

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

MEETING DATE: Mary 18, 2015

PUENTE HILLS LANDFILL

The Sanitation Districts met for two hours on April 14 with County Parks and Recreation and their consultant Withers and Sandgren a landscape architecture firm. The technical problems with parks built on landfills were discussed along with specific issues with the site Parks and Rec had. There are expected to be 4 public meeting over the next 6 month regarding the park design and facilities. These will be important to the community and Parks and Recreation personnel should be invited to speak before a future HHIA meeting.

Other items discussed were the side slope irrigation and hydro-seeding on the landfill is complete. The side slope container planting is not complete and in all likelihood will not be complete until next winter. Because of the lack of rain this past winter the Sanitation Districts is now being required by one of the regulatory agencies to use water trucks to water the top deck, due to poor germination and growth in the earlier top deck hydro-seeding.

With little activity to report, future CAC meetings will most likely become twice a year rather than quarterly.

QUEMETCO

DTSC has detected lead contamination near the periphery of the Quemetco site in 2004 and 2013. As a result of the 2004 finding, Quemetco was required to investigate further and clean up contamination found during testing. Contamination was found off-site during this operation and clean-up was required.

In 2013, contamination off-site was again suspected. Quemetco was ordered to perform additional testing to determine the extent of possible offsite airborne contamination and sample site water collection and drainage systems. This work was expected to begin near the end of 2014. No final report has been issued.

ORANGE GROVE/LOS ROBLES GATE CLOSURES

County Parks and Recreation personnel have completed their evaluation of the feasibility of reopening the gates at Orange Grove and/or Los Robles Avenues and are expected to attend HHIA's May meeting. Closures continue to generate resident concerns from crowds concentrated at the Seventh Avenue trailhead as well as many Hacienda Heights residents and others who frequently used the closed entrances for casual walks. No formal response has been received from our letter request to Supervisor Knabe to evaluate this situation.

As Habitat Authority limits parking and closes trailheads, seemingly in an attempt to reduce public use of its properties, the Seventh/Orange Grove area remains the one area where there is both a significant amount of available street parking and a nearby urban population that has traditionally enjoyed walk-in access to the hills from their homes over more than four decades. Unfortunately, reducing parking and closing off easy walk-in access points to nearby populations reduces the number of hikers and increases the number who gain access on bikes. Sadly, the biking population also includes a number of off-trail enthusiasts who both damage trails by cutting switchbacks and create long downhill trails which scar open hillsides. These are especially noticeable now in Turnbull Canyon.