

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

November 16, 2021, Tuesday, 7 p.m.

LOCATION:

This meeting will take place remotely in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e) et seq. (AB 361) and Resolution 21-03, adopted by the Board on October 20, 2021. Members of the public can observe and participate in the meeting as follows:

Join Zoom Meeting, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85076119889>

Meeting ID: 850 7611 9889

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

Meeting ID: 850 7611 9889, Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85076119889>

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

Members of the public may provide electronic comments by Monday, November 15, 2021, by 4:00 p.m. to mmiller@HabitatAuthority.org. Please label the email in the subject heading as “Public Comments.” Public comments may also be verbally heard during item III of the meeting.

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

AGENDA

- I. Call to order.
- II. Roll call.
- III. Public comments.
- IV. Approval of Minutes for the October 20, 2021, Special Meeting.
- V. Standing Reports:
 - a) Report from social media subcommittee.
 - b) Committee Member feedback from the public as it relates to the Habitat Authority.
- VI. Discussion, receive and file September 2021 and First Quarterly 2021-2022 Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) Ranger Reports.

- VII. Discussion and possible recommendation to the Board of Directors regarding funding needs for the Authority as it relates to funding for wildfire prevention and management of agency properties.
- VIII. Update, discussion and possible recommendation to the Board of Directors regarding the Whittier City People Mover project that may potentially provide access services to Hellman Park Trailhead.
- IX. Discussion and possible recommendation to the Board of Directors regarding authorizing Executive Director to execute a non-bid contract with Nakae and Associates for landscape maintenance services in an amount of \$20,000.
- X. Discussion and possible recommendation to the Board of Directors regarding authorizing Executive Director to execute a non-bid contract with Nakae and Associates for native landscaping to implement the Turnbull Canyon habitat enhancement project in the amount of \$41,179.
- XI. Receive and file Authority comment letter to County regarding the Safety Element Update.
- XII. Receive and file Authority letter of support for Caltrans' "SR-91 Wildlife Undercrossing Implementation Project" grant proposal.
- XIII. Update and discussion regarding redistricting efforts of Los Angeles County Supervisorial Districts as it relates to the Authority.
- XIV. Discussion, Committee members' statements, Executive Director's comments, responses or questions.
- XV. Adjournment and announcement of next meeting.

The Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority is a public entity established pursuant to the Joint Exercise of Powers Act by agreement between the City of Whittier, Los Angeles County, and Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County. Regular meetings of the Citizens Technical Advisory Committee are scheduled for the Tuesday before the third Thursday of every month. NOTE: 72 hours prior to Citizens Technical Advisory Committee meetings, the entire Citizens Technical Advisory Committee agenda package is available for review, along with any meeting-related writings or documents provided to a majority of the Committee members after distribution of the agenda package, at the Authority's website, www.habitatauthority.org. Questions about any agenda item can be addressed to Andrea Gullo, Executive Director, 562.945.9003. NOTE: Members of the public may address the Committee on any item shown on the agenda. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, if you require a disability related modification or accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please call Melissa Miller at the Habitat Authority office 562.945.9003, at least 48 hours prior to this meeting.

DRAFT Minutes
PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY
CITIZENS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
October 20, 2021

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

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85872784842> Meeting ID: 858 7278 4842

- and - Phone by joining at these numbers: +1 (669) 900 6833 or +1 (253) 215 8782

Meeting ID: 858 7278 4842 , Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kc7sbW26bW>

The special meeting of the Citizens Technical Advisory Committee was held on Wednesday, October 20, 2021, via video and telephonically.

I. CALL TO ORDER.

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

II. ROLL CALL.

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

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

Members Absent:	Karen Chang	County of Los Angeles
	John Houser	County of Los Angeles
	Ray Wong	Whittier

Authority Representatives Present:

Andrea Gullo, Executive Director
Michelle Mariscal, Ecologist
Melissa Miller, Administrative Assistant

Kenn Hughes, Deputy Chief Ranger, Mountains Recreation
and Conservation Authority (MRCA)

**Members of the
Public Present:** none

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

There were no public comments.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE SEPTEMBER 14, 2021, REGULAR MEETING.

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

V. STANDING REPORTS:

a. REPORT FROM SOCIAL MEDIA SUBCOMMITTEE.

Member Andros reported that Executive Director Gullo has been posting very actively this past month on Instagram.

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

There was nothing to report for this item.

VI. DISCUSSION, RECEIVE AND FILE AUGUST 2021 MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (MRCA) RANGER REPORT.

Deputy Chief Ranger Hughes answered questions from some Committee members and added that the Whittier Police are using evidence from the Authority's security cameras at Arroyo Pescadero, in their pursuit of several theft suspects. The Committee received and filed this report.

VII. DISCUSS AND UPDATE REGARDING BROWN ACT COMPLIANCE FOR REMOTE MEETINGS FOLLOWING ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 361.

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

VIII. RECEIVE AND FILE INFORMATION ABOUT AUTHORITY VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS: CLAUDIA ALVAREZ, LICHIA GONZALES, AND PAM HILL.

Executive Director Gullo reviewed this item as presented in the staff report, adding that approximately 25 of the Authority's volunteers remain active despite the continuing pandemic conditions. The Committee received and filed this report.

IX. DISCUSSION AND UPDATE REGARDING RENAMING A TRAIL OR DESIGNATING AN OVERLOOK STATION IN HONOR OF SERVICE TO THE AGENCY PROVIDED BY FORMER BOARD MEMBER, BOB HENDERSON.

Executive Director Gullo reviewed this item as presented in the staff report, adding that both Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn and the City of Whittier have expressed desire to contribute funding toward the implementation of this recognition of Bob Henderson's extensive service.

X. DISCUSSION AND UPDATE REGARDING CONTRACT FOR MULTIPLE TREE REMOVALS ON AUTHORITY OWNED PROPERTIES. THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED BY A GRANT FROM THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY.

Executive Director Gullo briefly reviewed this item as presented in the staff report, adding that the Board of Directors approved execution of this contract at their meeting earlier today.

XI. DISCUSSION AND UPDATE REGARDING PURCHASING A MOWER. THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED BY A GRANT FROM THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVER AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY.

Executive Director Gullo briefly reviewed this item as presented in the staff report, adding that the Board of Directors approved this purchase at their meeting earlier today.

XII. DISCUSSION AND UPDATE REGARDING CONTRACT FOR ROOF REPLACEMENT ON AUTHORITY OWNED PROPERTY.

Executive Director Gullo briefly reviewed this item as presented in the staff report, adding that the Board of Directors approved execution of this contract at their meeting earlier today.

XIII. DISCUSSION AND UPDATE REGARDING ENTERING INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH S & S SEEDS INC. FOR COLLECTION OF NATIVE SEEDS FROM THE AUTHORITY'S PROPERTIES AT NO COST.

Ecologist Mariscal reviewed this item as presented in the staff report, adding that the agreement's initial term will actually be for two years instead of one year, and can be renewed annually thereafter. Executive Director Gullo noted that the Board of Directors approved execution of this agreement at their meeting earlier today.

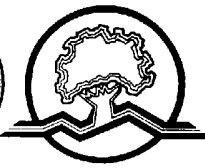
XIV. DISCUSSION, COMMITTEE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS, RESPONSES OR QUESTIONS.

Executive Director Gullo reported that there was recently another small fire along Colima Road, the second within a week's time, and this one was on Oct. 15 and only about 50' x 30' in size before it was extinguished by county fire personnel. She also noted that the Conservation Corps of Long Beach is continuing its brush clearance efforts which expand on the clearances already accomplished by the rangers and the Authority's contractors.

Chair Lawrence noted that the City of Whittier recently received \$5 million for the renovation of Parnell Park's facilities, and Executive Director Gullo noted that the Authority will be seeking similar funding next year for its own projects.

XV. ADJOURNMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING.

There being no further comments, or business to be discussed, Chair Lawrence adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting date is November 16, 2021.



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

September 30, 2021

**Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority
Ranger Services Activities for September 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.
- Monitoring the Conservation Corp from Long Beach clearing the fire roads in Arroyo Pescadero and Arroyo San Miguel.
- Attended an all staff meeting regarding Covid 19 policy.
- Participated in the job walk for the dead tree removal project in La Habra Heights.
- 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.
- Checked on the new gate at Punta Del Este. Met with L.A. County Parks. Installed our lock and a La Habra Heights Fire lock on the gate.
- Continue to monitor the contractors installing the Heli-hydrant at the Diaz Property in La Habra Heights.
- Picked up dumping including:
 - Orange cones at Arroyo Pescadero.
 - Oil and mattress on Colima Road.

- 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 September the following animal was observed.
 - Deer on Colima Road.
- Continue to monitor the Harbor underpass. No activity to report.
- 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 twice in September.
- Continue monitoring the surveillance cameras at various trailheads in attempt to catch the vehicle break-in perpetrators. We are also coordinating with Whittier Police and L.A. County Sheriff.
- Continue to contact the Los Angeles County Department of Street Maintenance regarding the graffiti along Turnbull Canyon Road.
- Re-installed map in the kiosk at Sycamore Canyon.
- Received a report of a fallen branch in the fuel modification zone at Arroyo Pescadero.
- 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 Sycamore Canyon, Hacienda Hills, Powder Cyn. and Arroyo Pescadero.
 - Parking violations at Arroyo Pescadero, Hacienda Hills Trailhead, Sycamore Canyon and Ford property.
 - Loud music in the Hacienda Hills.
 - Subject collecting cactus pads at Sycamore Canyon.
 - Marijuana at Arroyo Pescadero.
 - Alcohol in Arroyo Pescadero and Turnbull Canyon.
 - Warn and advise electric bikes in Powder Canyon and Hacienda Hills.
 - Dogs off leash at Hacienda Hills and Arroyo Pescadero.
 - Bikes in Arroyo Pescadero.

- Received a report of a missing person in the Hacienda Hills. The person was found shortly after.
- 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.
- 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:
 - Several calls for hikers locked in at Hellman Park.
 - Question regarding parking at Sycamore Canyon.
 - Hiker locked in at the end of Orange Grove Ave.
 - Car was broken into at Sycamore Canyon.
 - Inquiring if he can hike in the hills after posted hours.
 - Concerned about a dead coyote in the hills.
 - Reporting cars parked in the red zone at Arroyo Pescadero.
- 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

**MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

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

September 30, 2021

**Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority
 2021-2022 First Quarter Ranger contacts report**

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

	* Hacienda Heights				** La Habra Heights				*** Whittier				TOTAL			
QUARTERS	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Parking Violations	19				20				21				60	0	0	0
Bicycle Activity	4				10				8				22	0	0	0
Dogs Off Leash	6				2				6				14	0	0	0
In park after hour	12				13				54				79	0	0	0
Vehicles off-road	0				0				0				0	0	0	0
Alcohol	8				0				8				16	0	0	0
Marijuana	4				0				4				8	0	0	0
Smoking / Fire	0				0				0				0	0	0	0
Vehicle code violations	0				0				0				0	0	0	0
Trespass / Off Trail	0				0				0				0	0	0	0
Other	15				2				5				22	0	0	0
TOTAL	68	0	0	0	47	0	0	0	106	0	0	0	221	0	0	0

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

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

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

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

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

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

A local public agency exercising joint powers of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Conejo Recreation and Park District, and the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District pursuant to Section 6500 et seq. of the Government Code.

