



Hills For Everyone

Friends of the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor

Newsletter No. 12

Summer 2004

CITY OF INDUSTRY PLANS THREATEN TONNER CANYON

CORRIDOR FACES GREATEST THREAT YET

By: Claire Schlotterbeck

A ROGUE CITY IN OUR MIDST

Do you wonder how the City of Industry with 117 registered voters, 125 housing units and 800 residents can exist as a local government? Though it lies north of the 60 freeway, between the 605 and 57 freeways, Industry now owns all of Tonner Canyon in the Puente-Chino Hills within Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Orange Counties. Its ownership threatens the heart of the Wildlife Corridor.

Do you also wonder how this "faux" city can be allowed to use its reported \$1.6 billion reserve to control the dwindling open space and destiny of three counties?

The aerial on page 2 demonstrates the City of Industry's vision for Tonner Canyon - massive dams for generating hydroelectric power, above ground water storage and a new highway that will sever the Wildlife Corridor and divert Inland Empire traffic into North Orange County.

Industry bought the 2700 acre upper Tonner Canyon in the early 1980s. In 2001 Industry bought 2500 acres of the adjoining Firestone Scout Reservation, for \$16.5 million, (\$6500 per acre) in the middle of the canyon. In late July 2004 it bought the last leg of its Tonner Canyon monopoly - 525 acres in Orange County for \$22.5 million, paying \$43,000 an acre. Industry's willingness to pay this exorbitant price suggests it really needed lower Tonner Canyon for some immediate purpose.



Dr. Bill Kowalik

The active Whittier Fault angles through Tonner Canyon near the proposed dams and roads.

In public documents, Industry claims it needed lower Tonner Canyon for "access" to the Scout Reservation and to "stop" development. In reality, Industry already had a recorded easement to it. In addition, Brea (in whose Sphere of Influence lower Tonner Canyon lies) was gathering grants to buy the land to genuinely preserve it as open space. Industry even sued Brea when it didn't get a grant and Brea did.

"YOU GOTTA HAVE FRIENDS"

We know the City of Industry is working with Aera (Shell-Exxon Mobil). They jointly hosted a tour of their properties for Orange County Supervisor Bill Campbell in early 2004. Aera is no doubt grateful for the high price Industry set on neighboring property. Aera's proposal for 3600 units has been languishing because of its inability to mitigate for traffic. Industry's road will help Aera out of

its traffic jam. According to experts lower Tonner Canyon is the only place wildlife can safely cross under the bridge of the 57 freeway. A road could sever the Corridor at this chokepoint and then Aera's land is much less biologically valuable. State agencies who have helped fund preservation in the hills for 25 years will be less interested in Aera's land should the road be approved.

Two hired guns for Industry include former Senator Frank Hill and former Assembly Speaker (current Anaheim Mayor and private lobbyist) Curt Pringle. Both men met with Supervisor Campbell to describe Industry's plans for the reservoirs and road. Pringle also works as a consultant to Metropolitan Water District who would have to approve the reservoir project. Supervisor Campbell openly shared what he learned from the visits.

INDUSTRY'S PROPOSED DAMS

- * Plans to build four major dams.
- * Needs to build 12 “saddle” dams to protect existing houses from flooding.
- * Must bulldoze the entire canyon since decomposing organic matter is not allowed in a drinking water reservoir.
- * Plans to generate electricity by draining water from the middle dam to the lower dam during the day.
- * Plans to refill the middle dam by pumping water back into it at night, when electricity is cheaper.
- * Will create a huge “bath tub ring” alternating between the middle and lower dams.

