

Environmental Report: November 21, 2016

Submitted by: Joan Licari, Conservation Chair

Puente Hills Landfill Park: We have a new park!

On October 25th the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors approved our new regional park on the site of the closed Puente Hills Landfill. Planning continues for the western area on top--the first area within the next few years slated for completion. The two other sections gradually will be developed over many years as land subsidence stabilizes. The approval is the culmination of many years of work by HHIA and members of our community who advocated for closure of the landfill at the end of its last 10-year permit.

Quemetco

A meeting of the Clean Air Coalition of Avocado Heights was held at Andrews Elementary School on Nov. 2nd at which the latest, but unofficial, results of soil and blood testing were presented by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the Los Angeles County Health Dept.. DTSC has completed testing in residential areas in North Whittier and Hacienda Heights, also public right of ways and are now are working on commercial areas. The unofficial results presented at this meeting included the following:

- 132 homes of 300 homes were sampled. Six thousand soil samples were taken at 5 depths for lead and arsenic as well as for other metals. For lead, the level of concern for remedial clean-up is 80 parts per million (ppm.). Clean-up action should take place at 400 ppm. levels.
 - **Lead contamination levels were found to generally be low in the soil**

Lead levels in 4,000 samples were below 100 ppm.
96% were less than 200 ppm. Four percent were between 200-300 ppm. Less than 1% were found to be between 300-400 pp. Four hundred parts per million or more were found in 25 samples.
- Highest levels were within 6 inches of the surface. At greater depths, contamination is thought to be from other sources.
- So far, there is no official data on commercial areas. Reports will contain all metals. Results so far indicate that the elements cadmium and antimony levels may be of greater concern than lead and arsenic. Cadmium and antimony are released from lead/battery recycling operations. Cadmium is a known carcinogen while antimony can cause irritation of the eyes, skin and lungs. As the exposure continues for the latter, more serious health effects may occur, such as lung diseases, heart problems, diarrhea, severe vomiting and stomach ulcers.

It is not known whether antimony can cause cancer or reproductive failure.
- Finger-printing profiles for determining potential sources of lead are still pending from Quemetco.

- Final reports on all metals will probably be released in Feb. or March of 2017.

There are currently no criteria set that would require sampling at a radius greater than ¼ mile. What will trigger a decision to test beyond ¼ mile radius is still pending.

Correction of violations issued by DTSC against Quemetco (a hole in the hazardous waste containment building and an inoperative groundwater monitoring system) have still not been addressed).

Blood tests are continuing to be done free by the Los Angeles County Health Dept. **If you want to have you or your family's blood tested, contact Mary McDaniel at**

mmcdaniel@intrinsik.com or 310-392-6462. So far, results are below levels of concern.

Problems, however, exist relative to blood testing. Lead remains short term in blood, but is stored in bone tissue. The element may be released into blood as bone decalcifies with aging. Bone storage is not revealed in the blood tests.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District has completed its cancer/arsenic risk assessment. They are requiring Quemetco to submit a plan for risk reduction by November 2016 (this month). Cancer risk reduction must meet legal limits as soon as possible but no later than submittal of the plan (i.e. no later than 2019).

Emerald Necklace:

The DEIR is out on the Phase 1 Feasibility Study and Implementation Plan. Comments are due on Dec. 2, 2016.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/vzu5gwua96jeps8/Final%20EN%20IMPLEMENT.pdf?dl=0>

EMERALD NECKLACE

FEASIBILITY STUDY & IMPLEMENTATION PLAN - PHASE I

The Emerald Necklace is an extraordinary 17-mile loop of bicycle and multi-use trails which links parks and open spaces along two waterways, the San Gabriel River and the Rio Hondo. Phase I's 16 projects will close gaps in this regional recreational trails network and increase access to hundreds of thousands of constituents. Ongoing efforts will also add gateways, signage and greening. Further phases identified in the feasibility study will continue to expand the system in following years, contingent on funding and public support.

Westside Multi-Use Trail: A Trail for All User Groups

The primary benefit of this trail would be to create a continuous loop around the Emerald Necklace for recreation, and improve recreational potential for all user groups. The secondary benefit is improving access to the Emerald Necklace spaces for more older communities.

