



County of Los Angeles
Sheriff's Department Headquarters

*4700 Ramona Boulevard
Monterey Park, California 91754-2169*



Erroy D. Baca, Sheriff

August 17, 2010



Ms. Lisbeth Sinclair
Senior Regional Planning Assistant
Community Studies I Section
Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
320 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Ms. Sinclair:

**REVIEW COMMENTS
INITIAL STUDY AND PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
HACIENDA HEIGHTS COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE
(REGIONAL PLANNING PROJECT NO. R2008-01137)**

This letter is transmitted in response to your Notice of Completion (NOC), dated July 15, 2010, regarding the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), and Draft Community Plan (Plan), for the proposed Hacienda Heights Community Plan Update (Project).

Thank you for including the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) in the environmental review process for the proposed Project. LASD's review comments on the NOC, MND and Plan are provided in the attached correspondence, dated August 10, 2010, from Captain Michael R. Claus, of LASD's Industry Station (Station).

In summary, the Station has reviewed the NOC, MND and Plan for the proposed Project, and recommends a timely increase in LASD-related law enforcement assets commensurate to the direct impacts of the proposed Project, which may include potential increases in population, density, traffic, calls for emergency services, and response times for such calls for services. The Station also recommends that technological advances and the evolving nature of law enforcement practices and methodologies be considered in long-range community policy statements such as the Plan for the proposed Project, in order to ensure continued public safety in the Hacienda Heights community.

Ms. Sinclair

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August 17, 2010

Although the Station has no further comments to submit at this time, LASD reserves the right to address this matter in subsequent reviews of the proposed Project.

Should you have any questions of LASD regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Lester Miyoshi, of my staff, at (626) 300-3012, and refer to Facilities Planning Bureau Tracking No. 10-008. Mr. Miyoshi may also be contacted via e-mail, at lhmiyosh@lasd.org.

Sincerely,

LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary T. K. Tse" with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Gary T. K. Tse, Director
Facilities Planning Bureau

Ms. Sinclair

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August 17, 2010

GTKT:LM:/lm/kl

Attachments

c: Michael R. Claus, Captain, Industry Station
Raymond Enriquez, Lieutenant, Industry Station
Lester Miyoshi, Project Manager, Facilities Planning Bureau
Chrono
(HaciendaHghtCommunityDirector's letter IS MND)

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

"A Tradition of Service"

DATE August 10, 2010

OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

FILE NO.


FROM: MICHAEL R. CLAUS, CAPTAIN
 INDUSTRY STATION **TO:** GARY T. TSE, DIRECTOR
 FACILITIES PLANNING BUREAU

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR COMMENTS OF DRAFT INITIAL STUDY

Lieutenant Hiroshi Yokoyama, of my staff, previously provided a memorandum to the Department of Regional Planning, describing how law enforcement would be affected pending future growth of the Hacienda Heights Community.

Lieutenant Raymond Enriquez, of my staff, has now reviewed the documents provided and considering all items expressed in the draft, has determined, based on the size and growth to take place in the community, a significant change in law enforcement should be considered.

The amount of growth is not clearly described in the draft, however, any amount of growth in the community of Hacienda Heights would have a direct impact on the current response times as well as current proactive law enforcement practices in the community. Taking into account the amount of growth taking place, a study providing the ratio of the developed residential area and businesses, coupled with the amount of traffic flow through the areas affected, would all need to be taking into account for a serious study and projection of law enforcement deployment for the area.

(Deployment would be described as: Deputies providing the actual enforcement of the law, coupled with equipment needed, supervision provided for the personnel and detectives to investigate crimes, file cases and conduct pro-active law enforcement education for the community and businesses.)

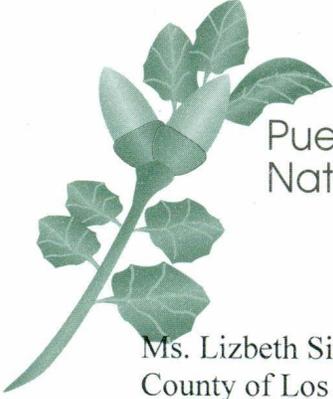
The current law enforcement needs in the community is at a sustainable level and has not increased in over 30 years. Law enforcement has changed over the years. The way deputies communicate and the technological aspect of the deputies equipment and communication needs, should also be considered. Based on the area and terrain associated, the proposed changes must take into consideration communication between law enforcement officers and the station. Repeater sites and vehicle tracking equipment, coupled with GPS capabilities, may also need to be upgraded in the area.

Orig. to Lester CC: Gary, sub, File



On August 10, 2010, Lieutenant Enriquez had a conversation with Mr. Lester Miyoshi, of Facilities Planning Bureau and it was explained to Lieutenant Enriquez , the draft is merely a formality due to the time period where growth has not taken place and the possibility of future growth. Mr. Miyoshi agreed if growth in the community of Hacienda Heights is planned, all considerations of law enforcement and safety for the community will be taken into account and revisited at that time.

MRC:RE:re



Puente Hills Landfill
Native Habitat Preservation Authority

August 26, 2010

Ms. Lizbeth Sinclair
County of Los Angeles
Department of Regional Planning
General Plan Development Section
320 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Comments on Draft Hacienda Heights Community Plan and draft Mitigated Negative Declaration

Dear Ms. Sinclair:

The Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the draft Hacienda Heights Community Plan (Plan) as well as the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Plan, and appreciates the extension of the comment deadline until Monday August 30, 2010.

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 our 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 will endeavor to provide opportunities for outdoor education and low-impact recreation.

