

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

**To be held via video (Zoom) and telephonically by joining at this address:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86822054849> Meeting ID: 868 2205 4849

**- Or- Phone:** Dial by your location: +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose), +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)  
Meeting ID: 868 2205 4849, Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86822054849>

*This meeting is being held pursuant to Section 3 of Executive Order N-29-20 issued by California Governor Gavin Newsom on March 17, 2020. Any or all Board Members may attend and participate by teleconference meeting. Consistent with mandates of Executive Order No. N-29-20, a physical location from which members of the public may observe the meeting or offer public comment will not be made available, however viewing and public comment options are provided above.*

***Members of the public may provide electronic comments by 3pm on Wednesday, July 14, 2021 before the meeting to [mmiller@HabitatAuthority.org](mailto:mmiller@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.***

Agency	Director	Alternate
County of Los Angeles	SULIC, Vice Chair	YOKOMIZO
City of Whittier	MARTINEZ	BOUCHOT
Hacienda Heights Improvement Association	HUGHES, Chair	LICARI
Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County	FERRANTE	BOEHMKE

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.

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 Chairperson of the Authority at the above time and place for the purpose of:

1. Confirmation of appointment of Jessica Martinez as the City of Whittier's representative on the Authority's Board of Directors, a position previously held as Board Alternate.
2. Confirmation and Oath of Office and introduction for Henry Bouchot as City of Whittier's representative as Alternate Director on the Authority's Board of Directors.
3. Receipt of Public Comments.
4. Report by Citizens Technical Advisory Committee.
5. Consent Calendar:
  - a. Approval of Authority Regular Meeting Minutes of June 17, 2021.
  - b. Approval of Authority Special Meeting Minutes for June 17, 2021.

- c. Receive and file April and May 2021 Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) Ranger Reports.
6. Verbal update, discussion and possible action regarding the proposed heli-hydrant project on the Authority's former Diaz property, provide direction to staff and counsel as appropriate.
7. Discussion regarding Authority Advisory Committee feedback regarding recognition for the service from Bob Henderson to the Authority, and possible direction from the Board.
8. Review, discussion and possible action regarding Authority workplan for fiscal year 2021-22, and review of Strategic Guidelines.
9. Review, discussion and possible action regarding Authority annual budget for fiscal year 2021-22, and review of corresponding budgets.
10. Discussion and possible action of reopening Hellman Park Trailhead.
11. Discussion and possible action authorizing Executive Director to execute the Thirtieth Amendment of the Open Space Management Agreement with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for ranger maintenance and operation services extending the term an additional year from 7/1/21 to 6/30/22 in the amount of \$452,936.
12. Discussion and possible action regarding conducting meetings both in-person, virtually, or a hybrid of the two; update on status of Executive Order No. 29-20, updated Executive Orders, pending legislation.
13. Discussion and possible action regarding conducting a joint meeting with the Authority's Advisory Committee.
14. Approval of Minutes for June 17, 2021, Special Meeting's Closed Session. (This item can be heard in closed session per Government Code 54957.2.)
15. Pending litigation – Exposure to Litigation. A point has been reached where, in the opinion of the legislative body of the Habitat Authority on the advice of its legal counsel, based on existing facts and circumstances, there is a significant exposure to litigation against the Habitat Authority. (This item can be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2), (e)(1).).
16. Pending litigation – Initiation of litigation by the Authority. Facts and circumstances have arisen that might lead the Authority to initiate litigation, but which the Authority believes are not yet known to a potential defendant or defendants and therefore need not be disclosed. (This item can be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4)).
17. Instruction to negotiators on property negotiations for Assessor Parcel Number 8240-036-021. Negotiations for an access easement over the property. Negotiating parties include Board Chairman, Executive Director, and International Buddhist Progress Society, (This item can be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 regarding real estate negotiations.)

18. Pending litigation – Initiation of litigation by the Authority. Facts and circumstances have arisen that might lead the Authority to initiate litigation, but which the Authority believes are not yet known to a potential defendant or defendants and therefore need not be disclosed. (This item can be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4)).
19. Pending litigation – Exposure to litigation. A point has been reached where, in the opinion of the Board of Directors on the advice of its legal counsel, based on existing facts and circumstances, but which the local agency believes are not yet known to a potential plaintiff or plaintiffs, which facts and circumstances need not be disclosed, there is significant exposure to litigation against the Habitat Authority. (This item can be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(c), (d)(2), (e)(1)).
20. Board Members' statements, responses, questions or directions to staff, and Executive Director's comments.
21. Adjournment and announcement of next meeting.

**NOTE:** Members of the public may address the Board of Directors on any item shown on the agenda.

NOTE: 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 Melissa Miller at 562.945.9003 at least 48 hours prior to meeting.

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

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Held via video conference and teleconference

The Chair, Mike Hughes, called the regular meeting to order and a roll call was taken at approximately 3:01 p.m.

From Hacienda Heights Improvement Association:

Present: Mike Hughes, Chair

From Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County:

Present: Chuck Boehmke, Alternate Director

From City of Whittier:

Present: Jessica Martinez, Director

From County of Los Angeles

Present: Ivan Sulic, Vice Chair

Authority representatives present:

Andrea Gullo, Authority Executive Director  
Michelle Mariscal, Authority Ecologist  
Melissa Miller, Authority Board Secretary  
Kenn Hughes, Deputy Chief Ranger, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA)  
Elena Gerli, Esq., Aleshire & Wynder LLP, Authority Counsel  
Lauren Yokomizo, Alternate Board Director  
Henry Bouchot, Alternate Board Director

Others present:

Brian Saeki, Whittier City Manager  
Fabiola Huerta, La Habra Heights City Manager  
Doug Graft, La Habra Heights Fire Chief  
Tim Peel, La Habra Heights Assistant Fire Chief  
Rafferty Wooldridge, La Habra Heights Assistant City Manager  
John Pespisa, Chair of La Habra Heights Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee  
Claire Schlotterbeck, Executive Director of Hills For Everyone (HFE) and Secretary of Chino Hills State Park Interpretive Association  
Stephen Blagden, resident of La Habra Heights  
Michele Montano, Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation  
Mike Sprague, Whittier Daily News

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Anthony Avila  
Sean Downey

**1. RECEIPT OF PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

Stephen Blagden of La Habra Heights referred to several items on this agenda and otherwise: regarding item 3, he stated that approval of the La Habra Heights City Council is required according to Condition 10 of the agreement for acquisition of properties not on the agreement's list, which requirement should be removed, and he added that, along with any heli-hydrant in this area, Los Angeles County should be required to close the Punta Del Este Drive access point in Hacienda Heights since that area is a great attractant to potential fire-starting activity; regarding item 5, he asked what progress has been made by the Board's Community Facility District Subcommittee since it was formed last November; regarding item 10, he again expressed opposition to sale of this property and stated that the name of the possible seller should be clearly indicated on the agenda; and lastly he recommended that the Authority's current Board endeavor to close and remove any loopholes that would allow future Boards to endanger or diminish the protections currently in place for preserving the open space in the Puente Hills.

Fabiola Huerta, City Manager for the City of La Habra Heights, thanked the Authority Board for their attention to the proposed heli-hydrant tank project on the Authority's former Diaz property.

John Pespisa, Chair of La Habra Heights Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee, thanked the Board for their incredible leadership regarding the proposed heli-hydrant tank project and doing the right thing for the habitat, wildlife and neighbors since in his opinion the habitat is an existential threat to the City of La Habra Heights; he noted that in examining the Authority's documents in response to his recent public records request he found no work-related bid requirement to protect or identify species and no environmental evaluations done before commencement of the work; and he asked the Board to hire a staff person who understands fire threat.

Tim Peel, La Habra Heights Assistant Fire Chief, also thanked the Board and staff for the Authority's attention to the proposed heli-hydrant tank project.

**2. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

- a) Approval of Authority Regular Meeting Minutes of May 20, 2021.
- b) Receive and file the Authority's Portfolio Earnings Reports and Custom by Instrument Type for May 2021 prepared by the County of Los Angeles Treasurer and Tax Collector.

Vice Chair Sulic motioned to approve and receive and file these items.  
Director Martinez seconded this motion, and in a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

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**3. VERBAL UPDATE, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE PROPOSED HELI-HYDRANT PROJECT ON THE AUTHORITY’S FORMER DIAZ PROPERTY, PROVIDE DIRECTION TO STAFF AND COUNSEL AS APPROPRIATE.**

Chair Hughes thanked the Authority’s counsel and the counsel for the City of La Habra Heights for their work so far on this matter. He also thanked the Authority’s Executive Director for her attention to this matter as well. Executive Director Gullo thanked the Board for their directions regarding this proposed project. Counsel Gerli briefly described the conditions anticipated to be included in the draft agreement expected to be available next week. Counsel Gerli stated that the City asked for access to the property to conduct site and bird surveys and plan for the installation, and they would like to keep the access as limited as possible. Chair Hughes stated that a special meeting of the Authority’s Board will be called whenever needed for this project. Ecologist Mariscal briefly answered the City’s questions regarding the design of the project and described some of the Authority’s preferences regarding drainage, surfacing around the tank site, and fencing. She described putting a pipeline about 20 feet way from the fenceline to facilitate dispersing drainage without encouraging further vegetation growth. She described the recommendation for a permeable surface around the tank, preferably non-petroleum-based. The fence recommended is an uncoated chain link or heavy gauge woven wire fence 8 to 10 feet tall, and buried 2 feet underground, with capped fence posts, no barbed wire, and with small white tags every 2-3 feet around the fenceline to increase visibility for the wildlife. The Board deferred to staff regarding these preferences. Director Martinez expressed concern regarding the possible presence of standing water, and Counsel Gerli stated that the City emphasized that the tank would be empty when not in use. The Board expressed appreciation for the cooperation between the agencies and staffs on this project.

Vice Chair Sulic motioned to grant access to the City for the next steps needed for the heli-hydrant project. Director Martinez seconded this motion, and in a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

**4. VERBAL UPDATE REGARDING STATUS OF REOPENING HELLMAN PARK TRAILHEAD.**

Executive Director Gullo reported that no further update has been received from the City of Whittier. She added that making the Hellman Park Trailhead gate for pedestrians is possible but would eliminate only some of the expense associated with management at that trailhead, and she is anticipating obtaining further funding information from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District once a meeting with them has been scheduled. Whittier City Manager Brian Saeki confirmed that this matter is scheduled for discussion soon by the Whittier City Council.

**5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ESTABLISHING BOARD SUBCOMMITTEE TO COORDINATE WITH STAFF AND CONSULTANT TO ADDRESS FEASIBILITY OF A FINANCING MECHANISM IN PART FOR WILDFIRE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF AGENCY PROPERTIES.**

Executive Director Gullo noted that this subcommittee is short a member after the recent departure of one of its two members, Bob Henderson, from the Board. Chair Hughes

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confirmed that this subcommittee's schedule is simply on an as-needed basis, and Vice Chair Sulic nominated himself to fill this vacancy. Counsel Gerli confirmed that no formal vote is necessary for this action, as long as all Board Directors clearly indicate their approval, and this consensus was expressed by all.

**6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING CESSATION OF CREATING WRITTEN MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY'S CLOSED SESSIONS.**

Chair Hughes noted that this item was requested by Vice Chair Sulic, who stated that he does not believe it's necessary for the Authority to minute their closed sessions since the benefit from that practice continues to seem negligible. Chair Hughes agreed that the Authority's Board Directors have not experienced any contentious discussion that would warrant such a practice, and Counsel Gerli added that the majority of boards and councils do not take minutes during their closed sessions.

