

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

This meeting will take place remotely in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e) *et seq.* (AB 361). Members of the public can observe and participate in the meeting as follows:

Via video (Zoom) and telephonically by joining at this address:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82946949383> Meeting ID: 829 4694 9383

- Or- Phone by joining at these numbers: +1 (669) 900 6833 or +1 (346) 248 7799

Meeting ID: 829 4694 9383, Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82946949383>

Members of the public may provide electronic comments by 3pm on Tuesday, October 19, 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 54956 of the Government Code the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Authority), a Special 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 Regular Meeting Minutes of September 16, 2021.
 - b. Receive and file August 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 September 2021 prepared by the County of Los Angeles Treasurer and Tax Collector.
 - d. Receive and file information about Authority volunteers recognized for their contributions: Claudia Alvarez, Licha Gonzales, and Pam Hill.

- e. Approval allowing all written resolutions attached to staff reports to be read by title only and waiving further reading.
 - f. Board adoption of Authority Resolution No. 2021-03 A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority Proclaiming a Local Emergency and Authorizing the Transition to Use of Remote Teleconference Meeting Procedures by the Board of Directors and All Standing Committees of the Authority, as authorized by Government Code Section 54953(e) *et seq.*, for the Initial Period of October 20, 2021, through November 19, 2021.
4. Discussion and possible action regarding renaming a trail and/or designating an overlook station in honor of service to the agency provided by former Board Member, Bob Henderson.
 5. Discussion and possible action authorizing Executive Director to execute contract with Mariposa Tree Management Inc. in an amount of \$22,500 for multiple tree removals on Authority owned properties in La Habra Heights. This project is funded by a grant from the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles River and Mountains Conservancy.
 6. Discussion and possible action authorizing Executive Director to purchase a mower in the amount of \$60,658.40 from Eberhard Equipment. This project is funded by a grant from the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles River and Mountains Conservancy.
 7. Discussion and possible action authorizing Executive Director to execute contract with Gem Roofing in an amount of \$78,120 for roof replacement on Authority owned property, and amend the agency budget accordingly.
 8. Discussion and possible action authorizing the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with S & S Seeds Inc. for collection of native seeds from the Authority's properties at no cost.
 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.)
 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.)
 11. Board Members' statements, responses, questions or directions to staff, and Executive Director's comments.
 12. 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 Regular Meeting – September 16, 2021
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY

Held via video conference and teleconference

At approximately 3:00 p.m., the regular meeting was called to order and a roll call was taken.

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: Lauren Yokomizo, Alternate Director

Authority representatives present:

Andrea Gullo, Authority Executive Director
Michelle Mariscal, Authority Ecologist
Melissa Miller, Authority Board Secretary
Elena Gerli, Esq., Aleshire & Wynder LLP, Authority Counsel
Cathy Houwen, Member of Authority's Citizens Technical Advisory Committee
(CTAC) and CTAC's Liaison to Board of Directors

Others present:

Lina Ochoa, Authority Naturalist
Laura Just, Ranger, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA)
Claudia Alvarez, Authority Volunteer
Pam Hill, Authority Volunteer
David Warren, Authority Volunteer
Anthony Avila, Authority Volunteer

1. RECEIPT OF PUBLIC COMMENTS.

There were no public comments.

2. REPORT BY CITIZENS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

DRAFT Minutes of Regular Meeting – September 16, 2021
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY

Regarding the September 14, 2021, Authority CTAC meeting, CTAC Member Houwen reported that:

- CTAC recommended that the Board approve the update to the Authority’s Fiscal Policy as drafted, and
- CTAC received and filed the June and July MRCA ranger reports as well as the update regarding the Authority’s ongoing trail camera study.

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.

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

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.

Ecologist Mariscal provided a PowerPoint presentation reviewing the data collected so far from the camera study the Authority has been conducting since the beginning of 2020, noting that no bobcats and only a few coyotes have been seen to have mange. She stated no conclusions have been drawn yet, and a final report is expected in the earlier part of 2022. Director Martinez asked that a similar presentation be made to the Whittier City Council at an appropriate time, and Director Ferrante added his thanks to Ecologist Mariscal and all of the Authority’s volunteers who have already devoted so many hours to evaluating many thousands of photographs. He also stated that, when the study is done, media outlets should be contacted regarding its results. The Board received and filed this update.

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION APPROVING UPDATES TO THE AUTHORITY FISCAL POLICY IN REGARD TO BANK ACCOUNTS.

Executive Director Gullo presented this item, adding that in section 9.b on page 4 the words “the Authority” should be removed from the second line, for clarity.

DRAFT Minutes of Regular Meeting – September 16, 2021
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY

Director Ferrante motioned to approve this updated fiscal policy with the requested change of striking the words “the Authority” from the second line of section 9.b. Director Martinez seconded this motion, and in a roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

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.

Counsel Gerli described the provisions of California State Assembly Bill 361, which will be in effect if the governor signs his approval before October 10. She noted that it prevents Board action if the public does not have electronic access to discussions or cannot submit their comments, and requires that a Board determine every 30 days whether or not to continue its present meeting procedure. Directors Martinez, Ferrante, and Yokomizo, and Chair Hughes, each expressed their preference for continuing to conduct Board meetings virtually via Zoom, not only for the safety of the Board’s very young family members but also due to the substantial complexity inherent in conducting meetings both in-person and virtually at the same time. Counsel Gerli noted this consensus, and will advise the Board as soon as the governor makes his decision.

Alternate Director Yokomizo exited the meeting during this item.

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.).

At 3:59 p.m. Chair Hughes moved to continue discussion of items 7, 8 and 9 in Closed Session.

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

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.)

In the closed session, item 8 was discussed by the Board and no reportable action was taken.

DRAFT Minutes of Regular Meeting – September 16, 2021
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PUEENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY

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).)

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

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

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

Chair Hughes reported that the Whittier City Council has proposed renaming one of the Preserve's trails in honor of former Councilman and Board Director Bob Henderson, and while he would like to support the city in this effort he notes that Bob Henderson himself does not want that renaming to occur. Counsel Gerli stated that any discussion of this matter must be agendized first, and Directors Martinez and Ferrante and Chair Hughes all expressed agreement to address this at their next scheduled Board meeting.

Director Ferrante expressed hope that any roof repairs needed on the Authority's ranger residences can be completed before any rainfall can occur. He also briefly described some terms of the Sanitation Districts' proposed settlement with Los Angeles County, regarding the lawsuit over the County's planned park on the landfill property.

Chair Hughes again expressed the Board's thanks to all of the Authority's staff for their substantial accomplishments over the past year.

Executive Director Gullo expressed appreciation for that acknowledgement, and advised that with the newly announced grant from CalFire there will be even more documentation and processing required, in addition to that already being done for other funding sources. She also thanked the many agencies and government representatives who provided their recommendation letters in support of the Authority's CalFire grant application.

11. ADJOURNMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING.

There being no further comments, or business to be discussed, Chair Hughes adjourned the meeting at 4:18 p.m. The next regular meeting date is October 21, 2021.

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

August 31, 2021

**Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority
Ranger Services Activities for August 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.
- Attended Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority cabinet meeting.
- Opened Hellman Park to pedestrians only. Posted new signs.
- Attended the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) Board meeting and the Citizens Technical Advisory Committee meeting.
- Participated in the Habitat Authority monthly management meeting.
- Participated in our ranger monthly management meeting.
- Attended Habitat Authority volunteer meeting.
- Participated in the Hacienda Heights Improvement Association monthly meeting.
- Met with fire captain for station 91 on Turnbull Canyon Road in Hacienda Heights. Provided the Habitat Authority emergency maps.
- Met with the contractors regarding the Heli-hydrant at the Diaz Property in La Habra Heights. Provided my contact information.
- 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 August the following animal was observed.
 - Coyote on Harbor Blvd.
- Picked up dumping including:
 - Sofas in Powder Canyon. Donated to Goodwill.
 - Dead pig on Fullerton Road. Reported to Animal Care & Control.

- Continue to monitor the Harbor underpass. Cleaned a small amount of graffiti and trash.
- Continue to pick up dog defecation at all the trailheads.
- Continue to patrol the SCE, Brea 57 site and Monterey mitigation sites in Powder Canyon and the Olinda site in Arroyo San Miguel.
- 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 August.
- 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. Whittier Police has shared that our cameras have let to several warrants being issues for suspects.
- Continue to contact the Los Angeles County Department of Street Maintenance regarding the graffiti along Turnbull Canyon 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.
- Dealt with various violations including:
 - In the Preserve after hours at Hellman Park, Hacienda Heights, Powder Cyn. and Arroyo Pescadero.
 - Parking violations at Powder Canyon, Arroyo Pescadero, Hacienda Hills Trailhead, Sycamore Canyon and Ford property.
 - Loud music in Arroyo Pescadero and Hacienda Hills.
 - Marijuana at Hacienda Hills Trailhead.
 - Alcohol in Arroyo Pescadero and Turnbull Canyon.
 - Inhaling nitrous oxide gas on Turnbull Canyon.
 - Bow and arrows in Turnbull Canyon.
 - Flying a drone in Turnbull Canyon and at Hacienda Hills Trailhead.
 - Warn and advise electric bikes in Powder Canyon.
 - Dogs off leash at Hacienda Hills and Arroyo Pescadero.
 - Bikes in Arroyo Pescadero and Sycamore Canyon.
- The rangers were notified of a meeting regarding an organized electric bike ride in Hacienda Heights. Arrived at the meeting location, unable to locate the participants.
- Report of gunshots at Turnbull Canyon/Skyline. Unable to locate.
- Report of a fire at Colima Road/ Skyline. Unable to locate.

- Repair ADA sign at Powder Canyon.
- Report of homeless in Hacienda Heights. Searched for three days. Received additional information, just two men hiking with large backpacks.
- Continue to conduct perimeter patrols of all property for fence damage, illegal access points, rope swings, and encroachments.
- Received several calls during the months of August to our 24-hour ranger emergency services number including:
 - Caller inquiring when Hellman Park will be open.
 - Reporting loose dog in Powder Canyon.
 - Hiker locked in at Hellman Park.
 - Reporting dead coyote on Harbor Blvd.
 - Resident in Hacienda Heights reporting a coyote on her front lawn, possibly injured.
 - Reporting a dead coyote on the trail in Hacienda Heights.
 - Hiker in Hacienda Heights reporting that she saw a little coyote.
 - Hiker reporting a dead dog on the trail in Hacienda Heights.
 - Reporting a cut fence at Orange Grove Park.
 - Hiker locked in at the Hacienda Hills Trailhead.
 - Whittier Police reporting a possible missing person.
 - Hiker inquiring if all the trails are open.
 - Inquiring for more information on the Habitat Authority.
 - Inquiring when Hellman Park opens.
 - Hike stating that a coyote was stalking them in Sycamore Canyon.
 - Reporting two hikers with dogs are locked in at the Hacienda Hills Trailhead.
 - Reporting lost keys at Hellman Park.
 - Reporting hikers in the Preserve before it opens at the Hacienda Hills Trailhead.
 - Reporting kids on the trail with large oxygen tank.
- 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) 974-3385 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

October 8, 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 September 30, 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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Damia J. Johnson", is written over a horizontal line.