Overall the proposed Plan is very commendable, and includes many impressive elements of conservation. The Habitat Authority supports many Plan elements including those that promote the creation of community Parks and the preservation of land and wildlife. The following are additional comments regarding concerns or areas in need of clarification:

Section 2 – Land Use

- **Page 12** – It is unclear what version of the Significant Ecological Area (SEA) Program will be associated with this Plan. The Plan's Overlay map illustrates Los Angeles County's proposed draft SEA boundaries; however, it is unclear if the proposed draft SEA Ordinance is being associated with this Plan, or the existing SEA Ordinance. The Habitat Authority previously submitted comments outlining our concerns with the draft SEA maps and Ordinance (see attached comments dated August 29, 2007). Additionally, Habitat Authority staff has met with County Planning staff to further discuss its concerns. The Habitat Authority has not analyzed the impacts to the Preserve using the draft proposed SEA boundaries shown in the Plan with the currently



adopted SEA Ordinance. If this is what this Plan is suggesting, we will provide comments on this scenario in a timely fashion in the near future regarding potential conflicts or concerns in the implementation of the SEA Ordinance on Habitat Authority land.

Section 4 – Goals and Policies

- **Page 17 Policy Land Use 3.4** – This policy reads: Preserve open space for recreation or land preservation, particularly for areas north of the 60 Freeway.

We recommend eliminating the wording “*particularly for areas north of the 60 Freeway*”. The suggested language elimination is less restrictive and allows for equal preservation efforts throughout the entire community.

- **Page 20 Policy Open Space 1.2** – The policy reads: Create new trailheads and access points onto the local trail system and improve connections to local parks.

In general the Habitat Authority supports this policy; however, it is unclear whether the intent is to create new trailheads for trails leading into the Preserve. Please reference the Habitat Authority’s Resource Management Plan (RMP) found at www.habitatauthority.org for a description of the adopted Trails Plan. After careful review of the regional biological resources, the adopted Trails Plan includes designated trails and access points that are manageable and whose uses are balanced with the biological sensitivities of the region. Emergency and safety management, as well as sensitive biological resources, need to be evaluated prior to adding additional access points to the hills. New trailheads should only be considered if there is no adverse conflict with management, safety and biological issues.

- **Page 21 Goal Conservation 1** – The goal reads: Open space conservation areas that are protected and accessible.

We suggest rewording the above goal to read: Open space conservation areas that are protected and accessible, *as appropriate*. Please refer to the above explanation under OS 1.2.

- **Page 21 Policy Conservation 1.1** – The policy reads: Maintain and ensure continued public access to conservation areas.

We suggest rewording the above policy to read: Maintain and ensure continued public access to conservation areas, *when appropriate*. Again, as explained above under OS 1.2, the trail system in the Puente Hills is being managed to allow for recreational enjoyment while balancing the viability of the natural resources. This approach in perpetuity will protect the hills for generations to come.

- **Page 21 Policy Conservation 1.3** – The policy reads: Whenever possible, mitigate any impacts of development that would impede access to or reduce net acreage of conservation areas.

We recommend eliminating the wording “*Whenever possible.*” The suggested language elimination adds guaranteed protections for impacts to lands managed by the Habitat Authority. The Preserve is a conglomeration of open space property in an already fragmented ecosystem, and each new impact should be mitigated to ensure the Preserve’s longevity.

- **Page 21 Policy Conservation 2.2** – The policy reads: Protect streams and riparian habitat by requiring a 20-foot buffer for all new development.

Riparian areas are uncommon in the region due to our dry climate, and as such riparian areas exhibit high levels of plant and wildlife biodiversity, as well as provide habitat for sensitive and rare species. The Habitat Authority recommends increasing the buffer to 50 feet or more for structures, allowing for a more appropriate buffer between development impacts (such as fuel modification, noise and lighting), which would be in alignment with the Plan’s other goals of protecting conservation areas from such impacts.

Table 3 - Implementation Strategies

- **Page 29 Mobility #8:** We suggest adding the words “as appropriate,” so it reads: Continue to require new walkways or trails in areas where none exist, *as appropriate*, and improvements to existing walkways and sidewalks within new development projects as part of the approval process.
- **Page 33 Open Space and Recreation #4:** We suggest adding the words “as appropriate,” so it reads: Establish new trails and connectors, *as appropriate*.
- **Page 34 Conservation #3:** Please see earlier comments pertaining to SEAs, their ordinance and development guidelines.
- **General Comment:** The Implementation Strategy also should consider for inclusion strategies that pertain to protecting biological resources, specifically as recognized in Goals C-1 and C-2, as well as Policies C 1.4, C 2.1, C 2.2 and C 2.3. For example, an implementation strategy for Policy C 1.4 should require that fuel modification zones for any new structures are located entirely within the subject property, and not encroach onto adjacent properties.

Plan Maps

- **Land Use Plan Map:** Please indicate on this map the open space dedication area as a result of the approved project Pacific Heights Subdivision Tract Map 51153. Also, as discussed during our phone and email correspondence, we have provided GIS layers

illustrating the boundaries of the Preserve for inclusion into the Open Space Conservation areas on the Plan maps.

Mitigated Negative Declaration

- **Resources Section – 3.Biota, Items d and f:** Please refer to the Habitat Authority's RMP, which can provide additional information about sensitive habitats and species locations (including riparian, oak woodland, walnut woodland, and coastal sage scrub) as a supplement to the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) information. Also, for Item 3f, please note that the CNDDDB notes the occurrence of the coastal California gnatcatcher (a federally threatened) in Schabarum Park, as well as other non-listed sensitive species in the Plan area, including Plummer's Mariposa lily (a plant considered rare and endangered by the California Native Plant Society) in the upper Turnbull Canyon area (also shown in our RMP).

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. Feel free to contact me or Andrea Gullo, Executive Director, at (562) 945-9003 for further discussion.