Vice Chair Sulic motioned to stop the practice of maintaining written minutes of the Authority's closed sessions. Alternate Director Boehmke seconded this motion, and in a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

**7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MAY 20, 2021, CLOSED SESSION. (This item can be heard in closed session per Government Code 54957.2.)**

At 3:42 p.m. Chair Hughes moved to continue discussion of items 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 in Closed Session.

In the closed session, item 7 was discussed by the Board and no reportable action was taken.

**8. PENDING LITIGATION – INITIATION OF LITIGATION BY THE AUTHORITY. FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE ARISEN THAT MIGHT LEAD THE AUTHORITY TO INITIATE LITIGATION, BUT WHICH THE AUTHORITY BELIEVES ARE NOT YET KNOWN TO A POTENTIAL DEFENDANT OR DEFENDANTS AND THEREFORE NEED NOT BE DISCLOSED. (This item can be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4)).**

In the closed session, item 8 was removed from the agenda and not discussed.

**9. PENDING LITIGATION – INITIATION OF LITIGATION BY THE AUTHORITY. FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE ARISEN THAT MIGHT LEAD THE AUTHORITY TO INITIATE LITIGATION, BUT WHICH THE AUTHORITY BELIEVES ARE NOT YET KNOWN TO A POTENTIAL DEFENDANT OR DEFENDANTS AND THEREFORE NEED NOT BE DISCLOSED. (This item can be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4)).**

In the closed session, item 9 was discussed by the Board and no reportable action was taken.

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- 10. INSTRUCTION TO NEGOTIATORS ON PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS FOR ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBER 8267-017-904. NEGOTIATING PARTIES INCLUDE BOARD CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND POSSIBLE PURCHASING PARTY. (This item can be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 regarding real estate negotiations.)**

In the closed session, item 10 was discussed by the Board and no reportable action was taken.

- 11. INSTRUCTION TO NEGOTIATORS ON PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS FOR ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBER 8240-036-021. NEGOTIATIONS FOR AN ACCESS EASEMENT OVER THE PROPERTY. NEGOTIATING PARTIES INCLUDE BOARD CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND INTERNATIONAL BUDDHIST PROGRESS SOCIETY. (This item can be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 regarding real estate negotiations.)**

In the closed session, item 11 was discussed by the Board and no reportable action was taken.

- 12. PENDING LITIGATION – INITIATION OF LITIGATION BY THE AUTHORITY. FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE ARISEN THAT MIGHT LEAD THE AUTHORITY TO INITIATE LITIGATION, BUT WHICH THE AUTHORITY BELIEVES ARE NOT YET KNOWN TO A POTENTIAL DEFENDANT OR DEFENDANTS AND THEREFORE NEED NOT BE DISCLOSED. (This item can be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4)).**

In the closed session, item 12 was discussed by the Board and no reportable action was taken.

- 13. PENDING LITIGATION – EXPOSURE TO LITIGATION. A POINT HAS BEEN REACHED WHERE, IN THE OPINION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON THE ADVICE OF ITS LEGAL COUNSEL, BASED ON EXISTING FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT WHICH THE LOCAL AGENCY BELIEVES ARE NOT YET KNOWN TO A POTENTIAL PLAINTIFF OR PLAINTIFFS, WHICH FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES NEED NOT BE DISCLOSED, THERE IS SIGNIFICANT EXPOSURE TO LITIGATION AGAINST THE HABITAT AUTHORITY. (This item can be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(c), (d)(2), (e)(1)).**

In the closed session, item 13 was discussed by the Board and no reportable action was taken.

At 4:02 p.m. Chair Hughes moved to end the Closed Session and the Open Session recommenced.

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

Chair Hughes reminded the Board that a special meeting will be needed once the City of La Habra Heights has prepared their materials regarding the proposed heli-hydrant.



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Director Martinez again thanked Executive Director Gullo, Counsel Gerli, and Ecologist Mariscal for their substantial work so far regarding the heli-hydrant project and in keeping the habitat safe.

Executive Director Gullo reported that signage regarding mask requirements outdoors were removed from the Preserve yesterday in accordance with the latest mandates. She reported that letters were sent out yesterday to the County, the City of Whittier, and the City of La Habra Heights requesting their nominations for their representation on the Authority's Citizens Technical Advisory Committee for the new terms beginning next February, to give them sufficient time to make their determinations. She reminded that the Authority is again coordinating the efforts of the rangers, volunteers, County Sheriffs, Whittier Police, and the La Habra Heights Fire Department and Fire Safe Council in preparation for the upcoming Independence Day holiday. She reported that the Advisory Committee will be asked for their recommendation regarding recognition of the substantial work of Bob Henderson. She noted that the La Habra Heights City Council agenda includes discussion of a property that the Authority first expressed interest in acquiring 21 years ago, and she mentioned to city staff that if they are not able to acquire it, the Authority would be interested and could add the property to the Authority agenda for consideration. She reported that the relocation of the Authority's office has been scheduled for the third week of July. She reported that, unfortunately, Mr. Albin, a Habitat Authority neighbor, has passed away. Lastly, she noted that Whittier is still discussing its possible remedies to the problem of jaywalkers crossing Colima Road to the Arroyo Pescadero Trailhead, and the city says they need more information regarding the availability of parking at the Arroyo San Miguel area, while the Whittier Area Community Church still has not responded regarding the parking at the ballfield.

Chair Hughes again thanked staff and Counsel Gerli for their substantial work so far regarding the heli-hydrant project.

Counsel Gerli noted that significant thanks are also due to the city attorney for La Habra Heights.

**15. ADJOURNMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING.**

There being no further comments, or business to be discussed, Director Martinez motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:14 p.m. and all concurred.

*Approved:*

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*Mike Hughes, Board Chair*

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*Melissa Miller, Board Secretary*

**DRAFT Minutes of Special Meeting – June 17, 2021**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY**

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Held via video conference and teleconference

The Chair, Mike Hughes, called the special meeting to order and a roll call was taken at approximately 11:02 a.m.

From Hacienda Heights Improvement Association:

Present: Mike Hughes, Chair

From Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County:

Present: Chuck Boehmke, Alternate Director

From City of Whittier:

Present: Jessica Martinez, Director

From County of Los Angeles

Present: Ivan Sulic, Vice Chair

Authority representatives present:

Andrea Gullo, Authority Executive Director  
Michelle Mariscal, Authority Ecologist  
Melissa Miller, Authority Board Secretary  
Elena Gerli, Esq., Aleshire & Wynder LLP, Authority Counsel

Others present:

none

**1. RECEIPT OF PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

There were no public comments.

At 11:05 a.m. Chair Hughes moved to continue discussion of item 2 in Closed Session.

**2. PENDING LITIGATION – EXPOSURE TO LITIGATION. A POINT HAS BEEN REACHED WHERE, IN THE OPINION OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODY OF THE HABITAT AUTHORITY ON THE ADVICE OF ITS LEGAL COUNSEL, BASED ON EXISTING FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES, THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT EXPOSURE TO LITIGATION AGAINST THE HABITAT AUTHORITY. FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE ARISEN THAT MIGHT LEAD THE AUTHORITY TO INITIATE LITIGATION, BUT WHICH THE AUTHORITY BELIEVES ARE NOT YET KNOWN TO A POTENTIAL PLAINTIFF OR PLAINTIFFS AND THEREFORE NEED**

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**NOT BE DISCLOSED. (This item can be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2), (e)(1).).**

In the closed session, item 2 was discussed by the Board, direction was given, and no reportable action was taken.

At 11:30 a.m. Chair Hughes moved to end the Closed Session and the Open Session recommenced.

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

There were no statements, responses, questions, directions, or comments expressed.

**4. ADJOURNMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING.**

There being no further comments, or business to be discussed, Chair Hughes adjourned the meeting at 11:31 a.m.

*Approved:*

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*Mike Hughes, Board Chair*

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*Melissa Miller, Board Secretary*



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
Franklin Canyon Park  
2600 Franklin Canyon Drive  
Beverly Hills, California 90210  
Phone (310) 858-7272 Fax (310) 858-7212

May 31, 2021

**Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority  
Ranger Services Activities for April and May 2021**

- Continued general patrol for: providing visitor information, identifying hazardous conditions and correcting illegal activity.
- Continued general maintenance for: graffiti removal, vandalism repair, litter and dumping removal, fence and gate repairs, sign installations and repairs and trail maintenance.
- Participated in the April Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) Board meeting. Gave a quarterly ranger update report at the May Habitat Preservation Authority Board meeting and the Citizens Technical Advisory Committee meeting.
- Participated in the Habitat Authority monthly management meeting.
- Participated in our ranger monthly management meeting.
- Participated in the Hacienda Heights Improvement Association monthly meeting.
- Opened the Powder Canyon parking lot which had been closed for Covid 19 precautions.
- Participated in a meeting with Executive Director Andrea Gullo, Ecologist Michelle Mariscal and the contractor regarding the use of goats for weed clearance.
- Picked up a 400 gallon water buffalo tank from Calabasas. The tank is stored in La Habra Heights and ready for fire suppression.
- Monitoring all fuel modification efforts in Whittier, La Habra Heights and Hacienda Heights. Working with City and County officials and contractors.
- Participated in meeting with Executive Director Andrea Gullo and City of Whittier officials regarding Hellman Park opening.
- Participated in meeting with Executive Director Andrea Gullo and City of La Habra Heights officials at the Diaz property regarding the Heli-hydrant.

- 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 April and May the following animal was observed:
  - Skunk on East Road.
- Continue to conduct perimeter patrols of all property for fence damage, illegal access points, rope swings, and encroachments.
- Check on water leak from pipes above Gotera Drive. Notified water department. The pipe was repaired.
- Investigated a complaint from a resident regarding dead trees in the Preserve at the end of Philadelphia Street.
- Continue to monitor the Harbor underpass with no illegal activity to report.
- Waited for roofers at La Habra Heights house for repair estimate. No show.
- Met with CTAC Chair Chuck Lawrence to inspect the back house at Sycamore Canyon for possible repairs.
- Continue to pick up dog defecation at all the trailheads.
- Utilized a tractor mower to clear the Arroyo Pescadero Trail, Arroyo San Miguel Trail, Sycamore Canyon Trail, Dark Canyon Trail, and the fire road leading to the Whittier landfill.
- Continue to patrol the SCE, Brea 57 site and Monterey mitigation sites in Powder Canyon and the Olinda site in Arroyo San Miguel.
- Continue to monitor all the trailheads for social distancing and masks.
- Continue to check and re-post social distancing signs.
- Hiker reported that dog was bitten by a rattlesnake on the Coyote Trail and the owners were taking the dog to the veterinarian.
- Searched for homeless camps at Turnbull Canyon. None were found. Escorted homeless out of Hacienda Hills Trailhead at closing. Advised homeless in car at Powder Canyon that he was illegally parked and to move. Escorted homeless out of Worsham Canyon.
- Due to safety concerns and overcrowding at the Turnbull Canyon entrance this summer we worked with the owner of the property and Whittier Police Dept. to secure the vacant lot that is next to the entrance. We had to re-secure the chain once in April.