Damia J. Johnson
Operations Chief

DJJ:JK:az

Enclosures

INCOME RECONCILIATION REPORT



Run Date: 10/4/2021 8:20:31 AM

From Date: 9/1/2021 To Date: 9/30/2021

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	15.6900	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-													
114424	FHLMC 2.00 (3134GWSD9	2.0000	2.0000	17.8130	9,500,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,833.33	0.00	15,833.33
Inv Type: 1500 FHLMC Fxd													
Subtotal						32,175,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	63,072.91	0.00	63,072.91
Count 2						32,175,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	63,072.91	0.00	63,072.91
Grand Total													



Custom Position Report

As Of Date: 09/30/2021

Run: 10/04/2021 08:22:34 AM
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 SPL-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									
114424	FHLMC 2.00 (CALLABLE)	3134GWS09	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									
Fund: 4350 PHHPA-PH HABITAT PRESERVATION AU									
						32,175,000.00	32,175,000.00	32,175,000.00	0.00
						32,175,000.00	32,175,000.00	32,175,000.00	0.00
						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
						32,175,000.00	32,175,000.00	32,175,000.00	0.00
Grand Total						Count 2			



Purchase Detail Report

From Date: 9/1/2021 To Date: 9/30/2021
Date Basis: Settlement

Run: 10/04/2021 08:12:49 AM
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: 9/1/2021 To Date: 9/30/2021
Date Basis: Settlement

Run: 10/04/2021 08:24:11 AM
Reporting Currency: Local

LA County


Inv.	TXN	Description	Settle Date	Maturity	Rate	Yield	Par Value	Book Value	Interest	Amort / (Accret)	(Gain) / Loss	Settlement
Grand Total											0.00	0.00

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

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 20, 2021

To: Board Members

From: 
Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Subject: Agenda Item No. 3d) Receive and file information about Authority volunteers recognized for their contributions: Claudia Alvarez, Licha Gonzales and Pam Hill.

Recommendation:

That the Board receive and file information about the above volunteers receiving special recognition.

Background:

Three outstanding volunteers -- Claudia Alvarez, Licha Gonzales and Pam Hill-- were recognized for their valuable contributions for the Authority on October 10, 2021.

As you know our volunteers' time is extremely valuable in helping the Authority maintain its trails and process the wildlife camera digital photos. The Authority volunteer program is made up of a group of very talented and conscientious individuals that are helping to promote the agency's mission and stewardship of the Authority's Puente Hills Preserve.

The attached is a description of the volunteer-of-the-year winners and their valuable contributions. We ask that the volunteers contribute at least 48 hours annually, and all of these recognized volunteers contributed much more than that this past fiscal year.

PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY

2020-21 VOLUNTEER AWARD RECIPIENTS

SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Claudia Alvarez – Overall Volunteer of the Year

Claudia Alvarez began volunteering for the Habitat Authority in December of 2019 and has assisted the ecologist with the wildlife camera study and Geospatial Information Systems tasks, as well as participating in several other volunteer opportunities. She was previously recognized for her valuable volunteer contributions in 2020, and overall, she logged over **143 volunteer hours** during FY 20-21. Claudia has recently graduated from Whittier College and is currently enrolled in the Geospatial Information Master's Degree Program at Cal State University, Long Beach. Although she is now a full-time graduate student, Claudia continues to be an integral part of our wildlife camera study team, devoting several hours each week to processing camera images. Her attention to detail and dedication to her volunteer role has made her an asset to the Habitat Authority and we are grateful for her contributions!

Eloise 'Licha' Gonzales

Eloise ("Licha") Gonzales, of Rowland Heights, is a retired teacher who became a volunteer in 2011. Since then, Licha has been actively trail-watching in the Preserve at the Powder Canyon Trailhead, hiking with her dog and friends during the nice morning hours. Licha also continues to venture out in the evenings, to walk through what was our 10,000 steps hike, to keep healthy and active. She previously was awarded for her outstanding contributions for the Habitat Authority in 2015, 2018 and 2020. This year she continues to dedicate her time towards stewardship and educating Preserve visitors through her interactions on the trails and has logged **over 103 hours** of volunteer service.

Pam Hill


Pam Hill is a Whittier resident and geology professor. She has been a Docent volunteer since 2015 and unofficially reported her observations to us from her many hikes in the hills. In 2017, she completed Trail Watch training and is now 'official' in that capacity. Pam holds multiple degrees and teaches at Cal State Long Beach, but still finds the time to hike and trail-watch in the Preserve. She previously was awarded for her outstanding volunteer services in 2016 and 2018, and this year dedicated **over 75 hours** as a Trail Watch volunteer. We don't know how she finds the time, but we very much appreciate it!

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

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 20, 2021

To: Board Members

From: 
Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Subject: Agenda Item No. 3f) Board adoption of Authority Resolution No. 2021-03 A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority Proclaiming a Local Emergency and Authorizing the Transition to Use of Remote Teleconference Meeting Procedures by the Board of Directors and All Standing Committees of the Authority, as authorized by Government Code Section 54953(e) *et seq.*, for the Initial Period of October 20, 2021, through November 19, 2021.

Recommendation:

That the Board adopt the attached resolution.

Background:

The following information is provided from Authority attorneys:

On September 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill 361 into law, allowing continued remote teleconference meetings without traditional Brown Act compliance, provided certain findings can be made related to the ongoing state of emergency and subject to adherence to certain new noticing and public participation requirements. AB 361 was made effective October 1, 2021.

The Authority, as all public agencies in California, must now invoke and adhere to AB 361 and its modifications on certain elements of remote public meetings, or else revert to traditional Brown Act compliance. The major change associated with continuing remote meetings under AB 361 is that the public must now be allowed to make comments in real-time during the public comment period, either telephonically or electronically (such as by Zoom). No physical location for public comment need be provided.

AB 361 allows legislative bodies to continue to utilize remote/virtual platforms for meetings during a state of emergency proclaimed by the Governor that includes the Authority, provided that one of the following three criteria is met with respect to the meeting:

- i) State or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing; or
- ii) The legislative body is meeting for the purpose of determining, by majority vote, whether as a result of the state of emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees; or

- iii) The legislative has previously determined, by majority vote, that, as a result of the state of emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

The proclaimed statewide declaration of emergency related to COVID-19 remains in effect. Accordingly, if just, then the Authority can conduct meetings remotely pursuant to Government Code § 54953(e) as amended by AB 361, subject to compliance with certain alternative noticing and public participation requirements, and in doing so are excused from compliance with the traditional requirements of the Brown Act that would otherwise apply to remote teleconferenced meetings under Government Code § 54953(b)(3).

No later than 30 days after teleconferencing for the first time under AB 361 rules, and every 30 days thereafter, the Board must adopt a resolution making the required findings of necessity to continue conducting public meetings remotely in reliance of AB 361 and affirming the measures in place to allow remote public comments by the public.

These provisions of AB 361 are effective until January 1, 2024. This means these provisions may be invoked any time there is a proclaimed state of emergency by the Governor (e.g., wildfires) and the Board can make at least one of the enumerated findings.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY PROCLAIMING A LOCAL EMERGENCY AND AUTHORIZING THE TRANSITION TO USE OF REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETING PROCEDURES BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ALL STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE AUTHORITY, AS AUTHORIZED BY GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953(E) *ET SEQ.*, FOR THE INITIAL PERIOD OF OCTOBER 20, 2021 THROUGH NOVEMBER 19, 2021

WHEREAS, the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (the “Authority”) is committed to preserving and nurturing public access, transparency, observation and participation in meetings of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) and each of its standing committees; and

WHEREAS, all meetings of the Board and standing committees are open and public, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act, codified in Government Code sections 54950 *et seq.*, so that any member of the public may attend, participate, and observe the Board and standing committees conduct their business; and

WHEREAS, the Brown Act, as amended by Assembly Bill 361 (2021), codified in Government Code sections 54953(e) *et seq.*, allows for remote teleconferencing observation and participation in meetings by members of a legislative body and members of the public, without compliance with the requirements of Government Code section 54953(b)(3) regarding teleconferencing, subject to the existence of certain conditions; and

WHEREAS, the initial required condition is that a state of emergency is a declaration of a state of emergency by the Governor pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act at Government Code section 8625, proclaiming the existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the state and within the boundaries of the Authority, caused by conditions as described in Government Code section 8558; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, pursuant to Government Code section 8625, Governor Newsom declared the existence of a state of emergency for the State of California, in response to the outbreak of respiratory illness due to a novel coronavirus (a disease now known as COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, also on March 4, 2020, the County of Los Angeles followed suit and declared the existence of a state of emergency for the County of Los Angeles; and

WHEREAS, Government Code section 54953(e) *et seq.* further requires that state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing; or, the legislative body of the Authority finds that meeting in person would present imminent risk to the health and safety of attendees; and

WHEREAS, the Board hereby finds that such emergency conditions now exist in the Authority, such that meeting in person for the meetings of the Board and standing committees of

the Authority would present imminent risk to the health and safety of attendees as a result of the increased risk of the spread of the COVID-19 virus among those in attendance; and

WHEREAS, the Board hereby finds that the state of emergency due to the COVID-19 virus and the conditions related thereto has caused, and will continue to cause, conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons within the Authority that are likely to be beyond the control of services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of the Authority, and thereby affirms, authorizes, and proclaims the existence of a local emergency and ratifies the proclamation of state of emergency by the Governor of the State of California; and

WHEREAS, the Board hereby finds that, as a consequence of the existing local emergency, the Board and all standing committees of the Authority shall conduct their meetings without compliance with Government Code section 54953(b)(3), and shall instead comply with the remote teleconference meeting requirements as authorized by Government Code section 54953(e) *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the Board affirms that it will allow for observation and participation by Board Members, Advisory Committee Members and the public via video and/or telephone access, in an effort to protect the constitutional and statutory rights of all attendees.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY FINDS, RESOLVES, AND ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Recitals set forth above are true and correct and are incorporated into this Resolution by this reference.

Section 2. The Board hereby recognizes and affirms the existence and conditions of a state of emergency as proclaimed by the Governor, the existence of emergency conditions in the Authority, and affirms, authorizes, and proclaims the existence of a local emergency throughout the Authority.

Section 3. The Board hereby ratifies the Governor of the State of California's Proclamation of State of Emergency, effective as of its issuance date of March 4, 2020.

Section 4. Further, the Board finds that holding the meetings of the Board and standing committees of the Authority in person would present imminent risk to the health and safety of attendees as a result of the increased risk of the spread of the COVID-19 virus among those in attendance, as required by Government Code section 54953(e) *et seq.*

Section 5. The Executive Director is hereby authorized and directed to take all actions necessary to carry out the intent and purpose of this Resolution including, conducting open and public meetings in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e) and other applicable provisions of the Brown Act, for all Board meetings and all standing committee meetings of the Authority.

Section 6. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and shall be effective until the earlier of (i) November 19, 2021 , or such time the Board adopts a subsequent resolution in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e)(3) to extend the time during which the Board and all standing committees of the Authority may continue to teleconference without compliance with Government Code section 54953(b)(3), but otherwise as permitted by Government Code section 54953(e) *et seq.*

PASSED AND ADOPTED at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority duly held on 20th day of October, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES: Board Members:
NOES: Board Members:
ABSENT: Board Members:
ABSTAIN: Board Members:

WITNESS my hand on this ____ day of _____, 2021.


