

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS
AND JANICE HAHN

MAY 17, 2022

Use of Funds from the Sale of Land at Diamond Bar Golf Course for the Puente Hills Landfill County Regional Park Development

In 1970, the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (Sanitation Districts) purchased over 1,200 acres of land in the Puente Hills canyons of the San Gabriel Valley to create a new, regional landfill known today as the Puente Hills Landfill. Under conditions laid out in a 1987 Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) entered into by the Sanitation Districts and the County of Los Angeles (County) and under Assembly Bill 2632 (Solis), the Sanitation Districts were required to provide portions of the site to the County for park and recreation purposes after the landfill ceased operations. Following the settlement of recent litigation between the Sanitation Districts and the County, Parks is now beginning the design phase for the Puente Hills Regional Park (PHRP).

PHL is located in the East San Gabriel Valley. The proposed PHRP will serve a 25-mile regional area, including adjacent communities in the east San Gabriel Valley. Once completed, the future regional park will provide 142-acres of new parkland that will provide diverse, healthy, passive, and active recreational experiences and

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programming. It will be the County's first new regional park in more than 35 years, offering a rare and significant opportunity for new parkland in the east portion of Los Angeles County.

In October of 2021, after extensive negotiations, the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks) reached an agreement with San Gabriel Council of Governments and Metro on the sale of approximately nine (9.13) acres of Diamond Bar Golf Course for the purpose of widening the Pomona Freeway (60 Freeway). In addition, the Diamond Bar Golf Course was reconfigured and renovated as a mitigation effort due to the impacts from the freeway project and the golf course will reopen March of 2023.

In accordance with the Park Preservation Act (PPA), Public Resources Code sections 5400 through 5409, Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks), on behalf of the public interest, received compensation in the amount of \$28,250,000 (Park Compensation Fund) for the purpose of acquiring and improving substitute parkland and facilities of similar size, comparable characteristics, and located in the same area to serve the same persons as the original park and to provide public parks access to the impacted community.

After conducting an extensive land inventory and acquisition process with Metro and the SGV COG for replacement parkland, Metro was unable to secure replaceable parkland to meet the PPA requirements. In lieu, the PPA also provides the opportunity to provide compensation for parkland replacement and improvements. Therefore, Parks recommends the use of Park Compensation Fund to support the development of the future PHRP, at the PHL. The future regional park will serve a similar purpose and role

as the lost acreage of Diamond Bar Golf Course, to provide regional outdoor recreation, athletics, and exercise. According to the Los Angeles County General Plan - Parks and Recreation Element the purpose of Special Use Facilities, such as golf courses, and regional parks are both to "serve greater regional recreational needs."

The Park Compensation Fund will be used to provide gap funding for PHRP. The allocation of funds to the PHRP development funds is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15378 (b) (5) of the State CEQA Guidelines, because the transfer is an administrative action with no result in the direct or indirect physical impact on the environment. Further CEQA review will be required when the scope of the park development is defined.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors

1. Find that the proposed allocation of funds is not subject to CEQA for the reasons stated herein and the reasons reflected in the record.
2. Find that the funds allocation for use in developing the Puente Hills County Regional Park Development Project meet the requirements of the PPA in serving the same general population, that the park will similarly feature passive, and active recreational experiences and programming, and the improvements will constitute a fair and reasonable compensation for the lost parkland.
3. Approve the allocation of the \$28,250,000 Park Compensation Fund for the Puente Hills County Regional Park Development Project.

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