



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

"Parks Make Life Better!"

John Wicker, Interim Director

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

DATE: December 18, 2015

PROJECT TITLE: The Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan Project

PROJECT LOCATION: The Proposed Project is located at the Puente Hills Landfill, located within Fourth Supervisorial District in unincorporated Los Angeles County, southeast of the intersection of State Route 60 (SR-60) and Interstate 605 (I-605).

The County of Los Angeles (County) is the lead agency for consideration of the proposed Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan (Proposed Project). Based on the findings of an Initial Study for the Proposed Project, the County has determined that it will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). In compliance with Section 15082 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the County is sending this Notice of Preparation (NOP) to responsible agencies, interested parties, and trustee agencies responsible for natural resources that may be affected by the Proposed Project.

PROJECT LOCATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Proposed Project is located within the boundaries of the Puente Hills Landfill. The Puente Hills Landfill is approximately 1,365 acres in size and has been closed since 2013. The Puente Hills Landfill is located southeast of the intersection of SR-60 and I-605 in the unincorporated County (Figure 1). Surrounding include: the cities of El Monte and South El Monte, and the community of Avocado Heights to the north; the community of Hacienda Heights to the east; the City of Whittier and the community of North Whittier to the south; and the City of Pico Rivera to the west. Full vehicular access to the site is currently available via a single driveway off Crossroads Parkway on the north boundary of the landfill.

The Puente Hills Landfill site contains a series of ridges, hillsides, and canyons, which rise up around surrounding valley areas to an elevation of 900 feet. The project site currently contains a range of environments, including extensive areas of natural and artificial slopes that support native habitats, restored native habitats, non-native planted woodlands, actively managed artificial landfill decks that are still settling, and several maintenance buildings. Many of these hillsides are traversed by methane gas pipelines ranging in diameter from 12 to 36 inches. The entire site is traversed by more than 10 miles of roadways of varying widths. Landfill closure and maintenance activities and facilities are currently the dominant uses of the project site, including the operation of heavy equipment and the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) on the northwestern edge of the site. Landfill closure activities are projected to continue for at least 30 years, although declining over time as deck settling rates and landfill gas production decline.

Surrounding land uses include office and light industrial uses to the west and north, residential and open space/preserve properties to the east, Rose Hills Memorial Park, Rio Hondo College, and a Southern California Edison electrical transmission line right-of-way to the south. Multi-use trails constructed and maintained by the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) adjoin and cross the site connecting east-west over the former landfill.

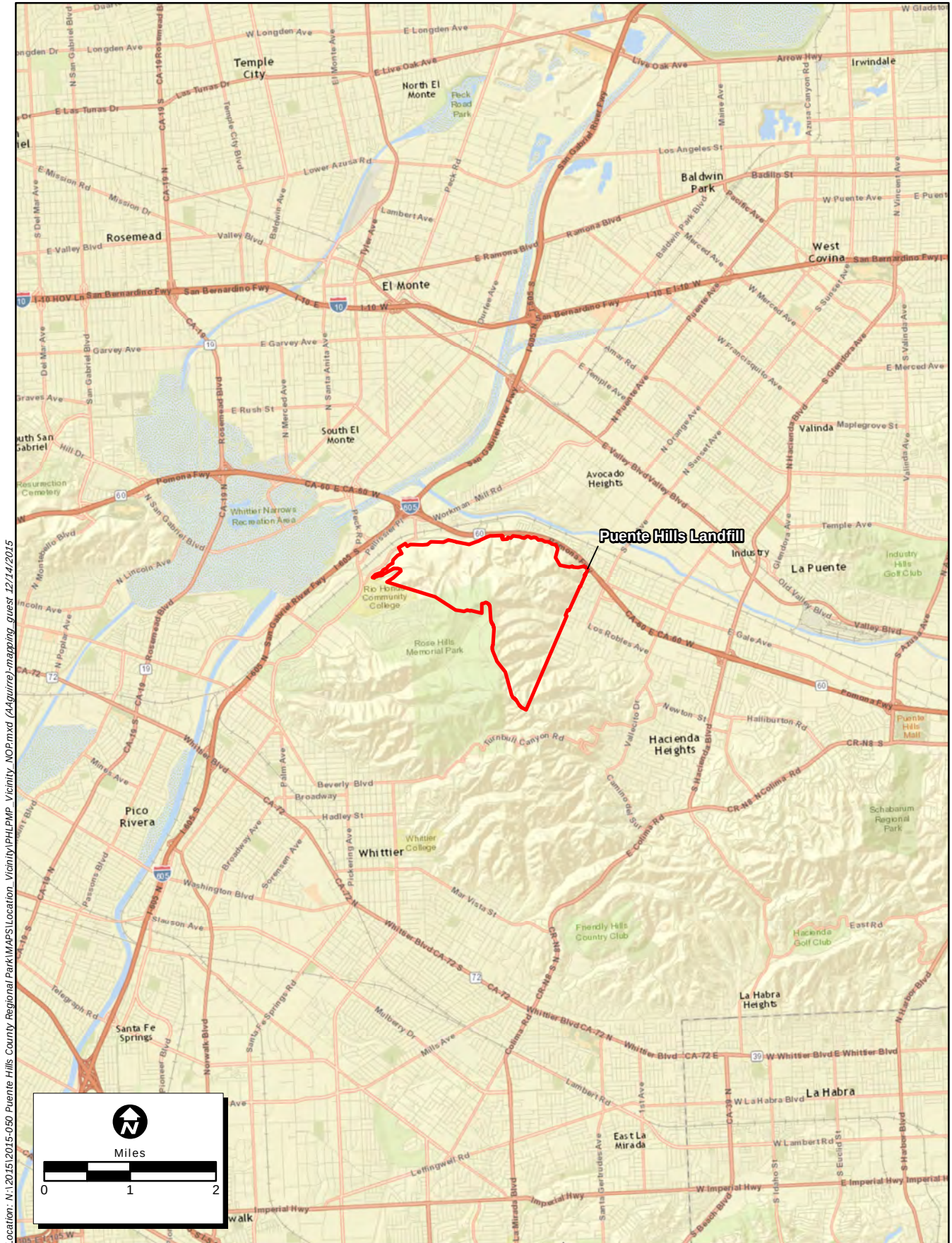


Figure 1. Project Vicinity

2015-050 Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan

Adjacent preserve areas support important aesthetic and ecological resources including 225 acres within the landfill boundary that are currently managed by the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority. Located at the eastern landfill site boundary is a constructed riparian habitat and an oak tree replacement planting area maintained as natural open space. Ecology Canyon on the west face of the landfill is a 24-acre site which is used by the Rio Hondo College for study purposes and has been designated as a Significant Ecological Area in the Los Angeles County General Plan. These open space preserve areas are recognized as highly valuable for resident and migrant wildlife populations and for native plant communities which include some patches of pristine plant communities. The east-west migration of particular wildlife species through the Chino and Puente Hills, of which the landfill site is a part, is considered critical to the biological viability of some animal populations, specifically the mountain lion.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Proposed Project is a long range master plan that over time would develop a portion of what was formerly the largest landfill in the western United States into a regional park, providing recreation and open space for the greater Los Angeles area. DPR has the opportunity to create a new regional park uniquely situated at the western end of Puente Hills on a large industrial closed landfill site that is owned and maintained by the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (Sanitation Districts).

The Proposed Project would be in compliance with Conditional Use Permit No. 2235-(1) (CUP) granted to the Sanitation Districts in 1983, which allowed for the continued operation and expansion of the Puente Hills Landfill. The CUP required the Sanitation Districts to enter into an irrevocable agreement with the County (or alternate public agency) to designate the "fill" portions of the site as open space in perpetuity. The two entities entered into a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) on April 28, 1987. Subsequent land use approvals, including CUP 92-250(4) and CUP 02-027-(4), for continued landfill operations further clarified provisions related to the park, including that "the specific type of recreational use (i.e., trails, nature center, soccer fields, golf course) would be the subject of a dedicated master planning process."

Of the 600 acres of fill within the site boundaries, which includes the landfill slopes and flat landfill caps, approximately 117 acres of top deck fill area would be available over time for formal park development or approximately 10 percent of the site's total acreage.

These top decks are referred to as the Western, Eastern, and Southern decks. Non-fill areas (i.e. stable soil) are critical for developing park structures. Approximately 15 additional acres of non-fill areas plus the utilization of the 10-acre buttress area have been identified in coordination with the Sanitation Districts as potential land available for park development. Further, park roads, the entry area, and hillsides would also be utilized for a variety of park functions and recreational activities, including site access, a visitor center, trails and walkways, etc. Due to varying rates of settlement depending on when the fill area was closed and capped, park development is anticipated to occur in phases over several decades as landfill maintenance activities decline.

The top decks (which are fill areas) of the landfill would be the location of the most concentrated recreational development activities. These are the 35-acre Western deck which has settled the most and would be developed as the first phase of the Proposed Project. The Eastern and Southern decks total approximately 80 acres and are still subject to rapid settling. These areas would be less developed and would remain more open grasslands with park elements such as

picnic areas, trails, and parking on the top deck surfaces. Top decks would be developed in various phases to accommodate settling that would occur for up to 30 to 50 years.

The final park concept is a collection of three systems that work together. These include: 1) the ongoing landfill maintenance of the site as it shifts and settles; 2) the plantings and 'ecology' of the site; and 3) the functional park elements for the layer of recreation that the community voted on and selected throughout the public outreach process. Over the next 30 or more years, post-closure landfill operations are required due to methane production, methane capture and burn, settling, and landscape maintenance to prevent erosion. The Sanitation Districts would continue to operate an office, maintenance yards, and the MRF and gas to energy facilities on-site throughout the lifespan of the landfill aging process. The landfill areas required for the Sanitation Districts operations would not be available for park use. However, over this period as park development proceeds and recreational activities increase while those associated with landfill maintenance decline, park uses and recreational activities will become an increasing dominant land use on the site.

The Proposed Project would include a variety of recreational facilities that can be sustained on the site, including passive and more active facilities. Park development would be integrated with existing landfill facilities, including a shared entrance and joint use of an existing loop road systems which would be improved to accommodate public access. As shown in Figure 2, the final park concept consists of the following primary components:

Multi-Use Trails and Existing Trail Enhancement

Trails adjacent to the side of a proposed loop road would invite the public to utilize the mountainside for fitness. Trails around the edge of each top deck and through the top decks would provide a scenic trail experience for pedestrians, equestrians, and bicyclists. The top deck trails would also lead park users to a variety of flexible spaces for programmed events such as art fairs, concerts and other performances, dog training events, food fairs, and kite flying competitions, among others. A portion of the existing Schabarum/Skyline Trail would be relocated off the adjacent property and onto the buttress area which must be filled to stabilize the Nike Site, a viewpoint location and site of a former Nike missile base. The Schabarum/Skyline Trail, a section of the park loop road, and a switchback trail would be located in this area. The trailhead located at Workman Mill Road would be expanded to include signage and wayfinding plus additional design elements and plantings.

Fitness Amenities

One of the top deck trails would be dedicated to a fitness running loop with distance markers. Using the steepness of the site for fitness and gravity play, stair climbs and slides are proposed which would be engineered and constructed over the methane pipe system. Zip lines would also be located at the top elevation, which would extend in opposite directions over the park. Because the Western deck has settled more rapidly, this area would be developed first with a bike skills area utilizing the Sanitation Districts soil stockpile. Future phases may relocate the bike skills area to the Eastern deck. Bike rentals would be available for park users. The Flare Site, a decommissioned flare from the landfill gas collection system located east of the Eastern deck, would be developed for climbing and fitness purposes.

Final Park Concept



Puente Hills Landfill
PARK MASTER PLAN

Figure 2. Final Park Concept
December 18, 2015



This page intentionally left blank

Park Structures

In addition to the top deck development, development of park infrastructure would include areas of non-fill in order to provide utilities for restrooms, a park visitor center, a scenic overlook, restrooms, and other structures, which cannot be located over areas subject to major settling. At the entrance to the park, a Visitor Center and entry plaza to be shared with Sanitation Districts would house staff, a visitor lobby, park security, restrooms, and an educational component. Security personnel located at the Visitor Center would monitor the park during operating hours. A staffed guard house and island at the entrance of the park road would serve as additional security and informational kiosk. At the top of the Nike Site, a scenic overlook constructed to cantilever out over the hillside would also provide an educational/interpretive component. A mini café would be housed in the base of the trail lift structure. A minimum of two vaulted restrooms would be located in strategic locations as park development is phased over time. Future trail popularity may also encourage the further development of a bridge overlook from the Schabarum/Skyline Trail. Last phase park development may include a grasslands planted land bridge over a portion of the park loop road. The Flare Site could become a destination spot that would include a café and/or multi-purpose park facility with restrooms.

Educational and Interpretive Elements

Opportunities for education and interpretation of the landfill, waste stream, gas to energy conversion, history of the site, and the significance of the site in the Puente/Chino Hills are a few of the many themes that can be developed for the park. Interpretive signage, cameras into the existing Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), tours to the MRF, park elements constructed from recycled materials, and park structures that meet Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED™) criteria are major topics for educational development. A plant nursery would be part of the educational component. Native and drought tolerant plants would be grown to actively replace and replant park areas requiring patching, repair, or re-construction due to landfill settling and bio-gas production. Ideal locations for bird observation and wildlife observation would be marked along particular trails. The public would be educated on the on-going functions of the landfill and the landfill slopes would be preserved, restored, and/or enhanced for wildlife.

Children's Play and Picnic Areas

Nature play with loose parts (i.e. sticks, rocks, log rounds, fabric, crates, ropes, etc.) for young children is an ideal program in a park that must remain flexible in its use of any top deck area for many decades. The park would encourage child fitness, waste stream awareness, history of the San Gabriel Valley and the Puente Hills, nature play with natural materials, wildlife education, and native plant nursery growing. Picnic areas throughout the park would be located near parking areas for family use. These areas would be planted to provide buffer and shade wherever possible.

Circulation, Internal Park Transportation, and Parking

Access into the site is from Crossroads Parkway South, which currently serves MRF-related traffic. Park entrance improvements are under review and may involve a modified road system that includes crosswalks, additional signalization, a round-about, entry re-configuration, and/or additional road lanes. A safe, multi-purpose Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant ramp and trail into the site from the front access road to the Visitor Center and Entry Plaza would serve the regional trail users coming from the north and east who may not want to be a

part of the vehicular traffic at the park entry. Park circulation includes a one-way loop park road that follows existing landfill roads for approximately four miles with small parking areas located throughout the park site. From the park loop road, park users would be able to access all the top deck areas throughout the park. A trail lift is proposed as a transportation alternative for park visitors with a station and parking at lower elevations. The trail lift would provide the opportunity to arrive for park visitors to access the highest elevation of the park to enjoy the scenic views and scenic overlook and would be ADA accessible. The trail lift would also serve as a people mover to reduce the number of cars operating within the park.

The Entry Plaza associated with the Visitor Center would provide queuing areas for shuttle drop-off, bus loading and unloading, and park visitors. A parking area at the base would be utilized for the trail lift loading and for park patrons using the stair climb to the Western deck and other fitness activities. Five small gravel parking areas located near park facilities on the top decks are necessary for flexible space loading and unloading, family use, and for trail staging. Although the park would encourage alternative modes of transportation, some parking would be necessary.

A shared access road through the park for Rose Hills Memorial Park (Rose Hills) may also be developed in the future provided it is fully funded and maintained by Rose Hills. The exact location of such road is undetermined at this time.

Landscaping

The proposed planting is a rich mosaic of ecologies. These include grasslands with differing heights of grasses creating strata of grass varieties. Over this are shrub layers in patterns that define outdoor rooms for flexible park spaces. The ecology of the park is the 'base layer' on top of which are the flexible programmed spaces, the bird observation areas, the interpretive areas, and the trails throughout the top decks. The dark lines throughout the plan indicate "Hedgerows" (Figure 2). These are plantings of various heights and species that function to: 1) organize the flexible spaces; 2) move park users through the park from one event to another; 3) lead people to an event such as a stair-climb; and 4) protect and buffer one use from another such as the activity at the soil stock-pile. The planting would consist mainly of California natives. However, drought tolerant non-natives are part of the planting plan as the mono-soil clay cap, which covers the filled areas, is difficult to establish planting on. Due to water balance requirements on the top decks, the park cannot be limited to an all natives plant palette.

The Initial Study for the Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan Project is available for viewing at <http://www.puentehillslandfillpark.org/>.

POTENTIAL PROJECT IMPACTS: Based on the findings of an Initial Study for the Proposed Project, the County has determined that it will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Based on a preliminary assessment of potential environmental impacts that may occur as a result of the Proposed Project, the areas of potential environmental impact to be addressed in the Programmatic EIR will include at least the following:

Potential Hazards

- Geology/Soils
- Hazards/Hazardous Materials
- Noise

Potential Impacts to Resources

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use/Planning

Potential Impacts to Services

- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation/Traffic
- Utilities/Services

The only environmental factors that were not found to be potentially affected are Agriculture/Forest Resources, Mineral Resources, and Population/Housing. There are multiple mandatory findings of significance. In addition, environmental issues that do not rise to the level of significant impacts will be addressed in the EIR in a separate section entitled "Impacts Found to Be Less Than Significant."

NOTICE OF PREPARATION REVIEW AND COMMENTS

The NOP is being distributed to solicit written comments regarding the scope and content of the environmental analysis to be included in the EIR. The County has prepared this NOP in accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines.

The review period for this NOP is from **December 18, 2015 to February 1, 2016**. Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date, but not later than **February 1, 2016**. Please direct all written comments to the following address:

Michelle O'Connor, Departmental Facilities Planner I
County of Los Angeles
Department of Parks and Recreation
510 S. Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90020
Telephone: (213) 351-5121
Fax: (213) 639-3959
Email: moconnor@parks.lacounty.gov

SCOPING MEETING

To assist in local participation, a Scoping Meeting will be held to present the Proposed Project and to solicit suggestions from the public and responsible agencies on the content of the Draft EIR. The Scoping Meeting will be held at Don Julian Elementary School located at 13855 Don Julian Road, La Puente, CA 91746, on **Wednesday, January 27, 2016 at 6:30 pm**.

REVIEW MATERIALS

Additional copies of this NOP and Initial Study are available for public review on the Department of Parks and Recreation project website: <http://www.puentehillslandfillpark.org/> as well as the following locations:

**Los Angeles County
Department of Parks and Recreation**
Regional Agency Office
265 Cloverleaf Drive
Baldwin Park, CA 91706

Hacienda Heights Community Center
1234 Valencia Avenue
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745
(626) 333-3250

Hacienda Heights Library
16010 La Monde Street
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745
(626) 968-9356

La Puente Library
15920 E. Central Avenue
La Puente, CA 91744
(626) 968-4613

Pico Rivera Library
9001 Mines Avenue
Pico Rivera, CA 90660
(562) 942-7394

South El Monte Library
1430 N. Central Avenue
South El Monte, CA 91733
(626) 443-4158

Sunkist Library
840 North Puente Avenue
La Puente, CA 91746
(626) 960-2707

Sorensen Library
6934 Broadway Avenue
Whittier, CA 90606
(562) 695-3979

Whittier Public Library
7344 Washington Avenue
Whittier, CA 90602
(562) 567-9900

Environmental Checklist Form (Initial Study)

County of Los Angeles, Department of Parks and Recreation



Project title: Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan

Lead agency name and address: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 510 S. Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90020

Contact Person and phone number: Michelle O'Connor, (213) 351-5121

Project sponsor's name and address: Same as Lead Agency.

Project location: Puente Hills Landfill, 13130 Crossroads Parkway, City of Industry, CA 91746
APN: 8125-021-942, 8125-023-901, 8125-022-901, 8125-023-902 USGS Quad: El Monte and Baldwin Park

Gross Acreage: 117

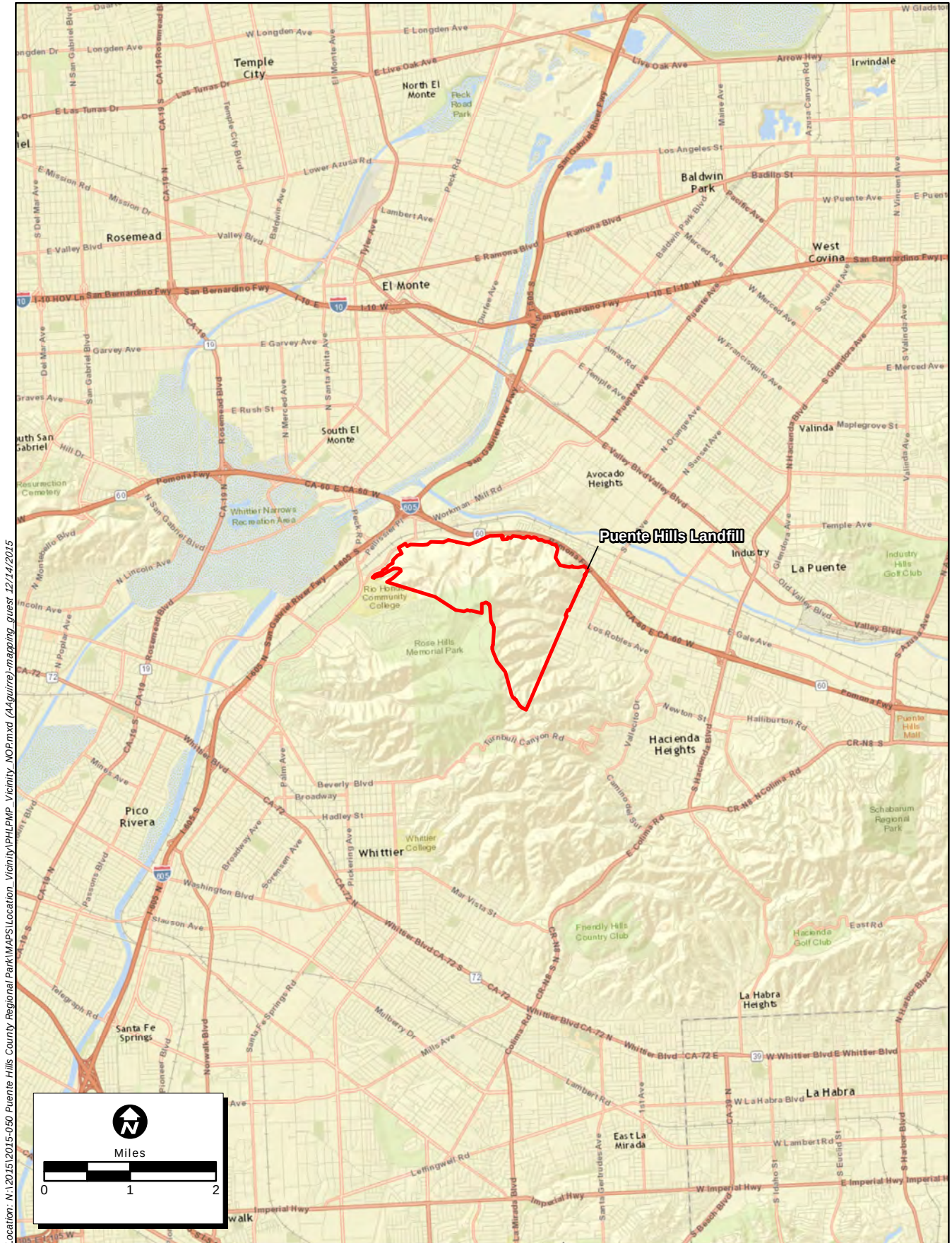
General plan designation: Public/Semi-Public

Community/Area wide Plan designation: OS-PR – Open Space Parks and Recreation (Hacienda Heights Community Plan)

Zoning: A-2-5 – Heavy Agricultural and A-1-5 – Light Agricultural (Workman Mill Zoned District), O-S Open Space (Hacienda Heights Zoned District),

Description of project: The Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan Project (Proposed Project) is a long range master plan that over time would develop a portion of what was formerly the largest landfill in the western United States into a regional park, providing recreation and open space for the greater Los Angeles area (Figure 1). The Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has the opportunity to create a new regional park uniquely situated at the western end of Puente Hills on a large industrial closed landfill site that is owned and maintained by the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (Sanitation Districts).

The Proposed Project would be in compliance with Conditional Use Permit No. 2235-(1) (CUP) granted to the Sanitation Districts in 1983, which allowed for the continued operation and expansion of the Puente Hills Landfill. The CUP required the Sanitation Districts to enter into an irrevocable agreement with the County of Los Angeles (or alternate public agency) to designate the "fill" portions of the site as open space in perpetuity. The two entities entered into a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) on April 28, 1987. Subsequent land use approvals including CUP 92-250(4) and CUP 02-027-(4) for continued landfill operations further clarified provisions related to the park, including that "the specific type of recreational use (i.e., trails, nature center, soccer fields, golf course) would be the subject of a dedicated master planning process." Of the 600 acres of fill within the site boundaries, which includes the landfill slopes and flat landfill caps, approximately 117 acres of top deck fill area would be available over time for formal park development or approximately 10 percent of the site's total acreage (Figure 2).



Location: N:\2015\2015-050 Puente Hills County Regional Park\Map\Location_Vicinity\PHL\Map_Vicinity_NOR.mxd (44gure)-mapping_guest_12/14/2015

Map Date: 12/14/2015

Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp., NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), TomTom, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



Figure 1. Project Vicinity

2015-050 Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan

These top decks are referred to as the Western, Eastern, and Southern decks (Figure 3). Non-fill areas are critical for park structures. Approximately 15 additional acres of non-fill areas plus the utilization of the 10-acre buttress area have been identified in coordination with the Sanitation Districts as potential land available for park development. Further, park roads, the entry area and hillsides would also be utilized for a variety of park functions and recreational activities, including site access, a visitor center, trails and walkways, etc. Due to varying rates of settlement depending on when the fill area was closed and capped, park development is anticipated to occur in phases over several decades as landfill maintenance activities decline.