Melissa Miller , Secretary

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

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 20, 2021

To: Board Members

From: 
Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Subject: Agenda Item No. 4) Discussion and possible action regarding renaming a trail and/or designating an overlook station in honor of service to the agency provided by former Board Member, Bob Henderson.

Recommendation:

That the Board take action and provide direction to staff.

Background:

As the Board is aware, management matters like trail naming, trail hours, fuel clearance, etc. fall under the management authority of the Habitat Authority per the Authority's agreement with the City of Whittier, A97-172. At the July Board meeting, the Board discussed honoring former Board Director and Council Member Bob Henderson for his significant contributions to the agency and preservation of the Puente Hills. Director Ferrante suggested that renaming a trail or trailhead or updating a monument sign as well as holding a recognition ceremony of some kind should both be done, centering on the Whittier area.

At the Whittier City Council meeting held September 13, the Council voted to rename the Mariposa Trail after Mr. Henderson. The Mariposa Trail travels across City- and Habitat-owned land in the Hellman Park area. Consistent with a subsequent partnership conversation between city staff, Vice Chair Sulic and Authority staff in consideration of Mr. Henderson's wishes, an overlook and/or renaming of the Arroyo Pescadero Loop Trail at the Arroyo Pescadero Trailhead is being presented to the Board for consideration. An overlook display will allow for an explanation of historical efforts involving preservation of the hills. Mr. Henderson has been consulted. See the attached map for orientation.

The cost for an overlook and renaming of a trail would be approximately \$11,000. Staff would need to obtain three bids for the construction and installation portion of the overlook (also called a wayside display) if directed by the Board. The Authority contractor, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, installed the two existing wayside displays at the Arroyo Pescadero Trailhead, pictured below, however they are unavailable to construct and install another. The design of the display, redesign of the trailheads maps, and ordering and installation of the new trail signs could be accomplished through other Authority efforts and contracts. Cost of the dedication ceremony has not been priced out. Due to limited staff, the Authority would need assistance from its partners in hosting the dedication ceremony.



The above photos are of existing overlooks/wayside displays at the trailhead.



⊗ Mark indicates approximate proposed location for overlook, facing north-west.

This matter was last discussed by the Authority's Advisory Committee in July 2021. No conclusions were reached, but three of the members concurred that there be public recognition and naming of something such as a trail or trailhead after Mr. Henderson.

Fiscal Impact:

The project and ceremony costs are estimated to be between \$11,000 and \$15,000. This work is outside of the approved budget. The work could be partially funded with contribution from partners and by the Authority's \$739,200 reserve created from the habitat restoration mitigation program if not from unspent operational funds to be determined at the end of the fiscal year.

Former councilman: Don't name trail for me

By Mike Sprague msprague@scnq.com

Whittier City Council members, Habitat Authority board members and friends all want to name a trail — or something at least — after former Whittier Councilman Bob Henderson, the man who many say saved the Whittier hills.

So far, the proposal has only one opponent: Henderson himself. In a Wednesday interview, he said he doesn't like the idea.

"There are so many other people that I think it is kind of ludicrous to point out one person," Henderson said on giving credit for saving the hills.

"It's never one person who did it," he said. "It took so many people to save the hills. At different times, it was different people."

Also, Henderson doesn't believe it to be good policy to name things after living people, especially politicians.

"You see politicians all the time, just as they're getting ready to go off a board or commission, and all of a sudden want things named after them," he said.

"That feeds on each other, and the next politician retires they have to have something named after him or her," Henderson said. "I think it's not a good policy."

Since the 1980s, Henderson was involved in preventing two hillside housing developments, stopping about 1,500 homes, passing the Hillside Preservation Ordinance in 1981 and purchasing 320 acres from Unocal, 960 acres from Chevron Oil Co. and 518 acres in La Habra Heights from a developer.

The chatter of naming a trail after Henderson began after he stepped down from the Puente Hills Habitat Authority Board in May. He was Whittier's only representative to the board for the joint powers agency when it formed in 1994. The agency manages 3,870 acres of public land.

Henderson also served as chairman from the beginning until 2019. His seat on the board became tenuous after he lost his council seat in 2018 to Councilman Henry Bouchot.

Still, at their Tuesday meeting, Whittier council members said they liked the idea of naming a trail — now called Mariposa — after him.

"He told me that things should be named after people when they're gone, passed away," Mayor Joe Vinatieri said about a conversation with Henderson. Vinatieri said he generally agrees with Henderson but added there are exceptions.

"I think it's important we recognize his service," Vinatieri said. "I'd like to honor him while he's still alive."

Councilwoman Cathy Warner said there are numerous examples of facilities named after people when they were still alive. Local examples include the Vic Lopez Auditorium at Whittier High, Ruth B. Shannon Center for the Performing Arts at Whittier College and the Sandra Sanchez Thorstenson football field at California High School.

The council voted 5-0 to name the trail after Henderson, but it's subject to approval by the Habitat Authority. Its board is expected to take up the issue at its October meeting.

Authority board Chairman Michael Hughes said he likes the idea of naming something after Henderson but also wants to defer to him.

"Everybody wants to do something to thank him," Hughes said. "I think it's a great idea, but I don't want to shove it down Bob's throat."

Helen Rahder, a longtime friend of Henderson who served with him on the Whittier council from 1990 to 1994, said something should be named for him.

"The Whittier hills wouldn't be standing today," Rahder said, without Henderson. "There would be 7-Elevens and gas stations there if it weren't for Bob. I have no problem with naming it after a live person because I'd like to enjoy it and walk the trail with him."

Mary Gorman Sullens, founder and president of the Whittier Conservancy, said she understands why Henderson might not want the honor.


"Bob's a very humble man," Sullens said. "I get it. In these times it's important to celebrate people who are living and have done such a service to the community."

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

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 20, 2021

To: Board Members

From: 
Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Subject: Agenda Item No. 5) Discussion and possible action authorizing Executive Director to execute contract with Mariposa Tree Management Inc. in an amount of \$22,500 for multiple tree removals on Authority owned properties in La Habra Heights. This project is funded by a grant from the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles River and Mountains Conservancy.

Recommendation:

Authorize Executive Director to execute a contract with Mariposa Tree Management Inc., the most responsive, responsible bidder, in the amount of \$22,500 for the general scope of work.

Background:

The Board has directed staff and rangers to identify trees for removal to promote safety. Staff identified 46 priority dead or dying trees of various diameters along E. Skyline Drive and Oak Ranch Road in La Habra Heights, 8 trees of secondary priority and 8 trees of third priority in the fuel modification areas of the Habitat Authority's Preserve. Additionally, staff has identified 3 trees that require trimming of dead material as a top priority. The attached map illustrates the location of the targeted trees. Bidders were asked to identify the maximum number of trees for removal or treatment as prioritized by staff while staying within the budget (\$22,500) and specified timeline.

This project is part of a state grant-funded project to reduce the wildfire fuel load in the Puente Hills Preserve this fiscal year. The State of California has enacted the Early Action Budget Act of 2020, which provides funds for the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles River and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) Wildfire Prevention grant program. In accordance with project-associated Board resolution 2021-02, this project is exempt from CEQA, and has been filed with the County of Los Angeles and the State of California.

Per the Authority's joint powers agreement, purchasing and contracting policies are to be consistent with the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts' policies. Solicitation for bids for the tree removal services was made by the Authority consistent with Authority's current Purchasing Policy and consistent with the Sanitation Districts' policy. The request for bids was made available on the Authority's website, and 8 contractors were directly

October 20, 2021

Agenda Item 5

Page 2

notified. A mandatory job walk was held, and 5 contractors attended. Four bids were received by the deadline on October 7th.

The following bids were received:

Company	Rates	Priority 1 trees	\$ Amount	Priority 2 trees	\$ Amount	Total
1. Mariposa	\$404.02	#1-49	\$ 19,796.98	3	\$2,703	\$ 22,500.00
2. CA Arborist	\$478	#1-49	\$ 21,988.00	0		\$ 21,988.00
3. Great Scott	varies	#1-49	\$ 22,365.00	0		\$ 22,365.00
4. WCA	varies	#1-25, excludes #16	\$ 22,500.00	0		\$ 22,500.00
5. Tree Pros- Late bid		32 trees	\$ 22,500.00	0		\$ 22,500.00

Mariposa proposed to remove or trim the greatest number of prioritized trees (52) given the timeframe and budget of this contract. Once awarded, the work is expected to be performed in November. They are qualified to implement the work. The bid has been reviewed by RMC staff in accordance with the grant guidelines.

On October 7, notices to all bidders were sent informing them of the intent to award the contract and notifying them that they had until October 14 to submit any protests. At the time that this staff report was written none had been received. An update will be provided at the meeting if any were received.

Additional information:

The RMC awarded the Authority a \$300,000 grant (Table 1). This project is a part of the \$36,850 line item below for removal of dead trees, invasive or highly flammable trees, or flashy fuels. At the August Board meeting, a \$14,350 contract was awarded to Nakae and Associates for invasive tree removal in Whittier. That work has been completed.

Table 1.

RMC20008 Grant		Puente Hills Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention
FY 21-22		
160,000		*Annual Urban Wildland Interface fuels reduction
36,850		Removal of dead trees, invasive or highly flammable trees, or flashy fuels
		> \$14,350 invasive removal on former Chevron, \$22,500 other removal efforts
72,000		Equipment (Mower)
268,850		Subtotal
11,465		*Project Management 6%
19,685		*Overhead 10%
300,000		Total

