

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

July 13, 2021, Tuesday, 7 p.m.

LOCATION:

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

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87431370438> Meeting ID: 874 3137 0438

- Or -

Phone:

Dial by your location: +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose), +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 874 3137 0438, Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kRbvFtwsr>

Charles Lawrence, Chair	Whittier
Shelley Andros	Whittier
Ray Wong	Whittier
Roy Francis, Vice Chair	La Habra Heights
Catherine Houwen	La Habra Heights
Adam Nazaroff	La Habra Heights
Karen Chang	County of Los Angeles
John Houser	County of Los Angeles
Gina Natoli	County of Los Angeles

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 Committee 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 Monday, July 12, 2021 by 4:00 p.m. before the public comment section of the meeting to mmiller@HabitatAuthority.org. Please label the email in the subject heading as "Public Comments."

Pursuant to Section 54954 of the Government Code, the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Authority) will hold a regular meeting of the Citizens Technical Advisory Committee (CTAC) at the above time and location for the purpose of:

AGENDA

- I. Call to order.
- II. Roll call.
- III. Public comments.
- IV. Approval of Minutes for the May 18, 2021, Regular Meeting.
- V. Standing Reports:
 - a) Report by Board Liaison on May 20, 2021, and June 17, 2021, Authority Board meetings.

- b) Report from social media subcommittee.
- c) Committee Member feedback from the public as it relates to the Habitat Authority.
- VI. Discussion, receive and file April and May 2021 Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) Ranger Reports.
- VII. Update regarding the proposed heli-hydrant project on the Authority's former Diaz property.
- VIII. Review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Board of Directors regarding Authority workplan for fiscal year 2021-22, and review and review of Strategic Guidelines.
- IX. Review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Board of Directors regarding Authority annual budget for fiscal year 2021-22, and review of corresponding budgets.
- X. Discussion and possible recommendation to the Board of Directors regarding reopening Hellman Park Trailhead.
- XI. Discussion and possible action recommending the Board to authorize 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.
- XII. Discussion and possible recommendation to the Board of Directors regarding recognition for the service from Bob Henderson to the Authority.
- XIII. Discussion about a possible future joint meeting with the Board of Directors.
- XIV. Discussion, Committee members' statements, Executive Director's comments, responses or questions.
- XV. Adjournment and announcement of next meeting.

The Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority is a public entity established pursuant to the Joint Exercise of Powers Act by agreement between the City of Whittier, Los Angeles County, and Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County. Regular meetings of the Citizens Technical Advisory Committee are scheduled for the Tuesday before the third Thursday of every month. NOTE: 72 hours prior to Citizens Technical Advisory Committee meetings, the entire Citizens Technical Advisory Committee agenda package is available for review, along with any meeting-related writings or documents provided to a majority of the Committee members after distribution of the agenda package, at the Authority's website, www.habitatauthority.org. Questions about any agenda item can be addressed to Andrea Gullo, Executive Director, 562.945.9003. NOTE: Members of the public may address the

Committee on any item shown on the agenda. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, if you require a disability related modification or accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please call Melissa Miller at the Habitat Authority office 562.945.9003, at least 48 hours prior to this meeting.

DRAFT Minutes
PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY
CITIZENS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
May 18, 2021

The regular meeting of the Citizens Technical Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, via video and telephonically.

I. CALL TO ORDER.

The Chair, Charles Lawrence, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL.

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

Members Present:	Shelley Andros	Whittier
	Charles Lawrence, Chair	Whittier
	Ray Wong	Whittier
	Gina Natoli	County of Los Angeles
	John Houser	County of Los Angeles
	Karen Chang	County of Los Angeles
	Catherine Houwen	La Habra Heights
	Roy Francis, Vice Chair	La Habra Heights
	Adam Nazaroff	La Habra Heights

Members Absent: none

Authority Representatives Present:

Andrea Gullo, Executive Director
Michelle Mariscal, Ecologist
Melissa Miller, Administrative Assistant
Kenn Hughes, Deputy Chief Ranger, Mountains Recreation
and Conservation Authority (MRCA)
Mike Hughes, Chair, Board of Directors of Puente Hills
Habitat Preservation Authority
Jessica Martinez, Alternate Director, Board of Directors of
Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority

**Members of the
Public Present:**

Steve Huber, Whittier Audubon
Jim Kelly, Friends of the Whittier Hills
One unidentified member of the public

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Steve Huber from Whittier Audubon reported that the spring bird migrants continue to be very active in the Sycamore Canyon area, with two active redbelt hawk nests now noticeable.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE APRIL 13, 2021, REGULAR MEETING.