Sincerely,



Bob Henderson
Chairman

Attachment: Comment letter to County regarding proposed SEAs dated August 29, 2007.

c: Board of Directors
Citizens Technical Advisory Committee



Puente Hills Landfill
Native Habitat Preservation Authority

August 29, 2007

County of Los Angeles
Department of Regional Planning
General Plan Development Section
Attn: Mark Herwick, General Plan Section Head
320 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Comments on Draft Los Angeles County General Plan

Dear Mr. Herwick:

The Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the draft General Plan.

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 our 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 will endeavor to provide opportunities for outdoor education and low-impact recreation. The Habitat Authority's jurisdiction extends within eastern Los Angeles County approximately from the intersection of the 605 and 60 Freeways in the west to Harbor Boulevard in the east. The Habitat Authority owns and or manages 3,860 acres which lie within the Cities of Whittier and La Habra Heights as well as in the County unincorporated area of the Puente Hills known as Hacienda Heights and Rowland Heights.

Proposed Puente Hills Significant Ecological Area (SEA) Delineation:

The Habitat Authority supports in concept the proposed expansion of the Puente-Chino Hills Significant Ecological Area (SEA), and we support our properties being included within the SEA. The County's efforts to propose protection of wildlife habitat as a part of the land use element in the general plan are commendable. In order to maintain the integrity of the scientific work conducted, we recommend that the boundaries of the SEAs proposed by County consultants (PCR 2000) not be reduced even outside of the unincorporated area without further scientific evidence to support that change. In addition, there are several areas for which the biological evidence supports their inclusion within this SEA.



The open space of the Puente Hills between Harbor Blvd. and State Route 57 has been previously shown to be of great conservation concern to the entire Puente-Chino Hills corridor, both for its value in linking the west and east corridor (cite: Missing Middle) as well as because of its intrinsic value in supporting significant populations of sensitive animal species.

The current boundaries of the proposed Puente Hills Significant Ecological Area purport to encompass the significant open space of this portion of the hills, but as currently drawn, they omit a critically-important portion of the open space in unincorporated Los Angeles County: the southwestern corner of the Aera project area, which extends east from Harbor Blvd.

An aerial photo of the area in question is in Figure 1. This shows well the mosaic of habitat dominated by extensive, intact grassland (native/non-native mix), which appears tan in color. Southern California black walnut woodland (dark green) and coastal sage scrub (gray-green, lower right) comprise the other two main habitat types.



Figure 1. "Aera" region of Puente Hills.

The proposed boundaries of the SEA are reproduced in Figure 2 (in green). This configuration clearly excludes the entire southwestern corner of the Aera project area (lower left), which is marked with a red arrow in Figure 3.

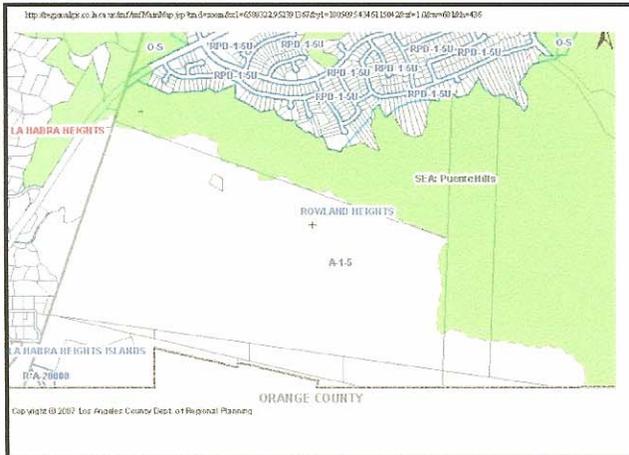


Figure 2. Map of Aera project portion of Puente Hills SEA, from Los Angeles Co. General Plan update.



Figure 3. Red arrow denotes "missing corner" of Aera project area, a region of high-quality habitat currently excluded from coverage. Blue lines show proposed boundaries of SEA

The decision to omit this area from the SEA is puzzling, especially because it exhibits features consistent with the rest of the SEA, and even supports species that are extremely localized and declining region-wide, which are presumably of great conservation concern.

Though the wording of the Los Angeles County General Plan update regarding SEAs is vague ("Conservation and Open Space" section, p. 118), a more detailed definition was provided by PCR (2000), listing six main criteria, of which the Puente Hills met four.

The criteria which it met are also satisfied by the inclusion of the omitted Aera project site, namely:

- Biotic communities, vegetative associations, and habitat of plant or animal species that are either unique or are restricted in distribution (both a, regional and b, county-wide).

- Habitat that at some point in the life cycle of a species or group of species, serves as concentrated breeding, feeding, resting or migrating grounds and is limited in availability.
- Areas that would provide for preservation of relatively undisturbed examples of the original natural biotic communities of Los Angeles.

The breeding bird species of the Puente-Chino Hills were treated by Cooper (2000), who identified three key areas most important for bird conservation in the range; two of these are located in the southwestern Aera region, *including in the portion excluded by the current boundaries*. These include the extensive grassland between Harbor Blvd. and State Route 57, and the coastal sage scrub of north Brea/west Yorba Linda.

The extensive grassland of the Aera site is unique in the Puente Hills; no other comparably large grassland remains in the Los Angeles Basin. Therefore, it is extremely important for grassland obligate species such as White-tailed Kite, Grasshopper Sparrow, and others. Despite the admixture of non-native grasses in the system, this habitat is very robust, and supports countless patches of native species, even where grazed.

The coastal sage scrub along the southeastern corner of the Aera site is an extension of what is arguably the highest-quality stand of this habitat in the entire Puente-Chino Hills, that along the northern border of the City of Brea (Orange Co.). This habitat, which also includes extensive Cactus Scrub, was found to support a robust population of the Federally-threatened California Gnatcatcher, among many other sensitive species (see below).

