

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

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87592214844>

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

Meeting ID: 875 9221 4844, Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcvmSM3h7>

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

Members of the public may provide electronic comments by 3pm on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 before the meeting to mmiller@HabitatAuthority.org. Please label the email in the subject heading as "Public Comments". Public comments may also be verbally heard during item #1 of the meeting.

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

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

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

1. Receipt of Public Comments.
2. Report by Citizens Technical Advisory Committee.
3. Consent Calendar:
 - a. Approval of Authority Special Meeting August 5, 2021 and Regular Meeting Minutes of August 19, 2021.
 - b. Receive and file June and July 2021 Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) Ranger Reports.
 - c. Receive and file the Authority's Portfolio Earnings Reports and Custom by Instrument Type for July and August 2021 prepared by the County of Los Angeles Treasurer and Tax Collector.

- d. Receive and file contract between Wells Fargo and Authority for opening a bank account for local government agencies.
4. Presentation, receive and file status update regarding ongoing Authority camera study that investigates wildlife and recreational use patterns across the Habitat Authority's Preserve.
5. Discussion and possible action approving updates to the Authority Fiscal Policy in regard to Bank Accounts.
6. Discussion and possible action regarding conducting Authority meetings in-person, virtually, or a hybrid of the two; update on status of Executive Order No. 29-20, updated Executive Orders, pending legislation.
7. Instruction to negotiators on property negotiations for Assessor Parcel Numbers 8239-045-902 and 8239-047-902. Negotiations for an access easement over the property. Negotiating parties include Board Chairman, Executive Director, and Coast Community College. (This item can be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 regarding real estate negotiations.)
8. Instruction to negotiators on property negotiations for Assessor Parcel Number 8240-036-021. Negotiations for an access easement over the property. Negotiating parties include Board Chairman, Executive Director, and International Buddhist Progress Society. (This item can be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 regarding real estate negotiations.)
9. Sentinel Peak Resources California LLC – Pending litigation – Initiation of litigation by the Authority. Facts and circumstances have arisen that might lead the Authority to initiate litigation. (This item can be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4))
10. Board Members' statements, responses, questions or directions to staff, and Executive Director's comments.
11. Adjournment and announcement of next meeting.

NOTE: Members of the public may address the Board of Directors on any item shown on the agenda.
NOTE: 72 hours prior to Board of Directors meetings, the entire Board of Directors agenda package is available for review, along with any meeting-related writings or documents provided to a majority of the Board members after distribution of the agenda package, at www.HabitatAuthority.org. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, if you require a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please call Melissa Miller at 562.945.9003 at least 48 hours prior to meeting.

DRAFT Minutes of Special Meeting – August 5, 2021
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY

Held via video conference and teleconference

The Chair, Mike Hughes, called the special meeting to order and a roll call was taken at approximately 9:00 a.m.

From Hacienda Heights Improvement Association:

Present: Mike Hughes, Chair

From Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County:

Present: Robert Ferrante, Director

From City of Whittier:

Present: Jessica Martinez, Director

From County of Los Angeles

Present: Ivan Sulic, Vice Chair

Authority representatives present:

Andrea Gullo, Authority Executive Director
Michelle Mariscal, Authority Ecologist
Melissa Miller, Authority Board Secretary
Kenn Hughes, Deputy Chief Ranger, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA)
Elena Gerli, Esq., Aleshire & Wynder LLP, Authority Counsel
Payam Mostafavi, Esq., Aleshire & Wynder LLP
Cathy Houwen, Authority's Citizens Technical Advisory Committee (CTAC) Liaison to Board of Directors
Gina Natoli, Member of Authority's CTAC

Others present:

Stephen Blagden, resident of La Habra Heights

1. RECEIPT OF PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Stephen Blagden mentioned several concerns regarding the Cooperation and Implementation Agreement for item 3 on this agenda, as enumerated in his comments submitted electronically for this meeting (a copy of which is included in this public record): the term "heli-hydrant" is a trademarked brand name that should not be used in general discussions of that type of equipment; section 2.1 should specify 30 days instead of only 14 days; section 2.5 should not

DRAFT Minutes of Special Meeting – August 5, 2021
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY

include requirement that the Authority obtain written consent of the City of La Habra Heights before purchasing any land within that city from a willing seller; section 3.2 should also address the concerns regarding the area of Punta Del Este and its frequent illegal usage, in addition to requesting that Los Angeles County remove the designation of all roads within Powder Canyon from its Master Plan of Highways. He also stated that consideration in closed session for such agenda items is only allowed for the subjects of price and terms.

- 2. INSTRUCTION TO NEGOTIATORS ON PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS FOR ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBERS 8267-014-904, 8267-014-906 COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE DIAZ/OLD COACH PROPERTY. NEGOTIATIONS FOR AN EASEMENT OVER APPROXIMATELY 1/10TH OF AN ACRE OF THE PROPERTY FOR CONSTRUCTION AND ACCESS TO A HELI-HYDRANT. NEGOTIATING PARTIES INCLUDE BOARD CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND CITY OF LA HABRA HEIGHTS. (This item can be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 regarding real estate negotiations.)**

Regarding this item, the Board agreed to hear this item in closed session.

At 9:08 a.m. Chair Hughes moved to continue discussion of item 2 in Closed Session.

At 9:15 a.m. Chair Hughes moved to end the Closed Session and the Open Session recommenced.

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

- 3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION FOR APPROVAL OF A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT, AN EASEMENT AGREEMENT OVER APPROXIMATELY 1/10TH OF AN ACRE, AND RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS ON THE DIAZ/OLD COACH PROPERTY, 8267-014-904, 8267-014-906, FOR CONSTRUCTION AND ACCESS TO A HELI-HYDRANT PROJECT, PROVIDE DIRECTION TO STAFF AND COUNSEL AS APPROPRIATE.**

Executive Director Gullo briefly introduced this item, reviewed terms and project description, and Counsel Gerli noted that there is no major change in the Cooperation and Implementation Agreement and other related documents since the Authority Board's last meeting in July. Executive Director Gullo pointed out that the draft agreement versions for consideration are expected to be cleaned up, and Counsel Gerli pointed out there would be minor clarifications.

Vice Chair Sulic thanked the staff, City and Water District for their efforts and partnership on this project.

DRAFT Minutes of Special Meeting – August 5, 2021
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY

Vice Chair Sulic motioned to authorize the Chair and/or Executive Director to execute all necessary agreements in substantially the form presented between the City of La Habra Heights and the Habitat Authority to facilitate the establishment of a heli-hydrant and emergency access easement over a portion of La Habra Road in Powder Canyon, including the 1) Cooperation and Implementation Agreement, 2) Declaration of Restrictive Covenants, and 3) Heli-hydrant and Access Easement. Director Martinez seconded this motion, and in a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

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

Chair Hughes again thanked Authority staff and counsel, as well as the counsel for the City of La Habra Heights, for all of their substantial efforts toward the great progress on the hydrant project in La Habra Heights.

Director Martinez also thanked all staff for the work on this project to maintain the safety of the wildlife, corridor and habitat.

5. ADJOURNMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING.

There being no further comments, or business to be discussed, Director Ferrante motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 a.m., Vice Chair Sulic seconded that motion and all directors concurred. The next regularly scheduled meeting date is August 19, 2021.

Approved:

Mike Hughes, Board Chair

Melissa Miller, Board Secretary

DRAFT Minutes of Regular Meeting – August 19, 2021
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY

Held via video conference and teleconference

At approximately 3:02 p.m., the regular meeting was called to order and a roll call was taken.

From Hacienda Heights Improvement Association:

Present: Joan Licari, Alternate Director

From Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County:

Present: Robert Ferrante, Director

From City of Whittier:

Present: Jessica Martinez, Director

From County of Los Angeles

Present: Lauren Yokomizo, Alternate Director; then Ivan Sulic, Vice Chair

Authority representatives present:

Andrea Gullo, Authority Executive Director
Michelle Mariscal, Authority Ecologist
Melissa Miller, Authority Board Secretary
Payam Mostafavi, Esq., Aleshire & Wynder LLP, Authority Counsel
Karen Chang, Member of Authority's Citizens Technical Advisory Committee
(CTAC) and CTAC's Acting Liaison to Board of Directors

Others present:

Melanie Lee, Senior Consultant, SCI Consulting Group
Brian Saeki, Whittier City Manager
John Pespisa, Chair of La Habra Heights Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness
Committee

Executive Director Gullo explained that due to the absence of both the Chair and Vice Chair, as well as the Authority's practice of Alternate Directors not acting in those positions, an election for Chair Pro Tem is required. Counsel Mostafavi advised that election of such a position must first be added onto the agenda pursuant to Government Code 54954.2(b)(2).