- 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.
- Continue to contact the Los Angeles County Department of Street Maintenance regarding the graffiti along Turnbull Canyon Road.
- Picked up dumping including:
  - Bricks in Powder Canyon.
- 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.
- Received several calls during the months of April and May to our 24-hour ranger emergency services number including:
  - Reporting smoke in the hills. Smoke was drifting from a fire in Los Angeles.
  - Injured hiker in Sycamore Canyon. Ranger transported her to the trailhead. L.A. Co Fire provided first aid. Injured knee.
  - Inquiring when the Powder Canyon parking lot will be open.
  - Several calls inquiring about Preserve hours.
  - Suspicious man on Skyline Trail. Gone on arrival.
  - Reporting lost dog in Turnbull Canyon.
  - Locked inside Powder Canyon.
  - Locked inside Hacienda Hills Trailhead.
  - Locked in at Sycamore Canyon.
  - Several calls reporting they are locked inside Hellman Park.
  - Motorcycles on Coyote Trail. Unable to locate.
  - Lost keys in Turnbull Canyon.
  - Car broken into on street at Black Walnut Trail.
  - Reporting kids on the trail in Hacienda Heights after hours. Kids were escorted out at 5:05pm.
  - Caller reporting concerns about the break-ins at Arroyo Pescadero.
  - Inquiring about a citation they received.
  - Caller waiting for Arroyo Pescadero gates to open. Gates opened moments later.
  - Hiker with injured ankle at Hellman Park. Opened the gate to let them out.
  - Two calls reporting their car was broken into at Sycamore Canyon.
  - Reporting hikers inside Hacienda Hills Trailhead before it is open.
  - Reporting the gates at the end of Orange Grove Ave need to be closed.
  - Whittier Police reporting a car may be stuck in the hills. It was our weed abatement contractor performing weed clearance.
  - Reporting a dead coyote at the water tank in Turnbull Canyon.

- Continuing to monitoring the waterline work at Sycamore Canyon.
- Dealt with various violations including:
  - In the Preserve after hours at Hacienda Heights, Powder Cyn, Arroyo Pescadero and Sycamore Cyn.
  - Failure to wear masks or social distance. Warn and advise.
  - Parking violations at Powder Canyon, Arroyo Pescadero, Sycamore Canyon and Ford property.
  - Loud music in Turnbull Canyon, Powder Canyon, Arroyo Pescadero and Hacienda Hills.
  - Warned and advised four students regarding filming at Arroyo Pescadero.
  - Off-roading in Powder Canyon.
  - Electric motorcycle at Ford property.
  - Marijuana in Turnbull Canyon.
  - Alcohol in the Hacienda Hills.
  - Inhaling nitrous oxide gas on Turnbull Canyon.
  - Warn and advise electric bikes in Powder Canyon and Hacienda Hills.
  - Dogs in Sycamore Canyon.
  - Dogs off leash at Turnbull Canyon, Hacienda Hills, Arroyo Pescadero and Powder Canyon.
  - Bikes in Arroyo Pescadero and Sycamore Canyon.
- 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

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

MEMORANDUM

**Date:** July 15, 2021

**To:** Board Members

**From:**   
Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

**Subject:** Agenda Item No. 8) Review, discussion and possible action regarding Authority workplan for fiscal year 2021-22, and review of Strategic Guidelines.

Recommendation:

That the Board provide feedback and take appropriate action.

Background:

This item was continued at the August and September 2019, and February 2020 Board meetings. Please see the attached staff report from the February 2020 Board meeting. The draft workplan is attached for your review and feedback. It is in a new format that the Board was contemplating when last discussed. The format eliminates routine day to day and core functions of staff's time which essentially support the mission of the agency. Potential priority rankings for this fiscal year have been suggested to facilitate the discussion and ultimate direction by the Board. Staff welcomes further defined parameters of what the Board would prefer to see included in its workplan.

Also, attached are the agency's Strategic Guidelines that the workplan has historically supported. It is recommended that the Guidelines be revisited and possibly updated by the Advisory Committee and Board at future meetings. The Guidelines at a minimum were last updated nine years ago.

In terms of agency core functions, similar to last year due to the limited budget, outdoor education and interpretation will not be a focus for next year and outdoor school programs at the level of years past is not expected. This veers from the Guidelines. Staff will continue to keep the current volunteers engaged and make best efforts to train new volunteers.

Fiscal Impact:

The fiscal impact depends on chosen workplan items.

Attachments:

Proposed workplan  
Strategic Guidelines  
February 2020 staff report



Draft  
Habitat Authority Workplan  
FY 21-22

	GOAL	Resp. Party	** Priority Level (1-3)	Est. Completion Date	Approx. % Complete	*** Board Approval Date	Cost / Funding
1	Survey and map remaining dead trees for grants	Ecol, Rgr	1	12/30/2021	50%		Operations budget
2	Heli-hydrant project and mitigation	Board,staff, Attorney	1	Ongoing	70%	direction provided sprg/smmr 2021	
3	Relocate office	Staff	1	30-Jul-21	35%	5/20/2021	Operations
4	Administer RMC Grant(s)	Staff, Rngr	1	30-Jun-22	0%	5/20/2021	RMC
5	<b>Possible</b> Implement CalFire Grant	Staff, Rngr	1			5/20/2021	CalFire
6	Seek M&S funding reimbursement FY 11-15 and 20-21	ED, Admin Assist	1	Oct. 30, 2021	30%		Operations/County
7	Coordinate with Whittier and County for future of M&S funding implementation (Phase I FY 21-22, Phase II future FYs)	ED, Board, Attorney	1	Phs I 8-31-21, Phs II 12-31-21	10%		Operations/County
8	Evaluate possibility of Community Facility District	Subcommitt ee, ED, Board	1	Ongoing	25%	10/15/2020	Operations
9	Repair ranger residence	ED, Rgr	2	10/30/2021	15%	direction provided in spring 2021	Emergency or Reserve funds
10	Process new mitigation opportunities as they arise.	ED, Ecol	3	Ongoing	Ongoing		Mitigation funding
11	Add website donate button linked to PayPal (after opening bank account)	ED	3	12/30/2021	30%	8/27/2015	Operations
12	Repair Arroyo Pescadero gate	ED	3				Emergency or Reserve funds

\*\* Board to review and provide direction on priority rankings.

\*\*\* If blank, there is no Board approval date. The current date will be used once approved by Board.

Draft  
Habitat Authority Workplan  
Long Term

Possible Long Term Items								
1. Chair, Vice Chair and Executive Director meet with County's Chief Investment Officer or representative.								
2. Agency strategy and vision re-assessment.								
3. Agency staffing/operations assessment. The assessment could focus on identifying performance or resource gaps, inclusive of staffing, and would present recommendations if any that could provide an opportunity to improve the performance of work processes, reduce long-term costs, and help to ensure a high-functioning organization that adapts to current and future challenges.								
4. Prepare and submit application to NPS' Rivers Trails Conservation Assistance program (annually due in August) for assistance to revise rules and orientation signage.								
5. Seek grant funding to update all trailhead monument signs.								
6. Update agency website.								
7. Evaluate whether to change remaining Preserve hours to set times.								
8. Develop facility (including homes) maintenance schedule and budget.								
9. Update agency Resource Management Plan.								
10. Re-assess overall acreage for mitigation.								
11. Install Turnbull Canyon fence and/or other perimeter fencing.								
12. Record easement with Matrix Oil on Harbor Blvd. property.								
13. Issue trail license to the County for parts of the Ahwingna Trail.								

Not listed in any priority ranking.

**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.*


Jan 2012

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

MEMORANDUM

**Date:** February 20, 2020

**To:** Board Members

**From:**  Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

**Subject:** Agenda Item No. 6) Discussion and possible action regarding Authority workplan for fiscal year 2019-20 and possible discussion regarding fiscal year 20-21 workplan.

Recommendation:

That the Board provide feedback and take appropriate action.

Background:

This item was continued at the August and September 2019 Board meetings. Annually the draft workplan is presented to the Board for review, comments and adoption. This year, the Board's comments included a request to reformat the workplan document. Direction from the Board included that the workplan should include the following: retain indication of a schedule, identify Board approval dates, list staff time and cost information, establish priority level, and apply to a one-year timeframe. Discussion from the Board included that routine day-to-day and core functions of staff's time which essentially support the mission of the agency should not be listed on the workplan. Staff welcomes further defined parameters of what the Board would prefer to see included in its workplan. Given that core functions will need to be postponed and rescheduled to accomplish workplan items, time available for workplan items can be roughly estimated to be less than 5% of staff time.

The draft workplan is attached for your review and feedback. Staff has suggested potential priority rankings to facilitate the discussion and ultimate direction by the Board. Due to limited time and difficulty to calculate and measure staff time involved with each item, that has been left off of the current version, but can be added in at a later date. Given that the fiscal year is more than half underway, staff is also seeking initial direction for what to include on next year's workplan to guide budgeting efforts.

In addition to the attached draft workplan items, staff is seeking clarification and direction on the below additional potential workplan items (for this or future years):

1. Chair, Vice Chair and Executive Director meet with County's Chief Investment Officer or representative.
2. Agency strategy and vision re-assessment.

February 20, 2020

Agenda Item 6

Page 2

3. Agency staffing/operations assessment. The assessment could focus on identifying performance or resource gaps, inclusive of staffing, resulting in recommendations for improving the performance of work processes, reducing long-term costs, and ensuring a high-functioning organization that can adapt to current and future challenges.
4. Prepare and submit application to NPS' Rivers Trails Conservation Assistance program (annually due in August) for assistance to revise rules and orientation signage.
5. Seek grant funding to update all trailhead monument signs.
6. Update agency website.
7. Evaluate whether to change remaining Preserve hours to set times.
8. Develop facility (including homes) maintenance schedule and budget.
9. Perform identified necessary repairs on ranger residences.

Fiscal Impact:

The fiscal impact depends on chosen work plan items, and can be evaluated at a later date.

Draft  
Habitat Authority Workplan  
FY 19-20

* GOAL		Resp. Party	** Priority Level (1-3)	Est. Completion Date	Approx. % Complete	*** Board Approval Date	Cost / Funding
1	Survey and map remaining dead trees	Ecol, Rgr	1	8/30/2020	30%	Unable to locate date	Operations budget
2	Work with LA Co Fire on their proposal for new motorways	ED, Ecol, Rgr	1	6/30/2020	15-20%		Operations budget
3	Peppergrass Trail restoration	Ecol	1	Fall 2020 reassess	70%	1/26/2017	Whittier City / Operations budget
4	Re-assess overall acreage for mitigation	Ecol, ED	1	3/30/2020	70%		Operations budget
5	Re-assess mitigation guidelines	ED, Ecol	2	6/30/2020	20%		Operations budget
6	Process new mitigation opportunities as they arise.	ED, Ecol	2	Ongoing	Ongoing		Mitigation funding
7	Design Turnbull Canyon fence	ED	2	3/30/2020	90%	9/5/2017	Contingency funds
8	Inspect ranger residences for repairs	ED, Rgr	2	5/30/2020	Not yet started		Operations budget
9	Add website donate button linked to PayPal (open bank account)	ED	3	8/30/2020	30%	8/27/2015	Operations budget
10	Record easement with Matrix Oil on Harbor Blvd. property	ED, Legal	3	Ongoing	10-15%		Operations budget
11	Issue trail license to the County for parts of the Ahwingna Trail	ED, Legal	3	Ongoing	80%	10/27/2016	Operations budget
12	*						
13	*						

\* See staff report for additional work plan items for consideration and clarification.

\*\* Board to review and provide direction on priority rankings.


\*\*\* If blank, there is no Board approval date. The current date will be used once approved by Board.

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

MEMORANDUM

**Date:** July 15, 2021

**To:** Board Members

**From:**   
Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

**Subject:** Agenda Item No. 9) Review, discussion and possible action regarding Authority annual budget for fiscal year 2021-22, and review of corresponding budgets.

