

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

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors, April 17, 2025, at 3 p.m. will take place in-person and also available for remote access.

Members of the public can observe and participate in the meeting as follows:

In-person: **Joint Administration Office of the County
Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
1955 Workman Mill Road, Whittier, California 90601**

Location: Room information to be provided at 1955 Workman Mill Road on the day of the meeting.

And remotely for members of the public via Zoom by joining at this address:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3397206095>

Zoom ID **339 720 6095**

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Members of the public may provide electronic comments by 3 p.m. on Wednesday, April 16, 2025, before the meeting to info@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, either in person or via Zoom.

Agency	Director	Alternate
County of Los Angeles	SULIC, Chair	YOKOMIZO
City of Whittier	PACHECO, Vice Chair	MARTINEZ
Hacienda Heights Improvement Association	GARCIA	MONARES
Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County	FERRANTE,	REVILLA

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.

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 562.945.9003 at least 48 hours prior to meeting.

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

1. Receipt of Public Comments. Members of the public may address the Board of Directors on any topic within the jurisdiction of the Habitat Authority, or any item on the agenda.
2. Report by Authority's Citizens Technical Advisory Committee.
3. Consent Calendar:
 - a. Approval of Authority Meeting Minutes of March 20, 2025.
 - b. Receive and file Authority's Portfolio Earnings Reports and Custom by Instrument Type for March 2025 prepared by the County of Los Angeles Treasurer and Tax Collector.
 - c. Adoption of Authority Resolution 2025-02 Certifying Completion of the Puente Hills Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Round Two (RMC 21027) grant.
4. Discussion and possible action authorizing the Executive Director to negotiate and execute an agreement with the City of Whittier for maintenance including fuel clearance on city owned parcels not already included in a management agreement with the Authority.
5. Report from Board subcommittee, discussion and possible direction regarding establishing a fiscal oversight advisory committee associated with the Community Facilities District No. 2024-01, including approval of Resolution 2025-03, and associated fact sheet.
6. Discussion and possible action approving updated Citizens Technical Advisory Committee Fact Sheet.
7. Discussion and possible action of Authority comments on the Los Angeles County Hazards Mitigation Plan.
8. Pending litigation – Initiation of litigation. A closed session will be held, because the Board of Directors has decided or is deciding whether to initiate litigation. (This item can be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(c), (d)(4).)
9. Board Members' statements, responses, questions or directions to staff, and Executive Director's comments.
10. Adjournment and announcement of next meeting.

DRAFT Minutes of Regular Meeting – March 20, 2025
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY

This meeting was held at the Joint Administration Office of the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County: 1955 Workman Mill Road, Whittier, CA 90601

And remotely for members of the public via Zoom at this address:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3397206095>, Zoom ID 339 720 6095

At 3:01 p.m., the meeting was called to order and a roll call was taken.

From Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County:

Present: Robert Ferrante, Director

From County of Los Angeles

Present: Ivan Sulic, Chair

From City of Whittier:

Present: Councilmember Mary Ann Pacheco, Vice Chair

From Hacienda Heights:

Absent: Cassandra Garcia, Director (sworn in below)

Authority representatives present:

Andrea Gullo, Authority Executive Director

Michelle Mariscal, Authority Ecologist

Elena Gerli, Esq., Burke, Williams, Sorensen LLP, Authority Counsel

Cathy Houwen, CTAC's Board Liaison

Fernando Gomez, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, Chief Ranger

1. OATH OF OFFICE AND WELCOME FOR NEW BOARD MEMBER CASSANDRA GARCIA REPRESENTING HACIENDA HEIGHTS.

Chair Sulic administered the oath of office to Ms. Garcia.

2. RECEIPT OF PUBLIC COMMENTS. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ADDRESS THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON ANY TOPIC WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE HABITAT AUTHORITY, OR ANY ITEM SHOWN ON THE AGENDA.

Steve Huber from Whittier Area Audubon congratulated Director Garcia on her new position on the Board. He then shared information regarding their last monthly hike conducted at Sycamore Canyon including that there were 49 species of birds. Several winter species are still present, and they observed many spring arrivals.

3. REPORT BY AUTHORITY'S CITIZENS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Liaison to the Board, Cathy Houwen, provided a report for the March 18, 2025 CTAC meeting.

DRAFT Minutes of Regular Meeting – March 20, 2025
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY

4. CONSENT CALENDAR:

- A. Approval of Authority Meeting Minutes of February 20, 2025.**
- B. Receive and file Authority's Portfolio Earnings Reports and Custom by Instrument Type for February 2025 prepared by the County of Los Angeles Treasurer and Tax Collector.**
- C. Receive and file the Authority's fiscal year 2024-25 mid-year budget report.**
- D. Approval of the following agreements: (1) Quitclaim Deed from RMX Resources, LLC, as successor in interest to Union Oil Company of California, to the Habitat Authority, granting all right, title, and interest to the real properties in the City of La Habra Heights, County of Los Angeles, State of California, described as Parcel Nos. 12-1QC.3, 12-1QC.4, and 12-7QC; excepting all oil, mineral and mining rights; and excepting a easement to access and maintain a pipeline across Habitat Authority property. (2) A Covenant Agreement Regarding Split Of Participation Payments between the County of Los Angeles and the Habitat Authority, to equitably split participation payments from RMX Resources, LLC's subsurface mineral rights.**
- E. Approval and authorization for Executive Director to execute the first amendment for the Catalina ranger residence lease.**

Vice Chair Pacheco motioned to approve items A through E. Director Ferrante seconded the motion and, in a vote, the motioned passed unanimously.

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A SHORT-TERM LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY FOR HOUSING OF RANGER TRAINEES AT THE AUTHORITY SYCAMORE CANYON RESIDENCE .

Executive Director Gullo provided background on the item. Chief Ranger Fernando Gomez from Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority was available to answer questions and provide more information about the trainees.

Director Ferrante motioned to approve authorizing Executive Director to execute a short-term Lease Agreement with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for housing of ranger trainees at the Authority Sycamore Canyon residence. Director Garcia seconded the motion and, in a vote, the motioned passed unanimously.

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH NORTH STAR LAND CARE FOR THE ANNUAL FUEL CLEARANCE WITHIN THE AUTHORITY'S PRESERVE IN WHITTIER AND HACIENDA HEIGHTS, IN AN AMOUNT OF \$100,000 FOR A POSSIBLE FIVE-YEAR TOTAL OF \$552,563.13, AND TO AMEND THE AUTHORITY BUDGET ACCORDINGLY.

Director Ferrante motioned to approve authorizing Executive Director to enter into a contract with North Star Land Care in the amount of \$100,000 for a possible five-year total of \$552,563.13 and to amend the Authority budget accordingly. Director Garcia seconded the motion and, in a vote, the motioned passed unanimously.

DRAFT Minutes of Regular Meeting – March 20, 2025
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY

7. DISCUSSION REGARDING POSSIBLE PLANNING FOR AUTHORITY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN.

Executive Director Gullo provided an overview and there was a discussion. The Board provided direction to move forward with the project.

8. REVIEW, RECEIVE AND FILE AN UPDATE ON THE COMPLETED 15-ACRE MONTEREY PARK MARKET PLACE OFF-SITE COASTAL SAGE SCRUB RESTORATION PROJECT, PUENTE HILLS PRESERVE, LA HABRA HEIGHTS, LOS ANGELES COUNTY.

Ecologist Mariscal provided an overview of the restoration efforts and answered questions about the project's long term management program and associated endowment.

9. REVIEW, RECEIVE AND FILE AN UPDATE ON AN ARTICLE TO BE PUBLISHED IN SEPTEMBER 2025 IN THE JOURNAL OF THE TORREY BOTANICAL SOCIETY REGARDING THE EFFECTS OF GOAT GRAZING ON INVASIVE PLANT COVER AND FUEL LOADS.

Ecologist Mariscal briefly summarized the study and its findings.

Closed Session items:

10. PENDING LITIGATION – INITIATION OF LITIGATION. A CLOSED SESSION WILL BE HELD, BECAUSE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS DECIDED OR IS DECIDING WHETHER TO INITIATE LITIGATION. (THIS ITEM CAN BE HEARD IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9(C), (D)(4).)

At 3:54 p.m. Chair Sulic moved to continue the discussion of item 10 in Closed Session.

At 4:20 p.m. Chair Sulic moved to end the Closed Session, and the Open Session recommenced. Item 10 was discussed and no reportable action was taken.

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

Vice Chair Pacheco commended Executive Director for reaching out to Whittier's Interim City Manager to maintain open lines of communication. Director Ferrante invited all to attend the Sanitation District's upcoming Earth Day event on April 12th. Chair Sulic thanked Executive Director Gullo for her white paper that outlined proposed plans for a nature center, renovated Authority offices, and new ranger residence at Sycamore Canyon, which he sent to Senator Archuleta and Assemblymember Calderon for funding consideration.

12. ADJOURNMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING.

There being no further comments, or business to be discussed, Chair Sulic adjourned the meeting at 4:28 p.m.