Southern California black walnut woodland, considered a sensitive natural community and wholly restricted to the hills surrounding the Los Angeles Basin, is probably best developed in the eastern Puente Hills (LSA 2007), including the Aera property. Prior to grazing, this habitat was probably more extensive in the "missing" Aera piece.

In a review of the status of sensitive nesting bird species of the hills (Cooper 2000:230-232) identified 18 species considered regionally-declining and at high risk of local extinction along the Puente-Chino Hills Corridor. Most of these are found within this Aera portion of the hills, including some that reach their maximum abundance in Los Angeles County here.

Notable among these are the following species:

Northern red diamond rattlesnake *Crotalus ruber ruber*
California Reptile Species of Special Concern

This animal reaches the northern global extent of its range in south-facing slopes of the Whittier Hills (Haas et al. 2002), and the Aera site presumably supports this taxon, as it occurs just to the east above Yorba Linda (pers. obs.).

White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus*
California Bird Species of Special Concern

Kites, presumably breeding locally, were a common site during spring/summer surveys in this area in the late 1990s; this species is effectively at the northern edge of its range in the Puente-Chino Hills in the Harbor Blvd. area, with perhaps a single pair to the west (in Powder Cyn.).

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*
California Bird Species of Special Concern

The only Golden Eagles observed perched in the Puente-Chino Hills during breeding surveys in 1997-98 were an adult and a juvenile observed in the Aera site, just off the eastern border of the omitted piece. These birds were detected on 24 May 1997, and presumably were the same birds that have been documented nesting near Chino Hills State Park to the east.

Loggerhead Shrike *Lanius ludovicianus*
California Bird Species of Special Concern

The Aera property may represent the last hope for breeding shrikes in the Los Angeles Basin; a recent survey (2005) conducted by the Los Angeles Co. Museum of Natural History (which did not include the Puente Hills) found no breeding pairs, yet two were on the Aera property on 31 May 1997 (Cooper, unpubl. data), suggesting breeding at least then. The habitat - rolling hills with grassland - is ideal for this species.

California Gnatcatcher *Poliophtila californica californica*
Federally Threatened

The largest population of this taxon in the Puente-Chino Hills is in the band of scrub from just east of Harbor Blvd. (incl. the Aera site missing from the proposed SEA), east into Yorba Linda in Orange Co. (visible in gray-green at the lower left of Fig. 3). Several dozen acres of this habitat appears to have been left out of the SEA. This population is presumably the source population for subpopulations farther west along the hills, including several pairs along Arroyo San Miguel (vic. Colima Rd.). Further degradation of the open space between these two groups could have detrimental effects on both populations.

Southern California Rufous-crowned Sparrow *Aimophila ruficeps canescens*
California Bird Species of Special Concern
Very common throughout site (and throughout hills).

Bell's Sage Sparrow *Amphispiza belli belli*
California Bird Species of Special Concern

This California-Baja endemic is known in the Puente Hills only from a single (juvenile) individual observed along the eastern edge of the missing Aera corner on 24 May 1997 (Cooper, unpubl. data). This species is strongly tied to undisturbed coastal sage scrub and Chamise chaparral in our area, and, like the Loggerhead Shrike, may be extremely dependent upon this habitat on the Aera site for its persistence in the Los Angeles area. The nearest Los Angeles County populations are vic. Claremont, along the foothills of the San Gabriel Mtns. (possibly extirpated) and at Castro Peak in the western Santa Monica Mtns.

Western Grasshopper Sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum perpallidus* **California Bird Species of Special Concern**

Known from just a handful of areas in the Puente Hills, this range is arguably the most important site for this species in Los Angeles County. The largest population in the hills by far is located in the grassland between Harbor Blvd. and the 57 Fwy. (20+ birds in 1997, D. Cooper unpubl. data). They would be expected to occur in grassland on the southwestern corner as well. Just west of here, a breeding colony of this species was also present (<5 pr.) in the southeastern portion of Powder Canyon along the Schabarum Trail, and on a grassy ridge just south of Turnbull Canyon. (Skyline Trail).

A major study (Resource Management Plan, Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Authority, LSA and Associates 2007) compiled much of the pertinent information on the sensitive wildlife and plants of the Puente Hills within the Habitat Authority's jurisdiction. Notably absent from the proposed boundaries of the SEA is the entire extent of "Core habitat" which was delineated by the Habitat Authority within its Resource Management Plan located west of Colima Rd. This large parcel, now managed by the Habitat Authority, is contiguous to habitat known to support some of the most imperiled species of the Puente Hills, including the federally-threatened California Gnatcatcher and such California species of special concern as coastal populations of the Cactus Wren *Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*, the latter having suffered widespread extirpations in recent years. These areas should be included within the SEA.

Also, please consider for inclusion other biologically rich lands owned or managed by the Habitat Authority at the top of the Turnbull Canyon watershed. There are several other parcels adjacent to Habitat Authority properties in this area that warrant inclusion into the SEA due to habitat importance (Figure 4). This is an area that was found to support several rare plants, including Plummer's Mariposa-Lily *Calochortus plummerae* and the western spadefoot *Spea hammondi* (described in the RMP). However, the proposed SEA would actually reduce the coverage of this important upper watershed zone. In this case, we recommend that at the least, the existing SEA boundary remain in place.

