

Environmental Report: June 13, 2016

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Los Angeles County Parks Assessment

In Los Angeles County park projects are currently funded in part by Proposition A—the Safe Neighborhoods Park Tax passed in 2014. This funding is set to expire in 2019 and funding for park projects will be greatly reduced. As a result, in March 2015 the supervisors of Los Angeles County approved a motion to initiate a countywide survey and assessment of the need for parks and recreation areas within the County boundaries including both areas within cities and unincorporated county areas. The study is an attempt to determine the number of parks, their condition, and community needs for new facilities and potential costs of initiating these changes.

The County was divided up into study areas and park employees, local residents and groups within cities evaluated the sites, types of facilities present, their condition and needs. Priorities were set as to what new facilities were needed or wanted by residents. The results of the Parks Needs Assessment will help inform planning and decision-making regarding future funding. A parcel tax is being considered for placement on the November 2016 ballot. To read the results for the entire county:

<http://lacountyparkneeds.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Executive-Summary.pdf>

In Hacienda Heights, the Hacienda Heights Improvement Association worked together with the L.A. County Department of Parks and Recreation to complete the analysis of our community parks. In Hacienda Heights 5 meetings were held at the Hacienda Heights Community Center. At these meetings, residents indicated types of activities/facilities they wanted by voting.

Residents voiced concerns that there will be no access to the park area directly from Hacienda Heights. At the workshops, three themes were introduced: a passive park with trails, open areas and natural vegetation with connections to trail with opportunities for wildlife viewing; a second vision of a park with more extensive recreational options, including activities such as a bicycle park, a zip line, dog park, etc. and a third option that emphasized the history of the landfill for its renewable energy and recycling. Residents voted on the activities and a “Preferred Plan” was developed.

On May 16, 2016, a meeting was held at the Hacienda Heights Community Center to discuss the findings of the Assessment. A summary of the findings for Hacienda Heights is below.

For the entire report on Hacienda Heights Study area go to:

http://lacountyparkneeds.org/FinalReportAppendixA/StudyArea_099.pdf

A summary of the findings of the local park assessment:

PARK LAND: Is there enough park land for the population? The county average is 49% of the population living within 1/2 mile of a park. The county average is 3.3 park acres per 1,000 population. In Hacienda Heights 36% live within ½ mile of a park.

PARK PRESSURE

- **Countrywood Park (6.21 Acres)** 2.1 park acres per 1,000
- **Manzanita Park (12.12 Acres)** 1.44 park acres per 1,000.
- **Hacienda Heights Community and Rec. Center (8.9 Acres)** 1.93 park acres per 1,000
- **Orange Grove Park (5.42 Acres)** 1.37 park acres per 1,000
- **Los Robles Park (5 Acres)** 1.8 park acres per 1,000
- **Pepperbrook Park (5.15 Acres)** 1.33 park acres per 1,000
- **Thomas S. Burton Park (11.75 Acres)** 1.79 park acres per 1,000
- **William Steinmetz Park (11.53 Acres)** 1.3 park acres per 1,000

Prioritized park projects as determined by voting of attendees at the Assessment workshop:

1 Add Dog Park at Thomas Burton Park \$695,200

2-4 Build New Community Park \$35,112,627

 New Park Tasks: Land Acquisition \$10,842,627

 Infrastructure/General \$5,280,000

 Pools/Aquatic Facilities \$8,290,000

 Gymnasium \$10,700,000

5. Add Skate Parks at Thomas Burton & Orange Grove Parks \$775,000

6 Add Community Garden at Orange Grove Park \$300,000

7 Repair Infrastructure/General at Thomas Burton Park \$1,203,300

8 Repair Infrastructure/General at Manzanita Park \$1,239,600

9 Repair Infrastructure/General at Steinmetz Park \$1,180,600

10 Repair Infrastructure/General at Los Robles Park \$528,100

TOTAL EXTIMATED COST FOR PRIORITIZED PRJECTS, DEFERRED MAINTENANCE,

TOTAL COST FOR PRIORITIZED PROJECTS: \$41,034,427

TOTAL DEFERRED MAINTENANCE:

 Replace amenities in "poor" condition \$8,894,475

 Repair amenities in "fair" condition \$7,204,271

GRAND TOTAL for prioritized project and deferred maintenance \$57,133,173

Puente Hills Landfill Park Draft Environmental Report (DEIR)

The DEIR is currently being prepared. The Public Review of the Draft EIR will be presented to the community and stakeholders. Following a presentation, the consultant team will facilitate a discussion and conduct a question and answer session.