Recommendation:

That the Board approve the attached budget for FY 21-22 retroactive to July 1, 2021.

Background:

For your reference, attached is the year-to-date budget from last fiscal year 20-21. Revenues and invoices for several months are still outstanding.

An expense budget in the amount of \$1.4 million is proposed for ongoing operations which is a 2.4% increase from the previous year, and an estimate of approximately \$1.6 million is anticipated for revenue, a 19% increase from FY 20-21. The mitigation restoration project-related costs are expected to be \$757,000 which are funded by outside sources.

The attached budget includes reopening of Hellman Park Trailhead. The rangers had historically aided with traffic control on local streets around the Hellman trailhead; however, due to reduced MRCA ranger hours, that service would not be made available upon reopening. It is recommended that the parking lot be reopened only to pedestrian use for now and to monitor the response.

Many of the reductions in the budget from this past fiscal year remain in place. Regarding the personnel category of the budget, the Authority projects that the educational outdoor interpreter position will remain vacant. This category of the budget also assumes that current full-time employees will receive a potential cost of living adjustment, pending future approval by the Board.

The budget includes keeping the ranger maintenance and services contract at the same dollar amount. Due to new reporting guidelines for the Measure A funding, the MRCA will be billing at the actual rates of its employees rather than a blended rate as has historically been done. This, plus increasing MRCA staff rates, will result in a decrease in ranger and maintenance staff time to an average of 77 hours a week from a budgeted

84 hours from last fiscal year; however, the service level from last year to the current year will not decrease as Deputy Chief Ranger Hughes reported that, on average, 75 hours a week of actual service was provided last fiscal year. Invoices received to date from the MRCA are through March and confirm this. For reference, 90 hours a week were budgeted in FY 19-20.

The “Notes” page of the budget includes details regarding the property management category of the budget, and references hiring financial/accounting support for which \$25,000 has been incorporated as a placeholder. Because of the increasing complexity of grant and mitigation funding, professional assistance with this effort is needed.

*Revenue:*

Regarding the Specific Portfolio Investment (SPI), the Authority expects to receive \$752,500 at current investment positions. For reference, before the pandemic in FY 19-20 \$940,000 was budgeted. The Authority set aside \$32.17 million for its SPI. At the time this staff report was written, \$175,000 had been called and is being held in our liquid cash account (the County Pool); it will be reinvested when it can be bundled with future called bonds. An amount of \$32 million remains in the SPI with an approximate 2.3% return rate. As has been authorized by the Board, staff and the Chair intend to reinvest called funds after consultation with County Treasurer’s staff servicing the SPI.

The grants category of the annual budget incorporates funding from the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC), Los Angeles County Measure A, and Proposition A. The RMC grant of \$300,000 will offset the annual operating budget by \$191,000 with the remainder of the grant funds earmarked for new project tasks. The project budget is attached for your reference. Also, there is the potential to receive additional multi-year project funds from the RMC, and staff continues to coordinate with them. Additionally, a placeholder in this fiscal year budget for the annual Measure A Maintenance and Servicing (M & S) funding is \$300,000; however, we may have less than \$240,000 to claim for reimbursement because of the new reimbursement guidelines and the RMC funding source is covering the Whittier fuel modification clearance costs this year which normally would be covered under M & S. As we learn more about the M & S reimbursement process, the budgets will be reevaluated. Lastly, the grants category of the budget also factored in a projected reimbursement of \$175,000 expected from the City of Whittier through the County Regional Park and Open Space District’s Proposition A M & S funds applied during fiscal years 11-12, 12-13, 13-14, and 14-15.

Other revenues are from interest gained on agency cash holdings, historic oil revenues in La Habra Heights obtained when the properties were acquired, ranger tickets, reimbursements, and mitigation funding of staff and ranger services.

*Long Term Budget:*

A five-year long-term budget projection is attached as well. Projections are estimates and actual results could differ from those estimates, particularly because the Authority is obtaining clarification with the County on how we will be able to use and obtain



reimbursement from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District of the Measure A funding, plus other factors such as the earnings on the Authority's endowment, the ability to pass a voter approved community facility district, and whether we will be successful in receiving various grants.

*Cash Balances:*

As of June 30, 2021, the Authority had \$8.5 million in liquid assets. A review is still ongoing of the balances, however it is roughly estimated that \$4.9 million of the balance is previously allocated for identified uses such as mitigation restoration projects, car acquisition, and fiscal year 20-21 expected costs. Additionally, within this approximate \$4.9 million previously allocated funds is \$1.5 million of contingency funding for the SCE, Olinda and Brea 57/Lambert mitigation projects. So far, these projects are on schedule and within budget, but the projects are not far enough along to release the contingency funding. Among these projects the SCE project is scheduled to be completed first, in FY 24-25, with a potential contingency fund release of up to \$1,000,000. Originally, this contingency funding had been discussed to be reinvested into the agency portfolio upon project completion. A special tax measure (community facility district) could enable the agency to continue with that plan and address fire safety issues, as well as various operations issues thus bringing them to adequate levels, needed maintenance, and other related matters.

Within the unrestricted amount, it is recommended to leave a reserve for emergencies (\$1 million) and funds for this fiscal year's operating budget (\$1.4 million). Also within the unrestricted amount is \$175,000 which had been called from the Authority's SPI. Also, an amount of \$739,200 of undesignated funds are a result of the Access Fees from the Monterey, Olinda, and Brea 57/Lambert mitigation projects. Note that Access Fees are revenue to be used at the Board's discretion and not associated with direct habitat restoration project implementation tasks. The Access Fees could be used to address budget shortfalls for future fiscal years.

A more accurate review of updated balances will be provided in upcoming months.

Fiscal Impact:

The FY 21-22 annual budget reflects a positive year-end balance of \$186,294; however, it may be less than projected depending on County M&S reimbursements. Any budget surplus is recommended to be rolled over and applied to cover future years' potential deficits. Ongoing monitoring of the budget will continue.

Attachments:

FY 20-21 year to date budget

FY 21-22 proposed annual budget

FY 21-22 mitigation restoration project budgets and RMC project budget

5-year agency budget

FY 2020-21  
Annual Operations Expenses  
Year to Date, June 2021

FY2020-21 Revenue & Expenses			
	APPROVED FY 20/21 Budget (adjusted as of 11/2020)	FY 20/21 Year To Date, as of June/21	Actuals % of FY 2021 Budget Rev
<b>Revenue:</b>			
SPI earnings (endowment)	680,000	540,713	80%
M&S, Grants - Other	290,000	5,154	2%
Interest from Treasury Pool Deposits	60,000	56,165	94%
La Habra Heights historic oil	30,000	35,232	117%
MRCA tickets /educational programs	32,500	41,923	129%
Reimbursement of Expense	6,200	6,681	108%
Site Mitigation	-	-	
Donations	-	500	#DIV/0!
Miscellaneous - Ongoing	-	-	
Transfer of Mitigation Personnel	30,158	30,158	100%
Transfer of Mitigation Ranger Services	39,756	39,756	100%
Carryover from former Year	189,000	189,000	100%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	1,357,614	945,282.32	70%
	FY 20/21 Budget	YTD, as of June/21	Actuals % of FY 2021 Budget Spent
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Ranger Services	452,936	318,639	70%
Payroll (Personnel - General Services)	442,019	432,675	98%
Property Management	242,748	156,487	64%
Other Insurance Premiums	62,000	54,980	89%
Legal Services	50,000	65,579	131%
Fiscal Agent Services	32,000	24,800	78%
Utilities (water, phones, internet, etc)	22,000	20,596	94%
Treas-Tax Collector Services	16,000	12,939	81%
Office Rent (Building Rentals)	8,058	2,852	35%
Technical	43,850	5,351	12%
Audit Fees	5,517	4,919	89%
Street bond	5,410	5,218	96%
Educational Services	3,645	1,324	36%
Office Supplies-General	3,160	1,625	51%
Printing Services	2,000	781	39%
Signs & Related Supplies	1,600	-	
Automotive Maintenance	1,100	1,886	171%
Permit & License Fees	1,000	-	
Auto Mileage	650	-	
Miscellaneous (GIS, Resr. Misc.)	550	462	84%
Postage	500	347	69%
Education & Training (prof. dev.)	-	-	
Traveling Expense (local meetings)	500	-	
Publications & Legal Notices	400	-	
Auto Service	350	322	92%
Publications & Periodicals	100	290	290%
Memberships	-	-	
Computers	-	-	
Office equipment/ furniture	-	-	
Auto Acquisition	-	-	
Appraisal Services	-	-	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	1,398,093	1,112,071	80%
	(40,479)	(166,789)	

FY2020/21 Mitigation Budget  
Year to date, June 2021

<b>Expenses:</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>APPROVED <u>Annual Budget</u> <u>Amount</u></b>	<b><u>Year to Date</u> <u>Actual Costs</u></b>	<b><u>Balance</u></b>
Consultant Services (Mitigation) BREA POWER	3580-1	4,617	6,663.02	(2,045.77)
Consultant Services (Mitigation) SCE	3580-2	513,445	498,575.92	14,868.68
Consultant Services (Mitigation) OLINDA	3580-3	422,275	372,611.65	49,662.87
Consultant Services (Mitigation) MONTEREY	3580-7	16,717	16,716.83	-
Consultant Services (Mitigation-Encroachment) RMX Harbor	3580-8	7,815	8,554.75	(740.00)
Consultant Services (Mitigation) Brea 57/Lambert	3580-9	66,815	43,342.15	23,473.04
			-	
Utilities (mitigation) BREA POWER	5222-1	0.00	-	-
Utilities (mitigation) SCE	5222-2	14,988	48,027.60	(33,039.76)
Utilities (mitigation) OLINDA	5222-3	26,000	51,703.20	(25,703.20)
Utilities (mitigation) Brea 57/Lbt	5222-5	2,229	3,140.06	(910.83)
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>1,074,900.21</b>	<b>1,049,335.18</b>	<b>25,565.03</b>

The above costs include staff/ranger

Personnel/Ranger Cost Allocation	FY 20/21
SCE Personnel	22,781
Olinda Personnel	15,309
Monterey Personnel	16,717
Brea 57/Lambert	15,106
	<b>69,914</b>

(See individual project budgets.)

FY 2021-22  
Annual Operations Expenses  
Proposed

[illegible]

FY2021/22  
Expense Notes

	<b>Notes:</b>
	Personnel: Includes possible cost of living adjustment.
	Property Management: LHH annual Fire Fee (\$12,500), trail and trailhead maintenance/misc (10,000), emergency tree removals (5,000), LT Landscaper (\$8,000 current contract, \$20,000 new contract - possible total to be expended in FY is \$28,000 total), Canlas property HOA dues (4,900), RMC Grant project (160,000 for fuel clearance), \$10,000 additional fuel clearance.
	Technical: Website/computer support, SCI contract, financial assistance, misc.
	County Pool Rate, June 2021 0.47%

# FY2021/22 Mitigation Budget

<b>Expenses:</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b><u>Annual Budget</u></b> <b><u>Amount</u></b>	<b><u>Year to Date</u></b> <b><u>Actual Costs</u></b>	<b><u>Balance</u></b>
Consultant Services (Mitigation) BREA POWER	3580-1	2,959	-	2,959.09
Consultant Services (Mitigation) SCE	3580-2	406,094	-	406,093.67
Consultant Services (Mitigation) OLINDA	3580-3	195,389	-	195,389.11
Consultant Services (Mitigation) MONTEREY	3580-7	16,232	-	16,232.13
Consultant Services (Mitigation-Encroachment) RMX Harbor	3580-8	6,440	-	6,439.75
Consultant Services (Mitigation) Brea 57/Lambert	3580-9	108,813	-	108,813.26
Utilities (mitigation) BREA POWER	5222-1	0.00	-	-
Utilities (mitigation) SCE	5222-2	-	-	-
Utilities (mitigation) OLINDA	5222-3	17,500	-	17,500.00
Utilities (mitigation) Brea 57/Lbt	5222-5	3,557	-	3,557.24
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>756,984.25</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>756,984.25</b>

The above costs include staff/ranger

Personnel/Ranger Cost Allocation	FY 21/22
SCE Personnel	22,851
Olinda Personnel	24,091
Monterey Personnel	16,232
Brea 57/Lambert	20,554
	<b>83,729</b>

(See individual project budgets.)