DRAFT Minutes of Regular Meeting – March 20, 2025
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY

Approved:

Ivan Sulic, Board Chair

Andrea Gullo, Executive Director, Acting Board Secretary



ELIZABETH BUENROSTRO GINSBERG
TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 437
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

LINDSEY P. HORVATH
Third District

JANICE HAHN
Fourth District

KATHRYN BARGER
Fifth District

April 7, 2025

Andrea Gullo, Executive Director
Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority
7333 Greenleaf Avenue, First Floor
Whittier, CA 90602

Email: agullo@habitatauthority.org

Dear Andrea Gullo:

PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORTS

Enclosed are the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority Portfolio Income Report (Earnings Report), Custom Position Report, Purchase Detail Report, and Chronological Report for the month ended March 31, 2025, for your review and reference.

Should you have questions, you may contact Ms. Marivic Liwag, Assistant Operations Chief, of my staff at (213) 584-1252, or mliwag@ttc.lacounty.gov.

Very truly yours,

ELIZABETH BUENROSTRO GINSBERG
Treasurer and Tax Collector


Jennifer Koai
Operations Chief

JK:ML:az

Enclosures

c: Marlyn Barajas



Income Report - PHHPA

03/01/2025 - 03/31/2025

Specific Purpose Invest Agg (299402)

Dated: 04/02/2025

SPI

Original Lot ID	Detailed Description	CUSIP	Coupon Rate	PAR Value	Interest/Dividend Received	Accretion Income	Amortization Expense	Interest Income	Net Gain/Loss	Net Income
821801196	FREDDIE MAC 2.000 08/27/43 '25 MTN	3134GWSD9	2.000	9,500,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,833.33	0.00	15,833.33
821801198	FED FARM CR BNKS 2.500 07/29/41 '25	3133EMW65	2.500	22,675,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	47,239.58	0.00	47,239.58
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* Grouped by: Aggregate Accounts. * Groups Sorted by: Aggregate Accounts. * Filtered By: LA Fund Number = "PHHPA". * Weighted by: Ending Market Value + Accrued. * Holdings Displayed by: Lots without MMF Collapse.



Custom Position Report - PHHPA

As of 03/31/2025

Specific Purpose Invest Agg (299402)

Dated: 04/02/2025

SPI

Original Lot ID	Detailed Description	CUSIP	Coupon Rate	Final Maturity	Purchase Yield	PAR Value	Amortized Cost	Historical Cost	Net Accumulated Amortization/Accretion
821801198	FED FARM CR BNKS 2.500 07/29/41 '25	3133EMW65	2.500	07/29/2041	2.500	22,675,000.00	22,675,000.00	22,675,000.00	0.00
821801196	FREDDIE MAC 2.000 08/27/43 '25 MTN	3134GWSD9	2.000	08/27/2043	2.000	9,500,000.00	9,500,000.00	9,500,000.00	0.00
---	---	---	2.352	03/10/2042	2.352	32,175,000.00	32,175,000.00	32,175,000.00	0.00

* Grouped by: Aggregate Accounts. * Groups Sorted by: Aggregate Accounts. * Filtered By: LA Fund Number = "PHHPA". * Weighted by: PAR Value. * Holdings Displayed by: Lots without MMF Collapse.



Purchase Detail Report - PHHPA

03/01/2025 - 03/31/2025

Specific Purpose Invest Agg (299402)

Dated: 04/02/2025

LA Fund Number	Original Lot ID	Description	Settle Date	Final Maturity	Coupon Rate	PAR Value	Principal	Purchased Accrued Income	Settlement Amount
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* Grouped by: Aggregate Accounts. * Groups Sorted by: Aggregate Accounts. * Filtered By: Settle Date \geq 03/01/2025 and Settle Date \leq 03/31/2025 and LA Fund Number = "PHHPA". * Weighted by: Ending Market Value + Accrued. * Holdings Displayed by: Lot.

* Purchased Accrued Income = -[Purchased Accrued Income], Summary Calculation: Sum. * Settlement Amount = [Ending Original Cost]+(-[Purchased Accrued Income]), Summary Calculation: Sum.



Chronological Report - PHHPA

03/01/2025 - 03/31/2025

Specific Purpose Invest Agg (299402)

Dated: 04/02/2025

LA Fund Number	Original Lot ID	Detailed Description	Settle Date	Final Maturity	Change In Current FV	Purchases	Maturities/Redemption	Purchased Accrued Interest	Coupon Payment
---	---	---	---	---	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

* Filtered By: LA Fund Number = "PHHPA" and Cash Affecting Amount = 0.00. * Weighted by: Absolute Value of Principal Amount. * MMF transactions are collapsed. * Trade transactions are expanded. * Cash Entry transactions are expanded.

* Change In Current FV = (IF([Transaction Type]='Buy'),[Original Units],0)+(IF([Transaction Type]='Maturity'),[Original Units],0), Summary Calculation: Sum. * Purchases = IF([Transaction Type]='Buy'),[Original Units],0, Summary Calculation: Sum. * Maturities/Redemption = IF([Transaction Type]='Maturity'),[Original Units],0, Summary Calculation: Sum.

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3c

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 17, 2025

To: Board Members

From: *Andrea Gullo*
Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Subject: Adoption of Authority Resolution 2025-02 Certifying Completion of the Puente Hills Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Round Two (RMC 21027) grant.

Recommendation:

That the Board adopt Resolution 2025-02.

Background:

The San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) provided the Authority with a grant in the amount of \$275,600 for fire prevention actions.

This funding was sourced from the Governor's wildfire resilience plan. The term of grant agreement "RMC21027" was June 1, 2022 through March 31, 2025 and funds were spent by March 2025. Building on the success of a previously awarded Wildfire Prevention grant to the Authority (grant "RMC20008"), the project scope of grant RMC21027 is located at various sites throughout the Puente Hills, which are situated between the communities of Whittier, Hacienda Heights, and La Habra Heights. Tasks consisted of: maintenance of defensible space clearance between the Habitat Authority's Preserve and structures at the urban-wildland interface; hazardous fuel reduction of non-native vegetation via goat grazing, herbicide treatment, hand clearance, and mechanical methods; removal of nonnative and invasive vegetation, primarily along emergency access roads; and habitat enhancement efforts to establish native vegetation and further reduce hazardous fuel load. A map of the project work areas is attached for your reference. All work has been completed to date.

The deliverables were as follows:

Six project sub-tasks were implemented concurrently across the Puente Hills Preserve involving approximately 67.5 acres of fuel clearance:

A) The Habitat Authority had a separate agreement with the Conservation Corps of Long Beach (CCLB) to clear along approximately 10-miles of emergency access roads (which was funded to the CCLB by a separate grant from the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy awarded in 2021). Grant RMC21027 awarded to the Authority involved hiring and overseeing a contractor to pickup all of the vegetation cut by CCLB and hauling it to an off-site legal landfill for disposal.

B) Peppergrass Trail hazardous fuel reduction and habitat enhancement (approx. 1.9 ac); seeds for the habitat enhancement work (after weed clearance) were collected by a qualified native seed collection company from the Preserve to ensure local adaptation

C) Turnbull Canyon Trail invasive species removal along emergency access road (approx. 2.6 ac)

D) Hacienda Hills Trailhead defensible space and invasive species removal (approx. 3 ac)

E) La Habra Heights hazardous fuel reduction goat grazing in and/or adjacent to defensible space in 2023 (30 acres) and 2024 (11 acres) in different locations each year.

F) Removal of vegetation and hazardous trees for fire prevention and safety across the Preserve. Work included extensive clearance along the Arroyo San Miguel Trail, Bob Henderson Loop Trail, Sycamore Canyon Trail, and Arroyo Pescadero Trailhead for emergency access (Amendment Two).

Budget RMC 21027	\$ Amount
Sub-task A	\$ 7,390
Sub-task B	\$ 36,600
Sub-task C	\$ 39,100
Sub-task D	\$ 28,500
Sub-task E	\$ 64,700
Sub-task F	\$ 43,710
Contingency 10%	\$ 21,200
Project Management 10%	\$ 13,200
Indirect 10%	\$ 21,200
TOTAL	\$ 275,600

Fiscal Impact:

The final grant closeout and reimbursement for retention costs of approximately \$22,500 is dependent on a certification by the Authority Board of Directors that the project has been completed via adoption of Resolution 2025-02.

