

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

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors, February 15, 2024 at 3:00 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 3:00 pm on Wednesday, February 14, 2024 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	MARTINEZ	MARTINEZ
Hacienda Heights Improvement Association	YIP	MONARES
Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County	FERRANTE, Vice Chair	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 Marlyn Barajas at 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 shown on the agenda.

2. Report by Authority's Citizens Technical Advisory Committee.
3. Consent Calendar:
 - a. Approval of Authority Regular Meeting Minutes of January 18, 2024.
 - b. Receive and file Authority's Portfolio Earnings Reports and Custom by Instrument Type for January 24, 2024 prepared by the County of Los Angeles Treasurer and Tax Collector.
 - c. Receive and file November and December 2023 Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) Ranger Reports.
4. Discussion and possible action authorizing Executive Director to enter into a contract amendment with TeamCivX LLC in the amount of \$81,415 to facilitate a general informational mailers regarding the Authority, and amend the agency budget as appropriate.
5. Discussion and possible action authorizing the Executive Director to execute a contract with Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates for opinion poll services in the amount up to \$34,750.
6. Discussion and possible action regarding Habitat Authority's Earth Day event.
7. Discussion and possible action regarding planning for future expenditures using state funding for the purpose of upkeep and maintenance on ranger used facilities.
8. Discussion and report by Executive Director pertaining to Habitat trail hours openings and closures.
9. Discussion and possible adoption of Resolution 2024-01: of the A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY, APPROVING A LAND SWAP BETWEEN THE ROWLAND HEIGHTS WATER DISTRICT AND THE PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY, FOR A FEE TITLE PORTION OF ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBER 8269-003-900 FROM THE ROWLAND HEIGHTS WATER DISTRICT, IN EXCHANGE FOR A FEE TITLE PORTION OF ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBER 8266-002-901 FROM THE PUENTE HILLS HABITAT AUTHORITY, AUTHORIZING A MAINTENANCE EASEMENT, AND ACCEPTING A CONTRIBUTION OF \$30,000 FOR HABITAT ENHANCEMENT
10. Pending litigation – Initiation of litigation. Based on existing facts and circumstances, the legislative body of the local agency has decided to initiate or is deciding whether to initiate litigation. (Gov't Code Section 54956.9(d)(4).)
11. Instruction to negotiators on property negotiations for Assessor Parcel Numbers 8267-014-904, 8267-014-906 commonly known as the Diaz/Old Coach property and APN 8266-002-901, Powder Canyon. 1) Negotiations for an easement over approximately 1/10th of an acre of the property for heli-hydrant easement, and 2) Negotiations regarding La Habra Road vacation and a portion to be dedicated to the City of La Habra Heights for a fire access easement. Negotiating parties include Board Chair or Vice Chair, Executive Director, and City of La Habra Heights. (This item can be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 regarding real estate negotiations.)

12. Instruction to negotiators on property negotiations for Assessor Parcel Numbers 8267-017-900, 8267-017-905, 8267-017 906, and 8267-018-909 located along Harbor Boulevard. Negotiations for RMX Resources LLC., to Quitclaim to Habitat Authority all its rights, title, and interest and reserve easement for certain rights and pipelines. Negotiating parties include Board Chair or Vice Chair, Executive Director, Los Angeles County, and RMX Resources, LLC.
13. Instruction to negotiators on property negotiations for 114 acres of Assessor Parcel Number 8294-030-001 located in Hacienda Heights. Negotiating parties include Board Chair, Executive Director, and Nelson Chung, As Trustee of the Chung Family Trust and Palmdale Summit, a California Limited Partnership. (This item can be heard in closed session pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 regarding real estate negotiations.)
14. Board Members' statements, responses, questions or directions to staff, and Executive Director's comments.
15. Adjournment and announcement of next meeting.

Draft Minutes of Regular Meeting – January 18, 2024
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 6094

At 3:05 p.m., the meeting was called to order and a roll call was taken.

From Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County:

Present: Robert Ferrante, Vice Chair

From Hacienda Heights Improvement Association:

Present: Andrew Yip, Director

From County of Los Angeles

Present: Ivan Sulic, Chair

From City of Whittier:

Present: Councilmember Jessica Martinez, Director

Authority representatives present:

Andrea Gullo, Authority Executive Director

Michelle Mariscal, Authority Ecologist

Marlyn Barajas, Authority Board Secretary

Elena Gerli, Esq., Aleshire & Wynder LLP, Authority Counsel

Cathy Houwen, CTAC's Board Liaison

Kenn Hughes, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, Deputy Chief Ranger

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 SHOWN ON THE AGENDA.

Steve Huber, Vice President of Whittier Area Audubon, commented that there were new bird sightings on their last bird walk and saw a coastal California gnatcatcher bird nest in the Preserve. Huber thanked the Authority for their continued support.

Chair Sulic closed Public Comments at 3:07 p.m.

2. ANNUAL ELECTIONS OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR.

Chair Sulic expressed his desire to continue to serve as Chair to the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority.

Vice Chair Ferrante motioned to reelect Ivan Sulic as Chair. Director Martinez seconded the motion, and in a vote, the motioned passed unanimously.

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Vice Chair Ferrante said he would continue to serve as Vice Chair.

Director Martinez motioned to reelect Robert Ferrante as Vice Chair. Director Yip seconded the motion, and in a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

Liaison to the Board, Cathy Houwen, provided a report for the January 2024 CTAC meeting. Her report noted that CTAC Member Adam Nazaroff opposed executing a mitigation agreement with Metro Heights Montebello, LLC. Executive Director Gullo further explained the reasoning for his disapproval.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR:

- A. Approval of Authority Special Meeting Minutes of December 21, 2023.**
- B. Receive and file Authority’s Portfolio Earnings Reports and Custom by Instrument Type for December 2023 prepared by the County of Los Angeles Treasurer and Tax Collector.**
- C. Receive and file Authority’s Wells Fargo account reconciliation reports.**
- D. Receive and file September and October 2023 Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) Ranger Reports.**

Director Yip motioned to approve items A through D. Vice Chair Ferrante Seconded the motion, and in a vote the motion passed unanimously.

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING HABITAT AUTHORITY’S 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION.

There was discussion around ideas to commemorate the Habitat Authority’s 30th anniversary celebration. It was discussed that two events would be held. One celebrates Earth Day and the second marks the 30th anniversary.

Chair Sulic Directed staff to come back with three recommendations for possible action at the next Board meeting for location and ideas to celebrate Earth Day on April 20th or the 21st.

Chair Sulic will recommend a date to commemorate the Habitat Authority's 30th anniversary at the next Board meeting for possible action.

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION A) AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE MITIGATION AGREEMENT WITH METRO HEIGHTS MONTEBELLO, LLC TO SATISFY HABITAT MITIGATION IN AN AMOUNT OF \$3,595,364 FOR RESTORATION OF 12 ACRES OF HABITAT, B) APPROVING ENDOWMENT

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AGREEMENT BETWEEN METRO HEIGHTS MONTEBELLO, LLC AND THE SAN DIEGO FOUNDATION, C) AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A CONSERVATION EASEMENT OVER 12 ACRES OF AUTHORITY OWNED PROPERTY IN LA HABRA HEIGHTS IN FAVOR OF THE WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (WCA) OR OTHER QUALIFIED PUBLIC ENTITY, AND D) AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH LAND IQ FOR BIOLOGICAL MONITORING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$330,925.20.

Executive Director Gullo provided this report. There was discussion regarding the location of the chosen restoration area, and the access fees to the Habitat Authority.

Chair Sulic asked for a document showing how much open space the Habitat Authority has available for restoration.

Vice Chair Ferrante motioned to approve action a) authorizing Executive Director to execute Mitigation Agreement with Metro Heights Montebello, LLC to satisfy habitat mitigation in an amount of \$3,595,364 for restoration of 12 acres of habitat, b) approving Endowment Agreement between Metro Heights Montebello, LLC and The San Diego Foundation, c) authorizing Executive Director to execute a conservation easement over 12 acres of Authority owned property in La Habra Heights in favor of the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) or other qualified public entity, and d) authorizing Executive Director to execute a contract with Land IQ for biological monitoring in the amount of \$330,925.20. Director Yip seconded the motion and in a roll call vote, the motioned passed unanimously.

- 7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE THE THIRTY-THIRD AMENDMENT OF THE OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (MRCA) FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$48,891.96, AND B) AMEND THE AUTHORITY FY 22-23 BUDGET TO ACCOMMODATE THE INCREASE.**

Executive Director Gullo provided a report on the matter.

Vice Chair Ferrante motioned to authorize the Executive Director to execute the Thirty-third Amendment of the Open Space Management Agreement with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for maintenance and operation services in the amount of \$48,891.96, and b) amend the Authority FY 22-23 budget to accommodate the increase. Director Martinez seconded the motion, in a roll call vote, the motioned passed unanimously.

- 8. RECEIVE AND FILE THE AUTHORITY’S FISCAL YEAR 2022-23 END OF THE YEAR BUDGET REPORT.**

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Executive Director Gullo commented that the end of the year budget report was pulled together by staff and the Authority’s accounting consultant from LSL.

The end of the year budget report for fiscal year 2022-23 was received and filed.

9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO EXECUTE CONTRACT WITH MDJ MANAGEMENT FOR HOME IMPROVEMENTS TO AUTHORITY RANGER HOME ON WORKMAN MILL RD IN THE AMOUNT UP TO \$161,857.60 UTILIZING ALLOCATED FUNDS FROM A STATE GRANT AGREEMENT, AND AMEND THE AGENCY BUDGET AS NECESSARY.

Executive Director Gullo provided this report and explained how the home improvements of the ranger home on Workman Mill Rd. will be funded from state funding. The discussion led to questions regarding a grant application to CalFire for the fiscal year 2024-25, which was ultimately rejected. Chair Sulic asked that the Authority send him the CalFire rejection letter. Chair Sulic recommended that all Ranger homes receive upgrades using funds from the one-time state funding through Caltrans.

Director Martinez suggested having a donation QR code on all the Authority’s trailhead kiosks. Executive Director Gullo then commented that that idea is already in progress.

Chair Sulic directed staff to come back with a spending plan using state funding to upgrade the ranger homes.

Director Martinez motioned to approve Executive Director Gullo to execute a contract with MDJ Management for home improvements to the Authority ranger home on Workman Mill Rd. in an amount up to \$161,857.60 utilizing allocated funds from a state grant agreement. Vice Chair Ferrante seconded the motion and in a roll call vote, the motioned passed unanimously.

10. ANNOUNCEMENT OF AUTHORITY’S OPEN HOUSE ON JANUARY 24, 2024 AT 6 P.M. AT PARNELL PARK IN WHITTIER.

Chair Sulic announced the Habitat Authority’s upcoming Open House and mentioned that the same night is the annual homeless count.

11. PENDING LITIGATION – INITIATION OF LITIGATION. BASED ON EXISTING FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES, THE LEGISLATIVE BODY OF THE LOCAL AGENCY HAS DECIDED TO INITIATE OR IS DECIDING WHETHER TO INITIATE LITIGATION. (GOV’T CODE SECTION 54956.9(D)(4).)

Authority Counsel Gerli recommended not discussing items 11 through 15 from the agenda and instead discussing them at the next Board meeting.

Director Martinez motioned to continue items 11 through 15 to the next meeting. Director Yip seconded the motion, and in a vote the motion passed unanimously.

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- 12. INSTRUCTION TO NEGOTIATORS ON PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS FOR ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBERS 8267-014-904, 8267-014-906 COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE DIAZ/OLD COACH PROPERTY AND APN 8266-002-901, POWDER CANYON. 1) NEGOTIATIONS FOR AN EASEMENT OVER APPROXIMATELY 1/10TH OF AN ACRE OF THE PROPERTY FOR HELI-HYDRANT EASEMENT, AND 2) NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING LA HABRA ROAD VACATION AND A PORTION TO BE DEDICATED TO THE CITY OF LA HABRA HEIGHTS FOR A FIRE ACCESS EASEMENT. NEGOTIATING PARTIES INCLUDE BOARD CHAIR OR VICE CHAIR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND CITY OF LA HABRA HEIGHTS. (THIS ITEM CAN BE HEARD IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.8 REGARDING REAL ESTATE NEGOTIATIONS.)**

- 13. INSTRUCTION TO NEGOTIATORS ON PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS FOR ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBERS 8266-002-901 AND 8269-003-900. NEGOTIATING PARTIES INCLUDE BOARD CHAIR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND ROWLAND WATER DISTRICT. (THIS ITEM CAN BE HEARD IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.8 REGARDING REAL ESTATE NEGOTIATIONS.)**

- 14. INSTRUCTION TO NEGOTIATORS ON PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS FOR ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBERS 8267-017-900, 8267-017-905, 8267-017 906, AND 8267-018-909 LOCATED ALONG HARBOR BOULEVARD. NEGOTIATIONS FOR RMX RESOURCES LLC., TO QUITCLAIM TO HABITAT AUTHORITY ALL ITS RIGHTS, TITLE, AND INTEREST AND RESERVE EASEMENT FOR CERTAIN RIGHTS AND PIPELINES. NEGOTIATING PARTIES INCLUDE BOARD CHAIR OR VICE CHAIR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, AND RMX RESOURCES, LLC.**

- 15. INSTRUCTION TO NEGOTIATORS ON PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS FOR 112 ACRES OF ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBER 8294-030-001 LOCATED IN HACIENDA HEIGHTS. NEGOTIATING PARTIES INCLUDE BOARD CHAIR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND NELSON CHUNG, AS TRUSTEE OF THE CHUNG FAMILY TRUST AND PALMDALE SUMMIT, A CALIFORNIA LIMITED PARTNERSHIP. (THIS ITEM CAN BE HEARD IN CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.8 REGARDING REAL ESTATE NEGOTIATIONS.)**

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

Director Martinez congratulated Chair Sulic and Vice Chair Ferrante on their Board reelection and thanked Authority staff.

Director Yip commented on visiting a trailhead in Santa Clarita, noticed their trailhead kiosks have QR codes, and commented on their kiosk decor. He also commented on the Habitat Authority kiosk looking outdated.

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PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY

Director Yip inquired if the Habitat Authority has ever received a presentation on the Puente Hills Landfill Park. Vice Chair Ferrante commented that there might be updated information on LA County's Park and Recreation website. Chair Sulic asked the Authority to send a letter to LA County Parks and Recreation requesting a presentation to the Habitat Authority.

Vice Chair Ferrante is looking forward to another busy year, especially with it being the Habitat Authority's 30th anniversary.

Chair Sulic thanked the Board for their confidence in him as Board Chair. He also announced two ribbon cutting events on January 19. One for new lighting at Murphy Ranch Baseball Field and another for Paramedic Assessment Unit at Station 59 with LA County Fire Department.

Executive Director Gullo mentioned the following updates:

- She attended the Hacienda Heights Improvement Association annual dinner and election with Director Yip.
- All the Habitat Authority trails were opened at sunrise on New Years Day.
- Executive Director Gullo discussed the ongoing work in revamping the Authority's website.
- Executive Director Gullo mentioned she is investigating the possible use of a wildfire camera monitoring service.
- Executive Director Gullo noted that CTAC requested acquisition information to be discussed on the next CTAC agenda. The information will not include terms and prices.
- She noted an informational newspaper piece discussing a tax measure in the city of Chino.

17. ADJOURNMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING.

There being no further comments, or business to be discussed, Chair Sulic adjourned the meeting at 4:17 p.m.

Vice Chair Ferrante motioned to adjourn the meeting. Director Martinez seconded the motion and in a vote, the motion passed unanimously.
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Approved:

Ivan Sulic, Board Chair

Marlyn Barajas, Board Secretary



KEITH KNOX
TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 462, Los Angeles, California 90012
Telephone: (213) 974-3385 Fax: (213) 626-1701
ttc.lacounty.gov and propertytax.lacounty.gov

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

February 6, 2024

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 January 31, 2024, 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,

KEITH KNOX
Treasurer and Tax Collector

Jennifer Koai
Operations Chief

JK:ML:eh

Enclosures

c: Marlyn Barajas

Income Report - PHHPA

01/01/2024 - 01/31/2024

Specific Purpose Invest Agg (299402)

Dated: 02/01/2024

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 '24 MTN	3134GWSD9	2.000	9,500,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,833.33	0.00	15,833.33
821801198	FEDERAL FARM 2.500 07/29/41 '24	3133EMW65	2.500	22,675,000.00	283,437.50	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 01/31/2024

Specific Purpose Invest Agg (299402)

Dated: 02/01/2024

SPI

Original Lot ID	Detailed Description	CUSIP	Coupon Rate	Final Maturity	Purchase Yield	PAR Value	Amortized Cost	Historical Cost	Net Accumulated Amortization/Accretion
821801198	FEDERAL FARM 2.500 07/29/41 '24	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 '24 MTN	3134GWS09	2.000	08/27/2043	2.000	9,500,000.00	9,500,000.00	9,500,000.00	0.00
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* 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

Specific Purpose Invest Agg (299402)

01/01/2024 - 01/31/2024

Dated: 02/01/2024

<i>LA Fund Number</i>	<i>Original Lot ID</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Settle Date</i>	<i>Final Maturity</i>	<i>Coupon Rate</i>	<i>PAR Value</i>	<i>Principal</i>	<i>Purchased Accrued Income</i>	<i>Settlement Amount</i>
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* Grouped by: Aggregate Accounts. * Groups Sorted by: Aggregate Accounts. * Filtered By: Settle Date ≥ 01/01/2024 and Settle Date ≤ 01/31/2024 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

01/01/2024 - 01/31/2024

Specific Purpose Invest Agg (299402)

Dated: 02/01/2024

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



December 31, 2023

**Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority
Ranger and Park Staff Services Activities for November and December 2023**

- The MRCA contract provides approximately 82 hours weekly of ranger and park staff services.
- Continued general patrol for: providing visitor information, identifying hazardous conditions and correcting illegal activity. Open and close trailhead gates daily.
- Continued general maintenance for: graffiti removal, vandalism repair, litter and dumping removal, fence and gate repairs, sign installations and repairs and trail maintenance.
- Attended the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) Board meeting and Sycamore Canyon house tour.
- Attended the Citizens Technical Advisory Committee meeting and Sycamore Canyon house tour.
- Participated in our ranger monthly management meeting. Attended farewell for Ranger Laura Just who has been with the MRCA for over 20 years.
- Participated in the Habitat Authority Open House Event in Rowland Heights.
- Provided a Jr Ranger hike at Sycamore Canyon for 50 5th graders from St. Marks Lutheran School. Several Habitat Authority docents assisted.
- Participated in the Whittier Christmas Parade.
- Attended the annual Habitat Authority holiday party.
- Attended the heli-hydrant dedication event.
- Monitoring the dead tree removal project in Whittier and La Habra Heights.
- Completed our Law Enforcement refresher training.

- 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.
- Picked up dumping including:
 - Tires at the gate at Sycamore Canyon.
 - Trash bags in the parking lot at Sycamore Canyon.
 - Chair at Hacienda Hills Trailhead.
 - Large amount of trash at Arroyo San Miguel gate.
- Continue to notify the Habitat Authority staff of all unsuccessful animal road crossings that are observed at or near Habitat Authority property. During the months of November and December no animals were observed.
- Continue to monitor the Harbor underpass. No activity to report.
- Due to safety concerns and overcrowding at the Turnbull Canyon entrance, we previously worked with the owner of the property and Whittier Police Department to secure the vacant lot that is next to the entrance. The lot needed to be re-secured once in December.
- 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.
- Responded to several calls for cars broken into at Sycamore Canyon.
- Continue to contact the Los Angeles County Department of Street Maintenance regarding the graffiti along Turnbull Canyon Road.
- All trailheads were open at sunrise on January 1st per direction of Executive Director at the request from Board Chair Ivan Sulic.
- Removed a rope swing in Dark Canyon.
- Checked the windows and doors to the back house at Sycamore Canyon prior to the rain.
- Cleaned all the drains throughout the Preserve prior to the rain.
- The Preserve was closed several days in November and December due to rain.
- Continue to refill the doggy bags at Arroyo Pescadero.
- Removed weeds around parking lot at Arroyo San Miguel.

- Removed extensive graffiti from the kiosk and outhouse at Hellman Park.
- Continue to monitor, repair, replace the locks on all the access gates.
- Secured area around washout on Arroyo San Miguel Trail.
- Mowed several trails including:
 - Powder Canyon Trail.
 - Grey Squirrel Trail.
 - Sycamore Canyon Trail
 - Black Walnut Trail.
 - Purple Sage Trail.
- Covered the graffiti in the tunnel under Colima in Arroyo Pescadero.
- 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.
- Dealt with various violations including:
 - In the Preserve after hours at Sycamore Canyon, Hellman Park, Hacienda Hills, Powder Cyn. and Arroyo Pescadero.
 - Parking violations at Arroyo Pescadero, Hacienda Hills Trailhead, Sycamore Canyon and Ford property.
 - Bikes in Sycamore Canyon
 - Dogs in Sycamore Canyon
 - Hikers in Turnbull Canyon and Powder Canyon after rain.
 - Loud music in the Hacienda Hills.
 - Alcohol at Hacienda Hills, 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.
- 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 November and December to our 24-hour ranger emergency services number including:
 - Several calls for hikers locked in at Hellman Park.
 - Reporting vehicle broken into at Sycamore Canyon.
 - Requesting video footage for vehicle broken into at Sycamore Canyon.
 - Call from Whittier Police to assist with subject at Murphy Ranch Park with a rifle.
 - Call from Whittier Police looking for a female that has jumped the fence into the Preserve.

