

# Hills For Everyone

Friends of the  
Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor



Newsletter No. 31

Fall 2014

## Great News for Conservation!



Coal Canyon is shown on the far left adjacent to the 91 freeway. Part of The Irvine Company's proposed donation are the hills to the right (west) of Coal Canyon.

The addition of Coal Canyon to Chino Hills State Park in 2000-2001 connected our Puente-Chino Hills to the large area of the Santa Ana Mountains, providing safe passage for wildlife underneath the 91 freeway.

However, just one ridge east of Coal Canyon, 2,500 houses had been approved by Anaheim on 1,100 acres owned by The Irvine Company. These lands encompass rolling hills, rocky slopes, and native grasslands.

In mid-August, The Irvine Company announced its intent to donate all of this land to Orange County Parks. The Company also proposed donating another 1,400 acres farther south, near Irvine Lake, where 3,000 houses had been approved in east Orange.

If the County accepts the land, both properties would be a tremendous addition to the 20,000 acres the Company already transferred to OC Parks in 2010. These two housing projects, Mountain Park and East Orange, would have poked big holes in the existing protected open space, creating many management problems. Without these homes, wildlife have more room to roam and are less impacted by the sights and sounds of urban life.

It will take months to reach specific agreements on the land transfer but all are optimistic that it will occur. We are most grateful to Irvine Company President Donald Bren for his generosity and vision.

### *Stop The Madness Of Madrona, Italian Style*

**Join Hills For Everyone and supporters from across the hills for a Saturday, November 8, 2014 fundraiser from 3 - 6 PM.** Dinner will be served at 4:30 PM. (Rain cancels, rain date is Saturday, November 15th).

**Tickets are \$50 per ticket or two for \$75.** Walk-up registrations will be \$10 more per person. Each ticket covers a meal and two alcoholic drinks. One additional alcoholic drink may be purchased for \$5 at the bar. Buy tickets early because we will sell out.

**The event will be held at the home of Doug and Krista Stricklin at 304 Copa De Oro in Brea.** Since we will be outside please consider the weather. The dress is casual.

We will offer a silent auction with great items including photographs, gift baskets, and more. Remember the holidays are coming up and these silent auction items will make great gifts. **Cash, checks or credit cards will all be accepted.**

Please come ready to support the hills for this fundraiser!

**Purchase your event tickets online at [HillsForEveryone.org](http://HillsForEveryone.org).**



# Upcoming Celebrations

## Habitat Authority 20th Anniversary Event

On Saturday September 27th, the Habitat Authority will be celebrating 20 years of conservation accomplishments. Activities will run from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM and will include light refreshments, crafts and face painting, displays, and guided hikes.



Melanie Schlotterbeck

The Habitat Authority was established as mitigation for the ongoing loss of canyons filled with trash by the Puente Hills Landfill. During the active life of the Landfill, trash trucks were charged an additional \$1 a ton which was set aside for use by the Authority to acquire, restore, and manage open space in the Puente Hills.

The event will be held at the Hacienda Hills Trailhead at 7th Avenue and Orange Grove in Hacienda Heights.

## State Park Discovery Center Opening

On Sunday, September 28th the State Park will be hosting a Grand Opening of its Visitor Center located at 4500 Carbon Canyon Road in Brea from 10 AM - 12 PM.

# Gratitudes

## HFE Board President Glenn Parker Steps Down

We are grateful for the many years of service on the Hills For Everyone Board of Directors given by Glenn Parker, former Board President. He remains involved in hillside issues as the Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority Chair.