Figure 2 - Top Deck Fill Area

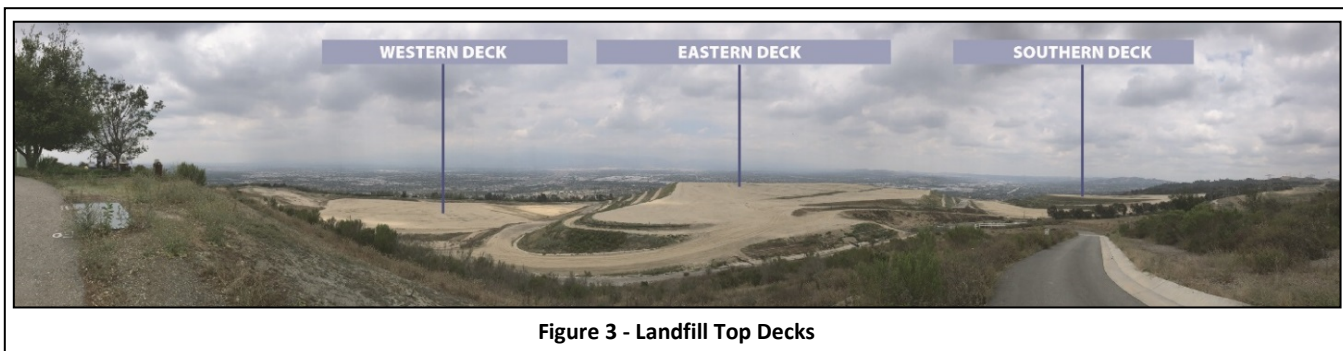


Figure 3 - Landfill Top Decks

The top decks (which are fill areas) of the landfill would be the location of the most concentrated recreational development activities. These are the 35-acre Western deck which has settled the most and would be developed as the first phase of implementing the Proposed Project. The Eastern and Southern decks total approximately 80 acres and are still subject to rapid settling. These areas would be less developed and would remain more open grasslands with park elements such as picnic areas, trails, and parking on the top deck surfaces. Top decks would be developed in various phases to accommodate settling that would occur for up to 30 to 50 years.

The final park concept consists of three systems that work together. These include: 1) the ongoing landfill maintenance of the site as it shifts and settles; 2) the plantings and ‘ecology’ of the site; and 3) the functional park elements for the layer of recreation that the community voted on and selected throughout the public outreach process. Over the next 30 or more years, post-closure landfill operations are required due to methane production, methane capture and burn, settling, and landscape maintenance to prevent erosion. The Sanitation Districts would continue to operate an office, several maintenance yards, and the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and gas to energy facilities on-site throughout the lifespan of the landfill aging process. The landfill areas required for the Sanitation Districts operations would not be available for park use. However, over this period as park development proceeds and recreational activities increase while those associated with landfill maintenance decline, park uses and recreational activities will become an increasing dominant land use on the site.

The Proposed Project would include a variety of recreational facilities that can be sustained on the site, including passive and more active facilities. Park development would be integrated with existing landfill

facilities, including a shared entrance and joint use of an existing loop road systems which would be improved to accommodate public access. As shown in Figure 4, the final park concept consists of the following primary components:

Multi-Use Trails and Existing Trail Enhancement

Trails adjacent to the side of a proposed loop road would invite the public to utilize the mountainside for fitness. Trails around the edge of each top deck and through the top decks would provide a scenic trail experience for pedestrians, equestrians, and mountain bikers. The top deck trails would also lead park users to a variety of flexible spaces for park programmed events including art fairs, concerts and other performances, dog training events, food fairs, and kite flying competitions among others. A portion of the existing Schabarum/Skyline Trail would be relocated off of adjacent property and onto the buttress area which must be filled to stabilize the Nike Site, a viewpoint location and site of a former Nike missile base. The Schabarum/Skyline Trail, a section of the park loop road, and a switchback trail would be located in this area. The trailhead located at Workman Mill Road would be expanded to include signage and wayfinding plus additional design elements and plantings.

Fitness Amenities

One of the top deck trails would be dedicated to a fitness running loop with distance markers. Utilizing the steepness of the site for fitness and gravity play, stair climbs and slides are proposed which would be engineered and constructed over the methane pipe system. Zip lines would also be located at the top elevation which would extend in opposite directions over the park. Because the Western deck has settled more rapidly, this area would be developed first with a bike skills area utilizing the Sanitation Districts soil stockpile. Future phases may relocate the bike skills area to the Eastern deck. Bike rentals would be available for park users. The Flare Site, a decommissioned flare from the landfill gas collection system located east of the Eastern deck, would be developed for climbing and fitness purposes.

Park Structures

In addition to the top deck development, development of park infrastructure would include areas of non-fill in order to provide utilities for restrooms, a park visitor center, a scenic overlook, restrooms, and other structures which cannot be located over areas subject to major settling. At the entrance to the park, a Visitor Center and entry plaza to be shared with Sanitation Districts would house staff, a visitor lobby, park security, restrooms, and an educational component. Security personnel located at the Visitor Center would monitor the park during operating hours. A staffed guard house and island at the entrance of the park road would serve as additional security and informational kiosk. At the top of the Nike Site a scenic overlook constructed to cantilever out over the hillside would also provide an educational/interpretive component. A mini café would be housed in the base of the trail lift structure. A minimum of two vaulted restrooms would be located in strategic locations as park development is phased over time. Future trail popularity may also encourage the further development of a bridge overlook from the Schabarum/Skyline Trail. Last phase park development may include a grasslands planted land bridge over a portion of the park loop road. The Flare Site could become a destination spot that would include a café and/or multi-purpose park facility with restrooms.

Final Park Concept



Puente Hills Landfill PARK MASTER PLAN

Figure 4. Final Park Concept
December 18, 2015



This page intentionally left blank

Educational and Interpretive Elements

Opportunities for education and interpretation of the landfill, waste stream, gas to energy conversion, history of the site, and the significance of the site in the Puente/Chino Hills are a few of many themes that can be developed for the park. Interpretive signage, cameras into the existing MRF, tours to the MRF, park elements constructed from recycled materials, and park structures that meet Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED™) criteria are major topics for educational development. A plant nursery would be part of the educational component. Native and drought tolerant plants would be grown to actively replace and replant park areas requiring patching, repair, or re-construction due to landfill settling and bio-gas production. Ideal locations for bird observation and wildlife observation would be marked along particular trails. The public would be educated on the on-going functions of the landfill and the landfill slopes would be preserved, restored, and/or enhanced for wildlife.

Children's Play and Picnic Areas

Nature play with loose parts (i.e. sticks, rocks, log rounds, fabric, crates, ropes, etc.) for young children is an ideal program in a park that must remain flexible in its use of any top deck area for many decades. The park would encourage child fitness, waste stream awareness, history of the San Gabriel Valley and the Puente Hills, nature play with natural materials, wildlife education, and native plant nursery growing. Picnic areas throughout the park would be located near parking areas for family use. These areas would be planted to provide buffer and shade wherever possible.

Circulation, Internal Park Transportation, and Parking

Access into the site is from Crossroads Parkway South which currently serves MRF related traffic. Park entrance improvements are under review and may involve a modified road system that includes crosswalks, additional signalization, a round-about, entry re-configuration, and/or additional road lanes. A safe, multi-purpose Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant ramp and trail into the site from the front access road to the Visitor Center and Entry Plaza would serve the regional trail users coming from the north and east who may not want to be a part of the vehicular traffic at the park entry. Park circulation includes a one-way loop park road that follows existing landfill roads for approximately four miles with small parking areas located throughout the park site. From the park loop road, park users would be able to access all the top deck areas throughout the park. A trail lift is proposed as a transportation alternative for park visitors with a station and parking at lower elevations. The trail lift would provide the opportunity to arrive for park visitors to access the highest elevation of the park to enjoy the scenic views and scenic overlook and would be ADA accessible. The trail lift would also serve as a people mover to reduce the number of cars operating within the park.

The Entry Plaza associated with the Visitor Center would provide queuing areas for shuttle drop-off, bus loading and unloading, and park visitors. A parking area at the base would be utilized for the trail lift loading and for park patrons using the stair climb to the Western deck and other fitness activities. Five small gravel parking areas located near park facilities on the top decks are necessary for flexible space loading and unloading, family use, and for trail staging. Although the park would encourage alternative modes of transportation, some parking would be necessary.

A shared access road through the park for Rose Hills Memorial Park (Rose Hills) may also be developed in the future provided it is fully funded and maintained by Rose Hills. The exact location of such road is undetermined at this time.

Landscaping

The proposed planting is a rich mosaic of ecologies. These include grasslands with differing heights of grasses creating strata of grass varieties. Over this are shrub layers in patterns that define outdoor rooms for flexible park spaces. The ecology of the park is the 'base layer' on top of which are the flexible programmed spaces, the bird observation areas, the interpretive areas, and the trails throughout the top decks. The dark lines throughout the plan indicate "Hedgerows" (Figure 4). These are plantings of various heights and species that function to 1) organize the flexible spaces, 2) move park users through the park from one event to another, 3) lead people to an event such as a stair-climb, and 4) protect and buffer one use from another such as the activity at the soil stock-pile. The planting would consist mainly of California natives. However, drought tolerant non-natives are part of the planting plan as the mono-soil clay cap which covers the filled areas is difficult to establish planting on. Due to water balance requirements on the top decks the park cannot be limited to an all natives plant palette.

Surrounding land uses and setting: The Proposed Project is located within the boundaries of the Puente Hills Landfill. The Puente Hills Landfill is approximately 1,365 acres in size and has been closed since 2013. The Puente Hills Landfill is located southeast of the intersection of SR-60 and I-605 in unincorporated Los Angeles County. Surrounding cities include: El Monte and South El Monte to the north; the community of Hacienda Heights to the east; the City of Whittier to the south; and the City of Pico Rivera to the west. Full vehicular access to the site is currently available via a single driveway off of Crossroads Parkway.

The Puente Hills Landfill site contains a series of ridges, hillsides and canyons which rise up around surrounding valley areas to an elevation of 900 feet. The project site currently contains a range of environments, including extensive areas of natural and artificial slopes that support native habitats, restored native habitats, non-native planted woodlands, actively managed artificial landfill decks that are still settling, and several maintenance buildings. Many of these hillsides are traversed by methane gas pipelines ranging in diameter from 12 to 36 inches. The entire site is traversed by more than 10 miles of roadways of varying widths. Landfill closure and maintenance activities and facilities are currently the dominant uses of the project site, including the operation of heavy equipment and the MRF on the northwestern edge of the site. Landfill closure activities are projected to continue for at least 30 years, although declining over time as deck settling rates and landfill gas production decline.

Surrounding land uses include office and light industrial uses to the west and north, residential and open space/ preserve properties to the east, Rose Hills Memorial Park, Rio Hondo College, and a Southern California Edison electrical transmission line right-of-way to the south. Multi-use trails constructed and maintained by the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) adjoin and cross the site connecting east-west over the former landfill.

Adjacent preserve areas support important aesthetic and ecological resources including 225 acres within the landfill boundary that are currently managed by the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority. Located at the eastern landfill site boundary is a constructed riparian habitat and an oak tree replacement planting area maintained as natural open space. Ecology Canyon on the west face of the landfill is a 24-acre site which is used by the Rio Hondo College for study purposes and has been designated as a Significant Ecological Area in the Los Angeles County General Plan. These open space preserve areas are recognized as highly valuable for resident and migrant wildlife populations and for native plant communities which include some patches of pristine plant communities. The east-west migration of particular wildlife species through the Chino and Puente Hills, of which the landfill site is a part, is considered critical to the biological viability of some animal populations, specifically the mountain lion.

Other public agencies whose approval may be required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):

Public Agency

RWQCB

To be determined.

Approval Required

Stormwater Construction General Permit (including the development and implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan)

Other approvals from agencies to be determined in the EIR analysis.

Reviewing Agencies:

Responsible Agencies

- ☐ None
Regional Water Quality Control
Board:
☒ Los Angeles Region
☐ Lahontan Region
☐ Coastal Commission
☐ Army Corps of Engineers

Trustee Agencies

- ☐ None
☒ State Dept. of Fish and
Wildlife
☐ State Dept. of Parks and
Recreation
☐ State Lands Commission
☐ University of California
(Natural Land and Water
Reserves System)

Special Reviewing Agencies

- ☒ None
☐ Santa Monica Mountains
Conservancy
☐ National Parks
☐ National Forest
☐ Edwards Air Force Base
☐ Resource Conservation
District of Santa Monica
Mountains Area
☐

County Reviewing Agencies

- ☒ DPW:
- Land Development Division
(Grading & Drainage)
- Geotechnical & Materials
Engineering Division
- Watershed Management
Division (NPDES)
- Traffic and Lighting Division
- Environmental Programs
Division
- Waterworks Division
- Sewer Maintenance Division
☒ Department of Regional
Planning (DPR)
- Impact Analysis
- Community Studies East
- Zoning Permits East
- Zoning Enforcement East

Regional Significance

- ☒ None
☐ SCAG Criteria
☐ Air Quality
☐ Water Resources
☐ Santa Monica Mtns. Area
☐

- ☒ Fire Department
- Forestry, Environmental
Division
- Planning Division
- Land Development Unit
- Health Hazmat
☒ Sanitation District
☒ Public Health/Environmental
Health Division: Land Use
Program (OWTS), Drinking
Water Program (Private
Wells), Solid Waste
Management Program/Local
Enforcement Agency, Toxics
Epidemiology Program
(Noise)
☐ Sheriff Department
☒ Parks and Recreation
☐ Subdivision Committee
☐

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

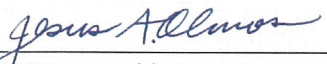
The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| ☒ Aesthetics | ☒ Greenhouse Gas Emissions | ☐ Population/Housing |
| ☐ Agriculture/Forest | ☒ Hazards/Hazardous Materials | ☒ Public Services |
| ☒ Air Quality | ☒ Hydrology/Water Quality | ☒ Recreation |
| ☒ Biological Resources | ☒ Land Use/Planning | ☒ Transportation/Traffic |
| ☒ Cultural Resources | ☐ Mineral Resources | ☒ Utilities/Services |
| ☒ Energy | ☒ Noise | ☒ Mandatory Findings
of Significance |
| ☒ Geology/Soils | | |

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Department.)

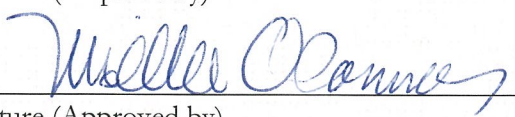
On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- ☐ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☒ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.


Signature (Prepared by)

12/15/2015

Date


Signature (Approved by)

12/16/15
Date

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources the Lead Department cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) Once the Lead Department has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level. (Mitigation measures from Section XVII, "Earlier Analyses," may be cross-referenced.)
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA processes, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. (State CEQA Guidelines § 15063(c)(3)(D).) In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
 - a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
 - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of, and adequately analyzed in, an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 6) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 7) The explanation of each issue should identify: the significance threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question, and; mitigation measures identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance. Sources of thresholds include the County General Plan, other County planning documents, and County ordinances. Some thresholds are unique to geographical locations.
- 8) Climate Change Impacts: When determining whether a project's impacts are significant, the analysis should consider, when relevant, the effects of future climate change on : 1) worsening hazardous conditions that pose risks to the project's inhabitants and structures (e.g., floods and wildfires), and 2) worsening the project's impacts on the environment (e.g., impacts on special status species and public health).

1. AESTHETICS

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
--	---	--	---	----------------------

Would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista? ☒ ☐ ☐ ☐

The Puente Hills Landfill site rises approximately 900 feet above the San Gabriel Valley. The Proposed Project would develop the top decks of the fill area of the closed Puente Hills Landfill into a regional park. The views from the top decks allow a 180 degree viewshed from east to west, which includes scenic vistas of the San Gabriel Mountain National monument and the San Gabriel Valley. The Proposed Project would not affect these viewsheds. However, developing the top decks of the landfill would change the visual character of the landfill, which itself is a focal point for viewers from surrounding communities. The top decks are currently barren and the proposed development would add recreational facilities, access infrastructure, and ornamental landscaping. There is a potential that developing the top decks of the landfill would affect scenic vistas. The EIR will analyze the effects on scenic vistas.

b) Be visible from or obstruct views from a regional riding or hiking trail? ☒ ☐ ☐ ☐

One existing trail, the Schabarum/Skyline Trail, is currently located within the proposed project site. The Schabarum-Skyline Trail is a long connector trail through open spaces and flood control channels connecting communities from Covina to Whittier. Within the landfill, two water troughs provide water to support equestrian use of the trail. The Proposed Project would preserve this trail through the project site. However, the Proposed Project would relocate a portion of the existing Schabarum/Skyline Trail off of adjacent property and onto the buttress area, which must be filled to stabilize the Nike site. The Proposed Project would also construct additional trails within the project site connecting to the Schabarum/Skyline Trail. Potential impacts to views from the Schabarum/Skyline Trail will be analyzed in the EIR.

c) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway? ☒ ☐ ☐ ☐

The Proposed Project would primarily develop the fill areas of the closed landfill, which do not include trees, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings within a state scenic highway. However, there is a potential use of selective non-fill areas. Non-fill areas under consideration include: an entry station expansion; a maintenance yard located west of the western deck, Nike missile site, a portion of the Rose Hills Memorial Park (8.67 acres), and the Moth-Balled Flare Facility. Impacts to scenic resources from developing these non-fill areas will be analyzed in the EIR.

d) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings because of height, bulk, pattern, scale, character, or other features? ☒ ☐ ☐ ☐

Implementing the Proposed Project would add recreational facilities, access infrastructure, and ornamental landscaping to the top decks of the landfill, which would change the visual character of the project site. The EIR will analyze the Proposed Project's potential effects on the existing visual character of the project site and surroundings.

e) Create a new source of substantial shadows, light, or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?



The Proposed Project includes new sources of light associated with security and general purpose lighting. The EIR will address whether these new sources of light could affect day or nighttime views in the area.

2. AGRICULTURE / FOREST

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board.

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, Important Farmlands Map for Los Angeles County does not list soils within the project site as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (CDC 2012). The project site would be located within an existing landfill and would not convert farmland to a non-agricultural use. No impact would occur.

b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, with a designated Agricultural Opportunity Area, or with a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
---	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

The eastern half of the project site is zoned as Open Space (Hacienda Heights Zoned District) and the western half of the project site is zoned Heavy Agricultural (Workman Mill Zoned District) (Los Angeles County 2015b). The project site would not be located on land subject to a Williamson Act Contract (CDC 2013). The Proposed Project would be located within the closed Puente Hills Landfill. No impact would occur.

c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code § 12220 (g)), timberland (as defined in Public Resources Code § 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined in Government Code § 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
--	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

Please see the response to question 2 b). The project site is not zoned for forest land, timberland, or timberland production (Los Angeles County 2015b). No impact would occur.

d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
---	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

The project site is located within the closed Puente Hills Landfill and not within or near forest land. The Proposed Project would not convert forest land to other uses. No impact to forest land would occur.

e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

☐☐☐☒

The project site is located within the closed Puente Hills Landfill. The Proposed Project would not convert farmland to non-agricultural use or convert forest land to non-forest use. No impact would occur.

3. AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
--	--------------------------------------	---	------------------------------------	--------------

Would the project:

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of applicable air quality plans of either the South Coast AQMD (SCAQMD) or the Antelope Valley AQMD (AVAQMD)?

☒ ☐ ☐ ☐

The Proposed Project would result in the construction and operation of recreational facilities which would result in short-term and long-term emission of criteria air pollutants from construction and use of park facilities. The EIR will analyze whether the Proposed Project would conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan.

b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?

☒ ☐ ☐ ☐

Implementation of the Proposed Project could result in construction emissions and in an increase of traffic in the project area from park users. Increases in traffic would contribute to existing exceedances of federal and state standards for criteria pollutants. The EIR will analyze the Proposed Project's potential contribution to an existing or projected air quality violation.

c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?

☒ ☐ ☐ ☐

As discussed in 3. b) above, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in emissions from construction and operation of the park. The EIR will analyze whether there would be any cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment.

d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

☒ ☐ ☐ ☐

The Proposed Project would be located on a closed landfill. For at least the next 30 years, post-closure landfill operations are mandatory due to methane production, methane capture and burn, settling, and landscape maintenance to prevent erosion. Regular inspections and monitoring activities plus post-storm or earthquake inspections are required by law and will continue to be carried out by the Sanitation Districts. Risks to park users from pollutant concentrations associated with the closed landfill operations will be analyzed in the EIR. Land uses adjacent to the project site include sensitive receptors such as residential neighborhoods and schools. The EIR will also evaluate whether the Proposed Project would expose these sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.

e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?



The Proposed Project would develop recreational facilities at a closed landfill. Odors generated by the landfill and post-closure activities could affect park users. The Proposed Project would also develop trails that allow equestrian use which has the potential to create objectionable odors. The EIR will analyze whether the Proposed Project would create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people.

4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)?	☒	☐	☐	☐

A biological technical report has been prepared for the Proposed Project (ECORP 2015a). Biological surveys were conducted at 11 locations that make up the project development areas and a 300-foot buffer around each location (ECORP 2015a). The project locations contain a mix of developed space, previously disturbed natural habitats, and intact natural habitats. Six plant communities, including California sage scrub, mixed chaparral, coast live oak woodland, California annual grassland, non-native woodland, and ruderal, were identified within the project locations. Two federal- and state-listed endangered plant species, Nevin's barberry (*Berberis nevinii*) and Lyon's pentachaeta (*Pentachaeta lyonii*), and one federal-listed endangered plant species, Braunton's milk-vetch (*Astragalus brauntonii*), were found to have a potential to occur within 10 of the 11 project locations. One federal-listed wildlife species, coastal California gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica californica*), was observed during the assessment and a portion of the site is located in a Critical Habitat area for this species. One state-listed threatened wildlife species, Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) and four California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Species of Special Concern (SSC); American badger (*Taxidea taxus*), western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis*), western red bat (*Lasiurus blossevillei*), and western yellow bat (*Lasiurus xanthinus*) were identified as having a potential to occur on the project site. The EIR will evaluate whether the Proposed Project would have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species.

b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any sensitive natural communities (e.g., riparian habitat, coastal sage scrub, oak woodlands, non-jurisdictional wetlands) identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by CDFW or USFWS?	☒	☐	☐	☐
--	-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Six plant communities, including California sage scrub, mixed chaparral, coast live oak woodland, California annual grassland, non-native woodland, and ruderal, were identified within the project locations. The EIR will evaluate whether the Proposed Project would have a substantial adverse effect on any sensitive natural community.

c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally or state protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marshes, vernal pools, coastal wetlands, and drainages) or waters of the United States, as defined by § 404 of the federal Clean Water Act or California Fish & Game code § 1600, et seq. through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?



Potential jurisdictional resources that may exist on the project site will be evaluated during the EIR process.

d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?



Linkages and corridors facilitate regional animal movement and generally consist of waterways, riparian corridors, flood control channels, contiguous habitat, and upland habitat. Drainages often serve as movement corridors because wildlife can move easily through these areas and fresh water is periodically available. Corridors also offer wildlife unobstructed terrain to forage and they allow for the dispersal of young individuals. Ridgelines may also serve as movement corridors.

Natural areas near the project site include the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority Preserve which, in addition to a portion of the southern boundary of the Puente Hills Landfill, contains the Hellman Wilderness Park, Sycamore Park, and Arroyo Pescadero Park. The preserve is an integral part of the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor, which extends approximately 31 miles from the Cleveland National Forest in Orange County to the west end of the Puente Hills above Whittier Narrows.

The Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor contains discontinuous blocks and patches of habitat and is not an unbroken corridor but provides “stepping-stone” connectivity between habitats. Movement by larger avian species, such as red-tailed hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*), may not be impacted by the lack of continuity since they are capable of traveling longer distances throughout the corridor. Smaller avian species may be able to disperse through neighboring urban areas to access nearby patches of habitat. Additionally, movement through these areas by mammals that tend to tolerate and utilize urban environments, such as Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), and striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*) may not be as affected.

The more recent landfill use sites in the project site currently provide poor conditions for wildlife movement. Because of the recent landfill activities, wildlife movement is restricted in those areas due to the lack of vegetative cover. However, most of the non-fill sites and areas adjacent to fill sites in the project area support sufficient vegetative cover and dispersal is likely more prevalent, particularly to mammalian carnivores. Mammalian carnivores are not typically constrained by the open conditions found within the recently active landfiling areas because they are less dependent on cover. Movements by species such as mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) would likely be more constrained due to the lack of escape cover from predators. Although some species may use the fill areas for movement, the majority of species would tend to avoid the area and to use the more natural adjacent canyons and watersheds.

Although the project area provides linkage to the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor via the Puente Hills Preserve area, it is also adjacent to existing residential developments and industrial use areas and is bounded

by the Pomona and San Gabriel River Freeways to the north and west. As a result of these factors, the project area only offers marginal local corridor value on its own and does not provide any additional connectivity for the fragmented areas within the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor. The proximity of the natural open space to urban populations does, however, make the Proposed Project a potentially valuable biological resource by effectively maintaining larger habitats within the corridor and providing a larger urban buffer for less tolerant species (ECORP 2015a). The EIR will evaluate if the Proposed Project substantially interferes with the movement of native resident or migratory wildlife species.

e) Convert oak woodlands (as defined by the state, oak woodlands are oak stands with greater than 10% canopy cover with oaks at least 5 inch in diameter measured at 4.5 feet above mean natural grade) or otherwise contain oak or other unique native trees (junipers, Joshuas, southern California black walnut, etc.)?

☒☐☐☐

Coast live oak woodlands and non-native woodlands were identified on the project site (ECORP 2015a). Generally these areas are along the slopes of the landfill decks. The EIR will evaluate impacts to woodlands or other unique native tree species.

f) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, including Wildflower Reserve Areas (L.A. County Code, Title 12, Ch. 12.36), the Los Angeles County Oak Tree Ordinance (L.A. County Code, Title 22, Ch. 22.56, Part 16), the Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs) (L.A. County Code, Title 22, § 22.56.215), and Sensitive Environmental Resource Areas (SERAs) (L.A. County Code, Title 22, Ch. 22.44, Part 6)?

☒☐☐☐

The Proposed Project is not located within a Wildflower Reserve area as defined in L.A. County Code Title 12 Chapter 12.36.

The Rio Hondo Wildlife Sanctuary Significant Ecological Area (SEA), also known as Ecology Canyon, a 24-acre area in the western corner of the Puente Hills Landfill property, is designated as native habitat. This area is used by Rio Hondo College staff and students for biological studies. This area is located west of the Western deck. The Conceptual SEA for the Hacienda Heights community is located within the Puente Hills Landfill property. This area is completely contained within the native preservation area managed by the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority. This area is located southeast of the Southern deck (ECORP 2015a). The EIR will evaluate whether the Proposed Project conflict with SEAs in the project area.

The Proposed Project is not located within a SERA (Los Angeles County 2014).

g) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted state, regional, or local habitat conservation plan?

☒☐☐☐

The SEA program, a part of the County General Plan Conservation/Open Space Element, designates areas where the County deems it important to facilitate balance between development and resource conservation. As stated in the response to question 4. f), the Rio Hondo Wildlife Sanctuary SEA and a Conceptual SEA for the Hacienda Heights community are located in the project area. The EIR will evaluate whether the Proposed Project would conflict with the SEAs in the project area.

5. CULTURAL RESOURCES

<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
---	--	---	----------------------

Would the project:

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines § 15064.5?

