

## **Environmental Report—October 2016**

Submitted by: Joan Licari, Environmental Chair

### **Puente Hills Landfill Park**

**A NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING PUENTE HILLS LANDFILL PARK MASTER PLAN has been circulated and the Board of Supervisors (Board) will conduct a public meeting on Tuesday, October 25, 2016 at 9:30 a.m., in Room 381B of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California 90012 for the project. All interested attendees will be given an opportunity to testify.** This will be an opportunity for the public to express their concerns and wishes as the supervisors consider the Master Plan. Written comments may also be submitted but should be in before the meeting to be included in the information packet the supervisors will receive prior to the meeting. For those residents who cannot attend this meeting, written comments will be accepted.

The Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) was published, and the comment period closed on Aug. 8, 2016. Included in this FEIR are all comments received during the comment period for the DEIR and provided by residents at public meetings. Information on the meeting and a digital copy of the FEIR is available for review at [puentehillslandfillpark.org/library](http://puentehillslandfillpark.org/library). Hard copies are available at Sunkist Library 840 North Puente Avenue La Puente, CA 91746 (626) 960-2707 Sorensen Library 6934 Broadway Avenue Whittier, CA 90606 (562) 695-3979.

During the CEQA process HHIA submitted comments supporting the park and generally the proposed Low Build Alternative. This alternative emphasized passive recreational activities, hiking, picnicking, bicycling, equestrian pursuits and nature study. We emphasized the use of native vegetation and habitat restoration. We also supported the construction of the gondola as a mode of moving visitors to the upper areas of the park from the entry plaza at the base of the landfill. We advocated for a dog park, preferably during the initial stages of development of the park. HHIA did not support inclusion of the slides or zip-lines. HHIA did express concerns about only one access route from Crossroads and the 60 freeway and the lack of access either by trail or roadway. We were also concerned about traffic and parking within the park.

HHIA will be submitting comments to the supervisors prior to the Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Quemetco Lead/Acid Battery Recycling Plant**

Testing for metals is continuing in the ¼ mile radius around the plant. Commercial sites are now being tested, although a number of companies have not given permission for testing on their property. This is a concern since some of the highest readings around the Exide sites were found on rooftops of commercial/industrial sites.

State inspectors found a 3-inch hole in the company's hazardous waste storage facility in July. They also discovered the groundwater monitoring system was not in operation due to low

groundwater levels. The DTSC gave the facility 7 days to fix the problem. Quemetco filed an appeal. Since DTSC has not filed an appeal with the courts, resolving these violations is stayed until a court hearing. A decision may take 90 days after the DTSC files a request.

### **CleanTech Hazardous Waste Site**

The Dept. of Toxic Substances Control has announced availability of a Draft Supplemental Environmental Report (DSEIR) for the CleanTech Environmental Inc. hazardous waste recycling facility in Irwindale that evaluates the cumulative impacts of the project located above the aquifers that supply water to Hacienda Heights. **The 45-day comment period extends from Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> to Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>. A public meeting will be held on October 20, 2016, at 6:30 pm, at the Duarte Library, 1301 Buena Vista Street, Duarte, 91010.** The public meeting is being held to answer any questions you may have on the project and the SEIR. Site-related documents, including the Draft SEIR and the Draft and Final EIR previously prepared for this project, are available at the following information repositories: DTSC's EnviroStor website, [www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public](http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public).

This hazardous waste facility was previously permitted by DTSC based on an environmental report that many thought was incomplete and inadequate according to CEQA. This permit would allow a hazardous waste processing plant that previously had operated solely as a collection site for waste oil which was then transported to the coast for recycling. This project went unnoticed by most agencies and organizations. HHIA discovered the permit had been issued and opposed the project in an Irwindale City Council meeting along with other organizations. Our concern was due to our belief that water quality and seismic issues were not properly addressed in the FEIR. The Irwindale General Plan asserts this site could be subject to intense ground shaking during an earthquake. Seismic waves could damage the plant, potentially releasing toxic materials into the aquifers and affect our water supply.

The permit was legally challenged, and DTSC has now issued the DSEIR covering only the cumulative impact. HHIA is preparing comments on this project. We are disturbed that only cumulative impacts are being addressed and that the seismic and water quality issues we felt were not properly addressed earlier still are not being considered.

From the Notice of Availability:

The What Is Being Proposed? The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) announces a 45-day public comment period for Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the CleanTech Environmental Inc. (CleanTech) facility that further evaluates the cumulative impacts of the project. DTSC welcomes comments from the public on the draft Permit and Draft SEIR. DTSC was the regulatory agency for the approval of the Hazardous Waste Facility Permit for the CleanTech pursuant to the California Code of Regulations, Title 22 and the California Health and Safety Code. DTSC was also the lead agency for preparation of an Environmental Impact Report pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A Final EIR was completed and approved by DTSC in 2015, and now a Draft SEIR has been prepared that

provides a reexamination of the cumulative impacts analysis. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15163 this Draft SEIR contains only the revised cumulative impacts analysis and DTSC is only seeking comments on the Draft SEIR's revised cumulative impacts analysis.

CleanTech, located at 5820 Martin Road in Irwindale, covers 0.98 acres within a commercial/industrial area of Irwindale. CleanTech receives used oil, a California designated hazardous waste. The used oil is tested, stored and treated to meet the recycled oil standards in California law. CleanTech also receives and stores waste antifreeze, oil contaminated solid waste, and non-RCRA wastewater. Potential environmental cumulative impacts reexamined in the Draft SEIR include transportation, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions and hazards and hazardous materials.”

HHIA is preparing comments to submit to DTSC on this document.

### **Emerald Necklace**

**A draft environmental impact report on the Emerald Necklace Plan is expected to be released on Oct. 19, 2016. The public will have until Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> to comment on the plan and the EIR. A public meeting will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> at Bassett Park Community Room, 510 N. Vineland Ave. La Puente.**

The Emerald Necklace is a plan to develop a 17-mile loop bike/walking/equestrian trail linking the Whittier Narrows Recreational area to the Rio Hondo and the San Gabriel Rivers. There have been 4 years of planning and a scoping meeting that was held 3 ½ years ago. The plan will include a multi-use bridge from San Jose Creek to the Duck Farm. The Duck Farm will ultimately become a regional park that will not be completed for at least 18 years due to contractual agreements with nurseries occupying the land.