Outreach has been suspended due to the pandemic and budget constraints.
The following list is the number of people that the rangers have contacted through outreach programs.

	NUMBER OF PEOPLE				TOTAL
QUARTERS	1	2	3	4	
Jr. Ranger program	0	0	0	0	0
Presentations	0	0	0	0	0
Events	0	0	0	0	0
Organized work programs	0	0	0	0	0
Juveniles from community service	0	0	0	0	0
Hikes	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0

The Jr. Ranger programs are typically presented to students at: La Colima Elementary School in Whittier, Meller Elementary School in Pico Rivera, El Portal Elementary School in La Habra, Los Robles Academy Elementary School in Hacienda Heights, Hoover Elementary School in Whittier, and Macy Elementary School in La Habra, as well as several Girl Scout Troops from the surrounding areas.

Events typically include: Hacienda Heights 4th of July parade, Whittier Uptown Holiday Parade, La Habra Heights Avocado Festival, Whittier Founders Day, Earth Day, the City of Whittier SKILLS Foundation Event, and the Los Angeles County Fair.

Organized work programs include the Los Angeles County Fire Camp Crews.

If you have any questions, or would like any additional information, please feel free to contact me anytime. Thank you.

Sincerely,

K E Hughes

Kenn Hughes
Deputy Chief Ranger

MEMORANDUM

Meeting Date: November 16, 2021

To: Citizens Technical Advisory Committee

Prepared by: Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Agenda Item: **VII. Discussion and possible recommendation to the Board of Directors regarding funding needs for the Authority as it relates to funding for wildfire prevention and management of agency properties.**

Background:

A major challenge the Habitat Authority faces is that its revenues have significantly decreased (approximately 20%) while its costs to maintain and protect its land and to prevent local wildfires have increased. Staff anticipate that maintenance costs will continue to increase into the future, in part due to the greater recreational use of the properties, as well as climate factors (drought combined with warmer temperatures) which have increased the risk of wildfires. Additionally, the Authority's Measure A maintenance and servicing funds are in flux, and not as accessible for Authority needs as once anticipated. The Authority has made cuts to its already shoestring budget, including not filling a staffing vacancy and decreasing annual expenses such as community outreach, office and field supplies, and professional training. The Authority provides necessary preservation/maintenance/management services, such as annual fire fuel clearance, hazardous tree removal, and ranger (wildland fighter/law enforcement) patrol services, and is exploring ways to generate revenue to cover and improve those and other basic services. A grant from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy helped to close the deficit gap in the current fiscal year. A grant from CalFire will assist with decreasing the deficit gap for fiscal years 2022-23, and 2023-24. However, long term needs still remain.

Agency needs have been discussed in detail with the Board's subcommittee for the exploration of a special tax in collaboration with staff and Authority consultant, SCI Consulting Group. The agency has annual financial needs in the amount of approximately \$630,000 for fire prevention and safety. This would include fuel clearance, ranger patrol, and an additional staff member. However, more realistic needs of the agency for fire prevention and safety needs include those mentioned, plus goat clearance, hazardous tree removal, wildfire planning, and fence repair in the amount of approximately \$809,000. Additionally, natural resource management needs include wildlife surveys and monitoring, vegetation mapping and deferred maintenance in the amount of approximately \$68,000 annually. To fund these needs, the Board subcommittee would continue to work with staff and SCI in all steps necessary to implement public polling, which is Task 2 of the

approved contract with SCI. Two rates under \$20 will be tested in the public opinion poll. Results of the polling would later be brought back to the Board for discussion and action for next steps, expected in March 2022.

Additional needs of the Habitat Authority that could benefit the region and contribute to better management of the Puente Hills for wildfire safety and natural resource protection are as follows:

- a) New office/visitor interpretation area/ranger command center in Sycamore Canyon. This would provide the community and volunteers an easily accessible place to visit and learn about natural resources and provide the Authority staff and rangers a place to collaborate. (ballpark estimate \$1.8 million)
- b) Repair Sycamore Canyon backhouse/ranger residence. (ballpark estimate \$350,000)
- c) Security upgrades to the trailheads, such as with cameras or gates
- d) Repairs and upgrades to the ranger residences
- e) An open-air water tank, closed water tanks or fire hydrants on Turnbull Canyon Road to service the western portion of the Preserve. (Installation of fire hydrants would be outside the scope of this agency.)
- f) New monument and/or interpretive signage at trailheads that reflects the agency's current name.
- g) Restoration of non-native vegetation
- h) Ongoing trail maintenance
- i) Full-time interpretive staff to educate about stewardship (this helps increase recreational enjoyment and community involvement, decrease illegal behaviors and promote natural resource protection)

Senator Archuleta's office is accepting budget requests and possibly other state offices are accepting budget requests for next fiscal year's state budget. With the Board's direction, estimates could be developed for some of the above items, (a) through (e), and submitted for funding consideration.

Recommendation: That the Committee recommends to the Board of Directors that they approve the funding needs of the agency; direct the Board subcommittee to pursue the exploration of funding fire prevention and safety, and natural resource management needs; and direct staff to prepare estimates for additional needs and submit for possible state funding.

Fiscal Impact: None at this time.

MEMORANDUM

Meeting Date: November 16, 2021

To: Citizens Technical Advisory Committee

Prepared by: Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Agenda Item: **VIII. Update, discussion and possible recommendation to the Board of Directors regarding the Whittier City People Mover project that may potentially provide access services to Hellman Park Trailhead.**

Background:

The City of Whittier is exploring the idea of a People Mover system in support of the Whittier Strategic Plan Goal 5, “Promote a strong economic base”. A People Mover would connect key destinations in the study area, including The Groves Whittier, PIH Health Whittier Hospital, Whittier College, Uptown, Hellman Park Trailhead, The Quad and/or Whittwood. Please see the attached fact sheet and timeline.

According to agreements A97-172 and A15-128 between the City and the Authority, coordination and approval are required when efforts are underway that address improvements, parking lots, and access issues relating to trailheads and open space managed by the Authority, as these actions affect the management of the trails and natural resources.

Upon the City’s invitation, on November 4, 2021, Authority staff participated in one of two planned community stakeholder meetings. Possible considerations for the Authority include: a) supporting this access method to Hellman Park, given that the trailhead is closed to vehicles; b) the ability for the Authority to have dynamic interaction with the destination delivery system if the trails are closed due to posted hours, fire, rain, emergency, or maintenance; c) the ability to take the Hellman destination out of the People Mover system in the future if there is a long-term environmental matter to address. The next stakeholder meeting will be in January 2022, and they are holding public community meetings as well.

Additional Background:

The City Council met on July 30, 2020 for an initial goal-setting meeting. They subsequently set their goals on November 10, 2020. On December 8, 2020, Council adopted the City of Whittier Strategic Plan according to the established objectives and

timeline. On September 14, 2021, the Council approved the contract with the consulting firm, IBI Group, to provide the feasibility analysis of the project. Please see the project scope of work, attached.

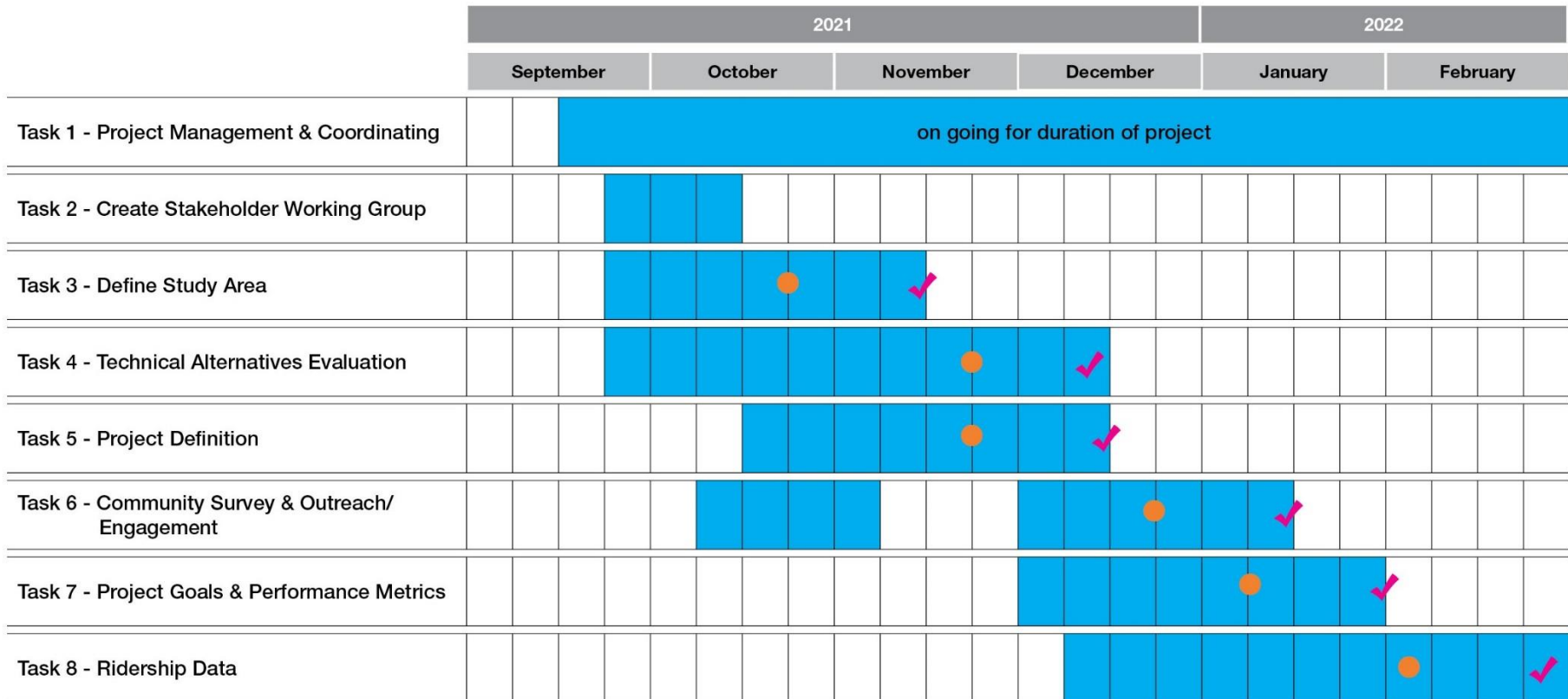
Recommendation: Discuss and provide possible recommendation to the Board.

Fiscal Impact: Unknown at this time.