☒	☐	☐	☐
-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

A cultural resources records search and field survey was conducted for the Proposed Project (ECORP 2015c). The results of the field survey showed that almost all of the areas proposed for park facilities have been greatly altered by landfill operations and many consist of landfill many feet thick. One small area just south of the Western deck consists of natural slopes which have the original ground surface intact. No archaeological material more than 50 years old was found during survey of this area. The Nike Missile Site (P-19-188496) found within this small area was evaluated, and is not eligible for the CRHR and is not a Historical Resource as defined by CEQA (ECORP 2015c). The records search conducted at the South Central Coastal Archaeological Information Center (SCCIC) indicates that cultural resources previously recorded in the project area were found to not be significant and have been destroyed by landfill operations (ECORP 2015c). The only low archaeological sensitivity area present on the project site is along the natural slopes south of the Western deck. Unknown historical resources could occur in this area, which may be affected during construction of the Proposed Project. The EIR will analyze whether the Proposed Project would cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of historical resources.

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15064.5?

☒	☐	☐	☐
-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Most of the project site has been greatly altered by landfill operations, with much of the project site consisting of fill. One small area just south of the Western deck consists of natural slopes which have the original ground surface intact. No archaeological material more than 50 years old was found during survey of this area (ECORP 2015c). Unknown archaeological resources may be present below the ground surface in this area. The EIR will analyze whether the Proposed Project would result in damage to archaeological resources.

c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature, or contain rock formations indicating potential paleontological resources?

☒	☐	☐	☐
-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Most of the project site has been previously graded and disturbed by landfill operations. There are natural and undisturbed landforms only on the slopes south of the Western deck and in areas west of the Western deck (ECORP 2015c). Paleontological resources are generally not apparent until revealed by excavation. The Proposed Project has the potential to affect such resources or unique geologic features, if present. Direct or indirect impacts to such resources will be analyzed in the EIR.

d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?



The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in Sacramento was contacted about the Proposed Project. A search of the Sacred Lands File was conducted. The Sacred Lands File search failed to indicate the presence of Native American cultural resources in or near the Project area. Letters were sent to the contacts on the list provided by the NAHC. No responses were received (ECORP 2015).

Rose Hills Memorial Park and Mortuary is located southwest of the project site. The archaeological sensitivity of the project area is zero except in a small area south of the Western deck, where sensitivity is low. The Proposed Project has little potential to disturb human remains. Native American consultation will be conducted for the Proposed Project (see 5 e), below). The EIR will address the potential for impacts to human remains from implementation of the Proposed Project.

e) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a Tribal Cultural Resource as defined in §21074?



AB 52 consultation requirements went into effect on July 1, 2015 for all projects that have not already published a Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration, or published a Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (Section 11 [c]). At the time this Notice of Preparation was released for public review, the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation has received two general consultation letters from California Native American tribes requesting to receive notifications and consultation is ongoing. The procedures specified in Public Resources Code Sections 21080.3. 1(d) and 21080.3.2 would apply and tribal consultation under AB 52 is required. The potential for the project to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a Tribal Cultural Resource will be discussed further in the EIR being prepared for the Proposed Project.

6. ENERGY

<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
---	--	---	----------------------

Would the project:

a) Conflict with Los Angeles County Green Building Standards Code (L.A. County Code Title 31)?

☐	☐	☐	☒
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

Structures to be constructed as part of the Proposed Project would be designed and built in compliance with Los Angeles County Green Building Standards Code (L.A. County Code Title 31). The EIR will include a detailed project description listing proposed structures and a description of sustainable design features to be included. No impact would occur.

b) Involve the inefficient use of energy resources (see [Appendix F](#) of the CEQA Guidelines)?

☐	☐	☐	☒
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

The Proposed Project would maximize the use of energy resources by constructing sustainable structures that meet LEED criteria and incorporating native and drought tolerant plants. The Proposed Project would also provide educational opportunities to the public by providing interpretive signage with topics including gas to energy conversion currently taking place at the Puente Hills Landfill and park structure that meet LEED criteria. The EIR will include a detailed project description highlighting the Proposed Project's efficient use of energy resources. No impact would occur.

7. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
---	--	---	----------------------

Would the project:

a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known active fault trace? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

☒ ☐ ☐ ☐

The Proposed Project would be located within the Puente Hills Landfill property, which has no active faults (Sanitation Districts 2001). However, within a 100-kilometer radius of the landfill there are 38 faults. The northwest-trending Whittier-Elsinore Fault Zone is located approximately two miles south of the landfill and the San Andreas Fault is located approximately 30 miles to the north of the landfill (Sanitation Districts 2001). The potential for adverse effects from the rupture of known earthquake faults in the vicinity of the project site will be analyzed in the EIR.

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

☒ ☐ ☐ ☐

As previously stated there are no known active faults on the project site. However, there are numerous active faults in the region that are capable of generating strong ground shaking. The project area is expected to experience strong ground shaking caused by moderate to strong earthquakes during the anticipated life expectancy of the Proposed Project. The potential damage due to ground shaking can be mitigated by proper project design with seismic design criteria, as recommended in applicable building codes. Structures would require project specific evaluations by structural and geotechnical engineers to ensure their feasibility and proper design. A project specific geotechnical evaluation would be conducted. The EIR will analyze the seismic hazards that the Proposed Project and its users would be exposed to.

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction and lateral spreading?

☒ ☐ ☐ ☐

A project specific geotechnical investigation would be conducted to determine the geological conditions and potential hazards that the project site is exposed to. The geotechnical investigation will include design recommendations for proposed structures and include mitigation measures if necessary. This issue will be investigated and analyzed in the EIR.

iv) Landslides?

☒ ☐ ☐ ☐

Please see the response to question 7 a) iii). This issue will be investigated and analyzed in the EIR.

b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

☒☐☐☐

The Proposed Project would primarily be built over the top decks of a closed landfill. The deck areas are mostly devoid of vegetation and are subject to soil erosion from storm events. During construction, soil erosion would be a concern. However, best management practices (BMPs) would be implemented to control soil erosion. The Proposed Project would add landscaping to the deck areas which would lower the potential for soil erosion. The EIR will analyze provide a detail soil erosion analysis.

c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

☒☐☐☐

Please see the response to question 7 a) iii). This issue will be investigated and analyzed in the EIR.

d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?

☒☐☐☐

Please see the response to question 7 a) iii). This issue will be investigated and analyzed in the EIR.

e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of onsite wastewater treatment systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

☒☐☐☐

Please see the response to question 7 a) iii). This issue will be investigated and analyzed in the EIR.

f) Conflict with the Hillside Management Area Ordinance (L.A. County Code, Title 22, § 22.56.215) or hillside design standards in the County General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element?

☐☐☐☒

The Proposed Project would be designed and constructed in compliance with the Hillside Management Area Ordinance (L.A. County Code Title 22, § 22.56.215) and the County's General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element. No impact would occur.

8. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
---	--	---	----------------------

Would the project:

a) Generate greenhouse gas (GHGs) emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

☒
☐
☐
☐

The Proposed Project would generate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions during construction and operation (user trips). The construction phase of the Proposed Project is temporary but would result in GHG emissions from the use of heavy construction equipment and construction related vehicle trips. The operation of a regional recreational facility would generate GHG emissions from user trips. A GHG study will be prepared for the Proposed Project. The EIR will analyze whether the Proposed Project would generate GHG emissions that may have a significant contribution to climate change.

b) Conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

☒
☐
☐
☐

Please see the response to question 8. a) above. The EIR will analyze whether the Proposed Project conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs.

9. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, storage, production, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☒	☐	☐	☐

Some hazardous materials, such as fuel, would be used during construction of the Proposed Project. The transport of hazardous materials by truck is regulated by federal safety standards under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Transportation. The EIR will evaluate any potential hazards resulting from the transport, use, and disposal of hazardous materials during the construction of the Proposed Project.

Operating a recreational facility at a closed landfill has inherent hazards, including, but not limited to, the landfill's generation of methane. Landfill closure procedures and monitoring is being carried out by the Sanitation Districts. A landfill gas collection system is installed, which captures and burns off the methane. Some of the methane is used to generate energy at a gas-to-energy plant on the landfill property. The presence of methane is an explosion hazard to the public. The Sanitation District implements standard operating procedures designed to reduce the explosion potential (Sanitation Districts 2001). Hazards from methane and other hazardous materials that may be present at the closed landfill will be investigated and disclosed in the EIR. It should be noted that the Puente Hills Landfill was not permitted to accept regulated hazardous waste.

b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials or waste into the environment?	☒	☐	☐	☐
--	-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Please see the response to question 9 a) above. The EIR will analyze if the Proposed Project would create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials or waste into the environment.

c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of sensitive land uses?	☐	☐	☐	☒
--	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

There are no sensitive land uses within one-quarter mile of the project site. No impact would occur.

d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code § 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☒	☐	☐	☐
--	-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

The Puente Hills Landfill was not permitted to accept regulated hazardous waste. The project site is not on the California Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC's) Hazardous Waste and Substances Site List

(DTSC 2015a). A search of the DTSCs EnviroStor database only resulted in one known site within the project site; the NIKE missile site (NIKE BTRY 14 – LA Silos) (DTSC 2015b). The cleanup status of this site is inactive and needs evaluation as of 7-1-2005. The EIR will analyze if the Proposed Project would be located on a site that would create a significant hazard to the public or environment.

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan, or where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

The project site is not within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public use airport. The closest airport is the El Monte Airport located approximately five miles north of the project site. According to the Los Angeles County Airport Land Use Commission, the project site is not located within the airport influence area for the El Monte Airport (ALUC 2003). No impact would occur.

f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

There are no private airstrips in the vicinity of the project site. No impact would occur.

g) Impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

☒ ☐ ☐ ☐

The Sanitation Districts has developed and implemented several emergency response plans following regulatory requirements for specific activities related to Puente Hills Landfill operations that will remain in effect post-closure. These include: 1) Emergency Action/Fire Prevention Plan (EAP); 2) Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure Plan (SPCC); 3) Hazardous Materials Business Plan; and 4) Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) which contains a Liquid Discharge Emergency Response Plan for release of landfill liquids to surface water. The EIR will evaluate if the Proposed Project would impair the implementation or interfere with an adopted emergency response plans.

h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving fires, because the project is located:

i) within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (Zone 4)?

☒ ☐ ☐ ☐

The project is located within a Very High Fire Hazard Zone, as shown in the Los Angeles County General Plan (Los Angeles County 2015a). Potential impacts from exposing people or structures to a significant fire hazard will be analyzed in the EIR being prepared for the Proposed Project.

ii) within a high fire hazard area with inadequate access?

☒ ☐ ☐ ☐

Please see the response to question 9 h) i). This issue will be investigated and analyzed in the EIR being prepared for the Proposed Project.

iii) within an area with inadequate water and pressure to meet fire flow standards?

☒☐☐☐

Currently the Sanitation Districts uses water at the Puente Hills Landfill for landscape irrigation, surface dust control, road construction or non-emergency uses as approved by the Sanitation Districts. The Sanitation Districts uses reclaimed water from the San Jose Creek Water Reclamation Plant strictly for the establishment and maintenance of plant material, dust control, and soil compaction. The landfill has fire hydrants installed to the on-site reclaimed water system. The EIR will analyze whether these existing fire hydrants meet fire flow standards for the proposed use.

iv) within proximity to land uses that have the potential for dangerous fire hazard?

☒☐☐☐

The Proposed Project would be located on a closed landfill which presents fire hazards from methane generation. The Proposed Project would implement fire prevention and control measures. This issue will be analyzed in the EIR being prepared for the Proposed Project.

i) Does the proposed use constitute a potentially dangerous fire hazard?

☒☐☐☐

The Proposed Project is a recreational facility which does not constitute a potentially fire hazard. However, the project site presents several fire hazards related to the closed landfill, adjacent wildlands, and adjacent land uses. The EIR will analyze fire hazards.

10. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
---	--	---	----------------------

Would the project:

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?

☒	☐	☐	☐
-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

The Puente Hills Landfill has extensive environmental controls in place, including a surface water drainage system, to monitor and manage the landfill's closure. The Proposed Project would be designed to comply with water quality standards and waste discharge requirements. This issue will be investigated and discussed in the EIR being prepared for the Proposed Project.

b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?

☒	☐	☐	☐
-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

The Proposed Project would require water for landscaping. Native and non-native drought tolerant plants with low water consumption would be use used. The Sanitation Districts uses reclaimed water from the San Jose Creek Water Reclamation Plant strictly for the establishment and maintenance of plant material, dust control, and soil compaction. It is anticipated that the Proposed Project would use reclaimed water for landscaping water needs. The EIR will quantify anticipated water consumption to determine potential impacts on groundwater supplies.

c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?

☒	☐	☐	☐
-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

As previously mentioned, the Puente Hills Landfill has extensive environmental controls in place, including a surface water drainage system. Drainage patterns on the landfill have been designed to control stormwater runoff and to prevent water from infiltrating the landfill. The Proposed Project would require compatibility with the landfill's drainage system to avoid affecting the landfill's environmental controls. Impacts to drainage patterns and resulting erosion and/or siltation will be analyzed in the EIR being prepared for the Proposed Project.

d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?

☒☐☐☐

Please see the response to question 10 c) above. This issue will be investigated in the EIR being prepared for the Proposed Project.

e) Add water features or create conditions in which standing water can accumulate that could increase habitat for mosquitoes and other vectors that transmit diseases such as the West Nile virus and result in increased pesticide use?

☒☐☐☐

The final design of the park is still under development. At this time, it is unknown if a water feature would be included in the park's design. This issue will be investigated in the EIR.

f) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

☒☐☐☐

Please see the response to question 10 c). This issue will be investigated in the EIR being prepared for the Proposed Project.

g) Generate construction or post-construction runoff that would violate applicable stormwater NPDES permits or otherwise significantly affect surface water or groundwater quality?

☒☐☐☐

Please see the response to question 10 c). This issue will be investigated in the EIR being prepared for the Proposed Project.

h) Conflict with the Los Angeles County Low Impact Development Ordinance (L.A. County Code, Title 12, Ch. 12.84)?

☒☐☐☐

The Proposed Project would be designed to comply with Los Angeles County's Low Impact Development (LID) Ordinance. The EIR will include a detailed project description and hydrology and water quality discussion describing project features to protect water quality.

i) Result in point or nonpoint source pollutant discharges into State Water Resources Control Board-designated Areas of Special Biological Significance?

☒☐☐☐

Please see the response to question 10 c). This issue will be investigated in the EIR being prepared for the Proposed Project.

j) Use onsite wastewater treatment systems in areas with known geological limitations (e.g. high groundwater) or in close proximity to surface water (including, but not limited to, streams, lakes, and drainage course)?

☒	☐	☐	☐
-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

The Proposed Project includes the use of vault restrooms. Geological limitation to the use of a vault restrooms will be analyzed in the EIR.

k) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?

☐	☐	☐	☐
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Please see the response to question 10 c). This issue will be investigated in the EIR being prepared for the Proposed Project.

l) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map, or within a floodway or floodplain?

☐	☐	☐	☒
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

The Puente Hills Landfill is located in a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map Zone C (Sanitation Districts 2001). Zone C is designated for areas absent of a substantial flood hazard. There are no floodways or floodplain within the project site. No impact would occur.

m) Place structures, which would impede or redirect flood flows, within a 100-year flood hazard area, floodway, or floodplain?

☐	☐	☐	☒
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

Please see the response to question 10 l) above. No impact would occur

n) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?

☐	☐	☐	☒
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

Please see the response to question 10 l) above. The project site is at a superior elevation compared to levees or dams in the project vicinity. No impact would occur

o) Place structures in areas subject to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

☒	☐	☐	☐
-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

The project site is not subject to seiches or tsunamis. The project site is located on the closed Puente Hills Landfill which varies topographically. The Puente Hills Landfill has extensive environmental controls in place, including a surface water drainage system designed to capture stormwater and convey it to stormwater facilities. The drainage system was designed to prevent infiltration into the landfill and prevent erosion of the landfills cap. Due to the environmental controls in place and the landfill's engineered slopes and cap, mudflow is a low concern for the project site. However, this issue will be investigated in the EIR being prepared for the Proposed Project.

11. LAND USE AND PLANNING

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would convert a portion of the closed Puente Hills Landfill into a regional park. Developing the Proposed Project would not divide an established community. No impact would occur.

b) Be inconsistent with the applicable County plans for the subject property including, but not limited to, the General Plan, specific plans, local coastal plans, area plans, and community/neighborhood plans?	☐	☐	☐	☒
---	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

The project site is located in areas designated as public and semi-public land uses in Los Angeles County, as well as Open Space: Parks and Recreation within the Hacienda Heights Community Planning area (Los Angeles County 2015b). The Los Angeles County General Plan states: In the event that public or semi-public use of mapped facilities is terminated, alternative uses that are compatible with the surrounding development, in keeping with community character, are permitted (Los Angeles County 2015a).

In 1983, the Sanitation Districts was granted Conditional Use Permit No. 2235-(1), which allowed for the continued operation and expansion of the Puente Hills Landfill. The land use permit required the Sanitation Districts to enter into an irrevocable agreement with the County of Los Angeles (or alternate public agency) to designate the "fill" portions of the site as open space in perpetuity. The two entities entered into a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) on April 28, 1987. In the *Conservation Open Space Policy of the Los Angeles County General Plan*, revised in March 2015, Los Angeles County designated the Puente Hills landfill site as "Recommended Open Space" and the ultimate use of the landfill site upon closure has been identified as recreational use (W&S 2015). Subsequent land use approvals, including CUP 92-250(4) and CUP 02-027-(4), for continued landfill operations further clarified provisions related to the park, including that "the specific type of recreational use (i.e., trails, nature center, soccer fields, golf course) would be the subject of a dedicated master planning process."

The Proposed Project would be an allowed and compatible use under County plans and past County actions [CUP No. 2235-(1), 92-250(4), and 02-027-(4)]. No impact would occur.

c) Be inconsistent with the County zoning ordinance as applicable to the subject property?	☐	☐	☒	☐
---	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------------

The project site is located in an Agricultural and Open Space zone (Los Angeles County 2015b). Recreational amenities and existing trail enhancements would be consistent with current zoning designations and will be discussed further in the EIR.

**d) Conflict with Hillside Management criteria,
Significant Ecological Areas conformance criteria, or
other applicable land use criteria?**



The Proposed Project would be designed and constructed in compliance with the Hillside Management Area Ordinance (L.A. County Code Title 22, § 22.56.215). No impact would occur.

The Rio Hondo Wildlife Sanctuary SEA, also known as Ecology Canyon, a 24-acre area in the western corner of the Puente Hills Landfill property, is designated as native habitat. The Rio Hondo Wildlife Sanctuary SEA is used by Rio Hondo College staff and students for biological studies. This area is located west of the Western deck. The Conceptual SEA for the Hacienda Heights community is located within the Puente Hills Landfill property. The Conceptual Sea is completely contained within the native preservation area managed by the Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority. This area is located southeast of the Southern deck (ECORP 2015a). The EIR will evaluate whether the Proposed Project conflict with SEAs in the project area.

12. MINERAL RESOURCES

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The Proposed Project would be located within the closed Puente Hills Landfill where there are no mineral resource zones (Los Angeles County 2015a). No impact would occur.

b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
---	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

Please see the response to question 12 a) above. No loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site would occur.

13. NOISE

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
Would the project result in:				
a) Exposure of persons to, or generation of, noise levels in excess of standards established in the County General Plan or noise ordinance (Los Angeles County Code, Title 12, Chapter 12.08), or applicable standards of other agencies?	☒	☐	☐	☐

Noise would be generated by the Proposed Project during construction and operation of the park. Construction noise would be generated by heavy equipment, materials delivery, and construction worker traffic. Operational noise would be generated by park users, user and employee traffic, events (including use of loudspeakers), and maintenance activities including the use of heavy and landscaping equipment. A noise technical study will be prepared to quantify noise impacts on sensitive receptors and identify potential design features and mitigation measures to reduce impacts. Impacts to sensitive receptors in the project area, including Rose Hills Memorial Park, will be analyzed during the preparation of the EIR. Park user exposure to noise generated by ongoing operations of the MRF and landfill closure monitoring and maintenance activities will also be evaluated.

b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☒	☐	☐	☐
---	-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Construction of the Proposed Project could potentially result in groundborne vibration. A noise technical study will be prepared to evaluate the vibration generation potential of the Proposed Project and to determine potential impacts to people from exposure. This issue will be analyzed in the EIR.

c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project, including noise from parking areas?	☒	☐	☐	☐
--	-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Please see the response to question 13 a) above. This issue will be analyzed in the EIR.

d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project, including noise from amplified sound systems?	☐	☐	☐	☐
--	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Please see the response to question 13 a) above. This issue will be analyzed in the EIR.

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

☐☐☐☒

There are no airports within two miles of the project site. The closest airport is the El Monte Airport located approximately 4 miles north of the project site. According to the Los Angeles County Airport Land Use Commission, the project site is not located within the airport influence area for the El Monte Airport (ALUC 2003). The Proposed Project would not expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels associated with an airport. No impact would occur.

f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

☐☐☐☒

The Proposed Project is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip. No impact would occur.

14. POPULATION AND HOUSING

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
Would the project: a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The Proposed Project does not include housing; it would involve the construction of a regional park and improvements to recreational trails. The Proposed Project would generate temporary construction jobs and a small number of permanent jobs that would likely be filled by the local work force. Therefore, the Proposed Project is not expected to induce population growth in the project area. A less than significant impact would occur.

b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, especially affordable housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒
---	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

The project site is located on an existing landfill and no homes are located on the site. The Proposed Project would not displace existing housing. No impact would occur.

c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒
--	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

Please see the response to question 14 b) above. No impact would occur.

d) Cumulatively exceed official regional or local population projections?	☐	☐	☒	☐
--	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------------

Please see the response to question 14 a) above. A less than significant impact would occur.

15. PUBLIC SERVICES

<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
---	--	---	----------------------

a) Would the project create capacity or service level problems, or result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

Fire protection?

☒	☐	☐	☐
-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

The Los Angeles County Fire Department provides fire protection services to the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County including the project site. The Proposed Project would develop a regional park at the closed Puente Hills Landfill which would require fire protection services. The EIR will evaluate if fire protection capacity or service level conflicts would occur from implementation of the Proposed Project.

Sheriff protection?

☒	☐	☐	☐
-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department provides police services to the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County including the project site. The Proposed Project would increase the need for sheriff protection in the project area. The EIR will evaluate if sheriff protection capacity or service level conflicts would occur from implementation of the Proposed Project.

Schools?

☐	☐	☐	☒
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

The Proposed Project is not expected to increase population in the area because it does not propose new housing or create a substantial number of permanent jobs. Therefore, no impacts to school capacity or service level conflicts are anticipated.

Parks?

☐	☐	☐	☒
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

The Proposed Project would develop a regional park at the closed Puente Hills Landfill increasing the number of recreational facilities in the region. Beneficial impacts to regional park capacity would occur.

Libraries?

☐	☐	☐	☒
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

The Proposed Project is not expected to increase population in the area because it does not propose new housing or create a substantial number of permanent jobs. Therefore, no impacts to libraries are anticipated.

Other public facilities?

☒	☐	☐	☐
-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Impacts to other public facilities will be determined during analysis conducted for the EIR.

16. RECREATION

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☒	☐	☐	☐

The Proposed Project is a regional park that would itself become a new recreational destination for the public. The Proposed Project would incorporate existing recreation facilities into the park, such as the Schabarum/Skyline Trail. The Proposed Project has the potential to increase the use of recreational facilities in proximity of the project site. This issue will be investigated in the EIR being prepared for the Proposed Project.

b) Does the project include neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of such facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☒	☐	☐	☐
--	-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

The Proposed Project includes the constructions of new recreational facilities. The EIR will evaluate if the Proposed Project would have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

c) Would the project interfere with regional open space connectivity?	☐	☐	☐	☒
---	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

The Proposed Project would develop a regional park at the closed Puente Hills Landfill promoting open space connectivity the surrounding natural areas of the Puente Hills. A beneficial impact would occur.

17. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
---	--	---	----------------------

Would the project:

a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance, or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?

☒	☐	☐	☐
-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

The Proposed Project would generate construction and operational traffic. A traffic technical study will be prepared to quantify traffic impacts and recommend traffic improvements and mitigation measures, if applicable, to reduce potential conflicts with applicable plans, ordinances, or policies establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system. This issue will be analyzed in the EIR being prepared for the Proposed Project.

b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program (CMP), including, but not limited to, level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the CMP for designated roads or highways?

☒	☐	☐	☐
-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Please see the response to question 17 a). This issue will be analyzed in the EIR being prepared for the Proposed Project.

c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?

☐	☐	☐	☒
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

There are no airports in the vicinity of the project site. Furthermore, the Proposed Project does not propose structures that would require changes to air traffic patterns due to height. No impact to air traffic patterns is anticipated.

d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

☒☐☐☐

The Proposed Project would require the construction of new and modification of existing transportation infrastructure to accommodate new traffic generated by the Proposed Project and the existing traffic generated by the Puente Hills Landfill (MRF and landfill closure monitoring and maintenance activities). Transportation infrastructure design is being developed to minimize the potential hazards including traffic conflicts between MRF trucks and customers, Sanitation Districts staff, park visitors, and Rose Hills Memorial Park visitors. This issue will be discussed further in the EIR being prepared for the Proposed Project.

e) Result in inadequate emergency access?

☒☐☐☐

Adequate emergency access will be one of the primary goals when designing the Proposed Project's circulation system. This issue will be discussed further in the EIR being prepared for the Proposed Project.

f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?

☒☐☐☐

The Proposed Project would accommodate access to the park using alternative modes of transportation. The EIR will include a detailed discussion on the Proposed Project's compatibility with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities.

18. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
Would the project:				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of either the Los Angeles or Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Boards?	☒	☐	☐	☐

The Proposed Project would develop a regional park at the closed Puente Hills Landfill. The park would feature a sustainable design with LEED certified structure that would efficiently use resources and limit wastewater generation. The design of the Proposed Project is ongoing; therefore, project specific calculations regarding water, wastewater, drainage, or energy system requirements are yet to be finalized. This issue will be investigated in the EIR being prepared for the Proposed Project.

b) Create water or wastewater system capacity problems, or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☒	☐	☐	☐
---	-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Please see the response to question 18 a). This issue will be discussed in the EIR being prepared for the Proposed Project.

c) Create drainage system capacity problems, or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☒	☐	☐	☐
---	-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Please see the response to question 18 a). This issue will be discussed in the EIR being prepared for the Proposed Project.

d) Have sufficient reliable water supplies available to serve the project demands from existing entitlements and resources, considering existing and projected water demands from other land uses?	☒	☐	☐	☐
--	-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Please see the response to question 18 a). This issue will be discussed in the EIR being prepared for the Proposed Project.

e) Create energy utility (electricity, natural gas, propane) system capacity problems, or result in the construction of new energy facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

☒☐☐☐

Please see the response to question 18 a). This issue will be discussed in the EIR being prepared for the Proposed Project.

f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?