- Caller complaining that 9am is too late to open the Preserve.
 - Reporting a bike in Arroyo Pescadero.
 - Hiker locked in at Sycamore Canyon Trailhead.
 - Caller looking for Andrea Gullo.
 - Several calls inquiring if the trails are open.
 - Hikers climbed over the gate at Hacienda Hills Trailhead.
 - People in the Preserve at the end of Orange Grove Ave.
 - Sheriff requesting video footage for vehicle break-in case.
 - Hikers locked in at Hacienda Hills Trailhead.
 - Reporting bones on the Sycamore Canyon Trail. Appear to be deer bones.
 - Reporting a coyote in the neighbors backyard.
 - Reporting people jumped the fence at Hacienda Hills Trailhead.
 - Caller reporting intestines on the Coyote Trail.
 - Reporting a dead raccoon in the road.
 - Reporting that someone left their keys and cell phone on top of their car in Sycamore Canyon.
 - Inquiring about parking for Hellman Park.
 - Ca Dept of Conservation requesting access to Turnbull Canyon.
 - Reporting illegally parked vehicle at Hacienda Hills Trailhead.
 - Inquiring if there was a charge to hike the trails in Hacienda Heights.
 - Caller reporting that they saw a mountain lion at Sycamore Canyon.
- Continue to work closely with Executive Director Andrea Gullo on various projects and assignments as requested.

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

Sincerely,

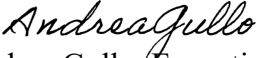
K E Hughes

Kenn Hughes
Deputy Chief Ranger

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 15, 2024

To: Board Members

From: 
Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Subject: Agenda Item No. 4) Discussion and possible action authorizing Executive Director to enter into a contract amendment with TeamCivX LLC in the amount of \$81,415 to facilitate general informational mailers regarding the Authority, and amend the agency budget as appropriate.

Recommendation:

That the Board authorize the Executive Director to amend the contract with TeamCivX in the amount of \$81,415 and amend the agency budget as appropriate.

Background:

In March 2023, the Board approved a contract in the amount of \$102,231.42 with TeamCivX for specialized public outreach, communication and educational consulting services. This includes the services of designing and mailing informational materials. This proposed amendment would fund this service. In December 2023, the Board amended this contract for its first mailer, and the current contract amount is \$148,196.42. Consist with the scope of the contract, a second amendment is proposed to fund the services of designing and mailing informational materials in the amount of \$81,415. The new contract amount would be \$229,611.42

With this second amendment to the contract, up to two informational jumbo postcards are proposed for mailing to either 50,000 or 95,444 households within the communities of Whittier, Roland Heights, La Habra Heights and Hacienda Heights. The postcard size and recipients would be decided at a later date by the Board subcommittee or Executive Director. The purpose of the mailers is to provide information to local households about the public services provided by this agency, and about a possible financing district. As was discovered through information gathering efforts of consultant FM3 last spring, the community is largely unaware of who the agency is and what it does.

Attached is the proposal from TeamCivX and the contract amendment for consideration.

Fiscal Impact:

The funding for this would be from the agency Access Fees funds.



January 30, 2024

To: Andrea Gullo, Executive Director, Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority

From: Joy Kummer, Partner

Re: Informational Mail Pricing

Informational mail is helpful to raise awareness of the Habitat Authority, as well as share information about the needs facing the Authority and continue the engagement process regarding a potential CFD. As a public agency, the Habitat Authority has 2 options when considering how to send informational mailing: mailing to every door direct mail (EDDM), or mailing to all registered voters in the proposed CFD.

Mailing to EDDM would include the communities of Wittier, Roland Heights, La Habra Heights, and Hacienda Heights and is best for broad communications. It is approximately 95,500 households.

Mailing to registered voters in the proposed CFD area would only include voters within the boundaries, and is better for communications specifically about the proposed tax. It is approximately 50,000 households, but we would need the final map from SCI that would be used by the Registrar of Voters.

We recommend 2 additional informational mailings, in April and in early June, at the large postcard size: either 8.5x11 or 8.5x13.

The April mailing would be to EDDM, sharing more broad information about the Habitat Authority, the trails that are part of the Habitat Authority, ask people to take part in our survey, and share information about upcoming events.

The June mailing would be to the CFD area only and include information about the proposed CFD and ask voters to take part in our survey and share their thoughts.

Estimated cost for these two mailings are as follows:

8.5x13

EDDM: \$44,965

Registered voters: \$36,450

Estimated total for both: \$81,415

8.5x11

EDDM: \$42,407

Registered voters: \$32,650

Estimated total for both: \$75,057

SECOND AMENDMENT TO
PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY
Habitat Communications and Outreach
Agreement 23-08B

This second amendment to that certain agreement entitled Habitat Communications and Outreach and numbered 23-08B (Agreement) is entered into on February 15, 2024 between the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (PHHPA) and TeamCivX (Consultant).

RECITALS

A. PHHPA and Contractor entered into the Agreement on December 1, 2022. Consultant agreed to provide professional services for specialized public outreach, educational services, and strategy consulting services related to a possible Community Financing District as a financing mechanism, for a Term ending November 2024, and total compensation in the amount of 102,231.42.

B. PHHPA amended the Agreement on December 21, 2023 (Amendment No. 1) increasing compensation by \$45,965 for designing and mailing informational materials. The new contract amount was \$148,196.42.

C. PHHPA now wishes to fund the services of designing and mailing informational materials in the amount of \$81,415. The new contract amount would be \$229,611.42.

AGREEMENT

1. PHHPA and Consultant agree to the following amendments (added text in ***bold italics***, deleted text in ~~strikethrough~~):

Section 1.01(d) is amended to read:

Public Information and Stakeholder Outreach. CONSULTANT shall perform any of the following services as needed to raise awareness of PHHPA, its funding needs and the Revenue Measure proposal, each of the services to be subject to PHHPA's approval:

- 1) Develop communication plan for PHHPA based on needs;
- 2) Develop informational fact sheets to be distributed at community functions;
- 3) Provide content related to the Revenue Measure to be added to PHHPA's website, included in email updates and added to newsletters;
- 4) Prepare PowerPoint presentations for community meetings;
- 5) Write, design, and produce mailings to educate, inform and engage voters, including 8.5 x 13 postcard mailer in January 2024 or February 2024 to the surrounding community of approximately 95,000 households; ***and including 2 postcard mailers in the months between March and June 2024 to the surrounding community of approximately 50,000 to 95,000 households;***
- 6) Develop strategies and plans to inform and engage key internal stakeholder groups;

- 7) Develop strategies and plans to inform and engage influential external groups including elected leaders, business leaders, city leaders, ethnic community leaders, faith community leaders, taxpayer groups, labor organizations, and others

Section 3.01 of the Agreement is amended to read:

The total payment for all services on a Time and Materials basis based on the rates as provided in Exhibit A and shall not exceed \$102,231.42 (~~one hundred two thousand, two hundred thirty one Dollars and 42 cents~~) **\$229,611.42 (two hundred twenty-nine thousand six hundred eleven dollars and forty two cents)**, payable on receipt of invoices on no less than a monthly basis. Additional change orders for costs above the stated contract price need to be pre-approved by PHHPA in writing prior to work being conducted. Invoices shall include a summary of work completed, and shall be payable on a monthly basis. The Base Consulting Fee of \$7,200 per month as stated in Exhibit A shall be calculated on a pro-rata basis for the initial and/or final month of service if less than a full calendar month before and after contract pauses or when the contract ends. As of the date of the First Amendment, the cost for services to include the mailer shall be \$45,965 which shall be added on a pro rata basis to the Base Consulting Fee:

As of the date of the Second Amendment, the cost for services to include the mailers shall be \$81,415 which shall be added on a pro rata basis to the Base Consulting Fee.

2. All other terms and provisions of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

PUENTE HILLS
HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY

TEAM CIVX

By _____
Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

By _____
Joy Kummer, Partner

Date

Date

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 15, 2024

To: Board Members

From: *Andrea Gullo*
Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Subject: Agenda Item No. 5) Discussion and possible action authorizing the Executive Director to execute a contract with Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates for opinion poll services in the amount up to \$34,750.

Recommendation:

That the Board authorize the Executive Director to execute a contract with Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (FM3) in the amount of at least \$29,250 up to \$34,750.

Background:

At the December 2022 Authority Board meeting, the Board awarded a contract to FM3 to conduct an opinion poll for the Authority regarding the financial needs of the agency. Proposed is a follow up survey by both telephone (offered verbally in English, Spanish and Chinese) and online (English) methods.

FM3 provided the attached proposal in the following amounts:

	Sample size 400	Sample size 500	Sample size 600
12-minute survey	\$29,250	\$31,850	\$34,750
15-minute survey	\$30,850	\$34,250	\$36,750

FM3 is recommended without additional solicitation because they bring knowledge and familiarity with the local issues and voter trends in the Authority’s region, as well as south San Gabriel Valley and the northern Gateway Cities. Also, they have experience with recent county-wide park measures and issues. This vast library of local research is a key reason for the recommendation to hire this consultant. Additionally, they would be building on data received from the previous poll they conducted for the Authority.

Our consultant, TeamCivX recommends that the Authority conduct this poll, and they would coordinate with FM3 on the design of the poll. It is estimated that the survey efforts would commence in February and conclude in March unless otherwise determined by the Board subcommittee.

Fiscal Impact:

Funding for this endeavor would be from mitigation Access Fees.

Attachment:

FM3 proposal



FAIRBANK, MASLIN,
MAULLIN, METZ
& ASSOCIATES

TO Joy Kummer
Team CivX

FROM Richard Bernard and Adam Sonenshein
FM3 Research

RE: Conducting a Tracking Survey for the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority

DATE November 22, 2023

Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (FM3) is pleased to submit this short scope of work to conduct additional research for the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority regarding the potential creation and funding of a facilities district through a local ballot initiative for the preservation of open space and habitat protection, including fire protection and mitigation.

We understand the Habitat Authority is hoping to conduct a short tracking survey that focuses on the 1-cent-per-square-foot parcel tax option that we explored in our initial baseline survey in February. This tracking survey would be designed to help the Habitat Authority better understand its ability to move forward with forming a community facilities district (CFD) and placing a funding measure on the November 2024 ballot.

As a refresher, our baseline survey found that support for the 1-cent-per-square-foot measure was nearly at two-thirds on the initial vote and rose to just above two-thirds after positive information. Now that the Habitat Authority has done some educational outreach, a tracking survey will provide additional information on the impacts of that outreach as well as an updated view on where voters stand regarding a potential parcel tax to fund open space and habitat protection. As requested by the Habitat Authority, the survey would focus primarily on positive messaging in order to see how it might continue to move voters to favor a potential measure.

Given the Habitat Authority's goals and our standard protocol for tracking surveys, this survey would be shorter in length than the baseline survey, about 12 to 15 minutes long. Additionally, to be mindful of budgetary constraints, we are offering smaller sample sizes for this survey, as compared to the sample size of 600 we utilized for the baseline. Please keep in mind that a smaller sample size does increase the margin of error—this is especially important when attempting to secure funding via a parcel tax measure, which as you know, requires two-thirds voter approval to pass.

Additional research specifications (including margins of error for various sample sizes) are on the next page. The FM3 team looks forward to this opportunity to continue our work with the Habitat Authority.

Dr. Richard Bernard, Partner
Bernard@FM3Research.com
(310) 428-1809 (cell)

Adam Sonenshein, Senior Vice President
Adam@FM3Research.com
(310) 569-3653 (cell)

Methodology	Dual-mode survey with a combination of telephone (cell and landline) and online interviews
Respondent Contact Method	Telephone calls, email invitations, text invitations
Population & Sample	400, 500, or 600 likely November 2024 voters in the Puente Hills Preservation Authority District: La Habra Heights, Hacienda Heights (Uninc.), Rowland Heights (Uninc.), Whittier
Margin of Sampling Error*	<p>±4.9% for a sample of 400 interviews ±4.4% for a sample of 500 interviews ±4.0% for a sample of 600 interviews</p> <p><i>*At the 95% confidence level (i.e., in 95 out of 100 cases)</i></p>
Questionnaire	12-15 minutes
Language	Telephone interviews will be conducted in English, Spanish, and Chinese; online interviews will be conducted in English only.
Deliverables	<p>Following the completion of the survey, we will provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A questionnaire for easy reference • An analysis of survey results in PowerPoint • A presentation of the survey results <p>FM3 will also be available for ongoing consultation and any further analysis of the research.</p>

Costs	Survey Length	400 interviews	500 interviews	600 interviews
	12 minutes	\$29,250	\$31,850	\$34,750
	15 minutes	\$30,850	\$34,250	\$36,750

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

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 15, 2024

To: Board Members

From: *Andrea Gullo*
Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Subject: Agenda Item No. 6) Discussion and possible action regarding Habitat Authority's Earth Day event.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Option 1.

Background:

At the last Board meeting, the Chair directed staff to return with various ideas for the Authority's Earth Day celebration either on April 20 or 21, 2024 which are listed below:

Option 1 – One location: Hacienda Hills Trailhead on Saturday, April 20

Option 2 – Two locations: Hellman Park and Hacienda Hills on Saturday, April 20

Option 3 – Board preference of an option not presented

Option 1 – One location

A Saturday celebration is expected to be more popular and therefore is recommended. Hacienda Hills Trailhead is recommended for an event because of the availability of parking and focused access at one point. Given the staffing and resources available, a manageable event size is a consideration.

Logistics:

Set up at 8:30 a.m.

Event duration 9-11:30 a.m.

Event details:

- Informal event where staff and volunteers can meet in person with visitors to share agency values, inspire stewardship, provide activities, provide agency information and celebrate Earth Day.
- Have 2-3 staff members, 1-2 MRCA staff members, 4-6 volunteers
- Hand out plastic bags to willing hikers between 9-10 a.m. to pick up trash and return bags for disposal by 11:30 a.m.
- Have at least two volunteer docents conduct a 2-hour "Earth Day ecology clean-up hike" focusing on trash and dog waste pickup. Leaving at 9 a.m.

February 15, 2024

Agenda Item 6

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- Staff and volunteers conduct weeding of bio-swale or trail (Ecologist to provide guidelines and training to volunteers to help direct participants).
- Have one table and canopy. Provide giveaways, water, informational materials, trail maps, and sign-up list for newsletter and 30th anniversary event. Regarding giveaways, staff has ordered stickers, and is investigating the idea of producing postcards as suggested by a Board Member.
- MRCA hauls trash bags at the end.
- Possibly asking 3-4 of our partners if they'd like to have a table to provide information.
- Staff has inquired about free product donation from three companies (chocolate, protein bars, and water). They would be recognized as sponsors if they donated.
- Staff has inquired about a bird release from a local bird rehabilitator. If they have a rehabilitated bird, we would highlight this in the promotional efforts.

Event promotion:

- Announce in the agency's April newsletter
- Hang one Earth Day banner at trailhead 1 month in advance
- Post on social media
- Promote with flyer at Sanitation Districts' Earth Day event earlier in the month
- Reach out to service groups (scouts, Kohl's, etc.)

Costs

- Giveaways, trash bags and gloves, water, snacks, print announcement banner

Option 2 – Two locations

A Saturday celebration is expected to be more popular and therefore is recommended. Hacienda Hills Trailhead is recommended for reasons stated above, as well as Hellman Park as requested by the Chair.

A. Location #1: Hacienda Trailhead

The event is the same as above plus the following below.

B. Location #2: Hellman Park

Logistics:

Set up at 8:30 a.m.

Event duration 9-11:00 a.m.

Event details:

- Informal smaller tabling presence where staff and volunteers can meet in person with visitors to share agency values, inspire stewardship, provide agency information and celebrate Earth Day.
- Have 1 staff member, 1 ranger (extra staffing required of MRCA beyond contract), and 1-2 volunteers (as available)
- Have one table and canopy. Provide giveaways, water, informational materials, trail maps, and sign-up list for newsletter and 30th anniversary event.

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- Hand out plastic bags to willing hikers between 9-10 a.m. to pick up trash and return bags for disposal by 11:00 a.m. or have them leave it in, or next to, the trailhead trash can.
- Ranger hauls trash bags at the end.

Promotion at Hellman

- Same as Hacienda Hills promotion except no banner at trailhead 1 month in advance.

Costs

- Costs are similar but slightly more to accommodate the second location (more giveaways and supplies such as trash bags, gloves, water, snacks, and additional MRCA staff).

Fiscal Impact:

Expected costs would be roughly \$1,000.

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 15, 2024

To: Board Members

Andrea Gullo

From: Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Subject: Agenda Item No. 7) Discussion and possible action regarding planning for future expenditures using state funding for the purpose of upkeep and maintenance on ranger used facilities.

Recommendation:

That the Board continue this item until September 2024 or later.

Background:

At the January 2024 Board meeting, the Board directed staff to return with information regarding a spending plan for the upkeep and maintenance of ranger facilities using state funding.

The Authority has received one-time \$1,300,000 funding from Assembly Bills 178 and 179. Below are qualifying expenses per Section 3.1 of the funding agreement administered through Caltrans (Project ID PLBPL-7518(001), Advantage ID 0723000224).

Funds provided under this Agreement are to be used, by the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority, to provide funding for the following services (Project):

- Ranger services, including maintenance and upkeep of Ranger used facilities and structures, and/or
- Firefighting, and/or
- Law enforcement, and/or
- Outdoor education, and/or
- Maintenance and protection of natural resources, trails and facilities within the Puente Hills.

Table A below illustrates approved and projected allocation of the funds for ranger services, and qualifying costs.

Caltrans Funding Allocation(s) \$1,300,000

	Budgetted/Projected	Table A
FY 22-23	\$ 287,927	Budgeted
	\$ 48,892	Amendment
FY 23-24	\$ 188,355	Amended Budget (includes July 27K increase)
	\$ 161,858	Approved Sycamore ranger home upkeep
	\$ 13,000	*Possible change orders: Sycamore home upkeep (above)

	\$ 19,000	Extra tree and vegetation removals conducted
FY 24-25	\$ 270,000	*Ranger services, and qualifying costs
	\$ 190,000	*Fuel clearance (FC) unless funded by grants
	\$ 20,000	*Unexpected qualifying costs
FY TBD	\$ 100,968	*Ranger Services or FC
TOTAL	\$ 1,300,000	

* Placeholders, not yet approved/adopted

There have been unexpected costs this year with additional, hazardous tree removals and extra vegetation clearance which required using the Caltrans funding. Also, there could be change orders with the current Sycamore home upkeep project which is scheduled to begin on February 20. Unexpected costs are also expected for the next fiscal year, 2024-25.

Staff is currently updating the Authority’s operational budget with accounting consultants. Next year’s budget has not been drafted, but is expected to come before the Board by May. As illustrated in Table A above, the Caltrans funding may be needed to assist with next year’s annual fuel clearance if a grant cannot be secured, and the Caltrans funding will be needed for an undetermined amount of ranger services costs.

In 2022, staff requested cost estimates from Sourcewell contractors for repairs to the La Habra Heights ranger residence but had not received estimates to date. Staff reached out again at the time that this staff report was drafted. Existing issues and cost estimates for ranger home upkeep include:

Ranger Facility Upkeep	Costs
<u>La Habra Heights*</u>	Unknown at this time
Outside painting	
Inside painting	
Replace inside carpet	
Repair the back deck	
Inspect/repair/replace heating/air conditioning compressors	
Inspect/replace Main electric panel	
Repair/maintain siding, eaves and fascia	
Plumbing- minor maintenance	
Miscellaneous	
<u>Sycamore</u>	
Residential roof	**\$134,730
Total possible costs	Undetermined

*Most issues identified per property inspection report December 2020.

**Cost estimate in June 2022 was \$124,750. The above has been increased 8% to accommodate the inflation for planning purpose.)

Although there may be more funds available after the budget for FY 24-25 is determined, currently the best guess scenario of the funds that would be available for upkeep of the ranger facilities is \$100,968. Staff's recommendation would be to give priority to the roof replacement project on the Sycamore Canyon residence.

Due to the extra hazardous tree and vegetation clearance, possible change orders with the current Sycamore residence upkeep project, ongoing budget refinement, the unsurety of obtaining a grant for fuel clearance in fiscal year 2024-25, and limited staff bandwidth to implement new projects it is recommended to revisit this matter in September 2024 or later.

Fiscal Impact:
None.

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 15, 2024

To: Board Members

From: *Andrea Gullo*
Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Subject: Agenda Item No. 8) Discussion and report by Executive Director pertaining to Habitat trail hours openings and closures.

Recommendation:

That the Board receive and file.

Background:

At the request of the Board Chair, this item recapitulates the creation of the Authority's Puente Hills Preserve trail hours. The trail hours were created as a result of many Authority Advisory Committee and Board of Directors discussions over several years, and actions and research by staff. Enforcing the Preserve hours of use for recreation is important for maintaining a sustainable balance between biological health and recreation. Below are the primary issues that were addressed in determining trail hours.