Date: June 29, 2016 6:30 p.m.--8 p.m.

To see the workshop presentations go to: <http://www.puentehillslandfillpark.org/workshops>

Quemetco battery/acid recycling plant:

Important meeting on Thurs. June 23rd at La Puente High School: 6: p.m. hosted by South Coast Air Quality Management District about the arsenic risk assessment. Representatives will be present to answer questions the evaluation of health risk from arsenic emissions from Quemetco and the permit for expansion.

In May 2016, the California Dept. of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) began soil testing for lead and other toxic materials in Hacienda Heights originating from the Quemetco Inc. lead/acid battery recycling plant located at 729 South 7th St. in the City of Industry. The plant is located in the City of Industry but Hacienda Heights residents live within 400 feet of the facility. Waters within Puente Creek, a tributary that feeds into Puente Creek, are also being sampled.

Testing started due to concerns about accumulation of lead in soils during the years the plant has been operating since 1959 and possible movement of lead into surface and underground waters. Children playing in dirt and pets in contact with soils may be particularly affected. There is no known safe level of lead that can cause life-long neurological damage, particularly to infants and young children. Because of this risk, the Los Angeles County Health Dept. and Quemetco are offering free blood tests for lead to residents near the facility. (See areas involved in testing and assessment on map that follows.)

Residents within 1/4 mile are being asked to sign permission documents to allow DTSC soil testing on their properties. Only 53 have been signed of 300. DTSC has stated it was going door to door on a Saturday to try and obtain more permits. **If you received a packet from DTSC, please return the permissions so testing can be completed.** Sampling will include all homes studied during earlier investigations in 1991 and 2004. Up to 50 samples will be taken for each residence—10 locations at 5 depths-0 1-3 inches, 3-6 inches, 6-12 inches, 12-18 inches. In the current soil testing by DTSC, public areas such as streets are being sampled first, to be followed by residential properties within 1/4 mile of the Quemetco facilities. If high lead levels are found out to this perimeter, testing will extend beyond the 1/4 mile.

On May 17, 2016 the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) instructed Quemetco it must notify 12,000 residents and businesses near the plant of potential contamination by arsenic, a known carcinogen by June 16, 2016. The company also must develop a risk reduction plan within 180 days because of the total number of people estimated to get cancer due to the facility's emissions over several decades. The reduction is required because of new regulations instituted by the agency. Arsenic is a byproduct of the smelting of lead from the batteries and is a known carcinogen.

HHIA has joined with the Clean Air Coalition of Avocado Heights and the Sierra Club in

