

# Hills For Everyone

Friends of the  
Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor



Newsletter No. 37

Winter 2018

## The Wins Keep Coming!



Melanie Schlotterbeck

The Madrona property, deep in Brea's Carbon Canyon, proposed 162 units that would have surrounded the two water tanks and levelled the hills.

By turning down the landowner's appeal, the California Supreme Court dealt the final blow to the ill-conceived 162-unit Madrona housing project in January. Game Over. WE WON.

It took 17 years to stop this dangerous hillside housing project, deep in the fire prone Carbon Canyon area of Brea. The Superior Court judge will now order Brea to revoke project approvals it granted in June 2014. After reading the Appellate Court's decision, the City itself considers the project's deficiencies to be "incurable."

The project would have removed over 1,400 oak and walnut trees and disrupted the only documented mountain lion connection between Orange County and Los Angeles County. It would have added over 1,600 vehicle trips a day to an already congested two-lane road. The site has burned down four times in 40 years.

Did you know that nearly half the legal bills were paid through fundraisers? The team that managed those fundraisers deserves recognition. To plan for these fundraising events, the team met regularly for three years. They had to arrange venues, themes, ticket prices, activities, entertainment, food selection and wine pairing, staffing, timing, and logistics. Not only were they creative and thoughtful with ideas and contributions, but they proved once again that collaboration makes great things



Cindy Roberts

Front (L-R) Jebb & Claire; Middle: Luz, Bev & Duane; Back: Melanie & Eric.

possible. We are deeply grateful to Jebb Harris, Eric Johnson, HFE Board member Bev Perry, Duane and Luz Thompson, and consultant Melanie Schlotterbeck. We are indebted to the hosts who opened their homes for our events: Fred and Kelly Reed; Duane and Luz Thompson; Doug and Krista Stricklin; Don and Suzanne Hodson; Andy and Jolene Grinstead; and George and Theresa Ullrich. Of course, we are also grateful to all of those who donated silent auction items, food, drinks, time, and treasure to attend our fundraising events. Our wonderful attorneys, Gabriel Ross and Sara Clark of Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger provided the convincing expertise we needed. It takes a village.

# Esperanza Hills

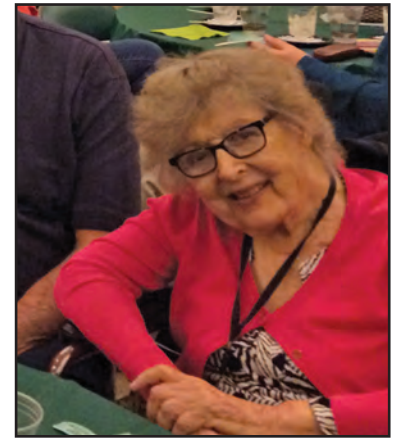
Last fall a three judge Appellate Court panel unanimously found the Esperanza Hills project's Environmental Impact Report deficient. In January, the Superior Court Judge ordered the parties to mandatory mediation. After a day-long effort with a volunteer judge, no resolution was reached. In late February, Judge Claster ordered the County of Orange to revoke all project approvals and rewrite the Environmental Impact Report. He ordered them to comply by mid-July. This site has burned three times in 30 years. In light of the fires that burned in October in nearby Orange and across the state, hopefully decision makers will wake up to the dangers of placing 340 houses on a site with just one daily access, next to the permanent wildland of the State Park.