Member Natoli motioned to approve these minutes as drafted. Member Andros seconded this motion, and in a roll call vote the motion passed.

V. STANDING REPORTS:

a. REPORT BY BOARD LIAISON ON APRIL 15, 2021, AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING.

Member Houwen reported that there was much public comment in addition to Board discussion regarding the proposed heli-hydrant project in La Habra Heights, and the Board decided to reopen the parking lot at Powder Canyon within a few days, with the status of Hellman Park Trailhead to be evaluated at its next meeting. She added that the Board approved proceeding with getting a draft lease for new office space at the Depot location in Whittier, and the rangers continue to work with Whittier Police regarding vehicle break-ins and with La Habra Heights Fire regarding preparations for the oncoming fire season. The Committee received and filed this report.

b. REPORT FROM SOCIAL MEDIA SUBCOMMITTEE.

Member Andros reported that the major theme of the Authority's social media channels this past month was the leave-no-trace ethos, with much use of photographs from longtime Authority volunteer Bruce Everett to continue positive messaging. The Committee received and filed this report.

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

There was no feedback to report.

VI. UPDATE REGARDING RESIGNATION OF FOUNDING AUTHORITY BOARD MEMBER BOB HENDERSON.

Executive Director Gullo reported that former Director Bob Henderson's resignation was effective on May 5, and she briefly described his extensive

efforts on behalf of the Authority over the previous 24 years. Authority Board Chair Hughes noted that Bob has always been at the center of the Authority's work, and Alternate Board Director Martinez stated that he will be very missed. Member Houwen reminded that Bob will be continuing his advocacy efforts, and Member Nazaroff suggested that the agenda for the next CTAC meeting contain consideration of public acknowledgement of Bob's achievements for the Authority.

VII. DISCUSSION, RECEIVE AND FILE FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2021 AND THIRD QUARTERLY 2020-2021 MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (MRCA) RANGER REPORTS.

Deputy Chief Ranger Hughes briefly reviewed these reports, adding that compliance with requirements for wearing masks is improving but problems with noise pollution continue. He added that the contact numbers for this past quarter are similar to those for the third quarter of fiscal year 2018-2019. Member Natoli asked about the numbers of hikers being locked in after trails close, and suggested that this could be the next theme of the Authority's social media channels. She also asked about the high number of parking violations recently in La Habra Heights, and Deputy Chief Ranger Hughes stated that the City of La Habra Heights has recently placed marked k-rails on Fullerton Road to assist with enforcement efforts. Member Andros advised that she is lately seeing more electric-powered mountain bikes that are capable of speeds up to 50 miles per hour, and Deputy Chief Ranger Hughes noted that electric bikes continue to be prohibited in the ordinances. The Committee received and filed these reports.

VIII. RECEIVE AND FILE UPDATE ON APRIL 18, 2021 ONE-ACRE FIRE IN THE WORSHAM AREA ALONG THE SCHABARUM TRAIL, ON THE AUTHORITY'S PRESERVE IN UNINCORPORATED LOS ANGELES COUNTY.

Ecologist Mariscal briefly reviewed this item as presented in the staff report, and there was little discussion. The Committee received and filed this report.

IX. VERBAL UPDATE, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABOUT TRAIL, TRAILHEAD AND PARKING LOT OPENINGS AND CLOSURES, AND SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS IN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC, INCLUDING RESPONSE TO YELLOW TIER RISK REDUCTION MEASURES.

Executive Director Gullo briefly reviewed this item, reminding that all trails continue to be open. Member Wong asked if the new parking structure in Uptown Whittier is anticipated to alleviate the parking issues in the Hellman and Turnbull areas, and Alternate Director Martinez replied that while that structure is

a little far from these trails, the shuttle or people-mover program that the City of Whittier is working on would definitely have the Hellman Park Trailhead as one of its stops. The Committee received and filed this update.

X. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGARDING AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE NEW LEASE WITH THE CITY OF WHITTIER FOR THE HABITAT AUTHORITY OFFICE.

Executive Director Gullo advised that the City of Whittier is requesting that the Authority vacate its current office space during the third week of July. Member Wong asked if any other space could be found in Whittier, since he's aware that the population of homeless people in the Depot area is a real concern, as Board Vice Chair Ivan Sulic has confirmed to him. Alternate Director Martinez said she will ask the city manager about this again. Member Natoli noted the 39% decrease in office space inherent in a move to the Depot location, and questioned the draft lease's stipulations regarding property taxes, mechanics' liens, and insurance-coverage changes that could increase costs to the Authority. She also wondered if the city's enforcement of rules in the Depot building extends to that location's parking area as well.