Attachments:

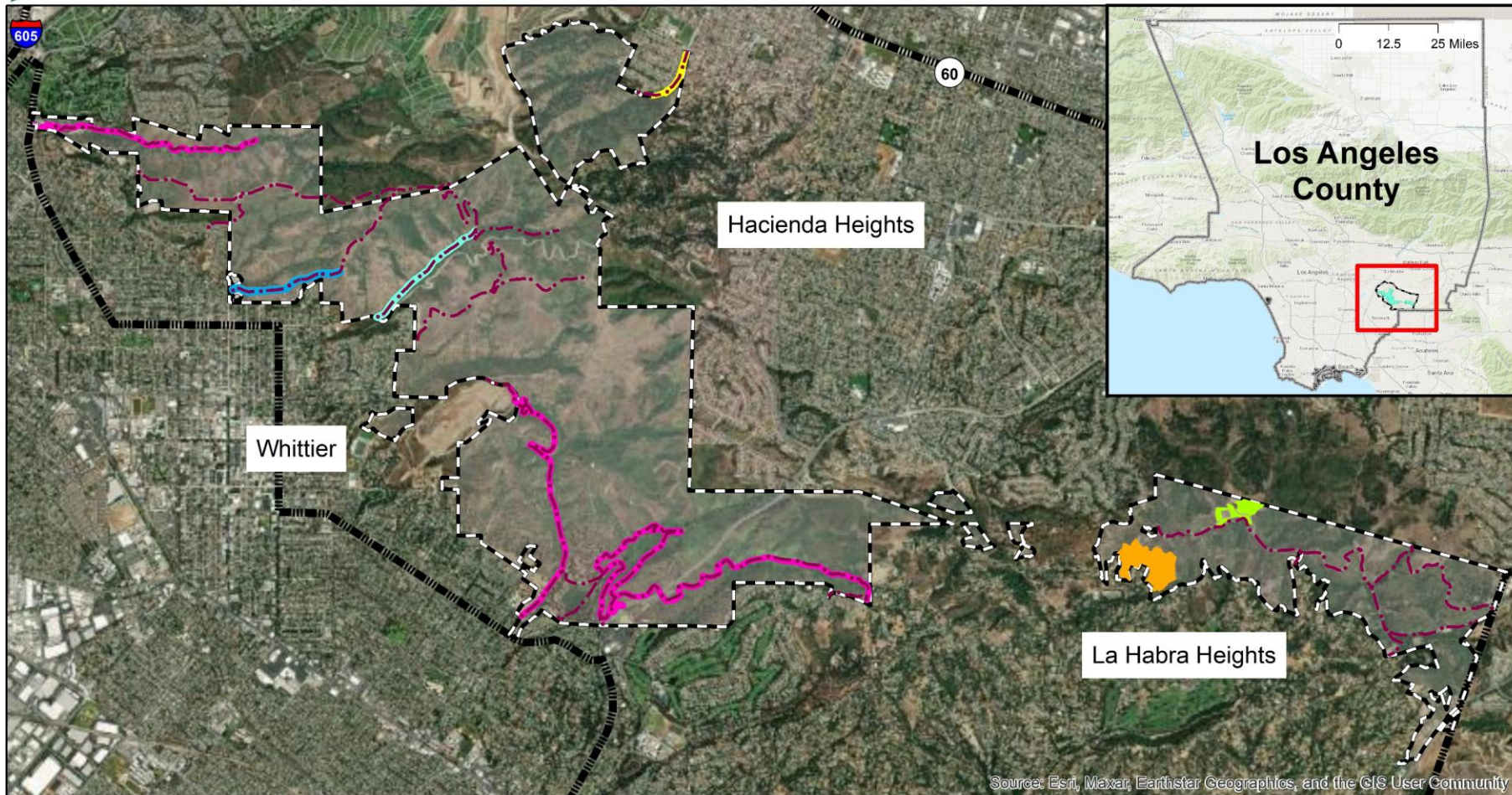
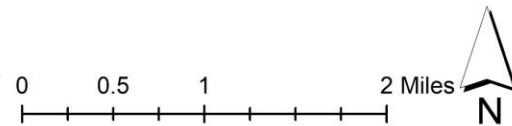
Map of project area

Authority Board Resolution 2025-02

Puente Hills Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Round 2

Grant RMC21027

Puente Hills Preserve, Los Angeles County, CA



Legend

Habitat Authority Jurisdictional Boundary

Puente Hills Preserve Boundary

Sub-task A- Vegetation pile removal along emergency access routes

Sub-task B- Peppergrass Trail fuel reduction and habitat enhancement

Sub-task C- Turnbull Canyon Trail invasive removal

Sub-task D- Hacienda Hills Trailhead defensible space and invasive removal

Sub-task E- La Habra Heights fuel reduction goat grazing (30 acres)- year 1

Sub-task E- La Habra Heights fuel reduction goat grazing (11 acres)- year 2

Sub-task F- Preserve-wide vegetation and tree removal

**Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority
Resolution No. 2025-02**

**A Resolution of the Board of Directors
CERTIFYING COMPLETION OF THE
PUENTE HILLS FUELS REDUCTION AND WILDFIRE PREVENTION ROUND TWO
(RMC 21027) GRANT**

WHEREAS, the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) is a Joint Powers Authority created pursuant to Government Code Section 6500 in 1994; and

WHEREAS, 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 native habitat and biological diversity. Additionally, the Habitat Authority endeavors to provide opportunities for outdoor education and low-impact recreation; and

WHEREAS, the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) awarded the Habitat Authority a grant (RMC 21027) in accordance with the Wildfire Prevention Early Action Budget Plan in Chapter 14/21 of the Budget Act of 2020; and

WHEREAS, this action by the Habitat Authority's Board of Directors will certify completion of the Puente Hills Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Round Two (RMC 21027) grant. Certification is required by the RMC in order for the Habitat Authority to close out the grant and be fully reimbursed for project costs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority hereby:

1. Finds that the above recitals are true and correct and incorporates them by reference as though set forth in full.
2. Finds that this action is consistent with the purposes of the Habitat Authority.
3. Finds that the actions contemplated by this resolution are categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act under Section 15307 of the CEQA Guidelines as actions to assure the maintenance, restoration, or enhancement of a natural resource where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment; Section 15308 of the Guidelines as actions to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment; none of the exceptions to the exemptions set for in Section 15300.2 of the Guidelines apply.
4. Incorporates by reference the associated staff report dated April 17, 2025.
5. Certifies completion of the Puente Hills Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Round Two (RMC 21027) grant.

PHHPA
Resolution 2025-02
April 17, 2025

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the Board of Directors, and the Board Secretary shall certify the vote adopting this resolution.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Board of Directors of the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority at this regular meeting of April 17, 2025 by the following vote.

Motion _____ Second: _____

Ayes: _____

Nays: _____

Abstentions: _____

Signature

Chair of Board of Directors

----- CERTIFICATION OF RESOLUTION -----

ATTEST:

I Andrea Gullo, Executive Director and Acting Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority, witness my hand on the 17th of April 2025.

Signature

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

AGENDA ITEM NO 4

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 17, 2025

To: Board Members

From: *Andrea Gullo*
Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Subject: Discussion and possible action authorizing the Executive Director to negotiate and execute an agreement with the City of Whittier for maintenance including fuel clearance on city-owned parcels not already included in a management agreement with the Authority.

Recommendation:

Authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute an agreement such as a memorandum of understanding with the city of Whittier for fuel clearance on city-owned parcels not already managed by the Authority.

Background:

The Authority has informally been clearing two parcels that are owned by the city of Whittier which are outside of the management agreement between the city and the Authority. These are open space parcels that are managed by the city's Public Works Department, and adjacent to the Authority's Preserve located at the end of Carinthia Drive and Philadelphia Street. The Authority has been reimbursed for contractor costs. The Authority agreed to do the clearing efforts because on one parcel there was the concern for the occupation of sensitive birds, and the other parcel was as a convenience to the city.

Authority staff no longer expects occupation by sensitive species on the parcels; because of Authority staff workload, as well as a desire to clarify liability responsibilities, Authority staff asked the city to resume clearing of its own parcels or to enter into an agreement with the Authority to formalize the practice. The City indicated they would like the Authority to continue its efforts on a reimbursable basis, and will provide a draft agreement for review.

Annual fuel clearance is expected to begin at the end of April. Entering into an agreement before this time or as soon as possible is recommended. A formalized agreement reviewed and coordinated between the Executive Director and Authority counsel would provide transparency and seamless future operational practices.

Fiscal Impact:

None

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

AGENDA ITEM NO 5

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 17, 2025

To: Board Members

From: *Andrea Gullo*
Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Subject: Report from Board subcommittee, discussion and possible direction regarding establishing a fiscal oversight advisory committee associated with the Community Facilities District No. 2024-01, including approval of Resolution 2025-03, and associated fact sheet.

Recommendation:

That the Board discuss and approve Resolution 2025-03 and fact sheet, or take appropriate action.

Background:

This item was last discussed at the Board's January 2025 meeting at which time a subcommittee was established. At the direction of the Board, the subcommittee was to return to the Board with recommendations for establishing a fiscal oversight advisory committee (FOAC) based on Section H of the Rate and Method of Apportionment of the Authority's Community Facilities District (CFD) No. 2024-01:

“...a citizens advisory committee may report annually to the Board and the public regarding the expenditure of such funds to show that the Special Tax proceeds are spent for their authorized purposes.”

Attached are the draft resolution establishing this FOAC, and its fact sheet. Also attached for your reference are the election policies of the Authority's existing advisory committee; these policies are recommended to apply to both committees for administrative consistency.

Fiscal Impact:

None.

Attachments:

Resolution 2025-03
FOAC Fact Sheet
Existing CTAC election policies

**Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority
Resolution No. 2025-03**

**A Resolution of the Board of Directors
to Establish the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority's Fiscal
Oversight Advisory Committee**

WHEREAS, the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) is a joint powers authority established pursuant to Section 6500 et. seq. of the Government Code. The Authority conducts its business in accordance with the provisions of the Joint Powers Authority Agreement dated February 15, 1994, and amended on August 17, 2011 (Agreement).

