2024
9:00am-11:30am

Where: Hacienda Hills Trailhead
14600 Orange Grove Ave
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745

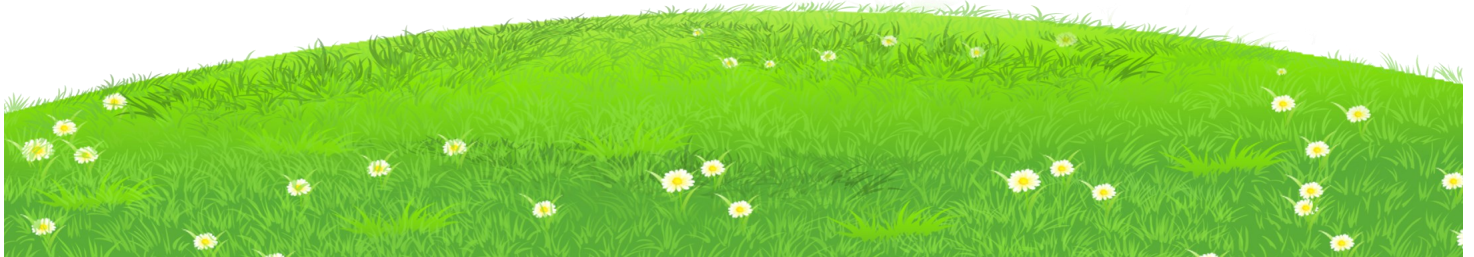
Help protect the planet in honor of Earth Day 2024!

- Ecology and Clean-up hike, 9 am
- Weed removal project
- Fun craft for kids
- Sign up to stay informed about future events
- Learn about the Puente Hills Preserve and the Habitat Authority.

All children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Please wear sturdy close-toed shoes and outdoor appropriate clothing. Water will be provided.

Service groups please RSVP to Marlyn at info@HabitatAuthority.org

For additional Earth Day Celebration information contact Marlyn
info@HabitatAuthority.org or call 562-945-9003.



Hills For Everyone

Friends of the
Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor



Newsletter No. 50

Spring 2024

Happy 30th Birthday Habitat Authority!



Melanie Schlotterbeck

Two hikers enjoy Powder Canyon, one of the Habitat Authority's lands, on a beautiful spring day.

By: Andrea Gullo, Habitat Authority's Executive Director

This year, the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) is celebrating 30 years of preserving the Puente Hills. It has been an honor for our agency to play a role in supporting nature and the public good. Pending future funding, we hope to continue our support for years to come!

The Habitat Authority was formed as a joint powers authority—a partnership—between the City of Whittier, County of Los Angeles, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, and a public member representing Hacienda Heights. The Habitat Authority came into existence in 1994 as a condition of approval for the Puente Hills Landfill, our main funding source. The Authority manages over 3,880 acres in the Puente Hills as protected natural lands.

The Puente Hills Preserve is located within a globally recognized biodiversity hotspot (places rich in species variety, but threatened by development). The lands are home to a variety of habitats and wildlife such as bobcats, bats, birds, and reptiles and amphibians—many of which are threatened or rare. The Habitat Authority is actively working to protect this biodiversity through efforts such as restoring over 312 acres of habitat.

Melanie Schlotterbeck



These lands are accessible to thousands of people who enjoy the Preserve's 23 miles of trails via our six trailheads: Sycamore Canyon, Turnbull Canyon, Powder Canyon, Arroyo Pescadero, Hacienda Hills, and Hellman Park. The use of these trails for exercise not only improves physical and mental health, but also fosters social connections and strengthens community bonds. Our amazing volunteers contribute to this social fabric by hosting public hikes for all to enjoy. The Habitat Authority staff, rangers, and volunteers have provided outdoor education to over 33,000 youth and adults.