☒☐☐☐

The Proposed Project would produce waste from construction and operation activities. Potential impacts to area landfills will be discussed in the EIR.

g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

☐☐☐☒

The Proposed Project would comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulation related to solid waste. No impact would occur.

19. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☒	☐	☐	☐

The EIR will evaluate whether the Proposed Project has the potential to result in significant impacts which could degrade the quality of the environment, reduce habitat of wildlife species, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.

b) Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals?	☒	☐	☐	☐
--	-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

The EIR will evaluate whether the Proposed Project has the potential to achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of long-term goals.

c) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	☒	☐	☐	☐
---	-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

The EIR will evaluate whether the Proposed Project combined with other current and probable projects would result in impacts that are cumulatively considerable. The Proposed Project's contribution to global climate change will also be discussed in the EIR.

d) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☒	☐	☐	☐
---	-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Potentially significant impacts to human beings will be discussed in the EIR.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

[ALUC] Airport Land Use Commission

2003 El Monte Airport: Airport Influence Area Map.

[CDC] California Department of Conservation

2013 Los Angeles County Williamson Act FY 2012/2013 Map.

2012 Los Angeles County Important Farmland 2012 Map.

[DTSC] California Department of Toxic Substances Control

2015a DTSC's Hazardous Waste and Substances Site List - Site Cleanup (Cortese List). Available at http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Cortese_List.cfm. Accessed on December 3.

2015b EnviroStor Database. Available at <http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/>. Accessed on December 3.

[ECORP] ECORP Consulting, Inc.

2015a Biological Technical report for the Puente Hills Landfill Park, Los Angeles County, California. July 16, 2015.

2015b Agronomy Report Puente Hills Landfill Park Project, Los Angeles County. July 29, 2015.

2015c Cultural Resources Survey for the Puente Hills County Regional Park Master Plan Project, Los Angeles County. July.

Los Angeles County

2015a Los Angeles County General Plan. Adopted October 6, 2015.

2015b Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning GIS-NET3 planning and zoning information database. Available at http://rpgis.isd.lacounty.gov/GIS-NET3_Public/Viewer.html. Accessed on December 3.

2014 Los Angeles County General Plan Update Draft Environmental Impact Report. State Clearinghouse # 2011081042. June.

[Sanitation Districts] Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

2001 Continued Operation of the Puente Hills Landfill, Volume 1: Draft Environmental Impact Report. State Clearinghouse Number 2000041066. June.

(W&S) Withers & Sandgren, Ltd.

2015 Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan Site Analysis Report. September 8, 2015.

Scoping Letters



COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICTS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

1955 Workman Mill Road, Whittier, CA 90601-1400
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 4998, Whittier, CA 90607-4998
Telephone: (562) 699-7411, FAX: (562) 699-5422
www.lacsd.org

GRACE ROBINSON HYDE
Chief Engineer and General Manager

February 1, 2016

Michelle O'Connor
Departmental Facilities Planner I
County of Los Angeles
Department of Parks and Recreation
510 South Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Dear Ms. O'Connor:

Comments on the Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan Project Notice of Preparation/Initial Study (NOP/IS)

The staff of the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (Districts) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Department of Parks and Recreation's (DPR) NOP/IS for the Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan Project (Project). The following elements should be considered in the development of the projects description and development of the draft environmental impact report (DEIR):

Ongoing Maintenance of the Landfill Site

The Districts are required by law and regulation to monitor and maintain the Puente Hills Landfill (PHLF) for a minimum of 30 years, and until the site "no longer poses a threat to health, safety, and the environment." Based on evidence collected at other (local) landfill sites that the Districts maintain, this time period may extend beyond 50 years for the Puente Hills Landfill. Therefore, the DEIR should account for this significant constraint in the development, operation, and maintenance of the Project.

In the course of the Districts' maintenance of the environmental control systems, the Districts will conduct significant earthmoving operations to fill cracks and correct drainage issues that will occur due to the landfill settling (up to 125 feet in some areas). This earthwork might impact some of the park features. DPR would be responsible for repair or reestablishment of any trail or park improvements after the completion of Districts maintenance of the environmental control systems. Please note that during the operation of the landfill, the Districts set funding aside for postclosure maintenance. Since the landfill is now closed, the postclosure budget has already been established and does not include costs that may result from park improvements and operations.

One of the environmental control systems is the final cover, which consists of an engineered soil cap and an evapotransportive planting palette. The existing final cover design has been approved by the Regional Water Quality Control Board –Los Angeles Region (RWQCB). Any changes to the final cover that deviates from the approved design will require RWQCB approval.

Site Access / Traffic

The Districts have concerns regarding site access and traffic. The Districts operate two industrial facilities, the Puente Hills Materials Recovery Facility (PHMRF) and Puente Hills Intermodal Facility

(PHIMF), which rely on the Crossroads Parkway entrance. The confluence of industrial vehicles entering and exiting these facilities with automobiles entering and exiting the park, and funeral processions entering the site to access the Rose Hills Cemetery secondary entrance needs special consideration to ensure safety and smooth flow of traffic to all destinations.

Security

Because the Districts will continue to operate and maintain the landfill site, the Project considered by the DEIR should consider the implementation of security features necessary to prevent park patrons from entering areas of the landfill that are not available for recreational use.

Joint Powers Agreement

The Districts and DPR have entered into a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) that established the initial conditions for future joint use. The JPA requires amendment in order to further define the conditions for joint use of the landfill property. This revision, a discretionary action, has yet to be completed. The DEIR should be prepared in a manner that will provide the environmental coverage for this action.

Use of Non-Fill Areas

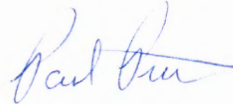
DPR has expressed an interest in using certain unfilled areas of the landfill property for park-related purposes. The use of unfilled portions of the landfill for recreational purposes is not currently included in any existing agreements between DPR and the Districts. However, the Districts have expressed willingness to discuss reasonable access to non-filled areas. Any use of these areas will require additional agreements.

Rose Hills Agreements

The Districts have two agreements with Rose Hills Cemetery that may have an effect on the Project. One agreement establishes a secondary entrance to the cemetery from the PHLF site. DPR should consider the location and level of use of this entrance in their evaluation of the Project. The other agreement provides for joint use of reclaimed water that is stored in two tanks on/adjacent to the landfill site.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact Christopher Salomon of my staff at (562) 908-4288, extension 2716.

Very truly yours,



Paul Prestia
Division Engineer
Facilities Planning Department

PP:DB:ddg



Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority

Endowment Provided by the Puente Hills Landfill

January 28, 2016

Michelle O'Connor, Department Facilities Planner I
County of Los Angeles
Department of Parks and Recreation
510 S. Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Comments on the Notice of Preparation for the Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan Project

Dear Ms. O'Connor:

The Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Notice of Preparation for the Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan dated December 18, 2015.

The Habitat Authority is a joint powers authority established pursuant to California Government Code Section 6500 *et seq.* with a Board of Directors consisting of the City of Whittier, County of Los Angeles, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, and the Hacienda Heights Improvement Association. According to its mission, the Habitat Authority is dedicated to the acquisition, restoration, and management of open space in the Puente Hills for preservation of the land in perpetuity, with the primary purpose to protect the biological diversity. Additionally, the agency endeavors to provide opportunities for outdoor education and low-impact recreation. The Habitat Authority owns and or manages over 3,800 acres (the Puente Hills Preserve) which lie within the Cities of Whittier and La Habra Heights, as well as in the County unincorporated areas of the Puente Hills known as Hacienda Heights and Rowland Heights.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan and look forward to a continued partnership with its development. We understand that the Project includes development of 117 acres of fill and another potential 15 acres of non-fill plus the utilization of the 10-acre buttress site. The first phase of the regional park project includes 35 acres known as the Western deck, while the other top decks would remain more open grasslands with park elements such as trails, picnic areas, and parking for the first 30 to 50 years. The final park concept includes a shared loop access road, and opportunities for art fairs, concerts, dog training events, food fairs, and kite flyer competitions. The proposed Project also includes a fitness running loop, stair climbs, slides, zip lines, gondolas, bike skills area, bike rental, dog park, scenic overlook, restrooms, visitor center, café, plant nursery, mostly native plantings, trails, and trail lift (gondola) .



The Habitat Authority is concerned regarding the potential impact that development of the Project site could have on regional aesthetics, biological resources, and recreation in the Puente Hills Preserve. We recommend that the draft environmental impact report (DEIR) evaluate the potential impacts that the type, extent, and location of any development may have on adjacent and connected habitats and include mitigation measures for any significant impacts to reduce those impacts to less than significant. Please also consider an alternative that would include more habitat native restoration and passive recreational use that mimics the current type of use in the Puente Hills Preserve.

There has been a considerable public investment in the Puente Hills. The Habitat Authority has received \$64 million of public funds from the Puente Hills Landfill to contribute toward its mission statement. Other public funds include \$17 million from Los Angeles County Proposition A for the City of Whittier's use for acquisition in the hills. The Habitat Authority was given a portion of those funds for acquisition, and invested over \$30.3 million of its own funds for acquisition for the purpose of biological preservation. The Habitat Authority manages the open space that it owns and that owned by the City of Whittier, and Sanitation Districts totaling 3,870 acres. Additionally, the Habitat Authority has invested over \$3.5 million in native habitat restoration, and over \$17.5 million in operations and facilities. Furthermore, the Habitat Authority has a long-term endowment of over \$31 million for ongoing management. Overall, at least \$100 million public dollars has been invested into the hills. The sustainability of the Preserve is biologically dependent on the nearby and adjacent open space lands. The Draft EIR should address the importance of complementing and enhancing the public investment already made in the region for the benefit of the community so it does not diminish the biological value of adjacent land owned by the Habitat Authority or other public agencies. Attached are further detailed comments.

Thank you for your consideration, and please continue to keep the Habitat Authority on the mailing list for this Project. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Andrea Gullo, Executive Director, at (562) 945-9003 for discussion.

Sincerely,



Bob Henderson
Chairman

cc: Board of Directors
Citizens Technical Advisory Committee

Detailed Comments

Project Description

Please clarify the following items in the Project description in the DEIR: 1) In looking at the Final Park Concept Map, it is unclear what the mileage is of new proposed trails on the Project site. Please include the mileage of the new trails and details on the diversity of trails such as for a variety of user groups. 2) Please include a description of the size of the proposed parking lots and number of cars each could accommodate. 3) Please also include a description of the trail lift (gondola), and whether it is fully enclosed for passengers or not. 4) In the DEIR, please provide a map that indicates where the location and amount of native vegetation vs. non-native vegetation. 5) Please include a map in the DEIR that delineates where the County's approved and conceptual significant ecological areas are in relation to proposed park features and structures.

Proposed Project goals

Please have the DEIR identify goals for the Proposed Project. We suggest considering the inclusion of the following goals:

- 1) The Proposed Project will complement surrounding land uses, and enhance and strengthen biological resource connections.
- 2) The Proposed Project will contribute to and complement existing public investments in the region, and contribute to regional recreational security, safety, and enjoyment.
- 3) The Proposed Project will return to Hacienda Heights a natural landscape as much as possible that will enhance the community character and protect the historic natural environment, by reducing not adding manmade features.

Aesthetics

Please consider the potentially significant impact to the viewshed with the installation of the Proposed Project, specifically the trail lift (gondola) and zip line features, to the Schabarum Trail and regional trails including from the Habitat Authority's Puente Hills Preserve. These prominent manmade features will detract from the current natural viewshed enjoyed by many trail users who are there to reconnect with nature and escape the pressures of the urban environment.

Biological Resources

Species, habitat and protected areas impacts: *The DEIR needs to fully explore the impacts to protected species and offer avoidance and mitigation measures.* The Proposed Project has the potential to significantly impact the many listed species as mentioned in the checklist. Of particular concern are potential impacts to the California gnatcatcher and coastal sage scrub as well as nesting raptors.

The Preserve exists to maintain and restore what remains of native grasslands, coastal sage scrub, riparian scrub, and oak woodland that existed in abundance in the past, but now are rare. The Puente Hills are among the last known habitats in the Los Angeles area for animals that are considered California Species of Special Concern and/or that are nearly extinct in the Los Angeles area. For example, the pending development of the Montebello Hills could cause the federally listed coastal California gnatcatcher pairs located in that important "core" population

to migrate to larger habitat areas such as the Puente Hills, and the DEIR should talk about how not to impede that migration.

The DEIR should include the requirement of protocol surveys of coastal CA gnatcatchers as a mitigation measure prior to construction activities. They have been documented occurring to the west and south of the Proposed Project. The proposed zipline, trail lift (gondola) structure, reroute of the Schabarum Trail, office, restrooms, stair climb, switch back trails, mini café, office, slides and scenic overlook have the potential to impact their habitat, nests, and connectivity between Ecology Canyon, a recognized protected Los Angeles County Significant Ecological Area (SEA), and the Puente Hills Preserve, a conceptual SEA. Alternatives to avoid impacts to this protected species and their habitat, coastal sage scrub, and the viability of recognized SEAs should be explored in the DEIR.

Wildlife corridor impacts: Please explore eliminating structures that prohibit wildlife movement, or weaken the wildlife corridor in this area for species that are documented or expected to use this area including but not limited to the mountain lion and coastal California gnatcatcher. The Proposed Project has the potential to significantly impact mammalian and coastal CA gnatcatcher migration between Ecology Canyon to the west and the Puente Hills Preserve to the south and east with the proposed development of structures mentioned above.

The Proposed Project site is part of the larger Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor, widely recognized for its regional importance for wildlife movement. The importance of the corridor is not solely for migration, which is generally defined as seasonal movements of individuals or groups. Corridors, particularly in areas where they constitute the only remaining natural habitat, are critical for daily wildlife movement needs such as hunting, as well seasonal movement needs such as during reproduction and for juvenile dispersal. In order for a corridor to maintain its function, it not only needs to provide physical space for wildlife to move through, but also needs to support the elements necessary for individuals or groups to persist over time to maintain connections between populations and promote genetic exchange and diversity. In addition, corridors must function to allow for movement and persistence during hazardous events such as wildfires. The Proposed Project has the potential to disrupt critical corridor functions by effectively narrowing the width of the corridor, through both direct physical impacts and more widespread indirect edge effects described below.

Please address negative impacts of water features in the DEIR or eliminate them from the plan (the preferred alternative). A potential impact to biological resources include the possible inclusion of a water feature to the Proposed Project. Adding artificial water resources will negatively impact wildlife and their natural processes in this wildland environment. Also, adding artificial water sources could attract unwanted wildlife such as coyotes into the Proposed Project site, which may lead to negative interactions between park users and wildlife. For more information please visit CA Department of Fish and Wildlife's website <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/keep-me-wild>.

The DEIR should explore mitigation measures for the expected increase in facility and recreational use, and possible impacts on the regional biological resources. This Proposed Project will create structures, lighting and increased human presence. It also has the potential to

increase recreational use in the area significantly which would mean that adjacent regional trails could be used significantly more than they currently are. Please analyze in the DEIR user carrying capacity for the regional trail system that the Proposed Project intends to accommodate. Also, potential significant impacts could include edge effects to wildlife and habitat (such as increased noise, light, human presence, domestic pets). *All these potential impacts should be analyzed and mitigated to less than significant given the location of the Park and its location within the significant Puente-Chino Hills wildlife corridor.*

Lighting has the potential to negatively impact adjacent Habitat Authority property and Ecology Canyon. We recommend that lighting be dark-sky compliant (<http://darksky.org/lighting/lighting-basics/>) and directed away from habitat areas. Some species, such as the bobcat, can be nocturnal and light sources can disturb their natural processes. Areas that are avoided by medium-to large-sized carnivores can have an increase in the number of mesopredators, which can have a negative effect on avian species of scrub communities.

Land Use and Planning

Please consider an alternative in the DEIR that includes only passive recreation to be compatible and consistent with the County's General Plan. The Proposed Project is defined as a regional park. According to the County of Los Angeles' General Plan a regional park is defined as, "...perform[ing] important ecological and environmental functions, including serving as wildlife habitats. The connection of these parks to natural areas is often vital to ensuring a healthy ecological system." It also describes these areas as having passive park amenities. Passive recreation parks are generally described as an undeveloped space or environmentally sensitive area that requires minimal development and emphasis is placed on preservation of wildlife and the environment. However, the Proposed Project includes several elements that are not considered passive recreation such as zip lines, and performance areas. Please consider an option in the DEIR that includes only passive recreation, excluding opportunities for music concerts, stair climbs, slides, zip lines, gondolas, bike skills area, bike rental, café, and trail lift (gondola).

Please consider an alternative in the DEIR that is compatible with the Habitat Authority's Resource Management Plan (RMP). The intensity of the development and human use, and associated biological impacts of the Proposed Project has the potential to conflict with the Habitat Authority's Resource Management Plan (RMP). The RMP supports passive recreational use to preserve and protect regional biological values.

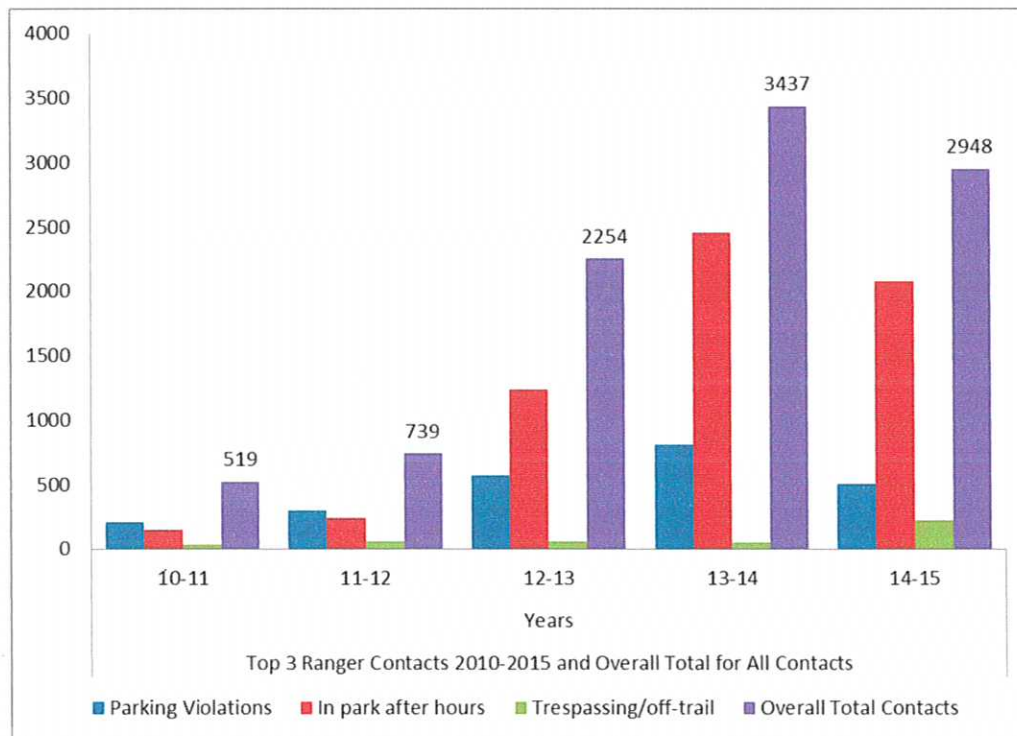
Recreation

The DEIR should provide appropriate mitigation measures for impacts to adjoining Habitat Authority trails.

The Habitat Authority conducted a Preserve-wide Visitor User Survey in 2005 (published in 2006) which was a lengthy in-depth survey. It focused largely on visitor attitudes and asked many questions of each visitor surveyed. It also provided the Habitat Authority with information on the numbers of visitors using the Preserve at all the trailheads; 41 and 73 visitors per day at the Hellman Park trailhead and Turnbull Canyon access point, respectively.

In 2012, a survey of just the Hellman and Turnbull Canyon entrance points was conducted (published in 2013). It quantified the change in visitation from the 2005 survey and results indicated that visitation at Hellman Park increased from 41 to 366 visitors per day (a 798% increase) while visitation at Turnbull Canyon access point increased from 73 to 282 visitors per day (a 286% increase). In 2016, another Preserve-wide user survey is scheduled to update our records and to measure if trail use has increased since 2012.

In response to the increase in use, rangers have experienced an increase in illegal activities and in the amount of contacts they make with visitors. The top three violations, parking, trail use after hours, and off-trail use, are indicated over the past few years in the below chart.



The DEIR needs to evaluate how the Proposed Project intends to keep the public within the Project site to avoid impacts to the surrounding communities. The DEIR should include the amount of trail miles created on the Project site and the average projected time for and amount of people to explore those trails at various times of the day and week. The creation of a new regional park at the proposed site has the potential to significantly impact Habitat Authority trails by attracting hundreds or thousands of people a day. Most assuredly trail users will use connecting trails to enjoy the full landscape of the connecting Puente Hills; the DEIR needs to evaluate how this extra use of the connecting trails including those of the Habitat Authority will be impacted and provide appropriate mitigation measures, such as extra trail maintenance and ranger patrol for County and Habitat Authority trails.

Please have the DEIR evaluate the need for extra ranger patrol on County and Habitat Authority trails with the expected increase in trail use.

Please have the DEIR illustrate and explain why six parking lots for the Proposed Project are necessary, and how many visitors per day are expected to visit the Proposed Project site. Please explain how this visitation estimation will affect local public services including regional connecting trail systems and associated law enforcement as well as potential biological impacts to overuse of the trails.

Please include in the DEIR the operation plan for each alternative presented in terms of law enforcement on trails as well as at buildings and structures, trail maintenance, graffiti control, site trash clean-up, and biological resource protection. In particular, how will the Proposed Project be managed in terms of controlling high speeds on trails by bicycles, dogs off-leash on trails, illegal trail creation, and trail use after hours. Also, please explain how the Proposed Project will secure the site when it is closed each night and before it is opened each morning. Restricting after hours use is necessary for resource protection and to decrease illegal behaviors such as party (drinking, smoking, loud noise) activity, recreational trails use, and other illegal activity. This activity will easily spill over onto Habitat Authority trails if not controlled.

Please include analysis in the DEIR for future actions involving recreational user carrying capacity, and methods for how to control population levels of users. Last year the Habitat Authority hired experts to provide guidance on recreational user carrying capacity because the trails in the Puente Hills Preserve have had increasingly extensive use of the past few years as described earlier.

Regional open space connectivity: As mentioned above under Biological resources, there is a potential for a significant impact to regional open space and associated biological resources with the development of the Proposed Project. Please reconsider for the DEIR as this not does not qualify as “no impact” as stated in the NOP.

Alternatives

- 1) Given the above comments, please consider providing alternatives in the DEIR that include only passive recreation such as multi-use trails within the Project site, interpretive signage or displays, and native habitat restoration¹.
- 2) An alternative without the trail lift (gondolas), zip lines, slides, café, bike skills, concert area, and any feature that acts as impediment to the biological connectivity between Ecology Canyon and the Puente Hills Preserve is respectfully requested to be given careful consideration in the DEIR. This would include eliminating or decreasing the need to use non-fill land and the buttress site.
- 3) Also, an alternative that avoids all impacts to listed and protected species should be explored as well.

¹ Native plantings are recommended as much as possible given the soil site constraints. Also, please include plantings that are not linear or in artificial rows, and more in a manner that resembles the native landscape.

Other

Please include in the DEIR an analysis regarding equitable access and descriptions of charges to the public or any associated fees for the public to use the Proposed Project facility. Also, please address climate change in the DEIR.

Overall, the DEIR should analyze short and long term impacts the to the operations, biological functioning and recreational functioning of the Preserve, and offer ways to either avoid, minimize or mitigate for impacts.

Julie Yom

From: Clement Lau
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 4:24 PM
To: Norma E. Garcia; Kathline J. King; Julie Yom; Claudia Gutierrez; Jan Sandgren; Lacey Withers; Freddie Olmos; Gira, Daniel
Cc: Michelle O'Connor
Subject: FW: Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan, Notice Of Preparation - Rose Hills Comments

Good Afternoon,

Please find below comments from Rose Hills.

Clement

From: Baron, Michael [mailto:michael.baron@rosehills.com]
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 3:56 PM
To: Michelle O'Connor <MOconnor@parks.lacounty.gov>; Clement Lau <clau@parks.lacounty.gov>
Subject: FW: Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan, Notice Of Preparation - Rose Hills Comments

Michelle

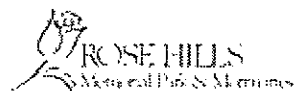
On behalf of Rose Hills Memorial Park, I would like to thank you for including us in the numerous meetings and presentations for the Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan. The Park continues to be a great undertaking for LA County and its neighboring stake holders. As requested, we wanted to re-iterate several of our comments as the County initiates the EIR process.

- Rose Hills currently has an agreement with the Sanitation Districts regarding availability of reclaimed water for Rose Hills' use. We want this to be considered when designing the source of reclaimed water for the upcoming Regional Park.
- The Sanitation District granted to Rose Hills a nonexclusive easement for roadway purposes for vehicular traffic ingress and egress to the Memorial Park, and a future access road alignment between the Landfills Crossroads Parkway entrance with the Memorial Park. Rose Hills wants the access road and secondary entry easement into the Memorial Park to be identified on the plans as part of the County of Los Angeles future park Master Plan and noted in the EIR. The approved Los Angeles County REA circulation plan indicates this secondary entry location within Rose Hills at the property line with the County Park.
- As an active cemetery, Rose Hills continues to develop its remaining property for memorial services and burial use. In order to do so, we must protect our land from jurisdictional encumbrances, encroachment of migratory birds, undesirable habitant, and invasive species. A "Safe Harbor" habitat setback from the County Park property line and fencing will help assure protection from these elements. We would like this setback and the review of landscape material to be included in the EIR.
- Currently there are hikers on the LA County trails that enter Rose Hills property, causing damage and pose a threat of personal liability. Signage, fencing, separation of trails, and the use of County Rangers needs to be addressed in the EIR.
- Noise abatement and view shed studies from within and outside of the Cemetery are important in order to respect the dignity and memorialization of the cemetery patrons during funeral services and visitations. The EIR should address both active park programming and adjacent passive land use.