Melanie Schlotterbeck

## Supervisor Pat Bates To Leave for State Senate

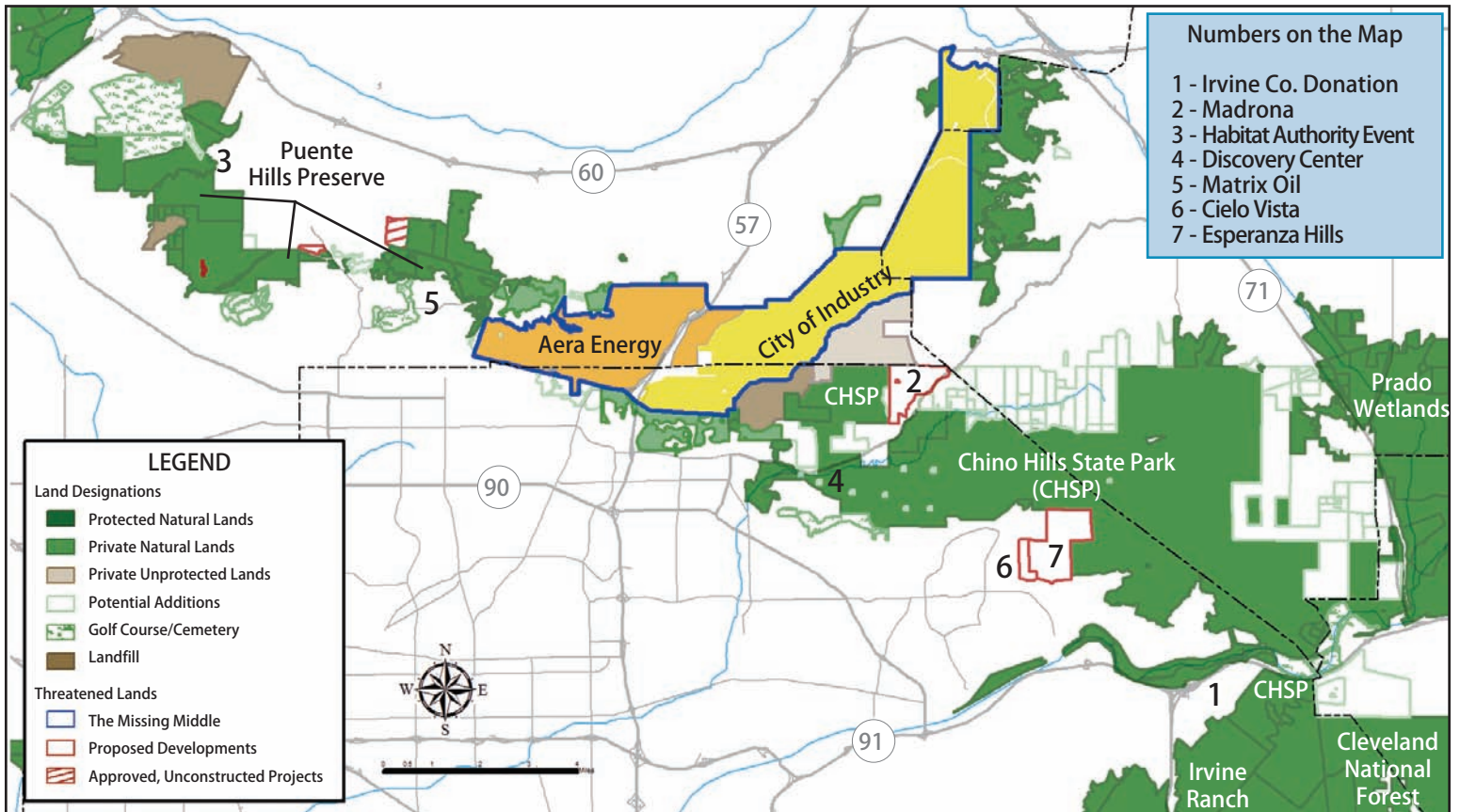
We are sad to say goodbye to Orange County Supervisor Pat Bates (5th District) who has been a steadfast partner in the expenditure of Renewed Measure M funds. She has served as the Chair of the Environmental Oversight Committee since it was established in 2007.

Under her leadership, nearly 300 acres were purchased adjacent to Chino Hills State Park through this program. She is moving on to the California State Senate.



David Schlotterbeck

# Mapping the Corridor Projects



## HFE Sues on Madrona

Brea, the once proud partner in saving the Wildlife Corridor, has descended into old fashioned, scrape the hills, business-as-usual mentality.

Despite well documented presentations against the 162 unit housing project deep in Carbon Canyon, four members of the City Council voted to approve the project. Only Councilmember Simonoff voted to deny the project, stating concerns about public safety and water waste.

The Hills For Everyone Board could not let this decision stand and unanimously voted to litigate. Three other groups joined the lawsuit including Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks, California Native Plant Society, and Sierra Club.

The project will constrain a wildlife corridor with fences and walls, remove 1,400 oak and walnut trees, attempt to fix three major landslides, build houses on ridge tops in a known fire corridor and permanently use fivefold the amount of water an average Brea household uses.



