

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

August 24, 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/83707771719>

Meeting ID: 837 0777 1719

- Or -

Phone: Dial by your location, +1 669 900 6833 (San Jose), +1 346 248 7799 (Houston)

Meeting ID: 837 0777 1719, Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kjaMebx9q>

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, August 23, 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 54955 the regular meeting of 8/17/21 was continued. Pursuant to Section 54954 of the Government Code, the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Authority) will hold an adjourned 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 July 13, 2021, Regular Meeting.
- V. Standing Reports:
 - a) Report by Board Liaison on July 15 and August 5, 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. Presentation by Authority consultant SCI Consulting Group and discussion regarding process of exploring feasibility of a financing mechanism in part for wildfire prevention and management of agency properties.
- VII. Discussion, receive and file Fourth Quarterly 2021 Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) Ranger Report and associated multi-year report.
- VIII. Presentation, receive and file end-of-the-fiscal-year 2020-21 Authority activity update.
- IX. Discussion and update regarding Authority comments on Draft City-wide General Plan Update and Housing Element (2021-2029) Update for the City of Whittier, SCH # 2021040762, and associated Draft Environmental Impact Report.
- X. Discussion and update regarding contract with Nakae and Associates in the amount of \$14,350 for invasive species removal on Authority managed property in Whittier known as the Chevron property, to be funded by the Authority Grant Agreement with the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles River and Mountains Conservancy (RMC20008).
- XI. Discussion and update regarding Memorandum of Understanding with Conservation Corps of Long Beach to perform fuel reduction activities as directed by Authority.
- XII. Discussion, Committee members' statements, Executive Director's comments, responses or questions.
- XIII. 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
July 13, 2021

The regular meeting of the Citizens Technical Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, July 13, 2021, via video and telephonically.

I. CALL TO ORDER.

The Chair, Charles Lawrence, called the meeting to order at approximately 7:01 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

Members Absent:	Adam Nazaroff	La Habra Heights
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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)

Members of the

Public Present:	GinaRose Kimball, La Habra Heights Firewatch Firesafe Council
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III. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

GinaRose Kimball thanked the Authority staff, rangers, and volunteers for their collaboration with the La Habra Heights Firewatch Firesafe Council's successful patrolling efforts during the recent July 4th holiday.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MAY 18, 2021, REGULAR MEETING.

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

V. STANDING REPORTS:

a. REPORT BY BOARD LIAISON ON MAY 20, 2021, AND JUNE 17. 2021, AUTHORITY BOARD MEETINGS.

Regarding the Board's May 20 meeting, Member Houwen reported that:

- the Board acknowledged Bob Henderson's extensive accomplishments for the Authority, for Whittier, and for the region's environment in general;
- the Board asked staff to continue discussion of the proposed heli-hydrant project with the City of La Habra Heights;
- the Board asked staff to continue to work with the City of Whittier regarding the options for possibly reopening the Hellman Park Trailhead to pedestrians only;
- the Board authorized execution of a new lease for office space with the City of Whittier;
- the Board asked, regarding the safety issues at Colima Road across from the Arroyo Pescadero Trailhead, that staff consult with the City of Whittier about further red-striping of the curbing in that location, coordinate with the Whittier Area Community Church regarding closing the parking lot completely when not in use, and study further the Arroyo San Miguel parking lot's proximity to the Preserve's habitat;
- the Board approved the submission of staff's comment letter as drafted regarding the preparation of the City of Whittier's General Plan;
- the Board directed staff to continue to consult and evaluate regarding Rowland Water District's proposed fence improvements and maintenance on the Preserve; and
- the Board approved Resolution No. 2021-02 approving application for grant funds for the San Gabriel And Lower Los Angeles Rivers And Mountains Conservancy Wildfire Prevention Program for the Puente Hills Fuels Reduction And Wildfire Prevention Project.

Regarding the Board's June 17 meeting, Executive Director Gullo reported that:

- Vice Chair Sulic was added to the Board's subcommittee addressing the possibility of instituting a community facility district;
- The Board determined that the keeping of minutes from their closed-session meetings is no longer needed; and
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- The Board granted access to the City of La Habra Heights for proceeding with the next steps needed for their proposed heli-hydrant project.

b. REPORT FROM SOCIAL MEDIA SUBCOMMITTEE.

Member Andros reported that interactions with the public remain positive.

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

Member Natoli read a recently published article from Scott Martin of the Hacienda Heights Improvement Association, to the effect that, in regards to the proposed heli-hydrant project in the City of La Habra Heights, he supports disturbance to 0.1 acres on Habitat Authority property for fire protection of homes and properties.

VI. DISCUSSION, RECEIVE AND FILE APRIL AND MAY 2021 MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (MRCA) RANGER REPORTS.

Member Natoli motioned to receive and file these reports.
Member Andros seconded this motion, and in a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

VII. UPDATE REGARDING THE PROPOSED HELI-HYDRANT PROJECT ON THE AUTHORITY'S FORMER DIAZ PROPERTY.

Executive Director Gullo reported that the Authority Board has expressed its desire to work with the City of La Habra Heights on this proposed project without delay, and she noted that there is no redundancy between this proposed hydrant and the ones in Brea, since the latter is related to a proposed development that is at least a year away from completion. There was discussion. Member Natoli asked about the heli-hydrants in Brea's plans, and Executive Director Gullo replied that there are two being planned, one for the city's west side, and one on the east side. Member Natoli asked for this proposed project's timeline, and Executive Director Gullo replied that the City of La Habra Heights wants this proposed heli-hydrant functional by September of this year. Member Natoli asked why no other possible locations seem to be considered for this project, and Vice Chair Francis stated that the great weight of the tanker helicopters requires a high peak in order to counter the drop off the helicopters experience when they initially lift off. Executive Director Gullo explained that the Los Angeles County fire department air support unit preferred this site compared to the many other locations suggested. Member Natoli noted that any project removing coastal sage scrub habitat is required to meet the regulations of the

California Environmental Quality Act which would not be possible to do in two months' time.

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.

Executive Director Gullo briefly reviewed this item as presented in the staff report, and there was little discussion.

Member Natoli motioned to recommend to the Board of Directors that they approve this proposed workplan. Vice Chair Francis seconded this motion, and in a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

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.

Executive Director Gullo reviewed this item as presented in the staff report. A proposed annual operating budget in the amount of \$1,432,276, a mitigation restoration budget, five-year budget and mitigation project budgets were provided as a part of the staff report. The item was discussed. Member Natoli asked about the proposed increase in technical expenses, and Executive Director Gullo replied that additional accounting assistance is anticipated to be required for the management of future grants received.

Member Houser motioned to recommend to the Board of Directors that they approve this proposed budget for fiscal year 2021-2022 retroactive to July 1, 2021. Vice Chair Francis seconded this motion, and in a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

X. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGARDING REOPENING HELLMAN PARK TRAILHEAD.

Executive Director Gullo introduced this item, and there was discussion. Member Wong stated that the City of Whittier should contribute funding for the enforcement administration at this trailhead, since they are requesting that it be reopened.

Member Wong motioned to recommend to the Board of Directors that, at whatever time they decide is appropriate, they authorize the reopening of Hellman Park Trailhead to pedestrians only, and discuss with the City of Whittier and other involved parties how to reopen in a financially positive way. This motion was not seconded.

Member Natoli motioned to recommend to the Board of Directors that, at whatever time they decide is appropriate, they authorize the reopening of Hellman Park Trailhead to pedestrians only, and discuss with the City of Whittier the possibility of instituting shuttle service to that trailhead from the city's new parking structure. Vice Chair Francis seconded this motion, and in a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

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.

Executive Director Gullo briefly reviewed this item as presented in the staff report, and there was little discussion.

Member Natoli motioned to recommend to the Board of Directors that they authorize the Executive Director to execute this Thirtieth Amendment for ranger maintenance and operation services in the amount of \$452,936. Member Houwen seconded this motion, and in a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

XII. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGARDING RECOGNITION FOR THE SERVICE FROM BOB HENDERSON TO THE AUTHORITY.

Executive Director Gullo introduced this item and asked the Committee for ideas for how the Committee recommends honoring Mr. Henderson, such as with a reception or some other gesture in lieu of the traditional plaque given to retiring Board Members due to the extent of Mr. Henderson's service. Member Natoli

suggested that he is deserving of a reception as well as having a trail or trailhead renamed in his honor. Member Andros concurred. Chair Lawrence stated that whatever recognition is chosen should be public, and agreed with naming something after him.

XIII. DISCUSSION ABOUT A POSSIBLE FUTURE JOINT MEETING WITH THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Executive Director Gullo introduced this item, adding that in the past the timing of such a joint meeting has always been a challenge. Member Chang stated that her preference is for more of a retreat, possibly on some weekend morning. Chair Lawrence suggested the possibility of meeting at the City of Whittier's council chambers, and Member Houser suggested meeting on a particular trail for a joint hike. Executive Director Gullo stated that these ideas will be presented to the Board at its meeting this upcoming Thursday.

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

Chair Lawrence thanked Authority staff, rangers and volunteers for their efforts with the first Fireworks Watch held on Grande Vista Drive in Whittier during this past July 4th holiday, into the early morning hours. He reported that approximately 70 potential revelers were turned away, and that Ranger Laura Just was almost a constant presence with her agency vehicle and therefore provided much support.

Executive Director Gullo reported that mask-requirement signage has been removed from the trailheads, that nominations have been requested for the CTAC representative positions whose terms are expiring in February, that no fires were detected in the Preserve during the recent July 4th holiday, and that the City of Whittier's Council is considering this evening the approval of the Authority's lease for new office space.

XV. ADJOURNMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING.

There being no further comments, or business to be discussed, Chair Lawrence adjourned the meeting at 8:56 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting date is August 17, 2021.