Attached: City fact sheet, timeline, and project scope of work

IBI GROUP – SHARED AUTOMATED PEOPLE MOVER PROJECT

REVISED SCHEDULE SEPTEMBER 2019



● Draft Deliverable ✓ Final Deliverable

Revised: 08/27/21





UPTOWN WHITTIER PEOPLE MOVER PROJECT

To best meet the transportation and mobility needs of the residents, businesses and visitors to our City: studying the feasibility of an *Uptown Whittier People Mover* service.



A study to look at potential routes for a small-scale circular transit route that would connect key destinations in the study area, including The Groves Whittier, PIH Health Whittier Hospital, Whittier College, Uptown, Hellman Park, The Quad and/or Whittwood. This microtransit project will build upon lessons learned from several similar initiatives implemented in other California cities, but will also focus on addressing key mobility needs in the Whittier community.

The City has retained the consulting firm, *IBI Group* to assist in undertaking this study. Our consultant's work plan includes:

- **Investigation** – Review and understand the unique conditions of the diverse and varied constituencies of the city's study area.
- **Innovation** – identify and analyze mobility solutions, vet these with the community.
- **Solutions** – develop an action and implementation plan, describing proposed deployment plan and its benefits.

- Extensive and Interactive Stakeholder Engagement
- Learn from Peers
- Apply Industry Knowledge
- Look Ahead
- Be Pragmatic





"Transit will help
me get to my job"



Key Considerations

- Best understand local attitudes & community values.
- What are the City's unmet mobility needs?
- What are the key local origins & destinations?
Job access? Shopping/Retail? Residential? Medical services?
- What are the critical markets in the study area?
Employees? Youth? Seniors? Students? Commuters?
- What kind of service is justified for the study area?
Future service requirements? Role of mobility as an economic engine?
- What does the community want?
Surveys. Stakeholder Outreach/Consultation.

"Transit will help
us get to the
office!"

"Transit will
help me get to
class"



"Transit will help
us get to the
Senior Center"



VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday, November 10th – 6:00-7:30PM

We would like to hear your thoughts on the mobility needs of Whittier residents, businesses, and visitors, and on the key characteristics this new service should incorporate to fully address these needs.

Microsoft Teams (virtual) meeting: **Join on your computer or mobile app (the link is also available on the City's home page).** www.tinyurl.com/WhittierUptownPeopleMover

Or call in (audio only): [+1 619-595-6255](tel:+16195956255), [330981655#](tel:+1330981655)

Community Survey: Link to an on-line Community Survey will be posted on the City's home page.
For more information please contact Martin Browne, mbrowne@cityofwhittier.org or 562 567 9400

EXHIBIT A

SCOPE OF SERVICES, TIMELINE, AND FEE SCHEDULE

City has determined that it requires a feasibility study of economic impacts, beneficial opportunities, and an operational assessment associated with a proposed intra-city electric automated people mover serving the Uptown Whittier area which includes:

1. Coordinate and meet with city representatives (kick-off meeting) to understand the unique goals, general plan, land-use patterns, mobility plans, ongoing efforts and other relevant policies, plans and programs that may influence future decisions related to the project.
 - i. Deliverable: Complete report for the corridor/study area. Create and maintain meeting agendas, minutes, notes, and action items.
2. In conjunction with city staff, form a Stakeholder Working Group to support, review and provide ongoing guidance throughout the development of the study. The Working Group shall meet up to four times at key points throughout the process.
 - i. Deliverable: Create stakeholder group and maintain meeting agendas, minutes, notes, and action items. Compile a final report detailing how all comments and recommendations will be integrated into the overall study.
3. Define a study area that captures a 1- to 2-mile radius from the corridor/alignment for proposed route and bus stop locations. The study area shall serve as the basis for collecting and analyzing data to evaluate economic impacts/benefits of the automated people mover.
 - i. Deliverable: Complete a study area technical report that includes a list and inventory of all data inputs.
4. Build upon current transit-oriented development criteria developed by Metro, SCAG, and the Gateway Cities Council of Governments (COG), and other leading agencies to understand best practices for operating an automated people mover in other areas of the country and craft up to six mobility alternatives. The alternatives shall account for and incorporate the need for transit-supportive development, amenities, and serve the Groves in Whittier, Hellman Park, PIH Health Hospital, Whittier College, the Uptown Whittier areas and connectivity options to the Quad and the Whittwood Mall.
 - i. Deliverable: Alternatives screening criteria; technical evaluation report of initial alternatives to ensure project is consistent with local and regional transportation plans.

5. Develop a project definition that will serve toward creating a unified vision and theme that will reinforce the use of an automated people mover. The project definition shall include an economic analysis, multi-modal connectivity study, and implementation strategies such as, but not limited to:
- a) Grant funding opportunities;
 - b) Recommended sites for safe and accessible curbside boarding;
 - c) Recommended frequency and alignment of route(s);
 - d) Recommended number of vehicles along with locating a site for maintenance and overnight storage and charging;
 - e) Developing a maintenance plan;
 - f) Travel demand forecast for each alternative;
 - g) Recommended measures to protect all road and sidewalk users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorcyclists, and other vulnerable road users. Likewise, the study must implement measures to minimize possible damage caused by the automated people mover to the road, road signs, sidewalks, and roadside infrastructure to the maximum possible extent;
 - h) Proposed budget for initial year capital and operations and subsequent 1-5 years for operations including insurance and maintenance;
 - i) Regulatory regulations pertaining to the use of an automated people mover in Los Angeles County, California;
 - j) Access to mobile applications and use of technology for real time arrival times, fare payments, and general information;
 - k) Identification of vehicle design;
 - l) Identification of potential operational partners to collaborate with the city to operate the service;
 - m) Description of vehicle options and design including number of passengers, dimensions, cost to purchase;
 - n) Review of best practice operations from around the world;
 - o) Operations, capital, and maintenance budget for year one and subsequent two-five years;
 - p) Potential route alignment with schedules, stop locations, headway, number of vehicles, speed, and frequency;
 - q) Description of marketing strategies and a media campaign;
 - r) Multi-modal connectivity to other transit routes, bike trails, pedestrian sidewalks and proposed new light rail transit stop; and
 - s) ROW enhancement, opportunities for acquisition and modernization of streets.
- i. *Deliverable* – Complete a draft final report of the Project Definition including the supportive studies and analysis along with a description of the service and the overall significance of the project to the city.

6. Conduct a community-wide survey and two community focus group meetings to determine need and identification of service enhancements.
 - i. Deliverable – Draft a community-wide survey for the use and need of an automated system which reviews operations, accessibility, safety, right of way, land use, economic, and environmental factors and complete two community focus group meetings to obtain stakeholder input and ideas for enhancements.
7. Develop a list of expected target goals and how they will be monitored, throughout the life of the project, to ensure the success of a potential project.
 - i. Deliverable – Complete a list of target goals with a matrix defined in terms of service provided, passengers per hour, quality of service etc. draft final report of the Project Definition including the supportive studies and analysis along with a description of the overall significance of the project. Develop a project definition that will serve toward creating a unified vision and theme.
8. Outlines ridership data for the People Mover consistent with the California Air Resources Air Board's California Climate Investments (CCI) quantification for Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) Projects.
 - ii. Deliverable – Provide ridership data which includes annual ridership increase and annual Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) of proposed transit vehicle.

MEMORANDUM

Meeting Date: November 16, 2021

To: Citizens Technical Advisory Committee

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

Agenda Item: **IX. Discussion and possible recommendation to the Board of Directors regarding authorizing Executive Director to execute a non-bid contract with Nakae and Associates for landscape maintenance services in an amount of \$20,000.**

Background:

The Authority has held a landscaping contract annually since 2003. Previously, long-term landscaping contracts were bid in 2003 and again in 2010 and awarded each time for a five-year period with amendments issued to extend the timeframes. Nakae and Associates was the lowest and most qualified bidder in each instance. From 2018 through 2020 the Board approved non-bid contracts with Nakae for one-year periods spanning the majority of the subsequent years. The current contract expires on December 16, 2021. The proposed new contract would be executed upon expiration of the current contract and continue for a twelve-month period. The new contract in the amount of \$20,000 is consistent with the agency's approved budget for FY 2021-22.

Approving this new contract with Nakae will allow for continued maintenance of the Authority's Preserve entailing invasive weed removal, trailside vegetation maintenance, trailhead native vegetation maintenance, and other needs as they arise. The various tasks would be implemented on an as-needed basis only after Nakae provides cost estimates based on approved rates to ensure that the contract budget is adhered to.

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

Nakae is a licensed landscape/general engineering contractor established in 1984 and incorporated in 1985. They have experience restoring and maintaining over 7,000 acres of native habitats with projects in California, Utah and Arizona. Nakae has served the Authority exceptionally well with several contracts over the years. Their communication, flexibility, coordination, and quality of work has been outstanding. Additionally, they have always stayed within their budgets. Their knowledge of the Preserve's native vegetation and invasive weeds has proven to be extremely effective and beneficial for meeting the Authority's unique needs. The rates for a contract in the amount of \$20,000 are attached for your reference. The only change in the rates from last year to this year is a \$1.00 per hour increase for the Landscape Maintenance Laborer position and a \$5 per hour increase for the Superintendent position to reflect medical and State-wide wage increases. In accordance with the Authority's Purchasing Policies, contracts over \$10,000 need Board approval.

Fiscal Impact:

This proposed action is consistent with the Authority's approved budget for the fiscal year.

Recommendation:

That the Committee recommends to the Board of Directors that they approve a non-bid contract with Nakae and Associates, Inc. for landscaping services in the amount of \$20,000 for the period of one-year and authorize Executive Director to execute.

09 November 2021

PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY
Attention: Ms. Michelle Mariscal
7333 Greenleaf Avenue, First Floor
Whittier, CA 90602

Re: Native Landscape Maintenance Projects

Dear Ms. Mariscal:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the following proposal for the above referenced project. Our proposal is based on the following scope of work.

SCOPE OF WORK

- Provide labor, equipment and materials needed to complete various landscape maintenance tasks associated with native landscape projects throughout areas managed by the Habitat Authority. All work will be completed on a time and materials basis utilizing the attached rates.

BUDGET

***Not to Exceed*..... \$ 20,000.00**

SPECIFIC EXCLUSIONS

- Permits or fees.
- Performance or payment bonds (unless requested and we can charge against the contract for the bond premium).
- Large tree removals or trimming.
- Monitoring or reports.
- SWPPP.

