



HACIENDA HEIGHTS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.
POST OFFICE BOX 5235 • HACIENDA HEIGHTS, CA 91745

Environmental Report March 2020

Prepared by Maury Edwards – Environmental Chair

Whittier Narrow Dam Repairs

The February 2019 Environmental Report included an article concerning needed repairs on the Whittier Narrow Dam. (Copied below)

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.

In March, 2020 the San Gabriel Valley Tribune reported that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had completed their assessment of the needed repairs and determined that the threat was greater and more urgent than previously reported. A cost of repairs was estimated at nearly \$400million to fix the dam. Numerous congressional representatives, including Grace Napolitano are pushing the Army Corps of Engineers to make the Whittier Narrows Dam a priority.

California Adopt-a-highway Program

Those of you that travel the streets and highways of California may have noticed the **Adopt-a-highway** signs posted on the side of the roads. This state-wide program was established in 1989 by Caltrans. It allows the public to donate materials and services for roadside maintenance and enhancement. There are over 3000 active groups and nearly 12,000 participants. Three quarters of the groups are volunteers that perform services themselves; the balance are sponsors that hire contractors on their behalf. There are nearly 10,000 miles of roads and highways adopted for litter removal.

One such section of road in Hacienda Heights is Colima Road from Casino Dr. to Azusa Blvd. The Kiwanis Club of Hacienda Heights is the sponsor and volunteers come from club membership and sponsored youth programs in the local schools. Once a month, weather and schedule permitting, up to 30 volunteers can be seen removing litter from along the roads.

Hacienda Heights Improvement Association uses the adopt-a-highway program to coordinate the activities of the annual **Jim Davis Beautification** on the Saturday before the 4th of July Parade.

PFAS's

Last quarter I reported on the presence of PFAS materials in drinking water. PFAS's were found to be present in small amounts (parts per trillion-1,000,000,000,000) in nearly all persons tested. The WHO considers these materials to be potential carcinogens and the State of California has placed strict limits on their presence in drinking water. After consulting with the Manager of Environmental Services for the Eastern Municipal Water District, I learned that the levels of these materials in drinking water has been slowly declining due to reduced industrial uses and dilution effects. This is good news; however, there are several wells in Orange Country when water exceeds the maximum limits and will have to be shut down. Water districts in Southern California are adding additional filtration to further reduce PLAS levels.