WHEREAS, Section 5.4, *Powers*, of the Agreement provides in part that the “[Habitat] Authority is hereby authorized to do all acts which are necessary or desirable to carry out the purposes of the Agreement and to exercise the common powers of the [member] agencies....” Such authority includes creating ad hoc and permanent committees and subcommittees.

WHEREAS, on July 18, 2024, the Board adopted Resolution No. 2024-08, to place a measure on the November 5, 2024 ballot to create Community Facilities District No. 2024-01 (the CFD), and to levy a Special Tax on taxable developed properties within the CFD (Puente Hills Preserve Protection, Measure PH); the Board also adopted Resolution No. 2024-09, requesting the election to occur within the CFD, and that the election be consolidated with the Statewide general election to occur on November 5, 2024.

WHEREAS, Measure PH was approved by the voters on November 5, 2024. On January 16, 2025, the Board adopted Resolution No. 2025-01, declaring the results of a special tax election, determining the validity of prior proceedings, and directing the recording of the notice of special tax lien. On February 20, 2025 the Board adopted Ordinance No. 2025-01, levying special taxes within community facilities district no. 2024-01.

WHEREAS, the CFD encompasses the Cities of Whittier and La Habra Heights, portions of the Hacienda Heights and Rowland Heights communities, and a portion of Workman Mill Road located within the CFD jurisdictional boundaries.

WHEREAS, per Section H of the Rate and Method of Apportionment of the CFD, “...a citizens advisory committee may report annually to the Board and the public regarding the expenditure of such funds to show that the Special Tax proceeds are spent for their authorized purposes.”

WHEREAS, the Board now desires to create the CFD Fiscal Oversight Advisory Committee, for the purpose of reviewing CFD funds expenditures to ensure compliance with the parameters of the measure, and to advise the Board thereon.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority hereby resolves, finds, and orders:

Section 1. The above recitals are correct, and are incorporated herein by reference.

Section 2. CFD Fiscal Oversight Advisory Committee.

The Board of Directors hereby creates the CFD Fiscal Oversight Advisory Committee. The committee shall act solely in an advisory capacity to the Board.

(a) Committee Composition.

The Board shall appoint 9 members to the committee, with each stakeholder community's representation roughly based on the number of taxable parcels in each community. As of March of 2025, the taxable parcels are located as follows:

Community	<u>Total Parcels</u>
Hacienda Heights	13,161
City of La Habra Heights	2,097
Rowland Heights	11,718
City of Whittier	22,265
Workman Mills	1,157

The Committee shall be comprised of: 3 members from the City of Whittier, 2 members from the Hacienda Heights community; 2 members from the Rowland Heights community; 1 member from the City of La Habra Heights; and 1 member from the Workman Mill community. The number of committee members is roughly based on the number of taxable parcels in each community.

Committee members must be residents of the communities they represent. The Board may approve additional criteria for qualification.

(b) Appointment, Vacancies, Removal.

The City of Whittier and the City of La Habra Heights committee members shall first be recommended by their respective city councils; County of Los Angeles committee members shall first be recommended by the supervisor(s) representing the supervisorial district which constitutes the unincorporated areas within the CFD. The Habitat Authority Board is the approving entity for all committee members.

Except for the reduced time periods for an initial term for new committee members, the regular term of each member shall be for a period of two years on a staggered schedule as determined by the Recommending Parties.

A vacancy shall occur upon the resignation or death of a committee member; following 3 unexcused absences from noticed Habitat Authority meetings, as determined by the Executive Director or the Board, in a 12-month period, as specified in the committee's fact sheet. In the case of a vacancy on the committee, the seat shall be promptly filled in the same manner as the

initial appointment; any committee member appointed to fill a vacancy will serve for the remainder of the term of the person whose seat has been vacated. If the Recommending Party does not recommend a replacement within 60 days after written notification, the Board of Directors may appoint a replacement to serve the remainder of the term.

In the case of a committee member's absence, inability, or refusal to act or to remain within the scope of the purposes referenced below, or a committee member's failure to abide by the Habitat Authority's Rules of Procedure, including but not limited to the Code of Conduct, the Habitat Authority Board may remove the committee member and appoint a replacement member in the same manner as the initial appointment. In the event that any Recommending Party fails to submit to the Habitat Authority the names of prospective members to the Board within 60 days of written notice, the Board of Directors may then appoint members to the committee in the absence of the requisite recommendation by the relevant Recommending Party.

(c) A quorum shall consist of 5 members.

(d) The chair and vice-chair will be elected annually by the committee.

(e) Meeting date and time.

The committee shall meet at the dates and times determined by the Board of Directors.

(f) Brown Act; Public Records Act.

The CFD Fiscal Oversight Advisory Committee is a public body subject to the open government provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act (Gov't Code § 54950 et seq.) and the Public Records Act (Gov't Code § 7921.000 et seq.).

Section 3. Purpose.

The CFD Fiscal Oversight Committee's role is to provide advice and report annually to the Board and the public regarding the expenditure of the CFD funds, to show that the Special Tax proceeds are spent for their authorized purposes. The special tax shall be levied and collected in perpetuity until repealed by voters, or until such time the Habitat Authority determines that the revenue is no longer needed. The public services that the CFD will fund include the maintenance, servicing, protection, preservation of open space, natural or other lands, and improvements owned or managed by the Habitat Authority; wildfire risk mitigation and improvement of local wildfire prevention, and increase of ranger safety patrols; and recreation program services, and as more fully described in Measure PH (see Exhibit B of Resolution 2024-07, provided in Attachment 1, and incorporated herein). Additionally, the CFD will fund the collection and accumulation of reserves for these activities and cover administrative or incidental expenses related to them.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED at a meeting held the 17th day of April 2025.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

Chair, Board of Directors, Ivan Sulic

ATTEST:

Acting Secretary to the Board of Directors, Andrea Gullo

Attachment 1:
Exhibit B of Authority Resolution 2024-07

EXHIBIT B

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES TO BE FUNDED BY THE CFD

PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY Community Facilities District No. 2024-01 (Puente Hills Preserve Protection)

The types of Services to be funded by the CFD (“Services”) shall include the maintenance, servicing, protection, preservation of open space, natural or other lands and improvements owned or managed by the Authority; reduce the risk of wildfire and improve local wildfire prevention, ranger safety patrols; and recreation program services. Additionally, the CFD will fund the collection and accumulation of reserves for these activities and cover administrative or incidental expenses related to them.

“Improvements,” as used herein, means improvements such as facilities, buildings, museums, cultural facilities, housing, visitor centers, fixed equipment, fences, gates, monument signage, other signage, posts, walkways, railings, curbs, benches, kiosks, drinking fountains, drainages, trails, roads, recreational facilities, public facilities, public restrooms, parking lots and other man-made structures on or alterations to lands owned or managed by the Authority, and other real property or other tangible property as permitted by the law.

“Maintenance,” as used herein, means the furnishing of services, equipment and materials or other items for the routine, recurring, and usual work or emergency work for the preservation or protection of Improvements, open space, natural or other lands for their intended purposes. Maintenance includes, but is not limited to, the upkeep, repair, removal or replacement of all or any part of any Improvements; providing for the life, growth, health, and beauty of landscaping, open space, natural or other lands, including cultivation, seeding, planting, weeding, irrigation, trimming, spraying, fertilizing, treating for disease or injury, goat grazing, or wildlife, vegetation and habitat surveys, monitoring and mapping services; vegetation clearance, including the removal of dead, dying or hazardous trees; the removal or disposal of trimmings, rubbish, debris, illegal dumping and other waste; the cleaning and servicing of public restrooms; the cleaning, sandblasting, and painting of walls and other Improvements for sanitation or to remove graffiti; fire prevention and suppression services; safety and security services; gate opening and closing services; law enforcement services; and services to prevent homeless encampments. Maintenance includes operations and/or replacement costs, and the creation and funding of reserve funds, as permitted by law.

“Servicing,” as used herein, means the furnishing of electric current, gas, or other form of energy for any public lighting facilities or for the lighting or operation of any other Improvements; and water or other utilities for uses including, but not limited to, the irrigation of any landscaping, the operation of any fountains, or the Maintenance of any other Improvements.

“Services,” also includes the performance by employees of functions, operations, maintenance, and repair activities, as provided by law. It is expected that the Services will be provided by the Authority, either with its own employees or by contract with third parties, or any combination thereof.

Ivan Sulic
Chair
County of Los Angeles

Mary Ann Pacheco
Vice Chair
City of Whittier

Robert Ferrante
Director Sanitation Districts of
Los Angeles County

Cassandra Garcia
Director
Hacienda Heights

Draft

Fiscal Oversight Advisory Committee

FACT SHEET

The Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) is dedicated to the acquisition, restoration, and management of open space in the Puente Hills for preservation of the land in perpetuity, with the primary purpose to protect the biological diversity. Additionally, the agency will endeavor to provide opportunities for outdoor education and low-impact recreation. The Habitat Authority came into existence in 1994 as a condition of approval for the Puente Hills Landfill.