MEMORANDUM

Meeting Date: August 24, 2021

To: Citizens Technical Advisory Committee

Prepared by: Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Agenda Item: **VII. Discussion, receive and file Fourth Quarterly 2021 Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) Ranger Report and associated multi-year report.**

Attached is the staff report from the August 17, 2021 regular meeting which was adjourned, and scheduled for Tuesday, August 24, 2021.

MEMORANDUM

Meeting Date: August 17, 2021

To: Citizens Technical Advisory Committee

Prepared by: Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

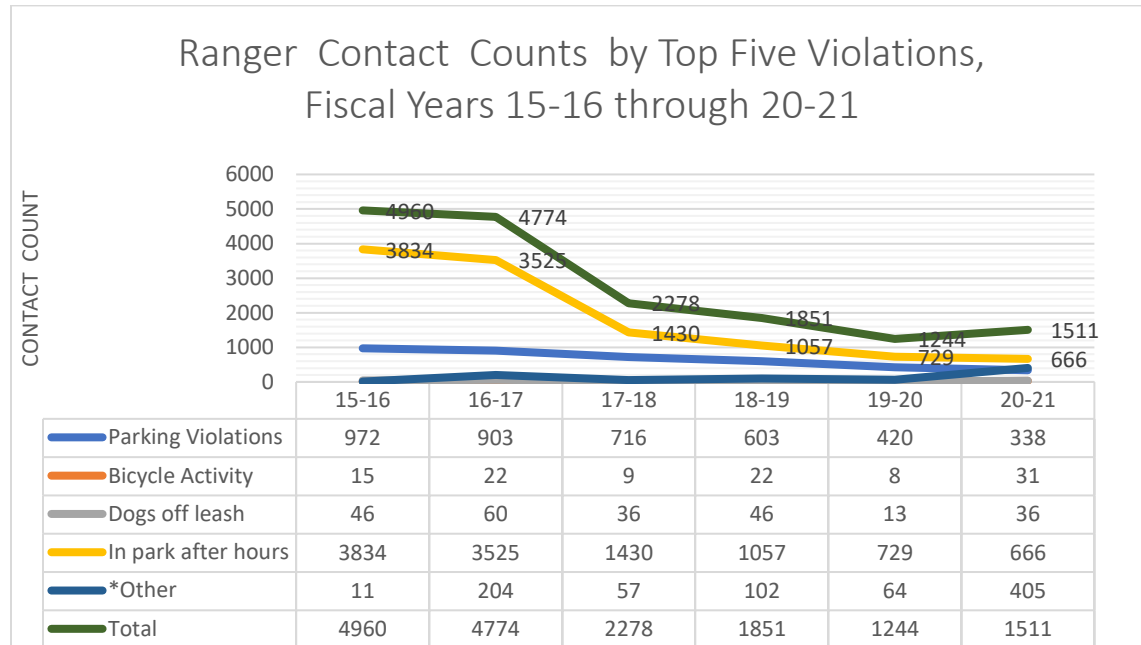
Agenda Item: **VII. Discussion, receive and file Fourth Quarterly 2021 Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) Ranger Reports.**

Background:

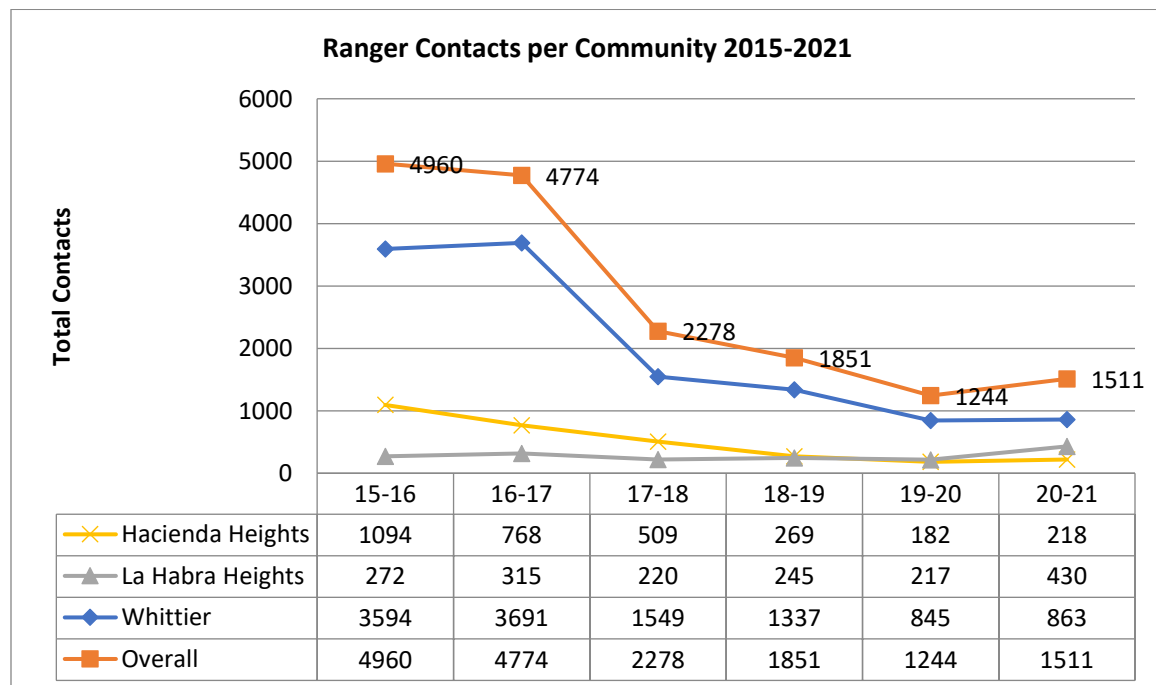
Attached for your review is the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) ranger report for the last quarter of the previous fiscal year (April 2021 through June 2021, Exhibit 1). Also attached is a multi-year report assembled by Authority staff which summarizes information about ranger contacts from the past several years (Exhibit 2). The violations summary sheet is a tool to gauge long-term activity realizing that it is not based on a static patrol schedule.

This past year (2020-21), the number of contacts (1,511) increased 21% from the previous year. The charts, below, illustrate the details of the ranger contacts. The rangers' contacts in Whittier comprised the highest proportion (57%) of their time.

An overall decrease in ranger contacts has occurred since the change in Preserve hours went into effect. Hellman Park was closed for the first part of 2017 (fiscal year 2016-17) due to trail repairs and reopened in May with new set hours. In September 2017 (fiscal year 17-18), new hours were set at Turnbull Canyon, Sycamore Canyon and Hacienda Hills to match those at Hellman Park. Fiscal year 15-16 would have been the last year in which hours were sunrise to sunset at all trailheads. Overall ranger contacts decreased 70% Preserve-wide when comparing fiscal years 15-16 to 20-21. Budgeted MRCA staff hours for the various years fluctuated, primarily driven by financial resources. Budgeted MRCA staff hours for each fiscal year are as follows: FY 15-16, 85 hours; FY 16-17, 94 hours; FY 17-18, 94 hours; FY 18-19, 94 hours; FY 19-20, 90 hours; and FY 20-21, 84 hours.



The above chart illustrates the top ranger contact types over the past six years, as well as the overall ranger contacts for all 11 categories. For this past fiscal year the majority of contacts were made for In park after hours (666), Parking violations (338), and Other (405). These categories are consistently the most frequent reasons rangers make contact each year, with the exception of “Other” which increased in 20-21 due to pandemic considerations (warn and advise about mask wearing, social distancing, etc).



The above graph illustrates the overall contacts per community over the past six years, as well as the overall annual ranger contacts for all areas combined.

Lastly, ranger public outreach services have been downward-trending over the past decade. This coincides with the Authority's first docent training in 2009, launch of the Authority's Hills Alive program in 2009, and the rangers' change in patrol efforts to address the recreation increase over the years. Last year, all outreach efforts were suspended due to the pandemic and budget restrictions.

Recommendation:

That the CTAC receive and file the attached report prepared by the MRCA, as well as the supplemental multi-year report prepared by Authority staff.

**MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

Franklin Canyon Park
 2600 Franklin Canyon Drive
 Beverly Hills, California 90210
 Phone (310) 858-7272 Fax (310) 858-7212

June 30, 2021

**Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority
 2020-2021 Fourth Quarter Ranger contacts report**

The following list is the number of people that the rangers have contacted for illegal activity at the various locations.

	* Hacienda Heights				** La Habra Heights				*** Whittier				TOTAL			
QUARTERS	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Parking Violations	12	22	14	12	55	63	85	18	19	14	13	11	86	99	112	41
Bicycle Activity	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	6	6	9	6	6	6	9	10
Dogs Off Leash	0	3	4	2	0	2	3	2	6	5	5	4	6	10	12	8
In park after hour	12	11	10	9	23	19	21	22	126	135	167	111	161	165	198	142
Vehicles off-road	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1
Alcohol	4	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	6	2	0	3
Marijuana	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Smoking / Fire	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	4	0	0
Vehicle code violations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trespass / Off Trail	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	0	4	4	4	0
Other	32	28	18	10	41	32	32	8	62	54	73	15	135	114	123	33
TOTAL	64	68	46	40	119	117	141	53	223	222	271	147	406	407	458	240

* **Hacienda Heights Property includes**: Ford property, Canyons 6, 7 & 8, Mallas property, and the Turnbull Canyon properties.

** **La Habra Heights Property includes**: All properties from Harbor Blvd. in the East to the Davies property in the West at the Whittier property line at the end of Punta Del Este.

*** **Whittier Property includes**: Arroyo Pescadero, Arroyo San Miguel, Worsham Canyon, Sycamore Canyon, Hellman Park, McFarland, Bowen, Childs/Hall, Canlas, and the Orleats property.

