



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
"Parks Make Life Better!"

Norma E. García-González, Director

Alina Bokde, Chief Deputy Director

January 13, 2026

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**NAMING OF THE PUENTE HILLS LANDFILL PARK AND NAMING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE CENTER
(FIRST DISTRICT) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

This letter recommends approval to name the Puente Hills Landfill Park as "Esperanza Hills Regional Park" and to name the Environmental Justice Center, located within the Puente Hills Landfill, , the "Hilda L. Solis Environmental Justice Center."

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed actions are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons stated in this Board letter and the record.
2. Approve the proposed naming of the Puente Hills Landfill Park as "Esperanza Hills Regional Park".
3. Approve the proposed naming of the Environmental Justice Center, located within Esperanza Hills Regional Park, as the "Hilda L. Solis Environmental Justice Center."

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

In 2013, the former Puente Hills Landfill, the second largest landfill in the United States, located at 13134-13144 Crossroads Parkway S, La Puente, CA 91746 ceased accepting Los Angeles County waste, marking an end to 50-years of operations during which time the surrounding communities

bore the brunt of its environmental impacts. In 2016, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a Master Plan to develop 140-acres of the landfill into the County's first new regional park in over 35-years.

In the Fall of 2025, the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation (LA County Parks) carried out an intensive eight-week naming engagement process that reached more than 750 community members to develop a proposed name for the new Regional Park on the former Puente Hills Landfill site. LA County Parks partnered with Kounkuey Design Initiative (KDI) and community based organizations Clockshop and ActiveSGV, for the community naming engagement that included ten mobile and pop-up engagements at community and stakeholder events—including Open Streets, local parks, senior center, and school events—organized a public workshop on October 27, 2025, at the Hacienda Heights Community Center, hosted a community hike event at the former Puente Hills Landfill site on December 6, 2025, and concluded the engagement on December 13, 2025, at San Angelo Park.

Engagement activities were structured around three components: identifying key themes of Culture, Nature, Community, and Social Justice based on earlier Conceptual Design work; gathering key words and subthemes that emerged most frequently—such as esperanza, hills, and roots; and inviting participants to propose park names inspired by these collective priorities. This resulted in the selection of the most popular word, esperanza. The community then voted, both online and by paper, between several name options that include esperanza, resulting in the selection of the winning name, Esperanza Hills Regional Park. The park name symbolizes hope and optimism.

During the park-naming process, many community members strongly expressed interest in naming the Environmental Justice Center (EJC), currently under construction at the main entrance to the park, in honor of Supervisor Hilda L. Solis for her critical and essential role in the creation of the Regional Park. Supervisor Solis has long championed the transformation of the Puente Hills Landfill into a public park. Her leadership on this effort began more than 30 years ago, when she served as a State Assemblymember and authored key legislation—California Assembly Bill 2632 (1994)—which required and led to the closure of the landfill and ensured that a park would ultimately be created for the surrounding communities. These communities bore the impacts for decades of what was once the second-largest landfill in the country.

The Esperanza Hills Regional Park and the EJC are becoming a reality because of Supervisor Solis' unwavering commitment, vision, and advocacy to secure environmental justice, expand access to green space, and deliver the long-promised County commitment to the residents and region. The EJC is expected to open in Fall 2026 and is recommended to be named the Hilda L. Solis Environmental Justice Center.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There is no fiscal impact of this action.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Puente Hills Landfill Park, proposed to be named Esperanza Hills Regional Park, represents the County's first new regional park in over 35-years. Design and development is currently underway and will feature meadows, outdoor amphitheater, a ceremonial space, dog run, bike skills course, trails and a scenic overlook. Ultimately the regional park will be comprised of a total of 140-acres of

former landfill.

The EJC, proposed to be named the Hilda L. Solis Environmental Justice Center, is currently under construction and opening in Fall of 2026. The facility will feature an interpretive exhibition space, staff offices, classroom, lecture hall, maker space, photo/video studio, animal enclosures, and outdoor areas.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The recommended actions are not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because they are activities that are excluded from the definition of a project by section 21065 of the Public Resources Code and section 15378(b) of the State CEQA Guidelines. The recommended actions to name the Puente Hills Landfill Park the “Esperanza Hills Regional Park” and to name the Environmental Justice Center the “Hilda L. Solis Environmental Justice Center” are administrative activities of government, which will not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

There is no anticipated impact to current services and projects associated with the proposed action.

CONCLUSION

Upon approval by the Board, please return one adopted copy of this Board letter to the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation.

If you have any questions, please contact Daniel Abratte at (626) 588-5350 or dabratte@parks.lacounty.gov or Johanna Hernandez at (626) 588-5370 or bll@parks.lacounty.gov.

Respectfully submitted,



Norma E. Garcia-Gonzalez

Director

NEGG:AB:CK:GB:da

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Department of Public Works
LA County Parks