NOTE

- All work will be completed utilizing California Prevailing Wage Rate Determinations for "Landscape Maintenance Laborer", Determination #SC-LML-2021-1.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,


Kevin P. Kirchner
KPK/cm

Attachment

F:\Info & Forms\Proposal\2021\110921-PHHPA- Native Landscape Maint Projects.docx

LABOR & EQUIPMENT RATES Prevailing Wage "Maintenance"	
ITEM	RATE/PERIOD
Labor	
Project Manager	\$ 125.00 /hour
Superintendent	\$ 90.00 /hour
Landscape Maintenance Foreman	\$ 45.00 /hour
Landscape Maintenance Crew Leader	\$ 35.00 /hour
Landscape Maintenance Laborer	\$ 28.00 /hour
**Operated Rates'	
*Trencher 'Operated'	\$ 100.00 /hour
*Backhoe 'Operated'	\$ 100.00 /hour
*Skiploader 'Operated'	\$ 85.00 /hour
*Dump Truck 'Operated'	\$ 85.00 /hour
*Water Truck 'Operated'	\$ 75.00 /hour
*DC 80 Dozer 'Operated' (w/boom sprayer)	\$ 125.00 /hour
*750 HL Wheel Loader	\$ 100.00 /hour
*8840 Farm Tractor 'Operated'	\$ 120.00 /hour
*T770 Bobcat 'Operated'	\$ 85.00 /hour
**Bare Rates'	
**Super-Cab Pickup	\$ 100.00 /day
**Flat Bed Truck (w/200 gal sprayer)	\$ 150.00 /day
**Compressor	\$ 125.00 /day
**Wacker	\$ 75.00 /day
**200-Gal. Sprayer	\$ 100.00 /day
**Hand Tiller	\$ 100.00 /day
**Arrowboard	\$ 75.00 /day
**Irrigation Trailer	\$ 50.00 /day
**4x4 Kubota ATV	\$ 75.00 /day
**Auger Attachment	\$ 10.00 /hour
**8' Disk Attachment	\$ 25.00 /hour
**14' Mower Attachment	\$ 25.00 /hour
**81' Tiller Attachment	\$ 25.00 /hour
**Flail Mower Attachment	\$ 25.00 /hour

Rates are good for twelve (12) months from date of proposal.

All work will be completed utilizing California Prevailing Wage Rate Determinations for "Landscape Maintenance Laborer", Determination #SC-LML-2021-1.

MEMORANDUM

Meeting Date: November 16, 2021

To: Citizens Technical Advisory Committee

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

Agenda Item: **X. Discussion and possible recommendation to the Board of Directors regarding authorizing Executive Director to execute a non-bid contract with Nakae and Associates for native landscaping to implement the Turnbull Canyon habitat enhancement project in the amount of \$41,179.**

Background:

In 2012, the Habitat Authority executed a Right of Entry agreement with a project permittee for restoration of habitat in the Turnbull Canyon area as mitigation for the permittee's off-site project impacts. Also, approved in coordination with regulatory agencies was a document entitled Habitat Restoration Plan for the Approximately 1.359-Acre Turnbull Riparian Restoration Area. Following a subsequent dispute, the Habitat Authority and the permittee have recently executed a settlement agreement which has provided funds to enhance the former restoration site.

The scope of work for the project includes two years of site preparation to clear the 1.35-acre site of weeds and debris, hand seeding with a native seed mix, and two years of maintenance, all in close coordination with the Habitat Authority ecologist. The site will not be irrigated and therefore will rely on natural precipitation to germinate the weed seed bank during the site preparation phase as well as to germinate the native seed mix following installation. The project timeframe is anticipated to be from fall/winter in fiscal year 2021-22 through fiscal year 2025-26. If the proposed contract is approved, work would begin immediately. Attached is the proposal by Nakae and Associates, Inc in the amount of \$41,179. The contract amount includes a 1% contingency to cover unforeseen costs or circumstances.

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

Habitat Authority's Preserve and knowledgeable about history of the specific habitat enhancement area. In accordance with the Authority's Purchasing Policies, contracts over \$10,000 need Board approval.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact with this project. The costs associated with this work would be covered with funds received from a settlement agreement.

Recommendation:

That the Committee recommends to the Board of Directors that they approve a non-bid contract with Nakae and Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$41,179 and authorize Executive Director to execute.

MEMORANDUM

Meeting Date: November 16, 2021

To: Citizens Technical Advisory Committee

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

Agenda Item: **XI. Receive and file Authority comment letter to County regarding the Safety Element Update.**

Background:

The Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning is updating the County's General Plan Safety Element to protect communities from risks posed by wildfire, extreme heat, drought, flood and other climate hazards. This update was necessitated by three state laws relating to addressing climate adaptation and resilience strategies, evaluating emergency evacuation routes, and identifying residential developments in hazard areas that have fewer than two emergency evacuation routes. Specifically, the Habitat Authority's comment letter expressed support for two proposed Fire Hazard Policies which would be modified or added to the Safety Element during this update:

- (1) prohibit new subdivisions in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ) unless located outside of the wildland urban interface, surrounded by existing development, and the level of service capacity of adjoining major highways can accommodate evacuation. Discourage subdivisions in all other FHSZs; and
- (2) support the retrofitting of existing structures in FHSZs to meet current safety regulations, such as the building and fire code, to help reduce the risk of structural and human loss due to wildfire.

The former would replace a less restrictive policy that only discouraged development in Very High FHSZs; the latter has been modified from the original to specify that current safety regulations, such as building and fire codes, need to be met. Additionally, the Habitat Authority recommended a modification to policy (1) above, namely that new subdivisions be prohibited in, **and adjacent to**, Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

The deadline for submitting public comments was November 4. The attached letter from Chair Hughes was submitted because this deadline was prior to the next scheduled Board meeting and because the letter fit the following agency correspondence policy criteria adopted in July 2020:

The Executive Director with Chair approval, or the Chair, has the authority to send letters of support to public and private organizations on time-sensitive matters that prevents a letter from being approved beforehand by the full Board that support the mission of the Authority without having a draft approved by all Authority Directors. These letters should be consistent with the mission of the Authority and include, but are not limited to, comments on developments, policies or legislation that could affect the Authority. The letters will be provided to the Board at the subsequent Board meeting.

Recommendation:

Receive and file.



October 28, 2021

Dept. of Regional Planning
Los Angeles County
320 W Temple St
Los Angeles CA 90012
climate@planning.lacounty.gov

Re: Safety Element Update

To whom it may concern:

The Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Draft Safety Element Update. Specifically, the Habitat Authority writes to express our support of Fire Hazard Policies S 4.1 and S 4.8:

Policy S 4.1: Prohibit new subdivisions in VHFHSZs unless located outside of the wildland urban interface, surrounded by existing development, and the level of service capacity of adjoining major highways can accommodate evacuation. Discourage subdivisions in all other FHSZs.

Policy S 4.8: Support the retrofitting of existing structures in FHSZs to meet current safety regulations, such as the building and fire code, to help reduce the risk of structural and human loss due to wildfire.

The Habitat Authority is a public 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 (Preserve). The Preserve and surrounding communities are almost entirely designated as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) within the respective State and Local Responsibility Areas. Additionally, the boundaries of the Preserve are almost entirely surrounded by

development and therefore at the wildland urban interface which poses challenges for reducing wildfire risk due to increased ignition opportunity. A substantial portion of the Habitat Authority's annual operating budget goes towards brush clearance and fuel abatement at the wildland urban interface to create defensible space for our neighbors. For these reasons, the Habitat Authority expresses its support for prohibiting future subdivisions within Very High FHSZ, as defined in Fire Hazard Policy S 4.1, and further recommends the following modifications (in bold italics) to that policy:

Policy S 4.1: Prohibit new subdivisions in ***or adjacent to*** VHFHSZs unless located outside of the wildland urban interface, surrounded by existing development, and the level of service capacity of adjoining major highways can accommodate evacuation. Discourage subdivisions in all other FHSZs.

It is crucial to limit development within the wildland urban interface; however, as written, the Safety Element draft does not define the limits of the wildland urban interface which would make interpretation of this policy difficult. Further, nor does it clearly define how "surrounded" by existing development a proposed subdivision site would need to be in order for the prohibitions to be lifted. The Habitat Authority recommends that these definitions be clearly stated in the document.

Fire Hazard Policy S 4.8 is especially supported because upgrades to existing structures, or any home hardening retrofits as outlined by CalFire (<https://www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/get-ready/hardening-your-home/>) may slow the spread of wildfires within communities and reduce damage to structures.

These policies have the potential to prevent loss of life and property from future wildfires; would ease public agency financial burden of additional fuel abatement that new subdivisions within the wildland urban interface would necessitate; and would reduce the impact to natural resources that are already exposed to many edge effects at the wildland urban interface and therefore have the full support of the Habitat Authority.

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

Sincerely,



Mike Hughes
Chair

cc: Habitat Authority Board of Directors and Advisory Committee

MEMORANDUM

Meeting Date: November 16, 2021

To: Citizens Technical Advisory Committee

Prepared by: Michelle Mariscal, Ecologist

Through: Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Agenda Item: **XII. Receive and file Authority letter of support for Caltrans' "SR-91 Wildlife Undercrossing Implementation Project" grant proposal.**

Background:

In late October, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), solicited the Habitat Authority for a letter in support of a grant proposal that would advance implementation of an upgrade to the existing B Canyon undercrossing beneath the 91 freeway near the Riverside-Orange County line. The proposal, entitled "SR-91 Wildlife Undercrossing Implementation Project", will be submitted to the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) for consideration for their 2021 Wildlife Corridor and Fish Passage grant program. At the time this staff report was written the attached support letter had been submitted to Caltrans for their grant request because the submission deadline (November 19) was prior to the next scheduled Board meeting and because the letter fit the following agency correspondence policy criteria adopted in July 2020:

The Executive Director with Chair approval, or the Chair, has the authority to send letters of support to public and private organizations on time-sensitive matters that prevents a letter from being approved beforehand by the full Board that support the mission of the Authority without having a draft approved by all Authority Directors. These letters should be consistent with the mission of the Authority and include, but are not limited to, comments on developments, policies or legislation that could affect the Authority. The letters will be provided to the Board at the subsequent Board meeting.

State Route 91 is a barrier for wildlife movement in the Santa Ana to Puente-Chino Hills Linkage area necessitating wildlife crossing structures beneath the barrier to facilitate safe passage and genetic connectivity. While the existing 12ft x 12ft concrete drainage culvert at B Canyon provides an opportunity for wildlife movement beneath SR-91 it is currently not able to function as a wildlife corridor because of an existing bend that blocks line of sight for wildlife, leading to their reluctance to use it as a crossing. The proposed project will straighten the alignment of the culvert to give wildlife an unobstructed view from end to

end and will incorporate a 400ft sound barrier to dampen traffic noise and light. Plantings will also be used to create a natural-appearing approach and further encourage wildlife use.

Because the Santa Ana Mountain lion population is the source population for individuals that utilize the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor and contribute to the ecological balance of Habitat Authority-managed publicly owned open space, enhancing the Santa Ana to Puente-Chino Hills Linkage is of utmost importance. The lion population in the Santa Ana Mountain range is suffering from inbreeding and is on the verge of extinction if connectivity is not restored and enhanced throughout the region. The extinction of this apex predator would have rippling effects on the local and regional ecosystem.