7/1/2021)

Fiscal Year starting July 1

SCE TRTP MITIGATION

<u>Contracted</u>	<u>2015/16</u>	<u>2016/17</u>	<u>2017/18</u>	<u>2018/19</u>	<u>2019/20</u>	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>* Contracted Total</u>	<u>Estimated</u>
Restoration Contractor**		\$ 736,943.72	\$ 124,849.43	\$ 750,548.33	\$ 387,899.43	\$ 427,344.40	\$ 326,299.41	\$ 195,387.24	\$ 207,400.04	\$ 3,198,437.72	\$ 3,430,840.00
Land IQ - Exec Plans & surveying	\$ 41,514.88									\$ 41,514.88	\$ 400,000.00
Land IQ - Restoration Ecologist***	\$ 7,230.00	\$ 53,596.00	\$ 68,216.00	\$ 53,947.00	\$ 66,979.00	\$ 63,319.00	\$ 56,943.00	\$ 51,879.00	\$ 52,625.00	\$ 474,734.00	
S&S Seeds				\$ 156,855.44						\$ 156,855.44	\$ 144,377.00
Tree of Life	\$ 1,143.00	\$ 1,143.00								\$ 2,286.00	\$ 98,898.00
Irrigation Water/Utilities****/***		\$ 44,587.76	\$ 44,587.76	\$ 83,517.28	\$ 60,109.00	\$ 14,987.84				\$ 247,789.64	\$ 224,131.60
Misc. (fencing, easement, etc.)	\$ 56,860.00									\$ 56,860.00	\$ 152,600.00
Staff Time		\$ 12,622.07	\$ 12,622.07	\$ 12,622.07	\$ 22,781.20	\$ 22,781.20	\$ 22,851.26	\$ 23,308.29	\$ 24,628.73	\$ 154,216.88	\$ 155,000.00
Total per fiscal year	\$ 106,747.88	\$ 848,892.55	\$ 250,275.26	\$ 1,057,490.12	\$ 537,768.63	\$ 528,432.44	\$ 406,093.67	\$ 270,574.53	\$ 284,653.77	\$ 4,332,694.56	\$ 4,605,846.60

\*From actual contract amounts (including any subsequent change orders or contract deviations)

\*\*Assumes two years of grow-kill cycles and has 1% contingency in contracted total

\*\*\*Assumes two years of grow-kill cycles

\*\*\*\*Contracted total estimate water use multiplied by \$1.96 (La Habra Heights Water District 7/1/2016 Upper Zone Commodity Rate; \$4200 are 2x2" meters @\$171.28/mo for 12 months

Fiscal Year starting July 1

											REMAINING (contracted minus spent)
<u>ACTUAL Spent</u> <sup>†</sup>	<u>2015/16</u>	<u>2016/17</u>	<u>2017/18</u>	<u>2018/19</u>	<u>2019/20</u>	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>Spent Total</u> <sup>†</sup>	
Restoration Contractor - Nakae		\$ 704,803.77	\$ 203,831.48	\$ 713,210.40	\$ 362,909.01	\$ 398,767.21				\$ 2,383,521.87	\$ 814,915.85
Land IQ - Exec Plans & surveying	\$ 41,514.88									\$ 41,514.88	\$ -
Land IQ - Restoration Ecologist		\$ 35,070.25	\$ 17,409.65	\$ 55,537.01	\$ 55,266.64	\$ 51,894.24				\$ 215,177.79	\$ 259,556.21
S&S Seeds			\$ 3,232.50	\$ 137,406.33		\$ 6,889.22				\$ 147,528.05	\$ 9,327.39
Tree of Life	\$ 1,143.00	\$ 1,348.74								\$ 2,491.74	\$ (205.74)
Irrigation Water/Utilities*		\$ 36,052.59	\$ 14,932.19	\$ 59,672.38	\$ 48,664.69	\$ 53,103.04				\$ 212,424.89	\$ 35,364.75
Misc. (fencing, easement, etc.)**	\$ 57,192.92	\$ 21,918.50	\$ (57,699.87)	\$ 130.00	\$ 2,815.03	\$ 170.00				\$ 24,526.58	\$ 32,333.42
Staff Time		\$ 12,622.07	\$ 12,622.07	\$ 12,622.07	\$ 22,781.20	\$ 22,781.20				\$ 83,428.60	\$ 70,788.28
Total per fiscal year	\$ 99,850.80	\$ 811,815.92	\$ 194,328.02	\$ 978,578.19	\$ 492,436.57	\$ 510,823.71	\$ -			\$ 3,087,833.20	\$ 1,244,861.36

Total Remaining to Date (funds contracted minus spent to date)

\$ 1,244,861.36

Funds Anticipated to be Contracted

\$ 4,605,846.60

Anticipated Contingency

\$ 1,024,153.40

RESTORATION TOTAL

\$ 5,630,000.00

Access Fee

\$ 1,270,000.00

Funds Provided by Agreement

\$ 6,900,000.00

Total Remaining (Funds provided minus access fee and funds spent on committed contracts)

\$ 2,542,166.80

7/1/2021

**Fiscal Year starting July 1**

## OLINDA OCWR2 Mitigation

											*Proposed	
Contracted	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	July-Dec 2026	Contract/Category	Estimated
											Total	
Site 1 (11.56 acres HCP)												
Restoration Contractor**		\$ 149,432.00	\$ 32,330.00	\$ 180,351.00	\$ 83,884.00	\$ 82,100.00	\$ 70,791.00	\$ 36,322.00	\$ 28,231.00		\$ 663,441	\$ 830,411
Land IQ - Restoration Ecologist***		\$ 13,702.49	\$ 19,669.76	\$ 21,588.99	\$ 14,205.42	\$ 17,313.74	\$ 13,848.36	\$ 13,731.57	\$ 13,524.15	\$ 4,976.40	\$ 132,561	\$ 109,665
S&S Seeds				\$ 34,468.53							\$ 34,469	\$ 30,492
Irrigation Water/Utilities		\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 5,060.00					\$ 50,060	\$ 50,060
Misc. (fencing, survey, etc.)											\$ 35,745	\$ 35,745
Staff/ranger Time		\$ 15,019.44	\$ 8,043.39	\$8,911.23	\$ 14,022.75	\$ 14,483.28	\$ 14,623.10	\$ 14,384.47	\$ 13,969.04	\$ 13,803.21	\$ 117,260	\$ 117,260
Contingency												\$ 233,563
Admin fee	\$ 5,000.00										\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Total per fiscal year	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 188,153.93	\$ 70,043.15	\$ 260,319.75	\$ 122,112.17	\$ 118,957.02	\$ 99,262.46	\$ 64,438.04	\$ 55,724.19	\$ 18,779.61	\$ 1,038,536	\$ 1,412,196
Site 2 (8.3 acres)												
Restoration Contractor**		\$ 114,825.00	\$ 25,215.00	\$ 130,175.00	\$ 62,922.00	\$ 61,864.00	\$ 53,520.00	\$ 27,950.00	\$ 22,138.00		\$ 498,609	\$ 596,229
Land IQ - Restoration Ecologist***		\$ 9,922.49	\$ 14,243.62	\$ 15,633.41	\$ 10,286.69	\$ 12,537.53	\$ 10,028.13	\$ 9,943.55	\$ 9,793.35	\$ 3,603.60	\$ 95,992	\$ 78,738
S&S Seeds				\$ 24,748.16							\$ 24,748	\$ 21,893
Irrigation Water/Utilities		\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 2,443.00					\$ 35,943	\$ 35,943
Misc. (fencing, vandalism, etc.)	\$ -										\$ 24,255	\$ 24,255
Staff/ranger Time		\$ 7,193.89	\$ 5,775.10	\$6,398.20	\$ 10,068.24	\$ 10,398.90	\$ 10,499.28	\$ 10,327.95	\$ 10,029.67	\$ 9,910.61	\$ 80,602	\$ 80,602
Contingency												\$ 167,696
Admin fee	\$ 5,000.00										\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Total per fiscal year	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 139,441.38	\$ 52,733.72	\$ 187,954.77	\$ 90,776.93	\$ 87,243.43	\$ 74,047.41	\$ 48,221.50	\$ 41,961.02	\$ 13,514.21	\$ 765,149	\$ 1,010,357
*From proposed contract amounts and estimates												
**Assumes two years of grow-kill cycles and has 1% contingency in contracted total												
***Assumes two years of grow-kill cycles												



## OLINDA OCWR2 Mitigation

**YEAR TO DATE**    PAGE 2 OF 2

YEAR TO DATE																	PAGE 2 OF 2	
															REMAINING (contracted minus spent)			
ACTUAL Spent <sup>†</sup>	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	July-Dec 2026	Spent Total <sup>†</sup>							
Site 1 (11.56 acres HCP)																		
Restoration Contractor**	\$	132,472.24	\$	32,209.56	\$	168,951.32					\$	333,633.12	\$	329,807.88				
Land IQ - Restoration Ecologist***	\$	15,247.27	\$	9,960.41	\$	18,087.53					\$	43,295.21	\$	89,265.67				
S&S Seeds	\$	-	\$	1,580.93	\$	29,296.48					\$	30,877.41	\$	3,591.12				
Irrigation Water/Utilities	\$	1,805.58	\$	5,382.60	\$	33,915.78					\$	41,103.96	\$	8,956.04				
Misc. (fencing, survey, etc.)	\$	20,797.50	\$	49.30	\$	49.30					\$	20,896.10	\$	14,849.37				
Staff/ranger Time	\$	15,019.44	\$	8,043.39	\$	8,911.23					\$	31,974.05	\$	85,285.85				
Contingency													\$	233,562.52				
Admin fee	\$	5,000.00									\$	5,000.00	\$	-				
Total per fiscal year	\$	5,000.00	\$	185,342.03	\$	259,211.64	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	506,779.85	\$	531,755.93
Total Remaining to Date (funds contracted minus spent to date)												\$	531,755.93					
Site 2 (8.3 acres)																		
Restoration Contractor**	\$	92,549.90	\$	27,032.10	\$	122,089.50					\$	241,671.50	\$	256,937.50				
Land IQ - Restoration Ecologist***	\$	11,041.12	\$	7,212.70	\$	13,097.86					\$	31,351.68	\$	64,640.69				
S&S Seeds	\$	-	\$	1,144.81	\$	21,214.69					\$	22,359.50	\$	2,388.66				
Irrigation Water/Utilities	\$	1,307.49	\$	3,897.74	\$	24,559.71					\$	29,764.94	\$	6,178.06				
Misc. (fencing, vandalism, etc.)	\$	-	\$	35.70	\$	35.70					\$	71.40	\$	24,183.13				
Staff/ranger Time	\$	7,193.89	\$	10,520.85	\$	6,398.20					\$	24,112.93	\$	56,488.90				
Contingency													\$	167,696.28				
Admin fee	\$	5,000.00									\$	5,000.00	\$	-				
Total per fiscal year	\$	5,000.00	\$	112,092.39	\$	187,395.66	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	354,331.95	\$	410,817
Total Remaining to Date (funds contracted minus spent to date)												\$	410,816.95					
Total spent to date (Site 1 + Site 2)												\$	861,111.81					
Funds Anticipated to be Contracted																	\$	2,021,294
Anticipated Contingency																	\$	401,259
RESTORATION TOTAL																	\$	2,422,553
Access Fee																	\$	397,200
Funds Provided by Agreement																	\$	2,819,753
Total Remaining (Funds provided minus access fee and funds spent on committed contracts)																	\$	1,561,441