First quarter: July, August, September; **Second quarter**: October, November, December;
Third quarter: January, February, March; **Fourth quarter**: April, May, June.

All violators contacted are either issued citations, or warned and advised.

"Other" category includes: drugs, paintball guns, bow and arrows, littering, defacing property, in the park after rain, vending, loud music, no masks for Covid, and curfew.

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

July 2015- June 2021

The following are lists of the number of people that the MRCA rangers have contacted (cited or warned and advised) for illegal activity.

TOTAL VIOLATIONS BY QUARTER

Quarters	Quarter 1						Quarter 2						Quarter 3						Quarter 4						Total					
Years	2015-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	2015-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	2015-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	2015-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	2015-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21
Parking Violation	245	241	222	184	150	86	226	139	147	117	106	99	248	248	180	160	81	112	253	275	167	142	83	41	972	903	716	603	420	338
Bicycle Activity	4	4	0	4	4	6	4	4	0	4	2	6	3	4	4	8	0	9	4	10	5	6	2	10	15	22	9	22	8	31
Dogs off Leash	14	18	11	9	2	6	12	12	7	7	2	10	11	12	6	14	4	12	9	18	12	16	5	8	46	60	36	46	13	36
In park after hours	1137	1682	369	310	219	161	842	971	312	254	206	165	948	451	358	250	200	198	907	421	391	243	104	142	3834	3525	1430	1057	729	666
Vehicles off-road	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	4
Alcohol	0	0	0	0	0	6	4	5	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	3	4	9	0	0	0	11
Marijuana	6	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	5	0	4	0	0	0	0	2	18	0	2	2	5	2
Smoking / Fire	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	0	2	2	0	4	2	0	0	0	5	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	2	2	5	6
Vehicle code viol	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trespassing/off-tra	14	22	10	5	0	4	12	18	5	3	0	4	10	6	8	4	0	4	10	5	3	4	0	0	46	51	26	16	0	12
*Other	6	0	2	2	0	135	0	98	17	10	28	114	1	57	33	59	33	123	4	49	5	31	3	33	11	204	57	102	64	405
Total	1426	1967	614	514	375	406	1112	1247	492	400	344	407	1225	778	589	495	328	458	1197	782	583	442	197	240	4960	4774	2278	1851	1244	1511

TOTAL VIOLATIONS BY LOCATION

Locations	Hacienda Heights						La Habra Heights						Whittier						Total					
Years	2015-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	2015-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	2015-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	2015-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21
Parking Violations	46	64	68	51	41	60	84	47	60	79	82	221	842	792	588	473	297	57	972	903	716	603	420	338
Bicycle Activity	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	15	22	9	22	8	27	15	22	9	22	8	31
Dogs off leash	14	16	12	12	1	9	11	18	10	14	8	7	21	26	14	20	4	20	46	60	36	46	13	36
In park after hours	1000	658	406	186	125	42	151	219	131	104	101	85	2683	2648	893	767	503	539	3834	3525	1430	1057	729	666
Vehicles off-road	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4
Alcohol	2	2	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	7	0	0	0	4	4	9	0	0	0	11
Marijuana	6	0	2	2	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	2	0	18	0	2	2	5	2
Smoking / Fire	6	0	2	0	3	2	4	0	0	2	0	0	4	0	0	0	2	4	14	0	2	2	5	6
Vehicle code viol	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trespassing/off-tra	17	10	3	0	0	4	15	12	2	2	0	0	14	29	21	14	0	8	46	51	26	16	0	12
*Other	3	18	16	18	9	88	5	19	17	43	26	113	3	167	24	41	29	204	11	204	57	102	64	405
Total	1094	768	509	269	182	218	272	315	220	245	217	430	3594	3691	1549	1337	845	863	4960	4774	2278	1851	1244	1511

Quarter 1: July - Sept, Quarter 2: Oct - Dec, Quarter 3: Jan - Mar, Quarter 4: April - June

Hacienda Heights Property Includes: Ford property, Canyons 6, 7, and 8, Mallas Property and the Turnbull Canyon properties.
La Habra Heights Property Includes: All properties from Harbor Blvd. in the East to the Davies property in the West at the Whittier property line at the end of Punta Del Este.
Whittier Area Property Includes: Arroyo Pescadero, Arroyo San Miguel, Hellman Park, Worsham Canyon, Sycamore Canyon, McFarland, Bowen, Childs/Hall, Canlas and the Olaerts property.

**Other' category includes drugs, paintball guns, bows and arrows, littering, defacing property, in the park after rain, vending and curfew.

MEMORANDUM

Meeting Date: August 24, 2021

To: Citizens Technical Advisory Committee

Prepared by: Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Agenda Item: **VIII. Presentation, receive and file end-of-the-fiscal-year 2020-21 Authority activity update.**

Attached is the staff report from the August 17, 2021 regular meeting which was adjourned, and scheduled for Tuesday, August 24, 2021.

MEMORANDUM

Meeting Date: August 17, 2021

To: Citizens Technical Advisory Committee

Prepared by: Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Agenda Item: **VIII. Presentation, receive and file end-of-the-fiscal-year 2020-21 Authority activity update.**

Background:

The agency did not adopt a fiscal year 2020-21 agency workplan so this report is an end-of-the-year update of activities, and also attached is a restoration activity update. Typically, staff has also provided an end-of-the-year Interpretive Participants Reached chart, however due to the pandemic and limited budget, outdoor educational programs were suspended so the associated chart has been omitted. Staff and rangers continued to blend efforts and coordinate activities. The Authority activities were in accordance with its mission, below, and Strategic Planning Guidelines, also attached.

Mission: The Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) is dedicated to the acquisition, restoration, and management of open space in the Puente Hills for preservation of the land in perpetuity, with the primary purpose to protect the biological diversity. Additionally, the agency will endeavor to provide opportunities for outdoor education and low-impact recreation.

Interpretation¹:

Per the Authority's Strategic Planning Guidelines, the agency is committed to providing high quality outdoor learning opportunities and opportunities for community involvement. These efforts were previously coordinated by the Authority's part-time Interpretive Programs Coordinator, Terri Hernandez, and part-time Naturalist, Lina Ochoa. However, in October 2020, Ms. Hernandez accepted a full-time position elsewhere and, due to budget limitations, the position has not been filled. Before the Covid-19 pandemic first emerged in the spring of 2020 there were approximately 60 volunteers that the Interpretive Programs Coordinator and Naturalist worked to recruit, train, coordinate and

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

retain. After Ms. Hernandez departed Naturalist Ochoa remained, working at approximately 25% capacity of a full-time position. During the social distancing requirements of the pandemic, she kept interested volunteers engaged with monthly zoom meetings, and various other outreach efforts. Now that we are emerging from the restraints of the pandemic, staff expects to soon be reaching out to all volunteers for reengagement.

Typically, the types of volunteers coordinated are Docents, Trail Watchers, special needs (Transition) individuals, and day-of-event volunteers. However, this past year volunteers were limited to mainly Fourth of July static patrol, Trail Watch, photo processing for the wildlife study, virtual Earth Day and monthly zoom meetings. All Hills Alive, outdoor educational programming and the Transition volunteer's trailhead clean-up efforts were suspended.

This year approximately 750 volunteer hours (a 61% decrease from the year prior) were recorded, equivalent to \$25,207 worth of value to the Authority. The first volunteer docent training effort was in the spring of 2009. Since record keeping began in fiscal year 2010-11, approximately 25,183 volunteer hours have been tracked, equating to approximately \$699,539 in value to the Authority's efforts.

Historical Record of Volunteer Time (past 6 years)

Fiscal Year	Docent Hours	Trail Watch Hours	Other Volunteers	Total	*Hourly Rate	Total Value
15-16	984	947	N/C	1,931	\$27.59	\$53,276.29
16-17	547	550	1,160	2,257	\$28.46	\$64,234.22
17-18	1,949	466	1,504	3,919	\$29.09	\$114,003.71
18-19	1,424	576	696	2,696	\$29.95	\$80,745.2
19-20	874	603	414	1,891	\$31.51	\$59,577.53
20-21	22	415	313**	750***	\$33.61	\$25,207.50
Totals since 2010-11				25,183		\$699,539

* Valuation of California volunteers taken from Independentsector.org

N/C = NOT COUNTED, **256 hours were photo processing for wildlife study, ***Approximation

The Trail Watch volunteers continue to provide us with valuable information about the goings-on in the hills. They have alerted us to illegal trails, homeless encampments, potential hazards, graffiti, bonfires/party spots, and other trail conditions. These

volunteers also perform valuable tasks to keep the Preserve safe and clean such as static patrol for the rangers on the 4th of July, picking up trash on the trails, removing graffiti, helping lost hikers, providing water for trail users, and warning and advising trail users of the rules.

Main interpretive activities included producing educational videos, signage, volunteer coordination, and information announcements via the kiosks and online avenues. A couple of virtual public events were also conducted. Social media continues to be coordinated by Advisory Committee Member Andros, former Advisory Committee Member Garbat and staff.

Over the past five fiscal years, the Habitat Authority provided outreach to an average of 2,858 participants. This includes approximately 15-20 various Hills Alive programs (967 students on average ranging from kindergarten through 6th grades), public hikes, several other outreach events, and at least four Jr. Ranger programs (493 students on average ranging from 1st through 5th grades). Again, these in-person and other public outreach efforts were suspended last fiscal year due to the pandemic. Provided below is a comparative chart of participants reached from fiscal year 2015-16 through 2020-21:

Historical Record of Participants Reached (past 6 years)

Fiscal Year	Hills Alive-students	Jr. Ranger-students	Total Students		ALL Outreach TOTAL (includes all events)
			from Hills Alive and Jr. Rangers	Other	
2015/16	992	599	1,591	1,210	2,801
2016/17	840	514	1,354	1,601	2,955
2017/18	1,064	462	1,526	1,252	2,778
2018/19	966	353	1,319	1,059	2,378
2019/20	741	333	1,074	711	1,785
2020/21	0	0	0	35*	35
Total since 2007-08					35,459

*Approximation

In December 2020 we recognized four volunteers for their leadership and outstanding contributions with social media, the wildlife camera study and trail watching.

