

HACIENDA HEIGHTS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION  
COMMITTEE REPORT  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE  
JEFF YANN, CHAIR

MEETING DATE: December 15, 2014

**COUNTY SOLID WASTE ROADMAP**

Little information regarding San Jose's two-can trash collection system was available from their website. Per discussion with Coby Skye of County Public Works, the County has no plans at this time to change the current collection system. If and when such changes are made as the solid waste roadmap study proceeds, they would be done in a way that would reduce rather than increase collection costs.

**SAN GABRIEL RIVER DISCOVERY CENTER**

The County Board of Supervisors has approved a proposal by Supervisor Molina to release \$3million for immediate use for construction of outdoor exhibits and educational facilities for the San Gabriel River Discovery Center. This follows a similar agreement in October by the LA Regional Board to release \$2.2 million in fines levied against the Sanitation Districts for a sewage spill at its El Segundo facility. Release of these funds will allow final design and construction of outdoor facilities which will both improve the existing grounds of the nature center and help to fulfill the mission of the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy when it was established 15 years ago. Because of its location in a wetland environment, the Whittier Narrows area was heavily disturbed by agriculture and this funding may also allow some restoration of the natural setting that attracted many cultures to this area. Representatives of the Gabrieleno Tongva Nation spoke at both meetings in favor of proceeding with this project because it will help tell their story, particularly as their culture existed before disruption by Spanish settlers and missionaries. The presence of a year-round water source was noted by Spanish explorers as well and it was chosen as the first site of the San Gabriel Mission, abandoned a few years later when the site was washed out by one of the San Gabriel River's notorious springtime floods. This importance continues to this day as we heard Ed Chavez describe the fact that our area continues to survive on water resources from the San Gabriel River without receipt of California Aqueduct water during this drought year.

Although we have also heard concerns about a demonstration wetland to help in recharging site rainfall, it should be noted that this facility will be operated with approval of the Vector Control Agency full in compliance with its policies. These same policies already apply to the much larger lakes at Legg Lake Regional Park and the 9 acres of legally required wetland habitat at the Nature Center.

**SAN GABRIEL NATIONAL MONUMENT**

The National Forest Service has announced that, with the renewed emphasis placed on Angeles National Forest by National Monument designation, it has reallocated resources from other facilities to the Angeles for clean-up crews and additional managers. This does not constitute an additional federal allocation but simply refocuses existing resources from the Forest Service's annual budget based on an elevated assessment of the value of this forest. In addition, the Forest Service Foundation has emphasized a fundraising effort for the monument which has raised an additional \$2.1 million in donations to date.