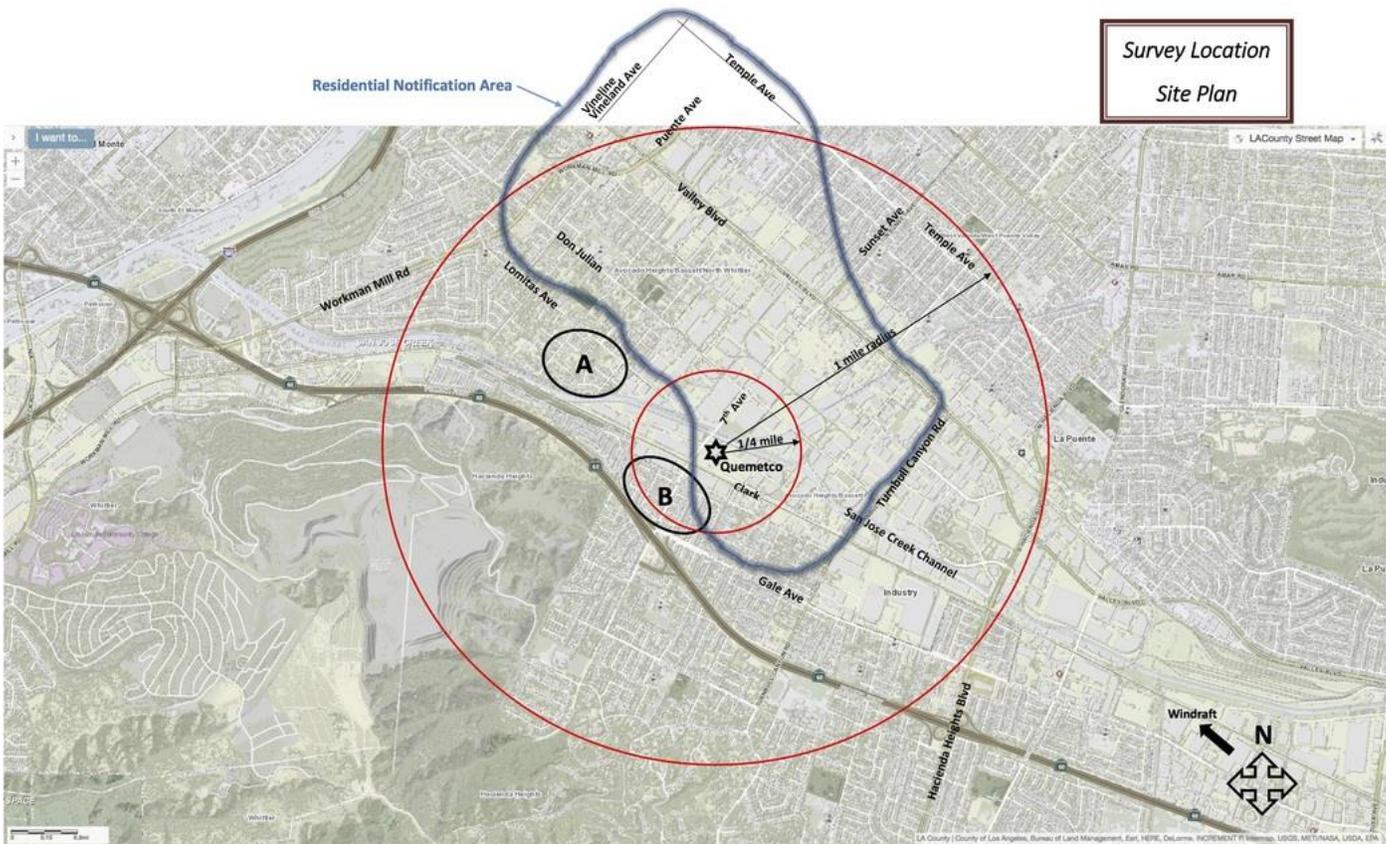
monitoring two permit applications submitted by Quemetco—one with DTSC for a ten-year extension to operate and separately another with SCAQMD for a 25% expansion of operations and change in fuel. Quemetco did install an additional electrostatic precipitator which resulted in a reduction of its lead and other toxic air pollutants but new regulations passed by SCAQMD require further reduction in arsenic contamination resulting due to air transport from the company's smokestack.

DTSC, the South Coast Air Quality Management District, the Regional Water Quality Control Board and L.A County Sanitation District. are coordinating environmental studies and possible remediation of problems. This plant currently recycles batteries coming not only from areas west of the Rockies, but also from foreign countries including Canada, Mexico, European, African, and South American areas.

The Quemetco plant has been recycling lead/acid/batteries since 1959. Over the years there have been multiple violations of operating regulations and alarms were raised in 1991 and 2004 when tests of areas around the plant were found to be highly contaminated with lead, some at very high levels. Some cleanup was performed, but residential areas were not included.

On diagram below:

Inner red circle: soil testing for lead is beginning within this 1/4 mile radius of Quemetco
Outer circle: Area potentially to be tested for lead if high levels are found within the 1/4 mi.
Area within blue line: Area considered in arsenic assessment.



Location A = Avocado Heights
Location B = Hacienda Heights