Resource Management:

The Habitat Authority is committed to promoting and protecting biodiversity in the Preserve through restoration and preservation, while balancing recreational activities. With this mission in mind, the main ecological activities this past year included going out to bid for, and overseeing, the survey for the conservation easement legal description for the Brea 57/Lambert in-lieu fee mitigation project and recording the easement; planting and seeding the Olinda in-lieu fee mitigation project; removal of non-native vegetation at several locations in the Preserve; initiating Preserve-wide photomonitoring, which is recommended as occurring every five years per the Preserve's Resource Management Plan (RMP); and continuing the Preserve-wide wildlife camera study. Additionally, ecological activities included responding to planning documents, such as the County's Notice of Preparation for the Hsi Lai Monastery project, and preparing various comment letters such as support for listing the southern California Mountain Lion populations under the California Endangered Species Act.

Restoration projects are on schedule and budget, and by the end of FY 2020-21, 100.92 acres were being restored. To date 203.04 acres in the Preserve have been fully restored. Below is a list of current restoration activities overseen by the Ecologist.

Restoration Activities Preserve-wide

Powder Canyon	Southern California Edison, ILF*
Powder Canyon	Monterey Park Retail Partners, PIM*
Powder Canyon	Brea 57/Lambert, ILF
Arroyo San Miguel	Olinda- Orange County Waste Recycling, ILF
Arroyo San Miguel	Brea Power II/Broadrock Renewables, ILF
Turnbull Canyon	Sentinel Peak Resources California LLC, PIM
Multiple locations	Annual landscaping contract with Nakae and Associates

**ILF, in-lieu fee, projects are fully implemented by the Habitat Authority (HA). PIM projects are Permittee Implemented Mitigation in which the HA supervises and reviews. Both avenues require HA approval of sign-off.*

Attached is a detailed updated workplan of restoration activities in the Preserve. Below is a compilation of restoration activities in the Preserve and their revenue generated.

Habitat Restoration	Implemented By	Fees Received from 2002 to present*	Acreage Ongoing	Acreage Complete	Total
Restoration	Habitat Authority	not applicable	0.75	120.47	121.22
Mitigation	Habitat Authority (ILF)	\$3,052,404	83.02	23.61	160.63
Mitigation	Outside Entity (PIM)	\$1,083,550	16.35	59.76	76.11
Totals		\$4,135,954	100.92	203.04	303.96

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

Recreational use has increased considerably over the past decade impacting ecological values and the quality of recreation experiences. To help monitor recreation effects on wildlife, in January 2020 a wildlife camera study was initiated, and it continued through FY 2020-21. This effort fulfills the recommended periodic monitoring of wildlife movement, per the Preserve's Resource Management Plan. This study also collects data recommended per the 2015 Visitor Management report, generated by Authority consultant Confluence Research and Consulting, to help staff manage Preserve use and carrying capacity. An update of the findings was presented at the December 2020 Advisory and Board meetings. Several volunteers have been trained to process the photographs collected by the wildlife cameras and the data that was collected during the first 15 days of each month in 2020 was completely processed by the end of the fiscal year. Those data are currently being summarized and analyzed. The cameras have detected a wide suite of native species including amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Additionally, reproduction of bobcats, coyotes, and deer have been documented within the Preserve at several of the camera locations. The camera data have also helped inform the rangers of prohibited activities, such as the presence of motorized bikes, after-hours trail use, and recreational use within the Core habitat area. The wildlife cameras will remain in the field through December 2021, at which time staff will reassess how, and if, data collection will continue.

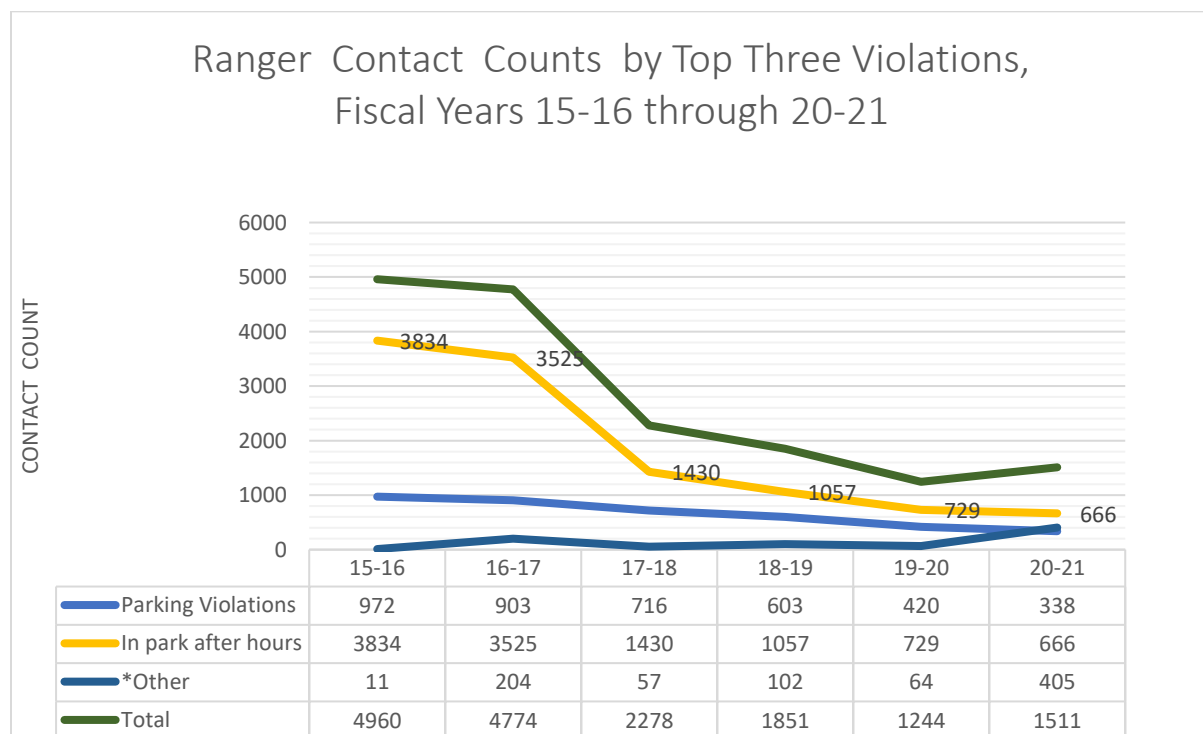
Preserve Management:

While protecting biodiversity is our primary mission, the Authority is committed to offering low-impact recreational opportunities when at least balanced with ecological sustainability. Main preserve management activities of the Habitat Authority this past year included removing various dead and hazardous trees; conducting general landscaping services along trails and at trailheads prior to nesting season; overseeing three annual fuel modification contracts; and maintaining trail clearance, which was performed by the rangers. The rangers, Ecologist and Executive Director worked closely

together on these projects. Additionally, all trailhead parking areas, except for Hellman parking area, were reopened after having been closed due to the pandemic.

In the spring, at the Board's request staff and rangers dedicated their time to working on a special project, investigating the installation of an open-air water tank for helicopter use on the Authority's Diaz property in La Habra Heights to assist fire departments in fire suppression activities.

The Authority is committed to providing adequate public safety and management services. The Authority contracts with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for open space services, and they continue to oversee various contracts, maintain facilities and provide law enforcement. Routine trail (over 20 miles) and trailhead maintenance and fuel modification clearing is ongoing. In FY 2020-21 due to financial restraints, budgeted ranger/park personnel hours in the MRCA annual contract were reduced per week from 90 to 84, and all educational outreach was suspended. The ranger end-of-the-year patrol and outreach reports are provided under a separate agenda item. Below is a summary over the past six years of the three most common contacts rangers make with the public (parking, in park after hours, and other).



*"Other" category includes: drugs, paintball guns, bow and arrows, littering, defacing property, in the park after rain, vending, loud music, no masks for Covid, and curfew.

Administration/General Operations:

The Habitat Authority operates on a minimal level for staffing and professional services support. It employs three full-time staff and one (decreased from two) part-time staff members. The Habitat Authority contracts out for personnel services with the City of Whittier as well as financial and investment support with the County of Los Angeles. It also contracts out for legal services. To assist the agency with fulfilling its obligations and accomplishing projects, 5 new contracts were solicited and executed this past fiscal year, and there were approximately 11 existing contracts.

Staff continues to maintain organizational capacities and equipment for operations. Operations include but are not limited to technology services, grant processing, document retention, accounts payable, the website, public records requests, vehicle and housing upkeep, insurance, Board and CTAC functioning, endowment oversight, and personnel services.

This past year, due to the pandemic, staff worked remotely, and all public meetings were held virtually via Zoom. Emergency budgeting was conducted primarily in the first quarter of the year and monitored throughout. Also, in the fall, the agency embarked on an evaluation process to explore a long-term alternative financing mechanism. The agency's revenues have decreased while its costs to maintain and protect its land and to prevent local wildfires have increased due to the greater use of the properties and warmer temperatures, which have increased the risk of wildfires. The Habitat Authority is a public agency that does not collect state or local tax such as the 1% ad valorem property tax, sales tax nor fire fee taxes made available to cities and counties.