Additionally, the land itself contributes to our health by capturing carbon emissions, reducing flood risks, and lowering pollution levels. Open spaces are known to benefit local economies by increasing home values; attracting new residents and businesses which increase sales and tax revenue; and contributing to the local economy when recreational visitors use their purchasing power for equipment, food, and gas. Moreover, our rangers, who provide law enforcement and are trained in wildfire fighting, help keep trails clean and safe, which improves the local communities' quality of life.

Now that the Puente Hills Landfill is closed, our funding for maintaining this important work is limited. We're

Continued on page 2 ...

continued from page 1...

currently investigating new, long-term funding options to ensure these benefits remain accessible to the wider community.

On Saturday, April 20, the Habitat Authority welcomes your participation at our Earth Day event to celebrate all that the hills mean to us. Please see our flyer for details. All are welcome!

To sign up for our newsletter or register for a hike, and for more information about our history, funding options and challenges, and a detailed list of accomplishments, please visit: www.HabitatAuthority.org.



Melanie Schlotterbeck



Earth Day Celebration

When: Saturday, April 20, 2024
9:00am-11:30am

Where: Hacienda Hills Trailhead
14600 Orange Grove Ave
Hacienda Heights, CA. 91745

Help protect the planet in honor of Earth Day 2024!

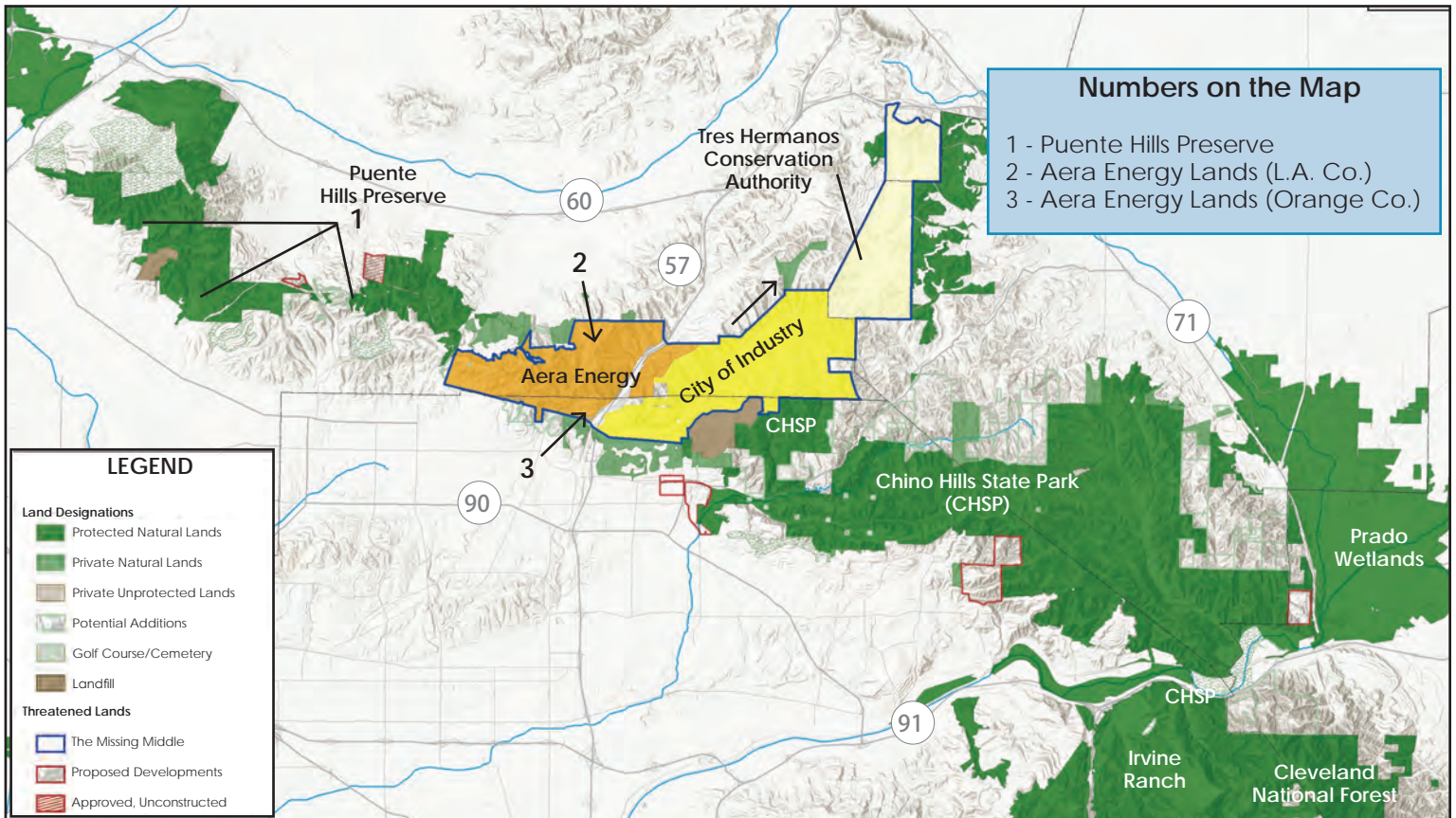
- Ecology and Clean-up hike, 9 am
- Weed removal project
- Fun craft for kids
- Sign up to stay informed about future events
- Learn about the Puente Hills Preserve and the Habitat Authority.