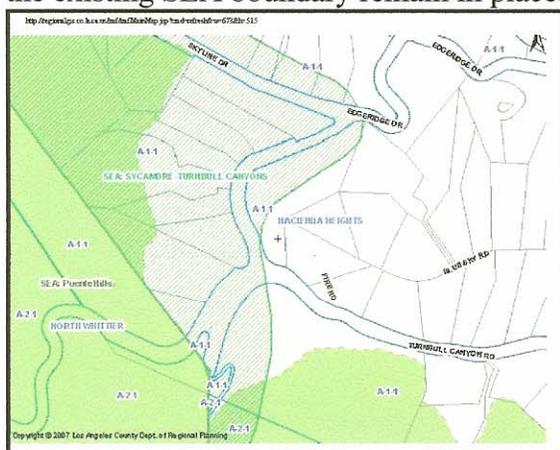


Figure 4. Hacienda Heights Area, showing pale green shaded area formerly included in the Puente Hills SEA.

While in general, the Habitat Authority welcomes the SEA designation over its properties, please consider deletion of the developed area of Sycamore Canyon from the proposed SEA designation. The Habitat Authority is considering installing a small office in between two

existing buildings at this location where there would no impacts to the native landscape or environment. This physical presence would enable us to better manage this and other sensitive habitat areas in the western Puente Hills.

Habitat Authority would welcome the opportunity to meet with County staff to discuss any of these matters in further detail.

Proposed Puente Hills SEA Description:

In addition, please note the following changes to the current description for the Puente Hills SEA.

On Page 1 of the Puente Hills Description– Paragraph 4- Please note that there are key regional habitats represented in the Puente Hills such as southern California black walnut woodland.

Page 2, Paragraph 1- Oak woodland is prevalent in the Hacienda Hills as well.

Paragraph 2 - Oak Riparian woodland is not extensive in Powder Canyon. Powder Canyon is a mostly arid drainage that does not have the riparian elements of many other drainages in the hills. The classic oak-willow-sycamore canopy and the dense, herbaceous understory typical of this habitat is absent from most of Powder Canyon.

Paragraph 4 – Please reevaluate the description of willow scrub. It is our understanding that willow scrub has dense understory, composed of Mulefat and Sandbar Willow *Salix exigua*.

Paragraph 5 – Please replace the word "robust" with "high in stature," "high, evergreen" or something else - most habitats have robust species, even non-native grassland.

The western limit of "mixed chaparral" in the Puente Hills extends to about Powder Canyon, and is dominated by the species listed, as well as by Scrub Oak (*Q. berberidifolia*), with subdominants of Chamise, *Cercocarpus*, and *Ceanothus*; Laurel Sumac is uncommon. The chaparral-like habitat prevalent west of Powder Canyon is better termed "sumac scrub", and is dominated by the species listed in the paragraph 5 of page 2; Laurel Sumac, for example, is common and dominant in sumac scrub

Page 2, Paragraph 5 (continued on page 3) - Mixed Chaparral is widespread in the eastern Puente Hills, and Sumac Scrub is widespread in the western Puente Hills - I would not single out individual drainages (Sycamore Canyon, etc.) here.

Page 3, Paragraph 1 - Coastal sage scrub is very robust. Maybe write "short in stature" to distinguish it from chaparral. Please note that cactus scrub forms a very important subunit of coastal sage scrub, and is extensive on southerly and westerly slopes, including Sycamore Canyon, Hellman Park, and the entire La Habra Heights area. These patches represent some of the best examples of cactus scrub in the entire county, and should be noted as such.

Paragraph 2 - Non-native grassland is extensive in three important areas of the Puente Hills; along the Skyline Trail south of Turnbull Canyon, vic. Powder Canyon, and south of Rowland

Heights ("Aera" property). This habitat supports a variety of sensitive plant and animal species (e.g., Catalina Mariposa-Lily *Calochortus catalinae*, Grasshopper Sparrow, Western Spadefoot), and is not degraded as portrayed here.

Paragraph 3 - Freshwater marsh is restricted to the San Bernardino County portion of upper Tonner Canyon, both north and south of Grand Ave. (easily visible from road); no actual freshwater marsh habitat exists within this SEA in Los Angeles Co., though there is substantial freshwater marsh to the west, within Whittier Narrows.

Paragraph 5 - Invertebrates were investigated by LSA (2005), who documented several scarce butterflies, including California Dogface *Colias eurydice*, Western Tailed-Blue *Everes amyntula*, and Mormon *Apodemia mormo* and Fatal *Calephelis nemesi* Metalmarks. These are scattered throughout the hills.

The herpetofauna of this SEA was investigated by Haas et al. (2002) and LSA (2005), who found the hills to support several locally-rare and/or sensitive species, including Western Spadefoot (one recent record vic. Skyline Trail south of Hacienda Hts.), Arboreal Salamander *Aneides lugubris* (Whittier Hills, Powder Cyn.), two species of slender-salamander (*B. nigriventris* and *B. major*; widespread), Coastal Western Whiptail *Cnemidophorus tigris* (widespread), Red Diamondback Rattlesnake *Crotalus ruber* (localized), and Western Blind Snake *Leptotyphlops humilis* (Powder Cyn.).

Page 4, Paragraph 1 - Sensitive mammals (LSA 2005) include the Desert Woodrat *Neotoma lepida* and habitat specialists like the Cactus Mouse *Peromyscus eremicus* (Whittier Hills) and the Western Gray Squirrel *Sciurus griseus* (Powder Cyn.).

The Puente Hills is extremely important for bats, and 11 species were documented here during a recent study (Remington 2006), including such sensitive species as Yuma myotis *Myotis ymanensis*, western red bat *Lasiurus blossevillii*, western yellow bat *Lasiurus xanthinus*, hoary bat *Lasiurus cinereus*, pallid bat *Antrozous pallidus*, pocketed free-tailed bat *Nyctinomops femorosaccus* and western mastiff bat *Eumops perotis*.