We look forward to your inclusion of our concerns and previous agreements in your studies, the approved Master Plan and the final EIR.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Mike Baron



Michael L. Baron

Director of Cemetery Development

Rose Hills Company

3888 S. Workman Mill Road

Whittier, CA 90601

Ph: (562) 205-4835

Cell: (562) 447-0871

Email: michael.baron@rosehills.com

WILDLIFE CORRIDOR CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

570 WEST AVENUE 26, SUITE 100, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90065

TELEPHONE: (310) 589-3230

FAX: (310) 589-2408

GLENN PARKER
CHAIR
CITY OF BREA

MICHAEL HUGHES
VICE-CHAIR
PUBLIC MEMBER
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

KELLY ELLIOTT
CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

BOB HENDERSON
CITY OF WHITTIER

RUTH M. LOW
CITY OF DIAMOND BAR

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS
CONSERVANCY

CLAIRE SCHLOTTERBECK
PUBLIC MEMBER
ORANGE COUNTY

DICKIE SIMMONS
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

JANE L. WILLIAMS
CITY OF LA HABRA HEIGHTS

February 1, 2016

Michelle O'Connor
Departmental Facilities Planner I
County of Los Angeles
Department of Parks and Recreation
510 S. Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90020

Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan Project - Notice of Preparation

Dear Ms. O'Connor:

The Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority (WCCA) was created to provide for the proper planning, conservation, environmental protection, and maintenance of the habitat and wildlife corridor between Whittier-Puente Hills, Chino Hills, and the Cleveland National Forest in the Santa Ana Mountains. It is one of our main goals to ensure that sufficient continuity of habitat can be preserved to maintain a functioning wildlife corridor within this area. The Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan Project is located at the western end of this wildlife corridor. WCCA provided comments on this project in a letter dated November 4, 2015.

The County has a unique opportunity to complement the existing natural areas and trails in the Puente-Chino Hills wildlife corridor by implementing a park that focuses on preservation of, and connectivity to, open space; habitat restoration; and low-impact recreation. WCCA supports the comments provided by the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) on the Notice of Preparation (NOP) in their letter dated January 28, 2016.

Habitat Connectivity Alternative

It is critical that the County include in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) a feasible alternative that emphasizes maintenance and enhancement of the habitat connectivity between onsite and offsite open space areas, as well as passive recreational use. This could be called the "Habitat Connectivity Alternative." There must be such type of alternative that avoids and minimizes direct disturbance from development of structures and facilities onsite, and minimizes indirect effects to remaining onsite habitat and offsite natural areas.

The NOP (p. 3) identifies the adjacent preserve areas (Habitat Authority-owned lands, constructed riparian habitat and oak tree replacement planting at the eastern landfill site boundary, and Ecology Canyon to the west). The NOP (p. 3) states:

These open space preserve areas are recognized as highly valuable for resident and migrant wildlife populations and for native plant communities which include some patches of pristine plant communities. The east-west migration of particular wildlife species through the Chino and Puente Hills, of which the landfill is a part, is considered critical to the biological viability of some animal populations, specifically the mountain lion.

A fundamental goal of this Habitat Connectivity Alternative must be to maintain and enhance the habitat value onsite and connectivity to other open space in the area. This includes habitat connectivity to the Puente Hills Preserve to the east, south, and southwest owned by the Habitat Authority; Ecology Canyon to the west; the Montebello Hills Specific Plan project site further to the west; and the San Gabriel River. Maintenance of the habitat connectivity in this area is important for bird species such as coastal California gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica californica*); raptors; as well as small, medium, and large-sized mammals. Maintaining the functional connectivity of habitats such as coastal sage scrub is critical. Specifically, the DEIR must demonstrate that this alternative allows functional ecological connectivity between the Rio Hondo Significant Ecological Area (SEA; Ecology Canyon) and the Puente Hills Conceptual SEA (Puente Hills Preserve).

This Habitat Connectivity Alternative could be a variation on the Ecology Alternative presented in the earlier workshops. The features of this Habitat Connectivity Alternative could also be represented in one of the alternatives recommended in the Habitat Authority letter. We stress that this Habitat Connectivity Alternative (or equivalent alternative) must emphasize passive recreational use over new physical development and active recreational uses. Intensive uses such as the proposed gondola, slides (i.e., luge), and zipline would result in substantial increased human presence. These uses are not compatible with maintaining and enhancing ecological function of the habitat onsite and connectivity to offsite areas. The Habitat Connectivity Alternative should exclude these uses. This alternative should exclude any bike skills area in favor of more low-key uses such as trails or habitat restoration.

As part of the Habitat Connectivity Alternative, the DEIR should include a justification for the number of parking lots proposed. With a primary goal of this alternative to maintain and enhance ecological connectivity of onsite and offsite areas, six parking lots may not be warranted. The parking lots and other park features (e.g., fencing) should be designed to allow the public to easily access and enjoy the trails, and also to encourage their use in certain areas and discourage their use in other areas. A well-thought-out park design could reduce the need for enforcement.

This Habitat Connectivity Alternative should avoid and minimize *indirect* impacts to biological resources, including adverse impacts to habitat connectivity, sensitive wildlife species, and sensitive plant communities (e.g., coastal sage scrub). This alternative should have no or minimal lighting, no excessive noise, and controlled access to sensitive habitats. This alternative should restrict night-time uses to very limited park uses such as small educational "campfire" programs. No night-time concerts should be allowed in this alternative.

Need for Maintenance, Enforcement, and Accompanying Funding

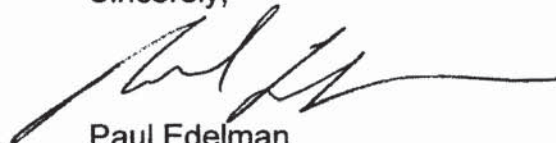
The Proposed Project and all alternatives in the DEIR should include a clear enforcement and maintenance component. Specificity such as funding sources, number of staff, frequency of patrols and maintenance rounds, etc. should be included in the DEIR. This is critical to address the anticipated new public use on the subject parkland, and also to address additional public use of adjacent parkland, including Habitat Authority-owned land. The DEIR should address how other park agencies will be affected by the increased use on the existing adjacent (and nearby) parkland and what mitigation is proposed to offset any adverse impacts. If bicycling is allowed, there must be a solid accompanying enforcement mechanism to prevent unauthorized incursions by bicycles into native habitat areas.

Other Comment

The DEIR should clearly outline the phasing of the project elements (for the Proposed Project and alternatives). That phasing should emphasize habitat restoration and passive recreational use in the near term. For example, in Phase 1, it would be preferable to incorporate habitat restoration and low impact uses (e.g., trails, picnic areas) on the Eastern and Southern decks as feasible, given the expected settlement of those areas.

We appreciate your consideration of these comments. Please maintain our agency on your mailing/email list for this project. If you have any questions, please contact Judi Tamasi of our staff by phone at (310) 589-3230, ext. 121, or by email at judi.tamasi@mrca.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Edelman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul Edelman
Chief of Natural Resources & Planning

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DISTRICT 7-OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING
100 S. MAIN STREET, MS 16
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
PHONE (213) 897-9140
FAX (213) 897-1337
www.dot.ca.gov



*Serious drought.
Help save water!*

January 20, 2016

Michelle O'Connor
Los Angeles County Parks and Rec
510 S. Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90020

RE: Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan
SCH # 2015121051
IGR/CEQA No. 151246AL-NOP
Vic. LA-60/PM 12.619

Dear Ms. O'Connor:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced project. The proposed project is a long range master plant that over time would develop a portion of what was formerly the largest landfill in the western US into a regional park, providing recreation and open space for the greater LA area.

The project is anticipated to have construction and operation vehicle trips. This may include the use of oversized vehicles. These vehicles may travel at lower speeds than other traffic, and because of their size, intrude into adjacent travel lanes.

To assist in evaluating the impacts of this project on State Transportation facilities, a traffic study should be prepared to analyze the following information:

1. Construction/truck/operation traffic impacts on I-10 and I-605, and all significantly impacted streets, crossroads and controlling intersections, as well as an analysis of existing conditions and construction periods.
2. Off-ramp queuing analysis including but not limit to I-605 EB/WB to Crossroads Parkway.
3. If truck traffic is expected to cause delays on the State facility, please forward a truck/traffic construction management plan to Caltrans for review.
4. Traffic volume counts that include anticipated AM and PM peak-hour volumes.
5. Level of service (LOS) before and during the construction.
6. A brief construction/operation traffic discussion showing ingress/egress, turning movements, and a directional flow for construction vehicle trips.
7. Discussion of mitigation measures appropriate to alleviate anticipated construction/truck/operation traffic impacts.

Michelle O'Connor
January 20, 2016
Page 2

We look forward to reviewing the traffic study and expect to receive a copy from the State Clearinghouse when the DEIR is completed. If you would like to expedite the review process or receive early feedback from Caltrans, please feel free to send a copy of the DEIR directly to our office.

Caltrans is committed to working with the City in an effort to alleviate traffic congestion on State transportation facilities. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Alan Lin the project coordinator at (213) 897-8391 and refer to IGR/CEQA No. 151246AL.

Sincerely,



DIANNA WATSON
IGR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse



**South Coast
Air Quality Management District**
21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4178
(909) 396-2000 • www.aqmd.gov

January 6, 2016

Michelle O'Connor, Department Facilities Planner I
County of Los Angeles
Department of Parks and Recreation
510 S. Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90020

**Notice of Preparation of a CEQA Document for the
Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan**

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) staff appreciates the opportunity to comment on the above-mentioned document. The SCAQMD staff's comments are recommendations regarding the analysis of potential air quality impacts from the proposed project that should be included in the draft CEQA document. Please send the SCAQMD a copy of the CEQA document upon its completion. Note that copies of the Draft EIR that are submitted to the State Clearinghouse are not forwarded to the SCAQMD. Please forward a copy of the Draft EIR directly to SCAQMD at the address in our letterhead. **In addition, please send with the draft EIR all appendices or technical documents related to the air quality and greenhouse gas analyses and electronic versions of all air quality modeling and health risk assessment files. These include original emission calculation spreadsheets and modeling files (not Adobe PDF files). Without all files and supporting air quality documentation, the SCAQMD will be unable to complete its review of the air quality analysis in a timely manner. Any delays in providing all supporting air quality documentation will require additional time for review beyond the end of the comment period.**

Air Quality Analysis

The SCAQMD adopted its California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Air Quality Handbook in 1993 to assist other public agencies with the preparation of air quality analyses. The SCAQMD recommends that the Lead Agency use this Handbook as guidance when preparing its air quality analysis. Copies of the Handbook are available from the SCAQMD's Subscription Services Department by calling (909) 396-3720. More recent guidance developed since this Handbook was published is also available on SCAQMD's website here: [http://www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/ceqa/air-quality-analysis-handbook/ceqa-air-quality-handbook-\(1993\)](http://www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/ceqa/air-quality-analysis-handbook/ceqa-air-quality-handbook-(1993)). SCAQMD staff also recommends that the lead agency use the CalEEMod land use emissions software. This software has recently been updated to incorporate up-to-date state and locally approved emission factors and methodologies for estimating pollutant emissions from typical land use development. CalEEMod is the only software model maintained by the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA) and replaces the now outdated URBEMIS. This model is available free of charge at: www.caleemod.com.

The Lead Agency should identify any potential adverse air quality impacts that could occur from all phases of the project and all air pollutant sources related to the project. Air quality impacts from both construction (including demolition, if any) and operations should be calculated. Construction-related air quality impacts typically include, but are not limited to, emissions from the use of heavy-duty equipment from grading, earth-loading/unloading, paving, architectural coatings, off-road mobile sources (e.g., heavy-duty construction equipment) and on-road mobile sources (e.g., construction worker vehicle trips, material transport trips). Operation-related air quality impacts may include, but are not limited to, emissions from stationary sources (e.g., boilers), area sources (e.g., solvents and coatings), and vehicular trips (e.g., on- and off-road tailpipe emissions and entrained dust). Air quality impacts from indirect sources, that is, sources that generate or attract vehicular trips should be included in the analysis.

The SCAQMD has also developed both regional and localized significance thresholds. The SCAQMD staff requests that the lead agency quantify criteria pollutant emissions and compare the results to the recommended regional significance thresholds found here: <http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ceqa/handbook/scaqmd-air-quality-significance-thresholds.pdf?sfvrsn=2>. In addition to analyzing regional air quality impacts, the SCAQMD staff recommends calculating localized air quality impacts and comparing the results to localized significance thresholds (LSTs). LSTs can be used in addition to the recommended regional significance thresholds as a second indication of air quality impacts when preparing a CEQA document. Therefore, when preparing the air quality analysis for the proposed project, it is

recommended that the lead agency perform a localized analysis by either using the LSTs developed by the SCAQMD or performing dispersion modeling as necessary. Guidance for performing a localized air quality analysis can be found at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/ceqa/air-quality-analysis-handbook/localized-significance-thresholds>.

In the event that the proposed project generates or attracts vehicular trips, especially heavy-duty diesel-fueled vehicles, it is recommended that the lead agency perform a mobile source health risk assessment. Guidance for performing a mobile source health risk assessment ("*Health Risk Assessment Guidance for Analyzing Cancer Risk from Mobile Source Diesel Idling Emissions for CEQA Air Quality Analysis*") can be found at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/ceqa/air-quality-analysis-handbook/mobile-source-toxics-analysis>. An analysis of all toxic air contaminant impacts due to the use of equipment potentially generating such air pollutants should also be included.

In addition, guidance on siting incompatible land uses (such as placing homes near freeways) can be found in the California Air Resources Board's *Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Perspective*, which can be found at the following internet address: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/ch/handbook.pdf>. CARB's Land Use Handbook is a general reference guide for evaluating and reducing air pollution impacts associated with new projects that go through the land use decision-making process.

Mitigation Measures

In the event that the project generates significant adverse air quality impacts, CEQA requires that all feasible mitigation measures that go beyond what is required by law be utilized during project construction and operation to minimize or eliminate these impacts. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15126.4 (a)(1)(D), any impacts resulting from mitigation measures must also be discussed. Several resources are available to assist the Lead Agency with identifying possible mitigation measures for the project, including:

- Chapter 11 of the SCAQMD *CEQA Air Quality Handbook*
- SCAQMD's CEQA web pages at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/ceqa/air-quality-analysis-handbook/mitigation-measures-and-control-efficiencies>.
- CAPCOA's *Quantifying Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Measures* available here: <http://www.capcoa.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/CAPCOA-Quantification-Report-9-14-Final.pdf>.
- SCAQMD's Rule 403 – Fugitive Dust, and the Implementation Handbook for controlling construction-related emissions
- Other measures to reduce air quality impacts from land use projects can be found in the SCAQMD's Guidance Document for Addressing Air Quality Issues in General Plans and Local Planning. This document can be found at the following internet address: <http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/planning/air-quality-guidance/complete-guidance-document.pdf?sfvrsn=4>.

Data Sources

SCAQMD rules and relevant air quality reports and data are available by calling the SCAQMD's Public Information Center at (909) 396-2039. Much of the information available through the Public Information Center is also available via the SCAQMD's webpage (<http://www.aqmd.gov>).

The SCAQMD staff is available to work with the Lead Agency to ensure that project emissions are accurately evaluated and mitigated where feasible. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at Jwong1@aqmd.gov or call me at (909) 396-3176.

Sincerely,

Jillian Wong

Jillian Wong, Ph.D.

Program Supervisor

Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources



CYNTHIA A. HARDING, M.P.H.
Interim Director

JEFFREY D. GUNZENHAUSER, M.D., M.P.H.
Interim Health Officer

ANGELO J. BELLOMO, REHS, QEP
Deputy Director for Health Protection

TERRI S. WILLIAMS, REHS
Acting Director of Environmental Health

5050 Commerce Drive
Baldwin Park, California 91706
TEL (626) 430-5100 • FAX (626) 813-3000

www.publichealth.lacounty.gov



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Hilda L. Solis
First District

Mark Ridley-Thomas
Second District

Sheila Kuehl
Third District

Don Knabe
Fourth District

Michael D. Antonovich
Fifth District

January 29, 2016

TO: Michelle O'Connor
Departmental Planning Facilities Planner I
Department of Parks and Recreation

FROM: Michelle Tsiebos, REHS, MPA, DPA **M.T.**
Environmental Health Division
Department of Public Health

SUBJECT: **CEQA CONSULTATION/NOP**
Project: Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan
Location: Puente Hills Landfill, Unincorporated Los Angeles County, Southeast of the intersection of State Route 60 (SR-60) and Interstate 605 (I-605).

The Department of Public Health - Environmental Health Division has reviewed the information provided in the initial study and Notice of Preparation for the project identified above. The proposed project is a long range master plan that over time would develop a portion of what was formerly the largest landfill in the western United States into a regional park, providing recreation and open space for the greater Los Angeles area. The Department offers the following comments:

Drinking Water Program (DWP)

Based on the information submitted for the Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan, **DWP cannot provide substantial comments at this time** because the proposed project is ongoing and no specific potable water source is proposed for domestic use at the park. The water source is yet to be finalized.

For questions about the above the section, please call the Drinking Water Program at (626) 430-5420.

Land Use Program

Vault toilets are proposed in place of permanent regular toilet facilities and an onsite private septic system given the nature of the site. Vault toilets are not an approved means of wastewater disposal in urban areas

based on the California Uniform Plumbing Code adopted by the County of Los Angeles. Public Health can review the design and operation of the proposed vault toilets to assess any potential health risks. Vault toilets will require the approval of building and Safety for their structure. Vault toilets will also require a variance from the plumbing code (Department of Public Works) which requires flushing water for toilets.

The Department of Public Health enforces Health and Safety code regulations requiring hand washing with potable water for toilet stations. A wastewater disposal will have to be provided for that discharged water.

For any questions regarding this section, please contact Michelle Tsiebos from the Land Use Program at (626) 430-5380 or at mtsiebos@ph.lacounty.gov.

Food Plan Check

Food facilities require potable running water and approved wastewater disposal (public sewer or onsite private septic system).

The project shall comply with all Public Health requirements relating to the construction and operation of food establishments. Three sets of construction plans for the proposed food establishment (Mini Café) shall be submitted to the Department's Plan Check Program for review and approval prior to issuance of any building permits. Each proposed food establishment must be issued a Public Health permit to operate by this Department after construction.

For any questions regarding this section, please call the Plan Check Program at (626) 430-5560.

Cross-Connection and Water Pollution Control Program

This Program would like to be part of the planning stage and plan review for this project. The landfill is currently using recycled water for landscape irrigation and dust control. We imagine this alternate water will also be used for the new park.

For questions regarding this section, please contact Dan Bacani from the Cross-Connection and Water Pollution Control Program at (626) 430-5290 or at 5290 or at dbacani@ph.lacounty.gov.

Toxics Epidemiology Program

Staff from Toxics Epidemiology Program reviewed the NOP-IS documents provided by the Department of Parks and Recreation of the project located at 13130 Crossroads Parkway, City of Industry.

The NOP-IS outlines the categories of environmental impacts and areas of concern the EIR will evaluate. The areas of interest in this case to our program are air quality, noise, hazardous materials and other areas:

Air quality:

The EIR as noted in the NOP-IS will evaluate existing air quality and potential air quality impacts associated with the project following SCAQMD methodologies. This evaluation typically analyzes air quality impacts affecting surrounding properties as well as regional impacts. The air quality impacts potentially affecting onsite users should also be thoroughly evaluated from the public health perspective. Thus, the EIR should include a human health risk assessment of nearby sensitive residents **and** onsite recreational users and include their potential inhalation exposure to landfill gases, in addition to dust emissions during the construction phase. The health risk assessment should follow the most recent revisions to the OEHHHA document.

Hazardous Materials:

The EIR as noted in the NOP-IS will include a description of the potential hazards (landfill gas operations) on the site and the health and safety effects of the development of the proposed project. Although the landfill did not accept hazardous waste and there were screening mechanisms to prevent illegal disposal of hazardous waste along with protective cover material, it's possible that there may be some hazardous materials present that were missed during the screening process. There is evidence from other municipal landfills in the U.S. of possible heavy metal contamination. Therefore, the evaluation should include confirmatory soil sampling in areas of the park where children may come in direct contact with cover material. If clean fill is being imported to these recreational areas, note this mitigation measure in the initial evaluation of potential exposure pathways.

Noise & Vibration Impacts:

The noise and vibration impacts during the construction phase and operational phase will be evaluated in the EIR. Note, outdoor events in the recreational areas may involve noise sources from amplified sound systems and participants, and should be included in the evaluation. The potential increase in ambient noise levels affecting nearby receptors from vehicular traffic should be evaluated. The EIR will include an evaluation of existing MRF and landfill gas operations.

Population and Housing:

The EIR should identify and characterize demographics of the population of residents living nearby and residents likely to use the regional park. Even though the project does not include housing, it could indirectly induce population growth in the surrounding area through improved access to open space (parks, nature trails, recreational access can improve neighborhood livability and home values).

Transportation/Traffic:

The traffic technical study should consider specifically any improvements or mitigation measures that can be made for surrounding residents to access the park via mass transit and non-motorized travel options.

For questions on the above section, please contact Robert Vasquez or Evenor Masis from the Toxics Epidemiology Program at (213) 738-3220 or at rvasquez@ph.lacounty.gov and emasis@ph.lacounty.gov.

Solid Waste Management Program /Local Enforcement Agency (LEA)

The Solid Waste Management Program/LEA has submitted its report directly to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

For any other questions regarding this report, please contact me at (626) 430-5380 or at mtsiebos@ph.lacounty.gov.



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294

DARYL L. OSBY
FIRE CHIEF
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

January 4, 2016

Michelle O'Connor, Planner
Department of Parks and Recreation
Planning Division
510 South Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Dear Ms. O'Connor:

NOTICE OF PREPARATION AND INITIAL STUDY, "PUENTE HILLS LANDFILL PARK MASTER PLAN", A LONG RANGE MASTER PLAN THAT OVER TIME WOULD DEVELOP A PORTION OF WHAT WAS FORMERLY THE LARGEST LANDFILL IN THE WESTERN UNITED STATES INTO A REGIONAL PARK, PROVIDING RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE FOR THE GREATER LOS ANGELES AREA, 13130 CROSSROADS PARKWAY, CITY OF INDUSTRY (FFER 201500216)

The Notice of Preparation and Initial Study has been reviewed by the Planning Division, Land Development Unit, Forestry Division, and Health Hazardous Materials Division of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department. The following are their comments:

PLANNING DIVISION:

1. We will reserve our comments for the draft EIR analysis.

LAND DEVELOPMENT UNIT:

The Land Development Unit is reviewing the proposed project for access and water system requirements. The listed information is "preliminary" and is "subject to change" with the further review of the proposed project.

SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:

AGOURA HILLS
ARTESIA
AZUSA
BALDWIN PARK
BELL
BELL GARDENS
BELLFLOWER
BRADBURY

CALABASAS
CARSON
CERRITOS
CLAREMONT
COMMERCE
COVINA
CUDAHY

DIAMOND BAR
DUARTE
EL MONTE
GARDENA
GLEN DORA
HAWAIIAN GARDENS
HAWTHORNE

HIDDEN HILLS
HUNTINGTON PARK
INDUSTRY
INGLEWOOD
IRVINDALE
LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE
LA HABRA

LA MIRADA
LA PUENTE
LAKEWOOD
LANCASTER
LAWNDALE
LOMITA
LYNWOOD

MALIBU
MAYWOOD
NORWALK
PALMDALE
PALOS VERDES ESTATES
PARAMOUNT
PICO RIVERA

POMONA
RANCHO PALOS VERDES
ROLLING HILLS
ROLLING HILLS ESTATES
ROSEMEAD
SAN DIMAS
SANTA CLARITA

SIGNAL HILL
SOUTH EL MONTE
SOUTH GATE
TEMPLE CITY
WALNUT
WEST HOLLYWOOD
WESTLAKE VILLAGE
WHITTIER

ACCESS REQUIREMENTS

1. All on-site Fire Department's vehicular access roads shall be labeled as "Private Driveway and Fire Lane" on the site plan along with the widths clearly depicted on the plan. Labeling is necessary to assure the access availability for Fire Department use. The designation allows for appropriate signage prohibiting parking.
2. Fire Department's vehicular access roads must be installed and maintained in a serviceable manner prior to and during the time of construction.
Fire Code 501.4.
3. The Fire Apparatus Access Road shall be cross-hatch on the site plan and the width shall be clearly noted.
4. The Fire Apparatus Access Roads and designated fire lanes shall be measured from flow line to flow line.
5. In the locations not adjacent to building or a structure, provide a minimum unobstructed width of 20 feet, exclusive of shoulders and an unobstructed vertical clearance "clear to sky".
6. The required 20 foot wide driving surface shall be increased to 26 feet when fire hydrants are required. The 26-foot width shall be maintained for a minimum of 25 linear feet on each side of the hydrant location.
7. The Fire Apparatus Access Road shall have a minimum unobstructed width of 26 feet, exclusive of shoulders, and an unobstructed vertical clearance "clear to sky" Fire Department's vehicular access to within 150 feet of all portions of the exterior walls of the first story of the building/structure as measured by an approved route around the exterior of the building.
Fire Code 503.1.1 and 503.2.2.
8. If the Fire Apparatus Access Road is separated by island, provide a minimum unobstructed width of 20 feet, exclusive of shoulders, and an unobstructed vertical clearance "clear to sky" Fire Department's vehicular access to within 150 feet of all portions of the exterior walls of the first story of the building as measured by an approved route around the exterior of the building.
Fire Code 503.1.1 and 503.2.2.

9. The dimensions of the approved Fire Apparatus Access Roads shall be maintained as originally approved by the fire code official. Fire Code 503.2.2.1.
10. Dead-end fire apparatus access roads in excess of 150 feet in length shall be provided with an approved Fire Department turnaround. The site plan shall include the dimensions of the turnaround, with the orientation of the turnaround shall be properly placed in the direction of travel of the access roadway. Fire Code 503.2.5.
11. Fire Department's vehicular access roads shall be provided with a 32 foot centerline turning radius. The site plan shall indicate the centerline, inside and outside turning radii for each change in direction. Fire Code 503.2.4.
12. Fire Apparatus Access Roads shall be designed and maintained to support the imposed load of fire apparatus weighing 75,000 pounds and shall be surfaced so as to provide all-weather driving capabilities. Fire apparatus access roads having a grade of 10 percent or greater shall have a paved or concrete surface. Fire Code 503.2.3.
13. The gradient of Fire Department's vehicle access roads shall not exceed 15 percent unless approved by the fire code official. Fire Code 503.2.7.
14. Abrupt changes in grade shall not exceed the maximum angles of approach and departure for fire apparatus. The first 10 feet of any angle of approach or departure or break-over shall not exceed a 10 percent change or 5.7 degrees. Fire Code 503.2.8.
 - a. Provide roadway profile and indicate angle of approach and departure at all abrupt changes in grade.
15. Provide approved signs or other approved notices or markings that include the words "NO PARKING - FIRE LANE". Signs shall have a minimum dimension of 12 inches wide by 18 inches high and have red letters on a white reflective background. Signs shall be provided for fire apparatus access roads, to clearly indicate the entrance to such road or prohibit the obstruction thereof and at intervals as required by the Fire Inspector. Fire Code 503.3.
16. Provide a minimum 5 foot wide approved firefighter access walkway leading from the Fire Department's Access Road to all required openings in the building's exterior walls shall be provided for firefighting and rescue purposes. Clearly

identify the firefighter walkway access routes on the site plan. Indicate the slope and walking surface material. Clearly show the required width. Fire Code 504.