Caltrans, The Nature Conservancy, and partners previously secured a Wildlife Conservation Board grant to fund planning for the restoration and protection of the existing Temecula Creek Bridge and vicinity as a functional wildlife crossing beneath I-15 in the Santa Ana to Palomar Mountains Linkage area. In July 2020, the Habitat Authority submitted a letter of support for another successful grant request to the Wildlife Conservation Board which enabled Caltrans to initiate planning and environmental compliance documents for a second wildlife crossing structure south of the Temecula Creek Bridge, called the Rainbow Canyon Wildlife Crossing, as a critical next step in fully restoring wildlife connectivity across I-15. In combination, these wildlife crossing projects could have a dramatic long-term impact on furthering habitat protection and wildlife movement between the Puente-Chino Hills and the Santa Ana Mountains.

Recommendation:

Receive and file.



Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority

Endowment Provided by the Puente Hills Landfill

Item XII

November 4, 2021

Mr. Don Crocker
Wildlife Conservation Board
PO Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244

Subject: **SUPPORT** for the California Department of Transportation's Wildlife Conservation Board Wildlife Corridor and Fish Passages Program Grant Proposal Entitled **"SR-91 Wildlife Undercrossing Implementation Project"**

Dear Mr. Crocker:

The Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) supports the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 8 proposal entitled "SR-91 B Canyon Wildlife Undercrossing Implementation Project" submitted for funding under the Wildlife Conservation Board's Wildlife Corridor and Fish Passages Grant Program for 2021.

The Habitat Authority is a public 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.

The Habitat Authority owns and/or manages 3,889 acres which comprise the Puente Hills Preserve in which over \$100 million of public funds have been invested. The Preserve is part of the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor which is biologically connected to the Santa Ana Mountains in the proposed project area. Wildlife crossing opportunities are highly constrained in this corridor linkage area due to SR-91 and we recognize that the Caltrans project proposal will advance implementation of an upgrade to the existing B Canyon undercrossing beneath the 91 freeway that will enhance connectivity for mountain lions and other wildlife. Additional crossing opportunities are crucial for improving connectivity between the Santa Ana River corridor and Chino Hills-Puente Hills north of SR-91 and conserved lands to the south in the Santa Ana Mountains included within the Western Riverside County Multi-Species Conservation Plan.

Our agency has focused much time and energy on the conservation of wildlife movement within and between the Puente-Chino Hills and Santa Ana Mountains, and we remain dedicated to working with our partners to improve and restore connectivity for large and small wildlife. We remain concerned about recent research findings indicating severe inbreeding and high

percentages of vehicular mortality among the mountain lion population in the Santa Ana Mountains. The California Fish and Game Commission recently (April 2020) accepted for consideration the petition to list an evolutionarily significant unit (ESU) of mountain lions (*Puma concolor*) in southern and central coastal California as threatened or endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). The Commission declared that the Southern California/Central Coast ESU of mountain lions is a candidate species for listing under CESA. The listing petition provides supporting documentation highlighting the critical need for the regionwide enhancement and restoration of connectivity within major landscape scale linkages, including the linkage between the Santa Ana Mountains and Puente-Chino Hills.

We applaud the Wildlife Conservation Board for prioritizing funding associated with past solicitations that are currently allowing Caltrans and partners to advance planning for the restoration and protection of the Temecula Creek Bridge and Rainbow Canyon Wildlife Crossing for I-15 in the Santa Ana to Palomar Mountains Linkage area. Initiating planning and environmental documents for this additional connection is a critical step in promoting broader connectivity for mountain lions and other wildlife in the Santa Ana Mountains.

Once again, the Habitat Authority strongly supports the Caltrans B Canyon Wildlife Crossing Implementation Project proposal. We are confident that the plans developed for upgrading the B Canyon wildlife crossing for SR-91 initiated under this grant, if awarded, will have a dramatic long-term impact on furthering habitat protection and wildlife movement between the Puente-Chino Hills and the Santa Ana Mountains, and will bolster conservation investments made to date in Los Angeles, Orange, and Riverside counties. We look forward to seeing this project implemented. If you have any questions, please reach out to our Ecologist, Michelle Mariscal at mmariscal@habitatauthority.org.

Sincerely,



Mike Hughes
Chair

Copy: Habitat Authority Board of Directors and Community Advisory Committee

MEMORANDUM

Meeting Date: November 16, 2021

To: Citizens Technical Advisory Committee

Prepared by: Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Agenda Item: **XIII. Update and discussion regarding redistricting efforts of Los Angeles County Supervisorial Districts as it relates to the Authority.**

Background:

According to Los Angeles County's website, every ten years supervisorial districts must be redrawn in Los Angeles County so that each district is reasonably equal in population. Redistricting in Los Angeles County in 2021 is being conducted by the 14-member Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC) that is independent of the Board of Supervisors. They will redraw the districts based on data collected during the 2020 U.S. Census, the boundaries of which will be in effect for the next ten years.

The CRC's final supervisorial district map must be in accordance with the following criteria:

- Districts will be reasonably equal in total resident population – about 2 million each.
- Districts shall comply with the Federal Voting Rights Act.
- Districts must be geographically connected.
- Districts should be drawn so as to minimize dividing cities, neighborhoods, or communities of interest.

The Commissioners voted on October 28, 2021 to move four draft maps (Options A, B, C and D) forward for further public input and discussion. Those maps are attached for your information. There have been several public hearings to date, and there will be more in November to solicit reactions to the current options. On December 15, 2021, the CRC will vote on and adopt the final map. Once finalized, the CRC will file the Final Redistricting Plan with the County Registrar-Recorder. Unless the plan is subject to a referendum petition, it will take effect 30 days after it is filed.

More information can be found at the following website: *redistricting.lacounty.gov*.

There will be further discussion at the Authority meeting about possible implications for this agency.

Recommendation: None.

Fiscal Impact: Unknown at this time.

Attached: Fact sheet and maps.



Redistricting Fact Sheet

A first in Los Angeles County history! An independent Los Angeles County Citizens Redistricting Commission (LA County CRC) will redraw the supervisorial districts for the next 10 years.

What You Need to Know

How This Redistricting Process Differs From Past Practices

In the past, the Board of Supervisors had the final say before adopting the final redistricted boundaries. Today, the LA County CRC is designed to be independent from the influence of the Board and reflect the County's diversity.

Redistricting Overview

Our work involves adopting supervisorial districts that are about equal in population – about 2 million people per district – based on U.S. Census data. Other considerations are fairness regarding race and ethnicity; not splitting cities, neighborhoods, and communities of interest; and having compact districts.

Why Redistricting Matters

At the local level, periodic redistricting can help to:

- Ensure our County's diverse population and communities have opportunities to have their voices heard
- Enable voters to elect representatives of their choosing and not draw supervisorial districts in such a way as to dilute fair opportunities
- Have Supervisors be responsive to the preferences and needs of residents through:
 - Public policies to improve lives
 - Public services and resources (e.g., public health and medical centers, social services, parks, sheriff, municipal services to unincorporated areas and contract cities... and many more)

We want a transparent and inclusive process. Have your voice heard by:

- Attending our regular meetings
- Sharing your thoughts at our Public Forums and Public Hearings
- Submitting written public comments
- Preparing and submitting maps for consideration
- Letting others know about redistricting

Sign up! Get involved:

<https://redistricting.lacounty.gov/>



Who We Are

Co-Chair Daniel Mayeda

Co-Chair Carolyn Williams

Commissioner Jean Franklin

Commissioner David Holtzman

Commissioner Mary Kenney

Commissioner Mark Mendoza

Commissioner Apolonio Morales

Commissioner Nelson Obregon

Commissioner Priscilla Orpinela-Segura

Commissioner Hailes Soto

Commissioner Saira Soto

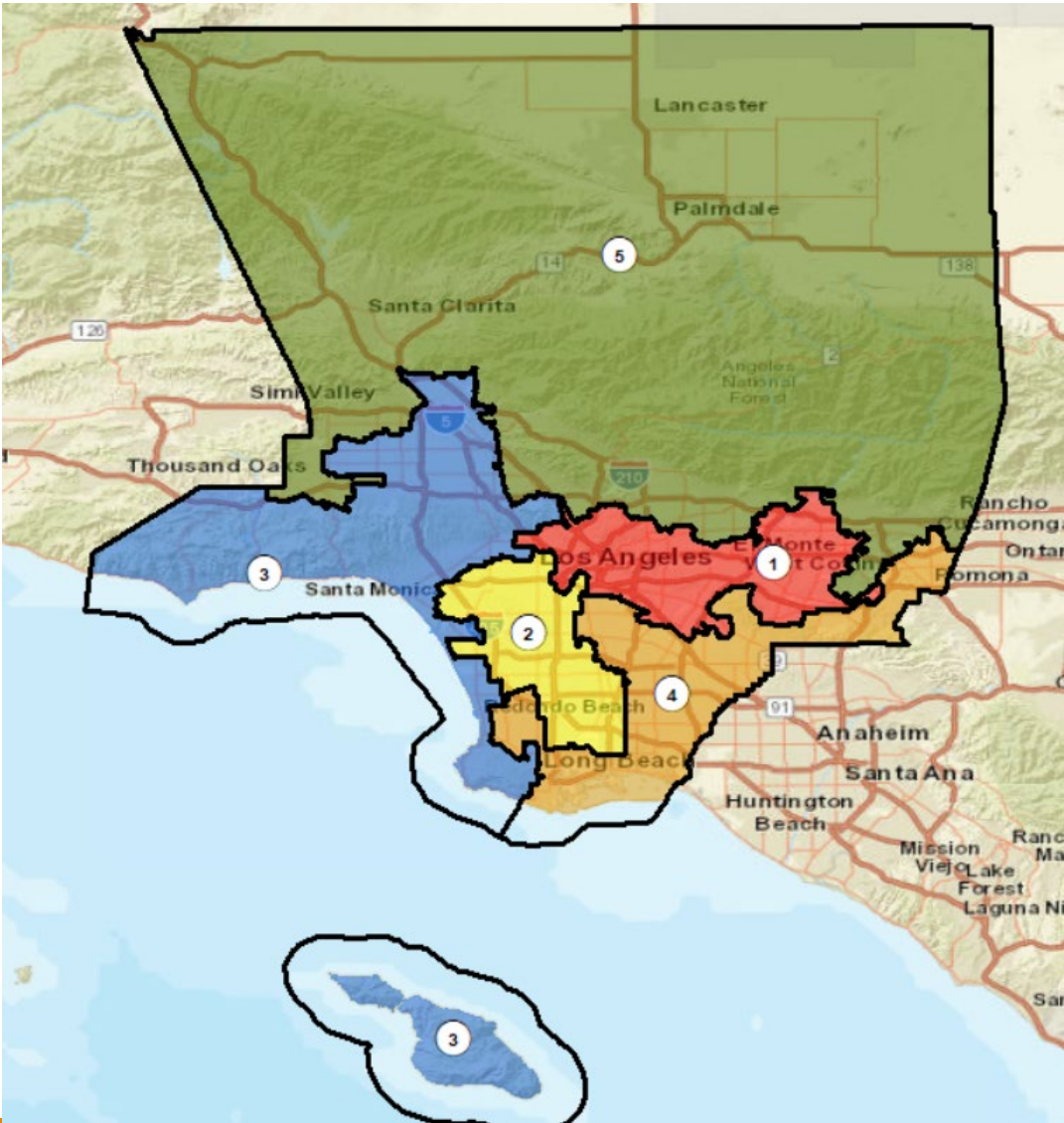
Commissioner Brian Stecher

Commissioner John Vento

Commissioner Doreena Wong

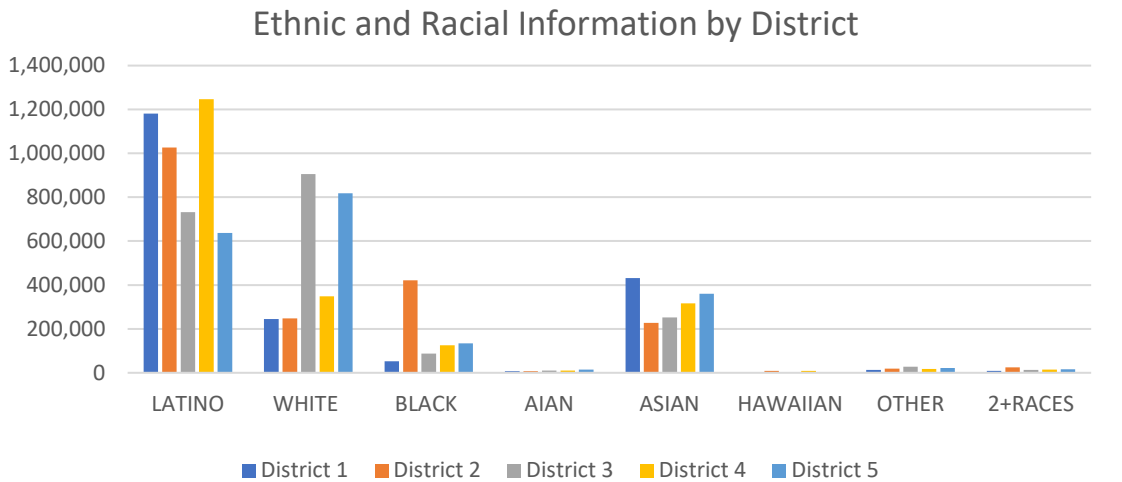


Plan Name: Draft Map A

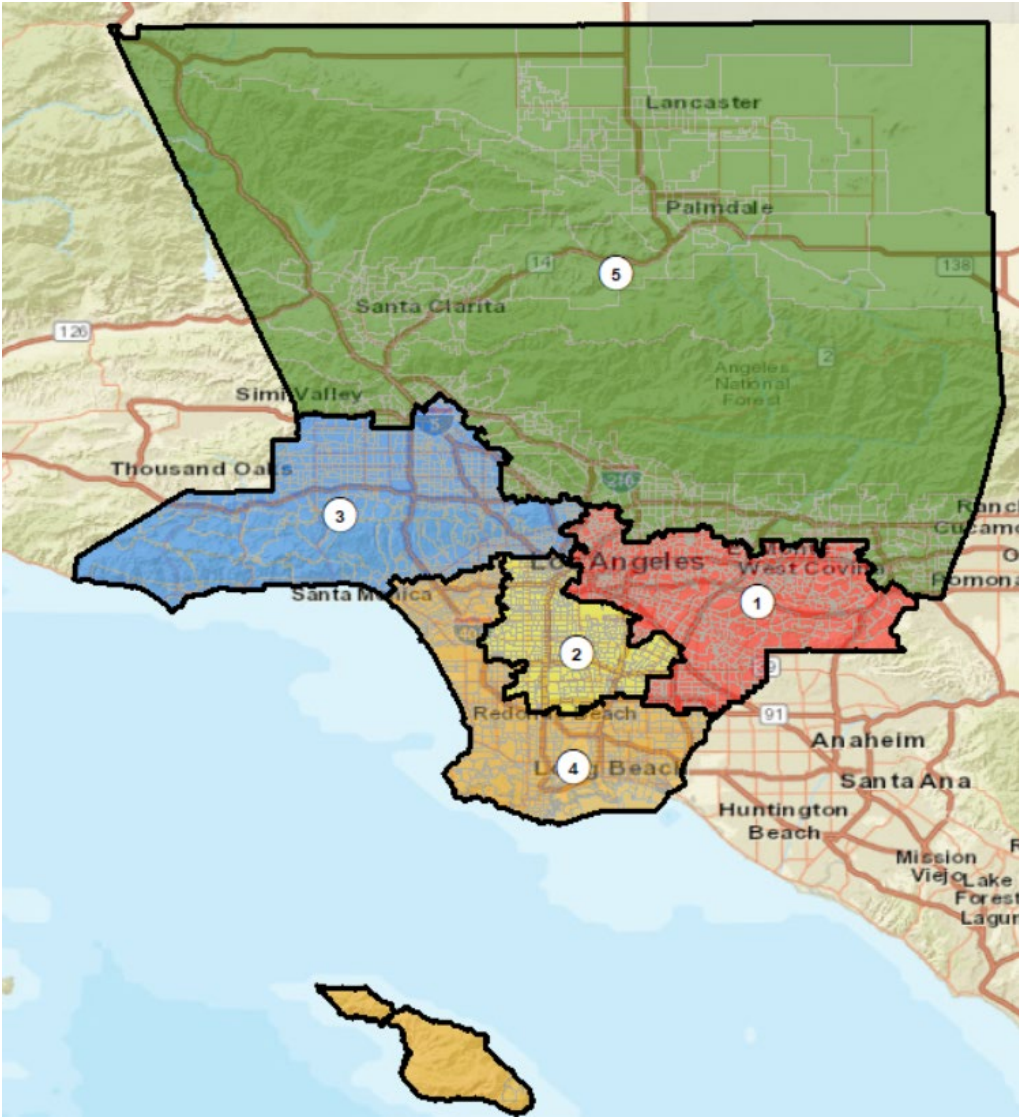


Maximum Deviation – 7.23%			
Name	Total Pop	Deviation	Deviation %
1	1,942,986	-66,599	-3.31%
2	1,980,711	-28,874	-1.44%
3	2,031,020	21,435	1.07%
4	2,088,372	78,787	3.92%
5	2,004,837	-4,748	-0.24%

District	Latino	%	White	%	Black	%	Asian	%
1	1,180,718	60.77%	245,646	12.64%	52,993	2.73%	432,100	22.24%
2	1,026,064	51.80%	247,249	12.48%	421,915	21.30%	227,137	11.47%
3	731,615	36.02%	905,494	44.58%	87,481	4.31%	252,292	12.42%
4	1,246,664	59.70%	349,027	16.71%	125,648	6.02%	316,878	15.17%
5	636,642	31.76%	818,525	40.83%	134,794	6.72%	359,685	17.94%



Plan Name: Draft Map B

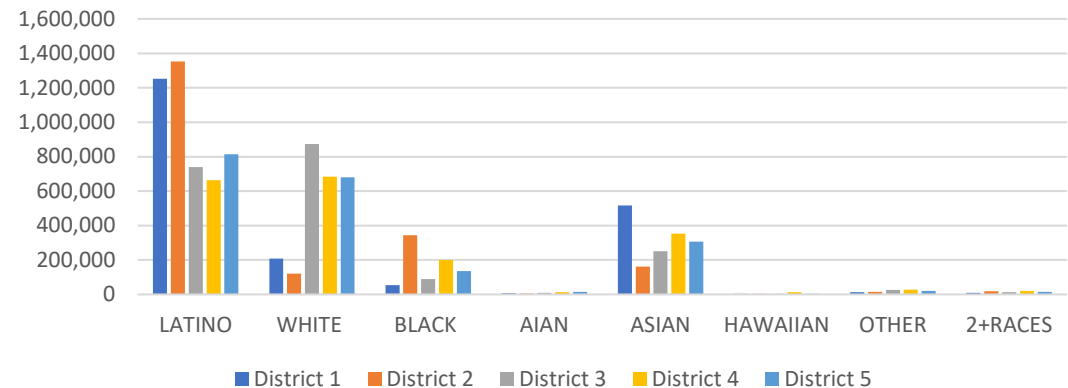


Maximum Deviation – 4.57%

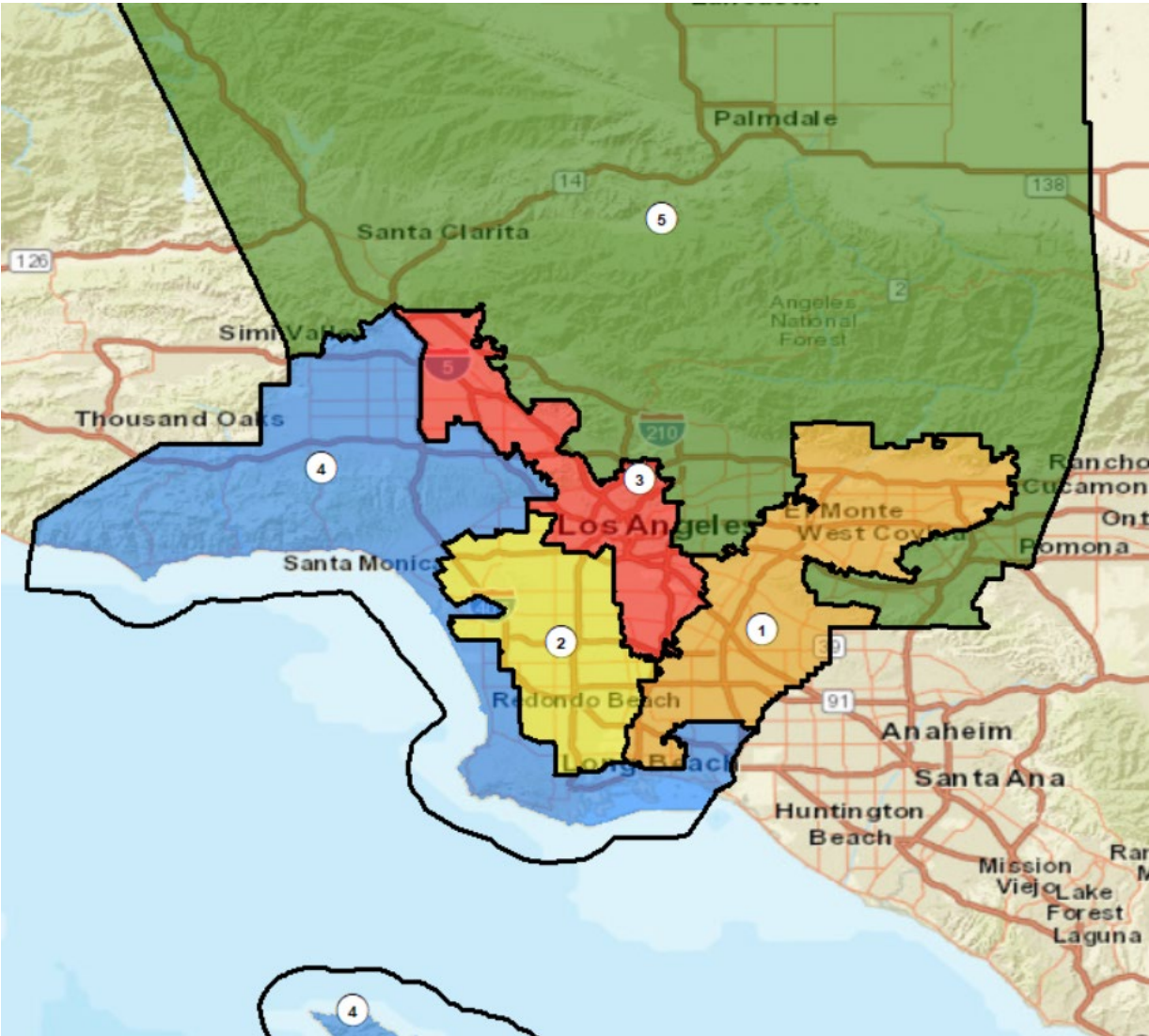
Name	Total Pop	Deviation	Deviation %
1	2,063,488	53,903	2.68%
2	2,020,611	11,026	0.55%
3	2,004,374	-5,211	-0.26%
4	1,971,558	-38,027	-1.89%
5	1,987,895	-21,690	-1.08%

