

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS AND
JANICE HAHN

OCTOBER 20, 2026

Establishing a Memorandum of Understanding Between the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority and the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation for Coordinated Trail Stewardship, Public Safety and Interagency Communication

The County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation (LA County Parks) manages one of the nation’s largest and most diverse park systems, encompassing local and regional parks, natural areas, open space preserves, recreational facilities, campgrounds, golf courses, equestrian facilities, and an extensive regional trail network spanning more than 240 miles. Together, these assets provide recreation, conservation, environmental education, and access to nature for millions of residents while supporting regional connectivity and climate resilience across Los Angeles County.

LA County Parks’ regional trail network provides recreation, active transportation, habitat connectivity, and access to open space across jurisdictional boundaries. Within the Puente Hills region, LA County Parks manages several regional trail corridors, including the Schabarum-Skyline Trail, a more than 29-mile regional multi-use trail that connects communities throughout the eastern San Gabriel Valley and provides access

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Mitchell	_____
Horvath	_____
Hahn	_____
Barger	_____
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to regional open space. LA County Parks is also advancing the future Esperanza Hills Regional Park, an extraordinary opportunity to establish new regional parkland within one of the nation's most densely populated counties and create a major recreational destination that will expand access to regional recreation, open space, and nature-based experiences for communities throughout the San Gabriel Valley. Located within the Puente Hills landscape, the future park will serve as a gateway to regional open space and a hub connecting visitors to the County's dynamic regional trail network. Together with the Schabarum-Skyline Trail and the 34.8-mile San Gabriel River Trail, the future park will strengthen the region's existing recreational network by expanding access to interconnected trails, parks, and open spaces throughout the San Gabriel Valley and providing additional opportunities for residents and visitors to experience the corridor connecting the San Gabriel Mountains to the Pacific Ocean.

The Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) is responsible for preserving, protecting, and managing thousands of acres of open space, habitat, and 23-miles of recreational trails throughout the Puente Hills region. The Habitat Authority employs professional staff and contracts for Rangers and maintenance team members who work daily to protect sensitive natural resources, maintain trails, address public safety concerns, and coordinate emergency response activities within lands

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under its jurisdiction.

Across the Puente Hills landscape, LA County Parks facilities, regional trails, and open space resources are adjacent to or connected with lands managed by the Habitat Authority. While each agency serves distinct missions and responsibilities, these shared landscapes create opportunities for enhanced coordination between agencies to support visitor safety, resource stewardship, emergency communication, and public information, while maintaining each agency's independent authority and responsibility for managing the lands and facilities under its respective jurisdiction.

Currently, there is an opportunity to strengthen coordination between the Habitat Authority and LA County Parks through a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that would establish procedures for interagency communication, reciprocal coordination, emergency response coordination, and stewardship of interconnected recreational and open space resources particularly during periods of elevated fire danger, severe weather, habitat restoration activities, law enforcement incidents, trail maintenance and other emergencies. Such an agreement would strengthen collaboration, enhance public enjoyment, improve public safety, protect sensitive natural resources, and support consistent communication regarding connected trail systems while recognizing each agency's independent operational responsibilities.

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WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in consultation with the Los Angeles County Fire Department, County Counsel and the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority, to negotiate and execute, or return to the Board for approval if necessary in 90 days, a Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Los Angeles and the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority that includes, but is not limited to:

- 1) Procedures for coordination and communication between the Habitat Authority and LA County Parks regarding trail conditions, maintenance activities, habitat management activities, public safety concerns/incidents, emergency response, visitor management, and other operational matters affecting interconnected public lands.
- 2) Procedures for reciprocal coordination and access, as appropriate, by authorized personnel from each agency onto properties under the other agency's jurisdiction when necessary to support mutually beneficial activities, including emergency response, public safety concerns/incidents, resource protection, inspections, trail maintenance, and other operational activities consistent with each agency's authority and responsibilities.
- 3) A coordinated notification and communication protocol to benefit the

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public, management of the lands and emergency responders for temporary trail closures, access restrictions, and reopening decisions affecting interconnected trail systems, recognizing that each agency retains independent authority and discretion over the operation, management, hours of operation, closure, reopening, and visitor access policies for facilities and lands under its respective jurisdiction, consistent with applicable laws, public safety considerations, agency policies, and available resources.

- 4) Mutual notification procedures between the Habitat Authority and LA County Parks regarding emergency conditions, wildfire response and recovery, trail impacts, reopening decisions, and public communications to support timely and consistent information sharing with the public.
- 5) Identification of roles, responsibilities, resources, and operational procedures necessary to implement the MOU, including consideration of staffing, funding, liability, and other operational requirements associated with ongoing coordination.
- 6) Any other provisions necessary to facilitate effective interagency coordination and stewardship of interconnected public recreational and

AGN. NO. _____

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open space resources.

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