Eric Johnson

## Matrix Oil Update

Matrix has moved east from Whittier, proposing an oil re-development project on old gas company property located at the end of Las Palomas in La Habra Heights. Matrix hopes to drill up to 30 wells necessitating transport of the crude oil in 18 wheelers through the narrow Heights streets. The operation is proposed to last up to 30 years and will run 24 hours a day. The Environmental Impact Report is being written now. Residents opposing this project have created a website [www.HeightsOilWatch.org](http://www.HeightsOilWatch.org).



City of La Habra Heights

## Closer to Protection

In 2003 former Congresswoman Hilda Solis sponsored legislation asking the National Park Service (NPS) to study establishing a National Recreation Area (NRA) in the San Gabriel Mountains, along the San Gabriel River and into the Puente-Chino Hills. Having grown up in the area, she knows how park poor this region is and how important access to nature is in our lives.

The NPS determined the area was worthy of becoming an NRA because the lands are nationally significant, the resources are underrepresented in the national park system, and NPS could effectively partner in the area to enhance protection and improve public access.

In June, Congresswoman Judy Chu introduced the San Gabriel National Recreation Area Act (HR 4858) to enact this vision. More than 3 million people enjoy these mountains each year. If passed and signed by the President, the bill will ensure that improvements would be made to prepare for fire dangers, provide restrooms and trash removal, maintain clean water, and better protect the historic heritage and unique wildlife habitat of the mountains. In mid-August, Rep. Chu asked the President to simply create the NRA since Congress rarely acts.

## Support Our Work

Here are three easy ways to support our ongoing efforts to protect important landscapes of the Puente-Chino Hills for future generations.

### AmazonSmile

If you shop at Amazon, register Hills For Everyone as your non-profit of choice through [AmazonSmile.org](http://AmazonSmile.org) and we'll receive a portion of the proceeds for all eligible transactions.



### Ralph's Club

If you shop at Ralph's, register your award card (annual registration required on/after September 1st) and select Hills For Everyone. We will receive a donation from Ralphs when you shop there. Go to [Ralphs.com](http://Ralphs.com), click on Community, Community Contributions, then Participant and register there. Hills For Everyone's organization code is 91199.



### Monthly Giving

Consider signing up for monthly giving through the Hills For Everyone website ([HillsForEveryone.org](http://HillsForEveryone.org)). Monthly giving supports our work year round. Download, complete and mail the form to us.





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## Email Updates

If you have not heard from us lately via email please be sure we have your correct email address by emailing us at: [info@HillsForEveryone.org](mailto:info@HillsForEveryone.org).

## Hills For Everyone Board of Directors

President: Michael Hughes  
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 Bruce Douglas  
 Dr. Carol McKenzie

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 Claire Schlotterbeck  
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## Yorba Linda Projects Update

You may remember there are two projects proposed in the hills above Yorba Linda but not within city limits, therefore, the County of Orange is processing both developments. These two projects would add about 450 houses on roughly 550 rugged hillside acres.

The County released the Draft Environmental Impact Reports during the winter holidays of 2013. Hills For Everyone, along with residents in Yorba Linda, worked diligently over the holidays to get comments in on the projects and their impacts to the neighborhood, traffic, and hills, etc.

It now seems the projects are at least temporarily stalled while the two developers litigate one another in court hoping to secure or deny access through the Cielo Vista property (shown below). We continue to wait for the results of the lawsuit and for the County's Response to Comments.

Meanwhile, in late spring, we organized a grassroots effort to inform residents. Through Protect Our Homes and Hills, volunteers knocked on doors and outreached to nearly 800 residents that would be directly impacted.

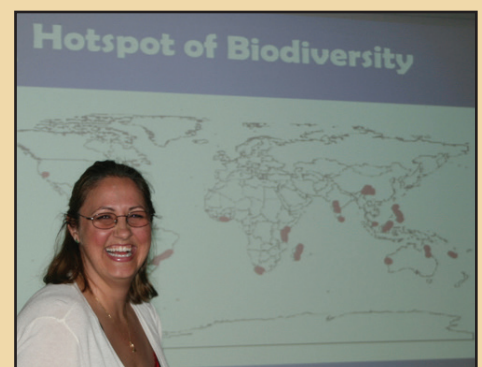


Melanie Schlotterbeck

## PowerPoints Available

Hills For Everyone representatives provide interesting presentations to local groups, clubs, and organizations. Topics may include biodiversity, achievements, threats or possibilities, and fire history of the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor. Schedule a presentation by emailing us at:

[info@HillsForEveryone.org](mailto:info@HillsForEveryone.org).



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