District	Latino	%	White	%	Black	%	Asian	%
1	1,252,297	60.69%	208,008	10.08%	53,333	2.58%	517,245	25.07%
2	1,352,459	66.93%	120,365	5.96%	344,560	17.05%	161,160	7.98%
3	740,331	36.94%	873,500	43.58%	89,112	4.45%	251,423	12.54%
4	662,919	33.62%	684,188	34.70%	199,986	10.14%	352,169	17.86%
5	813,697	40.93%	679,880	34.20%	135,840	6.83%	306,095	15.40%

Ethnic and Racial Information by District



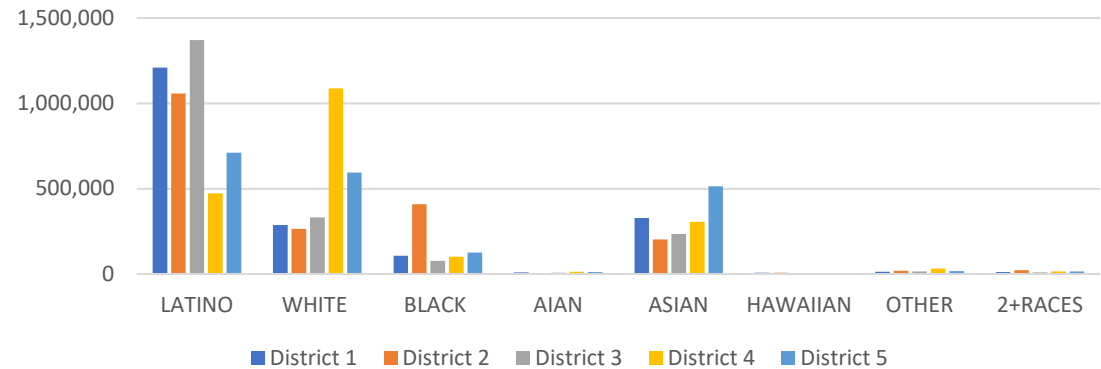
Plan Name: Draft Map C



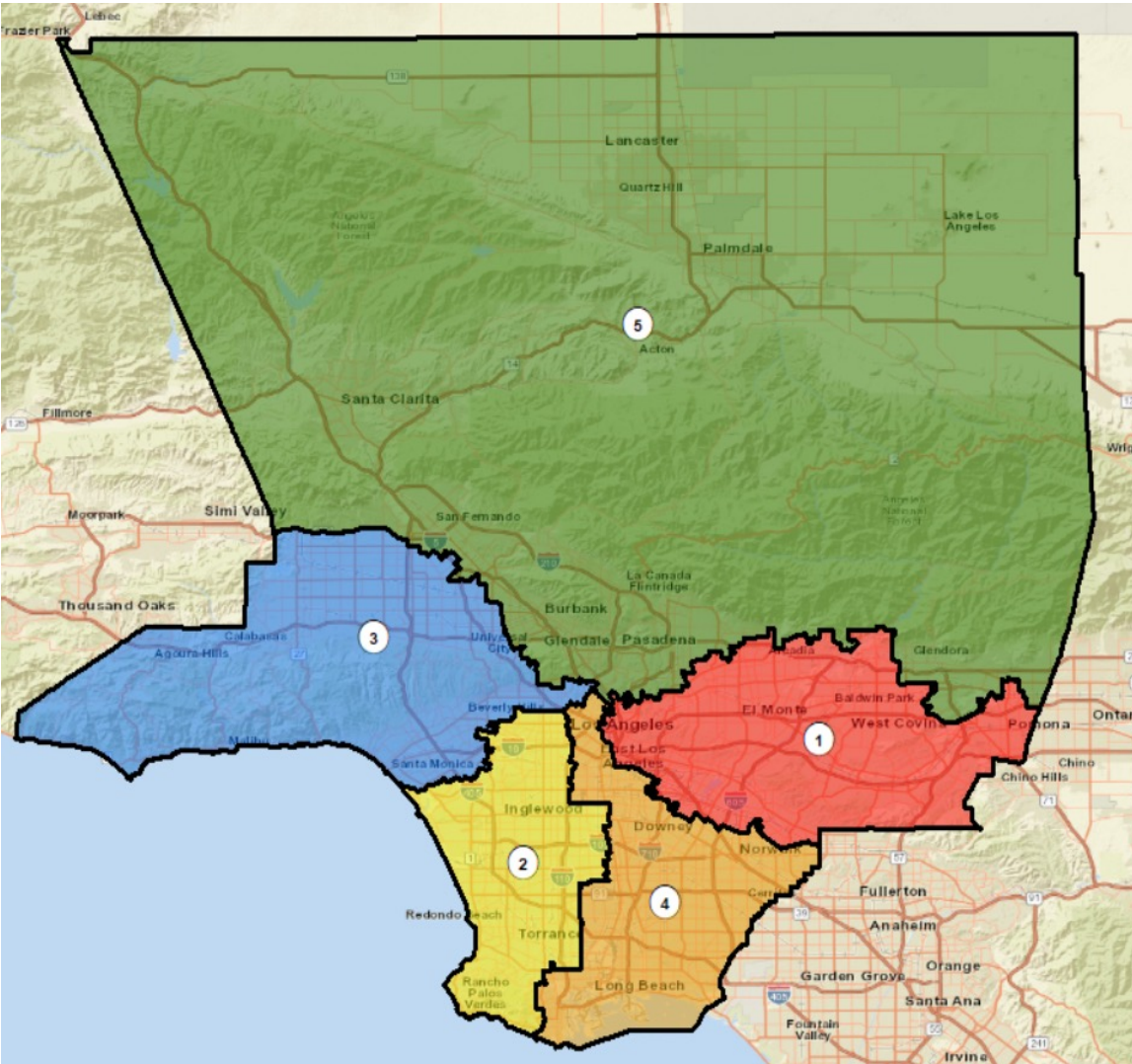
Maximum Deviation – 3.61%			
Name	Total Pop	Deviation	Deviation %
1	1,977,715	-31,870	-1.59%
2	1,993,817	-15,768	-0.78%
3	2,050,335	40,750	2.03%
4	2,033,004	23,419	1.17%
5	1,993,055	-16,530	-0.82%

District	Latino	%	White	%	Black	%	Asian	%
1	1,210,333	61.20%	287,372	14.53%	108,079	5.46%	328,125	16.59%
2	1,057,310	53.03%	265,157	13.30%	409,959	20.56%	203,619	10.21%
3	1,370,936	66.86%	331,506	16.17%	77,333	3.77%	235,305	11.48%
4	472,596	23.25%	1,087,347	53.48%	102,131	5.02%	306,029	15.05%
5	710,528	35.65%	594,559	29.83%	125,329	6.29%	515,014	25.84%

Ethnic and Racial Information by District



Plan Name: Draft Map D

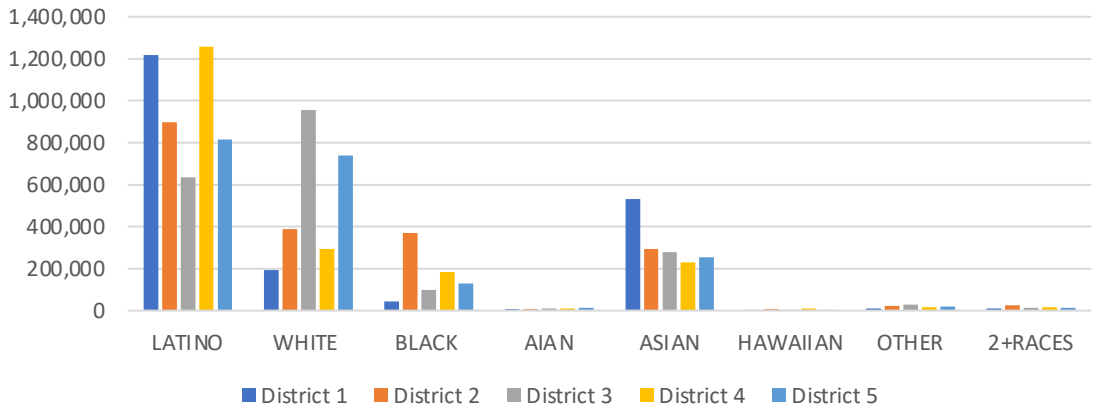


Maximum Deviation –1.54%

Name	Total Pop	Deviation	Deviation %
1	2,012,440	2,855	0.14%
2	2,008,874	-711	-0.04%
3	2,020,897	11,312	0.56%
4	2,015,731	6,146	0.31%
5	1,989,984	-19,601	-0.98%

District	Latino	%	White	%	Black	%	Asian	%
1	1,217,087	60.48%	191,537	9.52%	44,374	2.20%	530,400	26.36%
2	896,616	44.63%	387,824	19.31%	368,509	18.34%	294,808	14.68%
3	635,248	31.43%	954,081	47.21%	98,124	4.86%	277,055	13.71%
4	1,256,986	62.36%	294,258	14.60%	182,798	9.07%	230,986	11.46%
5	815,766	40.99%	738,241	37.10%	129,026	6.48%	254,843	12.81%

Ethnic and Racial Information by District



Additional Materials



Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority

Endowment Provided by the Puente Hills Landfill

October 21, 2021

Mark Stanley, Executive Officer
Rivers and Mountains Conservancy
100 N. Old San Gabriel Canyon Road
Azusa, California 91702

Appreciation for Puente Hills Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Grant

Dear Mr. Stanley:

Thank you very much for your agency's award of the Puente Hills Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Grant to the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority).

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, remove dead/dying/flammable trees and purchase a mower. All of these will help reduce the fuel load in the Puente Hills and keep the region safe.