[illegible]

(7/1/2021)

*Fiscal Year starting July 1***Harbor Blvd Encroachment MITIGATION**

<b>Contracted</b>	<i>2018/19</i>	<i>2019/20</i>	<i>2020/21</i>	<i>2021/22</i>	<i>2022/23</i>	<i>* Contracted Total</i>	<i>Estimated</i>
Restoration Contractor**		\$ 16,998.75	\$ 6,353.75	\$ 4,978.75	\$ 1,273.75	\$ 29,605.00	\$ 29,605.00
Land IQ - Restoration Ecologist	\$ 1,461.00	\$ 5,844.00	\$ 1,461.00	\$ 1,461.00	\$ 1,461.00	\$ 11,688.00	\$ 11,688.00
S&S Seeds***	\$ 704.50	\$ 704.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,409.00	\$ 1,409.00
Staff Time	\$ 4,641.80	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,641.80	\$ 4,640.00
<b>Total per fiscal year</b>	<b>\$ 6,807.30</b>	<b>\$ 23,547.25</b>	<b>\$ 7,814.75</b>	<b>\$ 6,439.75</b>	<b>\$ 2,734.75</b>	<b>\$ 47,343.80</b>	<b>\$ 47,342.00</b>

\*From actual contract amounts (including any subsequent change orders or contract deviations)

\*\*FY 2019/20 includes monies for executing Options 3 &amp; 4 per the proposal. Each FY includes Performance and Payment Bond (\$615 divided by the number of contracts)

\*\*\*FY 2018/19 deposit on seeds (50%)

*Fiscal Year starting July 1*

<b>**ACTUAL Spent</b>	<i>2018/19</i>	<i>2019/20</i>	<i>2020/21</i>	<i>2021/22</i>	<i>2022/23</i>	<i>Spent Total^^</i>	<i>REMAINING (contracted minus spent)</i>
Restoration Contractor - Nakae	\$ -	\$ 13,384.50	\$ 6,574.00			\$ 19,958.50	\$ 9,646.50
Land IQ - Restoration Ecologist <sup>1</sup>	\$ -	\$ 5,725.57	\$ 1,607.25			\$ 7,332.82	\$ 4,355.18
S&S Seeds <sup>2</sup>	\$ 763.22	\$ 770.28				\$ 1,533.50	\$ (124.50)
Staff Time	\$ 4,641.80					\$ 4,641.80	\$ -
<b>Total per fiscal year</b>	<b>\$ 5,405.02</b>	<b>\$ 19,880.35</b>	<b>\$ 8,181.25</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 33,466.62</b>	<b>\$ 13,877.18</b>

**Total Remaining to Date (funds provided minus spent to date)**

\$ 13,877.18

^^SPENT TOTAL DOES NOT INCLUDE RETENTION TO BE BILLED FOR CURRENT FY

<sup>1</sup> Time for FY 18/19 was billed in FY 19/20<sup>2</sup> Budgeted amount excluded taxes and shipping costs

<b>Funds Anticipated to be Contracted</b>	<b>\$ 42,702.00</b>
<b>Anticipated Contingency</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>RESTORATION TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 42,702.00</b>
<b>Staff/legal services fee</b>	<b>\$ 4,640.00</b>
<b>Funds Provided by Agreement</b>	<b>\$ 47,342.00</b>

(Updated 7/1/2021)

**Fiscal Year starting July 1**

## Brea 57 Lambert MITIGATION

Contracted	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027	* Contracted Total	Estimated
Restoration Contractor**	\$ 45,600.00	\$ 18,120.00	\$ 72,830.00	\$ 23,810.00	\$ 19,750.00	\$ 16,800.00	\$ 9,150.00	\$ 18,600.00	\$ -	\$ 224,660.00	\$ 213,150.00
Land IQ - Restoration Ecologist***	\$ 23,015.75	\$ 18,589.04	\$ 15,428.94	\$ 11,360.63	\$ 17,352.90	\$ 14,651.34	\$ 14,344.02	\$ 14,476.12	\$ 5,993.20	\$ 135,211.94	\$ 135,212.00
Irrigation Water/Utilities****	\$ 1,857.69	\$ 2,229.23	\$ 3,557.24	\$ 4,550.00	\$ 1,895.83					\$ 14,090.00	\$ 14,100.00
Misc. (fencing, easement, etc.)	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 15,000.00								\$ 19,400.00	\$ 50,000.00
Staff Time	\$ 18,718.15	\$ 15,106.15	\$ 20,554.32	\$ 19,938.16	\$ 19,955.90	\$ 20,132.06	\$ 20,421.82	\$ 19,729.49	\$ 17,447.15	\$ 172,003.19	\$ 172,003.19
<b>Total per fiscal year</b>	<b>\$ 93,591.59</b>	<b>\$ 69,044.42</b>	<b>\$ 112,370.50</b>	<b>\$ 59,658.79</b>	<b>\$ 58,954.64</b>	<b>\$ 51,583.40</b>	<b>\$ 43,915.84</b>	<b>\$ 52,805.61</b>	<b>\$ 23,440.35</b>	<b>\$ 565,365.13</b>	<b>\$ 584,465.19</b>

\*From actual contract amounts (including any subsequent change orders or contract deviations)

\*\*Assumes two years of grow-kill cycles; includes 6% contingency, S&S Seed and Tree of Life costs; contracted amount higher than estimated based on final Habitat Restoration Plan specifications

\*\*\*Assumes two years of grow-kill cycles and includes 6% contingency for FY 2019/20 and 2020/21 dependent upon herbicide restrictions

\*\*\*\*Estimated FY from water budget estimate provided by Nakae (see 'Irrigation calcs' tab)

**Fiscal Year starting July 1**

											REMAINING (contracted minus spent)
**ACTUAL Spent	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027	Spent Total <sup>†</sup>	
Restoration Contractor - Nakae	\$ 40,482.30	\$ 11,368.00								\$ 51,850.30	\$ 172,809.70
Land IQ - Restoration Ecologist	\$ 16,328.92	\$ 5,933.50								\$ 22,262.42	\$ 112,949.52
Irrigation Water/Utilities*	\$ 776.39	\$ 4,162.43								\$ 4,938.83	\$ 9,151.17
Misc. (fencing, easement, etc.)**	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 14,395.00								\$ 18,795.00	\$ 605.00
Staff Time	\$ 18,718.15	\$ 15,106.15								\$ 33,824.30	\$ 138,178.89
<b>Total per fiscal year</b>	<b>\$ 80,705.76</b>	<b>\$ 50,965.08</b>								<b>\$ 131,670.85</b>	<b>\$ 433,694.29</b>

**Total Remaining to Date (funds contracted minus spent to date)**

<sup>†</sup> SPENT TOTAL DOES NOT INCLUDE RETENTION TO BE BILLED FOR CURRENT FY

Funds Anticipated to be Contracted	\$	584,465.00
Anticipated Contingency	\$	116,893.00
RESTORATION TOTAL	\$	701,358.00
Access Fee	\$	42,000.00
Funds Provided by Agreement	\$	743,358.00
Total Remaining (Funds provided minus access fee and funds spent on committed contracts)	\$	569,687.15

**RMC Grant****Puente Hills Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention**

FY 21-22

160,000	<b>*Annual Urban Wildland Interface fuels reduction</b>
36,850	<b>Removal of dead trees, invasive or highly flammable trees, or flashy fuels</b>
72,000	<b>Equipment (Mower)</b>
<b>268,850</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>
11,465	<b>*Project Management 6%</b>
19,685	<b>*Overhead 10%</b>
<b>300,000</b>	<b>Total</b>

\* Offsets general operating budget

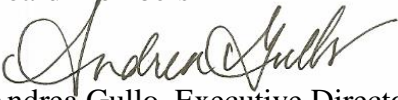
Revised April 2021 Updated June 2021 (shows emergency and PERS)						
No change with endowment - still at current rates. No change M&S funds. Flattened Pool interest rate						
HABITAT AUTHORITY LONG TERM PLANNING BUDGET						
	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	24/25	25/26
Est. Balance Forward from County Pool	9,911,000	8,887,579	7,229,436	6,512,447	4,943,724	5,514,319
<b>REVENUES</b>						
Mitigation Restoration (50K Minor) Income Oil Royalties, tickets, etc	80,200	130,200	130,200	130,200	130,200	130,200
Mitigation staff/ranger time (SCE, Monterey, Olinda, Brea 57/Lambert)	69,914	83,729	84,894	86,473	44,844	44,421
Prop A/Measure A M&S (dip in FY 21/22)	306,000	475,000	303,000	306,030	309,090	312,181
Mitigation LT Endowments					27,154	67,575
Carryover	189,000					
Reserves from mitigation fees \$739,200			160,000	160,000		
Mitigation contingencies from completed projects					1,000,000	
GRANTS		300,000				10,000
NO CFD	0	0	0	0	0	0
Endowment -Investment Returns	723,900	752,640	752,640	752,640	752,640	752,640
<b>Total Annual Revenue (also see County Pool interest below)</b>	<b>1,369,014</b>	<b>1,741,569</b>	<b>1,430,734</b>	<b>1,435,343</b>	<b>2,263,929</b>	<b>1,317,017</b>
Available Funds	11,280,014	10,629,148	8,660,170	7,947,789	7,207,653	6,831,336
Endowment - Total County Bond Fund Investments	32,175,000	32,000,000	32,000,000	32,000,000	32,000,000	32,000,000
Endowment - Interest Rate	2.35%	2.35%	2.35%	2.35%	2.35%	2.35%
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>						
<b>Total Acquisitions planned in year</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
Endowment - Additional Investment						
Operations Costs (estimated)	1,398,100	1,430,000	1,458,600	1,487,772	1,517,527	1,547,878
Extra PERS Costs			23,438	29,298	36,622	45,777
Emergency repair and mitigation fund		1,000,000			0	0
Resource Management Plan						
RMC Grant project beyond annual expenses		109,000				
Fee In-lieu Mitigation Restoration Projects	1,059,900	738,873	538,279	516,199	163,703	141,241
Property Acquisition						
<b>Total Annual Expenditures</b>	<b>2,458,000</b>	<b>3,277,873</b>	<b>2,020,317</b>	<b>2,033,269</b>	<b>1,717,853</b>	<b>1,734,896</b>
Excess (Short Fall)	8,822,014	7,351,275	6,639,854	5,914,521	5,489,800	5,096,439
Interest Earnings in County Pool	65,566	38,161	32,593	29,203	24,519	53,054
Interest rate	0.70%	0.47%	0.47%	0.47%	0.47%	1.00%
<b>Excess (Short Fall) including interest</b>	<b>8,887,579</b>	<b>7,389,436</b>	<b>6,672,447</b>	<b>5,943,724</b>	<b>5,514,319</b>	<b>5,149,493</b>
<b>Assumes:</b>						
1 - No community facility district (CFD). (December 2023 would be when revenue starts if passed CFD)						
2 - Revenue: Includes mitigation funds for staff/ranger time.						
3 - Revenue: Measure A M&S funds \$306,000 in FY 20/21, used same number for FY 21/22, with 1% annual increases estimated for property tax after that until FY 26/27 - 2%.						
4 - Revenue: Minor Mitigation Restoration (\$0 for FY20-21 year, the \$50,000 after that), LHH Oil royalties (30% reduction), MRCA tickets						
5 - Revenue: Includes known LT Endowments from Mitigation coming on line FY24/25 thru FY 28/29. After that no new endowments projected, 2% increase only.						
6 - Eliminates acquisition fund - Any property purchase assumed to be purchased with Prop/Measure A or other funds						
7 - Emergency fund expenditure shown						
8 - Retains Fuel Modification services - No CFD to absorb cost.						
9 - Annual landscape costs folded into operations budget						
10 - Minimal emergency tree removal costs are in operations budget.						
11 - Revenue: Includes RMC \$300K grant will offset \$191K annual expenses, \$109,000 is for new expenses. Waiting to hear about CalFire, potential for other grants.						
12 - Yearly increase 2% of operating budget starting FY 21/22						
13 - Hellman and Powder parking lots open						
14 - Interest rate with County pool was ~0.8% in beginning of FY 20/21. April 2021 at 0.53%. June 2021 at 0.47%.						
15 - Revenue: Still trying to recapture loss revenue Prop A M&S funds from City property. The County withheld \$60,000 for FY 11-12, 12-13, 13-14 and \$40,000 for 14-16 = \$220,000. Expecting to get at least \$175,000.						
16 - Assumes 25% increase for PERS costs through FY 29/30 per City. PERS costs for FY 20/21 and 21/22 are incorporated into the operating budget.						
17 - FY 20/21 MRCA hourly ranger rate increased to \$80, and decreased ranger hours by 6 a week. FY21/22 moving to actual rates - not blended.						
18 - Revenue: \$175,000 stays uninvested from endowment - rates stay stuck at current investments.						
19 - Revenue: \$739,200 from mitigation fees can be use to close budget gaps.						