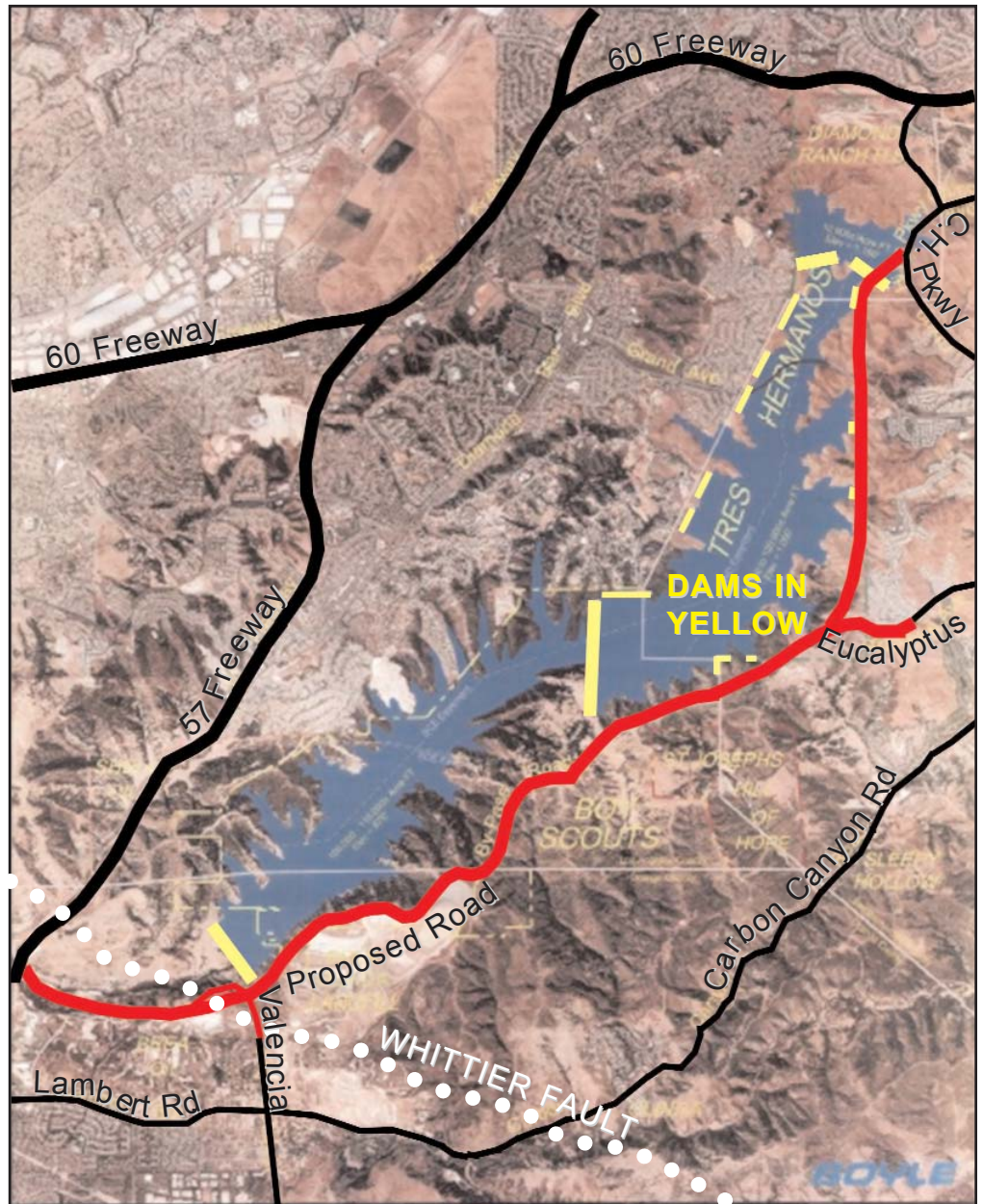
INDUSTRY'S PROPOSED INLAND EMPIRE ROUTE

- * Create a regional by-pass road connecting at the 57 freeway Tonner Canyon, the only place wildlife can safely cross under the freeway.
- * Flood Grand Avenue in Diamond Bar, sending all traffic around Diamond Bar and into Brea or Pomona.