- Visitation Increase:
 - In 2016, annual visitation was estimated at roughly 950,000 people which was an approximately 1,040% increase from 2005 as determined from exit user surveys. This increase in use can impact the natural resources, especially at Hellman Park where the increase was the most dramatic (2,618% from 2005 to 2016).
- Quality of Biological Resources: Increase in visitation could have negative effects on biological resources. Hellman Park connects the two areas of the Puente Hills Preserve with the highest biological sensitivity rankings, Sycamore Canyon and Turnbull Canyon. Rare and sensitive species reside in those areas, including the coastal California gnatcatcher and the coastal cactus wren which are species that are sensitive to habitat fragmentation. The coastal California gnatcatcher is a federally protected species, and, as of 2016, approximately 10 percent of the Los Angeles County population of the coastal cactus wren was located in Sycamore Canyon and Hellman Park, highlighting the Preserve's regional significance for the species.
 - The Preserve is home to a wide range of diurnal, crepuscular and nocturnal animals. Crepuscular animals are most active during small timeframes around dawn and dusk (currently approximately 1.5 hours before sunrise and after sunset). Examples of crepuscular animals are cottontail rabbits, mule deer, mice, hummingbirds and songbirds. Preserve data showed that wildlife were changing behaviors to accommodate recreational use and scientific literature suggests that such behavioral changes could be indicative of stress responses and may result in

- decreased fitness (i.e., less opportunity for foraging, mating, raising young successfully, etc., and more opportunity for inter- and intra-species conflict and competition).
- In fiscal year 2005-2006, ranger contacts with visitors for after-hours use totaled 248. In fiscal year 2015-16, there were 3,834 ranger contacts for “in park after hours”, 77% of the overall annual ranger contacts for that year.
- Trail erosion, user created trails and trail widening became a problem. In the Hellman Park area between 2002 and 2016, three miles of new illegal trails were created despite active management to discourage this behavior.
- Quality of Recreation: The dramatic increase in visitation negatively impacted the Preserve’s recreational quality as a result of user conflicts, parking and traffic congestion, and the feeling of being crowded.
 - Volunteers, staff and visitors experienced high speed downhill bicyclists on many trails which led to user conflicts.
 - Communities next to the Preserve reported traffic and parking congestion problems. In 2013, the City of Whittier created a preferential parking district in response to this.
 - According to the Authority’s 2016 exit user survey, the Preserve experienced highest use levels on the Saturday that was surveyed. The average crowding rating was 3.59 Preserve-wide. A rating of 3 points or above has traditionally been associated with a negative evaluation indicating some level of crowding.
- Depreciative Behavior: Depreciative behaviors such as graffiti, vandalism, litter, dog waste, dumping, and crime increasingly became issues more difficult to manage. For example, between 2005 and 2016, dog use in the Preserve increased over 300% in Turnbull and 1,300% in Hellman Park, and dog waste on the trails increased as a result.

A more thorough discussion of the above issues can be found in the attached October 2016 staff report.

A brief noncomprehensive timeline of the process taken to arrive at current trail hours is as follows:

1. In 2012-13, the Authority conducted and produced a trail use exit survey for Turnbull and Hellman trailheads due to overwhelming recreational use.
2. In 2015, the Authority hired consultants, Confluence Research and Consulting, to aid in creating a guide for sustainable open space management. They generated the Report Regarding Visitor Management which provided details about recreation management issues, standards that define resource health or recreation experience quality, and actions that might be used to address them.
3. By November 2016, the Authority installed an eight-foot-tall wrought iron fence around Hellman Park to control illegal night and early morning use of the open space for the benefit of the surrounding community and to protect the natural resources. A fence needed to be in place to effectively enforce trail hours at this location.
4. In 2016, the Authority conducted a Preserve-wide trail use exit survey.
5. In October and December 2016, after careful research and analysis staff provided the attached detailed staff reports explaining a need to change Preserve trail hours based on qualitative and quantitative data analyzed.

6. In 2017, the Authority temporarily closed Hellman Park to fix the main Peppergrass Trail and used this time to also try habitat restoration to replace habitat that had been lost due to trail use widening.
7. In January 2017, the Board took action confirming the change in hours at the Hellman Park Trailhead from sunrise to sunset to the new hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (October through May) and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (June through September), and to prohibit bikes from the Mariposa and Peppergrass trails. Direction was given to staff to monitor the progress before further discussions about establishing fixed hours at other trailheads.
8. In May 2017, after trail repairs, Hellman Park was reopened with the new hours.
9. In 2017, the Authority conducted a Preserve-wide coastal CA gnatcatcher survey.
10. In 2018, the Authority conducted another Preserve-wide trail use exit survey. However, a difference in the weather between surveys may have skewed the comparative results.
11. In June 2017, the Board approved fixed trail times of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. / 6 p.m. Preserve-wide, consistent with Hellman Park hours and in accordance with the schedule outlined in the staff report. The Board later decided to not yet take action to change hours at Arroyo Pescadero or Powder Canyon Trailheads. See the attached June 2017 staff report for reasons behind changing trail hours.
12. In 2018, the Authority conducted a limited wildlife camera study. Key findings were that wildlife activity is probably “naturally” highest from 6-8 a.m. and from 5-9 p.m. Where a shift in opening hours has reduced human activity, wildlife appear to respond positively by being active for more hours in the day (illustrated with the data collected from the Hellman Park camera). At Hellman Park, 2018 data suggests that mule deer may be active later in the morning following the change in hours. Further study was recommended to monitor the 2018 decline in wildlife detections of certain key species compared to the same timeframe in 2013 when data had also been collected via wildlife trail camera.
13. In 2020, the Authority initiated a more robust wildlife camera survey. Once these results are finalized, staff will look at the other data to reassess the sustainability of the Preserve. This report is expected to be finalized within the year.

The ideas of the 2015 Visitor Use Report and the 2016 staff report were to emphasize the need to actively manage the hills by reassessing over time to determine and maintain sustainability between recreation and protecting the Preserve’s biological values. To this end, data collection, analysis and assessment continues. After the current wildlife camera report is completed, that data can be integrated with overall conditions and existing data for staff to revisit and possibly make inferences of the Preserve’s over sustainability between recreation and preservation.

Fiscal Impact:

None at this time.

Attachments:

October 2016 staff report

December 2016 staff report


June 2017 staff report

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

MEMORANDUM

Date: December 8, 2016

To: Board Members

From: 
Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Subject: Agenda Item No. 5) Discussion and possible action regarding management action items including altering access for the balance of natural resource protection and recreation of the Authority's Puente Hills Preserve, including Hellman Park.

Recommendation:

That the Board approve the recommended action items.

Background:

Discussed at the last Board meeting held on October 27 were ways in which to address high visitation and afterhours trail use in order to protect the natural resources of the Authority's Preserve. Attached is the staff report from that past meeting for reference.

In summary the following was previously recommended:

- a. installation of automated gates
- b. change of Preserve hours
- c. control of specific trail use
- d. restroom installation
- e. conduct a coastal California gnatcatcher survey
- f. continue ranger trail patrol
- g. continue to block off illegal trails
- h. possible temporary closure of Hellman Park

The installation of a restroom at the Hellman Park Trailhead is recommended for future consideration at a later date once ongoing servicing funds for the portable toilet have been identified, and other proposed changes have been settled. Additionally, possible temporary closure of Hellman Park is discussed in the following agenda item at this meeting associated with possible trail repairs. The remaining above items are still recommended for action.

A change in Preserve hours is a priority for consideration. At the request of the Board at the last meeting the attached Exhibit A is a breakdown of the amount of visitation per hour that could be affected with changing the Preserve hours from sunrise/sunset to set times. The chart shows that the potential amount of visitors affected with a time change from sunrise/sunset to

December 8, 2016

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various set times would be: 1) **41%** with a 9am opening and 5 pm closing year round; 2) **28%** with an 8am opening and 5 pm closing year round; 3) **14% to 28%** by opening and closing times of 8 am to 5pm (October through March) and 8am to 7 pm (April through September) (These times mirror those of Chino Hills State Park.), and; 4) **6% to 20%** by opening and closing times of 7 am to 5pm (October through March) and 7am to 7 pm (April through September). With a general visitation growth rate of 18% as described in the previous staff report, the above options of 2 or 3 are recommended for consideration. The rangers have confirmed with staff that they would be able to have a local vendor available to open gates in the morning should the hours change to set times; the rangers also have recently conveyed that there would be no annual increase in the budget for this service. However, the gates take approximately one hour and fifteen minutes to open, so the first gate will be opened at least one hour early, and the rest as the vendor arrives at each trailhead.

Regardless of whether the Preserve hours are changed, installation of automated gates to assist with a more effective opening and closing of the Preserve is recommended. This is more fully described in the October staff report. Should the Board choose to phase this project, implementing at the Sycamore Canyon Trailhead first is recommended in part because it would be the least expensive. Also, it is recommended because the existing gate could be retrofitted not replaced with an automated arm, the gate is on level ground, and has existing electrical service to tie into should it not function with the proposed solar powered battery.

Staff will continue to monitor and measure the impacts to the natural resources. However, a Preserve-wide coastal California gnatcatcher survey for this spring is recommended to assist with the monitoring. Staff will continue with annual cactus wren observations as time permits. Also, staff and rangers will continue to monitor and update for illegal trails that have been successfully eliminated or newly created illegal trails. Lastly, a future user survey in three to five years to follow up from the March/April 2016 user survey would be an effective method to monitor visitation changes should funding become available.

Fiscal Impacts:

Please see the attached staff report of October 27 for details. Installation of an automated gate at Sycamore Canyon is estimated at \$20,400, changing Preserve hours is estimated at \$3,400, controlling specific trail use is \$1,000, and a Gnatcatcher survey is estimated at \$30,000 - totaling \$54,800. If approved, the funds would be drawn from the Authority's emergency funds, however additional funds are expected in the near future and can be further discussed at the Board meeting.

Potential visitors Initially Affected by Preserve Time Change

based on known amount of people exiting the Preserve at the below times.

EXIT TIMES	Sycamore	Hellman	Turnbull	Hacienda	Powder	AP	TOTALS	PERCENT	SECTION TOTALS
0630-0700	0	33	7	1	3	1	45	1%	
0700-0800	7	111	54	38	17	17	244	3%	
0800-0900	14	305	116	111	55	46	647	8%	
0900-1000	36	472	140	122	151	99	1020	13%	25%
1000-1100	52	474	176	201	136	79	1118	14%	
1100-1200	62	363	171	124	82	64	866	11%	
1200-1300	31	341	153	150	113	70	858	11%	
1300-1400	15	217	111	85	47	55	530	7%	
1400-1500	23	167	138	88	44	29	489	6%	
1500-1600	19	156	71	47	45	24	362	5%	
1600-1700	22	125	87	66	49	30	379	5%	59%
1700-1800	14	202	101	78	70	38	503	6%	
1800-1900	27	227	78	86	74	56	548	7%	
1900-1945	8	69	22	42	26	27	194	2%	16%
	330	3262	1425	1239	912	635	7803	100%	

A total of 25% of visitors exit the Preserve prior to 10am; at Hellman specifically it's 28%.

We analyzed data prior to 10am since most visitors reported staying in the Preserve 1 hour in the 2012 survey and that means they entered prior to 9am when we are proposing to open.

A total of 16% of visitors exit the Preserve beginning at 5pm through past sunset; at Hellman specifically it's 15%.

We also analyzed data after 5pm when the Preserve would be closed.

- 1) A GRAND TOTAL OF 41% OF VISITORS WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THE TIME CHANGE OF 9am-5pm.
- 2) A GRAND TOTAL OF 28% OF VISITORS WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THE TIME CHANGE OF 8am-5pm.
- 3) A GRAND TOTAL OF 14% TO 28% OF VISITORS WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THE TIME CHANGE OF 8am-5pm (fall/winter) and 8am-7pm (spring/summer).
- 4) A GRAND TOTAL OF 6% TO 20% OF VISITORS WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THE TIME CHANGE OF 7am-5pm (fall/winter) and 7am-7pm (spring/summer).

Potential Visitors Initially Affected by Preserve Time Change

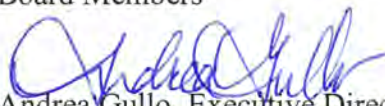
based on known amount of people exiting the Preserve at the below times.

EXIT TIMES	Hellman	Hellman percent	SECTION TOTALS
0630-0700	33	1%	
0700-0800	111	3%	
0800-0900	305	9%	
0900-1000	472	14%	28%
1000-1100	474	15%	
1100-1200	363	11%	
1200-1300	341	10%	
1300-1400	217	7%	
1400-1500	167	5%	
1500-1600	156	5%	
1600-1700	125	4%	
1700-1800	202	6%	
1800-1900	227	7%	
1900-1945	69	2%	15%
	3262	100%	

* Data source is a user survey conducted in March/April 2016 when the sunrise time was 6:38am and the sunset time was 7:11pm.

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

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 27, 2016
To: Board Members
From: 
Andrea Gullo, Executive Director
Subject: Agenda Item No. 5) Discussion regarding management action items for the balance of natural resource protection and recreation on the Authority’s Preserve, including Hellman Park.

Recommendation:
Discussion.

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SUMMARY

The annual visitation to the Puente Hills Preserve (Preserve), which is 3,870 acres managed and/or owned by the Authority, has increased substantially since the first user survey was conducted in 2005. Current annual visitation can be estimated as roughly 950,000 people¹ which is approximately a 1,040% increase from 2005. This increase in use can impact the natural resources, especially at Hellman Park where the increase was the most dramatic (2,618% from 2005 to 2016). Illegal trails and widening of trails contributes to habitat loss/fragmentation decreasing the quality and functionality of the habitat. According to the Authority’s trail evaluation in 2016, there are 6.7 miles of illegal trails in the Hellman Park and Turnbull Canyon areas.² Trail widths in Hellman Park and Turnbull Canyon areas have expanded from one to 11 feet. Hellman Park connects the two areas of the Puente Hills Preserve with the highest biological sensitivity rankings, Sycamore Canyon and Turnbull Canyon, where rare and sensitive species reside, including the coastal California gnatcatcher and the coastal cactus wren which are species that are sensitive to habitat fragmentation. The coastal California gnatcatcher is a federally protected species, and approximately 10 percent of the Los Angeles County population of the coastal cactus wren is located in Sycamore Canyon and Hellman Park.³

Enforcement activities by the Authority contracted Rangers have tried to address the ongoing and most consuming challenge of closing the Preserve at sunset. Nightly trailhead gate closures take about 22% of the rangers’ time, and also 77% of all ranger contacts with visitors pertain to enforcing Preserve hours at closing time. With the

¹ Extrapolated from a 3-day visitor count survey in 2016. Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority, Supplemental 2016 Recreation Use Assessment

² Draft 2016 trails evaluation underway, conducted by Authority consultant, Placeworks.

³ Cooper Ecological Monitoring, 2009.

continual added pressure due to increased visitor activity during the day, it becomes more important to provide relief to wildlife during crepuscular (dawn/dusk) and nocturnal times.

In accordance with the Authority's Resource Management Plan (RMP), detailed in the following report are recommendations for Preserve-wide management including:

- installation of automated gates;
- change of Preserve hours;
- control of specific trail use;
- restroom installation;
- conduct a coastal California gnatcatcher survey;
- continue ranger trail patrol;
- continue to block off illegal trails;
- possible temporary closure of Hellman Park; and
- other future management considerations such as permit system and habitat restoration.

BACKGROUND

In response to complaints from residents adjacent to Hellman Park about high visitor use starting around the year 2010, the Authority conducted a mostly volunteer-manned user survey of Hellman Park and Turnbull Canyon in 2012, commissioned a carrying capacity report, held various clean-up days, enacted a graffiti reward program, and altered ranger patrol and management activities. The Authority also obtained and used grant funds for the following: the installation of a perimeter fence at Hellman Park; the evaluation of trails; repaired the Mariposa Trail; and conducted a Preserve-wide user survey. Additionally, the Authority continued to monitor the flora and fauna.

Results from the most recent visitor survey conducted in March/April 2016 indicate that the City of Whittier's parking permit system enacted in 2013, which regularly adds additional streets into the system and now applies to approximately 500 homes, has not slowed visitation at Hellman Park since 2012. In fact, the daily visitation rate recorded at Hellman Park during this latest survey was nearly three times of what it was in 2012. Moreover, visitation has increased significantly at Preserve trailheads since the Authority first conducted a survey in 2005 and is often accompanied by depreciative behaviors described later in this report.^{4,5}

The Authority's mission is as follows:

The Puente Hills Habitat Preservation 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.

⁴ The survey was conducted in 2005, and finalized in 2006. Martino, Longcore, and Wolch, 2006. Park Visitor User Survey for the Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority.

⁵ Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority, Supplemental 2016 Recreation Use Assessment.

Additionally, the agency will endeavor to provide opportunities for outdoor education and low-impact recreation.

The Authority's mission gives priority to the protection of biological diversity, and this is supported by the agency's Value Statement which in part states, "Stewardship: We work toward preservation of biodiversity for the perpetual benefit of nature and people..." The intent of the Authority is, in part, to continually monitor and manage the trails in order to balance recreation with the health of the ecosystem.⁶

GENERAL PRESERVE DESCRIPTION

Overview

The Puente Hills Preserve is an integral part of the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor, an unbroken zone of natural habitat extending nearly 31 miles from the Cleveland National Forest in Orange County to the west end of the Puente Hills above Whittier Narrows. Biologically, this area preserves a microcosm of the California Floristic Province, an identified biodiversity hot spot in North America and a genetic reserve for the continent. The Puente Hills support coastal sage scrub, chaparral, native grassland, walnut woodland, and oak woodland, and sustain important habitat for a number of native animal species, including the coastal California gnatcatcher, cactus wren, mule deer, and mountain lion. The first two species are target species of regional habitat planning efforts in Southern California. The plant communities found in the Preserve are becoming increasingly rare on a global scale, as are many of the wildlife. The Preserve is home to four amphibian species, nine reptile species, 124 bird species and 30 -mammal species. It is a fully functioning ecosystem.⁷

Located in a metropolitan region of nearly 20 million people the Preserve provides a range of recreation opportunities and activities, including hiking, jogging, mountain biking, horseback riding, nature appreciation, and outdoor education.

Ownership and Funding

The Preserve consists of 3,870 acres of which the Authority owns 1,882 acres, the City owns 1,756.5 acres, the Sanitation Districts own 225 acres, and six acres are managed through an agreement with Los Angeles County.

Hellman, Sycamore, Turnbull, and Arroyo Pescadero were purchased with County Proposition A funds. Proposition A provides, "Reasonable public access to lands acquired in fee with funds made available pursuant to this order shall be provided except where that access may interfere with resource protection. For purposes of this order, reasonable public access shall include parking and public restrooms."

The Authority manages City-owned open space in the hills of Whittier, including Hellman Park open space, pursuant to the Property Acquisition and Maintenance Agreement with the City dated August 14, 1997. The Authority manages the Hellman Park Trailhead in accordance with the Management Agreement with the City of Whittier

⁶ RMP, 2007. Page 24

⁷ RMP, 2007.

dated June 9, 2015. The Authority manages the Sanitation Districts land in accordance with an agreement dated November 27, 1996. The Authority manages the Hacienda Hills Trailhead in accordance with the Management Agreement between the County of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Flood Control District and the Authority dated February 22, 2005.

In addition, a 200-acre conservation easement is located on Turnbull Canyon. It was recorded in 2003, and is held in favor of the State of California for 180 acres of coastal sage scrub and 20 acres of oak/sycamore riparian habitat other habitat types important to the coastal California gnatcatcher (collectively known as “conservation values”). It is the Authority’s responsibility in part to prevent trespass activities that degrade or harm the conservation values.

The Authority contracts annually with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for ranger services. The Authority adheres to the MRCA Ordinance for enforcement on lands it owns and/or manages. This ordinance is available on the Authority’s website.

Biological Values

Hellman Park and adjacent areas of the Preserve are rich in biodiversity and support a variety of habitats and species, including sensitive, rare and federally listed species. The coastal California gnatcatcher, a federally threatened species, has been documented in the Preserve including in the Hellman Park area, which indicates that this area may serve as a dispersal or movement corridor connecting established gnatcatcher populations to the east and west. It is estimated that 10% of Los Angeles County’s coastal cactus wren, a sensitive species, resides in the Hellman Park and Sycamore Canyon areas.⁸ Attached are maps illustrating main biological values of the entire Preserve and a detailed written description of the biological values of the Hellman and Turnbull Canyon areas (Exhibit A), which are the two most heavily visited locations of the Preserve.

The Arroyo Pescadero area of the Preserve has the highest bobcat activity of the entire Preserve.⁹ The Arroyo Pescadero Trailhead is located adjacent to the Preserve’s designated Core Habitat described in the Resource Management Plan (RMP). The Core Habitat is undisturbed habitat for wildlife, which contributes to sustaining the overall ecological health of the Habitat Authority’s jurisdiction. It is also adjacent to the wildlife underpass at Colima, and connects to the Preserve’s largest coastal California gnatcatcher population.

Furthermore, the Preserve is home to a wide range of diurnal, crepuscular and nocturnal animals. Crepuscular animals are most active at dawn and dusk. During this small window of time, crepuscular animals must feed, find mates, seek shelter, etc. and many species are only active during the crepuscular and/or nocturnal hours. Exhibit B provides a more detailed discussion of the importance of dawn and dusk times in the Preserve.