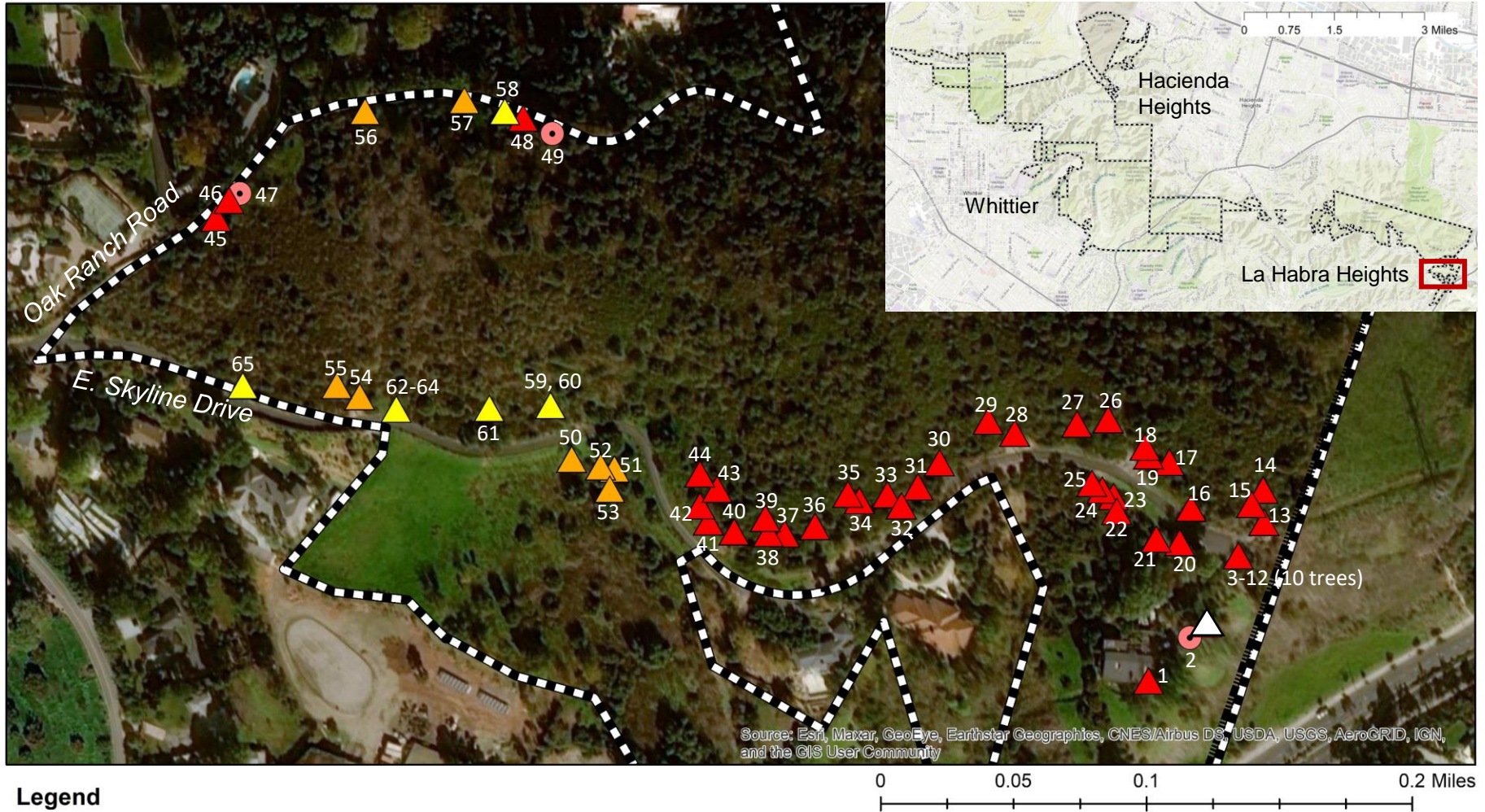
Fiscal Impact

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

Puente Hills Fuel Reduction Project- Tree Removal RFP

Puente Hills Preserve
La Habra Heights, CA

Addendum #1 (September 27, 2021)



Legend

- Priority 1- Trim dead limbs (3)
- ▲ Priority 1 (46)
- ▲ Priority 2 (8)
- ▲ Priority 3 (8)
- KEEP (now excluded from scope of work)
- Puente Hills Preserve Boundary

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

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 20, 2021

To: Board Members

From: 
Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Subject: Agenda Item No. 6) Discussion and possible action authorizing Executive Director to purchase a mower in the amount of \$60,658.40 from Eberhard Equipment. This project is funded by a grant from the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles River and Mountains Conservancy.

Recommendation:

Authorize Executive Director to issue a purchase order for the purchase of a mower in the amount of \$60,658.40 from Eberhard Equipment.

Background:

At the Authority's May Board meeting, Board resolution 2021-02 was approved which enabled staff to apply for and enter into a grant agreement with the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles River and Mountains Conservancy (RMC). This project is part of a state grant-funded project to reduce the wildfire fuel load in the Puente Hills Preserve this fiscal year. The State of California has enacted the Early Action Budget Act of 2020, which provides funds for the RMC Wildfire Prevention grant program. The grant funds, in part, have been awarded to purchase a mower. Obtaining a mower will enable year-round clearing of trails and emergency access routes. The specifications of the mower were developed in consultation with the Authority's contractor, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), as they would be operating the equipment. Storage of the mower would be in the Authority's barn at Sycamore Canyon.

Per the Authority's joint powers agreement, purchasing and contracting policies are to be consistent with the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts. The current Authority Purchasing Policies do not address purchasing equipment over \$10,000. In consultation with the Authority's attorney, it was determined that this solicitation for bids process was made by the Authority consistent with the Sanitation Districts' policy to the extent that it was practicable. Also, the bids have been reviewed by RMC staff in accordance with the grant guidelines.

October 20, 2021

Agenda Item 6

Page 2

The following bids were received:

Company	\$ Amount
Eberhard Equipment	60,658.40
Diamond A Equipment	67,879.82
Glenn B. Dorning, Inc	(highest priced bidder) Retracted bid

On October 7, notices to the two bidders were sent informing them of the intent to purchase and notifying them that they had until October 14 to submit any protests. At the time this staff report was written, no objections have been received.

Additional information:

The RMC awarded the Authority a \$300,000 grant (Table 1). This project is a part of the \$72,000 line item below for equipment purchase.

Table 1.

RMC20008 Grant	Puente Hills Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention
FY 21-22	
160,000	*Annual Urban Wildland Interface fuels reduction
36,850	Removal of dead trees, invasive or highly flammable trees, or flashy fuels > \$14,350 invasive removal on former Chevron, \$22,500 other removal efforts
72,000	Equipment (Mower)
268,850	Subtotal
11,465	*Project Management 6%
19,685	*Overhead 10%
300,000	Total

Fiscal Impact


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

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

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 20, 2021

To: Board Members

From: 
Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Subject: Agenda Item No. 7) Discussion and possible action authorizing Executive Director to execute contract with Gem Roofing in an amount of \$78,120 for roof replacement on Authority owned property, and amend the agency budget accordingly.

Recommendation:

Authorize Executive Director to execute a contract with the most responsive, responsible bidder in the amount of \$78,120, and authorize appropriate budget amendment for this work.

Background:

The Board directed staff to gather bids to repair/replace the roof of the agency ranger residence located in La Habra Heights per the home inspection report conducted.

Per the Authority's joint powers agreement, purchasing and contracting policies are to be consistent with the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts' policies. The Sanitation Districts have opted to use the alternative bidding procedures provided by the UPCCAA (Uniform Public Contracting Cost Accounting Act), which provides that for public projects between \$60,000 and \$200,000, informal bids must be obtained.

Two job walks were held. The first job walk was held on March 2, 2021 and five companies were contacted, but only one company attended. They submitted a nonresponsive bid. Another attempt for a job walk was scheduled for April 12, 2021, and thirteen companies were contacted. None could attend the job walk; some said they were not interested, and those that expressed interest did not reply, and two stated they could not do prevailing wage. The third attempt at a job walk was scheduled for April 23, 2021, and two companies were contacted. Two companies attended and two bids were received, both of which were responsive.

October 20, 2021

Agenda Item 7

Page 2

The following bids were received:

Company	\$Amount
Gem Roofing	\$74,000
T5 Roofing	\$75,280

Gem Roofing is the lowest, most responsive and responsible bidder for the work. The Sanitation Districts' personnel assisted in reviewing the bids and, consistent with the bids, confirmed that a roof replacement was necessary. The Sanitation Districts' personnel advised that replacement of the four skylights was also necessary, however that work was not included in the bid. Gem Roofing has agreed to install the skylights at no installation cost except for material costs. Material costs are estimated to be \$4,120. Therefore, the contract price for award is recommended at \$78,120. According to the Sanitation Districts staff, there is the potential for change orders depending on conditions found once work begins.

On October 1, in accordance with the Authority's Purchasing Policies notices to the two bidders were sent informing them of the intent to award the contract and notifying them that they had until October 8 to submit any protests. T5 Roofing stated they had no objections.

Fiscal Impact

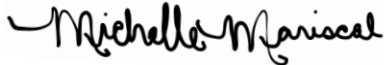
This work is outside of the approved budget. The work would be funded by the Authority's \$739,200 reserve created from the habitat restoration mitigation program if not from unspent operational funds to be determined at the end of the fiscal year.

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

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 20, 2021

To: Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

From: 
Michelle Mariscal, Ecologist

Subject: Agenda Item No. 8) Discussion and possible action authorizing the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with S & S Seeds Inc. for collection of native seeds from the Authority's properties at no cost.

Recommendation:

That the Board authorize execution of an agreement with S & S Seeds Inc. for collection of native seeds.

Background:

S & S Seeds recently approached the Habitat Authority to request permission to collect seeds on the Puente Hills Preserve for a planned mitigation restoration project implemented by Southern California Edison (SCE) that will be installed on land owned by SCE located directly adjacent to the Authority-managed former Unocal property in the Arroyo San Miguel area of the Preserve. This parcel is northeast of the Habitat Authority's current Olinda mitigation restoration site, as well as being located directly adjacent to the Authority's former Davies and Shuey properties. SCE's restoration project is mitigation for impacts to Coastal California Gnatcatcher resulting from its Mesa substation in the City of Monterey Park and will include installation of approximately 16 acres of coastal sage scrub habitat. The restored habitat will be protected by a conservation easement.

After consideration, staff believes that permitting S & S Seeds to collect native seeds from the Preserve for this adjacent project would provide a benefit to the Preserve and the habitats managed by ensuring genetic continuity of locally adapted plant species. The agreement with S & S Seeds would aid the Authority in maintaining its properties and protecting its natural resources.

The scope of work involves collecting specified seed quantities, of which the Habitat Authority can choose to receive either (a) 12.5% by weight of all seed collected, or (b) a

October 20, 2021

Agenda Item 8

Page 2

12.5% by weight credit against future seed purchases for each taxon collected as compensation. Additionally, S & S Seeds will store seeds collected for the Habitat Authority free of charge for up to two years. The list of species and seed quantities would be subject to review and approval by Habitat Authority staff prior to their collection, and a record of collection locations would be supplied by S & S Seed to the Habitat Authority. Seed collection practices would adhere to standard industry best practices to prevent overharvest. The agreement would be for the term of one year, with annual renewal subject to mutual agreement. This agreement with S & S Seeds may facilitate native seed collection on Preserve lands for other future mitigation restoration projects in the vicinity of the Preserve, subject to review and approval by the Executive Director on a case-by-case basis to ensure consistency with the Resource Management Plan. The agreement has been reviewed by the Authority's legal counsel.

S & S Seeds Inc. has been in business since 1975, has a 30,000 sq. ft. storage and shipping warehouse and has 1,000,000 lbs of seed in storage at any given time. They have been collecting seed on the Preserve since 2003. The Habitat Authority previously had a long-term seed collection contract with S & S Seeds from 2010 through 2017. Individual contracts with S & S Seeds have since been executed by the Habitat Authority and its restoration contractors for native seed collection services associated with mitigation restoration projects on the Preserve on a project-by-project basis.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no anticipated fiscal impact with this project if collected seeds are utilized within two years of their collection date (the no-cost storage term provided by S & S Seeds, per the agreement). Additional costs may be incurred if more than two years of seed storage is required.

Additional Materials

Minutes
PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY
CITIZENS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
August 24, 2021

The adjourned regular meeting of the Citizens Technical Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, August 24, 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
	Catherine Houwen	La Habra Heights
	Roy Francis, Vice Chair	La Habra Heights
	Adam Nazaroff	La Habra Heights

Members Absent:	Karen Chang	County of Los Angeles
------------------------	-------------	-----------------------

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)
Blair Aas, Director of Planning Services, SCI Consulting
Group

Members of the

Public Present: Steve Huber, Whittier Audubon

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Steve Huber of Whittier Audubon reported that their group is working to resume their monthly walks at Sycamore Canyon, planning to start on Saturday, September 11, at 7:00 a.m.