THIS IS THE CANYON INDUSTRY WANTS TO BULLDOZE & FLOOD

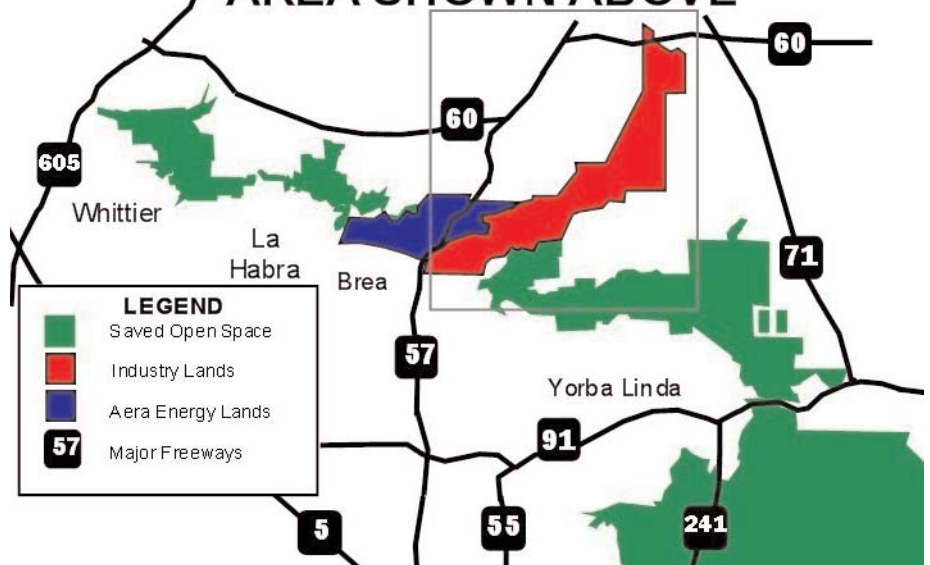


Tonner looking north toward Diamond Bar.



Base map created from City of Industry's public records.

AREA SHOWN ABOVE



Another friend of Industry, Diamond Bar, supported Tonner Canyon Road two years ago. They also just passed a unanimous resolution supporting Industry's most recent acquisition. Diamond Bar continues to ignore its own General Plan as it attempts to direct traffic toward Brea at the expense of Tonner Canyon and the Corridor.

THE PROBLEM

The source of Industry's power seems to lie in the absence of transparency and accountability in its city government. This is what happens when government runs amok and democracy itself is not cherished.

Industry's City Council meetings generally last 10 minutes. With no debate, we can only assume decisions are made out of public view and scrutiny. This absence of normal public process has allowed Industry to accumulate wealth and power to influence far beyond its borders. With so few residents, many of whom work for or with the City, no one seems bothered by the perversion of government because they owe their livelihood to it.

With so little oversight and so much money, Industry buys its way into continued existence and is using its power to undermine the regional non-partisan effort that is trying to complete a back bone of open space in our hills.

YOU CAN HELP...

1) Shine light on Industry... Tell your city, county and state officials you are mad. Contact info is listed at www.HillsForEveryone.org. Silence implies disinterest.

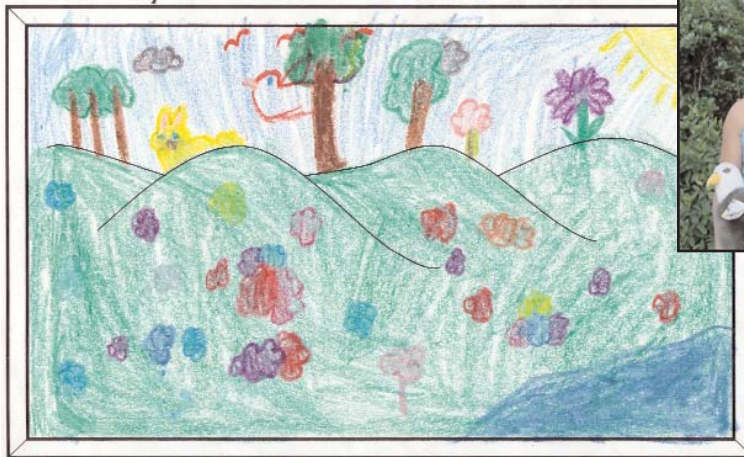
2) Contribute to our David vs. Goliath Fund and remember who won that battle.

3) A benefactor has offered a \$500 prize for the best new idea (as judged by our Board) to shed light on Industry's shenanigans. Think out of the box, but keep it legal! Email your idea to info@HillsForEveryone.org.