Director Martinez motioned to add this election of Chair Pro Tem to this agenda. Alternate Director Licari seconded this motion, and in a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

DRAFT Minutes of Regular Meeting – August 19, 2021
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY

Director Martinez motioned to appoint Director Ferrante as Chair Pro Tem. Alternate Director Licari seconded this motion, and in a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

1. RECEIPT OF PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Chair Pro Tem Ferrante noted the four separately emailed comments submitted by La Habra Heights resident Stephen Blagden regarding the open air water tank and Coast Community College matters.. (A copy of each of these comments is included in this public record.)

John Pespisa thanked the Authority Board, the Hacienda Heights Improvement Association, and the County of Los Angeles for their collective efforts in establishing a gate and fencing at the end of Punta Del Este Drive in Hacienda Heights in order to increase safety in that area. He addressed this agenda's item 4, saying that the Authority should not be considering taxation while its staffing is so costly and its rangers are spending so much of their time on such tasks as parking enforcement. Lastly, he requested that there be an additional comment period allowed after item 4 of this agenda.

Chair Pro Tem Ferrante noted that item 4 is only informational, with no action being considered, so the more appropriate time to receive public comment about its subject will be when the Authority Board is considering any action about it, on a future agenda.

2. REPORT BY CITIZENS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Regarding the August 17, 2021, Authority CTAC meeting, CTAC Member Chang reported that the meeting did not occur due to a technical issue. Executive Director Gullo added that the August 17 meeting was adjourned to August 24.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR:

- a) Approval of Authority Regular Meeting Minutes of July 15, 2021.
- b) Receive and file quarterly 2021 Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) Ranger Report, and associated multi-year report.
- c) Receive and file the Authority's Portfolio Earnings Reports and Custom by Instrument Type for June and July 2021 prepared by the County of Los Angeles Treasurer and Tax Collector.
- d) Receive and file Receipts and Disbursements for the Authority for the quarter ending June 30, 2021, as submitted by the Los Angeles County Department of Auditor-Controller.

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

DRAFT Minutes of Regular Meeting – August 19, 2021
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY

4. 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.

Melanie Lee, Senior Consultant with SCI Consulting Group, provided a brief presentation describing the steps and schedule involved in the surveying and evaluation process. There was little discussion, and Chair Pro Tem Ferrante thanked her for this information.

5. PRESENTATION, RECEIVE AND FILE END-OF-THE-FISCAL-YEAR 2020-21 AUTHORITY ACTIVITY UPDATE.

Executive Director Gullo reviewed this item as presented in the staff report, and Ecologist Mariscal presented photos showing the progress of the Authority's mitigation restoration projects and from the ongoing camera study in the Preserve. Executive Director Gullo noted that fiscal year 2017-2018 was the first year where the trails at Hellman Park, Sycamore Canyon, Hacienda Hills and Turnbull Canyon were all on a set-time schedule instead of sunrise to sunset. The Board received and filed this update.

At approximately 3:46 p.m. Board Vice Chair Ivan Sulic entered the meeting and Alternate Director Yokomizo exited, so from this point Vice Chair Sulic conducted the meeting.

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION 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.

Ecologist Mariscal reviewed this item, and Alternate Director Licari asked that the language on items # 11 and # 14 on the letter's requests be changed from "minimize or avoid" to simply "avoid" in regard to impacts.

Director Ferrante motioned to approve this draft comment letter with the requested change of striking the words "minimize or" from its list items # 11 and # 14. Alternate Director Licari seconded this motion, and in a roll call vote the motion passed with Director Martinez abstaining.

7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION 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).

DRAFT Minutes of Regular Meeting – August 19, 2021
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PUEENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY

Director Ferrante motioned to authorize the Executive Director to execute this non-bid contract with Nakae and Associates in the amount of \$14,350 for invasive species removal. Director Martinez seconded this motion, and in a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH CONSERVATION CORPS OF LONG BEACH TO PERFORM FUEL REDUCTION ACTIVITIES AS DIRECTED BY AUTHORITY.

Director Ferrante motioned to authorize the Executive Director to enter into this Memorandum of Understanding with Conservation Corp of Long Beach. Alternate Director Licari seconded this motion, and in a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

9. INSTRUCTION TO NEGOTIATORS ON PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS FOR ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBERS 8239-045-902 AND 8239-047-902. NEGOTIATIONS FOR AN ACCESS EASEMENT OVER THE PROPERTY. NEGOTIATING PARTIES INCLUDE BOARD CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE. (This item can be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 regarding real estate negotiations.)

At 4:01 p.m. Vice Chair Sulic moved to continue discussion of items 9, 10 and 11 in Closed Session.

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

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

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

11. SENTINEL PEAK RESOURCES CALIFORNIA LLC – PENDING LITIGATION – INITIATION OF LITIGATION BY THE AUTHORITY. FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE ARISEN THAT MIGHT LEAD THE AUTHORITY TO INITIATE LITIGATION. (This item can be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4)).

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

DRAFT Minutes of Regular Meeting – August 19, 2021
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY

At 4:03 p.m. Vice Chair Sulic moved to end the Closed Session and the Open Session recommenced

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

Vice Chair Sulic expressed thanks to Authority staff for their daily outstanding work.

13. ADJOURNMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING.

There were no further comments, or business to be discussed.

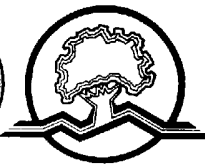
Director Martinez motioned to adjourn this meeting. Alternate Director Licari seconded this motion, and in a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.
--

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Approved:

Mike Hughes, Board Chair

Melissa Miller, Board Secretary



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

July 31, 2021

**Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority
Ranger Services Activities for June and July 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.
- Provided extra patrol for July 4th. Coordinated with Whittier Police, L.A. County Sheriff and L.A., County Fire. Met with La Habra Heights Fire and La Habra Heights Fire Watch. Posted several Habitat Authority volunteers at critical locations to prevent entry to the Preserve and watch for illegal fireworks.
- Ranger vehicles were fitted with water tanks and fire apparatus prior to July 4th.
- Attended the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) Board meeting and the Citizens Technical Advisory Committee meeting.
- Participated in our ranger monthly management meeting.
- Attended Habitat Authority volunteer meeting.
- Participated in the Hacienda Heights Improvement Association monthly meeting.
- Monitoring all fuel modification efforts in Whittier, La Habra Heights and Hacienda Heights. Working with City and County officials and contractors. All clearance was completed.
- 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 conduct perimeter patrols of all property for fence damage, illegal access points, rope swings, and encroachments.

- Continue to notify the Habitat Authority staff of all unsuccessful animal road crossings that are observed at or near Habitat Authority property. During the month of July the following animal was observed.
 - Deer on Hacienda Road/West Road.
- Provided early morning patrol at Hacienda Heights for early hikers prior to opening.
- A man with a rifle was seen in Powder Canyon on the wildlife cameras. The rangers patrolled several days at the times he was seen on the camera. A man matching the description was seen but without a rifle. He was issued a parking citation. Information was given to L.A. County Sheriff, they went to his house and made contact with him, they saw a rifle in the back of his car. The rifle was a pellet gun. He was warned and advised.
- Continue to monitor the Harbor underpass with no illegal activity to report.
- Adjusted the gate at Hellman Park to only allow pedestrians. Installed new signs indicating no vehicle parking. Installed new outhouse.
- Continue to pick up dog defecation at all of the trailheads.
- Repaired the fence at Hellman Park.
- Continue to patrol the SCE, Brea 57 site and Monterey mitigation sites in Powder Canyon and the Olinda site in Arroyo San Miguel.
- Helped disassemble Habitat Authority office furniture and made room in the Sycamore barn to store it.
- Escorted homeless out of Hacienda Hills Trailhead at closing. Spoke to homeless sleeping along Turnbull Canyon Road. Searched for homeless at Hellman Park. The homeless were offered information for services.
- 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 June and twice in July.
- 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:
 - Sofas in Powder Canyon.
 - Children's electric quad on Fullerton Road.
- 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 June and July to our 24-hour ranger emergency services number including:
 - Several calls for hikers locked in Hellman Park.
 - Several calls inquiring about Preserve hours.
 - Spectrum needed access to Arroyo San Miguel.
 - Locked in Arroyo Pescadero.
 - Inquiring if dogs are allowed.
 - Reporting people inhaling nitrous oxide in Turnbull Canyon.
 - Hikers locked in at the end of Orange Grove Ave.
 - Trucks are illegally parked at Hacienda Hills Trailhead.
 - Hikers are in the Preserve before it opens at Hacienda Hills.
 - Caller concerned about the fire danger of grass in the hills.
 - Reporting a hawk on the ground at Murphy Ranch Park.
 - Reporting adult son might be lost in Turnbull Canyon. Searched the area, unable to locate.
 - Reporting a suspicious car in Powder Canyon.
 - Whittier Police inquiring about fireworks.
 - Two men drinking and smoking on Coyote Trail.
 - Hikers with backpacks entering the Skyline trail after hours.
 - Reporting Illegal fireworks at Punta Del Este on July 4th. Sheriff and Fire were already at that location preventing access to the hills. No fireworks were observed.
 - Vehicle broken into at Powder Canyon.
 - Reporting dumping on Fullerton Road.
 - Whittier Police reporting banging noise in the hills above Orange Drive.
 - Whittier Police reporting shots fired in Turnbull Canyon.
 - L.A. County Fire wanted to go over maps with us.
 - Caller wanted to use a metal detector in Sycamore Canyon.
 - Reporting a snake in their yard in Whittier.
- Helped lost hiker back to their vehicle in Powder Canyon.

