

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

MEETING DATE: February 23, 2015

PUENTE HILLS LANDFILL

Final closure activities for the landfill are now nearing completion. The top deck final cover, which serves the primary purpose of limiting rain water percolation into the landfill, is complete. Slope irrigation and hydroseeding will be complete this month. The hydroseeding will include grasses and small plants on the top deck primarily for the purpose of erosion control. It is not intended as a final landscaping plan for park use which will be put in place by County DPR once the final park plan is completed. Slope container planting is expected to be complete in spring of this year. HHIA has consistently maintained that the slopes facing Hacienda Heights be landscaped with native plants consistent with the remaining natural slopes of the projecting ridges. These plants are expected to be permanent.

Because of the decline of landfill use over the last five years of its life, the cut slope on the northwest side of Nike Hill was not filled to the level expected. As a result, a soil buttress is being constructed on the northwest face of this hill to stabilize the cut. This placement of soil should begin this month.

There have been two copper wire thefts from the landfill of irrigation control system. Both times, access was through the gate at Los Robles. About 4000 feet on February 4 then on February 6 they came back and a neighbor again called the sheriff and this time they were caught.

As a result, the Sanitation Districts are seeking to close these gates permanently. This action is also supported by a few local residents along local streets near these access points. This item will be discussed at the Habitat Authority Board meeting on Thursday. While these access points draw users from out of town on the weekends, they are used by many residents of Hacienda Heights on a regular basis. Many, including former HHIA Board member Louie Pontrelli and his wife, enter daily to walk their dogs or hike short loops between Orange Grove and Los Robles. While I have never logged my own entrances at these points, it certainly numbers well over 2,000 over the last 43 years. It would be tragic for these hills to finally be opened as a public park and see the residents who have suffered through years of living with the landfill locked out of walk-in access to it.