17. Fire Apparatus Access Roads shall not be obstructed in any manner including by the parking of vehicles or the use of traffic calming devices including but not limited to, speed bumps, or speed humps. The minimum widths and clearances established in Section 503.2.1 shall be maintained at all times. Fire Code 503.4.
18. Traffic Calming Devices including but not limited to, speed bumps, and speed humps, shall be prohibited unless approved by the fire code official. Fire Code 503.4.1.
19. Approved building address numbers, building numbers, or approved building identification shall be provided and maintained so as to be plainly visible and legible from the street fronting the property. The numbers shall contrast with their background, be Arabic numerals or alphabet letters, and be a minimum of 4 inches high with a minimum stroke width of 0.5 inch. Fire Code 505.1.
20. Multiple residential and commercial buildings having entrances to individual units not visible from the street or road shall have unit numbers displayed in groups for all units within each structure. Such numbers may be grouped on the wall of the structure or mounted on a post independent of the structure and shall be positioned to be plainly visible from the street or road as required by Fire Code 505.3 and in accordance with Fire Code 505.1.
21. Fire Apparatus Access Roads shall be identified with approved signs. Temporary signs shall be installed at each street intersection when construction of new roadways allows passage by vehicles. Signs shall be of an approved size, weather resistant, and be maintained until replaced by permanent signs. Fire Code 505.2.
22. Gate Requirements:
 - a. When security gates are provided, maintain a minimum access width of the required Fire Apparatus Access Road. The security gate shall be provided with an approved means of emergency operation and shall be maintained operational at all times and replaced or repaired when defective. Electric gate operators, where provided, shall be listed in accordance with UL 325. Gates intended for automatic operation shall be designed, constructed, and installed to comply with the requirements of ASTM F220. Gates shall be of the swinging or sliding type. Construction

of gates shall be of materials that allow manual operation by one person.
Fire Code 503.6.

- b. The method of gate control shall be subject to review by the Fire Department prior to clearance to proceed to public hearing.
- c. The keypad location shall be located a minimum of 50 feet from the public right-of-way.
- d. The applicant shall provide a minimum 32-foot turning radius beyond the keypad, prior to the gate entrance at a minimum width of 20 feet for turnaround purposes.
- e. Gated entrance design with separate access gates for ingress and egress shall provide minimum width of 20 feet, clear-to-sky, for each side.
- f. All locking devices shall comply with the County of Los Angeles Fire Department Regulation 5, Compliance for Installation of Emergency Access Devices.
- g. Provide gate detail prior to clearance for public hearing. The gated entrance design with a single access point (ingress and egress) shall provide for a minimum width of the Fire Apparatus Access Road, clear-to-sky, with all gate hardware is clear of the access way.

WATER STSTEM REQUIREMENTS

- 1. All fire hydrants shall measure 6"x 4"x 2-1/2" brass or bronze, conforming to current AWWA standard C503 or approved equal and shall be installed in accordance with the County of Los Angeles Fire Department Regulation 8.
- 2. All on-site fire hydrants shall be installed a minimum of 25 feet from a structure or protected by a two (2) hour rated firewall. Fire Code Appendix C106.
- 3. All required PUBLIC fire hydrants shall be installed, tested, and accepted prior to beginning construction. Fire Code 501.4.
- 4. All private on-site fire hydrants shall be installed, tested, and approved prior to building occupancy. Fire Code 901.5.1.

- a. Plans showing underground piping for private on-site fire hydrants shall be submitted to the Sprinkler Plan Check Unit for review and approval prior to installation. Fire Code 901.2 and County of Los Angeles Fire Department Regulation 7.
5. The required fire flow for the public and on-site fire hydrants for this project will be determined with the further review of this project.
 - a. The Fire Department will need the following information to determine the exact fire flow for each proposed building/structure within this development.
 - 1) The square footage;
 - 2) The type of construction; and,
 - 3) Written verification if the building will have an automatic fire sprinkler system installed.
6. An approved automatic fire sprinkler system is required for the proposed buildings within this development. Submit design plans to the Fire Department Sprinkler Plan Check Unit for review and approval prior to installation.

FUEL MODIFICATION

1. This property is located within the area described by the Fire Department as the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. A "Preliminary Fuel Modification Plan" shall be submitted and approved prior to public hearing. For details, please contact the Department's Fuel Modification Unit which is located at Fire Station 32, 605 North Angeleno Avenue in the City of Azusa CA 91702-2904. They may be reached at (626) 969-5205.

For any questions regarding the report, please contact FPEA Wally Collins at (323) 890-4243 or at Wally.Collins@fire.lacounty.gov.

FORESTRY DIVISION – OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS:

1. The statutory responsibilities of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department's Forestry Division include erosion control, watershed management, rare and endangered species, vegetation, fuel modification for Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones or Fire Zone 4, archeological and cultural resources, and the County Oak Tree Ordinance. Potential impacts in these areas should be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Report.

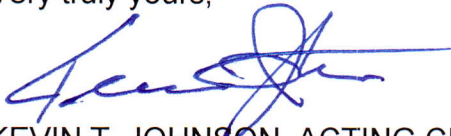
Michelle O'Connor, Planner
January 4, 2016
Page 7

HEALTH HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DIVISION:

1. The Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD) of the Los Angeles County Fire Department has no comment regarding the project at this time.

If you have any additional questions, please contact this office at (323) 890-4330.

Very truly yours,



KEVIN T. JOHNSON, ACTING CHIEF, FORESTRY DIVISION
PREVENTION SERVICES BUREAU

KTJ:ad

February 1, 2016

TO: Ms. Michelle O'Conner
Planning & CEQA Section
Department of Parks and Recreation

FROM: Art Vander Vis
Land Development Division
Department of Public Works

**NOTICE OF PREPARTATION / INITIAL STUDY
PUENTE HILLS LANDFILL PARK MASTER PLAN
ASSESSOR'S MAP BOOK NO. 8125-021-942, 8125-023-901 AND 902, 8125-022-301
UNINCORPORATED COUNTY AREA OF NORTH WHITTIER**

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Notice of Preparation (NOP) and Initial Study (IS) for the Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan. The project is a long range master plan that over time would develop a portion of what was formerly the largest landfill in the western United States into a regional park, providing recreation and open space for the greater Los Angeles area. The closed landfill site is owned and operated by the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County.

7. Geology and Soils

- a. From a Geotechnical Standpoint we concur with the statements in the initial study indicating all geotechnical issues will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR).
- b. Submit a soils report with applicable fees to Public Works' Geotechnical and Materials Engineering Division for review and approval prior to Public Works' clearance of the screen check DEIR.

If you have any questions regarding the Geology and Soils comments, please contact Jeremy Wan of our Geotechnical and Engineering Division at (626) 458-7980 or jwan@dpw.lacounty.gov.

10. Hydrology and Water Quality

- a. Page 33/47, sub-section K: This subsection is lacking an environmental finding. None of the boxes for impacts has been checked off. The Potentially Significant Impact box should be checked off and this subject shall be discussed in the DEIR.
- b. Submit a hydrology report with applicable fees that includes an analysis of both the existing and proposed conditions of the site. A complete hydrology submittal

for each phase of the project shall be submitted to Public Works for review and approval prior to Public Works clearance of the screen check DEIR.

As an alternative, given that the project will be constructed in phases with the sequence of the phases unknown, Public Works recommends wording in the hydrology section in the DEIR to indicate that a separate hydrology report would be completed following County guidelines and be submitted to Public Works with applicable fees for review and approval prior to grading/construction of each phase of the project. Department of Parks and Recreation will have to recognize that if any phased hydrology report results in an impact that requires mitigations, a revised/amended CEQA document may be necessary.

For questions regarding Drainage comments, please contact Toan Duong of Land Development Division at (626) 458-4945 or tduong@dpw.lacounty.gov.

17. Transportation and Traffic

- a. Submit a Traffic Study with applicable fees to Public Works' Traffic and Lighting Division for review and approval prior to Public Works' clearance of the screen check DEIR.

If you have any questions regarding Transportation and Traffic comments, please contact Suen Fei Lau at (626) 300-4820 or sflau@dpw.lacounty.gov.

18. Utilities and Service systems

- a. The potential impacts of all proposed sewer improvements to existing sewer lines and methods of sewer disposal shall be addressed in the Draft EIR and may ultimately require the preparation of a sewer area study.

Should the chosen method be such that discharge will be placed in existing sewer lines, a sewer area study with applicable fees shall be submitted to Public Works' Land Development Division for review and approval prior to Public Works' clearance of the screen check DEIR. .

If you have any questions regarding the sewer comments, please contact Teni Mardirosian at (626) 458-4921 or tmardirosian@dpw.lacounty.gov.

Environmental Programs

- a. Section 18 (g): Any proposed structures must comply with residential and commercial waste and recyclable storage area requirements. This shall be specifically noted in the DEIR. (See attached for additional information pertaining to this requirement)
- b. The project site is within 1,000 feet of a closed landfill. The Los Angeles County Building Code Section 110.3 requires buildings or structures located within 1,000 feet of fills containing rubbish or other decomposable material to have a methane gas mitigation system, designed according to recommendations contained in a report prepared by a licensed Civil Engineer.

If you have any questions regarding Environmental Programs Comments, please contact Jalaine Madrid at (626) 458-3546 or jquintr@dpw.lacounty.gov.

Mitigation Measures

- a. Submit a Mitigation, Monitoring, and Reporting Plan (MMRP) identifying responsible monitoring agencies to Public Works along with the screen check DEIR. Public Works will not provide clearance of the screen check DEIR unless the MMRP has been reviewed and cleared.

If you have any questions regarding the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, Please Contact Ed Gerlits of our Project Entitlements & CEQA Section at (626) 458-4953 or egerlits@dpw.lacounty.gov.

Non CEQA Comments

- a. Acquire approvals from all involved public agencies prior to the issuance of any building permits (LDD, FIRE, PLANNING, EPD, Building and Safety, etc....)
- b. Any structures requiring permits or Building and Safety oversight must comply with all the prevailing codes at the time the application is made to Building and Safety, including any slope setback requirements, if applicable.
- c. Any structures, playground equipment and adjacent playground turf area, site accessibility and anything else on site requiring ADA compliance must fully comply with highest Accessibility standards; as such, the most restrictive between federal and state laws must be implemented.
- d. The development must be in compliance with all other applicable state and/or Federal provisions for such a development.

Ms. Michelle O'Conner
February 1, 2016
Page 4

If you have any questions regarding these non CEQA Comments, please contact Mazen Dudar of our Building and Safety Division at (626) 333-0877 or mdudar@dpw.lacounty.gov.

If you have any other questions or require additional information, please contact Ed Gerlits of Land Development Division at (626) 458-4953 or egerlits@dpw.lacounty.gov.

ECG:P:\ldpub\SUBPCHECK\Plan Checking Files\Projects not associated with a TR-PM-CUP-Single Lot-Permit\PUENTE HILLS LANDFILL PARK MASTERPLAN CEQA\Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan NOP-IS Public Works Comments 02-01-2016 F.docx

Julie Yom

From: Clement Lau
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 9:43 AM
To: Michelle O'Connor; Julie Yom
Subject: FW: Puente Hills Landfill Park Public NOP-IS **DUE FEBRUARY 1, 2016**

FYI...

From: Patricia Hachiya
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 9:36 AM
To: Clement Lau <clau@parks.lacounty.gov>; Carmen Sainz <csainz@planning.lacounty.gov>; Anthony Richardson <arichardson@planning.lacounty.gov>; Maria Masis <mmas@planning.lacounty.gov>
Subject: RE: Puente Hills Landfill Park Public NOP-IS **DUE FEBRUARY 1, 2016**

Hi Clement – I will not be submitting any comments. I don't know if you saw Joe's email that he did not have any comments since you guys have taken a very conservative approach in bio resources.

From: Clement Lau
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 8:42 AM
To: Patricia Hachiya; Carmen Sainz; Anthony Richardson; Maria Masis
Subject: FW: Puente Hills Landfill Park Public NOP-IS **DUE FEBRUARY 1, 2016**
Importance: High

Hi Pat, Carmen, Anthony, Maria,

Hope this e-mail finds you well.

Will you be submitting any comments on the NOP/IS on the Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan? I am just wondering since we have not heard from you.

Thanks,

Clement

Clement Lau, AICP
Departmental Facilities Planner II
County of Los Angeles
Department of Parks and Recreation
Planning and CEQA Section
510 S. Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90020
Tel: (213) 351-5120
Fax: (213) 639-3959
E-mail: clau@parks.lacounty.gov
Please note that our office is closed on Fridays.

From: Julie Yom
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2015 5:16 PM

Julie Yom

From: Clement Lau
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 9:44 AM
To: Michelle O'Connor; Julie Yom
Subject: FW: Puente Hills Landfill Park Public NOP-IS **DUE FEBRUARY 1, 2016**

FYI...

From: Patricia Hachiya
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 9:41 AM
To: Clement Lau <clau@parks.lacounty.gov>
Subject: FW: Puente Hills Landfill Park Public NOP-IS **DUE FEBRUARY 1, 2016**

From: Joseph Decruyenaere
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 8:55 AM
To: Patricia Hachiya
Subject: RE: Puente Hills Landfill Park Public NOP-IS **DUE FEBRUARY 1, 2016**

They take a pretty conservative approach, saying that all impacts are potentially significant and that they will be evaluated in the EIR, which is appropriate. So I don't have any comments.

From: Patricia Hachiya
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2016 10:36 AM
To: Joseph Decruyenaere
Subject: RE: Puente Hills Landfill Park Public NOP-IS **DUE FEBRUARY 1, 2016**

Hi Joe – just a friendly reminder.

From: Joseph Decruyenaere
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2015 10:28 AM
To: Patricia Hachiya
Subject: RE: Puente Hills Landfill Park Public NOP-IS **DUE FEBRUARY 1, 2016**

Yup.

From: Patricia Hachiya
Sent: Monday, December 21, 2015 10:20 AM
To: Joseph Decruyenaere
Subject: FW: Puente Hills Landfill Park Public NOP-IS **DUE FEBRUARY 1, 2016**

Hi Joe – could you please review and give me your comments by January 25, 2016? Thanks. Pat

From: Julie Yom
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2015 5:16 PM
To: Matthew Dubiel; Michelle Tsiebos; Collins, Wally; Padilla, Juan; Ruben Cruz; Ed Gerlits; Johnson, Kevin; Henry Wong; Charlene Contreras; Katherine Butler; Vicente Banada; Jose Reynoso; Maria Masis; Carmen Sainz; Patricia Hachiya; Anthony Richardson

County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
Building and Safety Division



Title 14, California Code of Regulations
Waste and Recyclable Storage Area
Requirements Plan Correction List

Address _____ Dist. No. _____ PC No. _____

Plan Check Engineer _____ Date Checked _____

Type (Res., Com., Ind., Pub.) _____ Floor Area _____ No. of Units _____

Title 14, Division 7, Section 17313 of the California Code of Regulations requires that "The design of any new, substantially remodeled or expanded building or other facility shall provide for proper storage or handling which will accommodate the solid waste loading anticipated and which will allow for efficient and safe removal or collection. The design shall demonstrate to local land use and building permit issuing authorities that it includes the required provisions." In addition, Section 42911 of California Public Resources Code requires that on and after July 1, 2005, a local agency shall not issue a building permit to a development project, unless the development project provides adequate areas for collecting and loading recyclable materials.

The guidelines below implement the above-stated mandates and apply to industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities and to residential facilities of four units or more located in the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. The Permittee shall demonstrate to the building official that at least 50% of the total waste storage area shall be used for the collection and removal of recyclable materials. The building official may approve other alternatives when it is demonstrated that they provide adequate, safe, and efficient storage, collection and removal of the waste and recyclable materials expected to be generated at the facility.

- To the right of the circled corrections, please indicate the sheet number where corrections are made.

SIZE REQUIREMENTS

- The following are required for residential facilities of 4 to 12 units.
 - If waste storage areas are provided for individual units, width shall not be less than 3 feet nor length less than 4 feet per unit, with an additional storage area of not less than 3 feet in width, nor less than 12 square feet overall. _____
 - If a single storage area is provided, it shall be not less than 4-1/2 feet in width nor less than 6 feet in length, with not less than 3 square feet of additional space for each unit over 4. Required waste storage area is _____ square feet. _____
- The following are required for residential facilities over 12 units.
 - If waste storage areas are provided for individual units, width shall not be less than 3 feet nor length less than 4 feet per unit, with an additional storage area of not less than 4-1/2 feet in width nor less than 6 feet in length. _____
 - If a single storage area is provided, it shall be not less than 4-1/2 feet in width nor less than 15 feet in length, with not less than 3 square feet of additional space for each unit over 13. Required waste storage area is _____ square feet. _____
- Industrial, commercial, and institutional facilities shall have 10 square feet of waste storage area for each 1,000 square feet or portion thereof of net floor area of the facility for the first 20,000 square feet and 3 square feet for each additional 1,000 square feet over that, but not less than 4-1/2 feet in width nor less than 6 feet in length. Required waste storage area is _____ square feet. _____

LOCATION

- Waste storage areas shall be situated so that:
 - They do not interfere with the traffic patterns of individuals or vehicles. _____
 - They are readily accessible to collection personnel at all times. _____
- Exterior waste storage areas for residential facilities shall be located so as to be screened from view from public streets or highways. _____
- Indicate on the plans the area designated for recyclable materials (min. 50% of the waste storage area). _____

GRADING

- Note on the plan: The waste storage area shall be graded so that storage containers remain at rest without auxiliary restraining devices. _____

REMARKS

Clement Lau

From: Michelle O'Connor
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 9:21 AM
To: Jan Sandgren; Freddie Olmos; Julie Yom; Tom Gaul
Cc: Kathline J. King; Clement Lau
Subject: FW: NOP - Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan Project

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello Everyone,

Please refer to the NOP comments below from the City of Industry, most of which relate to the traffic study.

Thanks,
Michelle

From: Brian D James [mailto:BJames@cityofindustry.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 9:10 AM
To: Michelle O'Connor <MOconnor@parks.lacounty.gov>
Subject: NOP - Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan Project

Thank you for providing the NOP for the Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan Project. Please accept the following comments from the City of Industry:

- Project Location and Environmental Setting. Please note that the main access to the proposed park, Crossroads Parkway South, and the 60 freeway interchange are all located in the City of Industry. Given that there may likely be some improvements in the right-of-way of Crossroads Parkway South, the City of Industry should be listed as a responsible agency.
- The EIR should address the potential traffic impacts to the roadway network under the jurisdiction of the City of Industry per its standards (see City of Industry General Plan at www.cityofindustry.org).
- The EIR should include an analysis of a potential pedestrian crossing currently being studied on Crossroads Parkway South approximately 600 east of its intersection with Workman Mill Road. There are two options at this point: a four-way stop or a mid-block pedestrian crossing with flashing beacons. In addition, the EIR (and project design) should account for the fact that there are no sidewalks on the south side of Crossroads Parkway South between the County Social Services office building and Crossroads Parkway North. It would make sense to route pedestrians traveling on the south side of Crossroads Parkway South to cross at this crossing to access the proposed park.
- The project and EIR should ensure that any planned pedestrian and bicycle access are consistent with the city's draft bicycle master plan and accepted by the City Engineer. Given that the City's streets are designed to accommodate trucks, there is frequently insufficient existing width to accommodate Class II and Class III bike routes.
- Parking at the commercial center directly north of the main entrance to the proposed park can be strained during certain periods of the day. In addition, the City of Industry does not permit on-street parking. The EIR

(and project design) should address long-term operational measures to prevent/resolve instances when park patrons - maybe to avoid a fee - will park in the commercial center or on Crossroads Parkway South.

- Please contact me to obtain a list of on-going projects for use in the EIR traffic and cumulative impacts analysis.

Brian James
Planning Director

City of Industry
15625 E. Stafford Street
Industry, CA 91744-0366
626-333-2211 | 626-961-6795 (F)
bdjames@cityofindustry.org
www.cityofindustry.org



Date February 2, 2016

Michelle O'Connor
Los Angeles County Parks and Rec
510 S. Vermont Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90020

GOVERNING BOARD

Brian Mejia,
Chair

Designee for Michael D.
Antonovich
Los Angeles County Board of
Supervisors, 5th District

Janet Chin

Designee for Hilda Solis
Los Angeles County Board of
Supervisors, 1st District

Karly Katona

Designee for Mark Ridley-
Thomas
Los Angeles County Board of
Supervisors, 2nd District

Connie Sziebl

Designee for Don Knabe
Los Angeles County Board of
Supervisors, 4th District

Dan Arrighi

Rivers and Mountains
Conservancy

Frank Colonna

Rivers and Mountains
Conservancy

Roberto Uranga

Rivers and Mountains
Conservancy

EX OFFICIO MEMBER

Terri Grant

Designee for Gail Farber,
Director
Los Angeles County
Department of Public Works

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Mark Stanley

RE: PUENTE HILLS LANDFILL PARK MASTER PLAN DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR)

Dear Michele O'Connor,

On behalf of the Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) I am providing comments regarding the Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The WCA is a joint powers agency of the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District, established in 2003 with the purpose of conducting watershed improvement and restoration projects for the San Gabriel and the Lower Los Angeles River watersheds. The WCA facilitates complex planning and design projects for the protection and development of open space, watershed enhancement, green infrastructure, and recreational projects.

The WCA greatly appreciates the efforts to plan and improve the Puente Hills Landfill property, and supports the Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan Project. However, there are concerns that certain elements of the proposed plan may not best realize the potential for the site. Comments are focused on the following three areas (access, wildlife, and landscape design):

Access

Entrance into the site will be a difficult challenge to resolve. The current proposed entry point shares access with local operations, which entails a sharp turn through busy traffic shared with heavy freight trucks. This will be difficult for the public to navigate. Additionally, there is limited access for pedestrians, cyclists, and equestrians from surrounding trails and communities. Exploring other access points is highly advisable, particularly from the Rio Hondo to the west is to better connect with regional river trails. Additionally, the trail lift tower may benefit from better views and better access across the site by going directly over the park area – stopping east of the proposed bike skills area and at Nike Hill for multiple drop-off options. The proposed zip-line would also benefit from at least two lines to draw interest.

Wildlife

The Puente Hills are important and critical habitat, a key part of the Pacific Flyway recognized by the County of Los Angeles as a Significant Ecological Area. Wildlife movement is an important function of the site, and sufficient provisions are not evident for movement and crossing of roads and active use areas. Additionally, as the plan is expected to be implemented in phases, unimproved areas themselves may be expected to serve primarily habitat

benefits. Underpasses, better connected natural buffers between use areas, and additional cover are elements that may be considered for more integrated incorporation into the design for the safety and integrity of native populations of fauna as well as flora.

Landscape Design

Maintenance will be an essential consideration for the site design. Maintenance is always a challenge, compounded by the familiar reality that resources for maintenance are typically very limited, and establishing continuity of staff familiar with best maintenance practices can be difficult.

The project location enjoys impressive views and vistas, and the plan calls for allées that frame these views over long distances across the site. However, uniform formal plantings, particularly monoculture plantings, require steady and dedicated upkeep. Mortality, disease, pruning, etc. are particularly noticeable in these settings, and diseases spread more readily in monocultures. Limiting formal arrangements to key areas and maximizing more informal, staggered plantings and alternating tree species and/or shrubs may serve to be more manageable for park service crews. Limiting high-impact but also high maintenance areas may serve to better preserve the integrity of the design over time.

The plan design also calls for layered grasslands for large portions of the project area. Grasslands and other annual plant cover are high maintenance landscapes. Weeds proliferate in dormant periods, and are likely to be ongoing management problems both in these and surrounding areas. Maximizing coastal sage, chaparral, and woodland cover is advisable for all non-active use planting areas. Low-growing shrubs indigenous to the surrounding sites can maintain similar visibility and aesthetic over large areas. These communities may be expected to provide a higher degree of biotic integrity with less maintenance inputs at the project location over time.

Thank you for your attention and consideration. If you have any questions regarding this comment letter please feel free to contact me or my Deputy Executive Officer, Deborah Enos, at 626.815.1019 x112 or at denos@wca.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Johnathan Perisho
Project Manager



FRIENDS OF THE WHITTIER HILLS

Box 247
Whittier, California 90601

Michelle O'Connor, Departmental Facilities Planner I
County of Los Angeles
Department of Parks and Recreation
510 S. Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90020

January 28, 2016

The Friends of Whittier Hills Association founded 37 years ago after the successful *Save Our Hills* referendum and *Save Our Hills Again* initiative drives, the Friends of the Whittier Hills is an educational organization dedicated to the preservation of the hills and its wildlife. We advocate the responsible recreational use that promotes a sustainable habitat and the continued expansion of the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor.

We see the proposed Puente Hills Landfill Park as challenge to the first part of our mission statement the maintenance of a stable plant and animal habitat. The final proposal contains a large verity of attraction from gondolas to zip lines that is expected to attract 100,000 visitors (your number) each year and have seven parking lots on the site. This park will be connected by trails to the western part of the Habitat Authority Preserve creating a new access point. While in favor of this new trailhead we are concerned about the uncontrolled access to the Western Habitat Preserve by such a large number of people, mountain bicycles, and even horses. This creates the possibility of habitat destruction on a scale much larger then what is currently accruing around Hellman Park.

We object to the commercial aspects of the Final Park Concept such as gondolas, zip lines, bicycle rentals, and food services. This should be a free resource to the people of the region. The shuttle buses would be enough to move even people with disabilities to the top of the hill. If it can work in Yosemite Park it can work here. The hedgerows shown in the displays at the January 27 meeting show trees in straight lines. They should be curved and very in width to give the divisions of the park a more natural look. Softer lines in the architecture of the structures to provide shade, overlooks and other building should be used to blend in with the natural landscape as much as possible. The Puente Hills Landfill Park should reflect the two natural areas that it connects, the Whittier Narrows Nature Preserve and the Puente Hills Habitat Preserve while still providing recreation with in a natural landscape. Contribute to the habitat corridor do not become an obstacle to a stable plant and animal environment.

The single entrance addresses our concerns over security, possible vandalism and dangers of methane gas in a recreation area.

Sincerely,

James B. Kelly Jr.
President of the Friends of the Whittier Hills
Jb123kelly@earthlink.net



HACIENDA HEIGHTS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.
POST OFFICE BOX 5235 • HACIENDA HEIGHTS, CA 91745

HHIA Puente Hills Landfill Park Task Force

Michelle O'Connor, Department Facilities Planner
County of Los Angeles
Department of Parks and Recreation
510 S. Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90020

January 25th, 2016

**Comments on the Notification of Preparation
The Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan Project**

Dear Ms. O'Connor,

Our community organization considers the addition of the Puente Hills Landfill Park to the Los Angeles County Park system a fulfillment of promises made in the past to our community. Hacienda Heights has borne the many negative aspects and consequences of the largest landfill in the state of California for over 30 years. We look forward to a time when our residents can finally view this site as an asset to the community.