- Dealt with various violations including:
 - In the Preserve after hours at Hacienda Heights, Powder Cyn. and Arroyo Pescadero.
 - Parking violations at Powder Canyon, Arroyo Pescadero, Hacienda Hills Trailhead, Sycamore Canyon and Ford property.
 - Abandoned vehicle on Turnbull Canyon.
 - Loud music in Turnbull Canyon, Powder Canyon, Arroyo Pescadero and Hacienda Hills.
 - Marijuana in Hellman Park.
 - Alcohol in Hellman Park and Turnbull Canyon.
 - Inhaling nitrous oxide gas on Turnbull Canyon.
 - Warn and advise electric bikes in Powder Canyon.
 - 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



KEITH KNOX
TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 462, Los Angeles, California 90012
Telephone: (213) 974-2139 Fax: (213) 626-1701
ttc.lacounty.gov and propertytax.lacounty.gov

Board of Supervisors
HILDA L. SOLIS
First District
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
Second District
SHEILA KUEHL
Third District
JANICE HAHN
Fourth District
KATHRYN BARGER
Fifth District

August 6, 2021

Ms. Andrea Gullo, Executive Director
Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority
7702 Washington Avenue, Suite C
Whittier, California 90602

Email: agullo@habitatauthority.org

Dear Ms. Gullo:

We have enclosed the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority Portfolio Income Reconciliation Report (Earnings Report), Custom Position Report, Purchase Detail Report, and Chronological Detail Report for the month ended July 31, 2021, for your review and reference.

Should you have questions, you may contact Ms. Jennifer Koai, Assistant Operations Chief, of my staff at (213) 974-7371, or jkoai@ttc.lacounty.gov.

Very truly yours,

KEITH KNOX
Treasurer and Tax Collector

Damia J. Johnson
Operations Chief

DJJ:JK:az

Enclosures

INCOME RECONCILIATION REPORT



Run Date: 8/2/2021 12:32:25 PM

From Date: 7/1/2021 To Date: 7/31/2021

Inv No.	Security Description	CUSIP	Effect Rate	Stored Yield	Durat	Cur Par Value	Posted Int/Div	Beginning Prem/ (Disc)	Accretion Income	(Amortization) Expense	Scheduled Accruals	Gain (Loss)	Total Income
Fund: 4350 PHHPA-PH HABITAT PRESERVATION AU													
113193	FFCB 2.50 (C	3133ELUC6	2.5000	2.5000	.0000	22,500,000.00	175,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	21,875.00	0.00	21,875.00
117243	FFCB 2.50 (C	3133EMW65	2.5000	2.5000	15.8540	22,675,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,149.31	0.00	3,149.31
Inv Type: 1040 FFCB Fxd-			2.5000	2.5000	7.9577	45,175,000.00	175,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25,024.31	0.00	25,024.31
114424	FHLMC 2.00 (3134GWSD9	2.0000	2.0000	17.8000	9,500,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,833.34	0.00	15,833.34
Inv Type: 1500 FHLMC Fxd			2.0000	2.0000	17.8000	9,500,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,833.34	0.00	15,833.34
Subtotal			2.4131	2.4131	9.6678	54,675,000.00	175,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40,857.65	0.00	40,857.65
Grand Total		Count 3				54,675,000.00	175,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40,857.65	0.00	40,857.65



Custom Position Report

As Of Date: 07/31/2021

Run: 08/02/2021 12:38:02 PM

Reporting Currency: Local

LA County

Inv. No.	Description	CUSIP	Interest Rate	Maturity Date	Yield at Purchase	Par Value	Amortized Cost	Historical Cost	Accumulated Amort/Accr
Fund Grp: 4000 SPI-SPECIFIC PURPOSE INVSTMNT									
117243	FFCB 2.50 (CALLABLE)	3133EMW65	2.500000	07/29/2041	2.500000	22,675,000.00	22,675,000.00	22,675,000.00	0.00
Inv Type: 1040 FFCB Fxd-(S) 30/360						22,675,000.00	22,675,000.00	22,675,000.00	0.00
114424	FHLMC 2.00 (CALLABLE)	3134GWSD9	2.000000	08/27/2043	2.000000	9,500,000.00	9,500,000.00	9,500,000.00	0.00
Inv Type: 1500 FHLMC Fxd-(S) 30/360						9,500,000.00	9,500,000.00	9,500,000.00	0.00
Fund: 4350 PHHPA-PH HABITAT PRESERVATION AU						32,175,000.00	32,175,000.00	32,175,000.00	0.00
Subtotal						32,175,000.00	32,175,000.00	32,175,000.00	0.00
Grand Total	Count 2					32,175,000.00	32,175,000.00	32,175,000.00	0.00



Purchase Detail Report

From Date: 7/1/2021 To Date: 7/31/2021

Date Basis: Settlement

Run: 08/02/2021 12:29:10 PM

Reporting Currency: Local

LA County

Inv.	Description	Fund	Group	TXN	Bank	Broker	Settle	Maturity	Rate	Par	Principal	Purchase Interest
Fund Grp: 4000 SPI-SPECIFIC PURPOSE INVSTMNT												
117243	FFCB 2.50 (CALLABLE	PHHPA	SPI	PURC	CITIBANK	PIPER SANDLER COMPANIES	07/29/21	07/29/41	2.500000	22,675,000.00	22,675,000.00	0.00
PURC									2.500	22,675,000.00	22,675,000.00	0.00
Inv Type: 1040 FFCB Fxd-(S) 30/360									2.500	22,675,000.00	22,675,000.00	0.00
Fund: 4350 PHHPA-PH HABITAT PRESERVATION AU									2.500	22,675,000.00	22,675,000.00	0.00
Subtotal									2.500	22,675,000.00	22,675,000.00	0.00
Grand Total		Count 1							2.500	22,675,000.00	22,675,000.00	0.00



Purchase Detail Report

From Date: 7/1/2021 To Date: 7/31/2021

Date Basis: Settlement

Run: 08/02/2021 12:29:10 PM

Reporting Currency: Local

LA County

SUMMARY

Assets	Yield	Par Value	Original Face	Book Value	Prem / (Disc)	Amort / (Accret)	(Interest)	(Gain) / Loss	Settlement
PURC	2.500	22,675,000.00	0.00	22,675,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-22,675,000.00
Totals :	2.500	22,675,000.00	0.00	22,675,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-22,675,000.00



Chronological Detail Report

From Date: 7/1/2021 To Date: 7/31/2021

Date Basis: Settlement

Run: 08/02/2021 12:40:21 PM

Reporting Currency: Local

LA County

Inv.	TXN	Description	Settle Date	Maturity	Rate	Yield	Par Value	Book Value	Interest	Amort / (Accret)	(Gain) / Loss	Settlement
Fund Grp: 4000 SPI-SPECIFIC PURPOSE INVSTMNT												
113193	CALL	FFCB 2.50 (CALL	07/15/21	03/23/35	2.500000	2.500000	-22,500,000.00	-22,500,000.00	-175,000.00	0.00	0.00	22,675,000.00
117243	PURC	FFCB 2.50 (CALL	07/29/21	07/29/41	2.500000	2.500000	22,675,000.00	22,675,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-22,675,000.00
Fund: 4350 PHHPA-PH HABITAT PRESERVATION AU							175,000.00	175,000.00	-175,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Subtotal							175,000.00	175,000.00	-175,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grand Total							175,000.00	175,000.00	-175,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00