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

MEMORANDUM

**Date:** July 15, 2021

**To:** Board Members

**From:**   
Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

**Subject:** Agenda Item No. 11) Discussion and possible action authorizing Executive Director to execute the Thirtieth Amendment of the Open Space Management Agreement with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for ranger maintenance and operation services extending the term an additional year from 7/1/21 to 6/30/22 in the amount of \$452,936.

Recommendation:

That the Board authorize the Executive Director to execute the attached amendment for ranger maintenance and operation services.

Background:

In accordance with the Open Space Management Agreement (Agreement) between the MRCA and Authority for ranger services since May 1996, the MRCA has adequately adhered to the Agreement standards. They have provided maintenance and ranger staff services and have shown flexibility over the past year and years prior with providing the Authority basic services under changing circumstances. The proposed annual contract reduces budgeted ranger/park personnel hours per week from 84 to approximately 77. In years past, the contract was based on a blended rate for all MRCA employees, however, the proposed contract will be based on actual rates of each employee to satisfy new guidelines of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) for reimbursement requests of County Maintenance and Servicing funds that are used to pay for a portion of the MRCA staff time and services. The actual service level from last year to the current year will not decrease; as reported by Deputy Chief Ranger Hughes, on average, 75 hours a week of service was provided through the end of last year, fiscal year 20-21. Invoices received to date from the MRCA are through March and confirm this. For reference, 90 hours a week were budgeted in FY 19-20.

Additionally, the Jr. Ranger programs will be suspended for the fiscal year 2021-22 as they were last year due to the pandemic and the limited budget.

Due to the changing RPOSD guidelines for Measure A and Proposition A funds, language has been added to the amendment to help the agency satisfy reimbursement

requirements to access County funding for a portion of the services provided by the MRCA.

Fiscal Impact:

This contract amount is the same as last year, and was incorporated into the proposed agency budget.

Attachments:

Proposed MRCA Amendment and associated budget



**THIRTIETH AMENDMENT TO  
PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY  
OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT**

Formerly Known as Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority Open Space  
Management Agreement


This thirtieth (30<sup>th</sup>) amendment to that certain agreement entitled the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority Open Space Management Agreement (AGREEMENT) is entered into on July 1, 2021 between the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority, a joint powers authority established under the laws of the State of California, acting by and through its Executive Director, (hereinafter known as the PHHPA) and the Executive Officer of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, a joint powers authority (hereinafter known as the CONTRACTOR). PHHPA and CONTRACTOR agree to the following amendments:

1. That the term of the AGREEMENT is extended for one year from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.
2. Rates for Ranger/Park Staff will be billed at cost, extinguishing the blended rate that historically had been used. The rates include: payroll, benefits, vehicle usage, taxes and overhead costs. The amount of Ranger/Park Staff weekly hours is estimated to be 77 hours.
3. The amount of Ranger/Park Staff weekly hours may be decreased or adjusted with 30 days' notice, in the event of emergencies, upon request for special services, or as desired by PHHPA.
4. Invoices submitted will be in a format that meets known requirements of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) for reimbursable Measure A Maintenance and Servicing costs, provided that those requirements are known at the time services are rendered. CONTRACTOR cannot retroactively change record-keeping practices and is not responsible for ensuring that RPOSD approve any expenses. If RPOSD issues new requirements, CONTRACTOR reserves the right to reevaluate the ability to meet those requirements. CONTRACTOR will make best efforts to accommodate PHHPA in submitting documentation to satisfying RPOSD. Costs shall be separated out by Maintenance and Servicing (M&S) and non-M&S qualifying expenses on City of Whittier Proposition A properties, PHHPA Proposition A properties, and Non-Proposition A properties. Invoices will indicate CONTRACTOR staff time dedicated to the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy grant, or other grants.
5. That the contract amount for services for the term shall not exceed \$452,936.00 (four hundred fifty-two thousand nine hundred thirty-six dollars) in accordance with the attached budget (Exhibit A).
6. That all other terms and provisions of the AGREEMENT shall remain in full force and effect.

PUENTE HILLS  
HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY

MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND  
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

By   
Cara Meyer, Deputy Executive Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

7-2-2021  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

<b>PHHPA Open Space Management Agreement</b> <b>30th Amendment, FY 21/22</b> <b>Exhibit A</b>												
Description	Whittier owned - Prop A (Arroyo Pescadero/Chevron, Unocal, Hellman, etc.)				Habitat Authority - Prop A (Turnbull/Rose Hills, Sycamore, etc.)				Non Prop A - (Hacienda Heights, Powder, etc.)			
	This Period	YTD Expenses	Total Budgeted	Budget Balance	This Period	YTD Expenses	Total Budgeted	Budget Balance	This Period	YTD Expenses	Total Budgeted	Budget Balance
Payroll, Benefits, Vehicle Usage, Overhead			\$ 35,715	\$ 35,715		\$ -	\$ 35,715	\$ 35,715		\$ -	\$ 103,424	\$ 103,424
M&S Payroll, Benefits, Vehicle Usage, Overhead (*)			\$ 83,572.74	\$ 83,573			\$ 83,573	\$ 83,573				\$ -
				\$ -		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -
Office Supplies			\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00		\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00		\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Telephone-Land			\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00		\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00		\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Answering Service			\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00		\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00		\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Interpretive Supplies			\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00		\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00		\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Misc Operating Expenses (Gate opening)(*)			\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00		\$ -	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00		\$ -	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Food/Kitchen			\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00		\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00		\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Volunteer Expenses			\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00		\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00		\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Clothing/Personal Supplies			\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00		\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00		\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Warning/ Protective Suppl			\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00		\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00		\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
First Aid/ Rescue Suppl			\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00		\$ -	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00		\$ -	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
Hand Tools/ Instruments (*)			\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00			\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00		\$ -	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
Minor Equipment (*)			\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00		\$ -	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00		\$ -	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
Peace Officer Supplies			\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00		\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00		\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Signs & Info Fixtures (*)			\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00		\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00		\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Maintenance-Other (*)			\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00		\$ -	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00		\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Maintenance-Other Equipment (*)			\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00		\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00		\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Maintenance-Buildings (*)			\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00			\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00		\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Maintenance-Grounds (*)			\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00		\$ -	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00		\$ -	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Maintenance-Roads (*)			\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00			\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00		\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Weed Control (*)			\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00		\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00		\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Vandalism Restoration (*)			\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00		\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00		\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Major Repairs-Structures (*)			\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00		\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00		\$ -	\$ 136.00	\$ 136.00
Major-Repairs-Other (*)			\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00		\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00		\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Sanitation/Waste Removal-Portable Toilets (*)			\$ 16,700.00	\$ 16,700.00		\$ -	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00		\$ -	\$ 14,800.00	\$ 14,800.00

Description	Whittier owned - Prop A (Arroyo Pescadero/Chevron, Unocal, Hellman, etc.)				Habitat Authority - Prop A (Turnbull/Rose Hills, Sycamore, etc.)				Non Prop A - (Hacienda Heights, Powder, etc.)			
	This Period	YTD Expenses	Total Budgeted	Budget Balance	This Period	YTD Expenses	Total Budgeted	Budget Balance	This Period	YTD Expenses	Total Budgeted	Budget Balance
Sanitation/Waste Removal-Garbage & Landfill (*)			\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00		\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00		\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Water (*)			\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00		\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00		\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Gas & Propane (*)			\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00		\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Electric			\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00		\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00		\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Pest Control (*)			\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00		\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00		\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
<b>Totals:</b>	\$ -		\$ 162,887.90	\$ 162,887.90	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150,187.90	\$ 150,187.90	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 139,860.20	\$ 139,860.20
TOTAL CONTRACT \$ 452,936.00												

## **Additional Materials**

## World's largest firefighting helicopters join Orange, Los Angeles and Ventura County fleets



*A Coulson Chinook water dropping helicopter makes a short stop at the Van Nuys Airport Friday June 11.2021. The helicopter is going to*

*be added to the LA County fire dept fire helicopter fleet going active June 15th. A total of 3 of these helicopters will be added to Orange County, Ventura County and Los Angeles County fire depts. The power company Edison is paying the cost of these helicopters that will be in service till December 2021. (Photo by Gene Blevins/Contributing Photographer)*

By [Eric Licas](#) | [elicas@scng.com](mailto:elicas@scng.com) and [City News Service](#) | [news@socalnews.com](mailto:news@socalnews.com) | Orange County Register

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Two of the world's largest firefighting helicopters are among the fleet of aircraft made available to firefighters in Orange, Los Angeles and Ventura Counties operating a joint disaster-response team set to debut on Tuesday, June 15.

Southern California Edison provided about \$18 million to fund the Quick Response Force, a multi-agency team assigned to battle wildfires across Southern California, Orange County Fire Authority Capt. Thanh Nguyen said.

The arrangement gives OCFA, as well as the Los Angeles County and Ventura County fire departments, access to a pair of Chinook CH-47s helitankers, which are capable of flying day or night and can each carry up to 3,000 gallons of fire-retardant or water.

“That’s a lot of firefighting power, if you will, when you can drop 3,000 gallons of water onto a brush fire,” Orange County Fire Authority Capt. Thanh Nguyen told City News Service. “It’s an important tool.”

A Sikorsky S-61 helitanker capable of dropping 1,000 gallon payloads is also part of the QRF’s arsenal of firefighting equipment. The collaborative effort augments each participating agency’s existing aerial fleet, and will operate for 180 days during the peak of summer.