We have reviewed the Notification of Preparation dated 18 December 2015 which is referenced above. The following comments are provided on the scope and content of the Notice.

SPECIFIC:

1. Page 3 PROJECT SUMMARY: In the second paragraph references are made to several Conditional Use Permits and a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) dated April 18th, 1987. In Article I, Section B, paragraph 4): We are unaware of a "Citizen's Advisory Committee" being established to assist in the planning and development of alternative uses for the open space park.
2. Page 4 PROJECT SUMMARY: In the sixth paragraph which describes the Final Park Concept, no mention is made of the potential use of Canyons 2, 4 and 5 on the eastern side of the Landfill.

3. Page 7 Circulation, Internal Park Transportation and Parking: Access continues to be the prime concern of our organization and many residents of Hacienda Heights. In these three paragraphs only the singular access from Crossroads Parkway is identified and described. Reference is made to potential future access through Rose Hills Memorial Park, which would even be further away than the access at Crossroads Parkway Entrance for residents of Hacienda Heights. No mention of potential access from Turnbull Canyon Road, Hacienda Heights Trailhead, Orange Grove Park or Los Robles Avenue for hikers and bikers who would prefer enter the park through the hills is provided or discussed.

GENERAL:

1. We strongly support development of a regional trailhead for users of the Schabarum-Skyline Trail in this regional park. Its location is ideally suited since it marks the western end of the trail portion which traverses the Puente Hills and can provide direct access to the nearby Canyon Loop trail which traverses Puma and Toyon Canyons. We would recommend that information be provided at this trailhead advising users of the still vibrant natural history of the Puente Hills along with information regarding stewardship of these natural areas.

2. Trails within the park should remain separate from the roads to the extent possible.

If you have any comments or questions on these comments, I can be reached at (626) 536-3407 or email: mikewilliamsinhh@roadrunner.com.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mike Williams, Chair Task Force
Vice-President & Chair Public Relations

cc: Supervisor, 4th District LA County
Supervisor, 1st District LA County
Angie Valenzuela, 4th District Field Office
Laura Munda-Landa



Hacienda Heights Improvement Association
Post Office Box 5235 Hacienda Heights CA
91745

Michelle O'Conner, Department Facilities Planner I
County of Los Angeles
Department of Parks and Recreation
510 S. Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90020

January 31, 2016

Comments on Scoping meeting and Preferred Plan

Dear Ms. O'Conner:

The Hacienda Heights Improvement Association is a California chartered, mutual benefit corporation evaluating matters concerning the unincorporated area of Hacienda Heights. We serve as an advisory board to Los Angeles County Supervisor Knabe on issues related to Hacienda Heights. We have been serving the community for over 60 years.

We thank you for coming to the January meeting of HHIA to present information on the newest park plan. Recent information from Los Angeles County provided as part of the ongoing countywide park assessment program indicates our community is park poor. We understand the development of this park is a long term process but hope that as much of the area on the top decks can become available for use even as settling occurs. We appreciate the opportunity to respectfully submit the following comments on issues that must be addressed in the DEIR.

HHIA believes that the development of the Puente Hills Landfill Park presents an opportunity for local residents not only of Hacienda Heights but neighboring communities to come closer to nature and support the passive development of the parks as included in the "Ecology" theme. However, we also support some recreational features included in the "Recreate" theme because of resident's need for opportunities for physical activity. Primary emphasis in the park should be on activities encouraging exploration of nature, family gatherings for picnics and play, walking, bicycling, and horse riding.

We continue to be concerned with certain aspects of the planning process. The CEQA process requires the opportunity for public participation. The timeline for planning is too rushed to allow maximum public input and should be extended. The publication of the NOP on Dec. 18th went unnoticed by the public during the holidays and the meeting on Jan. 27, 2016 allows for only 4

days for the public to submit comments. Completion of the DEIR, comment period, and preparation of the FEIR and submission of the project to the County Supervisors by Fall of this year is a compressed time schedule for a project that will take several decades to complete and will be our future for recreation for many years. We believe the comment period for residents to evaluate and comment on the DEIR should be at least 60 days, possibly 90 days, with adequate opportunity at community forums to submit oral and written comments.

We support signage, displays, etc. that inform visitors of the rich biological and human history of the surrounding areas along trails, perhaps a nature trail, as well as an information center at the entrance to the park. Location and information about nearby historical locations, i.e. the Workman-Temple Homestead, the original site of the San Gabriel Mission located nearby would encourage visitors to seek out these important local sites.

Comments on the Preferred Park:

- The DEIR must include an “Ecology” theme alone as one of the required alternatives with an investigation/discussion/comparison of impacts of the other alternatives that must be considered.
- The entire area of the Puente Hills Landfill should be considered during the planning process for the limited acreage of the Puente Hills Park. Areas on the slopes are not isolated from the fill areas on top. Plantings between the two areas should be integrated with respect to development of natural habitat and esthetics as viewed from surrounding areas.\
- The park must be considered as part of the wildlife corridor extending from Whittier Narrows, through the Puente-Chino Hills to the Santa Ana Mountains. The park should be developed to meet the needs as habitat and movement of animals within the corridor and lands of the Native Habitat Authority area on its boundary. Native plants should be used wherever possible. Plantings should blend in with natural vegetation that already exists or in areas where restoration efforts have taken place.
- We believe the Western area, since it is the first to be developed, should meet the most immediate needs of the local populations. This would include picnic grounds with shaded tables, barbeque areas, group picnic areas, as well as play areas for families.
- Access continues to be the prime concern of our organization and residents of Hacienda Heights. Only the singular access from Crossroads Parkway is identified and described. Reference is made to potential future access through Rose Hills Memorial Park, which would even be further away than the access at Crossroads Parkway Entrance for residents of Hacienda Heights.

No mention of potential access from Turnbull Canyon Road, Hacienda Heights Trailhead, Orange Grove Park or Los Robles Avenue for hikers and bikers who would prefer enter the park through the hills is provided or discussed. Lack of access from surrounding areas, particularly Hacienda Heights, will preclude easy use by many residents who have borne the major impacts of the operating landfill. Recent gate closures and limited parking areas at local trailheads have caused severe parking problems at remaining available sites. Thus multiple park access points should be investigated with provision for parking.

Investigate the possibility of gondola access from Hacienda Heights, possibly with the lower station on the Sanitation District lands at the end of Orange Grove beyond the park or purchase of the open space private property located at the south side of the 60 freeway.

Tram service within and to the park from offsite parking areas should be studied in the DEIR to determine feasibility. Recharging stations at parking site should be included for those with plug-in cars.

- Possible access exists at Turnbull Canyon and Skyline Drive. The Skyline trail runs directly along the top of the Landfill; a trailhead could be established nearby with equestrian amenities that include parking for trailers and hitching rails for horses.

We believe there should be a parking area and equestrian facility in the region currently designated as the upper terminal for the gondola that would serve as trailhead access to the Skyline Trail. This site should include the equestrian amenities above with space for horse trailers, water for horses, hitching rails etc.

In addition, the Rio Hondo road to the former Nike site could be improved. Some connection from the new park to the Sycamore Canyon Trail should be investigated.

- We strongly support development of a regional trailhead for users of the Schabarum-Skyline Trail in this regional park. Its location is ideally suited since it marks the western end of the trail portion which traverses the Puente Hills and can provide direct access to the nearby Canyon Loop trail which traverses Puma and Toyon Canyons. We would recommend that information be provided at this trailhead advising users of the still vibrant natural history of the Puente Hills along with information regarding stewardship of these natural areas.
- No mention is made of the potential use of Canyons 2, 4 and 5 on the eastern side of the Landfill—the side toward Hacienda Heights. These connections should be addressed.
- Removal of exotics should be a priority. This is particularly true of areas of eucalyptus and pampas grass. Pampas grass causes allergic reaction in some. Eucalyptus trees present a fire hazard (the disastrous Oakland CA fire). They were removed from nearby Arroyo Pescadero Park for this reason and because they are not suitable habitat for

California native plants and animals. A fire in the eucalyptus forest could close the only road in or out of the park, possibly trapping visitors on the top decks.

- We are concerned about the phased planning for the three areas. Planning and development for use of all three areas should be incorporated with development in the beginning phase. Although the eastern and southern areas will be settling over a long period, planting of those regions with development of trails and picnic spots in those areas could occur along with more permanent development of the western section. These could be modified over the years as required due to compaction. Portable toilets could be provided where appropriate that could be relocated as necessary; trails can be adjusted as required with subsidence. Parking areas could be designated that are not permanent but with temporary surfaces such as gravel. These subsiding areas might be another location for a bike skills/BMX type facility. Local residents should not have to wait decades to use their entire park.
- Education of the public about the natural history, the rich human past that includes nearby trails of explorers, ranchos, adobes etc., and, yes, the energy facility and landfill should be incorporated with signage, kiosks at appropriate areas throughout the park and at the information/nature center at the entrance point as indicated in the Preferred Concept. We also suggest that the Nike site have information on the history of that site, what it was used for, and the geopolitical setting of the time it was in operation.
- There is real potential for use of the park by local school groups for nature study. Plans should include facilities for meeting with these students, perhaps located near to a nature trail on which docents could lead study walks. Tours of the energy facility, the MRF and nearby San Jose Creek could be scheduled for both the public and schools to educate people about these important technologies.
- Long-term planning should consider expected impacts of climate change on natural areas i.e. drought and species diversity since development is expected to occur over decades and use by residents of Southern California for many years thereafter.
- We support the Loop Road with the associated loop trail. We agree the trail should be separated from the road as much as possible. All areas within the park should be accessible for disabled visitors, families with young children and accompanying dogs.
- The dog park with separate facilities for large and smaller dogs with water and shade available for dogs and owners could be substituted for what was described in earlier documents as a dog training or dog skills area. This is a high priority for Hacienda Heights residents since no similar facility is nearby. This should be in the western area since residents should not have to wait years for this high priority facility. Parking should be available so owners and those disabled could bring their pets to roam free for exercise without the need to use a tram or walk a long distance. Many pets would not be

able to utilize a people mover or tram. Temporary facilities with limited permanent structures might be possible in the southern and eastern areas during initial park development. This should be analyzed.

- Restrooms should be accessible in all areas of the park. There is only one designated on the map of the preferred concept in an isolated area of the park. This limited accessibility could lead to health issues. In areas of settlement, portable toilets would be acceptable that could be relocated as needed due to settling.
- We understand the need for an open soil stockpile area to be used as a bicycle skills area and do not object. Can this soil be used as top soil above the clay cap for plantings of natives?
- If a bike rental area is included, we believe the bicycles should be limited to touring type bikes rather than mountain style bikes that will cause increased conflict on trails with walkers/joggers and damage the pathways as well.
- We are concerned that the individual areas of the park are not all accessible by vehicle with parking near each area. This makes it difficult for the disabled and families with young children to reach some regions. Perhaps the Inside Loop trail can be changed and modified to be a one-way road giving access to areas that in the Preferred Concept are isolated from the Loop Road.
- Vegetation should appear as natural as possible. The “straight-line” plantings depicted on the Preferred Concept” map should be more irregular and natural in later plans and should consist of natives. Drainage channels should be designed to look as similar to streams as possible.
- The view towards Hacienda Heights should be as naturally planted to visually and biologically connect with the open space of the adjacent Habitat Authority managed lands.
- We support bird watching sites and interpretive locations but these should fit in with the natural setting, not as large obtrusive structures as depicted in some PowerPoint presentations at the community meetings.
- If a performance area is included, preferably in the eastern or southern sections, accommodation must be made available such as a tram to transport those attending events to the site. Use of the grassy area labeled “Performance Area” for concerts, art shows etc would also require transportation from the bottom to the top and return

- Walking, cycling and equestrian trails should be separated as much as possible so as not to cause conflict.
- We do not support a three story café but feel food trucks may be more appropriate. They also could respond by changing to areas with most demand.
- Does the bike rental facility need to be permanent? Could it be out of a trailer that could be located in an area of subsidence to be moved as necessary?
- Skyline views from the surrounding areas should not be impacted. This particularly applies to the trace of the gondola, zip-lines, and viewpoints should these features be included in the final design.
- Impacts to any listed species present in the surrounding areas must be considered. These organisms can possibly extend their range into the new park regions provided suitable habitat is provided. Gnatcatchers have been observed to the west and south of the proposed park. A biological study of the surrounding areas must be conducted as part of the EIR process to evaluate such expansions of range.
- A discussion of what fees visitors would pay to use the various facilities proposed for the park must be analyzed. Will there be costs for using the gondola, ziplines, entrance, and proposed off-site parking? Who would run these facilities? What are the costs of liability for the county?
- All buildings should be LEED rated and lighting should be dark-sky compliant to limit impact to nocturnal species. Night-time events should be limited or prohibited.
- Impacts to surrounding communities must be studied, particularly of parking, noise, and particularly traffic.
- Representative Judy Chu has recently proposed that the Puente-Chino Hills become part of a National Recreation area that would provide connectivity of a wildlife corridor from the recently established San Gabriel Mountains National Monument down the San Gabriel River to Whittier Narrows, on through the Puente-Chino Hills, to Chino Hills State Park and the Santa Ana Mountains and Cleveland National Forest. This possibility should be evaluated in the DEIR.

We thank you for this opportunity to comment on this needed and welcome regional park in the Hacienda Heights area.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Williams, Chair Task Force
Vice-President and Chair Public Relations

HILLS FOR EVERYONE

*Southern California comes
together at the Puente - Chino Hills*



Los Angeles County
Orange County
Riverside County
San Bernardino County

February 1, 2016

Michelle O'Connor,
Department Facilities Planner
Department of Parks and Recreation
County of Los Angeles
510 S. Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Dear Ms. O'Connor,

I am writing on behalf of Hills For Everyone (HFE). We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation NOP. HFE is a regional non-profit that serves to protect, preserve and restore the environmental resources and natural environs of the Puente-Chino Hills and surrounding areas for the enjoyment of current and succeeding generations.

After reviewing the Notice of Preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR), we remain concerned about the impacts such extensive development will have on the neighboring habitat lands. The DEIR should study the potential impacts of the proposed uses on adjacent lands as expressed in the Habitat Authority letter dated January 28, 2016.

In addition, we concur with the comments of the Sierra Club that the new park should offer the surrounding urbanized communities an opportunity to learn about the wildlife corridor that extends from the Whittier Narrows to Chino Hills State Park and into the Cleveland National Forest while also protecting it and adding to it.

Please keep us on the mailing list for the release of the DEIR.

Sincerely,

Claire W. Schlotterbeck

Claire W. Schlotterbeck
Executive Director

3435 Wilshire Boulevard
Suite 660
Los Angeles, CA 90010-1904



(213) 387-4287 phone
(213) 387-5383 fax
www.sierraclub.org

San Gabriel Valley Task Force, Angeles Chapter of Sierra Club

Michelle O'Conner, Department Facilities Planner I
County of Los Angeles
Department of Parks and Recreation
510 S. Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90020

January 29, 2016

Comments on the Notice of Preparation for the Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan

Dear Ms. O'Conner:

The San Gabriel Valley Task Force, Angeles Chapter of Sierra Club respectfully submits the following comments concerning the newest plan for the Puente Hills Landfill presented at the Jan. 27, 2016 meeting. The San Gabriel Valley Task Force was organized by the Angeles Chapter of the Sierra Club in 1999 to work with San Gabriel Valley cities, Los Angeles County and political leaders to seek ways to create a more livable environment for valley residents while preserving or improving natural resources. As part of our mission, we have promoted low impact outdoor recreation from the San Gabriel Mountains and foothills, along the urban rivers, and in the Puente-Chino Hills.

I first want to thank you and Ms. Garcia for meeting with Jeff Yann and I concerning the rationale for some of the activities that are included in the current "Preferred Plan". Our discussion with you was most helpful in understanding why certain choices for activities in the park were chosen particularly the use of the gondola as a people mover and the zip lines. We were also unaware of the traffic issues associated with the agreement between Rose Hills and the Sanitation District for potential use of the main roadway in the park for funeral processions. We also have a better understanding of where the bike skills area is located. We now appreciate the opportunity to comment on issues that must be addressed in the DEIR.

The closure of the Puente Hills Landfill presents a unique opportunity to provide the residents of the eastern San Gabriel Valley, particularly those of the surrounding communities, with a new park that brings nature and recreation closer to urban dwellers. For disadvantaged populations, this may be the only contact with nature they may easily experience. For this reason, the Sierra Club believes this area should best be developed primarily as a place for passive recreation with trails for walking, hiking, cycling and riding horses, a place for families to picnic and play, and a place of escape from the hustle and bustle of the cities. On the map of the planned park, we note

that the size of the circles in the upper right-hand area represent relative theme preferences of community members. These show the “Ecology” theme as most favored by the public attending the various workshops with “Recreate” as second. We support opportunities for active recreation as important due to obesity in our general populations and the lack of opportunity for children to freely play in many neighborhoods.

The park should be a place for escaping as much as possible from the noise, pollution and stress of the urban environment while enjoying and learning of the plants, birds, and other animals that inhabit the area. However, development of this new park should create an extension of habitat for wildlife within the Puente-Chino Hills and expand the corridor for animal movement being developed from the mountains, down the San Gabriel River channel, through the Puente-Chino Hills ultimately on to the Santa Ana Mountains. Any obstructions to travel must be mitigated. Such movement leads to more dynamic ecosystems and an expanded gene pool for species. The relationship of this park to Los Angeles County Significant Ecological Area must be included and any impacts mitigated.

The timeline for planning is too rushed to allow maximum public input and should be extended. It is difficult to imagine that scoping, completion of a draft environmental impact statement with its required comment period and the preparation of the final environmental impact statement can take place in the proposed time frame and meet CEQA requirements of evaluation. It is challenging to inform local residents about the project and meetings due to lack of local city governments in areas surrounding the new park. We support a comment period on the DEIR when it does become available of at least 60 days; 90 days is preferable. This park will be a part of the L.A. County regional park system for many years and careful planning now will result in an important addition to these important recreational areas.

We were dismayed to see that the NOP for the project issued on Dec. 18, 2015 just before the holidays started the 45-day comment period. The general public would not be aware of the NOP nor the significance of the date as start of an important comment period. Essentially the presentation of the Preferred Plan to the public on Jan. 27th leaves the public with a short time after the meeting to provide input during the prescribed comment period. Although this schedule does not violate CEQA regulations, it allows the public only four days after the meeting to communicate their written comments. This is not in the spirit of CEQA and public participation.

Comments on the Preferred Park:

- The integration of the entire area of the Puente Hills Landfill should be considered during the planning process for the limited acreage of the Puente Hills Park.
- The DEIR must include an “Ecology” theme as one of the required alternatives with a investigation/discussion/comparison of impacts of the various alternatives considered.

- The entire property of the landfill should be considered in planning for the new regional park. What is present on the slopes below the fill area is not separate from what will be done in the top decks. The two areas should be integrated in plantings, habitat development, and access.
- We believe the one entrance to the park is inadequate. Connections to trails must somehow be made with trails from Hacienda Heights, Whittier and to the west. Limited access will inhibit use by many. Lack of access from surrounding areas, particularly Hacienda Heights, will preclude easy use by many residents who have borne the major impacts of the operating landfill. Recent gate closures and limited parking areas at local trailheads have caused severe parking problems at remaining available sites. Thus multiple park access points should be investigated with provision for parking.

Investigate the possibility of developing a parking area on the area west of the closed Orange Grove gate on Sanitation District land or purchase of the open space area near the 60 freeway. Perhaps a gondola to the top decks from that location would help with access from Hacienda Heights.

Possible access exists at Turnbull Canyon and Skyline Drive. The Skyline trail runs along the top of the Landfill; a trailhead could be established nearby. In addition, the Rio Hondo road to the former Nike site could be improved. Some connection from the new park to the Sycamore Canyon Trail should be investigated.

- In keeping with the vision of a passive park, we support the development of new trails. Emphasis should also be placed on connecting with the network of trails that already exists in the area.
- We believe equestrian facilities must be included in the plan where the Skyline trail closely approaches the southern park boundary. Hitching posts, corrals, watering troughs and a parking area for horse trailers would facilitate access of riders to the Skyline trail.
- The park should be considered as part of the wildlife corridor and developed to meet the needs as habitat and movement within the corridor and lands of the Native Habitat Authority area on its boundary.
- Removal of exotics should be a priority. This is particularly true of areas of eucalyptus and pampas grass. Pampas grass causes allergic reaction in some. Eucalyptus trees present a fire hazard and is not suitable habitat for California native plants and animals. A fire in the eucalyptus forest would close the only road in or out of the park, possibly trapping visitors on the top decks. Planting of oak trees and native grasses would provide better habitat for local populations of animals and their movement. At the Jan. 27th meeting it was said that planting of oak trees was not possible due to conflicts between county regulations that preclude removal of oak trees and necessary maintenance of the landfill due to subsidence and energy production. Trees planted could

not therefore be removed if necessary for maintenance. Investigate this regulatory conflict for a possible resolution. The oak trees would not be mature oaks for many years, and waivers by the County are given or allowed for local developments.

- Planning should include a consideration of the possibility that this area may be part of a National Recreation Area proposed recently by Representative Judy Chu. This plan would provide connectivity of a wildlife corridor from the mountains down the San Gabriel River to Whittier Narrows, on through the Puente-Chino Hills, to Chino Hills State Park and the Santa Ana Mountains and Cleveland National Forest. Emphasis should be on planting of native vegetation and elimination of invasive plants whenever possible to enhance habitat for local animals.
- We are concerned about the phased planning for the three areas. Planning and development for use of all three areas should be incorporated with development in the initial phase. Although the eastern and southern areas will be settling over a long period, planting of those regions with development of trails and picnic spots in those areas could occur along with more permanent development of the western section. These could be modified over the years as required due to compaction. Portable toilets could be provided where appropriate that could be relocated as necessary; trails can be adjusted as required with subsidence. Parking areas could be designated that are not permanent but with temporary surfaces such as gravel. These settling areas might be another location for a bike skills/BMX type facility. Local residents should not have to wait decades to use their entire park.
- Plantings should be native to the Puente Hills area, preferably from seeds of plants from the region. Those plantings will provide the most desirable habitat for native plants and animals. Use of drought tolerant plants that are not native are not as suitable for expansion of native or migrating species populations of birds, insects, mammals and other organisms.
- Education of the public about the natural history, the rich human past that includes nearby trails of explorers, ranchos, adobes etc., and, yes, the energy facility and landfill, should be incorporated with signage, kiosks, and the information/nature center at the entrance point as indicated in the Preferred Concept. We also suggest that the Nike site have information on the history of that site, what it was used for, and the geopolitical setting of the time it was in operation.
- Plans should include facilities that reduce emissions generated by visitors coming to the park. These should include recharge stations for electric vehicles, availability of public transportation to the park, a shuttle perhaps from off-site. and possibly a tram service within the park to take visitors to the different activity areas.

- There is real potential for use of the park by local school groups for nature study. Plans should include facilities for meeting with these students, perhaps located near to a nature trail on which docents could lead study walks.
- Long-term planning should consider expected impacts of climate change on natural areas i.e. drought and species diversity since development is expected to occur over decades and use by residents of Southern California for many years thereafter.
- We believe the Western area, since it is the first to be developed, should meet the most immediate needs of the local populations. This would include picnic grounds with tables and shade, barbeque areas, group picnic areas, as well as play areas for families.
- We support the Loop Road with the associated loop trail. We agree the trail should be separated from the road as much as possible.
- Shaded picnic tables should be provided in all areas.
- We oppose the inclusion of the slides as incompatible with a passive vision of the park.
- The dog park with separate facilities for large and smaller dogs with water and shade available for dogs and owners could be substituted for what was described in earlier documents as a dog training or dog skills area. This should be in the western area since it is a high priority need in the surrounding communities. Residents should not have to wait many years for this facility in other sections of the park. Temporary facilities with limited permanent structures might be possible in the southern and eastern areas.
- Restrooms should be accessible in all areas of the park. There is only one designated on the map of the preferred concept in an isolated area of the park. In areas of settlement, portable toilets would be acceptable that could be relocated as needed due to settling.
- We understand the need for an open soil stockpile area to be used as a bicycle skills area and do not object. Can this soil be used above the clay cap for plantings of natives?
- If a bike rental area is included, we believe the bicycles should be limited to touring type bikes rather than mountain style bikes that will cause increased conflict on trails with walkers/joggers and damage the pathways as well.
- We are concerned that the individual areas of the park are not all accessible by vehicle with parking near each area. This makes it difficult for the disabled and families with young children to reach some regions. Perhaps the Inside Loop trail can be changed and modified to be a one-way road giving access to areas that in the Preferred Concept are isolated from the Loop Road.

- We support the trail to the Flare Tower as well as the Stair Climb. We support options for physical activity and training.
- Vegetation should appear as natural as possible. The “straight-line” plantings depicted on the Preferred Concept” map should be more irregular and natural in later plans and should consist of natives. Drainage channels should be designed to look as similar to streams as possible.
- The view towards Hacienda Heights should be as naturally planted to visually and biologically connect with the open space of the adjacent Habitat Authority managed lands.
- We support bird watching sites and interpretive locations but these should fit in with the natural setting, not as large obtrusive structures as depicted in some PowerPoint presentations at the community meetings.
- If a performance area is included, preferably in the eastern or southern sections, accommodation must be made available such as a tram to transport those attending events to the site. Use of the grassy area labeled “Performance Area” for concerts, art shows etc. would also require transportation from the bottom to the top and return.
- Walking, cycling and equestrian trails should be separated as much as possible so as not to cause conflict.
- We do not support a three story café and prefer mobile food trucks (possibly more than one at a time) that could move to different areas of the park in response to visitor demand.
- Skyline views from the surrounding areas should not be impacted. This particularly applies to the trace of the gondola, zip-lines, and viewpoints should these features be included in the final design.
- Impacts to any listed species present in the surrounding areas must be considered. These organisms can possibly extend their range into the new park regions provided suitable habitat is provided. Gnatcatchers have been observed to the west and south of the proposed park. A biological study of the surrounding areas must be conducted as part of the EIR process.
- A discussion of what fees visitors would pay to use the various facilities proposed for the park must be analyzed. Will there be costs for using the gondola, zip-lines, entrance, and proposed off-site parking?

- All buildings should be LEED rated and lighting should be dark-sky compliant to limit impact to nocturnal species. Night-time events should be limited or prohibited.
- Impacts to surrounding communities must be included, particularly of parking, noise, and traffic.

We thank you for this opportunity to comment on this needed and welcome regional park addition to the eastern San Gabriel Valley.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan Licari". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Joan Licari, Chair
San Gabriel Valley Task Force
Angeles Chapter of Sierra Club



WORKMAN MILL ASSOCIATION, INC.