All children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Please wear sturdy close-toed shoes and outdoor appropriate clothing. Water will be provided.

Service groups please RSVP to Marlyn at info@HabitatAuthority.org

For additional Earth Day Celebration information contact Marlyn info@HabitatAuthority.org or call 562-945-9003.

Mapping the Corridor Projects



The Habitat Authority's 30th Anniversary and Earth Day Celebration



Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Preservation of the local hills started with the Friends of the Whittier Hills in the 1980s, and the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (the Habitat Authority) has been honored to continue these preservation efforts. This year the Habitat Authority is celebrating 30 years as a public agency. Primarily because of the initiative and fortitude of former Whittier Mayor, Bob Henderson, this agency was created in 1994 to help preserve the Puente Hills located in Whittier, Hacienda Heights, Rowland Heights, and La Habra Heights. We are thankful for the steadfast partnership with the local communities and tireless volunteers, and are proud of our accomplishments thus far, including:

- Protecting the 3,880+ acre Puente Hills Preserve, implementing habitat restoration of over 312 acres, and partnering in building Los Angeles County's first wildlife underpass.
- Providing a 23-mile trail system (via six trailheads: Sycamore Canyon, Powder Canyon, Hellman Park, Arroyo Pescadero, Hacienda Hills, and Turnbull Canyon) for thousands of people to enjoy as a valuable respite away from the hustle and bustle of daily life.
- Providing rangers that are California peace officers and are trained in wildfire fighting, which contributes to the local communities' quality of life and property values by keeping the hills clean and safe. Their commitment and expertise are indispensable in reducing fire risk and safeguarding precious natural habitats.
- Contributing to our social fabric by providing a venue for our amazing volunteers to host several public hikes each month for all to enjoy.
- Providing preventative brush clearance to protect local communities from wildfires.
- Having provided outreach to over 33,000 youth and adults as a result of its educational efforts.

The Habitat Authority has protected the native flora and fauna in the Puente Hills for 30 years and we hope to continue to do so for many future generations. However, the Habitat Authority is currently facing an ongoing structural deficit that threatens the continuation of essential services such as rangers. While no decision has been made, the Habitat Authority has been actively exploring options to secure an additional source of funding that would allow the agency to maintain key projects and programs. This includes assisting first responders, maintaining natural habitats, preventing homeless encampments, and supporting the work of park rangers and other contractors in fire prevention. To learn more please visit our website at HabitatAuthority.org.