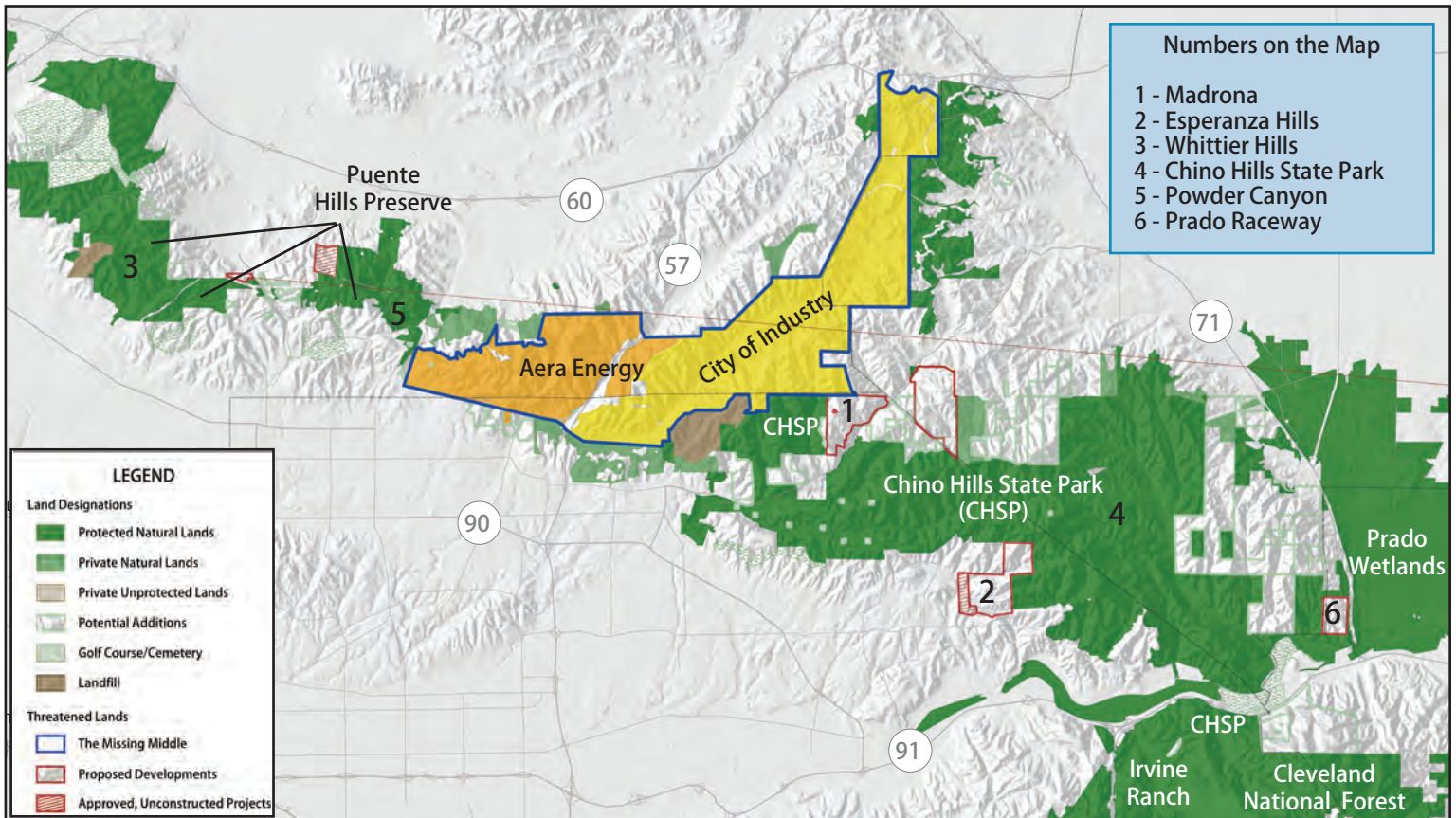
Melanie Schlotterbeck

# Mary Hanson's Passing

Our beautiful hills have lost yet another leader. Mary Hanson, the founder of Friends of Whittier Hills, passed away in November 2017. She spearheaded numerous battles to save the hillsides in the city where she lived for over 70 years. Her interest in conservation began in the late 1970s when she opposed a development that would have table-topped the lands above Friendly Hills. Her work continued through petition drives and watchdog groups like Friends of the Whittier Hills. They advocated for the Whittier Hills Park Plan which became reality through the Habitat Authority. Mary was active in every facet of the community, supporting youth organizations and the arts community. Yet perhaps her widest reaching legacy is the open space surrounding Whittier that we all appreciate and enjoy. We mourn her passing and hope to carry on her work.