Page 4 – Paragraph 2 –The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (a joint powers of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy) working with the Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority commissioned the study of wildlife movement in Puente Hills.

Page 5 - A major study (LSA 2007) compiled much of the pertinent information on the sensitive wildlife and plants of the Puente Hills within the Habitat Authority's jurisdiction. The federally Threatened California Gnatcatcher occurs in at least two areas of the hills, vic. Arroyo San Miguel east of Colima Dr. and a smaller, possibly irregular population along Sycamore Canyon in the western Puente Hills. These represent some of the last locales for this bird in the Los Angeles Basin, and some of the farthest-north individuals of the species.

This range is notable as holding among the last known populations in the Los Angeles area for several taxa that are considered California Species of Special Concern and/or that are nearly extinct locally, and through recent biological monitoring, we are discovering additional

protected species every year, including the federally Endangered Least Bell's Vireo, detected in 2005 and 2007 and possibly rare summer resident. It is not a coincidence that many of these species are grassland or coastal scrub specialists; these habitats have been virtually eliminated in the Los Angeles Basin, but persists in a reasonably intact state in the Puente-Chino Hills (Cooper 2000).

Proposed SEA Ordinance:

From time to time the Habitat Authority will propose improvements to the open space such as low impact recreational trailheads, trails, wildlife road underpasses, or fences to limit illegal off-road activity on protected preserve areas. Our intentions with these and similar projects are to design them around the existing biological resources to ensure the resources will continue to function and even flourish. We recommend that open space management activities of this nature be considered as compatible and appropriate within a SEA. More specifically, we recommend that language be added into the SEA Ordinance allowing public land preservation agencies with adopted management plans to carry out all activities that contribute the mission of their agency.

Circulation:

In regards to Figure 4.6, Adopted and Proposed Scenic Corridors, we support the existing candidacy of Colima Rd., Hacienda Rd., Harbor Blvd., and the 57 Freeway as scenic corridors. In addition, we support adding Turnbull Canyon Rd., as a proposed scenic corridor.

Conservation & Open Space Element:

We commend the County for its efforts in protecting the last remaining open space areas in the Los Angeles Basin. In regards to Figure 5.1, Open Space, we will support the inclusion of the unincorporated Authority owned/managed lands to be designated as Other Park and Conservancy Land. Currently some of the unincorporated properties we own/manage are indicated as such, but not all of them. Please contact the Habitat Authority staff for a map of Habitat Authority owned/managed lands in GIS at your convenience.

In regards to Figure 5.2, Trail Network, missing is the existing Los Angeles County Schabarum Trail through the Puente Hills. Please include this trail and its connector trails, as well as adopted trails of the Habitat Authority which can be designated as Existing Official Trails on Public Lands Trail Network. Please contact the Habitat Authority staff for a map of these trails in GIS at your convenience.

In regards to the Biological Resources: Urban-Wildland Interface (page 123), we recommend that its definition include the following italicized language "...where the edge of the forest *and other publicly owned open space* lands meet development..." The Habitat Authority's adopted Resource Management Plan addresses urban edge issues, and we also have produced a DVD regarding urban edge issues, both intended to protect the Puente Hills' biotic, watershed, aesthetic and recreational resources. Edge issues are not unique to the forest.

Safety:

On page 164, please add to Goal S-2: Coordination with other public agency emergency planning and response activities.

Furthermore, the General Plan should address the issue of compatibility of roadways with wildlife in the Circulation and Conservation and Open Space Elements, not exclusively in the section dealing with Significant Ecological Areas. Issues to address include the restriction of wildlife movement, the increase in wildlife mortality with roadways, and the threat of public safety with vehicular-wildlife collisions. The draft General Plan should include measures such as wildlife underpasses, overpasses, fencing, or signage to address these conditions during the continued operation of existing roadways, for new roadway development, and for other development that would significantly increase traffic on roadways, near natural and wildland areas.

Please add us to the mailing list for the draft General Plan and all associated documents when they are made available for public review. Thank you for your consideration of our comments. Again, we would like to meet with County staff to further discuss these issues at your convenience. Feel free to contact me or Andrea Gullo, Executive Director, at (562) 945-9003 for further discussion.

Sincerely,



Bob Henderson
Chairman

cc: Board of Directors
Citizens Technical Advisory Committee

Sources Cited:

Cooper, D.S. 2000. Breeding landbirds of a highly-threatened open space: The Puente-Chino Hills, California. *Western Birds* 31(4):213-234.

Haas, C.D., A.R. Backlin, C. Rochester, and R.N. Fisher. 2002. Monitoring reptiles and amphibians at longterm biodiversity monitoring stations: The Puente-Chino Hills. USGS Western Ecology Research Center. Final report. Sacramento, California.

LSA Associates, Inc. 2005. Dragonfly, Butterfly, and Vertebrate Species Matrix for the Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority Lands, Results of Multispecies Surveys and Pitfall Trapping, Irvine, California.

LSA Associates, Inc. 2007. (Draft) resource management plan. Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority. (May 2007) July 2007. Irvine, California.

PCR Services Corporation (with Frank Hovore & Associates and FORMA Systems). 2000. Biological resources assessment of the proposed Puente Hills Significant Ecological Area. November 2000. Irvine, California.

Remington, S. 2006. Bat surveys of the Puente Hills. Final report. Costa Mesa, California. July 2006.