The Board of Directors consists of four members: City of Whittier, County of Los Angeles, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, and a public member from the Hacienda Heights.

On July 18, 2024, the Board adopted Resolution No. 2024-07 entitled “Resolution to Form a Community Facilities District and to Levy Special Taxes Within” (“Resolution of Formation”), which established the CFD and authorized the placement of Measure PH on the November 5, 2024 ballot, to levy of the Special Tax with the CFD. Exhibit C of Resolution 2024-07 is the Rate and Method of Apportionment of CFD No. 2024-01. Per the Rate and Method of Apportionment: “...a citizens advisory committee may report annually to the Board and the public regarding the expenditure of such funds to show that the Special Tax proceeds are spent for their authorized purposes.”

Measure PH was approved by the voters on November 5, 2024. On January 16, 2025, the Board adopted Resolution No. 2025-01, declaring the results of a special tax election, determining the validity of prior proceedings, and directing the recording of the notice of special tax lien.

On February 20, 2025, the Board adopted Ordinance 2025-01, which authorizes and levies special taxes within the CFD pursuant to the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982, Gov’t Code § 53311 et seq., at the rate of 1¢ per building square footage per parcel with annual adjustments of up to 3% on all taxable developed real property, and in accordance with formulas set forth in the Rate and Method of Apportionment of Special Tax, provided in the Resolution of Formation (2024-07).

On April 17, 2025, the Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 2025-03, establishing a nine-member Fiscal Oversight Advisory Committee (FOAC) made up of representatives from

the communities of Whittier, Hacienda Heights, Rowland Heights, La Habra Heights, and the Workman Mill Road area.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Are approved for recommendation by their respective entities and appointed by the Habitat Authority for the purpose of advising the Board of Directors regarding fiscal oversight of Measure PH expenditures.
- Should be interested and committed to public fiscal responsibility and advisement on expenditures in accordance with the voter approved Measure PH.
- Should be interested and committed to the Habitat Authority's purpose and mission, including preserving regional habitat and open spaces.
- Should have enthusiasm and a willingness to prepare for and fully participate in each meeting.
- Any person with skills and/or talents in the areas of finances, accounting, ecology, wildfire management, outdoor recreation, planning, recreational programming (including outdoor education), or any other applicable specific skill is welcomed and encouraged to apply.

FOAC MEETINGS:

- FOAC meetings will be held quarterly at 6 p.m. on Wednesdays (same week as the Board of Directors meeting). These meetings will be held in person in accordance with state law.

VACANCIES

- Committee members shall automatically forfeit their place on the committee upon 3 unexcused absences in a 12-month period. An unexcused absence occurs when a committee member does not inform the committee chair and the Habitat Authority's Executive Director or not attend a meeting and does not provide cause for not attending the meeting in a timely fashion. The Executive Director shall notify a committee member and the Recommending Party who has been removed from the committee due to 3 unexcused absences. The committee member who has been removed may request that the decision be appealed to the Board at their next available meeting.



Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority

Endowment Provided by the Puente Hills Landfill

Citizens Technical Advisory Committee Election of Officers Policy

1. The CTAC's chair and vice-chair positions (the positions) shall have a standard term limit of one year. Members may be elected to hold these positions in the future but not in consecutive calendar years, except as described in section 3 below.
2. The positions shall rotate by communities represented on the CTAC. Starting in the year 2013 a CTAC member representing La Habra Heights shall be elected to hold the chair position, following the year afterwards by a member from the unincorporated communities of Los Angeles County (either Hacienda Heights or Rowland Heights), and followed by a member from the City of Whittier. Starting in 2013, the vice-chair position shall be a member from the unincorporated communities of Los Angeles County, followed the next year by a member from the City of Whittier, and then by a member from La Habra Heights.
3. If a vacancy occurs with the positions, the CTAC shall vote at the next meeting to fill that position with a member from which community the position was held. In the event that a community member representing that of the current position is unavailable to be elected to fill the vacancy, then the succeeding community in the rotation will be eligible for election into that vacant position, as well as be eligible for re-election at the next first meeting of the calendar year. The objective is to not have any position held by the same community for two consecutive years, but not be shorter than one year in length. Should the chair position change representative communities then the vice-chair position shall rotate community representatives as well.
4. Should no member decide to make themselves available for election, the current officer shall continue to hold that position until a replacement officer is elected even if the officer's term expires.
5. The CTAC is eligible to elect any member to the positions out of rotation order if it acts by a majority in the belief that the interests of the Authority will be best served in that manner.

The above policy is compatible with Authority Board Resolution 97-01 that established the CTAC. Section 2f of the Resolution authorizes annual elections of officers, the positions, to occur in the first meeting of the calendar year. Specifically, the proposed term limits and rotation schedule of the positions are not in conflict with the Resolution as each year the election



of officers would be limited to a candidate pool of up to three members representing the community that is eligible to hold the positions according to the rotation schedule. The Resolution allows for a re-election of officers, which would be the case should a member be re-elected to a position in a non-consecutive year of holding that position, or in the special case of a member who has filled a vacant position the previous year.

For example, if La Habra Heights' representative as chair is no longer available in May to hold the position, then at the June CTAC meeting a vote shall occur to elect a different La Habra Heights representative to that position. If no other La Habra Heights member is available to fill that position, then a CTAC member from unincorporated Los Angeles County shall be elected to the position of chair. With this being the case, the vice-chair position will need to rotate to the next representative community, the City of Whittier. In January of the next year, the County CTAC chair member will be eligible for re-election to the chair position, or another member from the County will be eligible for election to the chair position. The same logic applies for the vice-chair position.

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

AGENDA ITEM NO 6

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 17, 2025
To: Board Members
From: *Andrea Gullo*
Andrea Gullo, Executive Director
Subject: Discussion and possible action approving updated Citizens Technical Advisory Committee (CTAC) Fact Sheet.

Recommendation:

That the Board discuss and approve the updated CTAC fact sheet.

Background:

Attached is an updated fact sheet for the Authority's existing advisory committee.

Per Authority resolution 1997-01 the Authority created its existing advisory committee known as the Citizens Technical Advisory Committee (CTAC). The purpose of the CTAC is to act as a liaison between the Authority and residents of the communities within the Authority's jurisdiction. The CTAC may also assist the Authority, at its expressed direction, by providing advice and recommendations on matters pertaining to maintenance, preservation, management, restoration, and protection of natural resources or on any other matters of importance determined by the Authority.

The updates to the fact sheet are for consistency with the Authority's new fiscal oversight advisory fact sheet. Updated elements primarily include the mission statement, vacancies and meeting schedule.

Fiscal Impact:

None.

Attachments:

updated draft CTAC fact sheet
existing CTAC fact sheet



Andrea Gullo
Executive Director



Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority

Endowment Provided by the Puente Hills Landfill

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ivan Sulic
Chair
County of Los Angeles

Mary Ann Pacheco
Vice Chair
City of Whittier

Robert Ferrante
Director Sanitation Districts of
Los Angeles County

Cassandra Garcia
Director
Hacienda Heights

Citizens Technical Advisory Committee

FACT SHEET

The Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) is dedicated to the acquisition, restoration, and management of open space in the Puente Hills for preservation of the land in perpetuity, with the primary purpose to protect the biological diversity. Additionally, the agency endeavors to provide opportunities for outdoor education and low-impact recreation. The Habitat Authority came into existence in 1994 as a condition of approval for the Puente Hills Landfill.

The Board of Directors consists of four members: the City of Whittier, the County of Los Angeles, the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, and a public member from Hacienda Heights.

In 1997 the Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 97-01, establishing a nine-member Citizens Advisory Committee, which is recognized as the Citizens Technical Advisory Committee (CTAC) made up of representatives from the communities of Whittier, La Habra Heights, and the unincorporated areas of Hacienda Heights and Rowland Heights in Los Angeles County.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Are recommended by their respective member agencies and appointed by the Habitat Authority Board for the purpose of acting as a liaison between the Habitat Authority and the residents of the communities within their subject jurisdiction (Whittier, La Habra Heights, and Los Angeles County) as well as advising the Board of Directors, at its express direction, on various parkland matters.
- Work on a variety of issues including community concerns, trails, and access; and work to preserve and protect in perpetuity the remaining habitat areas and secure tenuous wildlife crossing points.
- Should be interested and committed to preserving regional native habitat in line with the purpose of the Habitat Authority.
- Should have enthusiasm and a willingness to prepare and fully participate at each meeting.
- Any person with skills and/or talents in the areas of ecology, outdoor recreation, graphics, planning, environmental interpretation (education), landscape architecture, or any other applicable specific skill is welcomed and encouraged to apply.

CTAC MEETINGS:

- CTAC meetings will be held on the Tuesday before the third Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. These meetings will be held in person in accordance with state law.

VACANCIES

- Committee members shall automatically forfeit their place on the committee upon 3 unexcused absences in a 12-month period. An unexcused absence occurs when a committee member does not inform the committee chair and the Habitat Authority's Executive Director or not attend a meeting and does not provide cause for not attending the meeting in a timely fashion. The Executive Director shall notify a committee member and the Recommending Party who has been removed from the committee due to 3 unexcused absences. The committee member who has been removed may request that the decision be appealed to the Board at their next available meeting.



Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority

Endowment Provided by the Puente Hills Landfill

Citizens Technical Advisory Committee

FACT SHEET

The purpose of the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) is to acquire, restore and maintain open space in the western Puente Hills as a permanent protection for the native habitat. The Habitat Authority came into existence in 1994 as a condition of approval for the Puente Hills Landfill.

The Board of Directors consists of four members: the City of Whittier, County of Los Angeles, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, and the Hacienda Heights Improvement Association.

In 1997 the Board of Directors established a nine-member Citizens Technical Advisory Committee (CTAC) made up of representatives from the communities of Whittier, La Habra Heights, and the unincorporated areas of Hacienda Heights and Rowland Heights in Los Angeles County per the 97-01 Board resolution.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Are approved by their respective agencies and appointed by the Habitat Authority for the purpose of acting as a liaison between the Habitat Authority and the residents of the communities within their subject jurisdiction (Whittier, La Habra Heights, and Los Angeles County) as well as advising the Board of Directors, at its expressed direction, on various parkland matters.
- Work on a variety of issues including community concerns, trails and access, and work to preserve and protect in perpetuity the remaining habitat areas and secure tenuous wildlife crossing points.
- Should be interested and committed to preserving regional native habitat in line with the purpose of the Habitat Authority.
- Should have enthusiasm and a willingness to prepare and fully participate at each meeting.
- Any person with skills and/or talents in the areas of ecology, outdoor recreation, graphics, planning, environmental interpretation (education), landscape architecture, or any other applicable specific skill is welcomed and encouraged to apply.

CTAC MEETINGS:

- CTAC meetings will be held on the Tuesday before the third Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. These meetings will be held remotely or in person depending on Board direction based on County and state health guidelines. *Three consecutive unexcused absences constitute removal from the Committee.*

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

AGENDA ITEM NO 7

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 17, 2025

To: Board Members

From: *Andrea Gullo*
Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Subject: Discussion and possible action of Authority comments on the Los Angeles County Hazards Mitigation Plan.

Recommendation:

That the Board discuss and approve the attached letter or take other appropriate action.

Background:

In 2025, the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management will be updating the County's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires state and local governments to prepare mitigation plans to document their mitigation planning process, and identify hazards, potential losses, mitigation needs, goals, and strategies.

In February, the County reached out to stakeholders for participation and feedback with the planning process. Authority staff has provided feedback on draft sections of the document. The draft HMP is expected to be uploaded to the County's website in the near future for public comment. Attached is a draft comment letter re-emphasizing some of the Authority staff comments previously made.

Fiscal Impact:

None.

Attachments:

draft comment letter

Ivan Sulic
Chair
County of Los Angeles

Mary Ann Pacheco
Vice Chair
City of Whittier

Robert Ferrante
Director Sanitation Districts of
Los Angeles County

Cassandra Garcia
Director
Hacienda Heights

April 17, 2025

Karen Haro, Emergency Management Coordinator
Los Angeles County
Office of Emergency Management
500 W. Temple St., Room 358
Los Angeles, CA, 90012

Re: Los Angeles County Hazards Mitigation Plan

Dear Ms. Haro:

The Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Authority) appreciates the opportunity to be included in the stakeholder meetings for Los Angeles County's Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) development process.

Authority staff has previously provided comments on the draft HMP. We understand the County is in the beginning stages of the planning process, however, below are a few of those previous comments emphasized by the Authority's Board of Directors regarding the Wildfires section for your consideration.

Wildfires Section:

Comments regarding the proposed Mitigation and Preparedness Strategies for consideration are as follows:

1. Current text: "Defensible Space Requirements: Enforcing brush clearance around structures."

Please consider adding: "**Enforcing and promoting education about Zone Zero for residents, facilities and businesses in high or very high hazard areas.**"

Assembly Bill 3074 (AB-3074) was originally passed by the State legislature on September 29, 2020, and is known as "Zone Zero" or the Ember Resistant Zone. The State Board of Forestry has been tasked with developing implementation requirements. This legislation is expected to severely restrict combustible material within five feet of all residential structures within the high and very high fire hazard severity zones.

Draft

2. Current text: “Enhanced Building Codes: Promoting fire-resistant materials for new developments.”

Current text: “Community Preparedness: Educating residents on wildfire readiness through outreach campaigns, emergency alert systems, and neighborhood preparedness programs.”

Please consider adding to either one of these strategies: “**Promoting and educating home hardening retrofits for existing homes in high or very high hazard areas.**”

Home hardening is an essential tool for preventing structure fires in communities. It is a required disclosure when buying or selling homes in high or very high fire hazard areas per AB38. The law requires that on or after July 1, 2025, a list of low-cost retrofits completed during the time that the seller has owned the property, if any, will need to be disclosed when selling homes in high fire hazard areas.

For example, below is a list of the features that may make the home vulnerable to wildfire and flying embers. The notice shall disclose which of the listed features, if any, that exist on the home of which the seller is aware:

- (A) Eave, soffit, and roof ventilation where the vents have openings in excess of one-eighth of an inch or are not flame and ember resistant.
- (B) Roof coverings made of untreated wood shingles or shakes.
- (C) Combustible landscaping or other materials within five feet of the home and under the footprint of any attached deck.
- (D) Single pane or nontempered glass windows.
- (E) Loose or missing bird stopping or roof flashing.
- (F) Rain gutters without metal or noncombustible gutter covers.

3. Current text: “Evacuation Planning: Improving coordination between OEM, LASD, LACoFD, and other jurisdictions to ensure clear evacuation procedures.”

Please consider adding to this strategy or elsewhere in the document: “**Improve road systems to facilitate safe and efficient evacuations.**”

4. Please add a new mitigation strategy:
“**Water Systems: Promote establishment of adequate water supply and fire hydrants in high or very high hazard zones.**”

On County roads in open space areas in very high fire hazard areas, such as along Turnbull Canyon Road, there is a need for fire hydrants for firefighting purposes. Including a mitigation strategy addressing water supply needs may open the door to future funding for possible future water line repairs or extensions for water tanks or heli-tanks.

Another consideration for the Wildfire section of the HMP is an educational campaign about the fire risks associated with fireworks. Additionally, please consider promoting native habitat

restoration to eliminate fine/flashy fuels in open space areas, and replacing them with higher moisture content native vegetation that burns slower.

Thank you for your consideration of these important elements of the draft HMP. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions to me at (310) 507-5022, or to Executive Director Andrea Gullo at agullo@habitatauthority.org or (562) 945-9003.

Sincerely,

Draft

Ivan Sulic
Chair, Board of Directors

Copy: Board of Directors
Citizens Advisory Committee

Additional Materials

Minutes
PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY
CITIZENS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
January 14, 2025

The meeting of the Citizens Technical Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at the Whittier Senior Center, 13225 Walnut Ave, Whittier, CA 90602.

I. CALL TO ORDER.

Chair Andros called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL.

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

Members Present:

Matthew Liang	County of Los Angeles
Bryan Coreas*	County of Los Angeles
Catherine Houwen, Vice Chair	La Habra Heights
Adam Nazaroff	La Habra Heights
Shelley Andros, Chair	Whittier
Michelle Pekko-Seymoure	Whittier

*Arrived after roll call

Members Absent:

Vacant	County of Los Angeles
Roy Francis	La Habra Heights
Dr. Janis Cavanaugh	Whittier

Authority Representatives Present:

Ivan Sulic, Chair of the Board of Directors
Andrea Gullo, Executive Director
Michelle Mariscal, Ecologist

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Steve Huber from Whittier Area Audubon shared information regarding their last monthly hike conducted at Sycamore Canyon including that there were over 40 species of birds, the highlight being a Green-tailed Towhee which is the first sighting of this species in the canyon to date.

IV. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR, AND SELECTION OF BOARD LIAISON.

Executive Director Gullo explained the rotation of the Chair, Vice-Chair and Board Liaison.

Vice Chair Houwen motioned to nominate Member Nazaroff as Chair. Chair Andros seconded the motion and, in a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Member Coreas motioned to nominate Member Liang as Vice Chair. Member Pekko-Seymoure seconded the motion and, in a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Member Andros motioned to nominate Member Houwen as Board Liaison. Vice Chair Liang seconded the motion and, in a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE NOVEMBER 19, 2024, ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING.

Vice Chair Liang motioned to approve the November 19, 2024 minutes as drafted. Member Houwen seconded the motion, and in a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

VI. STANDING REPORTS:

a. REPORT BY BOARD LIAISON ON PREVIOUS MONTH'S AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING.

Member Houwen, Board Liaison, provided the report for the November Board meeting.

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

Member Houwen provided information at the La Habra Heights City Council Meeting regarding recent trail closures due to red flag conditions.

Given the heightened state of anxiety over the wildfires in other areas of the County, Member Coreas complimented agency staff on the recent social media messaging with information on red flag conditions.

Chair Navaroff expressed concern that e-dirt bikes may be negatively impacting the recently repaired Worsham Canyon Trail.

