



Environmental Report MAY 20, 2019
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Whittier Narrow Dam Repairs

The Army Corps of Engineers has expressed concerns that the flood control dam at Whittier Narrows is likely to fail in the event of a severe storm event. This would cause extensive flooding in downstream communities affecting over one million Southern California residents. Although Hacienda Heights would not be directly affected the adjacent communities of Pico Rivera, Santa Fee Springs and Whittier are at risk. Congresswomen Grace Napolitano is requesting FY 20 funding to repair the dam. The final environmental impact statement is expected to be released in May that would allow for the project design and construction starting in 2019 with completion in 2025.

L.A. County Board of Supervisors rejects Quemetco plant Expansion

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted on February 19 to oppose the expansion of the Quemetco battery recycling plant located in the City of Industry. The vote was unanimous and a five signature letter will be sent to state and regional environmental agencies requesting that deny Quemetco permission to expand operation by 25 percent. There are too many unanswered questions regarding toxic emissions and release.

Hacienda Heights Improvement Association and the His Lai Temple members voiced concerns at the Council meeting. Those attending were and voicing concerns were Scott Martin, President; Board Members Adriana Quinonis; Jennifer Kelly and Lucy Pedregon. Letters from past present Mike Williams and former environmental chairman Joan Licari were also presented. Gina Ooi represented the His Lai Buddhist Temple.

The situation with Quemetco is closely being monitored by Congressman Ian Calderon's office and any decisions in regard to Quemetco's expansion plans will be forwarded to all concerned parties.

Mike Hughes appointed chairman of the Puente Hills Habitat Authority

Mike Hughes is the new chairman of the Puente Hills Habitat Authority, a joint-powers agency that manages 3,870 acres of public open space. [But he's succeeding Bob Henderson](#) who has been chairman the Puente Hills Habitat Authority since its founding in 1994. Mike is a lifetime HHIA member and former association president. Mike was instrumental in leading the effort to close the Puente Hills Landfill.

SEA (Significant Ecological Area)

Significant Ecological Area (SEA) means an area that is determined to possess an example of biotic resources that cumulatively represent biological diversity for the purposes of protecting biotic diversity, as part of the Los Angeles County general plan.

Significant Ecological Areas are important if one believes that Southern California is well on its way to becoming wall-to-wall housing tracts and commercial zones. SEAs are designated by Los Angeles County as open spaces of special value for native plants and wildlife that must be preserved from inappropriate development.

The SEA Program objective is to conserve genetic and physical diversity within LA County by designating biological resource areas that are capable of sustaining themselves into the future.

The following areas are being considered to change the conceptual SEAs into full SEAs thus providing those areas with the full protection of the new SEA Ordinance. They

are in the Puente Hills region and border the open space of the Puente Hills Native Habitat Authority. These actions to create a wildlife corridor that would extend from the Whittier Narrows to Chino Hills State Park and believe these areas are extremely important in linking areas already protected.

Cat-in-charge-of the canaries? Cell Towers

The L.A. County Board of Supervisors is considering the hiring Cityscape Inc. to write wireless facility ordinances. Cityscape is a consulting firm that works with cell phone companies to help them identify needed cell phone coverage areas. Supervisor Hahn's office has requested a meeting on March 27th with Dr. Lee and community members with Department of Regional Planning(DPR) in regards to concerns about Cityscape Inc consultants having serious conflict of Interest with regards to writing wireless facility ordinance.(cell towers) L.A. County DPR members in attendance were: Amy Bodek, Director; Bruce Durbin, Supervising Regional Planner; and Dean Edwards, Senior Regional Planning Assistant.

They explained that Cityscape was selected as the consultant based on competitive bids with only two respondents; the other respondent was associated directly with the cell phone industry and deemed unsuitable. To find another consultant at this time will require 6-9 months and delay adoption of the ordinance for nearly a year. Any further delay in adopting an ordinance is not acceptable especially in unincorporated areas of L.A. County- several cities have already adopted ordinances of their jurisdiction.

Lithium-ion battery recycling

A paper entitled The future of automotive lithium-ion battery recycling: Charting a sustainable course. authored by Linda Gaines of Argonne National Laboratory and published in the November 2014 edition of **Sustainable Material and Technologies**- available online was reviewed. The abstract for that article is enclosed.

This paper looks ahead, beyond the projected large-scale market penetration of vehicles containing advanced batteries, to the time when the spent batteries will be ready for final disposition. It describes a working system for recycling, using lead-acid battery recycling as a model. Recycling of automotive lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries is more complicated and not yet established because few end-of-life batteries will need recycling for another decade. There is thus the opportunity now to obviate some of the technical, economic and institutional roadblocks that might arise. The paper considers what actions can be started now to avoid the impediments to recycling and ensure that economical and sustainable options are available at the end of the batteries useful life.