Member Natoli motioned to recommend to the Board of Directors that they authorize the Executive Director to execute a new lease with the City of Whittier. Vice Chair Francis seconded this motion, and in a roll call vote the motion passed with Member Wong opposing.

XI. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS AND ENTERING INTO APPROPRIATE AGREEMENTS WITH THE CITY OF LA HABRA HEIGHTS' REGARDING THE PROPOSED HELI-HYDRANT PROJECT.

Executive Director Gullo and Ecologist Mariscal reviewed this item as presented in the staff report, and there was discussion. Member Natoli asked if there would be a ramp on the outside of the proposed tank, and the frequency of the maintenance that the tank would require. She also noted that a chainlink fence can be easily climbed by humans, and that mitigation for such a pristine area of coastal sage scrub should be at least 5:1 instead of 2:1 and should also be very near the site being mitigated. Lastly, she stated that a full environmental impact report will be required, not just a mitigated negative declaration, and she asked why the vacant parcel north of La Habra Heights' civic center or part of the city's golf course could not be used. Member Nazaroff asked if the Authority's Board may have acted precipitously in considering this location on the former Diaz property, since no written list of requirements versus impediments seems to have

been presented for the various possible locations, and the city would not be able to proceed with this project until the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act have been completed.

Member Natoli motioned to recommend to the Board of Directors that they deny this request for a heli-hydrant installation at the proposed location, due to its conflicts with the Authority's Resource Management Plan and the rushed nature of the request. Member Wong seconded this motion, but Member Andros suggested that the motion be restated to convey that the objection is not to the hydrant itself but to the location being proposed.

Member Natoli amended her original motion to recommend to the Board of Directors that they not proceed with establishing a heli-hydrant on the Preserve property formerly owned by Diaz because that would impact critical habitat and the regional wildlife corridor, and instead CTAC believes there are other opportunities for siting of the heli-hydrant and offers its assistance to the City and the Board in finding other possible locations that will meet requirements of the appropriate fire department authority. Member Nazaroff seconded this motion, and in a roll call vote the motion passed with Vice Chair Francis opposed.

XII. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABOUT LOBBYING EFFORTS FOR THE AUTHORITY.

Executive Director Gullo briefly introduced this item, and Member Natoli stated that the Authority's lobbying efforts should go beyond the submission of letters, in order to increase not only the chances of the Authority's being heard but also its ability to learn about impending legislative efforts before they progress beyond the Authority's ability to influence them. Member Wong agreed that such lobbying is critical for the long-term viability of the Authority.

Member Natoli motioned to recommend to the Board of Directors that they increase and improve the Authority's lobbying of its local and state and federal representatives. Member Wong seconded this motion, and the motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

XIII. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGARDING HOLDING JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND BOARD MEETING.

Chair Lawrence stated that such meetings would at least allow CTAC to get more extensive feedback regarding the most important concerns to be focused upon.

Member Natoli motioned to recommend to the Board of Directors that they hold meetings jointly with CTAC whether it's once or twice a year but at whatever frequency they determine is convenient because it's important to see each other and have conversations about the Preserve in real time. Member Wong seconded this motion, and the motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

XIV. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION REGARDING SAFETY ISSUES AT COLIMA ROAD AND ACCESS AT THE ARROYO PESCADERO TRAILHEAD.

Executive Director Gullo briefly reviewed this item as presented in the staff report, and there was discussion. Member Andros stated that a portion of the parking lot of the Whittier Area Community Church is kept chained when not in use, and that opening the parking area next to Arroyo San Miguel will most likely not help but instead merely increase the number of people on the more ecologically sensitive Arroyo San Miguel Trail. She also noted that exiting the parking area at Arroyo San Miguel is very dangerous due to the blind curve to its southwest blocking the view of oncoming traffic on this typically high-speed road.

Member Natoli motioned to recommend to the Board of Directors that they not consider opening the parking area at Arroyo San Miguel due to the likely adverse effects on traffic at that trail and the possible impacts to a federally listed threatened species, in addition to the financial issues created by another trailhead. Member Andros seconded this motion, but Member Nazaroff asked that no-pedestrian-crossing signage be installed.