VII. DISCUSSION, RECEIVE AND FILE THE AUTHORITY'S FISCAL YEAR 2023-24 END OF THE YEAR BUDGET REPORT.

There was discussion, and the item was then received and filed.

VIII. DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS THAT IT AUTHORIZE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GULLO TO EXECUTE CONTRACT WITH LANCE, SOLL & LUNGHARD, LLP (LSL) FOR ACCOUNTING SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,200, AND AMEND THE AUTHORITY BUDGET ACCORDINGLY.

Vice Chair Liang motioned to recommend to the Board of Directors to authorize Executive Director Gullo to execute a contract with Lance, Soll & Lunghard, LLP for accounting services in the amount of \$11,200, and amend the Authority budget accordingly. Member Coreas seconded the motion, and in a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

IX. DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS THAT IT ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2025-01 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY DECLARING THE RESULTS OF A SPECIAL TAX ELECTION, DETERMINING THE VALIDITY OF PRIOR PROCEEDINGS, AND DIRECTING THE RECORDING OF THE NOTICE OF SPECIAL TAX LIEN; AND INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01 AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY LEVYING SPECIAL TAXES FOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT NO. 2024-01 (PUENTE HILLS PRESERVE PROTECTION).

Blair Aas from SCI Consulting Group provided a verbal overview.

Member Coreas motioned to recommend to the Board of Directors to adopt Resolution No. 2025-01 and introduce Ordinance No. 2025-01. Member Andros seconded the motion, and in a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

X. DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS THAT IT AUTHORIZE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE CONTRACT WITH SCI CONSULTING GROUP FOR FIVE-YEAR TERM ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT NO. 2024-01 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$176,200.

Blair Aas from SCI Consulting Group answered Committee Member questions.

Member Coreas motioned to recommend to the Board of Directors to authorize Executive Director Gullo to execute a contract with SCI Consulting Group in the amount of \$176,200. Member Pekko-Seymoure seconded the motion, and in a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

XI. DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SEND THE DRAFT LETTER TO THE LA HABRA HEIGHTS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT REGARDING REGIONAL FIRE SAFETY.

Member Andros motioned to recommend to the Board of Directors to send the draft letter to the La Habra Heights County Water District regarding regional fire safety. Member Houwen seconded the motion, and in a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

XII. CLOSING REMARKS (COMMENTS/QUESTIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND/OR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR).

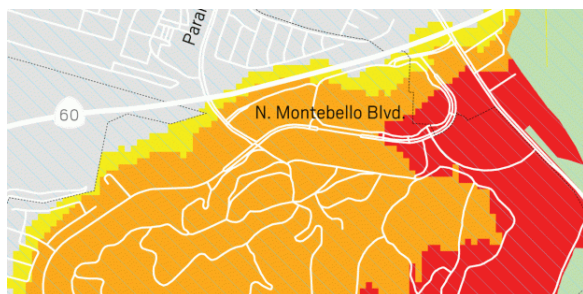
Member Coreas reiterated that he liked the fire education posts the Authority has put out on social media and felt they were responsive to current events. He mentioned that sharing additional information on fire prevention activities the Authority has conducted would be good information to add to the website.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEXT MEETING.

There being no further comments or business to discuss, Chair Navaroff adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is on February 18, 2025.

New fire hazard maps spark heightened response from Whittier, Montebello: 'We're all on notice'

A section of Montebello was designated susceptible to wildfires by CalFire. Whittier officials also say they are incorporating the maps into hazard plans.



By [Anissa Rivera](#) | arivera@scng.com

UPDATED: March 28, 2025 at 3:27 PM PDT

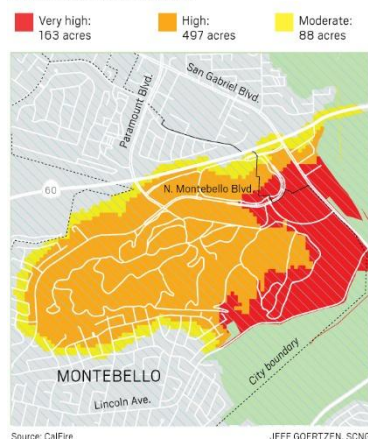
Montebello joined an expanding number of cities and communities in California, appearing for the first time in CalFire's latest update of its [Fire Hazard Severity Zone map](#) released on Monday, March 24.

CalFire, California's Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, identified several areas within the northern section of Montebello as having moderate, high and very high fire zones. The designation pinpoints area most susceptible to wildfires because of the type of vegetation, topology, changing climate and weather.

"These updated maps highlight the wildfire risks in our city and serve as a reminder that preparedness is key," said Fernando Peláez, fire chief for the Montebello Fire Department. "By implementing fire safety measures and remaining vigilant, we can help mitigate the potential impact of wildfires in our community."

Montebello now has fire zones

Montebello is appearing for the first time in CalFire's latest update of its Fire Hazard Severity Zone map released Monday. Approximately 748 acres have fallen into one of three fire zones.



Montebello is one of 13 Los Angeles County cities that didn't have any fire zones designated in the agency's previous map released in 2011. The cities include Santa Monica, South Pasadena, Alhambra, Rosemead and West Hollywood, according to Daniel Berlant, state fire marshal.

Berlant said the maps should serve as a planning tool to guide local governments and residents in [mitigating their fire risk](#).

It's a message the Montebello Fire Department, which serves the city's 65,000 residents, is addressing.

Its Community Risk Reduction Division will launch a public education campaign in May, providing residents and business owners with guidance should they encounter new

requirements based on the category their property falls under. Enforcement of rules and regulations as it relates to the new zones is not expected to begin until after the public education campaign is completed.

Such rules might include home-hardening retrofits and brush clearance as well as disclosing a home's "very high" hazard classification to possible buyers.

Classified in the red "Very high" severity zone are portions of Durfee Avenue and State Route 19 (Lakewood/Rosemead Boulevard) adjoining San Gabriel Boulevard and the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area.

Much of the newly-identified spaces are designated "high" or orange hazard zones, including The Shops at Montebello, and numerous homes and businesses, with "moderate" classification denoting an area that includes portions at and south of the 60 freeway.

In orange "high" hazard zones, newly-constructed homes must meet stricter fire-resistant building standards and anyone selling a home there have to disclose the area's elevated danger designation.

Residents in the "very high" hazard zones are subject to those rules as well as additional requirements, such as clearing brush in a 100-foot circle around their property. Aside from creating this defensible space around homes and buildings, these locations will face annual brush inspections.

The designations are based on factors such as terrain, vegetation and fire history.

First Street, a climate risk data company based in New York, found no historic records of wildfires in Montebello between 1984 to 2021. It designated the city's overall risk for wildfire as moderate.

New builds must be designed with multiple evacuation routes, adequate water supply infrastructure and built-in fuel breaks.

The release of the updated maps, including which locations are covered by local fire departments and which fall under state responsibility, only fueled the impetus of the Whittier City Council, which ramped up its fire safety and hazard mitigation efforts after the Palisades and Eaton fires.

"We're all on notice and now we know we have a lot of work to do," Mayor Joe Vinatieri said the day after the updated maps' release.

“We now have a situation in Whittier that is far more dangerous than it was previously in the prior maps,” he said, saying conditions in the city’s hillsides remain a threat for the entire Puente Hills area and wind-driven fires that decimated the Palisades and Altadena are possible in this corridor.

“We have a situation that is a regional problem now. This is much more than just the city of Whittier,” Vinatieri said.

Shannon DeLong, interim city manager for the city of Whittier, said staff will be working to make sure the updated maps are included as part of the city’s update to its [Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan](#).

“We’re also working closely with Los Angeles County Fire Department to update County Fire Station 17, and we expect our newest heli-hydrant in our hills to be complete within the next six months,” she said.

Station 17 is at 12006 Hadley St. in Whittier, one of five Los Angeles County fire stations in the city, serving more than 86,000 people.

Andrea Gullo, executive director of the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority, said in its March 20 meeting, the agency is creating a Hazards Mitigation Plan incorporating wildfires among other natural disasters. The successful passage of Measure PH on the November election will help the authority’s fire preparedness efforts too.

“Our ongoing efforts of annual fuel clearance, hazardous tree removals and habitat restoration will continue alongside our diligent collaboration with local fire departments,” Gullo said.

With funding, which included grants from CalFire itself as well as the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, the Habitat Authority has conducted increased fuel management than ever before, including removing 425 dead, dying and hazardous trees along the urban wildland interface and emergency access routes; clearing defensible space from structures; maintaining drivable access routes; and conducting habitat restoration in 320 acres of the preserve.

The Habitat Authority also brought in goats to graze in areas of the nature preserve in 2022, 2023 and 2024.

In the days after the Eaton Fire, Vinatieri and Councilmember Octavio Martinez visited the Habitat Authority nature preserve in the Puente Hills to highlight the risks of brush buildup and illegal fires in the area. City staff also remained on alert should they need to activate the Emergency Operations Center.

“We have our work cut out for us to put together plans to do as much as we can to minimize this,” Vinatieri said, adding partners in the efforts include the Los Angeles County Fire Department and the [Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority](#), a public agency that manages more than 3,000 acres of preserved public open space from Rowland Heights, La Habra Heights, Hacienda Heights, Brea and Whittier.