# Mapping the Corridor Projects



## Yes on Prop. 68

For the first time in 14 years, voters will have a chance to fund their parks and open space. A \$4 billion Clean Water and Safe Park Act is on the June 5th ballot. Hills For Everyone has endorsed this proposition. This measure will provide funds to acquire lands in the Wildlife Corridor. All undeveloped land in our hills is eligible for funding. Learn more at: <https://yes68ca.com/>



## Activities with Legislators

### Senator Josh Newman (D-Brea) Barn Painting

A team of volunteer painters is being assembled to paint the barn at the historic Rolling M Ranch in Chino Hills State Park. The event is planned for the morning of March 24th.

### Assemblymember Chen (R-Brea) Hike

Park supporters joined Assemblymember Phillip Chen on a hike down Aliso Canyon in Chino Hills State Park in January. This was our first ever hike with a state elected official. Visitors learned about the land that remains at risk of development next to the Park.



## Burn It Where You Buy It

Two tiny bugs, the Goldspotted Oak Borer (GSOB) and Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB) are killing trees in California, and both have been found in Orange County. These pests can easily be moved from place to place by hiding in firewood. If you buy wood for your fireplace, buy it where you burn it. Don't buy it elsewhere and bring it home.



Mike Lewis

## Powder Canyon History

Residents of La Habra Heights and other visitors to Powder Canyon have been surprised to learn the origins of its name. Historian Paul Spitzerri, a resident of Carbon Canyon, recently hiked the area and was intrigued. He learned the name was derived not from the dusty trails, but rather from a former munitions plant that developed a new explosive called Satanite. Despite attempts to replace dynamite, Satanite just never caught on and the plant was eventually dismantled. Learn more at: <http://bit.ly/2oX39Uw>



Melanie Schlotterbeck

## Spring = Mating Season

Coyotes are loud and prolific this time of year, so keep your pets and their food in the house. Many cities unwisely choose to hire hunters to kill coyotes. This simply does not work. Hired guns often kill the “dumb” coyotes, inadvertently allowing the smart ones to escape and continue to reproduce—strengthening the gene pool. When coyote populations are decimated, the remaining coyotes over-populate to re-establish the pack size. Hazing—making loud noise, spraying water hoses, throwing things—is recommended by the Humane Society.



Melanie Schlotterbeck



Hills For Everyone  
P.O. Box 9835  
Brea, CA 92822-1835  
[www.HillsForEveryone.org](http://www.HillsForEveryone.org)

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## Raceway Proposed Next To Park

The County of Riverside is considering the construction of an off road vehicle park, the Prado Raceway, off of Highway 71 near the 91 freeway. The proposal includes nine racetracks, parking, concession stands, seating, office space, drainage infrastructure, and ongoing sand mining (Owl Rock) across 163 acres. The applicant also proposes to engage in ongoing mass grading to continually modify the race courses.

The site is surrounded on all sides by protected lands, including Chino Hills State Park. This area is an essential wildlife connection to the Prado Wetlands (as shown in the photo). We can't think of a worse neighbor to the State Park.

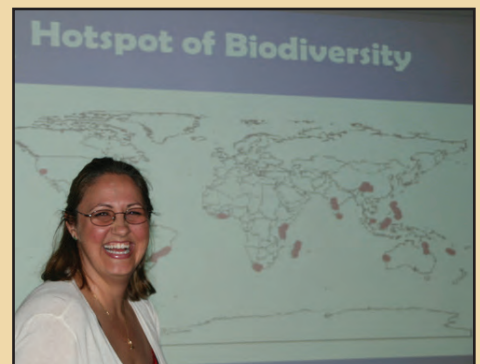
The Environmental Impact Report will be released later this year.



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, the State Park's history, and/or the 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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