ARTIST'S CORNER

Raffle Winner: Christine Fang, Age 9

"MY DREAM FOR OUR HILLS"



To submit your artwork, send it to: info@HillsForEveryone.org

HISTORY OF INDUSTRY'S EXPANSION

In the early 1980s, Industry's Urban Development Agency purchased upper Tonner Canyon, the Tres Hermanos Ranch. It lies mainly in San Bernardino County and outside the redevelopment area, since the purchase was never challenged as illegal Industry got away with it. The land was initially zoned for about 3000 units but was later "downsized" to 300 units. It will stay at that level unless re-zoned by Chino Hills. Talk of a water reservoir first began here. To get more housing units Industry would need ballot approval from Chino Hills' residents thanks to Measure U. This 1999 citizen's initiative requires a vote of the people to increase housing units (density).

In 2000, Industry purchased middle Tonner Canyon (2/3 of the Firestone Scout Reservation) again using redevelopment funds. This time the legality was challenged in court by conservationists who had offered the Scouts \$1.5 million more than Industry for the land. Industry's solution to its illegal use of redevelopment funds was to simply have the City itself buy the land. Not many cities have \$16.5 million lying around.

The day after the purchase, Industry's mayor told the newspaper that the City bought the land for

reservoirs because "water is gold." Plans of this magnitude require an Environmental Impact Report that Industry had not done. Backpedaling, city officials contended in court documents that there were no plans in the "foreseeable future" to build the reservoirs and that instead the City really bought the land for open space and recreation. The courts believed city officials despite the fact that studies and maps were found detailing reservoir plans, shown on page 2.

Within a month of Industry's 2003 court victory polling began in Brea about the desirability of a road. Within three months (January 2004) Industry consultants had taken Orange County Supervisor Campbell on a tour.

Most recently, Industry bought lower Tonner Canyon in Orange County - again claiming it bought the land for open space and access. After this purchase, polling started again in Brea. Pollsters stated, "the new owners want to build a road to make Brea streets safer by providing a new access road to the landfill." Of course, the road won't stop at the landfill.

Why a city of 800 people needs 5,700 acres of open space and why the City didn't plan for it within its own city limits remain unanswered questions.

UPLIFTING UPDATES

The coalition of cities working to save the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor have officially named themselves HOSEC - Hillside Open Space Education Coalition. The Chair is Bob Henderson of Whittier; the Vice Chair is Bruce Douglas of La Habra Heights. HOSEC also established a negotiation committee made up of Henderson, Brea Councilwoman Bev Perry, Brea City Manager Tim O'Donnell and Joe Edmiston, Executive Director of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. HOSEC meets bi-monthly.



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Melanie Schlotterbeck

**ENJOY THE CORRIDOR!
ENJOY THE BEAUTY!**



Dr. Jeff Hansen



UPCOMING EVENTS *A Look Forward*



Hills For Everyone invites you to join in on two fun events in the State Park this fall. Please stay tuned to our website for more detailed information. We hope you can join us!

WILDERNESS DAY: NOV. 13

Chino Hills State Park is hosting Wilderness Day. Bring the family for a day of fun in the Park.

GREAT CAMP OUT LATE OCTOBER (TBD)


Join us to celebrate the grand opening of the newest campground in the State. Activities include hikes, campfire programs, sing alongs and nature talks. Come to camp, hike, bike or listen. BYO camping equipment, food and snacks, etc. Carpooling is encouraged. Directions on the right.

DIRECTIONS

The State Park is off of Soquel Canyon Road and Elinvar in Chino Hills.

From Highway 71, exit Soquel Canyon Road, head west toward the hills. Turn left on Elinvar to the Park.

From Chino Hills Parkway in Chino Hills, head south on Pipeline, which deadends at Soquel Canyon (turn left). Turn right on Elinvar and drive into the Park on the dirt road.



LEE WILLARD

For the last 15 months Lee and his staff member, Kim Christensen, have offered their time to keep our financial records and file our tax returns. In addition, Lee is one of the most prolific letter writers to the local paper. His oft-published letters help inform the public and decision makers about ongoing issues and hillside threats.

FIRST TIME RECIPIENTS

If you are receiving this newsletter for the first time, you either donated funds, participated in an HFE hike, signed a petition or asked to be added to our mailing list. If you wish to be removed from the list: call 714-687-1555 or email us: info@HillsForEveryone.org and give us your name and address.



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