Millions of people in Los Angeles, Orange and Ventura counties live in wildfire-prone areas. The QRF was formed in light of the recurring threat of disaster these communities face. It makes its debut Tuesday amidst [historically dry conditions](#) and predictions of an exceptionally dire wildfire season.

There will be a Monday news conference at the Joint Forces Training base Los Alamitos, 11206 Lexington Drive, in Los Alamitos, with Los Angeles County Fire Chief Daryl Osby, Orange County Fire Authority Chief Brian Fennessy, Ventura County Fire Chief Mark Lorenzen and Southern California Edison President and CEO Kevin Payne expected to attend. A hover-filling and water-dropping demonstration will follow.

## World's largest firefighting helicopters land in O.C. to help battle wildfires in Southern California



*Crews ready a Boeing CH-47 Chinook Very Large Helitanker during a demonstration at the Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos, CA, on Monday, June 14, 2021. The aircraft is part of the regional Quick Reaction Force made from a partnership with SCE and Orange County Fire Authority, Los Angeles County Fire Department and Ventura County Fire Department to fight wildfires. (Photo by Jeff Gritchen, Orange County Register/SCNG)*

By [Emily Rasmussen](#) | [erasmussen@scng.com](mailto:erasmussen@scng.com) | Long Beach Press-Telegram

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Two of the world's largest firefighting helicopters designed to help battle wildfires in Orange, Los Angeles and Ventura counties landed in Southern California on Monday, June 14.

The pair of [Chinook CH-47s helitankers](#), which can carry up to 3,000 gallons of fire retardant or water, landed at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos. The helicopters join the fleets of the Orange, Los Angeles and Ventura county fire departments as part of a joint disaster-response team, which also includes a large Sikorsky S-61 helitanker with a 1,000-gallon capacity.

Southern California Edison funded the \$18 million to have the helicopters as part of the three agencies' Quick Reaction Force for 180 days starting Tuesday. The helitankers can also fly at night, which Orange County Fire Authority Fire Chief Brian Fennessy said is a game-changer for firefighting efforts because most aircraft need to return to their bases by dark.

"This is the future of aerial firefighting," he said during a Monday press conference.

Each of the Chinook helitankers will be based in Los Angeles and Orange counties, and the Sikorsky will be based in Ventura County, said Capt. Thanh Nguyen, an OCFA spokesman.

# California is betting \$61 million that new highway crossings will keep wildlife safe

by [Marissa Garcia](#) July 6, 2021



*Michelle Mariscal, an ecologist for the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority, walks into the Harbor Boulevard Wildlife Underpass in La Habra Heights, on June 30, 2021. "This is the wildlife's gateway to the open space on either side of this busy road," Mariscal said. "The animals to the underpass are able to live longer lives." Photo by Pablo Unzueta for CalMatters*

## *In summary*

*Large animals cause 20 crashes a day on California highways. Experts say special bridges and tunnels can prevent them and protect endangered species.*

It'd be just another normal day, nearly 17 feet above Highway 101 in Agoura Hills.

A southern alligator lizard and a western toad hide from the heat in the greenery of restored native vegetation. Mountain lion cubs pounce on rocks and spring into the nearby canyons. The sun glints on the feathers of a golden eagle soaring overhead.

This is the scene environmentalists hope will someday become reality on a massive overpass above the ten-lane freeway that cuts through the Santa Monica Mountains near Los Angeles. The project known as the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing is one step closer to happening now that Gov. Gavin Newsom has signed a [budget that includes \\$7 million to help build it](#) — and another \$54.5 million for similar projects in other parts of the state.

It's part of a larger nationwide push to build special [bridges and tunnels that help animals safely cross](#) busy roads and freeways. The goal is two-fold: to give species at risk the space they need to find mates, and to reduce the number of car crashes that imperil both wildlife and humans.



About 7,000 vehicle crashes a year on California highways involve large wildlife, such as deer, according to 2018 data from the Road Ecology Center at the University of California, Davis. That's nearly 20 crashes a day, at least. Many are likely unreported.

And they aren't cheap — for the drivers or the government. Between 2015 and 2018, [wildlife crashes have cost more than \\$1 billion](#). The expenses include car damage, personal injuries, emergency response, traffic impacts, lost work and the clean-up.

Highways aren't just crash sites for the deer caught in the headlights; they're also a great divide that can threaten the future of an entire species.

That's because highways cut through critical habitat, making it impossible for animals from one side to breed with animals on the other. This leads to inbreeding and deformities that result from dwindling genetic diversity.

Wildlife crossings can help.



*An artist rendering of the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing, which would help restore connectivity in the Santa Monica Mountain Range, buffering mountain lions from extinction. Photo courtesy of National Wildlife Federation/Living Habitats*

Utah saw a [98.5% reduction in deer mortalities](#) when it built two animal underpasses on a stretch of highway that blocked traditional migratory routes. In Colorado, wildlife-vehicle [collisions dropped by 89%](#) after the state built two bridges to help mule deer and elk safely cross a highway. Arizona, Florida, Montana, Oregon, New Mexico, Washington and Wyoming have also built successful wildlife crossings.

But California? Despite its environmentally-aware reputation, the Golden State lags in building these crossings. The Liberty Canyon overpass would be California's first bridge on the state highway system designed specifically for fostering wildlife connectivity. And even with the new funding, it's still years away from completion.

"We're not an environmental state," said Fraser Shilling, co-director of the [Road Ecology Center at UC Davis](#). "We don't have environmental-based legislation that is resulting in protection of wildlife."

This year, however, conservationists are encouraged by action at the state Capitol. A bill making its way through the Legislature would [encourage the state transportation agency to build more wildlife crossings](#).

And the budget lawmakers passed last month includes new funding [to build animal overpasses and underpasses](#). In addition to the \$7 million for the bridge at Liberty Canyon, it also includes \$2 million to build a tunnel for deer and mountain lions to pass under Highway 17 in the Santa Cruz Mountains, plus \$52.5 million for other wildlife crossings that have yet to be identified.



*Michelle Mariscal, an ecologist for the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority, holds a sheet that assists in identifying wildlife using the Harbor Boulevard Wildlife Underpass in La Habra Heights, on June 30, 2021. Photo by Pablo Unzueta for CalMatters*

Wildlife crossings have gained support across the political spectrum — both from environmentalists as well as groups that advocate for hunters. Even though he disagrees with California’s ban on hunting mountain lions, Dan Whisenhunt, chief executive officer at the California Deer Association, supports building more overpasses and underpasses.

“This is one time that politics is listening to common sense... because nobody loses in this,” Whisenhunt said. “It could be somebody from Los Angeles or San Francisco or out of state, traveling on Highway 395, and they’re going to have the benefit of that crossing because there’s not going to be the deer running across the road.”

Near Lake Tahoe, for instance, three underpasses help mule deer safely wander below Highway 395. In Los Angeles County, the Harbor Boulevard Wildlife Underpass is a metal corrugated tunnel directing coyotes, deer and bobcats under the road. In Orange County, a corridor will [provide a safe route](#) for gray foxes, bobcats, coyotes and other creatures to travel between the Santa Ana Mountains and the coast.

Underpasses are generally cheaper than overpasses, and some animals, such as deer, prefer them.

Mountain lions, however, prefer overpasses. A desire to protect them from extinction has led to the years-long push to build the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing. Expected to be complete in late 2025, it will be the largest wildlife passage in the world.

[Liberty Canyon overpass could save mountain lions](#)

Mountain lions in the Santa Ana and Santa Monica Mountains [face a 99% chance of extinction](#) within the next 50 years, and genetic isolation is to blame.

“They’re inbreeding with each other, and they face this extinction vortex,” said Mari Galloway, the California program manager at Wildlands Network. “It’s shown in this kinked tail.”

The kinked tail is a familiar omen. A few decades ago, fewer than 30 mountain lions remained in Florida. Isolated by highways, they were [breeding in too small of circles](#). The proof was in the tail: When on the edge of extinction, the ends of the tails were bent out of shape.

“What they need is genetic connectivity, and so Liberty Canyon will provide more opportunities for outside mountain lions to come in and really give that gene pool a boost and diversity,” said Tiffany Yap, senior scientist at the Center for Biological Diversity in San Francisco. “Not only is that crossing really key for mountain lions, but it would help an incredible amount of biodiversity in the area.”

Connecting one side of the mountain range to the other, the crossing would provide a safe passageway for mountain lions as well as gopher snakes, mule deer, and desert cottontail rabbits.

The project — expected to cost \$87 million — is being funded with public and private dollars, including [\\$250,000 from the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation](#) and [\\$25 million from the Annenberg Foundation](#).

“We’re not just relying on the state,” said Beth Pratt, regional executive director at the National Wildlife Federation.

The investments not only buoy conservation efforts, but also make highways safer and financially self-sustaining. In Placerville, in the Sierra Nevada foothills, a tunnel under Highway 50 cost \$1.3 million to build.

“The project is pretty close to having paid for itself already by reducing collisions with deer,” said Shilling, the UC Davis ecologist.

#### [Enticing road builders to plan for wildlife](#)

Money, however, isn’t the only problem. Even if consistent funding went to wildlife crossings, actually building them can get complicated.

That’s because California’s transportation planners — under pressure to serve growing communities and alleviate traffic — haven’t had much incentive to build tunnels and bridges for animals. State Sen. Henry Stern wants to change that.

“We’ve got all these big statewide goals around biodiversity and protecting natural lands and conserving open space,” the Malibu Democrat said. “But we thought we needed to do something... that really integrated wildlife connectivity and habitat connectivity into the transportation planning process.”

Stern’s Senate Bill 790 [creates an incentive system](#) that allows Caltrans, the agency that builds roads and freeways, to get credits from the state if it retrofits highways with new wildlife crossings.

In the future, when Caltrans builds transportation projects that may have adverse environmental impacts, the department can draw upon these mitigation credits from building wildlife crossings. The concept is similar to other environmental programs that encourage companies to offset some of their pollution by paying for ecological benefits.

The bill passed the Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support and is now being considered in the Assembly.

The bill would also grant mitigation credits to Caltrans when its projects protect species listed under the California Endangered Species Act. [Since October 2020, some mountain lions in Southern California and the Central Coast have been granted temporary legal protection](#) under the act, while the state Department of Fish and Wildlife [reviews whether they should be listed as threatened](#).

That means if Stern’s bill becomes law, projects such as Liberty Canyon could receive a boost because Caltrans could receive mitigation credits for building a crossing that helps mountain lions.

This issue also represents an opportunity for Newsom to advance his family legacy of mountain lion conservation. More than 30 years ago, his father William Newsom championed the ballot measure that banned hunting the species in California. The governor remembers licking envelopes [to help promote his father’s hunting ban, he told the Sacramento Bee](#) last year.

Stern talked with Newsom about his connection to mountain lions when they toured the site for the Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing almost two years ago.

“This is how he and a lot of other people connect to nature,” Stern said. “He was out there with his dad helping get the original mountain lion ballot initiative passed... and he wanted to run around in the wilderness with me... and you could tell, it woke up the kid in him.”

#### More than 30,000 large animals involved in crashes on California highways since 2015

Here's a look at the major species killed or injured in crashes that prompted emergency response on state highways between 2015 and 2019:

	Elk	134
	Mountain Lions	190
	Black Bears	408
	Wild Pigs	736
	Coyotes	1,214
	Deer	28,301

Data is not inclusive of all species involved in these crashes. Data may be subject to under-reporting.  
Source: Road Ecology Center at the University of California, Davis