⁸ Cooper Ecological Monitoring 2009.

⁹ Haas, C., and Crooks, K. 1999.

A more thorough description of the biological values of the entire Preserve can be found in the RMP.

Since its inception, the Authority has restored 200 acres and is in the process of restoring 66 acres for a total of 266, and the vast majority of these restoration areas are coastal sage scrub.

Trails and Trailheads

The Preserve has 22 miles of officially designated trails, of which approximately two miles are located in the Hellman Park area, and another approximately 2 miles are located north of Turnbull Canyon Road; all of which connect to a broader regional trail system.

The Preserve has five official trailheads, plus the access point at Turnbull Canyon. Three of these are located in the City of Whittier (City), two are located in unincorporated Los Angeles County and one is located in the City of La Habra Heights.

Parking in the various trailhead parking lots and street parking immediately outside of the parking lots can accommodate approximately 286 vehicles throughout the Preserve with extra unknown street parking for Hellman and Turnbull, with the following approximate vehicle parking spaces per each access points: 27 spaces at Hellman Park, 24 spaces at Turnbull Canyon, 25 spaces at Arroyo Pescadero, 13 spaces at Sycamore Canyon (with street parking for at least 10+ vehicles), 5 spaces at Hacienda Heights (with street parking for at least 100+ vehicles), and school lot parking for approximately 25 vehicles), and 17 spaces at Powder Canyon (with street parking for 40+ vehicles). Current average daily use of the Preserve is estimated at approximately 2,600 visitors.¹⁰

The Authority has been and continues to be very committed to providing recreational access. In fact, the Preserve has more trail miles per acre than many other surrounding areas. The Authority's 22 miles of trails are located within 3,870 acres of open space which is 176 acres per mile of trail. Consider these other nearby parks for comparison: Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area - 700 miles of trails located within 150,000 acres, 214 acres per trail mile; Chino Hills State Park - 60 miles of trails located within 12,589 acres, 209 acres per mile of trail; Topanga State Park - 36 miles of trails located within 11,000 acres, 305 acres per mile of trail; Lake Perris State Recreation Area - 9 miles of trails located within 8,800 acres, 977 acres per mile of trail; Given the size of the Preserve, it has more miles of trails in less space than many other park areas. However, there are at least two areas in Orange County that are more comparable in size and trail density, but they are more isolated and not connected to a much larger expansive open space connection as the Preserve. They are Laguna Coast Wilderness Park - 39.45 miles of trails located within 7,000 acres, 177 acres per mile of trails, and Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park in Orange County - 29.6 miles of trails located within 4,500 acres, which is 152 acres per mile of trail.

¹⁰ Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority, Supplemental 2016 Recreation Use Assessment.

Resource Management Plan (RMP)

In 2007, the Authority adopted a RMP in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act that provides guidelines including goals and objectives for management of the Preserve.

Key elements in the RMP that pertain to the high visitation and associated behaviors that the Preserve is currently addressing are as follows:

Goal BIO-3: Maintain all populations of native plants and wildlife with special emphasis on management of locally uncommon, sensitive, federally-threatened or endangered species and other sensitive resources.

Objectives

- BIO-3.1 Protect and maintain coastal sage scrub breeding habitat for the federally-threatened coastal California gnatcatcher and other scrub species.
- BIO-3.3 Protect and maintain populations of sensitive, threatened, or endangered plant species.
- BIO-3.5 Protect and maintain nesting and foraging habitat for Indicator Species, defined as locally uncommon or declining species in Los Angeles County.
- BIO-3.6 Protect and maintain all native vegetation communities paying special attention to sensitive vegetation types such as walnut woodland, oak woodland, coastal sage scrub, riparian communities, and native grassland.

Goal BIO-4: Enhance and restore degraded habitats in the Preserve.

Objectives

- BIO-4.2 Abandon all unauthorized trails and roads within the Preserve to improve the quality of habitat for wildlife.

Goal USE-1: Provide a trail system that protects natural resources of the Preserve.

Objectives

- USE-1.1 Consistent with the Habitat Authority's purpose, abandon roads and trails if impacts on native habitat or other resources are discovered.
- USE-1.6 Use best management practices in the design, construction, and maintenance of trails, including temporarily closing trails when needed.
- USE-1.8 Implement a trail system that is considerate of adjacent landowner interests as much as possible and consistent with protecting natural, visual, and cultural resources.

Goal USE-2: Enforce protection of the varied resources and promote an enjoyable and safe environment for visitors.

Goal USE-4: Accommodate parking, access points, and trail amenities that maintain the natural character of the land, enhance resource protection and contribute to the enjoyment of open space.

Objectives

- USE-4.1 Rely primarily on public rights of way to provide parking capacity to serve trail users arriving by motorized vehicles.
- USE-4.2 Seek to provide reasonable access points to eliminate excessive parking and avoid or minimize traffic to the surrounding community.

Goal MAINT-1 Maintain facilities on the Preserve to ensure that biological resource values are maintained and that management activities are supported.

Objectives

- MAINT-1.1 Maintain facilities and infrastructure, such as gates, fences, and roads.
- MAINT-1.2 Maintain trailhead facilities and other structures that contribute to the integrity and value of the Preserve.

DISCUSSION

The visitation to the Preserve has increased significantly over the past eleven years, increasing from under 100,000 annual visitors in 2005 to an almost expected 950,000 annual visitors in 2016. This increase is undoubtedly adding pressure to the biological and financial resources of the Preserve and Authority.

The management action items for consideration in this staff report are consistent with adhering to the RMP as the guiding document. The challenge of balancing preservation with recreation was the impetus to hire a consultant two years ago (2014) to produce a Visitor Management Report (2015). The management action items in this staff report are also consistent with the Visitor Management Report which was organized in a manner that addresses ecological issues, recreational quality, depreciative behavior and other management issues.¹¹ It identifies management options for Authority staff to respond to issues based on standards and can be updated as new information becomes available. Authority staff has been gathering information over the past year to help with the recommendations for appropriate management actions. Before addressing management actions, a brief discussion highlighting changes in visitation and conditions of the Preserve including quality of biological resources, quality of recreation, and depreciative behaviors is below:

Visitation Increase

Figure 1 and Table 1 both display recreation use as recorded from the Authority's three-day visitor survey conducted this year on March 29, April 1 and April 2¹² at all six main access points. Hellman Park was the most-visited trailhead on each day. Approximately

¹¹ Whitaker and Shelby, 2015.

¹² Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority, Supplemental 2016 Recreation Use Assessment.

42% of the total recreation use for all of the trailheads was recorded at Hellman Park. Turnbull Canyon and Hacienda Hills were the next-most-frequently visited trailheads.

Figure 1

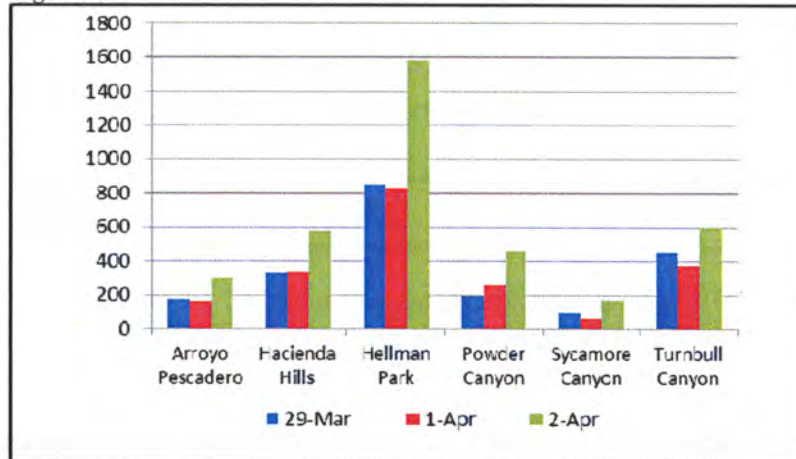


Table 1

Number of Visitors	March 29 Tuesday	April 1 Friday	April 2 Saturday	Total
Hellman Park	848	830	1,584	3,262 (42%)
Turnbull Canyon	451	374	600	1,425 (18%)
Hacienda Hills	327	337	575	1,239 (16%)
Powder Canyon	195	260	457	912 (12%)
Arroyo Pescadero	173	163	299	635 (8%)
Sycamore Canyon	96	67	167	330 (4%)
Total	2,090	2,031	3,682	7,803

Table 2 illustrates that according to user surveys conducted by the Authority in 2005 and 2016, during this eleven-year time period the average number of daily visitors increased 2,618% at Hellman Park, 1,800% at Powder Canyon, 651% at Hacienda Hills, and 550% at Turnbull Canyon. Sycamore Canyon Trailhead was eliminated as a survey point from the 2005 survey due to the lack of visitation. Average daily use at Sycamore for 2016 was 110. Average daily use of the Preserve is approximately 2,600.

Table 2

Average No. Visitors Per Day	<u>2005</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2016</u>	% Increase (2005-2016)
Turnbull Canyon	73	282	475	550
Hacienda Hills	55		413	651
Arroyo Pescadero	44		211	380
Hellman Park	40	366	1087	2,618
Powder Canyon	16		304	1,800

Interestingly, the Authority's 2016 user survey, found that an average of 18.7% of all trailhead visitors stated that it was their first time visiting the Preserve, indicating that trail use will continue to increase in the future.

Table 3 indicates the different types of recreational behaviors at each trailhead. Hikers are the most common type of visitor at 97%.

Table 3

2016 Survey Number of Visitors ¹	No. of Hikers/ runners/walkers (%)	No. of Bikers (%)	No. of Equestrians (%)	Total No. of People (%)	Total No. of Dogs ² (% compared to people)	Sub-Set: Dogs Off-Leash - Taken from the Total No. of Dogs (%)
Hellman Park	3,211 (98%)	51 (2%)	0	3,262 (42%)	159 (5%)	9 (6.7%)
Turnbull Canyon	1,325 (93%)	100 (7%)	0	1,425 (18%)	78 (6%)	4 (5.1%)
Hacienda Hills	1,206 (97%)	33 (3%)	0	1,239 (16%)	87 (7%)	4 (4.6%)
Powder Canyon	843 (93%)	64 (7%)	5 (0.5%)	912 (12%)	82 (9%)	8 (9.8%)
Arroyo Pescadero	635 (100%)	0	0	635 (8%)	57 (9%)	2 (3.5%)
Sycamore Canyon	330 (100%)	0	0	330 (4%)	1 (0.3%)	0 (0.0%)
Total	7,550 (97%)	248 (3%)	5 (0.06%)	7,803	464(6%)	27 (5.8%)

1. Count over a three-day period on March 29 (Tues.), April 1 (Fri.), and April 2 (Sat.).
2. These numbers reflect the number of dogs, not dog walkers.

As previously stated, the estimated annual visitation for the entire Preserve in 2016 is approximately 950,000. For perspective, in comparison to other natural areas, Yosemite

National Park's annual visitation in the year 2014 was 4,029,416 people.¹³ This park's visitation was four times that of the Preserve, however the park's acreage is 748,036 acres, 193 times the size of the Preserve. Also, Joshua Tree National Park's annual visitation in the year 2015 was 2,025,756 people.¹⁴ This park's visitation was approximately two times that of the Preserve, however the park's acreage is 792,510 acres, 205 times the size of the Preserve.

The Puente Hills Preserve is a regional resource. The 2016 user survey revealed that 43% of its users are from the immediate surrounding communities of Whittier/unincorporated Whittier, La Habra Heights/La Habra, Hacienda Heights, and Rowland Heights. The other 57% are from zip codes outside of these adjacent areas.

In exploring the reason why the Preserve has become an attractive regional recreational location, one explanation could be that many of the surrounding communities are "Park Poor".¹⁵ As a rough guideline, the National Recreation and Park Association recommend a ratio of 10 acres per thousand urban residents of "close to home" park space and a ratio of 15.2 acres per thousand for "Regional Space". Also, according to California legislation¹⁶, it defines an area Park Poor as having 3 acres or less per one thousand residents.

Quality of Biological Resources

Wildlife disturbance after dark

The Preserve is home to a wide range of diurnal, crepuscular and nocturnal animals. Crepuscular animals are most active at dawn and dusk. During this small window of time (currently approximately 1.5 hours before sunrise and after sunset), crepuscular animals must feed, find mates, seek shelter, etc. and many species are only active during the crepuscular and/or nocturnal hours. With little time for crepuscular animals to accomplish their daily activities, human interface during this time may interrupt these activities with potential negative effects on wildlife. As stated in Exhibit B, with more people on the trails now and user-created trails bisecting habitat, pressures on wildlife from recreational activities can cause many diurnal animals to shift their activity times to being more crepuscular or even nocturnal.¹⁷ Therefore periods of relief for wildlife, such as during the crepuscular and nocturnal hours, become increasingly important. Examples of crepuscular animals are cottontail rabbits, mule deer, mice, hummingbirds and songbirds. Examples of nocturnal animals are foxes, owls, bats, mule deer, skunks, raccoons, bobcat and mountain lions. Examples of diurnal species are squirrels, hawks and butterflies.

¹³ <https://www.nps.gov/yose/learn/nature/park-statistics.htm>

¹⁴ <https://www.nps.gov/jotr/learn/management/statistics.htm>

¹⁵ <http://www.parkinfor.org/lwcf/lwcf.html>

¹⁶ Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Act of 2008 (Chapter 3.3 (commencing with Section 5640) of Division 5 of the Public Resources Code).

¹⁷ George and Crooks, 2006.

Last year, an Authority analysis was conducted of wildlife camera data (unpublished) for bobcat, coyote, gray fox, mule deer, raccoon, and striped skunk from 12/30/2012 to 6/30/2013. As illustrated in Table 4, the data indicated that these species may be shifting their activity times in Turnbull Canyon and Hellman Park into the nighttime compared to the Core Habitat where they are active in both the daytime and nighttime. As a caveat, various factors besides volume of trail use, factors such as lack of food source, and mates, could have contributed to the results of this limited time study.

Table 4

Wildlife Detections	No. Daytime Detections	No. Nighttime Detections	Percent of Detections in Daytime	Percent of Detections in Nighttime
Hellman Park	0	78	0.0%	100.0%
Turnbull Canyon	8	143	5.3%	94.7%
Core Habitat	139	197	41.4%	58.6%

Several other studies have been conducted on or near the Puente Hills Preserve investigating the effects of recreation on wildlife. A 2002 report by Haas and Turschak stated that coyote and mule deer shifted their activity times to more nocturnal hours after the Colima tunnel near the Arroyo Pescadero Trailhead was opened for trail use; a pattern which continued during a follow-up study conducted by Lucas (2010) but now also included a nocturnal shift in bobcat activity. This may have negative effects like decreased feeding efficiency, increased predation, and increased energy demands.

Enforcing the Preserve hours of use for recreation is very important to maintaining a sustainable balance between biological health and recreation. The Authority contracts with the MRCA for, on average, 94 ranger patrol hours a week, split among four ranger schedules. They are charged with patrolling for daylight and nighttime hours, which can average between 10 to 16 hour work days, 7 days a week. With Preserve hours open from sunrise to sunset, when there are times of long day length, there aren't enough ranger contract hours for a ranger to always be on shift. Currently, the rangers close all Preserve gates, an activity that takes two to three hours daily. Due to staff levels, it is their goal to close gates within an hour after sunset. Figure 2 below illustrates that by far the majority of ranger interactions with visitors pertain to being in the Preserve after hours. In fiscal year 2005-2006, ranger contacts with visitors for after hours use totaled 248. In fiscal year 2015-16, there were 3,834 ranger contacts for "in park after hours", 77% of the overall annual ranger contacts for that year. Granted Authority staff has asked rangers to focus on this management issue, and rangers are consistently at trailheads every day closing gates, so it is not surprising that this is the most recorded rules violation that rangers encounter. However, the fact remains that there are many people on the trails after hours either because they are not aware of closing hours or are willfully choosing to violate Preserve opening and closing hours. Overall, it is notable to point out that as illustrated in Figure 2, these 2015-16 fiscal year contact numbers increased significantly from the previous years despite ranger hours being cut five hours a week due to budget restrictions. Ranger hours have since been restored.

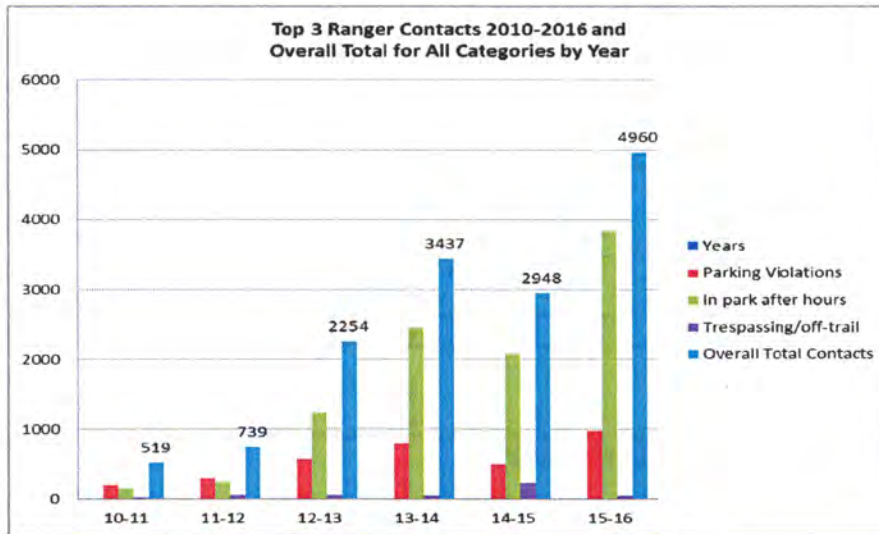


Figure 2

Trail Erosion (continued Quality of Biological Resources)

Despite repeated efforts to repair the Hellman Park Trail over several years, it was closed in 2013 due to severe erosion largely due to off-trail cutting by visitors. The illegal trails caused erosion eliminated habitat from these areas. The Sycamore Switchback Trail and the Peppergrass Trail are experiencing similar erosion issues, and staff is currently investigating the situations.

User Created Trails and Trail Widening (continued Quality of Biological Resources)

Extensive concentrated trail use has the potential to overburden adjacent parkland and threaten the health of its natural resources. In 2016, Authority consultant, Placeworks, evaluated the conditions of all of the Preserve trails. Due to limited staff time, the Authority extracted data only from a cluster of trails in the Hellman Park and Turnbull Canyon areas, however, it should be noted that staff, ranger and volunteer observations have noticed trail cutting in the Hacienda Hills and many new illegal trails in the Powder Canyon. Table 5 below illustrates that since 2002 when the trails were first evaluated¹⁸, the trails in general have widened especially in the Hellman Park area, resulting in elimination of habitat. Table 5 also illustrates that in this same general area, three miles of new user created trails have been discovered since 2002, which results in habitat fragmentation and a decrease in the functionality of the ecosystem.

¹⁸ RMP, 2007.

Table 5

AVERAGE WIDTH COMPARISON SUMMARY				
ALL MEASUREMENTS IN FEET				Feet
TRAIL	SECTION	2002	2015/2016	INCREASE OF
Peppergrass	bottom to Mariposa	12.0	19.7	7.7
	bottom of Mariposa to top of Mariposa	9.0	20.4	11.4
	above mariposa intersection	16.0	17.0	1.0
Turnbull	entrance to Sumac Trail	min 12; max 18	14	
	Sumac to Schab Trail	11.3	16	4.7
Sumac		16	14.7	
Rattlesnake Ridge				
	helipad to Peppergrass	16	15.7	
	Peppergrass to Sumac	16	16.6	
User Created Trails COMPARISON SUMMARY				
ALL MEASUREMENTS IN MILES				Miles
All Trails above		2002	2016	INCREASE OF
		3.73	6.73	3.0

Hellman and Turnbull Trails

To address illegal trails rangers have repeatedly installed chain link fencing and signs discouraging illegal trail use over the years, and have also covered illegal trails with brush, or raked and seeded them. Illegal trail use continues, however. The latest efforts by rangers involve installing rope and tee posts blocking off illegal routes, which early indications show may be more effective than fences.

Quality of Recreation

Very briefly discussed below, the dramatic increase in visitation has negatively impacted the Preserve's recreational quality as a result of user conflicts, parking and traffic congestion, and the feeling of being crowded. Widened and user created trails as described above also impact recreational quality but their impacts are more relevant to biological quality.

Potential user conflicts

Volunteers, staff and visitors have experienced high speed downhill bicyclists on many trails which could lead and have led to user conflicts on the trails. In January 2016, the Authority fixed the Mariposa Trail which was very narrow and used by bicycle riders. The repairs were designed to slow cyclists down. There are no reports of accidents that the Authority has received, however, cyclists still travel at high speeds, despite a 15 mile per hour (mph) speed limit sign that was posted at the top of the trail January 2016. A recreation-based website designed to share trail experiences with other enthusiasts, called Strava, reported that 117 (30%) riders out of 383 travelled at speeds 16 mph and above on the Mariposa Trail this year. Also according to this website, at the lower Turnbull Canyon Trail in 2016 377 (81%) riders out of 464 travelled at speeds 16 mph or greater. On the upper Turnbull Canyon Trail 1,164 (93%) riders out of 1,256 travelled at speeds 16 mph or greater. Upon greater investigation, other trails may be experiencing the same high speeds.