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

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

V. STANDING REPORTS:

a. REPORT BY BOARD LIAISON ON JULY 15, 2021, AND AUGUST 5, 2021, AUTHORITY BOARD MEETINGS.

Regarding the Board's August 19, 2021, meeting, Executive Director Gullo reported that:

- the Board received a presentation from SCI Consulting Group,
- the Board received and filed the end-of-the-fiscal-year update regarding the Authority's activities,
- the Board approved the draft comment letter regarding the City of Whittier's Draft General Plan Update and Housing Element for 2021-2029 with the removal of the words "minimize or" from the letter's list items # 11 and # 14,
- the Board authorized a non-bid contract with Nakae and Associates in the amount of \$14,350 for invasive species removal,
- the Board authorized entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with Conservation Corp of Long Beach to perform fuel reduction activities as directed by the Authority, and
- there was nothing to report out of the Board's closed session.

b. REPORT FROM SOCIAL MEDIA SUBCOMMITTEE.

Member Andros reported that there have been fewer postings recently but the Authority's Twitter and Facebook are still receiving much positive feedback, especially in response to photos from the ongoing trail camera study.

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

There was nothing to report for this item.

VI. PRESENTATION BY AUTHORITY CONSULTANT SCI CONSULTING GROUP AND DISCUSSION REGARDING PROCESS OF EXPLORING FEASIBILITY

OF A FINANCING MECHANISM IN PART FOR WILDFIRE PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF AGENCY PROPERTIES.

Executive Director Gullo introduced Blair Aas of SCI, who provided a brief presentation describing the steps and schedule involved in the surveying and evaluation process. Chair Lawrence thanked him for this information.

VII. DISCUSSION, RECEIVE AND FILE FOURTH QUARTERLY 2021 MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (MRCA) RANGER REPORT AND ASSOCIATED MULTI-YEAR REPORT.

Executive Director Gullo reviewed this item as presented in the staff report, and there was little discussion. Deputy Chief Ranger Hughes provided additional information. The Committee received and filed these reports.

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

Executive Director Gullo and Ecologist Mariscal reviewed this item as presented in the staff report, and provided a brief PowerPoint presentation regarding further details of interpretation, restoration, and administration activities. The Committee received and filed this update.

IX. DISCUSSION AND UPDATE REGARDING AUTHORITY COMMENTS ON DRAFT CITY-WIDE GENERAL PLAN UPDATE AND HOUSING ELEMENT (2021-2029) UPDATE FOR THE CITY OF WHITTIER, SCH # 2021040762, AND ASSOCIATED DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT.

Ecologist Mariscal briefly reviewed this item, noting that the Board approved this draft letter with the changes of removing the words “minimize or” from both items # 11 and # 14 of the letter’s list of comments/requests. The Committee received and filed this update.

X. DISCUSSION AND UPDATE REGARDING CONTRACT WITH NAKAE AND ASSOCIATES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$14,350 FOR INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL ON AUTHORITY MANAGED PROPERTY IN WHITTIER KNOWN AS THE CHEVRON PROPERTY, TO BE FUNDED BY THE AUTHORITY GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY (RMC20008).

Ecologist Mariscal briefly reviewed this item, noting the Board’s approval of this contract at its last meeting, and Member Natoli asked this the amount of vegetation to be removed will affect the movements of any wildlife in the corridor. Ecologist Mariscal answered that the removals will be mostly saplings and are

not in areas known for use by traveling wildlife. The Committee received and filed this update.

XI. DISCUSSION AND UPDATE REGARDING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH CONSERVATION CORPS OF LONG BEACH TO PERFORM FUEL REDUCTION ACTIVITIES AS DIRECTED BY AUTHORITY.

Executive Director Gullo reported that the Conservation Corps of Long Beach approached the Authority to offer its services for several weeks at no cost in both this fiscal year and next, and that the Board approved entering into this Memorandum of Understanding. The Committee received and filed this update.

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

Vice Chair Francis asked about the new gate at the end of Punta Del Este Drive in Hacienda Heights, and Executive Director Gullo described Los Angeles County's intention that this will inhibit nighttime illegal access there to the County's Schabarum Trail.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING.

Before adjournment, Member Natoli asked if the next meeting should be rescheduled due to that date also being election day, when some Committee members might still be working at the four-day poll locations. A verbal poll of the Committee members was taken regarding the possibility of Wednesday, September 15, for the next meeting date, but at least two members will not be able to attend on that Wednesday, so the regular September 14, 2021 date was determined to be when the next anticipated meeting will be held.

There being no further comments, or business to be discussed, Chair Lawrence adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

Thank you letters were mailed to all of the below community supporters of the Authority's CalFire grant application. Attached is an example letter.

1. Assembly Member Lisa Calderon
2. Senator Bob Archuleta
3. Los Angeles County Supervisor Hahn's Office, 4th District
4. Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
5. City of Whittier
6. Friends of the Whittier Hills
7. Hacienda Heights Improvement Association
8. Hills For Everyone
9. La Habra Heights Fire Watch, Inc./Fire Safe Council



**Puente Hills
Habitat Preservation Authority**

Endowment Provided by the Puente Hills Landfill

September 22, 2021

The Honorable Lisa Calderon
California State Assembly District 57
State Capitol Building
P. O. Box 942849
Sacramento, California 94249-0057

**Appreciation for Support of CalFire California Climate Investments Fire Prevention
Grant Application**

Dear Assemblymember Calderon:

Thank you very much for your support letter for the Puente Hills Fuels Reduction Project grant application to CalFire from the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority). With your help and partnership, the Habitat Authority was successfully awarded this important grant of \$617,862!

This grant award comes at a crucial time for the Habitat Authority as it faces financial challenges. The award of this grant ensures that the Habitat Authority can continue to provide urban wildland fuel clearance, and conduct additional hazardous tree removals, as well as use goat grazing to help reduce the fuel load in the Puente Hills. These efforts will help keep the region safe.

Your letter of support bolstered this agency's application and is greatly appreciated.

With Gratitude,

Andrea Gullo
Executive Director

C: Board of Directors and Advisory Committee



Governor Gavin Newsom
California State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

September 9, 2021

SUBJECT: SB 266 (Newman) – **REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE**

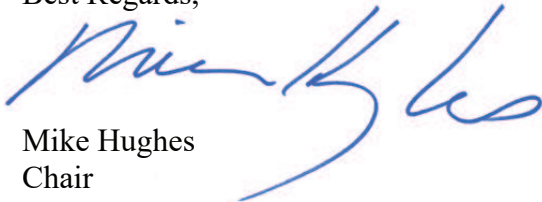
Dear Honorable Governor Gavin Newsom,

I am writing on behalf of the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) Board of Directors to express our support for SB 266. This bill begins to address a much-needed reboot of renewed land acquisition for California's State Park system and helps your goal of protecting 30% of lands and coastal waters by 2030. The Habitat Authority owns and or manages over 3,800 acres (the Puente Hills Preserve) which acts as a valuable resource for the greater region. This bill biologically strengthens the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor that includes the Puente Hills Preserve and Chino Hills State Park.

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

Thank you and we urge you to sign SB 266.

Best Regards,



Mike Hughes
Chair

C: Habitat Authority Board of Directors
Habitat Authority Citizen Technical Advisory Committee
Assembly Member Calderon
Senator Archuleta



GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, California 94244-2090
www.wcb.ca.gov
(916) 445-8448

Mike Hughes
Chair
Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority
7333 Greenleaf Avenue – First Floor
Whittier, CA 90602

9/14/2021

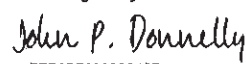
RAINBOW CANYON WILDLIFE CROSSING PLANNING
RIVERSIDE COUNTY
PROJECT ID: 2020156

Dear Mr. Hughes:

Thank you for your letter of support for the Rainbow Canyon Wildlife Crossing Planning project. The project was considered by the Wildlife Conservation Board on August 26, 2021. The Board allocated \$1,331,000 and approved the project as proposed.

Again, thank you for your support. This is indeed a great opportunity to work with our partners to enhance wildlife habitat in Riverside County.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

FFB2B729029842B...

John P. Donnelly
Executive Director



October 7, 2021

The Honorable City Council
City of Whittier
13230 Penn Street
Whittier, CA 90602

Re: Comments on City-wide General Plan Update and associated DEIR

Dear Mayor Vinatieri and Members of the Council:

The Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the City of Whittier's Draft General Plan Update and Housing Element (2021-2029) Update and associated Draft Environmental Impact Report (City documents). The Board of Directors for the Habitat Authority met on August 19, 2021 and submitted comments. The City provided responses, however the below comments are following up on the issues raised:

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

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

Overall, we appreciate the partnership with the City of Whittier for the management of its open space. The following comments are provided again for your careful consideration:

Draft General Plan (version dated July 2021):

1. Figure LUCC-5 Sphere of Influence (p. 38) – Please remove the designation for residential development on Habitat Authority-owned property, Turnbull Canyon. This

property is managed as open space and was purchased with Los Angeles County voter-approved Proposition A funding which prohibits its development.

- The City's response (#16 in Attachment E, General Plan Responses to Comments Table) stated that the County has designated the land use as mentioned above. While that could have been an older land use designation, the County's current Land Use for Turnbull Canyon is Open Space-Conservation (OS-C), not residential per the following link on the Land Use Policy – General Plan 2035 layer: https://rpgis.isd.lacounty.gov/Html5Viewer/index.html?viewer=GISNET_Public.GIS-NET_Public
Please update the General Plan document by eliminating residential development land use in Turnbull Canyon.

2. Mobility and Infrastructure, Goal MI-6.2 (p. 97) – Please consider the following bolded and strikethrough modifications to this goal, ***“Collaborate with the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority to ~~develop~~ a strategy to address parking near trailheads to address parking intrusion into adjacent residential neighborhoods. This strategy could include parking restrictions for non-residents, creation of trailhead lots, and provision of remote parking with shuttle service”***. Changes to parking facilities and access to the trailheads directly affects the management and sustainability of the Puente Hills Preserve. The Habitat Authority manages Puente Hills Preserve trailheads and associated parking lots pursuant to the agreement with the City and welcomes collaborative efforts with the City to address these important issues.

- The City's response (#25) to comments stated that the City's policies were designed to stay flexible to address a variety of locations and land management organizations. As such, we offer the following underlined edit to our original bolded and strikethrough modifications comment to Goal MI-6.2: ***“Collaborate with the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority or other applicable land management organization to ~~develop~~ a strategy to address parking near trailheads to address parking intrusion into adjacent residential neighborhoods. This strategy could include parking restrictions for non-residents, creation of trailhead lots, and provision of remote parking with shuttle service”***.

We understand that the City has full discretion when planning for parking and transportation at it relates to its City-managed facilities and trailheads, such as Murphy Park and the Greenway Trail. However, when efforts are underway that address improvements, parking lots, and access issues relating to trailheads and open space managed by the Habitat Authority, coordination and approval are required as elements of the agreements, A97-172 and A15-128, with the Habitat Authority as these actions affect the management of the trails and natural resources.

Our overlapping goals for providing quality recreation, preserving natural resources, and avoiding or minimizing traffic to the surrounding community can be achieved when collaboration is ignited.

