



Puente Hills Landfill
Native Habitat Preservation Authority

January 27, 2005

Dr. Andy Howard, Executive Director
Planning and Development
Rio Hondo College
3600 Workman Mill road
Whittier, CA 90601-1699

Subject: Rio Hondo College Master Plan, State Clearing House #2005011001.

Dear Dr. Howard:

The Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) appreciates this opportunity to comment on the above-referenced project, relative to impacts to biological resources. The Habitat Authority is a joint powers authority established pursuant to California Government Code Section 6500 *et seq.* with a Board of Directors consisting of the City of Whittier, County of Los Angeles, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, and the Hacienda Heights Improvement Association. The purpose of the Habitat Authority is to acquire, restore and maintain open space in the Whittier/Puente Hills as permanent protection for native habitat. The Habitat Authority's jurisdiction extends from the intersection of the 605 and 60 Freeways in the west to approximately Harbor Boulevard in the east.

To enable Habitat Authority staff to adequately review and comment on the proposed project, we recommend the following information be included in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR), as applicable:

1. A complete assessment of the flora and fauna within and adjacent to the project area, with particular emphasis upon identifying endangered, threatened, and locally unique species and sensitive habitats.
 - a. A thorough assessment of rare plants and rare natural communities.
 - b. A complete assessment of sensitive wildlife, reptile, and amphibian species. Seasonal variations in use of the project area should also be addressed. Focused species-specific surveys, conducted at the appropriate time of year and time of day when the sensitive species are active or otherwise identifiable, should also be performed.
 - c. Rare, threatened, and endangered species to be addressed should include all those which meet the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) definition (see CEQA Guidelines, § 15380).

A Joint Powers Agency created pursuant to California Government Code §6500 *et seq.*
7702 Washington Avenue, Suite C, Whittier, California 90602 • Phone: 562 / 945 - 9003 • Fax: 562 / 945 - 0303



Printed on recycled paper

Rio Hondo College Master Plan
January 27, 2005
Page 2

- d. The California Department of Fish and Game's California Natural Diversity Data Base in Sacramento should be contacted at (916) 327-5960 to obtain current information on any previously reported sensitive species and habitat, including Significant Natural Areas.
2. A thorough discussion of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts expected to adversely affect biological resources, with specific measures to offset such impacts, should be included. Project impacts should be analyzed relative to their effects on off-site habitats. Specifically, this should include nearby public lands, open space, adjacent natural habitats, riparian ecosystems, and any designated and/or proposed reserve lands.
3. Impacts to and maintenance of wildlife corridor/movement areas, including access to undisturbed habitat in adjacent areas, should be fully evaluated and provided.
4. A discussion of impacts associated with increased lighting, noise, human activity, changes in drainage patterns, changes in water volume, velocity, and quality, soil erosion, and /or sedimentation in streams and water courses on or near the project site, with mitigation measures proposed to alleviate such impacts should be included. Also, a discussion of possible conflicts and mitigation measures to reduce these conflicts should be included in the environmental document.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our ecologist, Amy Henderson at (310) 214-1406.

Sincerely,



Andrea Gullo
Executive Director

cc: Board Members