Staff dedicated a considerable amount of time this spring into grant funding for Authority operations. This in part included attempts for reimbursement from past years from Los Angeles County Proposition A, assessing changes to the County Measure A guidelines, applying and processing a grant from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, and applying for a grant from CalFire.

The Authority strives to provide friendly and responsive service to the community. Staff responded to a minimum of 37 issue-specific contacts (compared to 60, 55, 58, 131 and 88 in years past) mainly from local residents, and unrecorded additional calls related to trail hours and general inquiries. In response, several house calls were made by rangers and staff when necessary. Rangers also handled many emergency services calls. In May 2021, the agency switched to an internet-based phone system. This new system now answers all incoming calls and provides the caller with the option to choose who they want to speak with or if they are calling for trails related questions. This new system reduces our administrative workload of answering all calls manually and allows all calls to be forwarded to the selected employee's laptop when working remotely.

In preparation of the office move scheduled for July 2021, we switched all of our digital files over to a cloud-based service in May to minimize the need for hard wiring at the new location. The cloud-based service also makes remote accessing of files easier.

This past year staff refiled with the Internal Revenue Service to update its employee identification number to enable the Authority to qualify for a local bank account which would facilitate a website “donate” option for the public. Also, over 260 payment request memos to the County (who is the Authority’s Controller) were made and at least an additional 12 were made to City to facilitate payment of credit card costs.

Recommendation:

Receive and file.

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

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

SUMMARY:					
Overall (Habitat Authority and Mitigation) restoration projects:					
100.12	acres ongoing restoration				
203.84	acres completed				
303.96	acres total				
Habitat Authority Projects:					
<u>Restoration Projects - 0.75 acre Ongoing, 120.47 acres Complete, 121.22 acres Total</u>					
Ongoing Projects	Activity	Original Completion Date	Estimated Completion Date	Status	Comments
Peppergrass Restoration (0.75 ac)	Planting and maintenance	Spring 2019	TBD based on site performance and available funds	Ongoing	Hand weeding around planted cactus groupings, quarterly as needed
<u>Volunteer Projects - 1.42 acres Complete, 1.42 acres Total</u>					
HABITAT AUTHORITY PROJECTS SUMMARY					
0.75	ACRES ONGOING				
118.53	ACRES COMPLETE				
119.28	ACRES TOTAL				
Mitigation Projects:					
<u>Outside Entity Implementing (16.35 acres Ongoing, 59.76 acres Complete, 76.11 acres Total)</u>					
Ongoing Projects	Activity	Original Completion Date	Estimated/Actual Completion Date	Status	Comments
PXP/Sentinel					
1.35 acres riparian (Turnbull Canyon)	Original mitigation restoration project	Fall 2017		Discontinued	
	Remedial restoration project		Fall 2025	Planned	Remedial restoration is expected to commence Fall 2021

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

Ongoing Projects (continued)	Activity	Original Completion Date	Estimated/Actual Completion Date	Status	Comments
Monterey Park Marketplace					
15 acres CSS (Powder Canyon)	Site Preparation	Fall 2017		Complete	Grazing conducted Oct-Nov 2017
	Temporary Irrigation Installation	Fall 2017		Complete	
	Grow & Kill*	Fall 2019	Winter 2018	Complete	One year of weed abatement; Feb 2018 - Feb 2019
	Planting*	Winter 2019	Spring 2019	Complete	March - April 2019
	Hydroseeding*	Winter 2019	Spring 2019	Complete	
	Maintenance*	Spring 2025	Spring 2024	Ongoing	
	Final performance monitoring report*	Winter 2025	Winter 2024	Planned	Project sign-off expected by Feb 2025
Habitat Authority Implementing (83.02 acres Ongoing, 23.61 acres Complete, 106.63 acres Total)					
Broadrock - Phase II					
0.5-acre CSS	Maintenance	Winter 2019	Winter 2020	Complete	Additional year of site maintenance approved by resource agencies
	Final performance monitoring report	Winter 2020	Winter 2021	In progress	Project sign-off expected by Winter 2021
SCE					
60 acres	Site Preparation	Fall 2016		Complete	Sept 2016-Dec 2018
	Temporary Irrigation - install	Fall 2016		Complete	
	Grow & Kill*	Fall 2018	Winter 2018	Complete	
	Planting*	Winter 2018	Spring 2019	Complete	Fall 2018-Spring 2019
	Hydroseeding*	Winter 2018	Spring 2019	Complete	Fall 2018-Spring 2019
	Maintenance	Spring 2024		Ongoing	
	Final performance monitoring report	Fall 2024		Planned	Project signoff expected by December 2024

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

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

Ongoing Projects (continued)	Activity	Original Completion Date	Estimated/Actual Completion Date	Status	Comments
Olinda (OCWR2)					
19.86 acres CSS	Site Preparation	Fall 2018		Complete	
	Temporary Irrigation - install	Fall 2018		Complete	
	Grow & Kill*	Fall 2020		Complete	
	Planting*	Winter 2020	Spring 2021	Complete	
	Hydroseeding*	Winter 2020	Spring 2021	Complete	
	Maintenance	Spring 2026		Ongoing	Plant establishment period ended July 2021
	Final performance monitoring report	Winter 2026		Planned	Project signoff expected by February 2027
Brea 57 / Lambert					
2.1 acres CSS (Powder Canyon)	Site Preparation	Fall 2019		Complete	
	Temporary Irrigation - install	Fall 2019		Complete	
	Grow & Kill*	Fall 2021		Ongoing	
	Planting*	Winter 2021		Planned	
	Hydroseeding*	Winter 2021		Planned	
	Maintenance	Spring 2027		Planned	
	Final performance monitoring report	Winter 2027		Planned	Project signoff expected by February 2028
Harbor Blvd	Site Preparation	Summer/Fall 2019		Complete	
0.56 acre CSS	Hydroseeding	Fall 2019	Winter 2019	Complete	
	Maintenance	Winter 2022		Ongoing	
<u>MITIGATION PROJECTS SUMMARY</u>					
	99.37 ACRES ONGOING				
	83.37 ACRES COMPLETE				
	182.74 ACRES TOTAL				

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

MEMORANDUM

Meeting Date: August 24, 2021

To: Citizens Technical Advisory Committee

Prepared by: Michelle Mariscal, Ecologist
Through: Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Agenda Item: **IX. Discussion and update regarding Authority comments on Draft City-wide General Plan Update and Housing Element (2021-2029) Update for the City of Whittier, SCH # 2021040762, and associated Draft Environmental Impact Report.**

Attached is the staff report from the August 17, 2021 regular meeting which was adjourned, and scheduled for Tuesday, August 24, 2021.

An update will be provided on what action was taken by the Board of Directors at their August 19, 2021 meeting.

MEMORANDUM

Meeting Date: August 17, 2021

To: Citizens Technical Advisory Committee

Prepared by: Michelle Mariscal, Ecologist
Through: Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Agenda Item: **IX. Discussion and possible recommendation to the Board of Directors regarding Authority comments on Draft City-wide General Plan Update and Housing Element (2021-2029) Update for the City of Whittier, SCH # 2021040762, and associated Draft Environmental Impact Report.**

Background:

The City of Whittier has a General Plan that was adopted in 1994 with a Housing Element that was last updated in 2014. The current proposed updates to the General Plan, including the Housing Element (2021-2029), will supersede those earlier documents and will serve as the guide for the City's future growth and development. As the Lead Agency, the City of Whittier has determined that the proposed General Plan Updates will require preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A Notice of Preparation (NOP) of the Draft EIR was released on April 30, 2021. After its May 20th Board of Directors meeting, the Habitat Authority submitted comments pertaining to the NOP of the Draft EIR, specifically requesting that proposed land use designations be changed back to "Open Space" in the General Plan Update (Plan) for all lands owned/managed by the Habitat Authority in Whittier. The Draft Plan and associated Draft EIR were released for public review on July 8.

Although the Existing Land Use Plan and Proposed Land Use Plan figures of the Draft Plan and EIR were revised to reflect the Habitat Authority's request, as mentioned above, many of the remaining figures presented in the Draft Plan and Draft EIR still have inconsistencies in the mapped Puente Hills Preserve Boundary. This, and other requests/comments, are presented in the attached comment letter. Authority staff have communicated with City staff regarding several of these comments.

The deadline for submitting comments is August 23, 2021. The Notice of Preparation, Draft Program EIR, and Draft General Plan Update are posted on the City's website:

<http://www.envisionwhittier.com>

Recommendation:

Recommend that the Board of Directors approve the attached comment letter.

Attachment:

Habitat Authority draft comment letter



DRAFT

August 19, 2021

Sonya Lui, Principal Planner
City of Whittier
Community Development Department, Planning Services Division
13230 Penn Street
Whittier, CA 90602
slui@cityofwhittier.org

**Re: Comments on Draft City-wide General Plan Update and Housing Element (2021-2029)
Update for the City of Whittier, SCH # 2021040762, and associated DEIR**

Dear Ms. Lui:

The Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the City of Whittier's Draft General Plan Update and Housing Element (2021-2029) Update (Plan) and associated Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) released July 9, 2021. The Board of Directors for the Habitat Authority met on August 19, 2021 and is submitting these comments for your consideration.

The Habitat Authority is a joint powers authority established pursuant to California Government Code Section 6500 *et seq.* with a Board of Directors consisting of the City of Whittier, County of Los Angeles, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, and the Hacienda Heights Improvement Association. According to its mission, the Habitat Authority is dedicated to the acquisition, restoration, and management of open space in the Puente Hills for preservation of the land in perpetuity, with the primary purpose to protect the biological diversity. Additionally, the agency endeavors to provide opportunities for outdoor education and low-impact recreation.