Chronological Detail Report

From Date: 7/1/2021 To Date: 7/31/2021

Date Basis: Settlement

Run: 08/02/2021 12:40:21 PM

Reporting Currency: Local

LA County

SUMMARY

Assets	Yield	Par Value	Original Face	Book Value	Prem / (Disc)	Amort / (Accret)	(Interest)	(Gain) / Loss	Settlement
CALL	2.500	-22,500,000.00	0.00	-22,500,000.00	0.00	0.00	-175,000.00	0.00	22,675,000.00
PURC	2.500	22,675,000.00	0.00	22,675,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-22,675,000.00
Totals :	2.500	175,000.00	0.00	175,000.00	0.00	0.00	-175,000.00	0.00	0.00



KEITH KNOX

TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 462, Los Angeles, California 90012
Telephone: (213) 974-2139 Fax: (213) 626-1701
ttc.lacounty.gov and propertytax.lacounty.gov

Board of Supervisors

HILDA L. SOLIS
First District

HOLLY J. MITCHELL
Second District

SHEILA KUEHL
Third District

JANICE HAHN
Fourth District

KATHRYN BARGER
Fifth District

September 7, 2021

Ms. Andrea Gullo, Executive Director
Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority
7702 Washington Avenue, Suite C
Whittier, California 90602

Email: agullo@habitatauthority.org

Dear Ms. Gullo:

We have enclosed the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority Portfolio Income Reconciliation Report (Earnings Report), Custom Position Report, Purchase Detail Report, and Chronological Detail Report for the month ended August 31, 2021, for your review and reference.

Should you have questions, you may contact Ms. Jennifer Koai, Assistant Operations Chief, of my staff at (213) 974-7371, or jkoai@ttc.lacounty.gov.

Very truly yours,

KEITH KNOX
Treasurer and Tax Collector

Damia J. Johnson
Operations Chief

DJJ:JK:bp

Enclosures

INCOME RECONCILIATION REPORT



Run Date: 9/1/2021 3:34:30 PM

From Date: 8/1/2021 To Date: 8/31/2021

Inv No.	Security Description	CUSIP	Effect Rate	Stored Yield	Durat	Cur Par Value	Posted Int/Div	Beginning Prem/ (Disc)	Accretion Income	(Amortization) Expense	Scheduled Accruals	Gain (Loss)	Total Income
Fund: 4350 PHHPA-PH HABITAT PRESERVATION AU													
117243	FFCB 2.50 (C	3133EMW65	2.5000	2.5000	15.7700	22,675,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	47,239.58	0.00	47,239.58
Inv Type: 1040 FFCB Fxd-			2.5000	2.5000	15.7700	22,675,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	47,239.58	0.00	47,239.58
114424	FHLMC 2.00 (3134GWS09	2.0000	2.0000	17.8940	9,500,000.00	95,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,833.33	0.00	15,833.33
Inv Type: 1500 FHLMC Fxd			2.0000	2.0000	17.8940	9,500,000.00	95,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,833.33	0.00	15,833.33
Subtotal			2.3524	2.3524	16.3971	32,175,000.00	95,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	63,072.91	0.00	63,072.91
Grand Total		Count 2				32,175,000.00	95,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	63,072.91	0.00	63,072.91



Custom Position Report

As Of Date: 08/31/2021

Run: 09/01/2021 03:38:22 PM

Reporting Currency: Local

LA County

Inv. No.	Description	CUSIP	Interest Rate	Maturity Date	Yield at Purchase	Par Value	Amortized Cost	Historical Cost	Accumulated Amort/Accr
Fund Grp: 4000 SPI-SPECIFIC PURPOSE INVSTMNT									
117243	FFCB 2.50 (CALLABLE)	3133EMW65	2.500000	07/29/2041	2.500000	22,675,000.00	22,675,000.00	22,675,000.00	0.00
Inv Type: 1040 FFCB Fxd-(S) 30/360						22,675,000.00	22,675,000.00	22,675,000.00	0.00
114424	FHLMC 2.00 (CALLABLE)	3134GWSD9	2.000000	08/27/2043	2.000000	9,500,000.00	9,500,000.00	9,500,000.00	0.00
Inv Type: 1500 FHLMC Fxd-(S) 30/360						9,500,000.00	9,500,000.00	9,500,000.00	0.00
Fund: 4350 PHHPA-PH HABITAT PRESERVATION AU						32,175,000.00	32,175,000.00	32,175,000.00	0.00
Subtotal						32,175,000.00	32,175,000.00	32,175,000.00	0.00
Grand Total	Count 2					32,175,000.00	32,175,000.00	32,175,000.00	0.00



Purchase Detail Report

From Date: 8/1/2021 To Date: 8/31/2021
Date Basis: Settlement

Run: 09/01/2021 03:29:45 PM
Reporting Currency: Local

LA County

Inv.	Description	Fund	Group	TXN	Bank	Broker	Settle	Maturity	Rate	Par	Principal	Purchase Interest
Grand Total		Count 0							.000			



Chronological Detail Report

From Date: 8/1/2021 To Date: 8/31/2021

Date Basis: Settlement

Run: 09/01/2021 03:39:31 PM

Reporting Currency: Local

LA County

Inv.	TXN	Description	Settle Date	Maturity	Rate	Yield	Par Value	Book Value	Interest	Amort / (Accret)	(Gain) / Loss	Settlement
Fund Grp: 4000 SPI-SPECIFIC PURPOSE INVSTMNT												
114424	INTR	FHLMC 2.00 (CAL	08/27/21	08/27/43	2.000000	2.000000	0.00	0.00	-95,000.00	0.00	0.00	95,000.00
Fund: 4350 PHHPA-PH HABITAT PRESERVATION AU							0.00	0.00	-95,000.00	0.00	0.00	95,000.00
							0.00	0.00	-95,000.00	0.00	0.00	95,000.00
Subtotal							0.00	0.00	-95,000.00	0.00	0.00	95,000.00
Grand Total							0.00	0.00	-95,000.00	0.00	0.00	95,000.00



Chronological Detail Report

From Date: 8/1/2021 To Date: 8/31/2021

Date Basis: Settlement

Run: 09/01/2021 03:39:31 PM

Reporting Currency: Local

LA County

SUMMARY

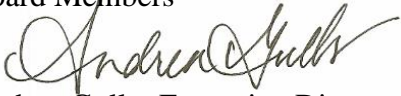
Assets	Yield	Par Value	Original Face	Book Value	Prem / (Disc)	Amort / (Accret)	(Interest)	(Gain) / Loss	Settlement
INTR	.000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-95,000.00	0.00	95,000.00
Totals :	.000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-95,000.00	0.00	95,000.00

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

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 16, 2021

To: Board Members

From: 
Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Subject: Agenda Item No. 3d) Receive and file contract between Wells Fargo and Authority for opening a bank account for local government agencies.

Recommendation:
Receive and file.

Background:

At the October 2020 Board meeting the Board authorized the Executive Director to open an Authority bank account with Wells Fargo Bank. This is also consistent with the agency workplan for fiscal year 2021-22. The attached contract which the Executive Director has authority to execute facilitates the opening of the account and is provided for your information. It has been reviewed and approved in form by the Authority Controller and attorney.

The bank account application stalled in the fall/winter of 2020 when it was discovered that the agency's Internal Revenue Service (IRS) documents needed to be updated. The updated documents from the IRS were received near the end of June 2021, so the bank application process was resumed. The attached contract to open a business bank account for a local government agency was recently provided to the Authority by Wells Fargo. The Controller then recommended updating the agency Fiscal Policy, which is under a separate agenda item of this meeting for consideration.

As a reminder, the reasoning behind opening the account with Wells Fargo is to facilitate electronic on-line donations and payments by volunteers for uniforms.

Fiscal Impact:
There is an unknown potential fiscal benefit to the agency.