3. Table RM-2 Parks and Recreation Facilities (p. 140) – Arroyo Pescadero is managed by the Habitat Authority as a Natural Park which allows for passive recreation; please change the designation accordingly from its current designation in the draft General Plan as a Specialty Park which allows for active recreation.

- The City's response (#19) stated that since it is within the city park system the designation as a Specialty Park is appropriate. This response is not consistent with the manner in which the trailhead is managed which is the same as Hellman Park which is designated as a Natural Park. It also is not consistent with the Habitat Authority's adopted Resource Management Plan, or the intent of the acquisition of the open space and development of the trailhead. The City's agreements with the County, 58L1-97-0619 and 58L1-94-0034, allowed for the acquisition of the hills and development of the Arroyo Pescadero Trailhead using Proposition A funding. In summary, the purpose of this funding was for acquisition for development of trails, and acquisition to preserve and maintain significant ecological areas and the last remaining chaparral, oak woodland and coastal sage scrub ecosystems.

Active recreation, such as soccer fields would be an allowed use under the Specialty Park designation, and is not compatible with the abovementioned points, therefore we request that Arroyo Pescadero be designated as a Natural Park.

4. The Habitat Authority made two comments about home hardening pertaining to Goals and Policies: Wildfire, Goal 5, PSNH-5.9 (p. 176) and Implementation Plan: Program 22, Fire Hazards Severity Zones (p. 218) <https://www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/get-ready/hardening-your-home/>
 - The City's responses (#27 and #29) referred to the Fire Department's responses and compliance with state law. With the passage of AB 38 in 2019, state law has been chaptered that requires disclosures of low-cost retrofits to structures in high and very fire hazard severity areas (which includes parts of Whittier) when selling homes. The state has recognized the benefits of low-cost retrofits to "harden" homes in fire severity areas, however the phrase "home hardening" was not found in the City documents. Please ensure that proactive education and enforcement if any of home hardening is included in the General Plan or Implementation Plan documents where the City deems appropriate. Home hardening is a critical element in the overall plan to make communities safer.

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

Sincerely,



Mike Hughes
Chair



Ivan Sulic
Vice Chair

cc: Board of Directors
Citizens Technical Advisory Committee
Sonya Lui, Principal Planner, City of Whittier

Development of park at former Puente Hills Landfill in motion after settlement

LA County Sanitation Districts must pay the County \$80 million over next five years for development, maintenance and operation of the park.



On Oct. 31, 2013, the Puente Hills Landfill was shut down. The tall mountain of trash towering above the 60 Freeway was once the largest landfill in the nation, at one time was receiving 13,000 tons of trash per day or about 4 million tons a year — more than 40 percent of all the trash picked up and disposed in the county. (San Gabriel Valley Tribune/Staff Photo by Keith Durflinger)

By [Robert Morales](#) | rmorales@scng.com | Press Telegram

PUBLISHED: October 13, 2021 at 6:10 p.m. | UPDATED: October 13, 2021 at 6:12 p.m.

Following a settlement worked out between Los Angeles County officials and the county's Sanitation Districts, the L.A. County Board of Supervisors has announced that the way has been paved for a regional park to be developed on the former Puente Hills Landfill.

"I am delighted that the sanitation districts are fulfilling their promise to the communities that have faced decades of impacts from the Puente Hills Landfill," Chair Hilda Solis said in a news release Wednesday. "While families in the San Gabriel Valley find beauty in the wilderness of the San Gabriel Mountains, many throughout the region don't have access to parks and open green space.

"To that end, I am proud to have led the original effort to create this 142-acre park resource for our community," Solis added. "Many thanks to all of the cities, community members and advocates that took a stand to support environmental justice and helped us get to this resolution."

The L.A. County Sanitation Districts in 1970 purchased more than 1,200 acres of land to create the landfill. The Sanitation Districts were required to provide portions of the site to the county for park development should the landfill close — which it did in 2013, as part of a 1986 Joint Powers Agreement.

After a dispute over financial responsibility for development, operation and maintenance of the park, Los Angeles County in March 2020 filed a \$283 million lawsuit against the Sanitation Districts, which in response filed a cross-complaint.

The settlement will require the Sanitation Districts to pay the county \$80 million over a five-year span, with \$38 million due in three months. It allows for the development, maintenance of operation of the park, which will have an initial project budget of \$600,000.

**CONTACT:**

Melanie Schlotterbeck, Cell: (714) 501-3133

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 9, 2021

Governor Newsom Signs Bill to Expand Popular Chino Hills State Park

Brea, California—Reversing more than a decade of stagnation wherein the California State Park system did not grow, Governor Gavin Newsom changed course by signing a bill that will grow Chino Hills State Park, an urban wilderness park at the juncture of Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Los Angeles Counties. Senate Bill 266, sponsored by Hills For Everyone, was signed into law on October 9th. The bill requires the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to accept the transfer of approximately 1,530 acres contiguous to Chino Hills State Park. This acreage expands the park by more than 10%.

SB 266 is the third attempt to get the bill through the Legislature. The bipartisan and bicameral effort was led by Senator Josh Newman (D-Fullerton) and Assemblymember Phillip Chen (R-Diamond Bar) along with their respective staffs, Hills For Everyone lobbyists at Tratten-Price Consulting, local cities and agencies, and 32 conservation groups across California. The bill had no documented opposition in the Senate or Assembly.

The acquisition of these critical lands, which protect important habitats and ridges, also builds on the east-west connection from the 14,107-acre State Park to the 4,000-acre Prado Basin,” states Claire Schlotterbeck, Executive Director of Hills For Everyone—founders of Chino Hills State Park. “We are grateful to our many partners including interim stewards, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) and transaction specialists at The Conservation Fund.”

Last year, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-82-20 which sets the goal of protecting 30% of California’s lands and coastal waters by 2030. An estimated eight million acres still need to be protected to reach that goal statewide and that must include acquisitions from DPR, the largest public land manager in the state. These new acquisitions set the Parks Department on a path of once again growing its system which hosts 77 million visitors a year and became even more fundamental to a healthy and recovering California during the pandemic.

“SB 266 will help California reach its goal of preserving 30 percent of the state’s land and coastal waters by 2030,” said Senator Josh Newman (D-Fullerton). “The expansion of Chino Hills State Park will protect precious open space for our beautiful area, an environment that hosts the most biodiversity in any of the lower 48 states.”

The 1999 General Plan for Chino Hills State Park documents lands prioritized for preservation, including the eastern ridgeline, which until recently had mostly been in private ownership. Without the eastern ridgelines under preserved status, the land could have been developed—destroying the viewshed for people and the water quality for wildlife. Since the mid-1970s, these lands were always envisioned for inclusion in the State Park.

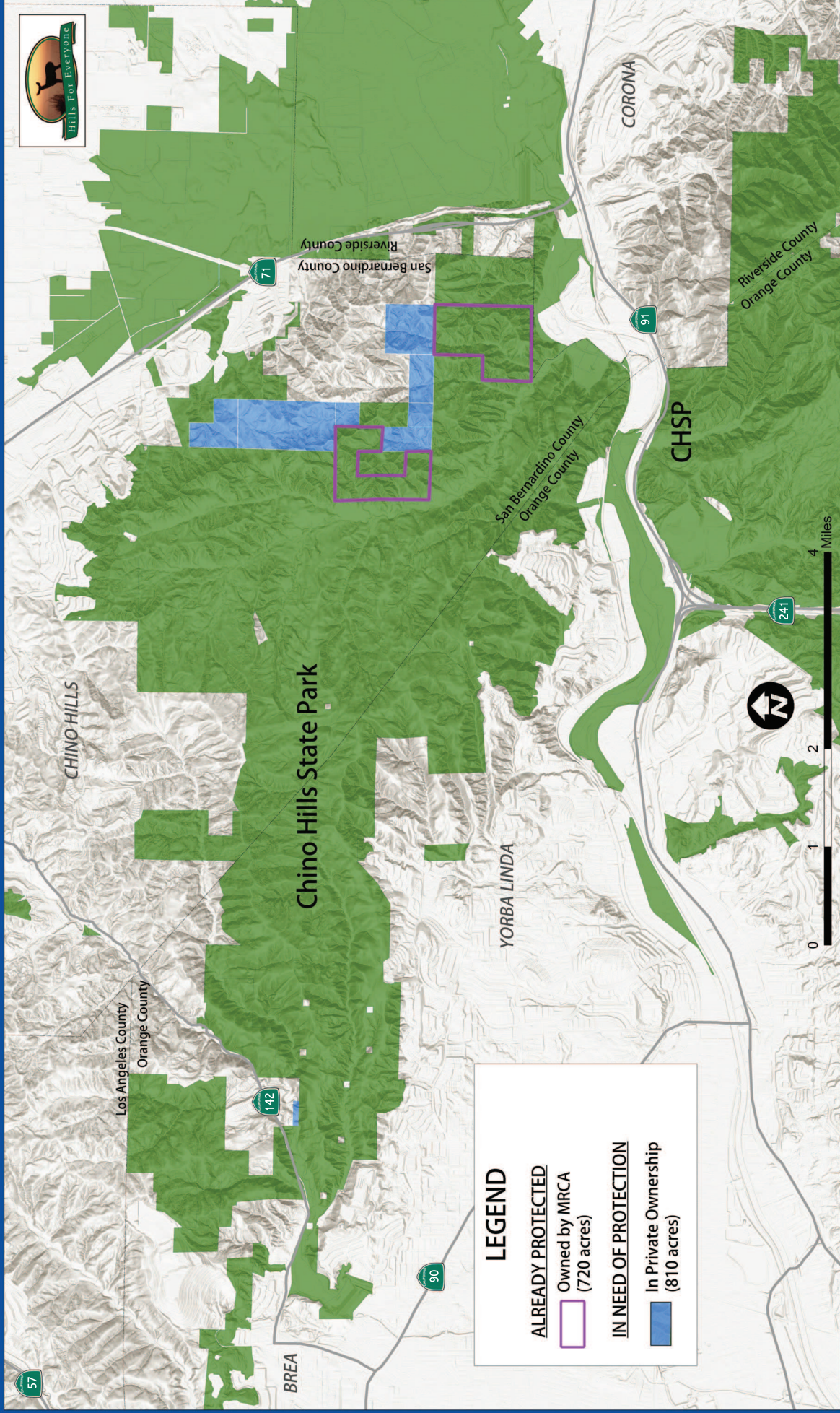
Additionally, State Parks will finally be in compliance with a settlement agreement it reached with Hills For Everyone and the Metropolitan Water District in 2008 to preserve walnut woodlands that were impacted when an access road to the District’s Diemer Water Treatment Plant was built through a portion of the Park.

Of the 1,530 acres included in the bill, 720 have already been protected and are now owned by MRCA. Currently, Hills For Everyone team members are working to finalize more transactions and secure funding. The overall strategy is to have the final two phases completed by 2024 and then added to the State Park. See the attached map for the progress to date.

###

*For more than 40 years, **Hills For Everyone** has worked to preserve the unique and disappearing landscapes of the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor.*

Natural Lands Included in SB 266 (the Chino Hills State Park Expansion Bill)



Data Provided by Department of Parks and Recreation, First American Title, OC Parks, and Orange County Transportation Authority.
Map Last Updated September 2021

Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
Datum: North American 1983
Scale: 1:60,000

Rancho Palos Verdes won't bring shuttle back at popular hiking area

And the user rate for a new mobile parking app system has been less than 10%.