In the Puente Hills, the Habitat Authority manages the open space in its ownership as well as open spaced owned by the City of Whittier and Sanitation Districts, totaling over 3,880 acres, within the Cities of Whittier, La Habra Heights and the County unincorporated area known as Hacienda Heights. These lands are collectively referred to as the Puente Hills Preserve and comprehensively managed as one unit. The proposed Plan and DEIR pertain to lands that are managed by the Habitat Authority through Agreements with the City of Whittier, A97-172 and A15-128.

The Habitat Authority submitted comments on May 20 pertaining to the Notice of Preparation of the Environmental Impact Report, specifically requesting that proposed land use designations be changed back to "Open Space" in the Plan for all lands owned/managed by the Habitat

Authority in Whittier to be consistent with our management as preserved lands. We appreciate that Figure LUCC-4 of the Draft General Plan Update was revised to reflect that request.

Overall, we applaud the City of Whittier's efforts with the documents and appreciate the partnership with the City of Whittier for the management of its open space. Detailed Authority comments on the Draft General Plan and DEIR are in Exhibit A for your consideration.

Thank you for your consideration, and feel free to contact me, Ecologist Michelle Mariscal (mmariscal@habitatauthority.org) or Executive Director Andrea Gullo at (562) 945-9003 or agullo@habitatauthority.org for further discussion. Also, please maintain our agency on the contact list for this planning process.

Sincerely,

DRAFT

Mike Hughes
Chair

cc: Board of Directors
Citizens Technical Advisory Committee

Exhibit A

Upon review of the Draft General Plan Update we have the following comments and/or requests:

Global Comments-

1. There are inconsistencies in the base map depicting the boundaries of the Puente Hills Preserve. We request that all Figures in the General Plan Update be revised to reflect the current boundaries of those open space lands owned and/or managed by the Habitat Authority, as provided to the City via shapefile on May 21, 2021.
2. We request that the title of our agency, the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority, be referenced correctly throughout the document (e.g., please correct errors on pages 150, 176, 220, 230).

Additionally-

3. Please consider imbedding hyperlinks in the Table of Contents to improve navigation within the document.
4. Figure LUCC-4 Land Use Policy Map (p. 37) – Please confirm that the “Public and Quasi Public” land use designation for Hellman Park Trailhead parking lot does not exclude current and future trail use of the property.
5. Figure LUCC-5 Sphere of Influence (p. 38) – Please remove the designation for residential development on Habitat Authority-owned property, Turnbull Canyon. This property is managed as open space and was purchased with Los Angeles County voter-approved Proposition A funding which prohibits its development.
6. Definition of Public and Quasi public (p. 70) – Please consider broadening the definition to include trails, such as by adding “...Accommodates..., **trail use**,...”. This would address current use of Hellman and possible future trail development in Dark Canyon, a parcel within the City’s Sphere of Influence currently designated as “public or quasi public”.
7. Mobility and Infrastructure, Goal MI-6.2 (p. 97) – Please consider the following bolded and strikethrough modifications to this goal, “**Collaborate with the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority to develop** a strategy to address parking near trailheads to address parking intrusion into adjacent residential neighborhoods. This strategy could include parking restrictions for non-residents, creation of trailhead lots, and provision of remote parking with shuttle service”. Changes to parking facilities and access to the trailheads directly affects the management and sustainability of the Puente Hills Preserve. The Habitat Authority manages Puente Hills Preserve trailheads and associated parking lots pursuant to the agreement with the City and welcomes collaborative efforts with the City to address these important issues.
8. Figure RM-2 Recreation Facilities and Access (p. 139) – Hellman Park is indicated on this figure in a different color representing it as a City Park in contrast to the rest of the Puente Hills Preserve, which is represented as open space. Our understanding is that the entire Preserve is considered open space, including Hellman Park. Please consider correcting the figure to represent the Puente Hills Preserve, in whole, as open space.
9. Table RM-2 Parks and Recreation Facilities (p. 140) – Arroyo Pescadero is managed by the Habitat Authority as a Natural Park which allows for passive recreation; please

change the designation accordingly from its current designation in the draft General Plan as a Specialty Park which allows for active recreation. Additionally, the Habitat Authority manages Hellman and Arroyo Pescadero pursuant to the agreement with the City, therefore, we suggest revising the column title from “Managed” to “Managed **or Owned**” to clarify the role of the City. Lastly, considerations could be made to add and identify Murphy Baseball Fields as a Specialty Park.

10. Resource Management Element (p.143, paragraph 1) – While the Schabarum Trail traverses the Puente Hills Preserve and connects to several Habitat Authority managed trails, it is operated by Los Angeles County, not the Habitat Authority. Please revise this section accordingly.
11. Oil and Gas, Goal 8 (p. 148) – Please consider adding an additional goal, or modifying Goal RM-8.4, to exclude resource production from the Core Habitat area of the Preserve (La Canada Verde). As an example, consider the following bolded changes to Goal RM-8.4: “Minimize **or avoid** environmental impacts of oil-production related activity on threatened **or** endangered species, habitat and natural resources **including in the Core Habitat of the Puente Hills Preserve.**”
12. Goals and Policies: Wildfire, Goal 5, PSNH-5.9 (p. 176) – We strongly support this goal, and suggest the following bolded modification to address retrofitting existing development (i.e., home hardening) as supported by Assembly Bill (AB) 38 chaptered into law in 2019:
“Conduct a survey of existing residential structures within the Very High Hazard Severity Zones to identify nonconforming buildings related to fire safety standards and consult with property owners to bring these properties into compliance with the most current building and fire safety standards **such as home hardening.**”

Below are details about this new home hardening legislation.

Assembly bill 38 was passed in October of 2019, codified as Sections 1102.6f and 1102.19 of the Civil Code & section 4123.7 of the Public Resources Code. This legislation provides mechanisms to develop the best practices for community-wide resilience against wildfires through home hardening, defensible space, and other measures. It requires that starting January 21, 2021, the seller of any real property which is determined by the Director of Forestry and Fire Protection to be in a high or very high fire hazard severity zone (which areas around the Puente Hills Preserve are designated) provide a disclosure notice to the buyer, if the home being sold was constructed before January 1, 2010. The disclosure must include the following:

- A statement disclosing that the property is located in high or very high fire hazard zone and the home was built before the implementation of the Wildfire Urban Interface building codes.
- A list of low-cost retrofits developed and listed pursuant to Section 51189 of the Government Code. (Starting on or after 7/1/2025)
- A list of features that make the home vulnerable to wildfire and flying embers (including: eaves, roof coverings made of untreated wood shingles, combustible landscaping etc.) For a full list see Civ. Code, § 1102.6f

Also, more information can be found at CalFire's website
<https://www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/get-ready/hardening-your-home/>

13. Goals and Policies: Wildfire, Goal 5 (p. 176) – Please consider the following bold and strikethrough modifications to Goal PSNH-5.13: “Collaborate with regional fire agencies and the Puente Hills ~~Landfill~~ Habitat Preservation Authority on different **and proven effective** strategies available to maintain diverse plant composition (e.g., less combustible native plants), undertake appropriate thinning of vegetation, and maintain ~~fuel breaks~~ **emergency access roads** without permanently damaging native habitat **or landscape-wide ecosystem functioning.**” Other than emergency access roads, no fuel breaks are currently maintained on the Puente Hills Preserve outside of the fuel modification zones at the urban-wildland interface. The emergency access roads that are currently maintained on the Puente Hills Preserve also function as fuel breaks.
14. Goals and Policies: Pollution and Exposure, Goal 7 (p. 184) – Please consider the following bold modifications to Goal PSNH-7.5, “Minimize **or avoid** environmental impacts and protect the ecological resources and native habitat resources within the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority’s **Puente Hills Preserve** associated with any oil drilling and production project.”
15. Figure PSNH-8, Oil Production Areas (p.185) – The map mistakenly shows an active oil well just west of Colima within the Puente Hills Preserve, however, according to the California Department of Conservation’s Geologic Energy Management Division's (CalGEM) online mapping application Well Finder, it is an idle well. Please see <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/doggr/wellfinder/#openModal/-117.99168/33.97179/16>
16. Implementation Plan: Program 22, Fire Hazards Severity Zones (p. 218) – Please consider adding a bullet point that encourages public education about home hardening as a result of AB 38 (see bullet #12 herein).
17. Implementation Plan: Program 113, Fire Prevention/Fuel Modification Plan (p. 236)– The Habitat Authority has historically conducted annual fuel modification clearance on City owned open space properties as directed by the County of Los Angeles. The Draft General Plan indicates that the City consider preparing with the Habitat Authority a Wildlife Management Plan. This may have been a typographical error, and the actual intent was for a *Wildfire* Management Plan, in which case we support this endeavor.

Upon review of the DEIR we have the following comments and/or requests:

Global comments-

1. There are inconsistencies in the base map depicting the boundaries of the Puente Hills Preserve. We request that all Figures in the DEIR be revised to reflect the current boundaries of those open space lands owned and/or managed by the Habitat Authority, as provided to the City via shapefile on May 21, 2021.
2. We request that the title of our agency, the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority, be referenced correctly throughout the document (e.g., pages 132, 152).

Additionally-

3. Exhibit 4.1-1: Corridor, Gateways, & Landmarks (p. 63) – Hellman Park is indicated on this map by a ‘Park’ symbol, implying it is a City Park in contrast to the rest of the

Puente Hills Preserve, which is represented as open space. Our understanding is that the entire Preserve is considered open space, including Hellman Park. Please consider revising the figure to represent the Puente Hills Preserve, in whole, as a landmark feature.