Middle Market COO
Public Funds Collateral Management Team
333 Market Street 4th Floor
MAC: A0109-040
San Francisco, CA 94105
PublicFundsCollateral@wellsfargo.com

**WELLS
FARGO**

August 13, 2021

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

Dear Wells Fargo Customer,

On a daily basis, our Public Funds Collateral Unit will monitor your collected balances in deposit accounts maintained with our commercial and business banking offices, as well as cash and deposit balances held in certain trust agency and asset management custody accounts. The California Government Code specifies that all local agency deposits in excess of the deposits covered by FDIC insurance must be collateralized by the depository bank. We will pledge collateral as necessary to the California Local Agency Pool. Uncollected funds are excluded from this requirement. Currently FDIC insures the deposits of governmental accounts on a per Official Custodian basis as follows: the aggregate balances in demand deposits accounts are insured up to **\$250,000** per Official Custodian and the aggregate balances in time and savings accounts are insured up to **\$250,000** per Official Custodian. The Government Code also requires that the Bank report total deposits with the related collateral for each pool to the Administrator of Local Agency Security weekly as of every Wednesday. At quarter-end, the Bank reports the aggregate balance for each individual local agency and the related pool directly, as well. Please feel free to contact the Administrator's office to verify your holdings with Wells Fargo Bank.

Enclosed is the Contract for Deposit of Moneys (collateral agreement) covering deposits held at Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. for **Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority Endowment Provided by the Puente Hills Landfill** with Bank of New York Mellon, acting as Agent of Depository. In accordance with the applicable federal law (12 U.S.C. 1823), this collateral agreement must be approved by the bank's board of directors or loan committee; the approval must be reflected in the applicable meeting minutes; and the agreement must be an official record of the bank, continuously from the time of its execution. The fully executed agreement will be submitted to the Wells Fargo Bank N.A.'s Board of Directors/Loan Committee for approval. A fully signed and executed agreement and corporate resolution will be mailed to you upon completion.

➤ **All shaded areas on document MUST be completed for processing**

Please sign the Contract for Deposit of Moneys and return to Public Funds Collateral Unit by either email, or mail at:

- **publicfundscollateral@wellsfargo.com**
- **Wells Fargo Bank**
Public Funds Collateral Management Team
333 Market Street, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
MAC A0109-040

Upon receipt of the above signed documents, we will pledge collateral to protect your deposit balances above FDIC coverage.

We hope this information regarding the documents required for collateralization is clear. If you have additional questions, please contact me at 877-479-6603. We look forward to serving you!

Sincerely,

Sheila Lynch, Vice President

Together we'll go far



Contract for Deposit of Moneys

THIS CONTRACT, relating to the deposit of moneys, is made as of the _____ day of _____, 20____, between _____ ("Treasurer") acting in his or her official capacity as Treasurer of **Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority Endowment Provided by the Puente Hills Landfill** ("Depositor"), and **WELLS FARGO BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION** ("Bank"), having a shareholder's equity of \$170,894,000,000.00 on December 31, 2020, and is made with reference to the following facts:

WHEREAS, the Treasurer proposes to deposit in the Bank from time to time, moneys in his or her custody in an aggregate amount on deposit at any one time not to exceed the total shareholder's equity of the Bank, and said moneys will be deposited subject to Title 5, Division 2, Part 1, Chapter 4, Article 2 (commencing with Section 53630) of the Government Code of the **State of California** (the "Local Agency Deposit Security Law").

WHEREAS, the Government Code requires the Treasurer to enter into a contract with the Bank setting forth the conditions upon which said moneys are deposited.

WHEREAS, in the judgment of the Treasurer, this Contract is to the public advantage.

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties agree as follows:

1. This Contract cancels and supersedes any previous contracts between the Treasurer and the Bank relating to the method of collateralization of Depositor's deposits. To the extent not inconsistent herewith, any such deposit shall be subject to the terms and conditions of the Bank's standard disclosure statement (as in effect from time to time) for deposits of that type.

2. This contract, but not deposits then held hereunder, is subject to termination by the Treasurer or the Bank at any time upon 30 days' written notice. Deposits may be withdrawn in accordance with the agreement of the parties and applicable federal and state statutes, rules and regulations. This contract is subject to modification or termination upon enactment of any statute, rule, or regulation, state or federal, which, in the opinion of the Administrator of Local Agency Security of the **State of California** (the "Administrator"), is inconsistent herewith, including any change relative to the payment of interest upon moneys so deposited by the Treasurer. The Treasurer may withdraw Depositor's deposits from the Bank immediately upon receiving notice from the Administrator that the Bank has failed to pay assessments, fines or penalties assessed by the Administrator. The Treasurer may immediately upon receiving notice from the Administrator withdraw authorization for the placement of securities with the Agent of the Bank in the event that the Agent of the Bank fails to pay fines or penalties assessed by the Administrator.

3. Interest shall accrue on any moneys so deposited as permitted by any act of Congress of the United States or by any rule or regulation of any department or agency of the Federal Government. If interest may legally be paid on the account into which the moneys are deposited, then all moneys deposited shall bear interest at a rate agreed upon by the Treasurer and the Bank.

4. The Bank shall issue to the Treasurer for each deposit a receipt on a form agreed to by the Bank and the Treasurer, stating the interest to be paid (if any), the duration of the deposit (if appropriate), the frequency of interest payments (if any) and the terms of withdrawal. Each such deposit receipt is by reference made a part of this contract.

5. The Bank will maintain at all times with the Agent of the Bank as security for Depositor's deposits: (a) eligible securities of the classes described in Government Code Section 53651 (except subdivisions (m) and (p)) having a market value at least 10% in excess of the total amount of deposits secured by those securities, (b) eligible securities of the class described in subdivision (m) of Government Code Section 53651 having a market value at least 50% in excess of the total amount of deposits secured by those securities and (c) eligible securities of the class described in subdivision (p) of Government Code Section 53651 having a market value at

least 5% in excess of the total amount of deposits secured by those securities. If the Administrator determines that a security is not qualified to secure public deposits, the Bank will substitute other securities to comply with the requirements of this Paragraph.

6. The Treasurer hereby waives security for that portion of the total amount on deposit which is insured pursuant to Federal law.

7. The Agent of the Bank, which the Treasurer and the Bank hereby authorize to hold the eligible securities posted as collateral under this contract, is **THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON TRUST COMPANY, N.A.** The Agent of the Bank has filed with the Administrator an agreement to comply in all respects with all provisions of the Local Agency Deposit Security Law.

8. Authority for placement of securities for safekeeping in accordance with Government Code Section 53659 is hereby granted to the Agent of the Bank, including placement with any one or more Federal Reserve Banks or branches thereof.

9. If the Bank fails to pay all or part of any moneys of the Depositor on deposit with the Bank which are subject to this contract when ordered to do so in accordance with the terms of withdrawal set forth on the applicable deposit receipt, the Treasurer will immediately notify the Administrator in writing. Action of the Administrator in converting the collateral required by Paragraph 5 above for the benefit of the Depositor is governed by Government Code Section 53665.

10. The Bank may add, substitute or withdraw eligible securities being used as security for deposits made hereunder in accordance with Government Code Section 53654, provided the requirements of Paragraph 5 above are met.

11. The Bank shall have and hereby reserves the right to collect and retain for the Bank's own account the interest or income on the securities, except in cases where the securities are liable to sale or are sold or converted in accordance with the provisions of Government Code Section 53665.

12. The Bank will pay all expenses incurred in transporting eligible securities maintained as collateral for moneys on deposit to and from the Agent of the Bank. The Depositor will pay (or promptly reimburse the Bank for or otherwise compensate the Bank for) all expenses incurred in transporting all moneys deposited with the Bank to and from the Depositor's offices. The Depositor will pay the Bank (or otherwise compensate the Bank for) the fees and charges stated in the Bank's then current Schedule of Charges (unless the Bank and the Treasurer otherwise agree) for handling, collecting and paying all checks, drafts and other exchange or securities according to the Bank's standard practices.

13. This contract, the parties hereto, and all deposits governed by this contract shall comply with and be subject in all respects to the Local Agency Deposit Security Law, and all other state and federal laws, statutes, rules and regulations applicable to such deposits, whether now in force or hereafter enacted to promulgated, all of which are by this reference made a part hereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Treasurer in his or her official capacity on behalf of the Depositor, and the Bank by its duly authorized officer, have signed this contract in triplicate as of the day and year first above-mentioned.

TREASURER of: **Puente Hills Habitat
Preservation Authority
Endowment Provided by the
Puente Hills Landfill**
Name of Local Agency Depositor
By: _____
Title: _____
Address: _____

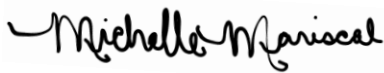
WELLS FARGO BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

By: _____
Title: Vice President
Address: 333 Market Street, 4th Floor
MAC: A0109-040
San Francisco, CA 94105

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

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 16, 2021

To: Andrea Gullo, Executive Director


From: Michelle Mariscal, Ecologist

Subject: Agenda Item No. 4) Presentation, receive and file status update regarding ongoing Authority camera study that investigates wildlife and recreational use patterns across the Habitat Authority's Preserve.