The Rancho Palos Verdes City Council discussed parking issues around Del Cerro Park and the Portuguese Bend area as well as discontinuing a pilot shuttle service which began in April to help alleviate traffic. (photo by Michael Hixon)

By [Michael Hixon](#) | mhixon@scng.com | The Beach Reporter

PUBLISHED: October 7, 2021 at 7:00 a.m. | UPDATED: October 8, 2021 at 2:02 p.m.

The past year's effort to reduce traffic and noise in neighborhoods around Del Cerro Park and the Portuguese Bend Reserve in Rancho Palos Verdes have been successful, officials say — but the pilot shuttle service will not return.

The City Council this week opted to end the shuttle service after initially suspending it in July because of a lack of riders.

Director of Recreation & Parks Cory Linder said the shuttle service, which was funded with \$20,000 for a three-month period through Proposition A funds, had 621 one-way trips from April until it was suspended July 4. The result was approximately \$32 per rider.

“We did see an increase in use at the Civic Center,” Linder said, but “it was not significant enough, and the program itself with the shuttle is proven to be costly.”

The city on Tuesday, Oct. 5, also discussed a mobile parking app it implemented to require advance reservations along Crenshaw Boulevard and Park Place.

After implementing that app, the popular hiking area has a user rate of less than 10%, officials say.

But it's unclear if the usage rate has declined due to the parking plan or is just a natural fall-off in demand for outdoor activities as coronavirus restrictions have been lifted. City officials, however, credited the plan.

And while traffic and noise issues have lessened in the area, some in the city are concerned the mobile app program might be costly.

Deputy Director of Recreation & Parks Daniel Trautner said from July 6 to Sept. 22, there's only been a 5% to 8% user rate at parking areas on Crenshaw and Park Place.

It costs \$110,000 a year for parking enforcement personnel and \$8,808 annually for ParkMobile services. Those recurring costs, along with more than \$24,000 for ParkMobile's initial costs, means the city needs a 25% reservation rate to break even, Trautner said.

"If we can get to a 25% reservation rate for those paid parking spots, combined with any potential revenue associated with those citations," Trautner said, "that would definitely help us cover those costs."

But currently most revenue is coming from citations.

Staff and park rangers have issued 288 citations at \$110, totaling \$31,680 as of Sept. 22. App reservation has so far netted \$2,903.

"I'm not a big fan of getting the majority of our revenue from citations," said Councilman David Bradley. "I think that's really bad public policy."

Bradley, in order to attract more visitors and give them more flexibility to help reach that 25% reservation rate, suggested ParkMobile offer one-hour time periods, not to exceed three hours, and to also allow same-day reservations.

City staff will work with ParkMobile to see if the one-hour reservations are feasible. If not, staff will return with the information to the City Council, possibly before the Dec. 21 meeting, according to city spokeswoman Megan Barnes.

Currently, reservations are available up to midnight the prior evening and are available for blocks up to 3 hours. There are 15 parking stalls available on Park Place adjacent to Del Cerro Park for Recreational Parking Permit holders, as well as two ADA stalls. On Crenshaw, there are 39 parking spaces that are free from 7 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. Monday through Friday. Charge per time block is \$10.35.

Trautner said they allowed users to make reservations without a fee in July. In August, usage was 20% to 30% lower after they started charging.

Senior Administrative Analyst Katie Lozano said the city saw parking double on Crenshaw, north of Crest Road, which does not require reservations and is free, since the mobile app went into effect.

“It appears a lot of people are choosing to walk a bit for the free parking,” Lozano said.

In September 2020, a temporary parking moratorium was placed on a 330-foot stretch of Crenshaw, where currently there are six spaces restricted just before Park Place. The moratorium was to expire on Oct. 19, but it was extended to the Dec. 21 meeting.

Even with a few glitches, which city officials said they hope to iron out, councilmembers were pleased with the parking plan.

“The goal is to reduce that overall impact to the neighbors,” Mayor Eric Alegria said, “and certainly that aspect of the goal, in my mind, has been achieved.”



(<https://www.fws.gov>)

(<https://www.fws.gov>)

Conserving the Nature of America (<https://www.fws.gov>) (<https://www.fws.gov/>)

Search USFWS

◀ Back

Press Release

Interior Department Ensures Migratory Bird Treaty Act Works for Birds and People

September 29, 2021

Contact(s):

Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov (mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Department of the Interior today announced a series of actions to ensure that the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) conserves birds today and into the future. Tomorrow in the *Federal Register*, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will make public a final rule to revoke the January 7, 2021, regulation that limited the scope of the MBTA. In addition, the Service will simultaneously make public an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) announcing the intent to solicit public comments and information to help develop proposed regulations to authorize the incidental take of migratory birds.

“The Migratory Bird Treaty Act, one of our first environmental laws, represents more than 100 years of America’s commitment to protecting migratory birds and restoring declining bird populations,” said **Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland**. “The impacts of climate change coupled with loss and degradation of habitat are pushing more and more wildlife species to the brink. Today we are announcing critical steps to ensure that the Act can help conserve birds today and in the future.”

The January 7, 2021, final rule limiting the scope of the MBTA raised significant concerns from the public and international treaty partners and created numerous legal challenges. With this final and formal revocation of the January 7 rule, the Service returns to implementing the MBTA as prohibiting incidental take and applying enforcement discretion, consistent with judicial precedent and long-standing agency practice prior to 2017.

The Service will also issue a Director’s Order in coordination with the publication of the rules. The Director’s Order provides instruction to Service employees, including expectations for conducting Service activities and establishing criteria for the types of conduct that will be a priority for enforcement activities with respect to incidental take of migratory birds.

“Our next step will be to create a common-sense approach to regulating the incidental take of migratory birds that works to both conserve birds and provide regulatory certainty to industry and stakeholders,” said **Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Shannon Estenoz**. “That’s why the Service is simultaneously publishing an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking announcing our intent to solicit public comments and information as we consider developing proposed regulations.”

Over the last 50 years, the population of North American birds has declined by an estimated 3 billion birds.

Many of the 1,093 species of birds protected under the MBTA are experiencing population decreases due to increased threats across the continent. Just recently, the Service released the *Birds of Conservation Concern 2021* report (<https://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species/birds-of-conservation-concern.php>) with 269 bird species considered to be in greatest need of conservation attention.

Both natural and human-caused sources of bird mortality have contributed to the loss of bird populations. Many industries and projects have voluntarily implemented beneficial practices to avoid and minimize the take of migratory birds; however, bird populations remain in decline. The Service seeks to better protect migratory bird populations by addressing human-caused mortality with an incidental take regulation.

As part of the development of these regulations, the Service is also preparing a draft environmental impact statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. The agency will initiate a new public scoping process to engage in meaningful conversations with stakeholders, receive suggestions, identify significant issues, and share information on the scope of issues and alternatives to consider.

The Service will invite public comments and host virtual public scoping meetings for the general public, stakeholders, and Tribes following the publication in the *Federal Register*.

The final MBTA revocation rule will go into effect 60 days after it publishes in the *Federal Register* on October 4, 2021.

The ANPR will publish in the *Federal Register* on October 4, 2021, opening a 60-day public comment period. The notice will be available at <http://www.regulations.gov> (<http://www.regulations.gov/>), Docket Number: Docket No. FWS-HQ-MB-2021-0105 and will include details on how to submit your comments on to help guide the development of the proposed rule and draft environmental review.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov (<https://www.fws.gov/>).

For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit <http://www.fws.gov/> (<https://www.fws.gov/>). Connect with our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/usfws>), follow our tweets (<https://twitter.com/usfws>), watch our YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/usfws>) and download photos from our Flickr page (<http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwshq/>).

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Home Page (<https://www.fws.gov>) | Department of the Interior (<http://www.doi.gov/>) | USA.gov (<http://www.usa.gov/>) | About the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (https://www.fws.gov/help/about_us.html) | Accessibility (<https://www.fws.gov/help/accessibility.html>) | Privacy (<https://www.fws.gov/help/policies.html>) | Notices (<https://www.fws.gov/help/notices.html>) | Disclaimer (<https://www.fws.gov/help/disclaimer.html>) | FOIA (<https://www.fws.gov/irm/bpim/foia.html>)

Map: 1 of every 8 acres in California has burned in 10 years, and here are the state's biggest fires

The state's eight largest wildfires have all occurred since 2017, and the trend shows no signs of letting up

By [Paul Rogers](#) and [Paiching Wei](#) | pwei@bayareanewsgroup.com |

PUBLISHED: September 29, 2021 at 8:40 a.m. | UPDATED: September 29, 2021 at 8:40 a.m.

If it seems like wildfires in California are getting larger, they are. Nine of the state's 10 largest wildfires since 1932, when modern records began, have occurred in the past decade. And amazingly, the eight largest have all burned since 2017.

Why?

"It's a combination of everything — climate change, decades of fire suppression and drought," said Craig Clements, director of San Jose State University's Fire Weather Lab.

Some fire experts call them "megafires," blazes larger than 100,000 acres that once were rare but are becoming increasingly common.

"I think this trend is going to continue," Clements said. "There's a lot of area that can still burn."

A century of fire suppression has left forests in many areas thick with brush and dead trees. When fires start, either from lightning, downed power lines or other causes, they burn much bigger and hotter than they historically would have because there haven't been regular fires to thin out the landscape.