Neighborhoods parking and traffic

By far the City of Whittier has experienced the greatest impact on street parking and congestion of any community surrounding the Preserve. The City created preferred parking districts in 2013 to address the neighborhood complaints about the lack of available street parking for residents from trailhead use at Hellman and Turnbull. See the attached Exhibit C illustrating Preferred Parking Districts 1 and 2, which extend ¼ to ½ mile away from the trailheads. The parking districts have not been a one-size fits all solution, and they do not solve for all of the depreciative behaviors exhibited by some park visitors such as loud talking, littering, urination in front yards, foul language, fighting, using residents' hoses for drinking water. Traffic circulation remains a problem. However, the preferred parking districts have been helpful in freeing up street parking for residents. The parking district program continues to regularly expand as use at the trailheads continues to increase. Over the past two years, it appears as if people may be becoming more accustomed to the permit system assuming enforcement has been consistent. Preferential parking violation citations from October 2014 through October 2015 were 2,748 and decreased October 2015 through October 2016 to 1,995. We don't know if the violators were trailheads users, but if a downward trend continues, it could indicate its effectiveness of allowing residents to find available parking on the streets.

Additionally, a standard suggested in the Visitor Management Report is if a trailhead is less than 90% occupied it is considered below capacity. On Sunday, October 16, 2016 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. all trailhead parking lots were at 94% - 100% capacity. Only two lots, Powder Canyon and Sycamore had one to three open parking spaces, however, street parking at both was very crowded. Also, in three of the lots many cars were parked outside of the designated spaces, some illegally.

Trail Crowding

Use throughout the entire Preserve has increased significantly, and the mean ranking for feeling crowded by visitors was measured at 2.96 on a 9-point scale with a "1" being the lowest rating of perceived crowding and "9" as the highest.¹⁹ A rating of 3 points or above has traditionally been associated with a negative evaluation indicating some level of crowding.²⁰ Overall, on the Saturday surveyed when the Preserve experiences highest use levels, the mean crowding rated at 3.59 Preserve-wide.

Hellman and Turnbull- It is possible that while Hellman has the most visitors, those visiting that trailhead expect to see more people or like the "social" aspect of that trailhead and, therefore, do not rank that trailhead as higher on the crowding scale. The lure for that trail may be exercise, not to experience nature. Turnbull Canyon had the highest average perception of crowding (3.69), with the majority (61.6%) rating it above 3 points. Hellman and Turnbull did not exceed the crowding standards suggested in the Report Regarding Visitor Management, however, they are clearly exceeding facility capacity levels based on available parking spaces (described earlier).

Hacienda Hills and Powder- According to the Report on Visitor Management, weekend

¹⁹ Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority, Supplemental 2016 Recreation Use Assessment.

²⁰ Whitaker and Shelby, 2015.

standards are suggested not to exceed 80% of the people reporting a feeling of being crowded at a 3 or higher. The Hacienda Hills Trailhead is the only trailhead that exceeded the standards with 87% of the people surveyed ranking it a 3 or above on a Saturday. The Powder Canyon Trailhead was a close second at 78%, but this did not exceed the suggested standard threshold.

Depreciative Behavior

Depreciative behaviors such as graffiti, vandalism, litter, dog waste, dumping, and crime are managed for in the Preserve. Due to limited ranger resources, Authority Trail Watch volunteers are very instrumental in helping to clean up graffiti, litter and dog waste, as well as helpful in bringing other illegal behavior to our ranger and staff's attention.

In particular, litter and dog waste has been an ongoing challenge. To this end, the rangers have recently contracted with a maintenance vendor to assist with trailhead clean-up efforts. Regardless, the presence of dogs and their waste has other far reaching impacts, mainly biological. Since 2005, dog use in the Preserve has increased over 300% in Turnbull and 1,300% in Hellman Park. It has been well documented that dogs in natural areas impact the environment. For a more thorough discussion regarding this, please see the attached Exhibit D, Dogs In Natural Areas.

Based on the above ongoing and escalating issues on the Preserve, the following management actions are recommended for consideration and discussion:

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

1. Installation of automated gates at three trailheads and hire security company to open/close Preserve gates at other two trailheads.

Regarding closing trailheads, as explained earlier, the rangers spend a large proportion of their time enforcing Preserve hours. Closing Hellman Park takes on average 30-45 minutes, and for nights when one ranger is on duty, the other trailheads are not serviced in a timely manner because Hellman is often the first park to be closed. Once a ranger is finished closing one trailhead, he/she needs to make it to the next trailhead, and should the ranger stop to address other observed violations, enforcement at the other trailheads is delayed. Also, if there is an emergency such as a lost or an injured hiker which is occasionally the case, this will also delay their ability to close the Preserve at the posted time. On average it takes one ranger two to three hours to close gates at night depending on the season (there is less traffic in the summer months due to closing hours being after the peak traffic hours). Rangers' schedules do not always allow for two rangers to close the Preserve each night, and when it does, morning hour coverage is not met or is light.

Regarding opening trailheads the MRCA contracts with a company located in the San Fernando Valley that uses one vehicle, and opens the first gate at least 1 ½ hours before sunrise. The current annual cost to open gates is \$12,600, which is inexpensive compared to another cost estimate received from a local vendor at \$36,500.

Proposed is designing and installing automated gates to open and close gates at Sycamore Canyon, Arroyo Pescadero and Powder Canyon at set open and close times. A rough cost estimate is \$85,200. The rangers and/or a local company would need to be hired to open Hellman Park and Hacienda Hills, and close Hacienda Hills. At the time this staff report was written, we were still waiting for cost estimates from security companies to service these two trailheads. It is proposed that rangers close Hellman Park and Hacienda Hills in person due to the types of gates and the volume of visitors using the parks. It should be noted that the completion of the Hellman Park perimeter fence and gate is scheduled for November/December, resulting in the Authority's ability to enforce trail hours at this location. After closing Hellman Park, rangers would still visit each and every trailhead for security checks. Closing gates in this manner frees up the rangers to 1) have all gates close at closing time, 2) pursue violations should they see them on route between drives to each trailhead, and 3) still get trailheads closed on time even if there is an emergency.

Opening and closing gates in the manner proposed helps to secure the Preserve at posted hours also accomplishes the overall goal of protecting the biological values of the Preserve especially at night.

Automated gates/company to help with closure		\$ Amount
	Gates design and install at three trailheads (Sycamore [\$20,400], Arroyo Pescadero [2 gates, \$40,800], and Powder [\$24,000])	85,200
	Security company cost savings from discontinuing current contract	(12,600)
	Security company new costs (high estimate). Could be less if rangers opened/closed Hellman and Hacienda the majority of the time.	15,000 - 36,500
	total	87,600 – 109,100

- Due to initial costs, an alternate approach would be to implement this proposal first at Sycamore Canyon. Any management issues or gate designs could be refined before installation at other trailheads. The cost would be \$20,400.

This action step is consistent with the goals of the RMP and is consistent with the Report Regarding Visitor Management (page 7), and addresses wildlife disturbance from after-dark use.

2. Change Preserve hours to specific times.

Installation of automated gates at three trailheads as described above is needed in order to implement this action step due to the prohibitive cost of hiring a company to assist rangers in opening and closing all gates estimated at \$73,000 a year.

Suggested for consideration is to change the Preserve hours from sunrise to sunset to 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. October through March, and 7 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. April through September. As mentioned (See Exhibit B), wildlife need the dawn, dusk and nighttime for normal ecological functioning as a reprieve from the ever increasing volume of daytime recreational use. Also as mentioned, the biggest management challenge for the rangers is enforcing after hours use. Despite Authority staff posting educational messages in kiosks about the hours, and posting sunrise/sunset hours on our website, the majority of the people do not know when sunrise/sunset is. Many people unintentionally violate Preserve hours rules as there is a constant confusion by the public as to what defines sunrise/sunset, and many people are too busy with their daily lives to track the daily changing times. "Set times" rather than varying sunset/sunrise hours is easier to describe and easier for people to understand, and thus easier to enforce. Other park agencies in the Puente-Chino Hills area use a similar set time hours system (see Table 6 below).

Table 6

<i>Entity</i>	<i>Hours</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Enforceability</i>	<i>Special Nighttime Use</i>
LA County	October through March: 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.* April through September: 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.* *(closure times vary on dusk hours)	Schabarum Park	Gates stops cars not walk-ins.	Organized youth group camping throughout the year (average about one a month).
LA County	Sunrise to sunset	Schabarum Trail		Will consider on permit basis.
NPS/ CA State Parks	Parks are open 24 hours, although several gated parking lots are only open 8 a.m. to sunset.	SMMNRA** (~80,000 acres)	Difficult to enforce due to size and different hours of adjoining property managers.	Nighttime use is allowed. Allows for special permitted night events.
SMMC/ MRCA	Sunrise to sunset	69,000 acres managed by MRCA (includes portions of the SMMNRA**)	Difficult to enforce	Will consider on permit basis.
CA State Parks	October through March: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and April through September: 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Chino Hills State Park (14,000 acres)	Rangers are onsite at parking areas around closing hours to enforce hours and sometimes are scheduled into the evening for patrol. Difficult to enforce.	Campground overnight use allowed. Visitors are not allowed to be on trails outside the campground area after park closing hours.

These proposed set times are expected to also have a diluting effect on parking and traffic in morning and evening hours throughout surrounding neighborhoods of Hellman Park, Turnbull Canyon and Hacienda Hills trailheads. The set times are best enforced when there is a fence and gate controlling access such as at the Hacienda Hills, Arroyo

Pescadero and Sycamore trailheads. The effect at Hellman Park will be maximized after the wrought iron fence and gate is installed.

This change would be implemented after an appropriate advance education period of one to two months through a variety of avenues: trailhead signage, website posting, social media postings (Facebook, Twitter, Meetup.com), email list mailing notifications, newspaper announcements, and announcements at various groups and City Council meetings. Also, the current company that opens the gates will not be able to open them at 7 a.m. due to logistical reasons, so a new contract with a different company for the Hellman and Hacienda Hills trailheads would need to be secured after automated gates are installed at the other trailheads.

#2 Change Preserve hours		\$ Amount
	* #1 costs: \$87,600- \$109,100	
	Signage	1,000
	Update maps	2,400
	Enforcement - concentrated efforts but no increase in cost	
	total = #1 costs plus*	3,400*

- An alternative incremental approach would be to address only Hellman Park first because of the extreme conditions as described in this report. If hours were changed to 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. year round, the rangers could open this trailhead as a part of their regular patrol and therefore not result in any additional gate opening cost. The cost for this approach would be approximately \$500 for signage at the trailhead and on the various trails explaining that Hellman would have different hours so trail users would not get locked in. Rangers would need to change closing procedures to clear out trail users in Hellman for least one month. This is not a long-term solution as changing hours at one trailhead will most likely shift use and more impacts to the other trailheads.

This action step is consistent with the RMP and Report Regarding Visitor Management (page 7), and addresses wildlife disturbance from after-dark use.

3. Control of specific uses on trails.

Due to the increase in number of visitors who bring their dogs to the Preserve, and the resulting impacts discussed in detail in the attached exhibit, excluding dogs from Hellman, Turnbull Canyon, and Arroyo Pescadero is recommended by staff for Board consideration. Additionally, restricting dogs from Hacienda Heights or Powder Canyon during a well-publicized weekend is an additional educational technique for the community.

It is recommended to exclude bicycles from using Hellman Park including the Peppergrass Trail and the Mariposa Trail due to the safety for pedestrians from bikes at high-speeds and bike high-marking.

To avoid trail user-conflicts due to speeding bicycles, more speed limit signs could be installed throughout the Preserve. The rangers could also prioritize a more concentrated effort to control bike speeds with citations, especially at Turnbull Canyon and Hellman Park (if bikes are not eliminated from this latter location).

Control specific trail use		\$ Amount
	Signage	1,000
	Enforcement – concentrated efforts but no increase in cost	
	total	1,000

This action step is consistent with the RMP and the Report Regarding Visitor Management (pages 6, 21 and 30), and addresses ecological, recreational and depreciative issues.

4. Installation of restroom at Hellman Park when funds are available.

Currently the MRCA has contracted for servicing the portable toilets at four trailheads (Sycamore Canyon, Arroyo Pescadero, Hacienda Hills and Powder Canyon) once, twice or three times a week for approximately \$9,700 annually. A bathroom at Hellman would add to the protection of the resources and address neighborhood complaints.

This would be an additional cost of \$2,500 to \$3,500 yearly, plus the cost to lay a foundation and install an enclosure, approximately \$3,000. If Preserve hours at Hellman do not change then daily servicing of the restroom would be needed.

Install portable restroom at Hellman		\$ Amount
	Service restroom 2-3 times a week (<i>annual cost</i>). Daily service would cost \$10,200	2,500 – 3,500
	Foundation and enclosure	3,000
	total	5,500-6,500

This action step is consistent with the RMP and Report Regarding Visitor Management (page 35).

5. Conduct Preserve-wide coastal California gnatcatcher survey.

It is time for another Preserve-wide coastal California gnatcatcher survey. The RMP recommends conducting these surveys every two years. The last Preserve-wide survey conducted by a permitted biologist was in 2010 in the amount of \$20,880; however, given the lack of funds and staff resources, no additional Preserve-wide protocol surveys have been conducted. The Authority Ecologist has been regularly surveying the known

gnatcatcher nests and cactus wren territories for the past several years, except for this year due to workload restrictions. Comparing the monitoring results over time in areas of varying recreational levels will help us determine if there are natural resource impacts occurring in the Preserve related to recreational use.

Gnatcatcher survey		\$ Amount
	Hire consultant	30,000
	total	30,000

This action step is consistent with the RMP and Report Regarding Visitor Management (page 6), and mainly addressing protecting the coastal California gnatcatcher and cactus wren.

6. Continue ranger trail patrol.

To increase visibility of ranger presence on the Preserve, the rangers have been hiking trails mostly near trailheads at peak use times with education and maintenance as the main emphases. Their direct connection with the visitors while on foot or even bike patrol, is one of many varied styles of patrol that the rangers have used. It makes the ranger more approachable and differs from vehicle based patrols in which the users see and hear them coming down the trail well before they arrive. Rangers have committed to altering schedules for foot patrol at least four to eight hours a week, during high peak times. There is no extra cost associated with this action, and it has been included in the MRCA 2016-17 fiscal year contract.

This action step is consistent with the goals of the RMP and is consistent with the Report Regarding Visitor Management (page 7), and addresses ecological, recreational and depreciative issues.

7. Continue to block off illegal trails.

Signs, brushing, and the installation of rope and tee posts to create visual barriers to “close” user-created trails will continue. Rangers replace materials when necessary on an ongoing basis. There is no extra cost associated with this action, and is already being implemented.

This action step is consistent with the RMP and the Report Regarding Visitor Management (page 7), and addresses trail conditions and wildlife disturbance.

8. Possible temporary closure of the Hellman Park Trailhead.

If changing the Preserve hours is not pursued, then temporary closure is recommended for Hellman Park for the majority of the upcoming nesting season during the months of March through July 2017.

A temporary closure would be consistent with the Authority's RMP measures including but not limited to:

- Goal BIO-3: Maintain all populations of native plants and wildlife with special emphasis on management of locally uncommon, sensitive, federally-threatened or endangered species and other sensitive resources.

BIO-3.5 Protect and maintain nesting and foraging habitat for Indicator Species, defined as locally uncommon or declining species in Los Angeles County."

- Goal USE-1: Provide a trail system that protects natural resources of the Preserve.

USE-1.6 Use best management practices in the design, construction, and maintenance of trails, including temporarily closing trails when needed.

As stated earlier, the RMP was written in a manner to allow for an adaptive management approach, one that in part is designed to be flexible enough to allow for change and refinements to the approach for Preserve management as more is learned about ecosystems and the responses of these ecosystems to environmental stressors, including human use. Conclusions based on general scientific principles can be easily made supporting this action. This justification is that the use at Hellman Park has increased 2,618% over the last eleven years, illegal trails are fragmenting the area, trail widening has decreased habitat, studies have shown that recreation can negatively affect wildlife, and it is a biologically rich and sensitive property. This action step is meant to give this area a reprieve from the human disturbance especially during the most ecologically sensitive time of year, nesting season.

This change would be implemented after an appropriate advance education period through a variety of avenues: trailhead signage, website posting, social media postings (Facebook, Twitter, Meetup.com), email list mailing notifications, newspaper announcements, and public announcements.

Temporary closure of Hellman		\$ Amount
	No increase in costs. Will enable rangers to close other gates in more timely manner.	
	Signs	500
	total	500

This action step is also consistent with the Report Regarding Visitor Management (page 6), and addresses ecological issues.

Future management action considerations (a-e):

a) Eliminate illegal trails and fix eroded/widened trails in part with habitat restoration, b) Install permanent bathrooms at Hellman Park, c) install improved parking and perimeter fencing and decorative gate at Turnbull, d) hire additional education staff, volunteer coordinating staff, project staff and increase ranger hours, and e) Park reservation (permit) system (Exhibit E).

FISCAL IMPACTS

See attached the attached chart (Exhibit F).

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EXHIBITS (ATTACHED)

Exhibit A Sensitive Biological Values

Exhibit B Importance of Dawn/Dusk and Nighttime for Wildlife

Exhibit C City of Whittier Preferential Parking Districts

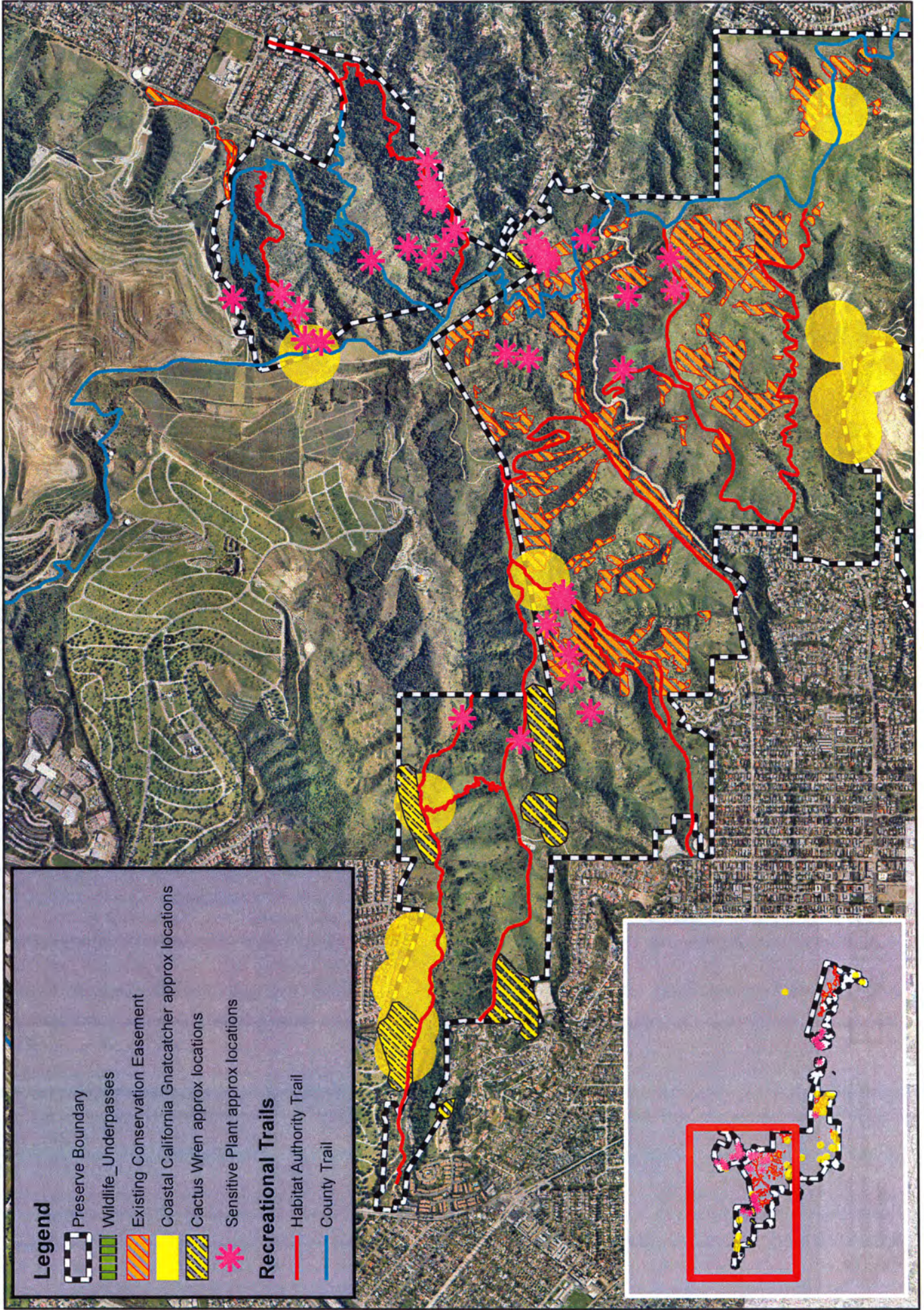
Exhibit D Dogs In Natural Areas

Exhibit E Permit System







Exhibit F Fiscal Impacts

Exhibit A-1 - Sensitive Biological Values

Dated: Oct. 19, 2016



Legend

-  Preserve Boundary
-  Wildlife_Underpasses
-  Existing Conservation Easement
-  Coastal California Gnatcatcher approx locations
-  Cactus Wren approx locations
-  Sensitive Plant approx locations