Recommendation:

That the Board receive and file this status update.

Background:

As discussed at the December 2019 Board meeting, nine infrared motion-activated trail cameras were deployed between late December 2019 and early January 2020 to investigate the relationship between wildlife and recreational use patterns across the Preserve. An update and summary of the data collected through June 2020 were presented to the Board at its December 2020 meeting. The following is an update for data collected between January and December 2020.

The 2020 study expands upon the camera study conducted in 2018 by including five additional camera locations that had been previously studied in 2012-2013. To decrease variation between months and between cameras, the 2020 study aimed to extend the duration of sampling to one calendar year and analyze all images collected rather than only those collected the first three days of each month as was done in 2018 and 2012-2013.

On March 23, 2020, following Los Angeles County Health Officer Orders in response to health and safety concerns surrounding the emerging novel Covid-19 pandemic, the Preserve was temporarily closed and subsequently reopened upon Board action on May 8, 2020. That unexpected closure has provided a unique opportunity to observe wildlife responses in the absence of recreational use in areas of the Preserve where human presence is usually relatively high. For that reason, the camera study was extended an additional year through 2021 for comparative purposes. Given the large amount of data collected by the cameras it was also decided that only images collected during the first 15 days of each month would be processed and analyzed for both years.

The cameras were programmed to take a burst of three photos upon trigger, with a one-minute delay between bursts to minimize repeat photographs of the same event. At some locations cameras were re-programmed to take two photos per trigger to minimize the risk of the SD card reaching capacity between servicing visits. Because of the one-minute delay, it is likely that individuals crossed in front of the cameras immediately after an event and were not recorded, but it is also likely that repeat individuals passed in front of the camera later and were recorded twice. This study's aim was not to determine the exact number of individual recreationalists visiting, or species occurring within, the Preserve. Rather, these data are intended to provide the frequency of occurrence of an activity or species relative to other camera locations to assess patterns across space and time (i.e., spatially and temporally). Lastly, unless unique individuals could be definitively distinguished, detections of a species or activity that occurred within any given 5-minute period were treated as duplicate records and excluded.

As of December 31, 2020, a total of 95,731 photos were collected by the wildlife cameras across the first 15 days of each month (excluding duplicate records). The below chart summarizes some of this data for illustrative purposes only and represents the occurrence of a particular species or activity, not unique individuals. A full report discussing the implications of the findings will be presented at a later date.

Domestic dogs were the most common animal documented on the cameras ($n = 6,916$) followed by coyotes ($n = 3,457$; Table 1). The camera located along Sumac Trail in Turnbull Canyon had the highest occurrence of wildlife ($n = 1,166$; Table 1A) whereas the camera located on Powder Canyon Trail had the lowest ($n = 122$). Both locations ranked highest in frequency of domestic animals and recreationists (Table 1B and 1C, respectively). When species-specific data were pooled Preserve-wide, the Harbor Boulevard underpass and Peppergrass Trail in Hellman Park accounted for 48% of all mule deer occurrences. Sycamore Canyon and the Core area accounted for 75% of Preserve-wide bobcat detections. Coyote detections were highest at Sumac trail (Turnbull) and Sycamore Canyon. The number of coyote detections for those two sites combined accounted for 44% of all Preserve-wide coyote detections.

Unique and uncommon wildlife occurrences include boreal toad documented at Sycamore Canyon, Greater Roadrunner and rodents at the Harbor Boulevard underpass, a bat at the Powder Canyon camera location, snakes at Sumac Trail and Virginia opossum at the Arroyo San Miguel trail camera. Gray fox were only documented at the Arroyo San Miguel and Sumac Trail locations. Reproduction (mating, presence of young, and/or lactating females) of bobcat, coyote and deer was documented at several of the camera locations.

September 16, 2021

Agenda Item 4

Page 3

Table 1. Number of occurrences documented by the wildlife cameras during the first 15 days of each month January 1, 2020 through December 30, 2020, listed by camera location.

A. Wildlife	Peppergrass (top of Hellman)	Sumac (Turnbull)	Sycamore	Core	Worsham	Colima tunnel	Arroyo San Miguel	Powder Canyon	Harbor Underpass	Total
	Number of Occurrences									
Amphibian species	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Bat species	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Bird species	21	81	22	65	2	17	24	38	3	273
Bobcat	13	8	101	86	5	7	23	0	6	249
Coyote	64	737	781	443	140	307	368	22	595	3,457
Cottontail rabbit	10	38	8	271	30	7	230	17	66	677
Gray fox	0	24	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	25
Invertebrate species	0	0	0	5	0	3	0	1	0	9
Lizard species	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Mule deer	98	30	79	61	19	25	16	27	140	495
Opossum, virginia	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Raccoon	2	9	18	1	0	0	0	0	24	54
Raptor species	0	3	9	3	0	0	0	4	0	19
Rodent species	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Skunk species	0	4	37	6	0	0	16	2	52	117
Snake species	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Squirrel species	0	230	1	0	0	3	73	10	4	321
Unidentified animal	0	0	0	1	1	3	16	0	2	23
	208	1,166	1,060	943	197	373	768	122	894	5,731
B. Domestic animals										
Domestic cat	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	4
Domestic dog ¹	39	31	3	0	3	1	2	28	0	107
Domestic dog - off leash	70	382	24	0	84	70	58	175	0	863
Domestic dog - on leash	533	2,367	69	0	99	150	145	2,583	0	5,946
	642	2,780	96	0	186	221	207	2,788	0	6,920
C. Recreational use										
Human - bicyclist	36	4,689	20	20	34	279	786	2,682	1	8,547
Human - equestrian	1	1	0	0	0	56	81	576	0	715
Human - hiker	10,140	53,420	13,684	88	1,575	9,248	9,606	35,833	2	133,594
	10,177	58,110	13,704	108	1,609	9,583	10,473	39,091	3	142,856
D. Non-recreational use										
Human - servicing	19	18	9	14	10	11	16	19	10	126
Human - vehicle ²	14	34	7	28	16	45	30	1,212	0	1,386
Human - worker	16	0	4	0	0	0	0	282	0	302
	49	52	20	42	26	56	46	1,513	10	1,814

¹Leash status unknown

²Includes motorized recreational vehicles such as dirt bikes and e-bikes

The Preserve was closed due to rain from March 9-20 and then due to the global pandemic from March 23 through May 8. After the Preserve reopened all trails experienced an increase in recreational use compared to pre-closure use. Sumac trail in Turnbull Canyon had the largest increase in recreational use, rising from 6,198 occurrences (total, January and February) to 13,745 occurrences (total, June and July). This is presumably attributed to the closure of the Hellman trailhead parking lot leading to increased use of adjacent trails as well as unrestricted access at the Turnbull Canyon trailhead (i.e., lack of a security gate, parking on adjacent private property, possible temporary relaxation of permit parking enforcement). After-hour use of this trail is common; in fact, this was the only camera location where recreation was documented as occurring at all hours of the day and night. Despite this trail's set use hours¹, temporal recreational use patterns for this trail are similar to Powder Canyon which has sunrise-to-sunset hours.

Next Steps:

Currently, data collected during 2020 are being analyzed and data collected during the 2013 wildlife camera study are being processed by volunteers prior to being analyzed. The wildlife cameras remain deployed in the field and data collection will continue through December 2021. The 2020 and 2021 data will be compared to previous camera studies, and inferences regarding recreation and wildlife responses will be made. A full report is expected to be finished next spring.

Additional Background:

Following the change in Preserve hours, Cooper Ecological Monitoring, Inc. was hired in February 2018 to conduct a wildlife camera monitoring study and compare the resulting wildlife and recreation photos to those taken by the U.S. Geological Survey as a part of the bobcat study in 2012-13. The objective of the 2018 study was to assess the possible effects of the new Preserve hours on the overall condition of the Preserve as a result of recreational use. Trail cameras were deployed at four previously studied locations for a five-month period between February and June 2018 and analysis methods from previous reports were replicated (e.g., only the first three days of each month were analyzed for recreational usage). Results indicated that where Preserve opening hours had reduced human activity, wildlife appeared to respond positively by being active for more hours in the day. Given the 2018 contract's short duration and limited scope, the authors recommended an extended study to monitor the decline in wildlife detections of certain key species compared to the same timeframe in 2013.

Fiscal Impact

This project cost is accounted for within the current adopted agency budget.


¹ 9am-6pm June 1 through September 30. 9am-5pm October 1 through May 31

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

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 16, 2021

To: Board Members

From: 
Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Subject: Agenda Item No. 5) Discussion and possible action approving updates to the Authority Fiscal Policy in regard to Bank Accounts.