Member Natoli amended her original motion to recommend to the Board of Directors that they discuss further with the City of Whittier regarding how to improve the safety for pedestrians and others who are crossing Colima to enter the Arroyo Pescadero Trailhead. Member Andros seconded this motion, and the motion passed unanimously in a roll call vote.

XV. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGARDING COMMENT LETTER ON THE NOTICE OF PREPARATION FOR THE CITY OF WHITTIER'S GENERAL PLAN.

Ecologist Mariscal briefly reviewed this item as presented in the staff report, and Member Natoli suggested that the Authority should just go ahead and request that resource production / extraction be disallowed in the open space areas, instead of simply asking that their possibility be clarified.

Member Nazaroff motioned to recommend to the Board of Directors that they approve this draft comment letter with Member Natoli's change of requesting the disallowance of resource production/extraction in open space areas. Member Natoli seconded this motion, and the motion passed in a roll call vote.

Vice Chair Francis exited the meeting during this item.

XVI. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGARDING BEGINNING THE PROCESS OF ENTERING INTO A RIGHT OF ENTRY AGREEMENT WITH THE ROWLAND WATER DISTRICT FOR ACCESS TO MAKE FENCE IMPROVEMENTS AND LONG-TERM MAINTENANCE.

Executive Director Gullo briefly reviewed this item as presented in the staff report, and Member Natoli cautioned that the Rowland Water District be closely monitored due to their previous record of encroaching onto the Preserve for tree removal.

Member Andros motioned to recommend to the Board of Directors that they begin the process of entering into this right of entry agreement. Member Houser seconded this motion, and the motion passed in a roll call vote.

XVII. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVING AUTHORITY RESOLUTION NO. 2021-02 AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT AND ANY OTHER REQUIRED GRANT-RELATED DOCUMENTS WITH THE RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY.

Executive Director Gullo briefly reviewed this item as presented in the staff report, and there was little discussion. Member Natoli asked what is the difference between "eucalyptus trees" and "eucalyptus," and Executive Director

Gullo responded that this was an administrative typo and the difference of the two groups is a the circumference of the tree trunks.

Member Natoli motioned to recommend to the Board of Directors that they approve this grant-required Resolution 2021-02 authorizing the Executive Director to submit and execute associated grant documents as needed. Member Andros seconded this motion, and the motion passed in a roll call vote.

XVIII. DISCUSSION, RECEIVE AND FILE INFORMATION REGARDING AUTHORITY BUDGET.

Executive Director Gullo briefly reviewed this item as presented in the staff report, adding that she anticipates further information being available before CTAC's next meeting. Member Andros asked that this item be tabled to next month's meeting, due to time constraints, and the Committee agreed.

XIX. DISCUSSION, COMMITTEE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS, RESPONSES OR QUESTIONS.

Member Andros asked when in-person meetings are anticipated to resume, and Executive Director Gullo replied that the July meeting is the first probable such meeting but the advice of Authority counsel has not yet been provided.

Chair Lawrence asked that the residents of the Grande Vista area of Whittier be kept apprised of the rangers' and other law enforcement's planning for the upcoming July 4 holiday, in view of past incidents at that area on that holiday. He also noted the recent \$25 million Annenberg challenge grant toward the costs of the wildlife crossing bridge over the 101 Freeway.

XX. ADJOURNMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING.

There being no further comments, or business to be discussed, Chair Lawrence adjourned the meeting at 10:13 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting date is June 15, 2021.



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

MEMORANDUM

Meeting Date: July 13, 2021

To: Citizens Technical Advisory Committee

Prepared by: Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Agenda Item: **VIII. Review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Board of Directors regarding Authority workplan for fiscal year 2021-22, and review and review of Strategic Guidelines.**

Background:

This item was continued at the August and September 2019, and February 2020 Board of Directors 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 Advisory Committee and 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.

Recommendation:

Recommend that CTAC recommend that 1) the Board approve the proposed workplan, or 2) it provide edits to the Board of Directors regarding the proposed workplan.

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	Possible 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

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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.

MEMORANDUM

Meeting Date: July 13, 2021

To: Citizens Technical Advisory Committee

Prepared by: Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Agenda Item: **IX. Review, discussion and possible recommendation to the Board of Directors regarding Authority annual budget for fiscal year 2021-22, and review of corresponding budgets.**

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.