Recreational Trails



-  Habitat Authority Trail
-  County Trail

Exhibit A-2 - Sensitive Biological Values

Dated: Oct.19, 2016

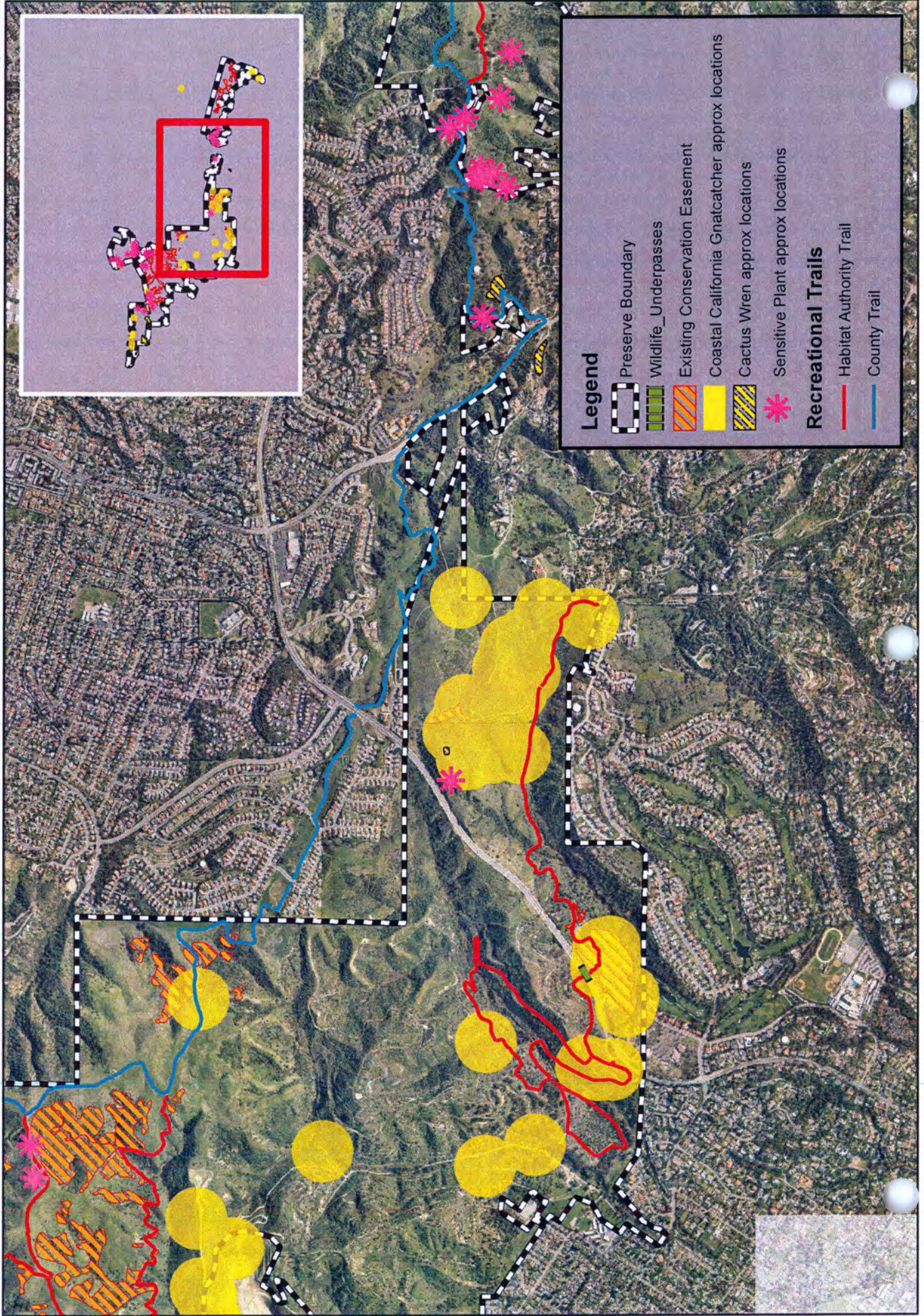
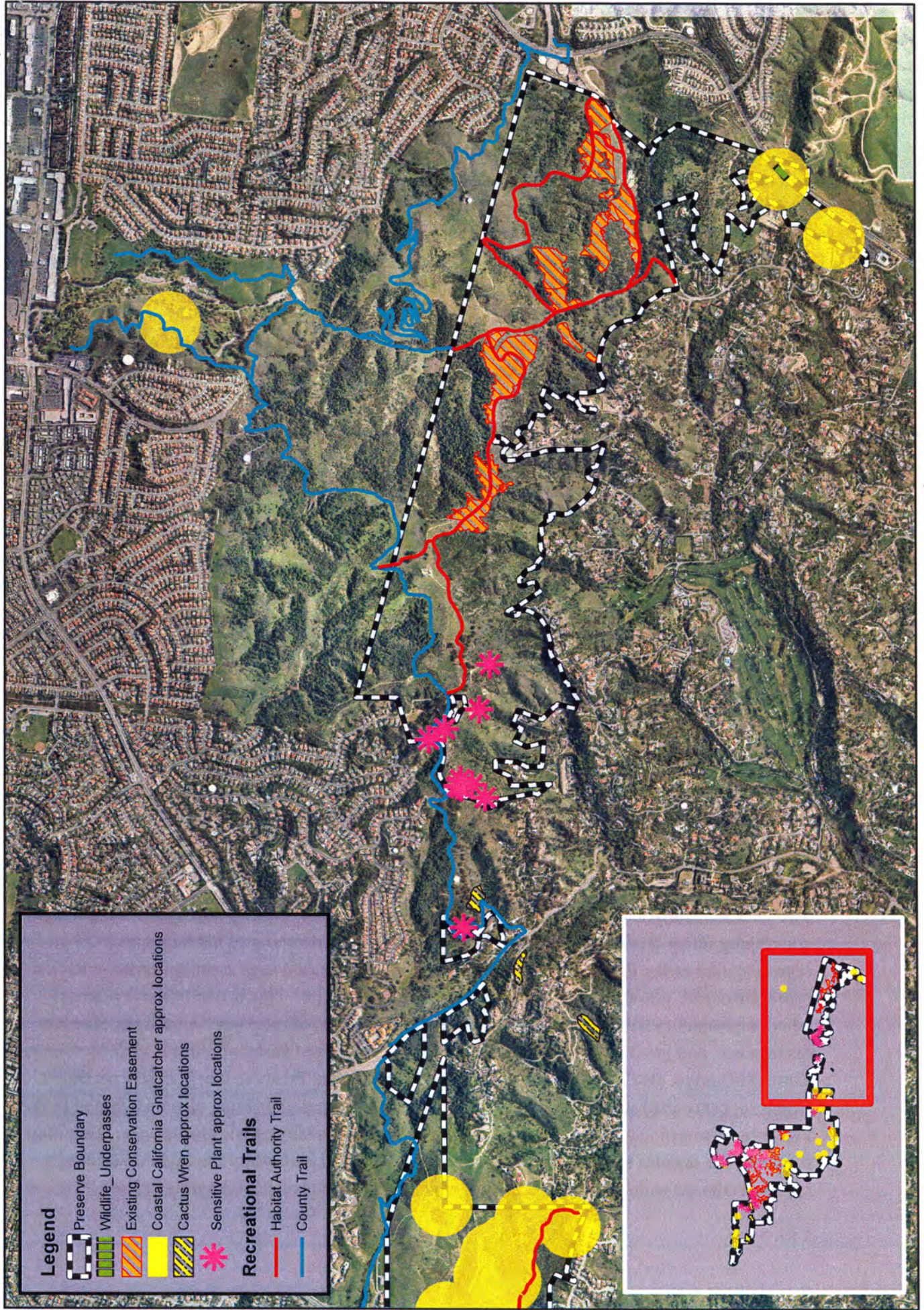


Exhibit A-3 - Sensitive Biological Values

Dated: Oct. 19, 2016



Biological Descriptions of Hellman Park and Adjoining Areas

Hellman Park

The Hellman Park area generally supports very steep slopes with substantial patches of intact native habitat, including sensitive coastal sage scrub and chaparral, as well as areas of grassland and small amounts of important riparian habitat. The Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Preserve noted that this was one of the few areas where high-quality habitat (signs of good plant diversity, few exotic weeds, no signs of recent disturbance, and good overall habitat/community structure and sustainability) is well represented. Hellman Park also represents a large area of intact habitat connecting the two areas on the Preserve with the highest sensitivity rankings, Sycamore Canyon and Turnbull Canyon, which included the observed number of sensitive (or rare) species and indicator species (which help to identify the habitat condition). The northern part of Hellman shares one of highest sensitivity ranks with Sycamore Canyon. The coastal sage scrub habitat in Hellman Park includes some of the largest and most contiguous areas of cactus scrub, which also supports the highest number of coastal cactus wren territories in the entire Preserve (10 of the total 23 in the Preserve). The coastal cactus wren is considered a sensitive species because it is extremely sedentary and has very specific habitat needs, making it highly susceptible to local extinction; its already small range has been shrinking regionally due to habitat loss and wildfires. Based on a recent census of all coastal cactus wren in the region, it is estimated that 10 percent of coastal cactus wren populations left in Los Angeles County may be in the Hellman Park and Sycamore Canyon areas. The importance of the cactus scrub habitat at Hellman Park is also demonstrated by the number of desert woodrats (another sensitive species); during a focused survey, 14 of the 44 individuals found in the Preserve were in Hellman Park, which is nearly three times the number found at any other site. The coastal California gnatcatcher, a federally threatened species, has also been documented here, which indicates that this area may serve as a dispersal or movement corridor connecting established gnatcatcher populations to the east and west.

Turnbull Canyon

The Turnbull Canyon is a large area with both steep and gently rolling ridgelines and drainages converging into a creek at the bottom. This area supports a diversity of habitat types representative of the Puente Hills: large intact patches of coastal sage scrub (a sensitive habitat type), chaparral, grassland, oak woodland and riparian habitat. This is one of the few areas where high-quality habitat (signs of good plant diversity, few exotic weeds, no signs of recent disturbance, and good overall habitat/community structure and sustainability) is well represented. Turnbull Canyon also has one of the few watercourses in the Preserve that is nearly perennial, which supports a substantial and highly intact amount of riparian habitat, also uncommon in the Preserve. Riparian habitats are known to support a high diversity of wildlife species. This may be one of the reasons that the RMP also noted that Turnbull had one of the highest sensitivity rankings (shared with Sycamore Canyon), which included the observed number of sensitive (or

Biological Descriptions of Hellman Park and Adjoining Areas

rare) species and indicator species (which help to identify the habitat condition). This area supports a substantial population of one of the few rare plants in the Preserve, the intermediate Mariposa lily. Another sensitive species, the coastal cactus wren, is also present in several territories in Turnbull Canyon within larger patches of cactus scrub habitat. Several individuals of coastal California gnatcatcher, a federally threatened species, have also been documented here, which indicates that this area may be important as a dispersal or movement corridor connecting established gnatcatcher populations to the east and west. Turnbull Canyon may also be important habitat for larger mammals as part of their home ranges and for movement, as indicated by the large number of mountain lion sightings that have been recorded in this area.

Importance of dawn/dusk and nighttime for wildlife in the Puente Hills Preserve (rev 4/22/2015)

Animals have natural biological rhythms and adaptations influencing whether they are active during the day (diurnal), around dawn/dusk (crepuscular) or at night (nocturnal). However, the external environment can be a driving force in altering that natural pattern.

The Puente Hills Preserve is home to a wide range of crepuscular and nocturnal animals including, but not limited to, the following animals:

- Crepuscular: cottontail rabbits, mule deer, mice, rattlesnakes, hummingbirds, songbirds, mosquitoes, moths, some beetles
- Nocturnal: foxes, owls, bats, mule deer, skunks, raccoons, bobcat, coyote, mountain lions, rattlesnakes

Benefits of being crepuscular

There are numerous benefits of being crepuscular. The temperatures around dusk and dawn can be the most comfortable time of day especially when daytime and nighttime temperatures can be more extreme. In low light conditions, animals can blend in better to their surroundings allowing them to hide while they forage. Being crepuscular also allows many animals to avoid predators by being active when predatory animals, such as mountain lions and bobcats, are typically not. But also many species, such as mule deer, have eyes adapted to see in those light conditions. During this small window of time (currently approximately 1.5 hours before sunrise and after sunset), crepuscular animals must feed, find mates, seek shelter, etc. and many species are only active during the crepuscular and/or nocturnal hours.

General recreational impacts

Some diurnal animals of the Puente Hills Preserve, such as the California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*) and the Western Scrub-Jay (*Aphelocoma californica*), may become habituated to recreationists during the day because of the regular activity going on around them. However, there are more people on the trails than before (use at Hellman increased 798% between 2005 [Martino et al. 2006] and 2012 [Garbat et al. 2013]), and when recreation levels in the Preserve were much lower, there was presumably less recreation use between sunset and sunrise. Rangers are now spending increasing amounts of time trying to get recreationists out of the Preserve at sunset. This increased level of recreational activity may cause crepuscular and nocturnal wildlife to become alarmed by human use and modify their behaviors, potentially having deleterious effects on their survival (e.g. increased heart rate, decreased foraging) and/or breeding (e.g. nest abandonment). With increased human use, especially after sunset and before sunrise, concerns are that these effects on wildlife may become amplified. The type of activity recreationists are engaging in may also matter since hikers may be more likely to approach wildlife and travel slower than bikers so they have an increased time of disturbance in one area. Papouchis et al. (2001) found that hikers caused the most severe responses in desert bighorn

sheep where sheep fled in 61% of the encounters with hikers as compared to 6% of encounters with bikers. Wildlife may have energetic losses when they are intentionally or unintentionally harassed and flee from their normal activities or preferred habitat expending more energy on fleeing/flight in addition to the potential loss of foraging time. Additionally, noise may disturb wildlife and it is typically quieter in the Preserve during the crepuscular and nocturnal hours. In some studies, noise caused by visitors resulted in increased levels of disturbance to birds (Bowles 1995; Burger & Gochfeld 1998). In general, the presence of dogs were found to cause birds to flush (Burger 1986; Pomerantz et al. 1988;) and unleashed dogs were found to pose a direct threat to birds because they can chase and kill them (Burger 1986), and they may be especially disruptive off-leash due to their resemblance to coyotes and foxes (Sime 1999), thus eliciting a predator avoidance response by wildlife.

Crepuscular/nocturnal use impacts

With such little time for crepuscular animals to accomplish their daily activities, recreation during this time may interrupt these activities with potential negative effects on wildlife. With more people on the trails now and user-created trails bisecting habitat, pressures on wildlife from recreational activities can cause many diurnal animals to shift their activity times to being more crepuscular or even nocturnal (George and Crooks 2006). Therefore periods of relief for wildlife, such as during the crepuscular and nocturnal hours, become increasingly important. The biggest effect is the cumulative effect of nighttime disturbance on wildlife that has already been displaced or disturbed by human activity during the daytime (see general recreational impacts above). Additionally, if people are in the Preserve at twilight/night, and using lights, those lights can impair wildlife's vision which can disrupt foraging and young rearing, to name a few (Green and Higginbottom 2001).

Studies on/near the Preserve

Most recently Whittier College senior, Bo Gould, has been analyzing USGS wildlife camera data (unpublished) for bobcat, coyote, gray fox, mule deer, raccoon, and striped skunk from 12/30/2012 to 6/30/2013 and analyzed what percent of the wildlife detections occurred in the daytime versus the nighttime. These data indicate that these species may be shifting their activity times at Turnbull Canyon and Hellman Park into the nighttime compared to the core habitat where they are active in both the daytime and nighttime. The cameras at Hellman Park, Turnbull Canyon and the core habitat were active for 147 days, 170 days and 181 days, respectively which can account for some of the higher number of detections at Turnbull Canyon and the core habitat.

Wildlife Detections	No. Daytime Detections	No. Nighttime Detections	Percent of Detections in Daytime	Percent of Detections in Nighttime
Hellman Park	0	78	0.0%	100.0%
Turnbull Canyon	8	143	5.3%	94.7%
Core Habitat	139	197	41.4%	58.6%

Several other studies have been conducted on or near the Puente Hills Preserve investigating the effects of recreation on wildlife. A 2002 report by Haas and Turschak stated that coyote and mule deer shifted their activity times to more nocturnal hours after opening the Colima tunnel within the Puente Hills Preserve to human recreation; a pattern which continued during a follow-up study conducted by Lucas (2010) but now also included a nocturnal shift in bobcat activity. This may have negative effects like decreased feeding efficiency, increased predation, and increased energy demands.

In a study conducted on the Nature Reserve of Orange County (within 40 miles of the Puente Hills Preserve), George and Crooks (2006) found that in areas with high human activity, bobcats and coyotes were less active in the daytime and exhibited a lower range of activities. Bobcats were found less frequently along trails with high recreation use (hikers and bikers) and were more nocturnal, versus diurnal, in areas with high recreational use (again hikers and bikers) and when dogs were present. Although coyote activity was also lower in sites with higher recreation use and coyotes were also temporally displaced by dogs, they were not as sensitive to human disturbance as bobcats. In short, the study by George and Crooks illustrates that recreation use can alter wildlife behavior. These are important findings since our Preserve has both hikers and bikers, allows dogs in more areas than not, and bobcats and coyotes are present on the Preserve and as top predators are good indicators of ecosystem health.

Conclusion

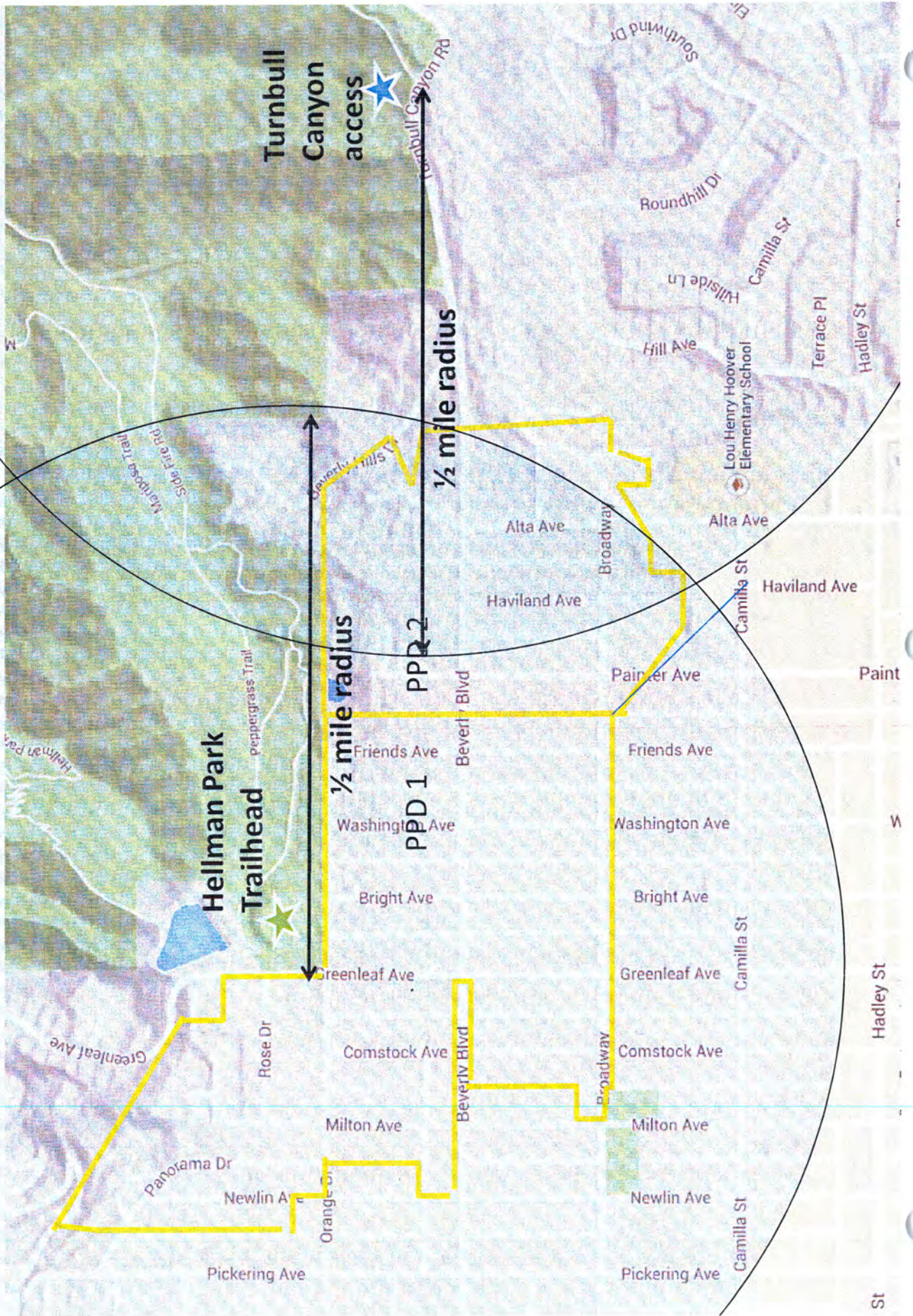
With the continual added pressure due to increased human activity during the day, it becomes more important to provide relief to wildlife during crepuscular and nocturnal times. In addition, other challenges to the Preserve are limited Ranger resources to control human activities and close all trailheads at sunset as well as porous access points when the Preserve is closed.

