

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

August 12, 2025

Acceptance of Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program Grant Obligations for the Puente Hills Landfill Regional Park- Western Deck

In 1970, the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (Sanitation Districts) purchased over 1,300 acres of land in the Puente Hills canyons of the San Gabriel Valley to create the Puente Hills Landfill. Under conditions laid out in a 1987 Joint Powers Authority entered by the Sanitation Districts and the County of Los Angeles (County) and per Assembly Bill 2632 (Solis), the Sanitation Districts were required to provide portions of the site to the County for park and recreation purposes after the landfill ceased operations. Since the closure of the landfill in 2013, the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has worked with the Sanitation Districts and stakeholders to develop the Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan, which lays out the vision for the buildout of the County’s first new regional park in more than 35 years. The Puente Hills Landfill Regional Park (Park) will transform a formerly degraded landscape into a vibrant public park, restoring critical habitats and creating a vital gateway to nature in an area long overshadowed by urban sprawl. The Park will not only provide much-needed access to open space and recreation, but it will also serve as a powerful platform for environmental

MOTION

Solis	_____
Mitchell	_____
Horvath	_____
Hahn	_____
Barger	_____

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education-inviting the community to explore, learn and connect with the rich ecosystems, diverse wildlife and natural beauty of the region. By fostering a deep sense of connection to the land, the park will inspire a culture of conservation, stewardship and belonging for generations to come.

Funding to build the future Puente Hills Landfill Regional Park is coming from Federal, State and local funding, including a \$15 million grant award from the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program (ORLP), administered by California State Parks. Funding from the ORLP grant will develop almost 90 acres of recreation and open space and include a children's nature play area, community amphitheater, arts plaza, dog park, picnic area, a ceremonial space which can be used to acknowledge the history and culture of the San Gabriel Valley, interpretive gardens, open space grasslands designated for community gathering spaces, recreational trails and walking paths, parking and restrooms. A Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) was prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act to evaluate the environmental impacts of converting the closed Puente Hills Landfill into a regional park. The PEIR was certified by the Board on October 25, 2016. To address design refinements not analyzed in the original PEIR, an addendum was prepared and certified on February 18, 2025.

The need to ensure the grant from the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program is accepted is critical to the future of this Park. There is imminent danger of losing this awarded grant should approval not be granted expeditiously. Additionally, as grants are accepted that have Park operational responsibilities or requirements it is pertinent that it

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is made clear the responsibility of any grant agreements rest on the applicant and lessee, County of Los Angeles, of the former landfill and not on the landowner, Los Angeles County Sanitation District.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors suspend Section 22.1 of the Rules of the Board for the limited purpose of considering this motion.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Find that the proposed actions are within the scope of the project impacts analyzed in Addendum No. 1 to the Puente Hills Master Plan Program Environmental Impact Report, previously certified by your Board.
2. Direct the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation to accept the \$15 million Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program grant terms and conditions required by State Parks and the National Parks Service for the Puente Hills Landfill Park.
3. Authorize and direct the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation to enter into an agreement, approved as to form by County Counsel, to indemnify the landowner, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, from any grant requirements or conditions entered into by the lessee, County of Los Angeles, for the purposes of funding operational, programmatic or infrastructure improvements at any developmental phase or during operation of the Puente Hills Regional Park developed on top of the former Puente Hills Landfill; whereas, the lessee, County

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of Los Angeles, will absorb all grant agreements entered into by the County of Los Angeles including preceding the signing of the lease and anytime thereafter while under lease agreement.

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