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294

(323) 890-4330

P. MICHAEL FREEMAN
FIRE CHIEF
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

August 25, 2010

AUG 31 2010

Lisbeth Sinclair, Sr. Regional Planning Assistant
Dept of Regional Planning - Community Studies I
320 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Ms. Sinclair:

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION: DRAFT INITIAL STUDY OF THE COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE/LAND USE MAP, COLIMA ROAD AND AQUZA AVENUE, HACIENDA HEIGHTS (FFER #201000086)

The Mitigated Negative Declaration 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:

SERVICES: 4. FIRE/SHERIFF SERVICES

The Initial Study provides incorrect information for Fire Department services. It is Fire Station 91, located at 2691 S. Turnbull Canyon Road, Hacienda Heights, CA 91745-5135, that serves the community of Hacienda Heights. The Revenue & Finance Code, Title 4- Chapter 4.92, checked under Standard Code Requirements, was a direct assessment that has not been levied since the passage of the Right to Vote on Taxes Act in 1996. This code is no longer valid.

LAND DEVELOPMENT UNIT:

1. The development of this project must comply with all applicable code and ordinance requirements for construction, access, water mains, fire flows and fire hydrants.
2. Some property in the Hacienda Heights community is located within the area described by the Forester and Fire Warden as a Fire Zone 4, Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ). All applicable fire code and ordinance requirements for construction, access, water mains, fire hydrants, fire flows, brush clearance and fuel modification plans, must be met.

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

AGOURA HILLS	BRADBURY	CUDAHY	HAWTHORNE	LA MIRADA	MALIBU	POMONA	SIGNAL HILL
ARTESIA	CALABASAS	DIAMOND BAR	HIDDEN HILLS	LA PUENTE	MAYWOOD	RANCHO PALOS VERDES	SOUTH EL MONTE
AZUSA	CARSON	DUARTE	HUNTINGTON PARK	LAKESWOOD	NORWALK	ROLLING HILLS	SOUTH GATE
BALDWIN PARK	CERRITOS	EL MONTE	INDUSTRY	LANCASTER	PALMDALE	ROLLING HILLS ESTATES	TEMPLE CITY
BELL	CLAREMONT	GARDENA	INGLEWOOD	LAWNDALE	PALOS VERDES ESTATES	ROSEMEAD	WALNUT
BELL GARDENS	COMMERCE	GLEN DORA	IRWINDALE	LOMITA	PARAMOUNT	SAN DIMAS	WEST HOLLYWOOD
BELLFLOWER	COVINA	HAWAIIAN GARDENS	LA CANADA-FLINTRIDGE	LYNWOOD	PICO RIVERA	SANTA CLARITA	WESTLAKE VILLAGE
			LA HABRA				WHITTIER

Lisbeth Sinclair, Sr. Regional Planning Assistant
August 25, 2010
Page 2

3. Specific requirements for access, fire flows and hydrants, will be addressed when a land use permit (Tentative Map, CUP, etc) or architectural plans are submitted to the Fire Department for review and approval.
4. The County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Land Development Unit appreciates the opportunity to comment on this project.

FORESTRY DIVISION – OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS:

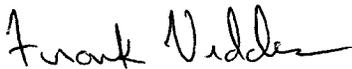
1. The statutory responsibilities of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Forestry Division include erosion control, watershed management, rare and endangered species, vegetation, fuel modification for Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones or Fire Zone 4, archeological and cultural resources, and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

HEALTH HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DIVISION:

1. The Health Hazardous Materials Division Has no objection to the proposed project.

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

Very truly yours,



for JOHN R. TODD, CHIEF, FORESTRY DIVISION
PREVENTION SERVICES BUREAU

JRT:lj



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

GAIL FARBER, Director

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
Telephone: (626) 458-5100
<http://dpw.lacounty.gov>

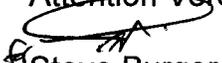
ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
P.O. BOX 1460
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

September 1, 2010

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE: LD-1

TO: Lisbeth Sinclair
Community Studies I Section
Department of Regional Planning

~~Attention Veronica Siranosian~~

FROM:  Steve Burger
Land Development Division
Department of Public Works

**INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
PROJECT NO. R2008-01137
HACIENDA HEIGHTS COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE**

We reviewed the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for Project No. R2008-01137. The project is an update to the Hacienda Heights Community General Plan, which was adopted in 1978. The Community Plan articulates the community's desired vision and sets specific, action-oriented goals and policies to achieve that vision over the next 20 years.

The following comments are for your consideration and relate to the environmental document only:

Services-Sewer

The proposed Community Plan increases the total allowable number of residential units that can be built within the community and this increase is focused along certain corridors in the center and north portions of the community. It is quite likely that if built out to its maximum allowable densities these areas may experience sewer capacity problems in the local sewer lines that serve them, which may limit the development potential of some properties unless mitigation measures are adopted by the individual developers. Adequate capacity to serve each subsequent project within the Community Plan will need to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

If you have any questions regarding the sewer comment, please contact Julian Garcia at (626) 458-4921 or by e-mail at jugarcia@dpw.lacounty.gov.

Lisbeth Sinclair
September 1, 2010
Page 2

Other-Environmental Safety

- **Underground Storage Tanks/Industrial Waste**

Should any operation within the proposed project include the construction, installation, modification, or removal of underground storage tanks, industrial waste treatment or disposal facilities, Public Works' Environmental Programs Division must be contacted for required approvals and operating permits.

If you have any questions regarding the environmental safety comment, please contact Corey Mayne at (626) 458-3524 or by e-mail at cmayne@dpw.lacounty.gov.

If you have any additional questions or require more information, please contact Toan Duong at (626) 458-4945 or by e-mail at tduong@dpw.lacounty.gov.