Recommendation:

That CTAC recommend to the Board of Directors approval of the attached budget for FY 21-22 retroactive to July 1, 2021

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
Revenue:			
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%
Total Revenue	1,357,614	945,282.32	70%
	FY 20/21 Budget	YTD, as of June/21	Actuals % of FY 2021 Budget Spent
Expenses:			
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	-	-	
Total Expenses	1,398,093	1,112,071	80%
	(40,479)	(166,789)	

FY2020/21 Mitigation Budget
Year to date, June 2021

Expenses:	Code	APPROVED <u>Annual Budget</u> <u>Amount</u>	<u>Year to Date</u> <u>Actual Costs</u>	<u>Balance</u>
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)
Total Expenses		1,074,900.21	1,049,335.18	25,565.03

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
	69,914

(See individual project budgets.)

FY 2021-22
Annual Operations Expenses
Proposed

[illegible]

FY2021/22
Expense Notes

	Notes:
	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

Expenses:	Code	<u>Annual Budget</u> <u>Amount</u>	<u>Year to Date</u> <u>Actual Costs</u>	<u>Balance</u>
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
Total Expenses		756,984.25	-	756,984.25

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
	83,729

(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> [†]	<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> [†]	
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

											<i>*Proposed</i>		
											<i>Contract/Category</i>		
Contracted	<i>2017/18</i>	<i>2018/19</i>	<i>2019/20</i>	<i>2020/21</i>	<i>2021/22</i>	<i>2022/23</i>	<i>2023/24</i>	<i>2024/25</i>	<i>2025/26</i>	<i>July-Dec 2026</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Estimated</i>	
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													

YEAR TO DATE															PAGE 2 OF 2	
													REMAINING (contracted minus spent)			
ACTUAL Spent [†]	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	July-Dec 2026	Spent Total [†]					
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	\$ 57,226.18	\$ 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	\$ 49,843.90	\$ 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**

Contracted	<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
Total per fiscal year	\$ 6,807.30	\$ 23,547.25	\$ 7,814.75	\$ 6,439.75	\$ 2,734.75	\$ 47,343.80	\$ 47,342.00

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

**FY 2019/20 includes monies for executing Options 3 & 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

**ACTUAL Spent	<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 ¹	\$ -	\$ 5,725.57	\$ 1,607.25			\$ 7,332.82	\$ 4,355.18
S&S Seeds ²	\$ 763.22	\$ 770.28				\$ 1,533.50	\$ (124.50)
Staff Time	\$ 4,641.80					\$ 4,641.80	\$ -
Total per fiscal year	\$ 5,405.02	\$ 19,880.35	\$ 8,181.25	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33,466.62	\$ 13,877.18

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

¹ Time for FY 18/19 was billed in FY 19/20² Budgeted amount excluded taxes and shipping costs

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

(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
Total per fiscal year	\$ 93,591.59	\$ 69,044.42	\$ 112,370.50	\$ 59,658.79	\$ 58,954.64	\$ 51,583.40	\$ 43,915.84	\$ 52,805.61	\$ 23,440.35	\$ 565,365.13	\$ 584,465.19

*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 [†]	
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
Total per fiscal year	\$ 80,705.76	\$ 50,965.08								\$ 131,670.85	\$ 433,694.29

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

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

* 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
REVENUES						
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
Total Annual Revenue (also see County Pool interest below)	1,369,014	1,741,569	1,430,734	1,435,343	2,263,929	1,317,017
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%
EXPENDITURES						
Total Acquisitions planned in year	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						
Total Annual Expenditures	2,458,000	3,277,873	2,020,317	2,033,269	1,717,853	1,734,896
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%
Excess (Short Fall) including interest	8,887,579	7,389,436	6,672,447	5,943,724	5,514,319	5,149,493
Assumes:						
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.						

MEMORANDUM

Meeting Date: July 13, 2021

To: Citizens Technical Advisory Committee

Prepared by: Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Agenda Item: **XI. Discussion and possible action recommending the Board to authorize 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.**

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.

Recommendation:

Recommend that CTAC recommend that the Board authorize the Executive Director to execute the attached amendment for ranger maintenance and operation services.

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 (30th) 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

PHHPA Open Space Management Agreement 30th Amendment, FY 21/22 Exhibit A												
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
Totals:	\$ -		\$ 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



Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority

Endowment Provided by the Puente Hills Landfill

June 2, 2021

John Pespisa
3129 Hacienda Road # 553
Hacienda Heights, California 91745

Re: Public Records Request dated May 21, 2021 and revised May 28, 2021

Dear Mr. Pespisa:

You made the attached request for documents under the California Public Records Act (CPRA) on May 21, 2021, and subsequently modified that request on May 28, 2021, to specify the timeframe as a period of 5 years preceding the request with the exception of documentation related to the property formerly owned by Diaz.