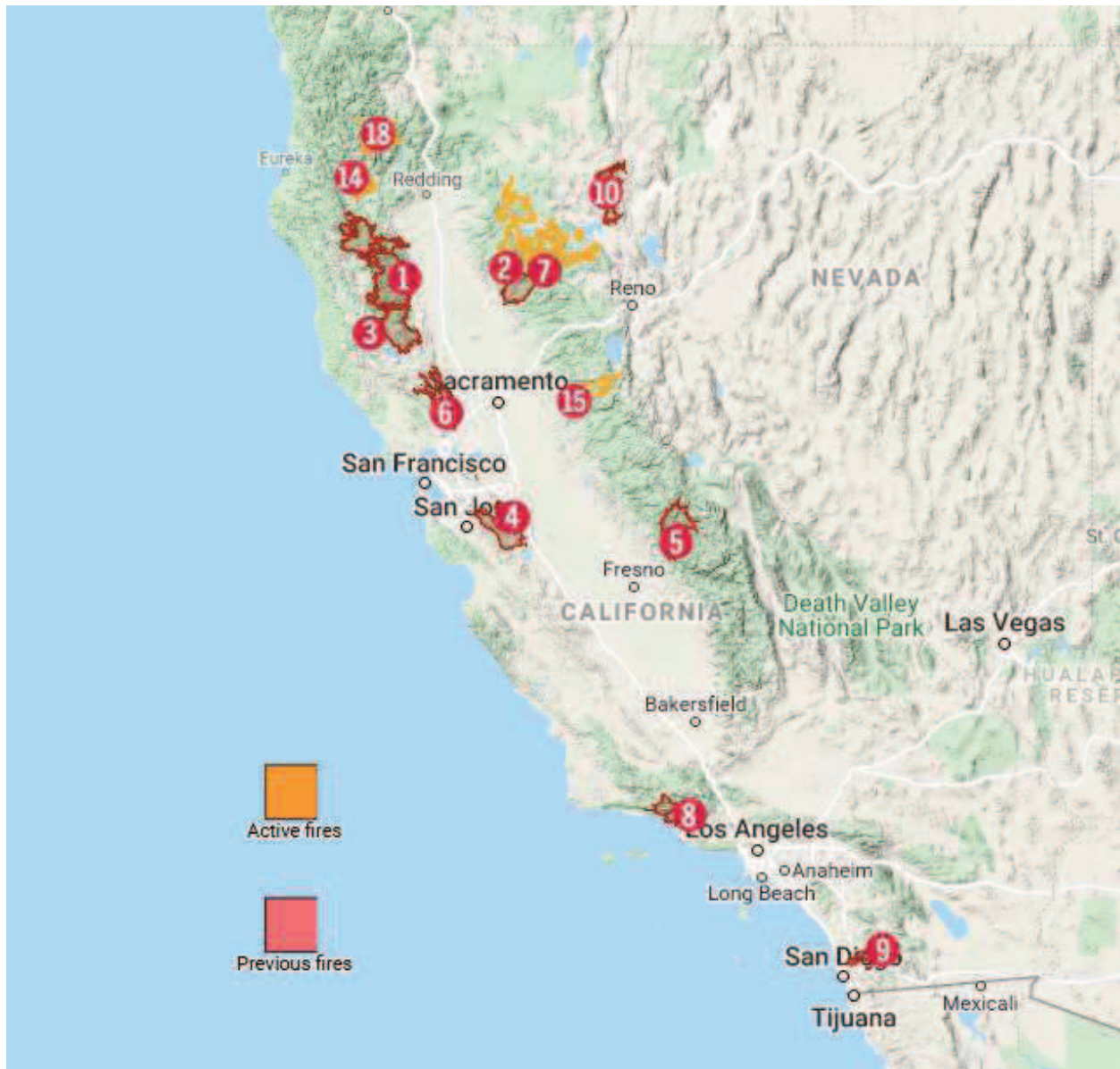
On top of that, California endured a severe drought from 2012 to 2016, and entered a new one last year. The past two years have been the driest in Northern California since 1976-77.

The lack of rain and snow has left vegetation dangerously dry. Add to that, climate change is causing hotter temperatures, particularly at night, a time when firefighters in the past could gain the upper hand. Hotter temperatures are melting snow and causing dry conditions — fire season — to last longer. Meanwhile, more people are moving into fire-prone areas, increasing the risk of ignitions.

Over the past 10 years, back to 2012, at total of 12.7 million acres has burned in California. That's 1 of every 8 acres in the state. And it's double the 6.4 million acres that burned in California during the previous decade.

Fires are often burning hotter, and with larger flame lengths. That's making them harder to put out.

"We are seeing such extreme conditions that a lot of the old tactics aren't working as effectively," said Clay Jordan, superintendent of Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park, at a community briefing Monday on the KNP Complex Fire, which has burned 48,000 acres in the park and is just 8% contained.



Another month or two of fire season remains in most of the state, including the Bay Area, before November rains are expected to reduce the risk.

The second-largest fire in state history, the Dixie Fire, began July 13 near Chico and is still burning. At more than 960,000 acres, it's three times the size of the city of Los Angeles and eight times the size of San Jose. The good news? That fire, which has destroyed 1,329 structures in Butte, Plumas, Shasta, Tehama and Lassen counties, on Tuesday was 94% contained.

Historically, October has been among the most dangerous months for wildfire in California. Vegetation is the driest, and winds blowing from the east toward the ocean — called Santa Ana winds in Southern California and Diablo Winds in Northern California — increase the spread of fire.

The solution? More prescribed burns during wetter months, and more mechanical thinning, said Clements. By some estimates, 20 million acres need to be treated, which will take years.

“I think it’s the only solution,” Clements said.

LARGEST WILDFIRES IN CALIFORNIA

Wildfires in California are getting larger. Nine of the 10 largest wildfires statewide since 1932, when modern records began, have occurred in the past decade.

The Dixie Fire, which began July 13 near Chico, has become the second largest, with 963,309 acres burned as of Sept. 27 — an area three times the size of the city of Los Angeles. Other fires still burning — the Monument Fire, Caldor Fire and River Complex — are currently ranked the 14th, 15th and 18th largest respectively.

		Active fire	Size comparison: 1 square = San Francisco (30,016 acres)			
Rank	Fire	Acres burned	Year	Cause	Structures destroyed	Deaths
1	August Complex	1,032,648	2020	Under investigation	935	1
2	Dixie Fire	963,309	2021	Under investigation	1,329	1
3	Mendocino Complex	459,123	2018	Human related	246	1
4	SCU Complex	396,624	2020	Under investigation	222	0
5	Creek Fire	379,895	2020	Undetermined	856	0
6	LNU Lightning Complex	363,220	2020	Under investigation	1,491	6
7	North Complex	318,935	2020	Under investigation	935	1
8	Thomas Fire	281,893	2017	Power lines	1,063	2
9	Cedar Fire	273,246	2003	Human related	2,820	15
10	Rush Fire	271,911	2012	Lightning	0	0
14	Monument Fire	224,103	2021	Lightning	50	0
15	Caldor Fire	204,436	2021	Under investigation	1,003	1
18	River Complex	198,555	2021	Lightning	122	0

Note: Dixie Fire data as of Sept. 27. Monument Fire, Caldor Fire and River Complex as of Sept. 28.
Source: Cal Fire

PAI/BAY AREA NEWS GROUP

Gov. Gavin Newsom's new state budget, [which he signed last week](#), has \$1.5 billion for wildfire prevention.

Much of that money is to expand forest-thinning, cut fuel breaks and conduct prescribed fire projects on state lands, along with grants to help private land owners and local governments reduce fire risk. There is also funding to increase the number of Cal Fire inspectors and pay for more wildfire research and detection technology.

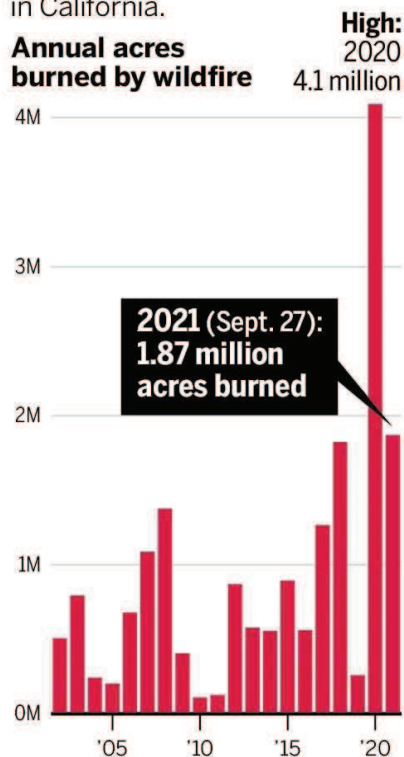
The federal government owns 57% of the forests in California, while the state owns 3% and private landowners own 40%. Newsom called on Congress to appropriate more money for forest thinning and prescribed fires in the West, and to take more action expanding renewable energy and addressing the causes of climate change.

A \$1 trillion infrastructure bill passed the U.S. Senate in August on a bipartisan 69-30 vote. It faces a key vote in the House this week. The bill has \$8 billion for wildfire risk reduction, forest thinning and restoration, and raises the pay of federal firefighters, who make as little as \$13 an hour.

"This is real," Newsom said, asking for more federal help, while he stood in Sequoia National Park as firefighters battled flames only a few miles away. "We need you to put down the swords, rhetorically and otherwise. Get the damn job done. Support the state, our nation, your national forests. Support your kids and grandkids. Protect lifestyles, memories, and places, communities."

GETTING WORSE

Since 2002, fires have been burning more land annually in California.



Source: National Interagency Fire Center
BAY AREA NEWS GROUP

State fire prevention grants awarded for projects in L.A. and Orange counties

More than a dozen groups to receive money from the nearly \$138M fund

By City News Service (from page A3 of newspaper as printed)

September 14, 2021

LOSANGELES» More than a half dozen five-, six and seven- figure state grants intended to reduce fire hazards and increase education about wildfire dangers are earmarked for entities in Los Angeles and Orange counties, it was announced Monday.

The monetary outlays, part of nearly \$138 million in funding for 105 local fire-safety projects across California, will enable public safety agencies to reduce the risk of wildfire through fuel reduction, emergency planning and fire prevention education, according to Cal Fire.

“This year, wildfires have once again been extremely severe and damaging, which only highlights our continued need to perform more community- based fire-prevention projects,” Cal Fire Chief Thomas Porter said. “Our wildfire and forest strategy includes funding these types of

fire-prevention projects to reduce the severity of wildfires and harden our communities.”

In April, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed SB 85, which provided \$536 million to accelerate forest health, fire prevention and climate resiliency. The allocation included \$123 million for Cal Fire’s Fire Prevention Grant Program, including \$50 million from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, with an additional \$73 million coming from the state general fund.

The Los Angeles nonprofit Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs, which was awarded \$4.8 million, is one of many organizations receiving funding for its work to create fireadapted communities in Southern California while building workforce capacity to assist in that goal.

The Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority will use its \$617,862 grant to help maintain defensible spaces at the urban wildland interface, and reduce the fuel load with removal of dead and dying trees through goat grazing.

The San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps and Service Corps was awarded \$611,597 for forest management that selectively removes invasive plants to reduce fire risk.

The Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains was awarded \$389,740 for a project designed to improve homeowner management of defensible space within the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

La Habra Heights will use its \$249,250 grant to remove large sources of fuel and creating more defensible firebreaks across the city. The primary goal of the program is to protect critical primary

evacuation routes by clearing hazardous fuel in close proximity to the city's most heavily trafficked roads.

The Santa Catalina Island Conservancy was awarded \$185,826 to reduce invasive plant species on the island such as fennel, flax-leaved broom and harding grass that increase the fuel load and intensity of wildfires. The goal is to reduce the prevalence of those species on roadways to protect egress and fire breaks.

The ArtCenter College of Design in Pasadena was awarded \$161,491 to create a visually compelling statewide campaign to raise awareness of the severe wildfire risks due to climate change and drought in California. The campaign will focus on digital forms of communication (email, social media, Web), building upon the large combined audiences of the American Red Cross and ArtCenter.

In Orange County, the city of Yorba Linda will use its \$866,610 grant to target sites that contain some of the heaviest stands of fine fuels and nonnative trees and are in close proximity to high-density residential neighborhoods, high-intensity power lines, water facilities and community facilities, including schools, parks and churches.

The city of Brea was awarded \$436,462 to reducing the risk of blazes in very high fire hazard severity zones through a variety of prevention and planning efforts, including code enforcement, homeowner education and assessment of more than 960 structures vulnerable to ignition, the vast majority residential.

The Orange County Fire Authority was awarded \$250,794 to purchase equipment to be used when completing fuels projects throughout the county, including grading fire access roads, thinning roadside vegetation and removing hazardous dead or dying foliage.

Other Southland recipients and their grant amounts:

- City of Sierra Madre, \$71,420;
- City of Hidden Hills, \$42,875;
- City of Malibu, \$65,000; and
- Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness Foundation, \$133,740.