Recommendation:
Approve updated Fiscal Policy.

Background:
The Authority's Controller, the Los Angeles County Auditor-Controller, recently recommended updating the Authority's Fiscal Policy to address bank accounts. The original Fiscal Policy was approved by the Board in April 2013.

The attached draft updated Fiscal Policy adds in section II.9 addressing bank accounts. It has been reviewed by the agency Controller and attorney. The policy, in part, was modelled after the County's fiscal policies and outlines protocols and best accounting practices to follow when opening and maintaining an account.

Fiscal Impact:
There is no fiscal impact to update the policy, however, there is a potential benefit to the agency in having a bank account with a private banking institution.

PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY
Endowment Provided by the Puente Hills Landfill

FISCAL POLICY

Introduction

Establishing a central clearinghouse and procedure for financial transactions is a critical element for maintaining proper financial control and accountability. The Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Authority) Fiscal Policy is a guide of fiscal policies, procedures, and internal controls to safeguard and manage Authority assets. It provides clear, transparent, and authorized financial management processes with sufficient oversight to enable efficient operations of the Authority. The Authority Executive Director and assigned staff will use this Fiscal Policy as a day-to day guide to manage and control fiscal operations and to meet her/his responsibilities to manage funds and assets.

By adoption of this Fiscal Policy, the Authority Board of Directors hereby authorizes this fiscal policy to be followed by all parties listed until amended or revoked.

I. Roles and Responsibilities

1. The joint powers agreement of the Authority authorizes the Authority Board of Directors to appoint either the Treasurer of the County of Los Angeles or a certified public accountant, holding a current California license to practice issued by the California Board of Accountancy, to be the Treasurer of Authority. The appointed Treasurer is designated as the Authority's depository to have custody of all funds of Authority from whatever source, subject to the provisions of any bond indenture or resolution. The Treasurer shall comply with the provisions of Government Code Sections 6505 and 6505.5 as those sections may be amended or as similar laws may from time to time provide.
2. The joint powers agreement of the Authority authorizes the Authority Board to appoint as Authority's Controller an employee of the Authority, the Auditor/Controller of the County of Los Angeles, or a third party individual or company with qualifications to act as Controller. The Controller shall be strictly accountable for all funds and shall report all receipts and disbursements. The Controller shall establish and maintain such funds and accounts as may be required by good accounting practice. The books and records of Authority in the hands of the Controller shall be open to inspection at all reasonable times by representatives of the Parties. The Controller within one hundred eighty (180) days after the close of each fiscal year shall give a complete written report of all financial activities for such fiscal year to the Board and shall make such further reports and cause

such audits of the accounts and records of the Authority to be made as are required by law.

3. Los Angeles County Auditor-Controller (AC), in its current role as the Controller for the Authority, provides and will continue to provide centralized billing, collection and audit services as applicable in support of the Authority. The AC also provides and will continue to provide quarterly financial activity statements showing revenue and expenditure detail and cash balances.
4. Currently, the City of Whittier (City), pays and will continue to pay the Authority credit cards statements upon receipt, which are reimbursed by the Authority. Currently, City provides and will continue to provide payroll services, which are reimbursed by the Authority.
5. Los Angeles County Treasurer and Tax Collector (TTC) currently provides and will continue to provide centralized banking services for the Authority.
6. Authority Executive Director and assigned staff provide and will continue to provide oversight and coordination of the processes described in this document. The Authority initiates and will continue to initiate all purchase requests.
7. Authority Board of Directors provides and will continue to provide review and approval of the annual budget and provide general financial management policy guidance. The Authority Board of Directors, also pursuant to the Authority Purchasing Policy, approves contracts not otherwise delegated to the Executive Director to approve.

II. Procedures

1. Budget

The Authority Board of Directors will adopt an annual operating budget. Oversight of the annual budget will be performed by the Executive Director or his/her designee. Spending and purchasing shall comply with the Board approved Purchasing Policy. Periodic reports will be provided by the Executive Director to the Board of Directors on the status of the budget, but no less than every six months on average.

2. Payments/Deposits

Payment requests for services or purchases shall be submitted by the Authority to the Controller for review and processing. All payment requests shall be accompanied by an authorization form, signed by the Executive Director. Deposits shall be sent to the

Controller and deposited into the Authority's account currently held in the Los Angeles County Treasury Pool.

3. Purchasing

All purchases and contracts shall be in compliance with the Authority Purchasing Policy approved by the Board on September 27, 2007.

4. Audit

As required by Government Code Section 6505, the Authority is required to have an annual audit of the accounts and records of the Authority. In its role as Controller, the AC will provide an annual financial audit for the Authority. The annual audit will be conducted by either the AC or through a contract with a private audit firm under the AC's supervision. The cost of the annual audit will be budgeted by the Authority and billed in arrears. The results of the audit will be reported to the Authority Board of Directors after completion as soon as practicable, but no later than 12 months after the end of the fiscal year under review.

5. Cost Recovery

In assuming the responsibilities supporting the Authority, the AC and TTC reserve the right to seek reimbursement for their costs. Their proposals for costs should be provided in advance of each fiscal year to be reviewed, approved and included in the Authority annual budget. Invoices will be submitted on a quarterly basis and within 30 business days after the end of the calendar quarter.

6. Payroll

Currently employees of the Authority are paid through the Interagency Personnel Agreement dated February 8, 2000 with the City of Whittier. All agreed upon costs incurred by the City of Whittier related to the Authority, will be reimbursed by the Authority.

7. Investment

The endowment of the Authority is managed by the TTC pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding between the two agencies dated May 17, 2011. Reimbursement for management services shall be provided to the TTC. The Executive Director is authorized to make decision(s) regarding investment of Authority funds in consultation with the Authority Chairman and Vice-Chairman and if the Authority Chairman and Vice-Chairman are not available for consultation, the Executive Director is authorized to make decision(s) regarding investment of funds provided the managing County and/or

Sanitation District investment officials are first consulted and the Authority Chairman and Vice-Chairman are subsequently advised of the decision(s).

8. Grants

When the Authority awards or receives grants the Executive Director or his/her designee shall monitor grant performance to assure compliance with the terms and conditions of the grant and also perform timely audit(s) of the grantee records as deemed necessary depending upon the scope of the grant.

9. Bank Accounts

- a) The Authority maintains its funds in the Los Angeles County Treasury Pool. Bank accounts are established with Board approval.
- b) When the Authority has accounts with private banking institutions to facilitate electronic payments, donations or other agency needs the Authority the balance will be maintained on a monthly basis at \$500 or the lowest level possible to avoid incurring monthly fees. Funds above this amount will be electronically swept to the Los Angeles County Treasury Pool. If electronic sweeps are not possible, checks will be written for deposit to the Controller and deposited into the Authority's account currently held in the Los Angeles County Treasury Pool.
- c) A formal (written) reconciliation is expected to be performed monthly, and no less than quarterly for each bank account by an individual with no deposit or check writing responsibilities. The person reconciling the account(s) must receive the bank statement directly from the bank and prepare the reconciliation in a timely manner. A similar reconciliation format will be found in the County Fiscal Manual.
- d) The AC will be advised of changes to bank accounts, such as branch locations, mailing addresses of bank statements, etc.
- e) All cancelled checks, bank statements, and monthly reconciliations must be retained for five years.
- f) Blank check stock must be stored in a secured (locked) area with access restricted to a minimum number of authorized individuals.
- g) Signing blank checks and checks made payable to cash are strictly prohibited.
- h) Checks must be pre-numbered and a check register used to record each check written.
- i) The AC will be notified in writing when bank accounts are closed.

Additional Materials

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
------------------------	---------------	------------------

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
------------------------	--

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

- 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.

Experts call for a shift in fire defense

Forest management is not enough, some say. To save communities, they urge direct focus on homes themselves.

BY HAYLEY SMITH AND ALEX WIGGLESWORTH

As he stood amid the rubble of the town of Greenville this month, Gov. Gavin Newsom vowed to take proactive steps to protect California's residents from increasingly devastating wildfires.

"We recognize that we've got to do more in active forest management, vegetation management," Newsom said, noting that the region's extreme heat and drought are leading to "wildfire challenges the likes of which we've never seen in our history."

Yet despite a universal desire to avoid more destruction, experts aren't always in agreement about what should be done before a blaze ignites.

Forest management has long been touted as essential to fighting wildfires, with one new set of studies led by the University of Wisconsin and the U.S. Forest Service concluding that there is strong scientific evidence to support the effectiveness of thinning dense forests and reducing fuels through prescribed burns.