On Saturday, April 20, the Habitat Authority welcomes your participation at our Earth Day event to celebrate all that the hills mean to us. As we reflect on the significance of Earth Day, we invite everyone to recommit to the preservation of our planet and the promotion of sustainable practices. Together, we can make a difference in maintaining a healthy and resilient world for future generations. The event will be held from 9 am to 11:30 am at the Hacienda Hills Trailhead, 14600 Orange Grove Ave, Hacienda Heights, CA 91745. We welcome the opportunity for you to inquire and learn more about our park ranger services and the need for local funding.

Friends of the Whittier Hills PO Box 247 Whittier, CA 90608
Email: friendsofwhittierhills@gmail.com
Phone 562.696.8740

April newsletter



Stories Left Behind from the Rain: Animal Tracks

Michelle Mariscal, Habitat Authority Ecologist

Among the benefits of the recent rains is the opportunity to catch glimpses of wildlife tracks that are left behind in the mud! This can be an especially fun way to know whether rare, shy, or nocturnal wildlife that you might not regularly encounter have been in the area. Identifying animal tracks can be a bit challenging because you often need more than a single print—indeed, the pattern of the prints is enough to sometimes immediately know that a cottontail rabbit or California ground squirrel had been by for a visit. As you peruse your tracks, keep in mind that the imprint an animal leaves behind is influenced by the substrate and moisture content (such as mud, sand, silt, or snow), the animal's gait (a leisurely walk can look very different from a brisk trot), and the weather since the track was made. I recommend

following the tracks for a little while to help you gather information before coming to a conclusion, and switch directions to give yourself a new perspective (depending on the time of day, shadows can impede or assist with making the tracks more visible). To aid in your identification, you can place an object from your pocket next to the track, such as a pencil or coin, to give yourself an idea of relative size and then snap a photograph to refer back to once you reach your field guide or computer. You may be surprised that your initial guess changes entirely!

While out on the Preserve recently, I stopped to examine a large patch of mud on the Bob Henderson Loop Trail in Arroyo Pescadero to see what stories it had to tell. Not surprisingly, I observed many prints of hiking boots and various sized canine prints, as well as the tires of a bicycle (which is a “no-no” in this portion of the Preserve). After making one pass along the edges of the mud patch my eyes were able to filter out those more common prints to observe others—such as ground squirrel, bird, and even the small, symmetrical prints of a bobcat! Bobcats, unlike canines, have three lobes along the “palm” pad of their feet, which aids in identification. Rather than travelling along the length of the trail like the canine and human prints, this particular bobcat crossed perpendicularly, probably preferring the cover of the habitat over being exposed on the trail. Some of the bobcat prints were also partially obstructed by other overlapping tracks, giving a relative indication of timing for when the bobcat came through. The next time you encounter a patch of mud, or some fine silt along your path I hope you are inspired to examine the tracks of those that came before you and what stories they may have to tell.



April 9, 2024

Lee Willard
6218 Roundhill Drive
Whittier, CA 90601

Dear Mr. Willard,

The Habitat Authority is hugely grateful for your support of the dog waste pilot program. Because of your weekly visits to Arroyo Pescadero to collect data and attention to detail, we have concluded this pilot program. Also, your initial clearing of the trails did not go unnoticed; that was a tremendous effort! Your dedication to this project is very appreciated by me and the whole Board of Directors!

Our common goal and partnership of preserving the Puente Hills has strengthened our efforts, and we are thankful to have you, Lee Willard, as a volunteer to the Habitat Authority and in partnership with Friends of the Whittier Hills. Thank you for all you do!

Sincerely,



Ivan Sulic
Chair, Board of Directors

C:
Board of Directors
Advisory Committee



Recognition and Appreciation

Presented to

Lee Willard

In appreciation for your dedication and service to the Habitat Authority with the dog waste pilot program at the Arroyo Pescadero Trailhead. Thank you for going above and beyond. Volunteer and partnership efforts like yours better our lives and environment for generations to come.

April 9, 2024



*Ivan Sulic, Chair
Board of Directors*