



HACIENDA HEIGHTS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.
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Environmental and Vice President's Report 2020

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Whittier Narrow Dam Repairs

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. Congress approved \$185 M to initiate repairs. This will cover the first two years of the 4 year repair project.

California Adopt-a-highway Program

The Kiwanis Club of Hacienda Heights is sponsors an adopt a highway segment along Colima Rd. 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

PFAS materials have been found in drinking water. Some wells in Orange County have been shut down due to contamination levels exceeding the PPT levels set by the California EPA. The WHO considers these materials to be potential carcinogens and the State of California has placed strict limits on their presence in drinking water. Levels of these materials in drinking water has been slowly declining due to reduced industrial uses and dilution effects; high concentrations have been found near military bases where PFAS's were used in fire suppression. Fire fighters are being monitored foe PFAS levels. Water districts in Southern California are adding additional filtration to further reduce PFAS levels.

Waste Haulers recycling suspended.

Waste haulers in Southern California suspended recycle efforts at the onset of the COVID19 pandemic by co mingling regular and recycle waste during pickup. This was done as the result of furloughing recycle workers to protect them from the virus. Some recycling was reinstated briefly but dropped during the recent uptick in COVID cases. Other problems persist because there are no outlets for the plastic waste and it is being dumped into landfills.

L.A. County Board of Supervisors unanimously opposes renewing Quemetco's operating permit.

After decades of effort by community organizations and concerned citizens the LA Board of Supervisors has unanimously endorsed a letter to oppose the renewal of Quemetco's operating permit until environmental issues are resolved.

The Board of Supervisors will send a five-signature letter to DTSC opposing the renewal of Quemetco's operating permit until:

- 1) All of Quemetco's unresolved violations of laws are remedied;
- 2) Additional community sampling and cleanup is completed by Quemetco;
- 3) After DTSC's violation score process concludes, and
- 4) After a rigorous public environmental review process is conducted, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

The Board of Supervisors will also sent a five-signature letter to the SCAQMD requesting:

- 1) SCAQMD hold a public meeting to explain its settlement with Quemetco to the public, including how violations were resolved and how the funds will be used;
- 2) SCAQMD consider using a portion of the settlement to help communities impacted by Quemetco, and
- 3) SCAQMD stop considering Quemetco's permit to expand its operations until after the DTSC decides on Quemetco's request to renew its operating permit.

HSI LAI Temple Monastery Expansion

The Hsi Lai Buddhist is planning a expansion west of Hacienda Road across from the current Temple. The scoping EIR was reviewed at a virtual meeting and some concerns noted namely, traffic, erosion and incursion into the Puente Hills wildlife corridor. The traffic and erosion issues were well addressed by the design but the incursion into the wildlife corridor remains a major concern. A letter was drafted addressing the issue and was sent to the L.A. County planning board. An EIR review meeting is planned early in 2021.

Dog Park at Schabarum

It's coming, L.A. County Park and Recreation Department is moving forward on creating a Dog Park at Schabarum Regional Park in Rowland Heights. County Supervisor Janis Hahn has obtained funds to construct a dog park for residents of Hacienda Heights and Rowland Heights. The Schabarum location was selected after a thorough evaluation on park space in Hacienda Heights. The dog park will be located on the Northwest corner of the park adjacent to Colima Road and Azusa Avenue.

Covid-19 Phase III testing protocols reviewed

In the interest of transparency, phase III testing protocols from two vaccine manufacturers, Moderna and Pfizer were disclosed. A review of those disclosures was conducted, a brief review follows.

Moderna and Pfizer will use their test vaccine and a saline solution placebo. Moderna will use 30,000 test subjects and Peizer 44,000. Half will receive the test vaccine and half the placebo. Subjects will be monitored for any adverse reactions as well a Covid-19 symptoms. In the case of the Moderna trial with 30,000 subjects, a total of 151 patients must contract the virus and a 60% efficacy demonstrated. With Pfizer, the numbers are 44,000 and 164 cases. Both companies reported 94 -95% effacy with no severe side effects and both are approved for emergency use.