Both cities have 120 days to accept public feedback on the maps. They have until July 22 to adopt the maps as their own designation.

You can find Cal Fire’s latest online map [here](#). Click on the magnifying glass in the upper left corner, then enter your address to see the fire hazard zone for your home.

SCNG staff writer Jeff Collins contributed to this report.

Originally Published: March 28, 2025 at 3:24 PM PDT

California's former insurance commissioner sees grim future, more wildfires

David Jones says FAIR Plan coverage of riskiest homeowners insurance policies will continue to grow due to climate change.



California's State Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones talks during a news conference in Los Angeles on Thursday, Oct. 19, 2017. Jones says preliminary estimates of losses from the state's recent siege of wildfires exceed \$1 billion and that the figure is expected to rise. Jones told reporters that the estimate comes from the eight largest insurers in the affected areas. (AP Photo/Richard Vogel)

By **Pat Maio** | pmaio@scng.com

PUBLISHED: April 7, 2025 at 6:23 AM PDT

Former California insurance commissioner David Jones described the L.A. area firestorms in January as a “canary in the coal mine” warning for climate change that will bring more catastrophic fires all-year and push the property and casualty insurance industry to the brink of a financial crisis.

“Climate change is the canary in the coal mine, and the canary is dying,” Jones said. “You can give the canary mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, but ultimately it’s going to be killed by climate change.”

Jones, who was Insurance Commissioner from 2011 to 2019, helped regulate California’s response to increasingly deadly and destructive catastrophic wildfires during his two-term tenure, when more than 1.4 million acres burned throughout the state.

The 63-year-old Jones, now the director of the Climate Risk Initiative at UC Berkeley’s Center for Law, Energy and the Environment, maintains that California is headed for a “very grim” future with more L.A.-like firestorms.

Rows of destroyed homes during the Palisades Fire in the Alhambra neighborhood of Pacific Palisades, CA, on Thursday, January 9, 2025. (Photo by Jeff Gritchen, Orange County Register/SCNG)



He blames climate change for firestorms like the ones that erupted in January in Los Angeles County. Such fires are happening more frequently and outside the traditional summer and fall fire seasons.

Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns worldwide.

Jones cited as evidence the growing number of residential policies in force by the California FAIR Plan, the state's property insurer of last resort. Mainstream property insurers are abandoning ZIP codes in fire-prone areas, leaving policyholders no other option but to turn to the FAIR Plan.

In 2015, there were 141,391 residential policyholders in the FAIR Plan, [according to statistics provided by the California Department of Insurance](#). The number of policyholders grew to 189,790 at the end of 2019 — also the end of Jones' second term as commissioner. Since then, the number of policyholders has grown to 220,091 in 2020, and risen more than 127% to [501,379 by the end of last year](#), according to statistics provided by the FAIR Plan. The private association declined to share data prior to 2020.

David Jones, director of the Climate Risk Initiative at UC Berkeley's Center for Law, Energy and the Environment, and former state insurance commissioner from 2011-2019.

We asked Jones about the state of homeowners insurance in California, and what needs to be done to fix it. His answers have been edited for clarity and length.

Q: Is California the only place experiencing a crisis in homeowners' insurance?

A: California is not the only state where insurance availability and pricing is becoming a real challenge, and in fact, a crisis.

There are at least 18 states, including regulated states and unregulated states, where this is a problem. It's happening in varying degrees of severity across the United States.

What is happening is that, due to climate change, we're having more extreme and severe weather-related events that are killing more Americans, injuring more Americans, destroying more Americans' homes and causing insurance companies to pay out larger and larger amounts.

And insurance is a business, and the way that it responds to increased losses is it increases price and it reduces the writing of insurance, and it's doing both those things in at least 18 states across the country.

Q: How big of a problem are non-renewals and insurance pricing?

A: Two reports were released last year — [the U.S. Senate Budget Committee](#) in December 2024, and the U.S. Treasury Department's [Federal Insurance Office](#) in January 2025 — concluded there is a problem across the entire country.

In the states where insurance prices are going up, and insurance is becoming less available due to non-renewals or new insurance isn't being written, these are the very same places where more extreme and severe weather-related events are landing.

All I can tell you is what the data says. The reports are based on a national survey of the insurance companies over the last five years. It's the best data sets available, and the numbers don't lie.

Q: Are you seeing climate change cause higher insurance losses and homeowners getting shifted to the FAIR Plan?

A: In my second term, beginning in 2015, we started seeing a gradual but significant uptick in FAIR Plan policyholder counts. That's a bellwether, right?

The number of FAIR Plan policyholders nearly tripled since I left office. Why? Because insurers are increasingly concluding that they can't write insurance and make money, and so they're non-renewing, and that's even though they're getting substantial rate increases.

Over the last several years, we have given the insurers rate increases. They have to justify the rate increases, but they tend to be, shall we say, unbashful in asking for substantial increases.

When you start seeing more Californians forced to the FAIR Plan for insurance, what that tells you is that they've been non-renewed, or been told by the private insurers that they aren't going to write them insurance. We also started see huge wildfires.

It's really gotten worse in the last five or six years.

Q: The picture you're painting is that it's getting worse, right?

A: It's getting worse. We're marching toward an uninsurable future in this country, because we're not doing enough, fast enough, about climate change. There's not some magic wand we can wave with regard to insurance to make problems go away.

Q: What can be done to slow down the rise in losses?

A: Something that is really frustrating for Californians, and rightfully so, is that there are proven, empirically-based, scientifically based mitigation measures that reduce the risk of loss.

In the wildfire context, there is home hardening and defensible space. This includes using more fire-resistant materials for your roof, having shatter-resistant glass, so that when the heat of the fire approaches your home, your windows don't shatter, the embers don't fly in, protecting the eaves of the home, so that embers don't get into the attic ... Not having any

attached wooden structures, having a 5-foot zone around the home that's clear of any vegetation, having 30 or 100 feet where vegetation is dramatically reduced, right? This is a partial list.

There's a long list of these things that are accepted by fire officials, fire chiefs, fire professionals. No disagreement about this stuff, right?

We need to pass a state law that requires the insurers' computer models to account for proven mitigation measures, since they're not willing to do it voluntarily. My successor — Ricardo Lara — adopted a [regulation giving people a discount](#) for home hardening defensible space, and for being in a fire wise community. That's great, you get a discount.

But the discount doesn't matter if they won't write or renew your insurance.

[Two bills](#) have been introduced in Sacramento to create incentives for home hardening against wildfires.

Q: Should homeowners get credit on their policies for home hardening?

A: We're spending billions of dollars on this, and you get no credit for it in the decisions the insurance companies make when they write or renew your insurance. That's really outrageous. And the insurance commissioner can't change that himself or herself, because insurance commissioners don't control underwriting.

So, the only way to fix this problem, that I've identified, is you'd have to pass a state law that requires the models they use to decide whether to write or renew insurance to account for proven mitigation.

Q: Early January is not fire season in L.A. Are we going to see more wildfires year-round?

A: I think the future is very grim. I think that we've had a catastrophic wildfire in January, and we could have any number of catastrophic wildfires later in the year. So, it's a very grim future.

Home Hardening Assistance

Department: CAL FIRE/OES

Program Description: California is developing the first home hardening assistance program, designed to help low-income high fire risk communities, collectively achieve home hardening and defensible space. The program is currently funded 75 percent through FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds and matched 25 percent with state appropriated funds.

Assembly Bill 38, (Wood, 2019) directed the Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to enter into a joint powers agreement (JPA) with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to develop and administer the California Wildfire Mitigation Program. The program is designed to encourage cost-effective structure hardening and retrofitting and facilitate vegetation management, the creation and maintenance of defensible space, and other fuel modification activities. The legislation directed the JPA to develop criteria and a scoring methodology to prioritize financial assistance to areas and community based on vulnerability to fire, the impact of future climate risk and factors that lead some populations to experience a greater risk to wildfire, adverse health outcomes, or and inhibited ability to respond to a wildfire, including socioeconomic characteristics of the areas or communities that would be protected by financial assistance. Areas eligible for financial assistance under the CWMP include State Responsibility Areas (SRA) located within any Fire Hazard Severity Zone and Local Responsibility Areas (LRA) located within a very high fire hazard severity zone.

Program Impact: The California Wildfire Mitigation Program is currently in the demonstration phase, being piloted in three select areas, Whitmore in Shasta County, Dulzura in San Diego County and Kelseyville-Riviera in Lake County. New pilot communities are also being considered for Tuolumne and El Dorado Counties. The lessons learned working with these pilot communities under the demonstration phase are being used to refine the program and build the program framework before expanding to additional areas within demonstration counties, and ultimately, across the state.

Resilience in Action: The California Wildfire Mitigation Program Joint Powers Authority has been actively updating the program framework based on lessons learned while working with the initial pilot communities. A wildfire home assessment application and training program has been developed and input from the pilot communities has instigated added features and improvements to the application and training program. The pilot communities have been actively conducting environmental review for their project areas. Procurement procedures for contracting for home retrofitting work are actively being developed. The target time frame for retrofitting the first homes in each of the pilot communities is anticipate for later this year.