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City of Whittier Preferential Parking Districts 1 & 2 Hellman Park and Turnbull Canyon



Dogs in Natural Areas

Currently the Puente Hills Preserve (Preserve) allows dogs on all trails except Sycamore Canyon, Dark Canyon, Sycamore Switchback, and Arroyo San Miguel trails. Despite human efforts to domesticate dogs over the many thousands of years and humans' intense voice-command training, dogs still maintain basic instincts to hunt and/or chase. With particular stimuli, those instincts can be triggered in various settings. Even if the chase instinct is not triggered, and/or dogs stay on leash and on trails, the presence of dogs alone may be an agent of disturbance or stress to wildlife. Additionally, the waste material left behind by dogs can be a deterrent to wildlife.

There are a number of factors for land managers to consider when determining whether to allow or prohibit dogs from natural lands; factors such as the protection status of the land and potential impacts of dogs (direct and indirect). For example, wildlife view dogs as predators (Lenth, et al., 2008) and their presence may stress wildlife, thereby reducing breeding success.

Dogs can have impacts to wildlife, other dogs and humans in a Preserve setting.

- Dogs introduce/transmit diseases and/or contact dermatitis
 - Whether on- or off-leash, dogs are a potential vector for canine distemper, rabies, parvovirus, plague, and muscle cysts (Sime, 1999). We, as Preserve managers, cannot guarantee that dogs in the Preserve are vaccinated and are not carriers of diseases that can be transmitted to wildlife and other dogs especially since many of these are transmitted via feces.
 - People are exposed to poison oak when their dog comes in contact with the plant. This can happen whether the dog is on- or off-leash.
- Dogs displace wildlife from habitats and can cause death
 - When off-leash, dogs increase zone of human disturbance and can alter the normal behavior of wildlife (Lenth, et al., 2008).
 - Can cause wildlife stress by chasing them and causing wildlife to expend energy normally used on important life-sustaining functions.
 - Reduce nesting success since they can chase wildlife that could have spent time and energy on a nest or foraging to feed young.
 - Dog feces left behind leaves a scent that is odorous to wildlife and a form of scent marking. The same is true for dog urine. Since wildlife view dogs as predators these forms of scent marking can affect the behavior of other species.
 - Directly prey on wildlife.
 - Examples:
 - In Southern California, high levels of recreational visitation correlate with altered temporal patterns of wildlife activity (George and Crooks, 2006).
 - When dogs scent mark they indirectly interact with wildlife displacing or attracting carnivores (attract foxes, displace bobcats) (Lenth, et al., 2008).

- Dogs can decrease the visitor experience
 - Dog feces can decrease the human experience due to the sight and smell.
 - Fewer wildlife may be observed along the trails (30% of visitors visited our Preserve to see/hear wildlife [Martino, et al., 2006])
 - Not all visitors welcome encounters with dogs and inevitably some negative encounters either between humans and dogs or between dogs will occur.

Human behavior, dog safety and human safety in the Puente Hills Preserve

- The number of dogs brought to the Preserve has increased substantially from 2005 to 2016. (See Table below)
- Trails are frequently littered with dog waste in bags and unbagged as observed by rangers, volunteers and staff.
- Many dogs have reportedly died from heat exhaustion. Rangers have been called on several occasions to rescue over heated dogs on the trails on hot days.
- Dogs have been bitten by rattlesnakes as reported to rangers.
- Opportunities are created for conflicts with others users or animals.
- Puente Hills Preserve User Surveys Information:

The following table shows the number of average number of dogs on the Preserve at select trailheads from the 2005 User Survey (Martino, et al., 2006), the 2012 User Survey (Garbat et al., 2013) and lastly the 2016 Recreational Use Assessment and Supplemental report (MIG, 2016 and Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority, 2016, respectively). The number of dogs on the Preserve has increased over 1,000 percent from 2005 to 2016 at Hellman Park and if the 53 dogs per day is extrapolated over a month, that’s 1,590 dogs per month at that trailhead alone.

Average No. Dogs Per Day	2005¹	2012	2016	% Increase (2005-2016)
Turnbull Canyon	6.25	10.6	26	316
Hellman Park	3.75	23.8	53.0	1,313

¹ Since some people bring more than one dog and this wasn’t accounted for, this number may be higher

- Restricting dogs from trails may:
 - Increase available habitat for wildlife
 - Increase nesting success
 - Improve wildlife viewing for public
 - Result in cleaner trails leading to a more enjoyable experience for visitors

- Ensure the safety of dogs from tick bites, rattlesnake bites, predation from coyotes, or death from heat exhaustion
- Reduce conflicts with other trail users and/or dogs
- Examples: Boulder County Parks and Open Space found that trails dogs or mountain bikes often have higher levels of recreational use and those types of activities on the same trails can be problematic because they aren't always compatible. (BCPOS, 2004)
- Preserves that don't allow dogs (not a comprehensive list):
 - Santa Rosa Plateau
 - Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park
 - Laguna Coast Wilderness
 - Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park
 - Thomas F. Riley Wilderness Park
 - Ronald W. Caspers Wilderness Park
 - Irvine Ranch Open Space
 - Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve (City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks)
 - Many California State Parks including Chino Hills State Park trails (They are allowed at campsite, Rolling M Ranch, and along entrance road), and Topanga State Park trails.
 - Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve, Los Gatos, CA
 - El Corte De Madera Creek Preserve, Redwood City, CA
 - Picchetti Ranch Preserve, Cupertino, CA
 - Most National Parks
 - Times Beach Nature Preserve – downtown Buffalo, NY
 - Plainsboro Preserve, New Jersey
 - Six Mile Cypress Slough, Florida
 - Connemara Conservancy – (Dogs were prohibited from the Meadow several years ago in order to revitalize area, and now are allowed back through a permit system in limited numbers)
 -

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Consider establishing capacity and developing a reservation (permit) system.

Developing a permit system is recommended for consideration at some point. The catalyst for the system is overuse at Hellman Park and high use at Turnbull and Hacienda Hills, which are the three most visited trailheads in the Preserve. In particular, the use at Hellman and Turnbull has increased significantly over the past eleven years, despite a parking permit system being in place for the City of Whittier. Implementation of a permit system at one, two or three trailheads will put added pressure and increase use at other trailheads which are close to or at capacity already. As explained earlier, the types of use at Hellman and Turnbull causes habitat fragmentation, widening trails, decreased habitat, studies have shown that intense recreation can negatively affect wildlife, and they are biologically rich and sensitive properties. There are also many new illegal trails in Powder Canyon as well. Putting a cap on visitation levels and increasing awareness we could logically reduce impacts associated with urban stressors to the environment. A permit system would be consistent with the following RMP measures including but not limited to:

Goal BIO-3: Maintain all populations of native plants and wildlife with special emphasis on management of locally uncommon, sensitive, federally-threatened or endangered species and other sensitive resources.

Goal USE-1: Provide a trail system that protects natural resources of the Preserve.

Objective USE-1.8 Implement a trail system that is considerate of adjacent landowner interests as much as possible and consistent with protecting natural, visual, and cultural resources.

Goal USE-2: Enforce protection of the varied resources and promote an enjoyable and safe environment for visitors.

Goal USE-4: Accommodate parking, access points, and trail amenities that maintain the natural character of the land, enhance resource protection and contribute to the enjoyment of open space.

Objective USE-4.2 Seek to provide reasonable access points to eliminate excessive parking and avoid or minimize traffic to the surrounding community.

The RMP allows for an adaptive management approach, one that in part is designed to be flexible enough to allow for change and refinements to the approach for Preserve management as more is learned about ecosystems and the responses of these ecosystems to environmental stressors, including human use. Under this model, management moves forward in a scientifically based way that involves monitoring, conducting targeted studies, and applying management activities as experimental treatments.¹ Conclusions based on general scientific principles can be easily made supporting this action.

¹ RMP, 2007. Page 4

Developing capacity levels for the Preserve, which would be different for each trailhead, should be based on not only parking and traffic but recreational quality (including the feeling of being crowded) and protection of natural resources. Currently, there is a greater urgency for establishing these limits at Hellman Park due to the volume of use and other reasons discussed earlier in this report. This trailhead was not designed for the current level of use, and the natural resources are being impacted.

Capacity could be managed by adopting a permit system at no charge to the public. To implement it the City of Whittier as the owner of the Hellman Park and Arroyo Pescadero properties and the Authority would need to take action approving capacity limits. So if public access is going to be set at a level, it makes sense to tie that user level as necessary to protect the resources.

Examples of setting capacity and implementing a reservation system is typically managed by the size of the parking lot and by hardscape improvements (e.g.: hardening the trails, or installing railings and fences) to the trail system. We would be pioneering something that is not typically done in urban park settings. A somewhat comparable example can be found on state property on the Youghiogheny River in Pennsylvania. They have a reservation system for boating. Thirty people are permitted per hour for private boaters. They can make a reservation for a specific hour of use. This very rough general model could make sense for our Preserve, although our reservations would be based splitting the day in half for two reservation periods. For example, people could pick whether they want a permit from opening until 1 pm, or 1 pm to closing. Another example of a park that implements a day use hiking pass is at Mount San Jacinto State Park and United States (US) Forest. These passes are enforced on the honor system with the chance of a back country ranger citation as a misdemeanor. The State Park Superintendent of this area stated that enforcement has not been a problem, and the passes are extremely instrumental with search and rescue efforts. Furthermore, US Forest day use Adventure passes are required at improved trailheads of the Angeles, Cleveland, Los Padres and San Bernardino National Forests. Additionally, another example of a permit system for day and overnight use is at Eldorado National Forest located west of Lake Tahoe.

If implemented at the Preserve, compliance is expected to be low initially and would take many months to gain a majority percentage of compliance. Unless resources are available to have a “permit taker” at the trailheads, this system may not reach full compliance. Regardless, the numbers of trail users would most likely decline, and in other places where this has been implemented, the community self-regulated and the capacity limits were eventually lifted.²

Prior to a significant change in management like this, discussing this topic at public meetings such as at the Authority Board and Advisory Committees is recommended. If an action was taken to implement, public announcements and education about the new system would be needed for at least a month ahead of time, through a variety of avenues: trailhead signage, website posting, social media postings (Facebook, Twitter, Meetup.com), email list mailing notifications, newspaper announcements, and public announcements at various groups and City Council meetings.

² Whittaker, Shelby, 2015

Costs for implementing the permit system involve technological development, staff time for public education and ranger time for enforcement.

Permit system		\$ Amount
	Website design	15,000
	Mobile app creation	15,000
	Law enforcement (8 extra hours daily per month = \$15,816) For Hellman, 2 months at least.	31,632
	Law enforcement other trailheads (2-4 extra hours daily per month = \$4,000 to \$8,000) For other 5 trailheads, 2 months at least	40,000 -80,000
	Signage	1,000
	Unknown and ongoing technology and enforcement costs expected	
	total	102,632 - 142,632

The following steps are recommended to happen to implement capacity and a reservation system:

1. Evaluate ongoing biological data
2. Make a finding that setting capacity is necessary with a permit system (Board/Council resolution)
3. Set capacity level at trailheads
4. Conduct a cost analysis, identify funding
5. Offer stakeholder and public input
6. Develop web and mobile based system
7. Educate the public about the change and provide advance notice

Timeline: -an additional set of Authority public meetings
 -City Council meeting
 -three months website and app development, and concurrent public education

Due to initial enforcement costs, an alternate approach would be to implement this first at Hellman Park for two to six months as a pilot program and monitor effects on other trailheads. This would enable the program could be refined before expanding it to the entire Preserve.

A permit system would contribute to the health of the ecosystem and safety of the Preserve visitors. This action step is consistent with the intent of the RMP and Report Regarding Visitor Management (pages 21 and 26), and addresses wildlife disturbance, trail conditions, parking/traffic congestion, and trail crowding. Also, this action step is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act.

Permit System – Draft Design

This model would be all electronic, very user friendly, and all free. People could register on their cell phones, computer, over the phone or walk-ins to the office.

People could call one month or one week in advance and have a permit hard mailed if necessary. The majority of passes would be obtainable 24 hours in advance. Others without computers or cell phones could come into the office. Staff could manually add the people into the system.

We would need to set a capacity for each day and trailhead. Half of the permits would be available for opening until 1pm. and half would be available for 1pm until closing.

To accommodate special circumstances of visitors, 30 permits (or some other designated number) could be able to be reserved one month out, 30 permits (or some other designated number) could be reserved one week in advance, and rest (the vast majority) could be reserved 24 hours in advance. Once the cap was met no other permits for that day would be issued.

During the process of getting the permit online, they would fill out their name (required) on the permit, check a box that they understand the Preserve rules and have read them (required), and check a box that they are required to carry identification (ID) with them for verification (required). They would get an email (email address required) confirmation of their permit.

One person could fill out the form for up to 5 permits but they need to submit all other participants' names (required), and emails (not required but recommended) so they each could be emailed the permit and rules. The one person filling out the group pass (which would have all 5 persons' names listed on it) would be responsible for making sure all will have ID with them, or they are all subject to getting a ticket with a fine. A person can only be issued one permit for each day at the most, and it would not be transferable to any other person. (Permits could also limit the number of dogs at particular trailheads.)

Permits would have DAY, TIME (1st or 2nd half of day), NAME(s), instructions for them to have ID when on a trail, trailhead location and address, hours their permit is valid for, a reminder that violations to Preserve rules subject to \$1,000 ticket, and agency name.

People could print them out or show their permit to the rangers on their phone via email if asked. Rangers would enforce at the trailhead for anyone coming in or out. Enforceable at random times, at the end of the day, and weekend mornings – at a minimum. People would need to carry identification with them.

A counter would be on the website to show how many permits for each day are left available. Staff could manually add to the list if we want to issue extras on special days, or block off days/times to disable permits. Staff would also have the ability to email those that reserved tickets letting them know about an unplanned Preserve closure (fire hazard day, rain day, etc). Rangers and staff would be able to see this list on line via computer and phone for verification purposes if needed.


Fiscal Impacts		
Management Action No.	Steps	Estimated \$ Amount
#1 Automated gates/company to help with closure		
	Gates design and install at three trailheads (Sycamore [\$20,400], Arroyo Pescadero [2 gates, \$40,800], and Powder [\$24,000])	85,200
	Security company cost savings from discontinuing current contract	(12,600)
	Security company new costs (high estimate). Could be less if rangers opened/closed Hellman and Hacienda the majority of the time.	15,000 - 36,500
	total	87,600 – 109,100
#2 Change Preserve hours		
	See above #1 costs	
	Signage	1,000
	Update maps	2,400
	Enforcement - concentrated efforts but no increase in cost	
	total = #1 costs plus,	3,400
#3 Control specific trail use		
	Signage	1,000
	Enforcement – concentrated efforts but no increase in cost	
	total	1,000
#4 Install portable restroom at Hellman		
	Service restroom 2-3 times a week (annual cost). Daily service would cost \$10,200	2,500 – 3,500
	Foundation and enclosure	3,000
	total	5,500-6,500
#5 Gnatcatcher survey		
	Hire consultant	30,000
	total	30,000
#6 Continue ranger patrol		
	No increase in costs	
#7 Continue to block off illegal trails		
	No increase in costs	

Management Action No.		Estimated \$ Amount
#8 Temp. closure of Hellman		
	No increase in costs. Will enable rangers to close other gates in more timely manner.	
	Signs	500
	total	500
Future Items		
a)Eliminate illegal trails and fix eroded/widened trails, habitat restoration		10,000- 300,000
b)Install permanent bathrooms at Hellman Park		150,000
c)Install improved parking and perimeter fencing and decorative gate at Turnbull		2,000,000
d)obtain more education staff, volunteer coordinating staff, project staff and more ranger hours (up to 100 weekly)	Annual cost	315,000
e)Permit system		
	Website design	15,000
	Mobile app creation	15,000
	Law enforcement (8 extra hours daily per month = \$15,816) For Hellman, 2 months at least.	31,632
	Law enforcement other trailheads (2-4 extra hours daily per month = \$4,000 to \$8,000) For other 5 trailheads, 2 months at least	40,000 -80,000
	Signage	1,000
	Ongoing technology and enforcement costs expected	
	total	102,632 - 142,632

MEMORANDUM

Date: June 22, 2017

To: Board Members

From: 
Andrea Gullo, Executive Director

Subject: Agenda Item No. 5) Discussion and possible action regarding management action plan of the Puente Hills Preserve to balance access and protection of the natural resources, including establishing fixed hours Preserve-wide.

Recommendation:

Discussion and possible action approving plan to set fixed hours Preserve-wide.

Background:

At the Board meeting in January 2017, the Board took action confirming the change in hours at the Hellman Park Trailhead from sunrise to sunset to the new hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (October through May) and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (June through September), and to prohibit bikes from the Mariposa and Peppergrass trails. Direction was given to staff to monitor the progress before further discussions about establishing fixed hours at other trailheads. After trail repairs, Hellman was reopened in early May with the new hours. Overall, according to the rangers, all other trailheads are experiencing overcrowded conditions especially on the weekends, and sometimes during the week. At the last Board meeting in May, staff was directed to bring back to the Board at their June meeting a plan for establishing fixed hours for the rest of the Preserve in an incremental manner. See below plan.

1. *Eliminate Dirt Lot Parking at Turnbull Canyon*

Observations at Turnbull Canyon

Rangers have noticed on several occasions at the Turnbull Canyon access point that cars are stopping in the roadway waiting for a spot to open up. This reportedly makes cars drive on the wrong side of the road, with a blind corner and numerous pedestrians walking around. Plus, they are turning around at the gate which results in drivers using the roadway in front of another blind corner making a three-point turn. Cars also park illegally in part due to limited space. Without significant parking lot or road improvements, restricting parking at this location is recommended. Public parking outside of the preferential parking district remains available. Closing access altogether most likely would accelerate use at other trailheads.

2. *Establishing Fixed Preserve Hours*

Changing Preserve hours from sunrise to sunset, to set times such as 8am or 9am to 5pm/6pm would eliminate the ambiguity of the Preserve hours and most likely be the first step to having people enter or exit the Preserve on time. It is unrealistic to expect that all gates are opened and closed at the same time given Authority resources, but by changing Preserve hours to set times, we could get closer to compliance than we currently are. Because Hellman is uniquely located within a residential area with constricted parking and because the Board previously approved set hours for Hellman, that trailhead can be treated differently than the rest if the Board chooses.

Reasons for Fixed Hours

Mentioned in previous Authority staff reports has been the idea of establishing fixed Preserve hours to 1) eliminate public confusion and 2) to protect the flora and fauna of the Preserve by closing trails during biologically sensitive times. Set hours such as those mirroring the recently adopted times for Hellman Park Trailhead or opening an hour earlier due to high temperatures are recommended for consideration.

Subsequent effects of creating fixed hours could be the following: a) reduce trail use and associated depreciative trail behavior (litter, illegal trails, loud music, dog waste) or shift some trail use to other less biologically sensitive times of the days, and b) improve the quality of life for neighbors to the trails at Turnbull and Hacienda Heights. Attached is a chart indicating the potential percentage of visitation that could be affected by changing the Preserve hours (Exhibit A). Possibly 28% could be affected with open time of 8am and 41% with an open time of 9am. For seamless trails management and to reduce user confusion, closing hours are recommended to be the same as Hellman and the previous numbers reflect those closing hours.

To briefly recapitulate the October 2016 staff report about this issue: Historical ranger reporting has shown that at the Preserve closing time (sunset) there is an abundance of people still on the trails, either because they are willfully violating Preserve rules, they are confused about what sunset means, or they are uninformed about the closure time. With an increase in use throughout the Preserve as indicated by the Authority's 2016 trail user survey (See attached Exhibit B Preserve User Survey Results), coupled with illegal trail use behavior (illegal routes fragmenting habitat, littering, etc.), the potential for impacts to wildlife is higher than ever (e.g. increased heart rate, decreased foraging, nest abandonment). Periods of relief for wildlife, such as during the crepuscular and nocturnal hours, are more than likely becoming increasingly important for natural resource health in the Preserve. Additionally, please reference the Authority's staff report dated October 27, 2016 found on the Authority's website for in-depth explanations of the benefits to the Preserve's flora and fauna by establishing fixed trailhead and trail times. That information was provided in part due to the mission of the Authority and requirements of the acquisition funding source for properties within the Preserve that were purchased with 1992 and 1996 Los Angeles County Proposition A funds.

The below incremental approach is recommended for consideration:

A. Change Hours at Turnbull Canyon, Hacienda Hills, Sycamore Canyon

It is recommended to change hours for all three trailheads together because the trails are all interconnected. Trail hours cannot be enforced until all trailhead hours are compatible. Installation of a fence and gate at Turnbull is recommended to control trail access. Also, signage and barricades to prevent parking at the Turnbull dirt lot is also recommended. The entrance to Turnbull Canyon, 19.41 acres, is owned by the City of Whittier.

B. Change Hours at Arroyo Pescadero

This trailhead is owned by the City of Whittier.