POST OFFICE BOX 2146
LA PUENTE, CALIFORNIA 91746

January 25, 2015

Ms. Michelle O'Connor
Departmental Facilities Planner 1
Los Angeles Co. Depart. of Parks & Recreation
Planning & CEQA Section
510 S. Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90029

Dear Ms. O'Connor:

Subject: Puente Hills Landfill Park

This letter is in response to the proposed plans for the Puente Hills Landfill future park development. We, the Workman Mill Association, representing the communities of North Whittier, Avocado Heights, and Bassett want the park design to be a passive park development with easy access for everyone and parking lots at different levels of the landfill with restrooms, drinking fountains and sufficient lighting included at these locations. Adjacent picnic areas and animal proof trash containers would be an asset for future park users. At some future date we would like to see hiking and biking trails and minimal habitat restoration with educational signage. We want the existing road to be maintained to the top of the landfill. Twenty-four (24) hour security measures would be prudent.

We do not want a giant slide, gondolas, zip lines, cantilevered sky bridges with concrete overlooks, a NIKE overlook, a café or any other private business. Recent articles in our local papers imply that the community may be in favor of some of the above design features, however, this was not at all evident at any of the four (4) meetings we attended. The overwhelming consensus of those in attendance was for a simple development au naturel and not an expensive entertainment type project which will commercialize Puente Hills and impact the neighboring residents and eventually be a burden on the tax payers.

In summary we are against private businesses operating on public lands.

Sincerely,

Ruth Wash, President
Workman Mill Association

RW:lac

cc: Hilda Solis, Supervisor 1st District



Puente Hills Landfill PARK MASTER PLAN



COMMENTS: Draft Program Environmental Impact Report

Please use this page to submit your input on the scope of the environmental impacts to be analyzed in the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) being prepared for the Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan Project. Your comments are an important part of creating a comprehensive PEIR. When making your comments, please be as specific as possible.

Name Diana Malváez
Address 13580 Creedmore Drive Whittier, CA 90601
Street City Zip Code
E-mail d.malvaez99@gmail.com

Comments:

For more space, please use the reverse side of this sheet. *Please write legibly.* All comments must be received by **February 1, 2016** to be reviewed within the project's environmental scoping timeline.

Concerning the Transportation/Traffic!
it's about population/evacuation for future
events, if perhaps the performance space
becomes a major theatrical center. Maybe
a consideration of a light rail system off
60 Fwy side of hill. Monorail?

DM

Comments can also be submitted to:

Michelle O'Connor, Department Facilities Planner
County of Los Angeles
Department of Parks and Recreation
510 South Vermont Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Email: moconnor@parks.lacounty.gov
Phone: (213) 351-5121
Fax: (213) 639-3959

Julie Yom

From: Michelle O'Connor
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 8:29 AM
To: Jan Sandgren; Freddie Olmos; Julie Yom; Clement Lau
Subject: FW: PHLF Park Feedback Analysis Of Value

See NOP comments in e-mail below.

From: Don Moss [mailto:d.moss@roadrunner.com]
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 11:09 AM
To: Michelle O'Connor <MOconnor@parks.lacounty.gov>
Cc: Norma E. Garcia <negarcia@parks.lacounty.gov>; 'Villegas, Teresa' <TVillegas@bos.lacounty.gov>; 'Hernandez, Javier' <JHernandez@bos.lacounty.gov>
Subject: PHLF Park Feedback Analysis Of Value

Hello Michelle,

Please forward this observation of the EIR Scoping Process to the Working Group for inclusion in their planning discussions for this very important Regional Park. Thank you.

PHLF Park Planning Working Group,

The planning process for this regional park has brought forth commentary from various interest groups which range from no park, no public access, to extremely ambitious and expensive developments for the site. The posturing by the various special interest groups include often grandiose claims regarding the volume of the county citizenry they represent. Sadly, the county system has historically accepted the "name with a claim" approach and has artificially anointed each of those groups as "The Voice of their Claimed Constituency" without any attempt at independent verification of their claims. This approach has historically eliminated the vast majority of the actual users of county facilities from the planning processes. Now is clearly the time to change this approach. With the advent of internet available information services and email communications, the expediency of checking off the "community notified" box by visiting one of these clubs is no longer an acceptable practice. An excellent exemplar of analysis of value can be observed in the commercial advertising sector wherein a corporation will pay a premium for advertising space where an independent certification of subscriptions is provided versus the amount they are willing to pay for advertising in throw away publications which most often end up in the rubbish bin. Because there is little or no independent verification of actual membership supplied by each of the special interest groups, each of their letters must be treated the same as the comments of the many individuals who have taken the time to engage in this planning process. That is, a true one person one vote approach to commentary analysis by the working group must be applied.

An excellent example of this issue, which I can speak to with certainty, is the last minute commentary supplied by the Workman Mill Association. I am one of only three elected Directors of this small club while the other six have been unilaterally appointed by the controlling power. This club claims to represent a broad area of the community with more than 5000 residential addresses. However, the average attendance at its meetings is little more than a dozen persons including county representatives. Of course, the power clique declines to make their actual dues paying membership public with the claim "our members want to remain anonymous". Also of critical importance to this

analysis is the fact that the community in question includes a very broad spectrum of economic and cultural interests. However, this club's last minute letter speaks only to the position of one of the totally separate interest groups regarding this park planning process. Of equal importance to this observation is that there was never a motion made requesting a letter be written about the park plan at any of the public meetings. In fact, very little public discussion about the park planning process occurred during this club's meetings throughout the entire public comment period. Yet, someone contacted the power clique of this club sometime after its regular January meeting and convinced them a commentary must be submitted before the February 1 deadline for the EIR scoping period. That comment appears to have been dictated to the letter writer by one of the separate interests groups involved.

I urge the working group to put aside the political pressures created by the separate interest groups and finalize a plan which will create the best and most affordable regional park for the broad spectrum of average county park users. This is clearly possible notwithstanding the unique constraints created by the previous use of this site. Thank you for your valuable work on behalf of the citizens of Los Angeles County.

Don C. Moss
Avocado Heights Community Advocate
626.715.1147



Puente Hills Landfill PARK MASTER PLAN



COMMENTS: Draft Program Environmental Impact Report

Please use this page to submit your input on the scope of the environmental impacts to be analyzed in the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) being prepared for the Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan Project. Your comments are an important part of creating a comprehensive PEIR. When making your comments, please be as specific as possible.

Name

Tina Thies

Address

2325 Avocado Town H Hgt

91745

Street

City

Zip Code

E-mail

tinthies@netcape.net

Comments:

For more space, please use the reverse side of this sheet. *Please write legibly.* All comments must be received by **February 1, 2016** to be reviewed within the project's environmental scoping timeline.

Restrooms? temporary portables —?

cost assessment of various sections
gondola (very expensive) v.s.
stairs — dog park etc.
money will dictate choices.

Comments can also be submitted to:

Michelle O'Connor, Department Facilities Planner
County of Los Angeles
Department of Parks and Recreation
510 South Vermont Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Email: moconnor@parks.lacounty.gov
Phone: (213) 351-5121
Fax: (213) 639-3959



Puente Hills Landfill PARK MASTER PLAN



COMMENTS: Draft Program Environmental Impact Report

Please use this page to submit your input on the scope of the environmental impacts to be analyzed in the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) being prepared for the Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan Project. Your comments are an important part of creating a comprehensive PEIR. When making your comments, please be as specific as possible.

Name

Ruth Wash

Address

618 Arciero Dr. Whittier CA 90601

Street

City

Zip Code

E-mail

ruthie.toothie@dslextrame.com

Comments:

For more space, please use the reverse side of this sheet. *Please write legibly.* All comments must be received by **February 1, 2016** to be reviewed within the project's environmental scoping timeline.

More nature, not trans;
more trails; horse trails etc.

Comments can also be submitted to:

Michelle O'Connor, Department Facilities Planner
County of Los Angeles
Department of Parks and Recreation
510 South Vermont Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Email: moconnor@parks.lacounty.gov
Phone: (213) 351-5121
Fax: (213) 639-3959



Puente Hills Landfill PARK MASTER PLAN



COMMENTS: Draft Program Environmental Impact Report

Please use this page to submit your input on the scope of the environmental impacts to be analyzed in the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) being prepared for the Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan Project. Your comments are an important part of creating a comprehensive PEIR. When making your comments, please be as specific as possible.

Name Laura Santos
Address 13833 Fairgrove, Bassett, CA 91746
Street City Zip Code
E-mail laura.santos3454@gmail.com

Comments:

For more space, please use the reverse side of this sheet. *Please write legibly.* All comments must be received by **February 1, 2016** to be reviewed within the project's environmental scoping timeline.

Great plan - as long as there is access.
It's not in a residential area so there
must be parking or reliable, frequent,
convenient public transportation.

Also I'm wondering about the soil - is it
contaminated?

Comments can also be submitted to:

Michelle O'Connor, Department Facilities Planner
County of Los Angeles
Department of Parks and Recreation
510 South Vermont Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Email: moconnor@parks.lacounty.gov
Phone: (213) 351-5121
Fax: (213) 639-3959



Puente Hills Landfill PARK MASTER PLAN



COMMENTS: Draft Program Environmental Impact Report

Please use this page to submit your input on the scope of the environmental impacts to be analyzed in the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) being prepared for the Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan Project. Your comments are an important part of creating a comprehensive PEIR. When making your comments, please be as specific as possible.

Name Jim Shanman
Address 8800 Venice Blvd, Ste 301, L.A. 90034
Street City Zip Code
E-mail jim@walkinrollers.org

Comments:

Please provide your comments below. If you need additional space, please use the reverse side of this sheet. *Please write neatly.* Thank you. All comments must be received by February 1, 2016.

Project looks great, thank you for ensuring
bike skills be incorporated into Phase I
is there opportunities to include a paved area
for educational purposes such as pedestrian/
bicycle safety workshops?

Comments can also be submitted to:

Michelle O'Connor, Department Facilities Planner
County of Los Angeles
Department of Parks and Recreation
510 South Vermont Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Email: moconnor@parks.lacounty.gov
Phone: (213) 351-5121
Fax: (213) 639-3959



Puente Hills Landfill PARK MASTER PLAN



COMMENTS: Draft Program Environmental Impact Report

Please use this page to submit your input on the scope of the environmental impacts to be analyzed in the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) being prepared for the Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan Project. Your comments are an important part of creating a comprehensive PEIR. When making your comments, please be as specific as possible.

Name

CHANG, TED

Address

Street City Zip Code

E-mail

Ted Chang La @ gmail.com

Comments:

For more space, please use the reverse side of this sheet. *Please write legibly.* All comments must be received by **February 1, 2016** to be reviewed within the project's environmental scoping timeline.

I don't think the "zip-line" is necessary, comparing with Catalina island is not apple-to-apple due to the fact that Puente Hills area is a high-density area with enough existing thru-commuters, while Catalina Island is an offshore location with relatively low population, and tourists need to pay for the transportation to get there.

Comments can also be submitted to:

Michelle O'Connor, Department Facilities Planner
County of Los Angeles
Department of Parks and Recreation
510 South Vermont Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Email: moconnor@parks.lacounty.gov
Phone: (213) 351-5121
Fax: (213) 639-3959



Puente Hills Landfill PARK MASTER PLAN



COMMENTS: Draft Program Environmental Impact Report

Please use this page to submit your input on the scope of the environmental impacts to be analyzed in the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) being prepared for the Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan Project. Your comments are an important part of creating a comprehensive PEIR. When making your comments, please be as specific as possible.

Name Jackson Lam

Address 12340 Elliott Ave El Monte 91732
Street City Zip Code

E-mail Jackson@bikesgvi.org

Comments:

For more space, please use the reverse side of this sheet. *Please write legibly.* All comments must be received by **February 1, 2016** to be reviewed within the project's environmental scoping timeline.

I support the complete community vision that has been so thoroughly vetted by many members of the community. It's especially important to have bike access, facilities, and accommodations. Depending on the popularity, I would suggest a shuttle service on the weekends, especially since there is limited parking. This park is also a wonderful opportunity to teach conservation and sustainability. It's important to hire and train guides and natural interpreters so that the public gets a complete experience beyond the views.

Comments can also be submitted to:

Michelle O'Connor, Department Facilities Planner
County of Los Angeles
Department of Parks and Recreation
510 South Vermont Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Email: moconnor@parks.lacounty.gov
Phone: (213) 351-5121
Fax: (213) 639-3959



Puente Hills Landfill PARK MASTER PLAN



COMMENTS: Draft Program Environmental Impact Report

Please use this page to submit your input on the scope of the environmental impacts to be analyzed in the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) being prepared for the Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan Project. Your comments are an important part of creating a comprehensive PEIR. When making your comments, please be as specific as possible.

Name

PAUL SPITZNERI - HOMESTEAD MUSEUM

Address

15415 E. DON JULIAN, CITY OF INDUSTRY 91745-1024

Street

City

Zip Code

E-mail

p.spitzneri@homesteadmuseum.org

Comments:

For more space, please use the reverse side of this sheet. *Please write legibly.* All comments must be received by **February 1, 2016** to be reviewed within the project's environmental scoping timeline.

ON THE CULTURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT OF THE PEIR, I SUGGEST
CONTACTING ANDREW SALAS OF THE KIZH-GABRIELEÑO BAND OF
MISSION INDIANS FOR THE NATIVE AMERICAN PERSPECTIVE. THE
HOMESTEAD MUSEUM IS VERY INTERESTED IN OFFERING
ASSISTANCE CONCERNING THE CULTURAL AND SOCIAL
HISTORY OF THE REGION AS INTERPRETED AT THE PARK.

Comments can also be submitted to:

Michelle O'Connor, Department Facilities Planner
County of Los Angeles
Department of Parks and Recreation
510 South Vermont Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Email: moconnor@parks.lacounty.gov
Phone: (213) 351-5121
Fax: (213) 639-3959



Puente Hills Landfill PARK MASTER PLAN



COMMENTS: Draft Program Environmental Impact Report

Please use this page to submit your input on the scope of the environmental impacts to be analyzed in the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) being prepared for the Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan Project. Your comments are an important part of creating a comprehensive PEIR. When making your comments, please be as specific as possible.

Name

Perla Hernandez Trunkul

Address

16318 Halliburton Rd H.H. 91745

Street

City

Zip Code

E-mail

phpearlh@netzero.net

Comments:

For more space, please use the reverse side of this sheet. *Please write legibly.* All comments must be received by **February 1, 2016** to be reviewed within the project's environmental scoping timeline.

I am for the project, would like a dog park. I am interested in knowing how the trash will affect the park's overall ambience, environment and experience. I'm a little disappointed that it will take 70+ yrs but its definitely better than never.

Comments can also be submitted to:

Michelle O'Connor, Department Facilities Planner
County of Los Angeles
Department of Parks and Recreation
510 South Vermont Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Email: moconnor@parks.lacounty.gov
Phone: (213) 351-5121
Fax: (213) 639-3959



Puente Hills Landfill PARK MASTER PLAN



COMMENTS: Draft Program Environmental Impact Report

Please use this page to submit your input on the scope of the environmental impacts to be analyzed in the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) being prepared for the Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan Project. Your comments are an important part of creating a comprehensive PEIR. When making your comments, please be as specific as possible.

Name

Bob E. CHASE

Address

824 S. 3RD. AVE., LA POENTE CA.

Street

City

Zip Code

E-mail

Comments:

For more space, please use the reverse side of this sheet. *Please write legibly.* All comments must be received by **February 1, 2016** to be reviewed within the project's environmental scoping timeline.

Will Parks & Recreation maintain control of
all Park land?

Public Land should not be transferred to
private business through leases or contracts.

Comments can also be submitted to:

Michelle O'Connor, Department Facilities Planner
County of Los Angeles
Department of Parks and Recreation
510 South Vermont Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Email: moconnor@parks.lacounty.gov
Phone: (213) 351-5121
Fax: (213) 639-3959



Puente Hills Landfill PARK MASTER PLAN



COMMENTS: Draft Program Environmental Impact Report

Please use this page to submit your input on the scope of the environmental impacts to be analyzed in the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) being prepared for the Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan Project. Your comments are an important part of creating a comprehensive PEIR. When making your comments, please be as specific as possible.

Name CARMEN CELIS

Address 414 So. San Jose Hills So. San Jose Hills 91744
Street City Zip Code

E-mail celis13@msn.com

Comments:

For more space, please use the reverse side of this sheet. *Please write legibly.* All comments must be received by **February 1, 2016** to be reviewed within the project's environmental scoping timeline.

Small Space scenic
View to take pictures all around for a fantastic view
Are we going to have Spanish people ^{SIGNS} to give direction, emergencies, etc.
Handicap facilities, fitness
Safe → How many EXIT'S are we going to have In case of an Earthquake
Gas lines are they going to be safe for the years to come How we are going to exit ???
Recreational - Inside Building
Soccer field
Is going to be a fee to enter this park?
Rest Rooms in different areas

Comments can also be submitted to:

Michelle O'Connor, Department Facilities Planner
County of Los Angeles
Department of Parks and Recreation
510 South Vermont Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Email: moconnor@parks.lacounty.gov
Phone: (213) 351-5121
Fax: (213) 639-3959

Save Our Community
8655 Landis View Ln
Rosemead CA 91770

Preliminary comments on Scoping for the Puente Hills Landfill project.

We are in receipt of comments from the Sierra Club with which we concur.

In addition we request that the entirety of the property of the Sanitation District be included in the planning.

Foreign invasive plants such as pampas grass and eucalyptus must be removed.

Eucalyptus is a serious fire hazard and is unacceptable around a public area with limited access.

The recent Montebello Hills fire was spread partially by eucalyptus embers.

A eucalyptus forest fire accompanied by Santa Ana Winds could be disastrous.

The Sanitation district had an opportunity to replace eucalyptus killed by a beneficial insect with natives but chose instead to replant with a different species of eucalyptus. Time for do over.

The recent Montebello Fire and the Chino Hills State Park fire indicate how tenuous the endangered California Gnatcatcher habitat is.

Plants introduced during the Pelissier Dairy use of the property are not Native and must be removed.

Introduced so called "drought tolerant" plantings if not native to the Puente-Chino Hills must be removed to provide space for native plants appropriate to their location.

It is unclear what "existing native plantings, native underplanting, existing exotic arboretum planting consist of and if they are true natives of the Puente-Chino Hills or perhaps Redwood trees which may be native to somewhere but not here.

The Whittier Heights and Handorf faults are in the area.

The Whittier Heights fault could be traced with a path and a overlook over the San Gabriel Valley showing it on the other side most likely as the control of the Eaton Wash. Sanitation District has maps.

Sincerely submitted,

SOC

by

James Flournoy Secretary



Puente Hills Landfill PARK MASTER PLAN



COMMENTS: Draft Program Environmental Impact Report

Please use this page to submit your input on the scope of the environmental impacts to be analyzed in the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) being prepared for the Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan Project. Your comments are an important part of creating a comprehensive PEIR. When making your comments, please be as specific as possible.

Name Chris Sanchez

Address 14430 Shadybend Dr. Hacienda Heights 91745
Street City Zip Code

E-mail lassar@chubnet.net

Comments:

For more space, please use the reverse side of this sheet. *Please write legibly.* All comments must be received by **February 1, 2016** to be reviewed within the project's environmental scoping timeline.

I realize much of the Park development will take place

way after I'm gone from this life - but I have many

concerns: Transportation! - sharing the one and only

Entrance with Rose Hills (processions @ 5 mi per hr,

MRF station traffic

Sanitation Trucks (maintenance)

Parking: on-loading, up loading picnic items, coolers,

people takes time,

People Movers: inadequate for amount of visitors

on weekends - holidays.

Comments can also be submitted to:

Michelle O'Connor, Department Facilities Planner
County of Los Angeles
Department of Parks and Recreation
510 South Vermont Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Email: moconnor@parks.lacounty.gov
Phone: (213) 351-5121
Fax: (213) 639-3959



Puente Hills Landfill PARK MASTER PLAN



COMMENTS: Draft Program Environmental Impact Report

Please use this page to submit your input on the scope of the environmental impacts to be analyzed in the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) being prepared for the Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan Project. Your comments are an important part of creating a comprehensive PEIR. When making your comments, please be as specific as possible.

Name

Don C. Moss, Esq. Joint Council

Address

P.O. Box 9094, City of Industry, CA 91715-0094

Street

City

Zip Code

E-mail

D.Moss@ROADRUNNER.COM

Comments:

For more space, please use the reverse side of this sheet. *Please write legibly.* All comments must be received by **February 1, 2016** to be reviewed within the project's environmental scoping timeline.

- #1) THE NOTION OF SHARING ACCESS TO THIS PROPERTY WITH ROSE HILLS MEMORIAL PARK IS A NON-STARTER! THE FACT THAT SANITATION DISTRICT'S ON-GOING LAND FILL MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS WILL ALREADY REQUIRE ACCESS SHARING WHICH COMPLETELY ELIMINATES ANY FURTHER SHARING POSSIBILITIES. FURTHER SHARING WITH ROSE HILLS SQUEEZES OUT PARK USERS AND DEFEATS THE PURPOSE OF A REGIONAL PARK.
- #2) THE EIR PROCESS MUST SPEAK TO THE CRITICAL NEED OF ASSURING THAT THE FUTURE DESIGN PROCESS FOR ALL NATURAL SURFACE TRAILS MUST INCLUDE
- (OVER)

Comments can also be submitted to:

Michelle O'Connor, Department Facilities Planner
County of Los Angeles
Department of Parks and Recreation
510 South Vermont Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Email: moconnor@parks.lacounty.gov
Phone: (213) 351-5121
Fax: (213) 639-3959

#2 (contd.)

ENGINEERING STRATEGIES FOR CONTROL OF WATER FLOW DURING RAIN EVENTS. ASSURING APPROPRIATE ENGINEERING IS APPLIED TO THE TRAIL DESIGN PROCESS WILL PAY FOR ITSELF BY CONTROLLING EROSION DURING RAIN EVENTS. WELL DESIGNED TRAILS WILL NOT INCUR USER DAMAGE WHEN STILL WET AFTER RAIN EVENTS WHICH SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCES MAINTENANCE COSTS GOING FORWARD.

Julie Yom

From: Michelle O'Connor
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 8:31 AM
To: Jan Sandgren; Freddie Olmos; Julie Yom; Clement Lau
Subject: FW: Puente Hills Landfill Regional Park-Comments

See the NOP comments in the e-mail below.

From: Henry Pedregon Jr
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 2:36 PM
To: Michelle O'Connor <MOconnor@parks.lacounty.gov>
Subject: Puente Hills Landfill Regional Park-Comments

I saw the final concept presentation of the Phase I master plan. The landfill is on top of what was once natural terrain and habitat. I was hoping the Master Plan would emphasize what was here originally. Gondolas, bike park, amphitheater is not what I was expecting. It appears more of an extension of Schabarum Park. There's nothing in the plan to address the wildlife. This was the wildlife's natural habitat for 100's of years. I hope you make special considerations/adjustments not just for the first phase, but for all the phases' to completion

Julie Yom

From: Michelle O'Connor
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 9:48 AM
To: Jan Sandgren; Freddie Olmos; Clement Lau; Julie Yom
Subject: FW: Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan

See NOP comments in e-mail below.

-----Original Message-----

From: Judith Ennis [mailto:jennis39@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2016 2:29 PM
To: Michelle O'Connor <MOconnor@parks.lacounty.gov>
Subject: Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan

You have an extraordinary piece of land! As I drive the 60 Freeway I see wonderful vegetation, and I respect this land for its beauty. This Plan should include further similar vegetation and trees replicating what once was there. Nature speaks quietly to those that hike natural trails. And it speaks the loudest when the surprisingly usual happens. Let the natural happen. It's what will be remembered the most. Thank you for this consideration! Judy Ennis

From: latinamz@aol.com [mailto:latinamz@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 9:19 AM
To: Michelle O'Connor <MOconnor@parks.lacounty.gov>
Subject: Notice of Preparation/Initial Study comment

In attending all the Landfill meetings, I can see the staff has put a lot of effort in making this mountain of debris into a site/park for people in the future to enjoy. What will the future be when land will become scarce? Should we take this opportunity to preserve such beautiful space rather than making it a "park resort" where people will bring, fires, trash, and stomp on the naturalness of the wildlife and vegetation?

I am very disappointed to see throughout this project that not once has anyone mention the true owners of this land. That is the wildlife. I speak for them because they cannot speak for themselves. We took this property away from the wildlife for our own human needs and as a courtesy, we should return it to its natural state for the wildlife. As it is, the animals are now exploring the lower hills in search of food as far as the Gale corridor. That never happened in the last 38 years I have lived in Hacienda Heights.

The people/residents want to enjoy the hills in its' natural state and be able to walk, bike, hike the hills and that can be done by using the trails already implemented which you will change into parking lots, museums, coffee shops, and who knows what else.

May I suggest to keep the development in simplicity form where there will be a balance of nature & people to enjoy. Do not overdevelop to end up a "Disneyland" area. As it is, the landfill becoming a park will attract more people causing the wildlife to flee away from us. We need to find a balance.

Thank you.

Julie Yom

From: Michelle O'Connor
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 7:34 AM
To: Jan Sandgren; Freddie Olmos
Cc: Clement Lau; Julie Yom
Subject: FW: Comments:Draft Environmental Impact Report

Hello Everyone,

Great meeting last night! Please refer to the scoping comments from Mike Hughes below.

Thanks,
Michelle

From: Michael Hughes [mailto:mhugheshh@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 6:36 AM
To: Michelle O'Connor <MOconnor@parks.lacounty.gov>
Subject: Comments:Draft Environmental Impact Report

**Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan
Comments: Draft Environmental Impact Report**

Michael Hughes
3252 El Sebo Ave
Hacienda Heights CA 91745
mhugheshh@aol.com

January 28,2016

Comments:

One of my primary issues with the proposed design for the Puente Hills Landfill Park is the zip lines. I do understand how this can be a passive element in the passive park that the community has been promised. Zip lines are inappropriate to the local wilderness, local wildlife and wildlife corridor passing through the park. The zip lines will definitely negatively impact the wilderness experience of the park visitors, the wilderness viewshed of the adjacent Habitat Authority property visitors as well as impact the grieving process of the mourners at adjacent Rose Hills Memorial Park.

The zip lines financially impact the residents of communities of Valinda, Basset and La Puente which are closest to the proposed entrance to the park. These are all low income working family neighborhoods. Any park feature that that could cost in excess of \$100. each (as in the case of the Catalina Island zip lines cited by the parks staff at a recent meeting) would be inappropriate to our local residents.

Should there be a park entry fees, even a gondola rides at a cost of six or seven dollars a visitor becomes problematic for many working families.

Lets make every effort to keep this a passive park and wildlife friendly park. The local community has paid for this park living with a landfill with its noise, traffic, odors and dust in our back yards for over fifty years, lets finally have a family friendly park with no amenity fees and no entry fees.

Thank you for your time and consideration
Michael Hughes

Think B4U Print, 1 ream of paper = 6% of a tree and 5.4kg CO2 in the atmosphere, 3 sheets of A4 paper = 1 litre of water.
fac fortia et patere