JY:ca

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
 Governor's Office of Planning and Research
 State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit



Arnold Schwarzenegger
 Governor
 August 26, 2010

Cathleen Cox
 Acting Director

Lisbeth Sinclair
 Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
 320 W Temple Street, Rm 1354
 Los Angeles, CA 90012

SEP - 1 2010

Subject: Hacienda Heights Community Plan Update
 SCH#: 2010071046

Dear Lisbeth Sinclair:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named Negative Declaration to selected state agencies for review. The review period closed on August 25, 2010, and no state agencies submitted comments by that date. This letter acknowledges that you have complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Please call the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process. If you have a question about the above-named project, please refer to the ten-digit State Clearinghouse number when contacting this office.

Sincerely,

Scott Morgan
 Director, State Clearinghouse

**Document Details Report
State Clearinghouse Data Base**

SCH# 2010071046
Project Title Hacienda Heights Community Plan Update
Lead Agency Los Angeles County

Type Neg Negative Declaration
Description NOTE: Review Per Lead

The proposed Hacienda Heights Community Plan is an update of the existing Hacienda Heights General Plan, which was adopted in 1978. It articulates the community's desired vision for Hacienda Heights and sets specific, action-oriented goals and policies to achieve that vision over the next 20 years. It addresses the issues of community services, health and safety, housing, land use and development, maintenance and appearance, open space and recreation, and transportation in a comprehensive and holistic way. It adjusts for changes in the population and development since adopted in 1978 and accommodates projected population increases in a manner consistent with the community's vision. The project also includes proposed zone changes to implement the land use policy and to ensure that any existing inconsistencies between zoning and land use are corrected.

Lead Agency Contact

Name Lisbeth Sinclair
Agency Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
Phone (213) 974-6425 **Fax**
email
Address 320 W Temple Street, Rm 1354...
City Los Angeles **State** CA **Zip** 90012

Project Location

County Los Angeles
City
Region
Lat / Long
Cross Streets Approximately 11 square-mile area 19 miles east of Downtown Los Angeles
Parcel No.

Township	Range	Section	Base
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Proximity to:

Highways Hwy 60
Airports
Railways Amtrak Riverside Line
Waterways
Schools La Puente Unified School District
Land Use

Project Issues Aesthetic/Visual; Agricultural Land; Air Quality; Archaeologic-Historic; Biological Resources; Drainage/Absorption; Economics/Jobs; Flood Plain/Flooding; Forest Land/Fire Hazard; Geologic/Seismic; Minerals; Noise; Population/Housing Balance; Public Services; Recreation/Parks; Schools/Universities; Septic System; Sewer Capacity; Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading; Solid Waste; Toxic/Hazardous; Traffic/Circulation; Vegetation; Water Quality; Water Supply; Wetland/Riparian; Growth Inducing; Landuse; Cumulative Effects

Reviewing Agencies Resources Agency; Department of Fish and Game, Region 5; Office of Historic Preservation; Department of Parks and Recreation; Department of Water Resources; California Highway Patrol; Caltrans, District 7; Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 4; Native American Heritage Commission

**Document Details Report
State Clearinghouse Data Base**

Date Received 07/19/2010

Start of Review 07/19/2010

End of Review 08/25/2010

Sinclair, Lisbeth

From: Eric Chow [Eric.Chow@lacdc.org]
Sent: Thursday, September 02, 2010 12:19 PM
To: Sinclair, Lisbeth
Subject: RE: Out of Office AutoReply: Reminder: Public Comment and Hearing for Hacienda Heights Community Plan Update
Attachments: Red Team mtg - proj info.pdf

Hi Liz,

Thank you for checking back with us. We only have one comment about the update. We are planning to develop a passive park next to Orange Grove Middle School (see attached project information). Based on the Land Use Plan dated 04/08/10, the site is designated as P-CS , but not OS-PR.

Thank you,

Eric

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

From: Sinclair, Lisbeth [mailto:lsinclair@planning.lacounty.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, September 01, 2010 4:14 PM
To: Eric Chow
Subject: FW: Out of Office AutoReply: Reminder: Public Comment and Hearing for Hacienda Heights Community Plan Update

Hi, Eric,

I work at Regional Planning on the Hacienda Heights Community Plan Update. I wanted to follow up with you in Bill Yee's absence re: any feedback on the Draft Plan and Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration. The comment period ends tomorrow, and we have not yet received any comments from CDC. Do you know if there are any; and, if so, if they are forthcoming?

Your reply is appreciated. I'm happy to provide additional background or answer any questions you may have if you would like to speak by phone.

Thank you,
Liz Sinclair

Lisbeth K. Sinclair
Senior Regional Planner
Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning
Community Studies I
320 W. Temple Street, Room 1340
Los Angeles, CA 90012
p: 213-974-6425
f: 213-626-0434
e: lsinclair@planning.lacounty.gov

ORANGE GROVE PARK – INFORMATION SHEET

Hacienda La Puente Unified School District currently owns the site as described below, and wants to make this site available to the County of Los Angeles and the local community as a passive park. The County of Los Angeles is willing to pay for improvements to make this park available to the local community. The County of Los Angeles will develop and build this park through the Community Development Commission of the County of Los Angeles.

Proposed Project	Orange Grove Park
Location	Orange Grove Middle School 14505 Orange Grove Hacienda Heights, CA 91745 Site is undeveloped property just northwest of the existing school buildings
Site	Approximately 5.5 acres
Property Information	Owner: Hacienda La Puente Unified School District (HLPUSD) Zoning: R-A-15000 APN: 8211-013-900 APN: 8211-013-901
Proposed Work Scope	Passive neighborhood park to include amenities such as picnic shelters, play area, walking path with exercise stations, restroom building, ADA access and parking for the site, landscaping and irrigation, parking lot and related site work.
Total Development Budget	Approximately \$4 million
Project Timeframe	<u>Predevelopment Phase</u> – Approximately 2 years <u>Construction Phase</u> – Anticipated to start in early 2012 and to be completed in approximately 12 months in early 2013.