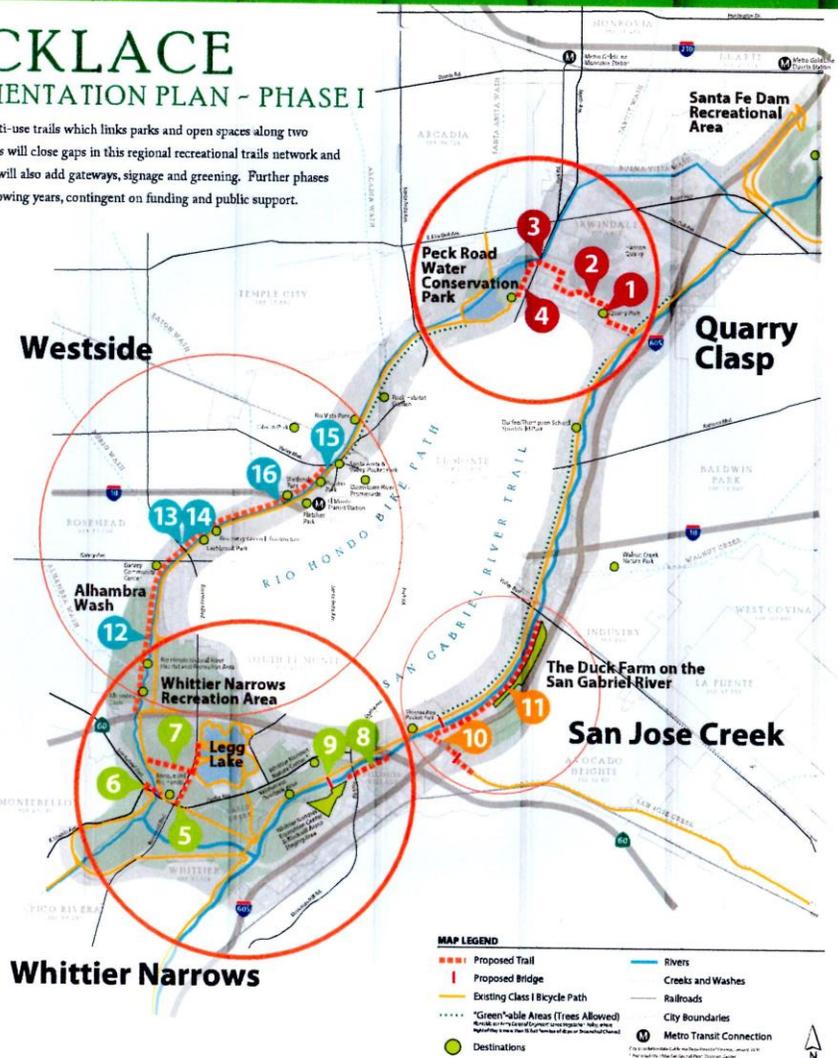
- 12** Multi-Use Trail: Alhambra Wash from State Route 60 to the Garvey Community Center with Gates, Signage, etc.
- 13** Street Access Ramps at Rosemead Blvd. with Gates & Signage
- 14** Underpass at Rosemead Blvd.
- 15** Multi-Use Trail: Rosemead Blvd. to Valley Blvd.
- 16** 10 Freeway Underpass Improvements

Whittier Narrows Connectivity: Linking Existing Park Resources

This connectivity at the western end of the necklace involves strategic placement of Class I bike paths and signage and "new" Multi-Use Trails within the area. Inter-Trail connections within the Whittier Narrows area will create a green loop and improve connectivity between all park areas currently disconnected without a cost.

- 5** Class I Bicycle Path: Adjacent to Rosemead Blvd. to Legg Lake
- 6** Class IV Bicycle Path: From El Boque del Rio Hondo to Lincoln Ave. on San Gabriel Blvd. with Enhanced Signalized Crossing, Signage & Wayfinding
- 7** Class I Bicycle Path: From the Rio Hondo to Legg Lake through the Southern California Edison Easement
- 8** Multi-Use Trail: Pellissier Village from State Route 60 to Peck Road Bridge
- 9** Multi-Use Bridge: Pellissier Bridge at Blackwell Arena Staging Area

PROJECT COMPONENTS



MAP LEGEND

- Proposed Trail
- Proposed Bridge
- Existing Class I Bicycle Path
- "Greenable" Areas (Trees Allowed)
- Rivers
- Creeks and Washes
- Railroads
- City Boundaries
- Destinations
- Metro Transit Connection

The Emerald Necklace is a 17-mile long loop of existing and future parks, greenways, and trails located along the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel River between the Peck Road Water Conservation Park and an area near the gravel quarries in Irwindale in the north and Whittier Narrows Recreation Area on the south. This plan includes park planning for the old duck farm.