4. 4.4 Biological Resources, Section 4.4.1 – Environmental Setting (p.129) – Please correct all mentions of the Puente Hills Reserve to the Puente Hills **Preserve**.
5. 4.4 Biological Resources, Table 4.4-1 (p. 130) – Per the Puente Hills Preserve’s Resource Management Plan (see Appendices E and F, available at: <https://www.habitatauthority.org/resource-management-plan/>) and biological data collected since that Plan was written, several species listed in table 4.4-1 as having low potential of occurrence in the Planning Area have been documented as occurring in the Whittier area within the Puente Hills Preserve and should be reclassified in the table:
 - *Setophaga petechia*, Yellow warbler
 - *Eumops perotis californicus*, Western mastiff bat
 - *Taxidea taxus*, American badger
 - *Lasiurus blossevillii*, Western red bat
 - *Lasiurus xanthinus*, Western yellow bat
 - *Aspidoscelis tigris stenjnegeri*, Coastal whiptail
 - *Calochortus plummerae*, Plummer’s mariposa-lily
 - *Calochortus weedii* var. *intermedius*, Intermediate mariposa-lily

MEMORANDUM

Meeting Date: August 24, 2021

To: Citizens Technical Advisory Committee

Prepared by: Michelle Mariscal, Ecologist
Through: Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Agenda Item: **X. Discussion and update regarding contract with Nakae and Associates in the amount of \$14,350 for invasive species removal on Authority managed property in Whittier known as the Chevron property, to be funded by the Authority Grant Agreement with the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles River and Mountains Conservancy (RMC20008).**

Attached is the staff report from the August 17, 2021 regular meeting which was adjourned, and scheduled for Tuesday, August 24, 2021.

An update will be provided on what action was taken by the Board of Directors at their August 19, 2021 meeting.

MEMORANDUM

Meeting Date: August 17, 2021

To: Citizens Technical Advisory Committee

Prepared by: Michelle Mariscal, Ecologist

Through: Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Agenda Item: **X. Discussion and possible recommendation to the Board of Directors regarding authorizing Executive Director to execute a non bid contract with Nakae and Associates in the amount of \$14,350 for invasive species removal on Authority managed property in Whittier known as the Chevron property, to be funded by the Authority Grant Agreement with the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles River and Mountains Conservancy (RMC20008).**

Background:

Staff have identified 65 non-native trees, including eucalyptus saplings, for removal in the Arroyo Pescadero area (west of Colima Road, north of Arroyo San Miguel trail) of the Preserve in an effort to reduce the fuel load. The overall area for these efforts is across approximately 24.6 acres. A large number of mature eucalyptus trees were removed from this approximate area in 2008 by Los Angeles County Fire Department for the same reason. The existing trees are resprouts and saplings that have germinated since those prior efforts. At the request of staff, the Authority's current landscape maintenance contractor, Nakae and Associates, submitted a proposal for the work (Exhibit 1) in March 2021. The stumps of the felled trees would be treated with herbicide to prevent resprouts and the work would be performed outside of the avian nesting season, likely September 2021. The contract would be in the amount of \$14,350.00 which includes a \$250 performance bond. In accordance with the Authority's Purchasing Policies, contracts over \$10,000 need Board approval.

According to Section 3 of the Authority's Purchasing Policies, the Board can authorize non-bid contracts for services if, in part, prior experience and/or professional qualifications have proven that a particular service is more satisfactory or economical for Authority purposes. Nakae is recommended as a non-bid contract because (1) the proposed contractor is known to possess the needed experience and qualifications, and is the most satisfactory for Habitat Authority purposes, and (2) they are uniquely familiar with the Habitat Authority's Preserve.

Nakae is a licensed landscape/general engineering contractor established in 1984 and incorporated in 1985. They have experience restoring and maintaining over 7,000 acres of native habitats with projects in California, Utah and Arizona. Nakae has served the Authority exceptionally well with several contracts over the years. Their communication, flexibility, coordination, and quality of work has been outstanding. Additionally, they have always stayed within their budgets. Their knowledge of the Preserve's native vegetation and invasive weeds has proven to be extremely effective and beneficial for meeting the Authority's unique needs.

These efforts are a part of a state grant-funded project to reduce the fuel load in the Puente Hills Preserve this fiscal year. The State of California has enacted the Early Action Budget Act of 2020, which provides funds for the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles River and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) Wildfire Prevention grant program. The RMC awarded the Authority a \$300,000 grant (Table 1; Exhibit 2) This project is a part of the RMC grant \$36,850 line item below for removal of dead trees, invasive or highly flammable trees, or flashy fuels.

Table 1.

RMC20008 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 > \$14,350 invasive removal on former Chevron, \$22,500 other removal efforts
72,000	Equipment (Mower)
268,850	Subtotal
11,465	*Project Management 6%
19,685	*Overhead 10%
300,000	Total

The activities of the grant are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact. The work will be funded by the Authority Grant Agreement with the RMC (RMC20008).

Recommendation:

Recommend that the Board of Directors approve a non-bid contract with Nakae and Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$14,350 and authorize Executive Director to execute.

Attachments:

Nakae and Assoc. Proposal

Puente Hills Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Grant Exhibit

01 March 2021

PUENTE HILLS HABITAT
PRESERVATION AUTHORITY
Attn: Ms. Michelle Mariscal
7702 Washington Avenue, Suite C
Whittier, CA 90602

Re: Maintenance Contract Work 2021 – Work Prior to March 15th

Subject: Perform Work at Hacienda Hills, Powder Canyon and Arroyo Pescadero

Dear Ms. Mariscal:

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide the following proposal for the above referenced project. Our proposal is based on the tasks outlined in your email dated 02/11/2021.

Scope of Work

I. Work to be Completed Prior to March 15th

- **HACIENDA HILLS:** Vegetation along the gravel access road from the trailhead entrance to the Coyote Trail will be pruned back to the edge of the road bed with a 10' vertical clearance.

Vegetation will be removed along the western property line wall to provide 3-5 feet of clearance.

All cut vegetation will be hauled off to an on-site legal landfill.

Hacienda Hills Subtotal \$ 5,470.00

- **POWDER CANYON:** Trees and vegetation around the parking lot will be pruned as needed in order to provide horizontal and vertical clearance.

Vegetation adjacent to the second access gate near the horse ring will be pruned.

Two (2) Acacia trees near the intersection of Powder Canyon Trail and Black Walnut Trail will be cut at grade. Stumps will be treated with glyphosate.

All cut vegetation will be hauled off to an on-site legal landfill.

Powder Canyon Subtotal \$ 1,540.00

Page 2 of 2
 Maintenance Contract Work 2021
 Work Prior to March 15th – cont.

- ARROYO PESCADERO: Approximately sixty five (65) trees (eucalyptus, pepper, chinese elm, acacia) northwest of the upper Arroyo San Miguel trail will cut at grade and taken to an off-site legal landfill. After trees have been removed, stumps will be treated with Garlon 4 or Roundup Pro Max herbicide.
- One (1) canary island date palm will be sprayed with Roundup Pro Max where it will be left to die.

Arroyo Pescadero Subtotal \$ 14,100.00
 +\$250 performance bond = \$14,350

~~XXX \$2,XXX.00~~

Note: All work will be completed on a 'Time and Materials' basis utilizing our contractual rates

Specific Exclusions

- Permits and fees.
- Repair or replacement due to force majeure, vandalism or negligent acts by others, detrimental soil conditions.
- Biological and project monitoring or reports.
- Survey / staking.
- SWPPP (plan or implementation).
- Erosion control devices of any kind.
- Repair of erosion.
- Fencing and signage of any kind.
- Grading and / or fine grading.
- Container planting.
- Seeding of any kind.
- Pedestrian control.
- Maintenance of any kind.
- Spraying or removal of Plumbago and Vinca groundcover at Powder Canyon.
- Removal of rootballs.

If you have any questions regarding this proposal, please contact me at (949) 786-0405.

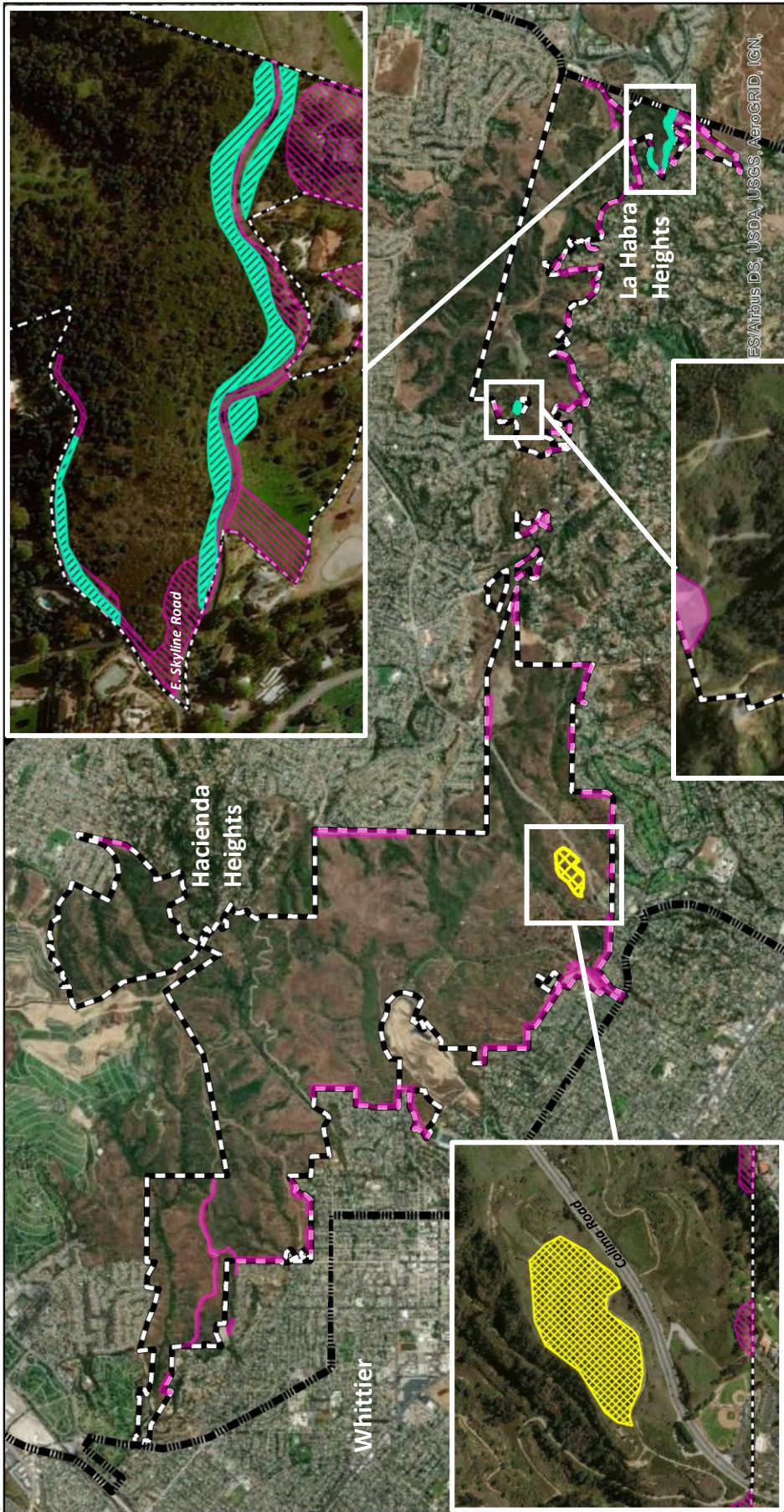
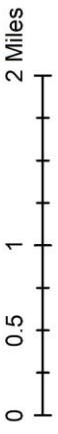
Sincerely,