But some ecologists say that logging, thinning and other tactics that may have worked in the past are no longer useful in an era of ever hotter, larger and more frequent wildfires.

"The fact is that forest management is not stopping weather- and climate-driven fires," said Chad Hanson, a forest and fire ecologist and the president of the John Muir Project.

Many of California's most devastating recent fires — including 2018's deadly **Camp fire** and the Dixie fire, now the **state's second largest** on record — seared straight through forests that had been treated for fuel reduction and fire prevention purposes, Hanson said.

But reimagining well-worn approaches to forest management will require a reckoning with what is and isn't working amid the state's shifting landscape. In lieu of focusing funds and resources on fuel treatment, Hanson and other ecologists have said **the onus** should shift toward home hardening and community protection.

"This is a **climate change issue**, and you can't address it with chain saws and bulldozers or even drip torches," Hanson said. "The only effective way to protect communities from wildland fire is to focus directly on homes."

Though fuel reduction has been part of Cal Fire's and the U.S. Forest Service's practices for decades, former President Trump helped politicize it when he announced in 2018 that California's devastating wildfires could be thwarted by better "**raking**" the forest floors.

Yet vegetation removal is only one among a handful of strategies that fall under the umbrella of forest management — not all of which were created equal, said Morgan Tingley, an associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at UCLA.

Tingley outlined three basic categories of work: prescribed burns, forest thinning and clear-cutting.

Prescribed burns, also known as controlled fires, are among the better solutions for maintaining forest health, he said. But given the restrictions, planning and logistics required for those types of burns, it's impossible to use them to any real benefit.

The Forest Service this month vowed to **stomp out every fire** that ignites — a statement of political necessity that left many ecologists grimacing at the implications for the landscape.

Even more controversial than prescribed burning is mechanical thinning, a vegetation reduction process that can involve chain saws, masticators and other tools to clear out certain types of trees or densities of trees.

Although some ecologists believe that removing accumulated fuels can help limit the potential for catastrophic fires, others have argued that thinning can in fact make conflagrations worse.

One **2016 study** published by the Ecological Society of America and co-written by Hanson examined three decades of fire data across the Western U.S., and found

that protected forests — those that had not been thinned — had lower levels of burn severity despite having higher amounts of biomass and fuels.

A 2008 study published by Forest Ecology and Management similarly worked to combat misconceptions. It took a more tempered approach, noting that some forest thinning can be helpful, but also said that removing vegetation to reduce the size and frequency of wildfires is “both futile and counter-productive,” and warned that fuel reduction should not be viewed as a panacea for reducing fire hazards.

“Given the right conditions, wildlands will inevitably burn. It is a misconception to think that treating fuels can ‘fire-proof’ important areas,” the report said.

Among the primary concerns is that thinning a forest not only eliminates much of the forest’s carbon-sucking benefits, but also removes canopies that provide shade and help maintain moisture.

The 2018 Camp fire, which reduced much of the Butte County town of Paradise to ashes, burned in an area of forest that had been logged for fuel reduction and fire prevention purposes, Hanson said.

When the wind-whipped fire reached the thinned-out, sun-baked forest, it flared up so quickly that it arrived in Paradise hours sooner than it otherwise would have.

The fire ultimately destroyed 19,000 structures and killed 86 people.

“It was going to reach the town no matter what, but it definitely burned more intensely and got there faster because of the logging,” Hanson said. “I think it would have meant the difference between life and death for most of those people.”

And it’s not just the Camp fire: A similar pattern can be seen in several other high-profile fires, including the Dixie fire, the Caldor fire and the 413,000-acre Bootleg fire in Oregon, said Bryant Baker, conservation director for Los Padres ForestWatch.

Maps of those fires fit almost squarely over maps of recently logged and treated forestlands, he said.

“We’ve heard a lot of folks in the Forest Service say that we need a paradigm shift in the way we deal with fire, and almost always, it’s a shift into the same paradigm we’ve been in: Keep suppressing fires, and double down on fuel treatment and cutting vegetation,” Baker said.

“What we’re actually talking about is a real paradigm shift. We really do have to rethink how we live with wildfire.”

One major element of that paradigm shift is home hardening and community defense, Baker said. That includes steps like reducing debris from gutters, retrofitting roofs and windows with ignition-resistant materials, and moving combustible items away from homes' exteriors.

It also means improving early warning and evacuation systems within communities. If employed effectively, these strategies have been shown to protect more lives and homes during even very intense wildfires.

"It's the one blanket approach that works," he said.

Yet even as crews struggle to gain a footing on the massive Dixie fire, Forest Service officials said the blaze is doing what it was intended to do, at least in part.

"From an ecological standpoint, [fuel treatment] is not really supposed to stop fire," said Ryan Bauer, fuels and prescribed fire program manager for the Plumas National Forest. "The treatments are supposed to make the forest healthy enough to withstand fire."

He pointed to successful fuel treatments around Meadow Valley, Butterfly Valley and Twain, where he said crews were able to hold the fire off from communities. He also said the Dixie fire has burned through a mix of treated and untreated land, as well as logged areas and burn scars.

"Certain areas of the forest are really well managed, and then other parts have almost no management history in the last several decades," he said. "When the fire's this big, it's a mixed bag. It's running over everything."

Although the Forest Service had recently completed a large hazardous-fuels reduction project around Greenville that included prescribed fire, thinning and fuel breaks, Bauer said it simply wasn't enough to make a difference — particularly once winds picked up and carried spot fires over the ridge **and into the town**, with a steep drainage right behind the community also contributing to the extreme fire behavior.

Another challenge is that many communities, including Greenville, are surrounded by a buffer of private land separating them from the national forest, resulting in a patchwork of owners who are sometimes unwilling to participate in treatment projects, he said.

But what happened in Greenville adds to multiple examples in years past of **fuel breaks failing** to guard towns against wind-driven fires, which can launch embers right over them.

"There's no way to keep fire out of forests," Bauer said. "If you do it then the fuels conditions just become worse and worse until you get a really bad fire on a really

bad weather day and it burns then. All putting fire out does really is defer the risk to a future fire.”

Managers of the Plumas National Forest have known for several years that there was enough fuel on the landscape for it to be critical during any given summer when conditions are right, and it appears that time has arrived, he said.

“A year like this is the prime example of that, that year that we’ve [deferred all of our risk into](#),” Bauer said. “It’s so dry this year that it doesn’t matter how much fuel is on the landscape. The fuel that’s there is going to burn. And we just have to hope that the trees on those landscapes are resilient enough to survive it.”

One thing most experts agree on is that clear-cutting — or logging all or most of the trees in an area — has almost no benefits to the forests or to their surrounding communities.

That the Forest Service remains in the [timber sales business](#) is something that has left some ecologists flummoxed, particularly since the federal agency is still required to meet annual quotas known as timber targets.

“Clear-cutting is a purely economic choice,” said Tingley, of UCLA. “It is. There is no forest that is healthier if all the trees are cut down.”

When mechanical thinning or logging are done for profit — or when whoever is doing it gets to use the timber they’re taking out — that instead incentivizes removing the oldest, biggest and strongest trees, which fetch a higher price, and leaves behind the trees that are the least fire-resilient, he said.

In March, more than 300 scientists, stakeholders and community members signed a [letter to Newsom](#) asking him to reconsider his wildfire budget allocations for 2021 and 2022, noting that logging and clearance projects have “consistently failed to protect our neighborhoods from wildfire.”

The budget includes more than \$1 billion to increase the pace and scale of forest management and fuel reduction projects, the governor’s office said. \$100 million has been allocated to building disaster-resilient communities.

Rick Halsey, the California Chaparral Institute director who spearheaded the letter, said he is growing increasingly frustrated by the imbalance.

“There’s essentially nothing we can do on the landscape to stop these fires because the environment is conducive to them, so we have to sort of stare that in the face and acknowledge it,” Halsey said. “What can we do? We can protect communities.”

That means focusing on making homes less permeable to embers, reducing flammable materials within 100 feet of structures and preventing developers

from placing neighborhoods in harm's way, he said.

Hanson echoed the sentiment as he walked through the scar of a wildfire in the San Bernardino National Forest, pointing to dense vegetation and old-growth trees that withstood catching and spreading the flames.

If wildfire management could shift from a forest-focused approach to a homes-focused one, he said, more tragedies like those of Paradise and Greenville could be avoided.

“We don't need to lose another community — and another community and another community — every fire season,” he said. “Once we start focusing on the right places, it's going to be incredibly effective.”