The Watershed Conservation Authority (WCA) has completed public scoping meetings and has developed a Feasibility Study & Implementation Planning Project. Planners identified a series of proposed trail and greening projects which would provide a continuous, looped network of bike paths and multi-use trails while providing improved connections to communities within and adjacent to the two rivers.

Quantifying the benefits of the Emerald Necklace project is a complex task. The following table provides a summary of the benefits identified in the study.

- 1. Park Access
- 2. Multi-Use Trail
- 3. Signage
- 4. Recreation

San Jose Creek Connectivity: Linking Existing Park Resources

- 10. Multi-Use Trail
- 11. Multi-Use Trail



The Watershed Conservation Authority was designated to coordinate and advance project-level planning. The purpose of this planning has been to

- 1) evaluate the existing elements of the Emerald Necklace,
- 2) identify feasible projects that support the Emerald Necklace Vision.
- 3) begin the necessary planning and design to advance project implementation. A 2013 Emerald Necklace

The Master Plan resulted in the identification of 44 projects. The Emerald Necklace Steering Committee reduced that number to 29 priority projects, and then further prioritized 16 projects for an initial

phase of implementation and development. The Committee developed a set of consensus goals that were used when assessing the priority of each project. The goals are as follows:

- Completion of a trail through a “Clasp” at the northern portion of the loop.
- Connecting Whittier Narrows to the trail loop.
- Providing access from the Emerald Necklace to surrounding communities.
- Providing access points, missing multi-use/equestrian trail elements, and other park elements.

The DEIR prepared by the Watershed Conservation Authority is out!!!

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/vzu5gwua96jeps8/Final%20EN%20IMPLEMENT.pdf?dl=0>

Four distinct areas were identified. (Numbers refer to diagram below of the Emerald Necklace.)

- a. **Quarry Clasp, Whittier Narrows, San Jose Creek (San Gabriel) to east and west side (Rio Hondo):**

Clasp—Park development (Clasp park-5.2 acres designed for bikes, horses walking), trails, gates, signage and amenities in the gravel quarry area.

Areas 1-2 A Clasp trail multi-use trail and bike paths.

Area 3 A signal crossing at Peck road with signage

Area 4 Rio Hondo trail--Class 1 bicycle path, connection to Peck Road Water Conservation Park

- b. San Jose Creek Area—**11**-Duck Farm, connect to Puente Hills Landfill Park and trails. **10**. 2 multiuse bridges—from San Jose Creek to the San Gabriel River trail and a multi-use trail from San Jose Creek to the Duck Farm. The bridges not yet designed.
- c. Westside multiuse trail:
 - i. Alhambra Wash **12**
 - ii. **13** Street Access Ramps at Rosemead Blvd. with gates and Signage
 - iii. **14**. Underpass at Rosemead Blvd.
 - iv. **15**. Multiuse trail Rosemead Blvd. To Valley Blvd.
 - v. **16**. 10 freeway underpass improvements.

d. Whittier Narrows Connectivity

5. Class 1 Bike trail adjacent to Rosemead Blvd. to Legg Lake

6 Class 4 bike trail from El Bosque to Lincoln Ave. on San Gabriel Blvd with enhanced signalized crossing signs.

7 Class 1 bike trail from the Rio Hondo to Legg lake

8. Multi use trail—Pellisier Village from State Route 8- to Peck Road bridge.

- **The Puente Hills Landfill Park, the Discovery Center in Whittier Narrows are not included in the Emerald Necklace.**

CleanTech—Comments on Nov. 4th Public meeting

The CleanTech site in Irwindale was recently issued a permit for an oil recycling plant located at 5820 Martin Rd, Irwindale, CA 91706. In the past, this facility was solely a site where used oil was collected from many points such as auto oil change facilities, then dispersed to other sites for cleaning and recycling, an activity that requires a permit for hazardous waste recycling and storage.

As Environmental Chair, I attended a public meeting concerning the Draft Supplemental EIR prepared as a result of a lawsuit filed by L.I.M.P.I.A , a social justice organization . I was the only attendee at this public information meeting. The resulting court order required that cumulative results be reexamined for emissions of Green House Gases and traffic impacts resulting from the permit issued by the California Dept. of Toxic Substances Control.

When the permit for the hazardous site was first issued, HHIA was concerned that the original EIR was deficient in evaluation of potential earthquake damage to the site and the possible release of toxic materials into aquifers that supply our local drinking water. Neither of these concerns were reexamined in the new document and the processing of hazardous waste is occurring.