Documents responsive to your request were located, and are included on a flash drive enclosed with this correspondence. Some portions of documents were withheld as exempt from disclosure under the CPRA because the public interest served by disclosing the record is outweighed by the public interest served by not disclosing the record. (Gov. Code Section 6255). The portions of documents withheld include the specific locations of protected birds and therefore will not be disclosed.

Sincerely,

Andrea Gullo
Executive Director

Encl

cc: Governing Board
CTAC Board



How to reopen Hellman Park trail?

Parking issues, added traffic and costs complicate any plan



Park users enter Hellman Park on May 30, 2018. The Whittier City Council is looking at putting a no-parking zone on Greenleaf Avenue next to Hellman Park.

PHOTO BY KEITH DURFLINGER

By Mike Sprague

By [Mike Sprague](#) | msprague@scng.com | Whittier Daily News
June 7, 2021

As the pandemic has eased, only Whittier's Hellman Park, one of six trailheads in the 3,870-acre Puente Hills preserve managed by the Habitat Authority, remains unopened.

The preserve was closed in March 2020 in response to the coronavirus crisis, but two months later all of the trailheads— but Hellman Park — were reopened.

The issues surrounding reopening of Hellman Park remains complicated. It is the most popular of the trailheads, with more than 1,000 daily visitors, according to 2016 numbers from an authority study.

“We want it to open,” Andrea Gullo, the authority’s executive director, said by phone Friday. “We just need to figure out how we’re going to do it. We want the community to enjoy it, but we want it to remain in a sustainable way.” The board, which discussed the issue at its May 19 meeting, is expected to take up the issue again at its June 17 meeting.

The problems are threefold.

The trailhead has become so popular with hikers that Whittier officials created a preferential parking district to protect nearby homeowners complaining about hikers taking up parking spaces on nearby streets.

The district now includes more than 800 households on streets stretching down from the hills to Broadway.

Plus there's the problem of hikers queuing up in the morning to enter the parking lot before it opens and backing up traffic into the intersection of Orange Drive.

"When we open up the parking lot, we end up with 25 cars waiting for the gate to open," authority board Chairman Michael Hughes said in a Wednesday telephone interview. "Ken has to get there half an hour early and guide traffic into the parking lot. It makes it a mess for local people," Hughes said, referring to Ken Hughes, the deputy chief ranger (no relation). "It's just absolute chaos in the morning and on weekends."

More money needed

As a result, the Habitat Authority needs more money to pay for additional ranger time to open, close and patrol the area, Hughes said.

A figure of \$86,000 was mentioned at a May 19 board meeting, but Gullo said she is looking for ways to reduce the cost. That money could come from the city and is under discussion.

Whittier City Manager Brian Saeki suggested closing the parking lot to cars but opening the trailhead.

"You could make it into a passive exercise area," Saeki said.

"If the lot weren't available and you had to walk in, there still would be parking issues we have," Saeki said. "But that could take care of some of that need and requirement for extra dollars."

One hiker who lives on Rose Drive and who pushed for the preferential parking district said closing the parking lot might help.

"That sounds good if it doesn't create a problem for backup of cars, traffic and pedestrians," Diane Britton said. "Ideally, I'd like to see if there can be a control on the number of people who have access to hike in the park."

Views of a hiker

Jeff Nickell, a biker and hiker — Hellman Park was closed to biking — said he has no problems with closing the parking lot.

"It's a reasonable compromise to have Hellman Park be a pedestrian-access- only location," Nickell said. "It would be the same as the Turnbull Canyon entrance. There's really no parking there."

He wants to see Hellman reopened. "Opening Hellman certainly provides access to the hills to another part of the community that otherwise has a pretty lengthy drive to get to some other part of the hills," he said.

Other trailheads now open include Arroyo Pescadero, Hacienda Hills, Powder Canyon, Sycamore and Turnbull Canyon.

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 and [City News Service](#) | news@socalnews.com | Orange County Register

PUBLISHED: June 13, 2021 at 4:39 p.m. | UPDATED: June 14, 2021 at 8:42 a.m.

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 | Long Beach Press-Telegram

PUBLISHED: June 14, 2021 at 2:20 p.m. | UPDATED: June 14, 2021 at 2:20 p.m.

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