C. Change Hours at Powder Canyon

D. Public Outreach and Notification of Change

Recommended is one month advance notification to the public of the change in hours. Notification would be in the form of temporary signage at the trailheads, posts on the agency website and social media (FaceBook, Twitter, Meetup.com), and an email to the agency email list. During this month staff and rangers would develop and order permanent signage for when the hours go into effect.

Suggested Timeline:

<u>Trailhead/Access</u>	<u>Month/Year</u>	<u>Action</u>
Turnbull/Sycamore/ Hacienda Hills	June 2017	1. Board take action. 2. Notify City Whittier about management of dirt parking area (owned by the City). 3. Notify City Whittier about intent to set fixed hours for Turnbull (owned by the City).
	July	Board takes action to approve management actions.
	August	1. Turnbull dirt parking area immediately signed for no parking. 2. Public outreach implemented for changing hours. 3. Board to consider executing contract to install fence/gate at Turnbull.
	September 1	Start new hours

<u>Trailhead/Access</u>	<u>Month/Year</u>	<u>Action</u>
	September (mid)	Install fence/gate.
	September	Staff reports progress to Board.
Arroyo Pescadero	October	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Board takes action to approve management actions. 2. Notify City Whittier about intent to set fixed hours for Arroyo Pescadero (owned by the City).
	Early December	Board takes action to approve management actions.
	December	Public outreach implemented for changing hours.
	January 1, 2018	Start new hours.
	January	Staff reports progress to Board.
Powder Canyon	January	Board takes action to approve management actions.
	February	Public outreach implemented for changing hours.
	March 1	Start new hours.

Other Management Actions Recommended

As outlined in the October 27, 2016 staff report, other management actions such as restricting dogs and bikes at select trailheads was recommended for consideration at some point in the future. Dog waste (bagged and mostly unbagged) reportedly continues to be a problem at trailheads and access points, especially at Turnbull Canyon and Hacienda Hills, and there was a recent report of a dog attacking another dog at Powder Canyon. Bike speeds exceeding the maximum speed limit for the Preserve continue to be problematic.

Fiscal Impact

The projected cost estimate for the fence/gate at Turnbull is \$15,000 to \$25,000. Cost estimates for barricades to prevent parking at Turnbull dirt lot were not available at the time this staff report was written. Updates to signs, kiosk maps and handheld maps are estimated to be less than \$5,000. Enforcement costs would be absorbed with the ranger services contract.

An additional possible fiscal impact would be replacing the existing gate(s) at Powder Canyon to reduce human trail user porousness. The time change is recommended to go into effect regardless if the gate(s) is changed or not. Once staff has evaluated, the situation, we will report back to the Board.

Hours	Sycamore	Hellman	Turnbull	Hacienda	Powder	AP	TOTALS	PERCENT	SECTION TOTALS
0630-0700	0	33	7	1	3	1	45	0.6%	
0700-0800	7	111	54	38	17	17	244	3.1%	4% 7 am opening
0800-0900	14	305	116	111	55	46	647	8.3%	12% 8 am opening
0900-1000	36	472	140	122	151	99	1020	13.1%	25% 9 am opening
1000-1100	52	474	176	201	136	79	1118	14.3%	
1100-1200	62	363	171	124	82	64	866	11.1%	
1200-1300	31	341	153	150	113	70	858	11.0%	
1300-1400	15	217	111	85	47	55	530	6.8%	
1400-1500	23	167	138	88	44	29	489	6.3%	
1500-1600	19	156	71	47	45	24	362	4.6%	
1600-1700	22	125	87	66	49	30	379	4.9%	
1700-1800	14	202	101	78	70	38	503	6.4%	16.0% 5 pm closing
1800-1900	27	227	78	86	74	56	548	7.0%	9.5% 6 pm closing
1900-1945	8	69	22	42	26	27	194	2.5%	
	330	3262	1425	1239	912	635	7803	100%	

A total of 12% of visitors exit the Preserve prior to 9am, and 25% prior to 10am.

We analyzed data prior to 9am since most visitors reported staying in the Preserve 1 hour in the 2012 survey and that means they entered prior to 8am.

A total of 16% of visitors exit the Preserve beginning at 5pm, continuing past sunset (with 9.5% of the 16% after 6pm)

We analyzed data after 5pm and after 6pm when the Preserve would be closed during two different times of year (Oct-May and Jun-Sep, respectively).

A GRAND TOTAL OF 41% OF VISITATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED WITH TIME CHANGE. 9am to 5pm

A GRAND TOTAL OF 28% OF VISITATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED WITH TIME CHANGE. 8am to 5pm

At the time that this survey was conducted sunrise was at 6:40 am and sunset was at 7:10 pm.

Preserve User Survey Results 2016

Average No. Visitors Per Day	<u>2005</u>	2012	<u>2016</u>	% Increase (2005-2016)
Turnbull Canyon	73	282	475	550
Hacienda Hills	55		413	651
Arroyo Pescadero	44		211	380
Hellman Park	40	366	1087	2,618
Powder Canyon	16		304	1,800
Sycamore			110	<u>n/a</u>

**Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority
Resolution No. 2024-01**

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY, APPROVING A LAND SWAP BETWEEN THE ROWLAND HEIGHTS WATER DISTRICT AND THE PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY, FOR A FEE TITLE PORTION OF ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBER 8269-003-900 FROM THE ROWLAND HEIGHTS WATER DISTRICT, IN EXCHANGE FOR A FEE TITLE PORTION OF ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBER 8266-002-901 FROM THE PUENTE HILLS HABITAT AUTHORITY, AUTHORIZING A MAINTENANCE EASEMENT, AND ACCEPTING A CONTRIBUTION OF \$30,000 FOR HABITAT ENHANCEMENT

WHEREAS, the Habitat Authority has the authority to dispose of property pursuant to the Amended Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement, Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority dated April 28, 2011.

WHEREAS, the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) has an adjacent land-owning neighbor, the Rowland Heights Water District (District), next to Authority-owned Powder Canyon.

WHEREAS, the District owns Assessor's Parcel Number 8269-003-900, located in unincorporated Los Angeles County (District Property).

WHEREAS, the Habitat Authority owns Assessor's Parcel Number 8266-002-901 located in the City of La Habra Heights (Habitat Property).

WHEREAS, the District desires to perform a land swap of a portion of the District Property to the Habitat Authority in exchange for a portion of the Habitat Property. The portion of the District Property that the District wishes to exchange is depicted and described in Exhibit "A", attached hereto and incorporated herein (District Exchange Property). The portion of Habitat Property requested by the District is depicted and described in Exhibit "B", attached hereto and incorporated herein (Habitat Exchange Property).

WHEREAS, the District requested this land swap and a maintenance easement along its property fence line to facilitate federally mandated fencing improvements around the District Property. The requested easement is described and depicted in Exhibit "C", attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

WHEREAS, the District will further donate \$30,000 to the Habitat Authority for habitat enhancement.

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Habitat Authority finds that the land proposed land swap furthers the Habitat Authority's purpose to preserve and protect open space by providing additional land to be protected.

WHEREAS, the Habitat Authority and the District have in good faith negotiated an Agreement for the Exchange of Real Property and Joint Escrow Instructions and Maintenance Easement with the District to effect the land swap.

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

Section 1. Acceptance is hereby authorized of a portion of fee title to Assessor's Parcel Number 8269-003-900 from the Rowland Heights Water District, and disposition of a portion of Assessor's Parcel Number 8266-002-901 to the Rowland Heights Water District, and a maintenance easement, as described and depicted in Exhibits "A", "B", and "C", attached hereto and incorporated by reference.

Section 2. Acceptance is hereby authorized of \$30,000 from the Rowland Heights Water District to fund habitat enhancement.

Section 3. The Executive Director is hereby authorized to sign all documents and to take any action necessary to implement the provisions of this resolution, including but not limited to the Agreement for the Exchange of Real Property and Joint Escrow Instructions and Maintenance Easement and lot line adjustments, and recordation of these documents.

Section 4. This action is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to the following sections of the CEQA Guidelines: 15061(b)(3), because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment; 15305(a), a class 5 categorical exemption, minor lot line adjustment; 15316(b), a class 16 categorical exemption, transfer of land in order to establish a park where the land is in a natural condition or contains historical or archaeological resources and the area will be kept in a natural condition; 15317, a class 17 categorical exemption, acceptance of easements or fee interests in order to maintain the open space character of the area; and 15325(a), (c), and (f), a class 25 categorical exemption, transfer of ownership of interests in land in order to preserve open space, habitat, or historical resources, specifically to preserve the existing natural conditions, including plant or animal habitats, allow restoration of natural conditions, including plant or animal habitats, and to preserve open space or lands for park purposes.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting held the 15th day of February, 2024.

AYES:

NOES:

Chair, Board of Directors
Ivan Sulic

ATTEST:

Secretary to the Board of Directors
Marlyn Barajas

EXHIBIT "A"
DISTRICT EXCHANGE PROPERTY

EXHIBIT "B"
AUTHORITY EXCHANGE PROPERTY

EXHIBIT "C"
ACCESS EASEMENT

Additional Materials

Minutes
PUENTE HILLS HABITAT PRESERVATION AUTHORITY
CITIZENS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
December 19, 2023

The Committee's special meeting took place at two different locations and with different start times.

The first meeting started at 6 p.m. at 5040 Workman Mill Road, Whittier, CA 90601. This meeting was a field trip for a tour of the Sycamore Canyon residence. A roll call was taken and there was a quorum at this time.

Members Present:	Matthew Liang, Chair	County of Los Angeles
	Bryan Coreas	County of Los Angeles
	Catherine Houwen	La Habra Heights
	Michelle Pekko-Seymoure	Whittier
	Dr. Janis Cavanaugh	Whittier

The tour included a review of residence maintenance and up keep needed. The Committee took a break at 6:30 p.m.

The second location took place at 5703 Palm Avenue, Whittier, CA 90601 (Palm Park), and the meeting proceeded as follows.

I. CALL TO ORDER.

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

Members Absent:	John Ford	County of Los Angeles
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Authority Representatives Present:
Andrea Gullo, Executive Director
Michelle Mariscal, Ecologist

Marlyn Barajas, Program Analyst

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

Steve Huber, Vice President of Whittier Area Audubon, thanked the Habitat Authority for recognizing him with a certificate at the Habitat Authority's holiday gathering. Also, he provided a brief introduction and update regarding the group's monthly Saturday Bird Walks in Sycamore Canyon.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE OCTOBER 17, 2023, REGULAR MEETING.

Correcting names and attendance in the minutes were discussed.

Member Houwen motioned to approve the October 17, 2023 minutes as amended. Member Andros seconded the motion, and in a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

V. STANDING REPORTS:

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

Member Houwen, Board Liaison, commented that no Board meetings took place in October and November but did provide a report on the Habitat Authority's holiday gathering and its previous Open House in November.

b. SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT.

Program Analyst Barajas and Executive Director Gullo provided an update on the Habitat Authority's social media growth and content. The Habitat Authority continues to publish content a few times weekly to reach more people.

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

Member Andros and Member Houwen commented on the Habitat Authority's Heli-hydrant partnership event on November 17. There was discussion regarding the event activities and the event being televised.

Member Houwen discussed her reports to La Habra Heights City council. Mention was made about the public outreach hosted at Member Cavanaugh's home recently, and other Committee Members activities.

VI. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGARDING SENDING A LETTER TO THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SUPPORTING THE EAST SAN GABRIEL VALLEY AREA PLAN AND THE REZONING OF THE PRIVATE AERA PROPERTY WITHIN THE PUENTE-CHINO HILLS CORRIDOR.

Ecologist Mariscal provided a report and explained the importance of continuing to voice support for the rezoning of this project to protect natural resources. There was discussion.

Member Andros motioned to recommend to the Board of Directors sending a letter to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors supporting the East San Gabriel Valley Area Plan and the rezoning of the private Aera property within the Puente-Chino Hills Corridor. Member Coreas seconded this motion and in a vote, the motion passed unanimously.

VII. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH TEAMCIVX LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$45,965 TO FACILITATE A GENERAL INFORMATIONAL MAILER REGARDING THE AUTHORITY, AND AMEND THE AGENCY BUDGET AS APPROPRIATE.

Executive Director Gullo provided a report. There was discussion on the matter concerning the timing of sending out an informational mailer regarding the Authority to the surrounding communities. Additionally, ideas were considered on how to track whether an informational mailer has an impact in reaching community members. After discussing, the Committee took a vote.

Member Liang motioned to recommend to the Board of Directors to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract amendment with Team CivX LLC in the amount of \$45,965 to facilitate a general informational mailer regarding the Habitat Authority. Member Cavanaugh seconded the motion and in a vote, the motion passed. Committee Member Nazaroff opposed.

VIII. PROGRESS UPDATE AND DISCUSSION REGARDING REVAMPING THE AUTHORITY'S WEBSITE.

Staff presented the progress of revamping the Authority's website. There was discussion regarding the new layout. The Committee expressed their opinions

and recommendations for the new website. After brainstorming, Chair Liang received and filed this report.

IX. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGARDING AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT AMENDMENT RENEWING THE ANNUAL FUEL CLEARANCE CONTRACT FOR WHITTIER AND HACIENDA HEIGHTS WITH NORTHSTAR LAND CARE EXTENDING THE TERM AN ADDITIONAL YEAR (APRIL 2024 THROUGH MARCH 2025), AND AMENDING THE CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$63,794.

Executive Director Gullo provided this report.

Member Cavanaugh motioned to recommend to the Board of Directors to authorize Executive Director Gullo to enter a contract amendment in the amount of \$63,794 with North Star Land Care extending its term an additional year. Member Andros seconded the motion, and in a vote the motion passed unanimously.

X. ANNOUNCEMENT OF AUTHORITY'S OPEN HOUSE ON JANUARY 24, 2024, AT 6 P.M. AT PARNELL PARK IN WHITTIER.

Executive Director Gullo invited the Committee to the Habitat Authority's next Open House scheduled for January 24, 2024 and encouraged them to invite others.

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

Committee Members and Authority staff exchanged holiday wishes.

XII. ADJOURNMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEXT MEETING.

There being no further comments, or business to be discussed, Chair Liang adjourned the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Heights Heli-Hydrant officially dedicated

Representatives from the California Senate, Los Angeles County, La Habra Heights, Whittier, Hacienda Heights, Rowland Heights and the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) took part in a dedication ceremony on December 15 for the new Heli-Hydrant that provides water to fill tanks on helicopters that fight wildfires in the Heights and neighboring areas.

Situated on a hilltop in eastern La Habra Heights, the hydrant is on property that is part of the 3,870-acre preserve managed by the Habitat Authority, including 724 acres within the boundaries of La Habra Heights. The site was chosen as the most suitable location by helicopter pilots from the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

Ivan Sulic, chairperson of the Habitat Authority board of directors, was master of ceremonies for the event. Speakers were Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn, Los Angeles County Fire Chief Anthony Marrone, State Senator Bob Archuleta, La Habra Heights Mayor Carol Engelhardt, La Habra Heights City Councilmembers Brian Bergman and Dennis Laherty, and La Habra Heights Fire Chief Mitch Brookhyser.

“The operative word for today is *collaboration*,” said La Habra Heights Councilmember Dennis Laherty, who, along with Councilmember Brian Bergman,



Left to right: LA County Supervisor Janice Hahn, Senator Bob Archuleta and Habitat Authority Board Chairperson Ivan Sulic display a Senate certificate commemorating the dedication.



LA County Supervisor Janice Hahn, assisted by LA County Fire Chief Anthony Marrone and young helpers, cuts the ribbon during the Heli-Hydrant dedication ceremony.

spearheaded efforts to get the Heli-Hydrant approved, funded and installed. Laherty noted that planning and negotiations were especially difficult and time-consuming since so many agencies and organizations were involved. He and Bergman both recognized and thanked Supervisor Janice Hahn for helping to negotiate agreements and secure grant funding for the project.

Executive Director Andrea Gullo of the Habitat Authority was also heavily involved in negotiations that led to ecologically acceptable site preparations and installation of the important new firefighting technology.

Pam McVicar, board vice president of the La Habra Heights County Water District, was the first to advocate installing a Heli-Hydrant in our community after learning how effective such equipment had been in fighting wildfires in Orange County.

Supervisor Hahn said: “During a firefight, precious minutes matter! We’re grateful that we can provide you with this new tool to help protect this beautiful La Habra Heights and surrounding communities.”

Senator Bob Archuleta reminded the audience that La Habra Heights is the first city in Los Angeles County to install a Heli-



Left to right: La Habra Heights City Councilmembers Brian Bergman and Dennis Laherty spoke about the challenges that had to be overcome to make the heli-hydrant a reality.

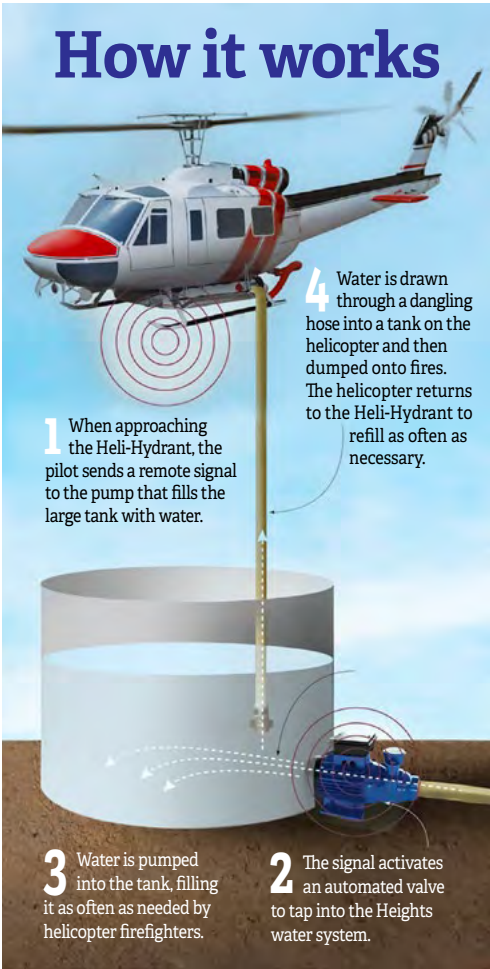
Hydrant and called it a reminder of ongoing commitments to protect the Heights from wildfire. He also praised fire academy students who serve as volunteer firefighters in the La Habra Heights Fire Department. “La Habra Heights, you’re the mothership for all these young firefighters who learn their trade here and then move out to serve other communities,” he said.

Los Angeles County Fire Chief Anthony Marrone and La Habra Heights Fire Chief Mitch Brookhyser explained the vital role that timely water drops play in bringing wildfires under control quickly.



Cover and ceremony photos by Dan Stracner.

Representing La Habra Heights at the dedication ceremony were (left to right): Pam McVicar, vice president of the board of directors of the La Habra Heights County Water District; City Treasurer Dinesh Ghiya; Interim City Manager Rafferty Wooldridge; Mayor Carol Engelhardt; City Councilmembers Brian Bergman, Dennis Laherty and Norm Zezula; and Fire Chief Mitch Brookhyser.



In the past, helicopters fighting fires in the Heights either had to land in Schabarum Park for difficult manual refilling or travel to local reservoirs such as Puddingstone Lake. The convenient location of our new Heli-Hydrant creates a force-multiplier effect, allowing a single helicopter to perform many more water drops in a shorter period of time. A small helicopter holds 350 gallons; a large Chinook CH-47 (see the photo on the cover) holds 3,000 gallons.

Made by Whaling Fire Line Equipment (Canyon Country, California), the patented Heli-Hydrant system features remote, radio-activated, helicopter pilot-controlled valves that rapidly fill and drain the 8,600-gallon tank, which is 8 feet high and 15 feet in diameter. The tank has no lid so that it remains dry when not in use to prevent stagnant water and to keep wildlife and people safe. During Red Flag Fire Alert days, the La Habra Heights Fire Department has the option to prefill the tank as an extra precaution.

Having a Heli-Hydrant the Heights enables helicopter firefighters to suppress fires sooner and keep fires smaller. This technology increases protection not only for our city, but also for surrounding communities, constituting a significant contribution to our Mutual Aid Agreements with neighboring agencies.



Landon Jensen Photography



**Puente Hills
Habitat Preservation Authority**

Endowment Provided by the Puente Hills Landfill



January 29, 2024

Judy Ennis
1779 Virazon Drive
La Habra Heights, CA. 90631

Dear Judy:

Thank you very much for the tax-deductible donation of \$50.00 to the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority. Your donation is generous and very appreciated.

This thoughtful gift will help offset the cost of refreshments at our recent Open House event, as you requested. Donations like these contribute towards the Habitat Authority's mission of preserving and protecting the Puente Hills Preserve. Contributions like this help our agency to continue to preserve the hills for the benefit of wildlife, their habitat, and people. Your continued support means a lot to us. Again, thank you.

Sincerely,

Andrea Gullo
Executive Director

C:
Board of Directors
Advisory Committee



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

 habitatauthority.org

Join Us!

Join the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority and the Whittier Museum for an informational presentation on the role of the Habitat Authority in preserving and maintaining local open space and protecting our local communities from the threat of wildfire.

Where:

Whittier Museum
6755 Newlin Ave, Whittier

When:

Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 6:30pm

There will be a short presentation followed by a Q & A.