Reid K. Dowden

Proposed Fuel Reduction Areas Puente Hills Preserve

Created: May 2021



Legend

- Dead tree removal areas
- Eucalyptus and invasive tree removal area
- Fuel modification zones (187.5 ac)
- Puente Hills Preserve Boundary
- Habitat Authority Jurisdictional Boundary

MEMORANDUM

Meeting Date: August 24, 2021

To: Citizens Technical Advisory Committee

Prepared by: Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Agenda Item: **XI. Discussion and update regarding Memorandum of Understanding with Conservation Corps of Long Beach to perform fuel reduction activities as directed by Authority.**

Attached is the staff report from the August 17, 2021 regular meeting which was adjourned, and scheduled for Tuesday, August 24, 2021.

An update will be provided on what action was taken by the Board of Directors at their August 19, 2021 meeting.

MEMORANDUM

Meeting Date: August 17, 2021

To: Citizens Technical Advisory Committee

Prepared by: Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Agenda Item: **XI. Discussion and possible recommendation to the Board of Directors regarding authorizing Executive Director to enter into Memorandum of Understanding with Conservation Corps of Long Beach to perform fuel reduction activities as directed by Authority.**

Background:

The Conservation Corps of Long Beach (CCLB) recently reached out to the Habitat Authority for a partnership to perform clearance work on properties owned or managed by the Authority. The CCLB has been awarded grant funds from the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles River and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) for fuel reduction efforts. At staff's and ranger direction, the fuel reduction work will be primarily focused on emergency access routes and will complement annual mowing efforts already conducted.

The attached document has been reviewed by legal counsel for the Habitat Authority.

The activities of the MOU are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no significant fiscal impact, except the time involved by rangers and staff to coordinate the work.

Recommendation:

That the CTAC recommends to the Board that they authorize Executive Director to execute the attached Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

**Memorandum of Understanding
Between
Conservation Corps of Long Beach
and
Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority**

1. **Purpose:** The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to set forth the terms and conditions under which the Conservation Corps of Long Beach (CCLB) and the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (PHHPA) agree to cooperate and potentially collaborate to better serve the youth and communities of their respective service areas.
2. **Responsibilities of CCLB:**
 - Provide a crew of 10 to perform fuel reductions for 12 weeks with an average work day of 8 hours, 4 days a week by providing Trail Fire Fuels removal on trails and areas in Arroyo Pescadero, La Canada Verde, Arroyo San Miguel, Sycamore Canyon, Powder Canyon, Turnbull Canyon area, Hacienda Heights, and Worsham Canyon.
 - Responsible for all daily crew logistics
 - Provide program development updates on project plans and timelines in verbal and written form
 - Adhere to Safety Guidelines, and incorporated herein by reference.
3. **Responsibilities of PHHPA:**
 - Provide staff or representatives to identify work project area and any potential hazards
 - Provide location for green waste
4. **No Third Party Beneficiaries:** This MOU is not intended to and shall not create any rights for any third parties who are not signatories to the MOU. Nothing in this MOU shall constitute any contractual relationship between any others and CCLB or any obligation on the part of CCLB to pay, or to be responsible for the payment of, any sums to any subcontractors of PHHPA.
5. **Compensation:** CCLB will be compensated for all of the work of this project through a grant between the CCLB and the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy. In the event that either party subcontracts private or public funding to the other, a separate project or program specific agreement (subcontract) will be required outlining funding, payment, and compensation details.
6. **Term:** Subject to the provisions of Paragraph 7 and unless terminated earlier pursuant to Paragraph 8 of this MOU or extended by written amendment of this MOU, this MOU will commence August 20, 2021 and terminate July 31, 2022. This MOU may be extended beyond July 31, 2022 upon mutual written consent of both parties.
7. **Pre-Conditions for Effectiveness:** This MOU shall be effective when all of the following conditions have been satisfied:

- (1) this MOU has been signed on behalf of CCLB by the person(s) authorized and designated by the Board, officer or employee authorized to obligate CCLB to this MOU; and
 - (2) this MOU has been signed on behalf of PHHPA by the person(s) authorized and designated by the Board, officer or employee authorized to obligate PHHPA to this MOU.
8. **Termination:** We acknowledge that this MOU proceeds at the will of the parties and any party may cancel upon written notice to the other party. In the event a party fails to comply with any term or condition of this MOU, or fails to provide the services in the manner agreed upon by the parties, this shall constitute a material breach of the MOU. Written notice of cancellation shall be given to the other party at least thirty (30) days in advance of the effective termination date.
 9. **Liability:** The CCLB and PHHPA each agree to indemnify and hold harmless the other, its officers, directors, employees and lawful agents from all claims and demands of liability arising out of or in connection with a party's negligent performance of or failure to perform any term, provision, covenant or condition of this MOU, except claims or liabilities occurring as a result of a party's sole negligence or willful acts or omissions
 10. **Assignment:** No party may assign this MOU or any interest therein without the prior written consent of the other party.
 11. **Insurance:** CCLB must carry errors and omissions, worker's compensation, auto and general liability insurance to fully cover all employees and related project sites. General liability policies shall provide or be endorsed to provide that PHHPA and its officers, officials, employees, agents, and volunteers shall be additional insureds under such policies. This provision shall also apply to any excess/umbrella liability policies.
 12. **Non-Discrimination:** All agreements relating to the design and/or implementation of the potential projects, shall contain a clause prohibiting discrimination against any employee or employee applicant engaged in project operations on the basis of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, ancestry, age, physical handicap or national origin. Such clause shall include all aspects of employee and employee-employer relations.
 13. **Compliance with Applicable Laws:** Both parties agree to comply with all federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, codes, and regulations and orders of public authorities in the performance of this MOU.
 14. **Amendment:** This MOU may be amended or modified only by mutual written agreement of all contractual parties.
 15. **Continued Effect:** Should any part of this MOU be determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the remainder of the MOU shall continue in effect.

16. **Governing Laws:** This MOU shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California, without reference to its choice of law doctrine, and with venue in the State of California, County of Los Angeles.

17. **No Formal Partnerships:** Nothing contained in this MOU shall be construed as obligating the CCLB and PHHPA to constitute a formal partnership, joint venture, or co-ownership of or in a joint or common undertaking. Neither CCLB nor PHHPA, nor any director, officer, employee or agent thereof, shall be deemed to be a legal representative of the other for any purpose, unless expressly agreed and memorialized in a separate agreement detailing such representation. Neither party is granted, and neither party shall exercise any right or authority to assume or create, any obligation or responsibility on behalf of or in the name of the other party.

18. **Assigned Personnel:**

List assigned personnel for Puente Hill Habitat Preservation Authority (PHHPA)

Telephone & Email

Andrea Gullo, Executive Director (562) 945-9003, agullo@habitatauthority.org

List assigned personnel from Conservation Corps of Long Beach (CCLB)

Telephone & Email

Dan Knapp, Executive Director/CEO (562) 986-1249, dknapp@cclb-corps.org

Irene Lopez-Muro, Director of Conservation Projects

(562) 597-8071, ilopezmuro@cclb-corps.org

19. **Notices:** Any notices from either party to the other shall be given in writing to the attention of the person(s) listed below, or to other such addresses or addressees as may hereafter be designated in writing for notices by either party to the other. A notice shall be deemed received when delivered or three (3) days after deposit in the U. S. Mail, postage prepaid, whichever first occurs.

Dan Knapp, Executive Director/CEO
Conservation Corps of Long Beach
340 Nieto Avenue
Long Beach, CA, 90814
(562) 986-1249 / (562) 986-9390 [fax]

Andrea Gullo, Executive Director
Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority
7333 Greenleaf Ave., First Floor
Whittier, CA 90602
(562) 945-9003


20. **Execution:**

In witness hereof, the CCLB and PHHPA have caused this MOU to be executed by their duly authorized representatives.

Conservation Corps of Long Beach



Dan Knapp, Executive Director/CEO



Date

Puente Hill Habitat Preservation Authority

Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Date