Various tree removals and the acquisition of a mower have already been set in motion using this grant.

Your continued support of our agency's efforts is simply invaluable.

With Gratitude,

Mike Hughes
Chair

C: Board of Directors and Advisory Committee



Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority

Endowment Provided by the Puente Hills Landfill

October 21, 2021

Robert Ferrante, Chief Engineer & General Manager
Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
P. O. Box 4998
Whittier, California 90607-4998

Appreciation for Evaluation of Roof Project

Dear Robert:

Thank you so much for the reassuring speed and thoroughness of your agency's assistance to us in confirming the extent of the work needed on structures owned by the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority, and reviewing bids for repairs.

Your staff's expertise, as all of your assistance, is invaluable.

With Gratitude,

Mike Hughes
Chair

C: Board of Directors and Advisory Committee

Supplemental Responses to General Plan Comments, October 12, 2021

Highlighted rows indicate proposed Draft General Plan revisions.

Written comments received by the City of Whittier through Monday, October 11, 2021 5:00 pm are provided written responses.

Reference Number	Date	Commenter	Comment/Comment Excerpts	Response
CC1	10.4.21	--	11716 Floral is subject to a General Plan Amendment application to change the designation to Medium Density Residential	11716 Floral's designation will be revised to Medium Density Residential, as directed by City Council
CC2	10.5.21	Larry Scher 11821 N Circle Drive Whittier, CA 90601	<p>Item 1: Your explanation of H-R zoning during the Whittier Planning Commission Zoom meeting left me puzzled. When describing Hillside Residential, your only qualifying reference was to density, yet in terms of density H-R, matches R-1. If density is your only consideration, I wonder if you might explain the relevance of "hillside," in regard to your interpretation of the City's H-R zoning definition. The definition and requirements for the designation of "Hillside" Residential, are based on geography rather than your statement only regarding density, otherwise, otherwise why bother to differentiate Hillside at all. The code specifications actually do allow condos, apartments and other higher density uses.</p> <p>By the way, the request for H-R zoning by those living in the Rideout tract, was based on neighborhood environmental protection issues not density issues.</p> <p>Item 2: Given that the most obvious issue the city will face in the future will be the effects of climate change, mainly increasing heat and worsening drought, my immediate concern with the "Plan" is that it fails to acknowledge the most serious issue of our <u>current</u> reality. Why are there no additional solar panel, battery and EV charging requirements beyond those in the 2019 CA Green Building Standards Code Title 24, Part 11. Those requirements, as you are well aware, were a minimal compromise when written and are far out of date, even 2 years later. I'm reminded of the quote from Ousby's Occupation: The Ordeal of France: "Time treats few things more cruelly than the futuristic fantasies of past generations, particularly when they are actually realized in concrete and steel." You've [planned for the past. I believe that the chaos of the past 20 months have shown that even the best thoughts, actions and planning of the previous 30 years have failed.</p> <p>BTW, have you actually visited the Rideout / Citrus Heights neighborhood of Circle Drive and Grande Vista in Whittier? It has some of the oldest, narrowest streets with the tightest curves as well as the steepest slopes of any residential neighborhood the city. And as far as density, it has one of the largest single lots in the city, as well as some areas that are over the density of 3 houses per acre. It also has more zoning exceptions than ever should have been allowed based upon its geography.</p>	<p>Item 1: This letter provides additional comment to a previously submitted letter requesting the parcel's designation be changed from R-1 to Hillside Residential and it is summarizing a verbal response provided during the Planning Commission hearing.</p> <p>This parcel currently has a General Plan designation of Low Density Residential and a R-1 zoning. The proposed designation is Low Density Residential as well.</p> <p>The commenter appears to be confusing General Plan designation with zoning classifications (zones).</p> <p>As the proposed project is the General Plan update, this response focuses on the General Plan issue. A Hillside Residential General Plan designation has a density range of 0-3.0 units per acre, while the Low Density Residential designation has a 3.1-7.0 units per acre. The commenter's lot size and those in the neighboring area result in a density higher than the 3.0 density limit for a Hillside Residential designation. As such, the proposed designation remains as Low Density Residential.</p> <p>The commenter should note that the Low Density Residential designation may permit Residential-Estate (R-E), Hillside Residential (H-R), and R-1 zoning classification. During the subsequent zoning code update, the commenter could request the area's zoning classification be changed from R-1 to R-E or H-R as appropriate.</p> <p>Item 2: The proposed General Plan's sustainability, energy use, and energy efficiency provide the path for policy and building code changes as new technologies emerge.</p>
CC3	10.6.21		Change Hellman Park land use designation to open space.	Hellman Park's land use designation is proposed to be open space, if directed by City Council. Other General Plan text, tables, and figures may be adjusted to reflect the proposed land use designation change, as appropriate.
CC4	10.6.21		Change 7941 Greenleaf Avenue land use destination to Medium High Density Residential Change 6018 Norwalk land use designation (APN 8174-041-028) to General Commercial Housing Overlay	The land use designation changes will be made as directed by City Council.

Supplemental Responses to General Plan Comments, October 12, 2021

Highlighted rows indicate proposed Draft General Plan revisions.

Written comments received by the City of Whittier through Monday, October 11, 2021 5:00 pm are provided written responses.

CC5	Oct. 7, 2021	Michael Hughes and Ivan Sulic Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority	<p>Draft General Plan (version dated July 2021):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>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.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mobility and Infrastructure, Goal MI-6.2 (p. 97) – Please consider the following bolded and strikethrough modifications to this goal, <i>“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”</i>. 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: <i>“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”</i>. 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. <p>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</p>	<p>Figure LUCC-5 Sphere of Influence – With the direction of the City Council, the land use designation will be updated, as appropriate.</p> <p>Goal MI-6.2 – The City and the Habitat Authority have a strong relationship. City staff appreciates this relationship.</p> <p>The City and the Habitat Authority have entered into an agreement about the Puente Hills Preserve trailheads and associated parking lots; however, it is possible that the agreement may not be enacted for the life of the Envision Whittier General Plan. As such, the General Plan needs to provide some degree of flexibility. Furthermore, in General Plan parlance, words such as “collaborate” and “coordinate” imply attaining a level of agreement before the City can act or implement, which may not provide the flexibility required.</p> <p>In an attempt to provide consideration to the Habitat Authority without limiting the General Plan’s flexibility, the following rewording is proposed, <i>“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. Development of this strategy should consider interested parties’ (such as the responsible land management organizations, the adjacent neighborhoods’ residents and resident organizations, others) perspectives.”</i></p> <p>Arroyo Pescadero – With the City Council’s direction, the Arroyo Pescadero Park’s classification will change to Natural Park.</p> <p>Home Hardening – The City agrees with the Habitat Authority that home hardening is important and will move forward with implementing home hardening practices as appropriate. In accordance with State law, CALFIRE reviewed the fire hazard and services goals, policies, and programs and provided recommendations, which were included in the Safety Element’s Errata. Once the CALFIRE Board reviewed and approved the City of Whittier’s fire hazard and services policies, they need to remain as approved. Please note the City’s Safety Element was reviewed after AB 38 was adopted. CALFIRE incorporated AB 38 into its evaluation and recommendations.</p>
-----	--------------	--	---	---

Supplemental Responses to General Plan Comments, October 12, 2021

Highlighted rows indicate proposed Draft General Plan revisions.

Written comments received by the City of Whittier through Monday, October 11, 2021 5:00 pm are provided written responses.

			<p>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.</p> <p>5. 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-forwildfire/get-ready/hardening-your-home/</p> <p>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</p>	
CC6	Oct. 12, 2021	Mitchell M. Tsai, Attorney Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters	<p>THE PROJECT FAILS TO PROVIDE THE INFORMATION AND ANALYSES REQUIRED OF ALL HOUSING ELEMENTS A. Background Concerning Housing Elements Housing Elements of General Plans are the planning tools through which local governments ensure they make "adequate provision for the existing and projected housing needs" as determined through the share of the Regional Housing Needs Allocation ("RHNA") process. See Gov. Code § 65580(d). As specified in Gov. Code § 65580 et seq., Housing Elements must include particular information and analyses related to existing and projected housing needs, constraints relative to meeting those needs, and the local government's specific plans to help fulfill those needs. Housing Elements that fail to provide required information and analyses may be deemed by the state or courts to be out of compliance with the law and the local government may be subject to substantial consequences. See Gov. Code §§ 65754, 65754.5, and 65755. B. The City's Housing Element Fails to Provide Required Information and Analyses. The City's Housing Element update is missing critically important information and analyses required by law. Those deficiencies include: ● The failure to describe diligent efforts to include all economic segments of the community in the development and update of the housing element and a summary of the public input received and a description of how it will be considered and incorporated into the housing element, Gov. Code, § 65583(c)(8); ● Failure to report on and analyze implementation of the 5th Cycle Housing Element's</p>	<p>Mitchell M. Tsai, Attorney at Law, has previously submitted letters regarding the Housing Element and the EIR as well.</p> <p>Mr. Tsai submitted a letter to HCD as part of HCD's initial 60-day review. HCD considered Mr. Tsai's comments in its August 2021 comment letter to the City of Whittier. HCD's transmittal email specifically identifies Mr. Tsai's letter as well as others that HCD reviewed and considered. The City of Whittier is addressing HCD comments with the proposed revisions included in the Revised Draft Housing Element. Upon adoption, the City of Whittier will submit the adopted housing element to HCD for a certification review. If additional changes are necessary to attain certification, HCD will provide the City of Whittier with its comments. All members of the public may provide HCD with additional written comments for its consideration.</p> <p>No revisions to the General Plan or Housing Element are proposed.</p>

Trail now named for ex-councilman

The Arroyo Pescadero loop now honors preservationist Bob Henderson

By Mike Sprague

PUBLISHED: October 23, 2021 (at top of page A 1)

Whittier City Council members, Habitat Authority board members and friends all want to name a trail after former Whittier Councilman Bob Henderson, the man who many say saved the Whittier hills, and now he's going along with the idea.

The Puente Hills Habitat Authority's Board of Directors on Wednesday voted 5-0 to name the Arroyo Pescadero loop trail, 7531 S. Colima Road, Whittier, after Henderson. There also will be a Bob Henderson overlook "There would be no Habitat Authority without Bob," Michael Hughes, board chairman, said in a Thursday telephone interview.

"It was his idea," Hughes said. "He is the one who sat and worked with the county and Sanitation Districts. The rest of us kind of just rode along."

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

Talk 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.

But Henderson in September said he didn't like the idea of naming something after him.

"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."

But on Thursday, Henderson said he will accept the honor during a telephone interview.

"You just can't argue with people trying to do something nice for you," he said. "It's very nice of them. Everyone on the board is a friend."

Hughes said Arroyo Pescadero was chosen, in part because it's entirely in Whittier and other reasons.

"There were some concerns that other trails become at some future point a troubled trail, and we don't want Bob's name associated with a trail that has a problem," he said. "This is a pretty simple clean, straightforward trail."