

Hills For Everyone

Friends of the
Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor



Newsletter No. 44

Spring 2021

Two Miles of Barbed Wire Removed by Volunteers



“There is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer.” —Jimmy Doolittle

The Blue Ridge Fire of October 2020 burned over 60% of Chino Hills State Park—and again, as in 2008—the flames removed acres of vegetation, revealing the presence of miles of barbed wire. This fencing, left over from the pre-park ranching days, is a painful hazard to wildlife, who can become caught in and cut by the barbs.

Removal of the fencing began as a service project with Brea Olinda High School students in 1993, and after the 2008 Freeway Complex Fire, some mapping began. But now, after Blue Ridge, volunteers were really ready. When word went out looking for volunteers to map the barbed wire, one sturdy soul, Mary Glaser, answered the call. So far, she has found and mapped 4.5 miles of barbed wire on the edge of Yorba Linda. Another volunteer, Fred Reed, developed various techniques to remove and haul it out. Once the Park Manager, Enrique Arroyo, had approved the project, a cadre of volunteers got to work. Though they were aided by the lack of rain and delayed regrowth, the volunteers had a tough job. In many cases, they had to hike into the site and haul the heavy debris out by hand to a roadway a half mile away. Extra help arrived in the form of an old gurney lent to them by San Bernardino County Search and Rescue member, Tom Greene.

Once out, State Parks made multiple trips taking the wire to a recycler. So far, two miles have been removed.

They faced down windy days, hot days, chilly days, rattlesnakes, rusty barbs, and a flat tire, but the volunteers kept coming back. Some of the volunteers were lucky to witness a group of five deer running unimpeded through an area where the barbed wire had just been removed, making all the hard work worthwhile.

If you come upon barbed wire within the boundaries of the Park, please let us know the location and we will add it to our map as a future target. Now, with high mustard growth and the onset of nesting season, we will have to wait until fall to remove more.

Many thanks to Ray Carbone, Mike Cole, Barbara Deck, Stan and Mary Glaser, Tom Greene, Terry Hennessy, Keith Hocking, Robin Huber, Mike Hughes, David Hunerdosse, Eric Johnson, Larry Klementowski, Rainbow Lee, Mike Lindsay, Kim MacCormick, Lee and Melony Paulson, Fred Pollard, Fred Reed, Richard Saretsky, Duane Thompson, Becky Waters, and Andrew Whittingham.



Mary Glaser

Stan Glaser (left and right), Mary Glaser (center)

Blue Ridge Fire & Recovery

Like so many before it, the Blue Ridge Fire started in the southeast portion of the hills on a Santa Ana wind day. It burned 62% of the central and eastern part of the Park, generally sparing the barn and ranger house complex.

In partnership with the Chino Hills State Park Interpretive Association and the Department of Parks and Recreation, we applied for, and received grants from the California State Parks Foundation to repair the burned infrastructure. Work will be underway to replace fencing, rebuild a bridge (upper right), replace the campground sign (lower right), and replant the native plant garden.



Claire Schlotterbeck

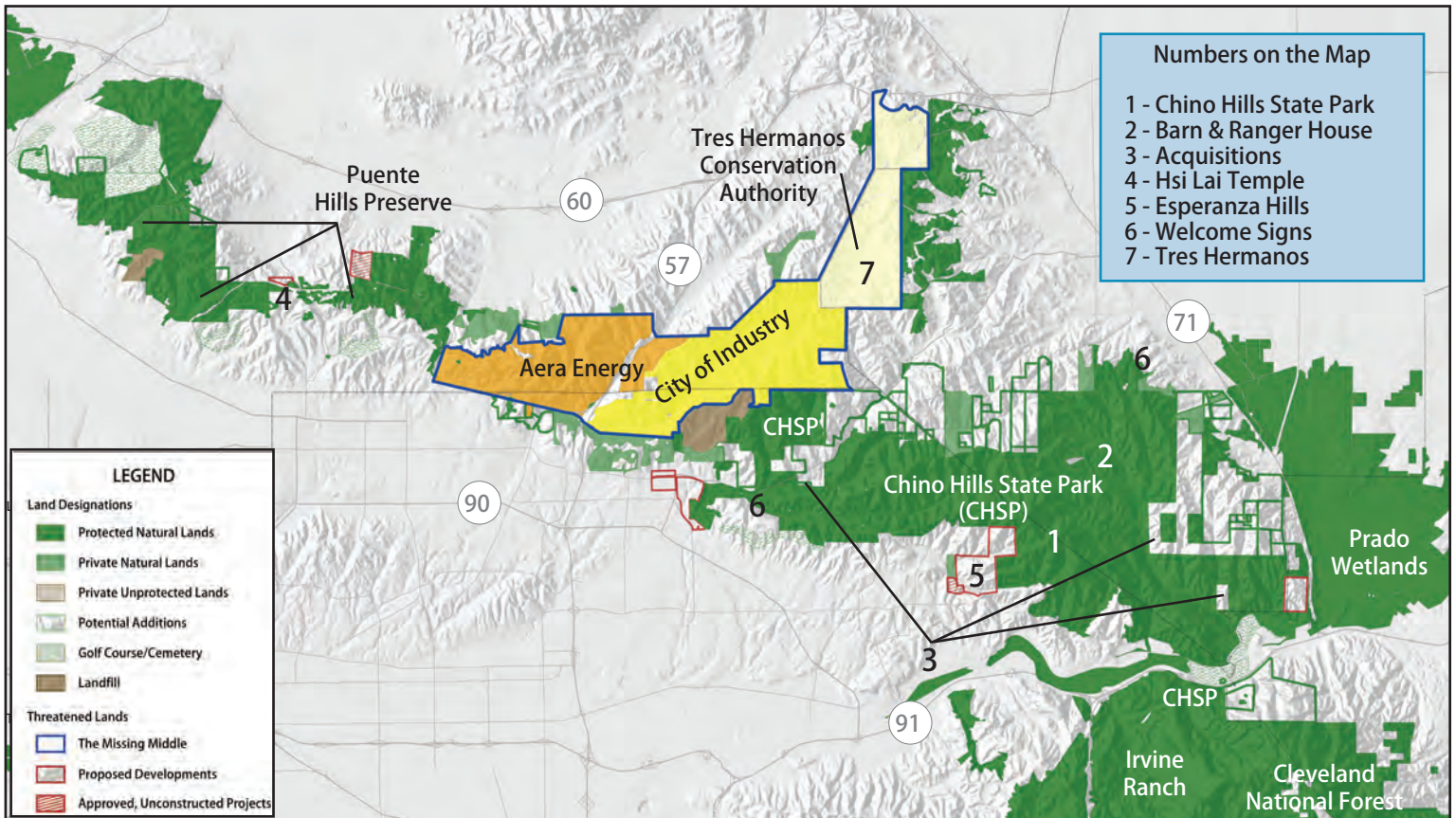


Claire Schlotterbeck



Melanie Schlotterbeck

Mapping the Corridor Projects



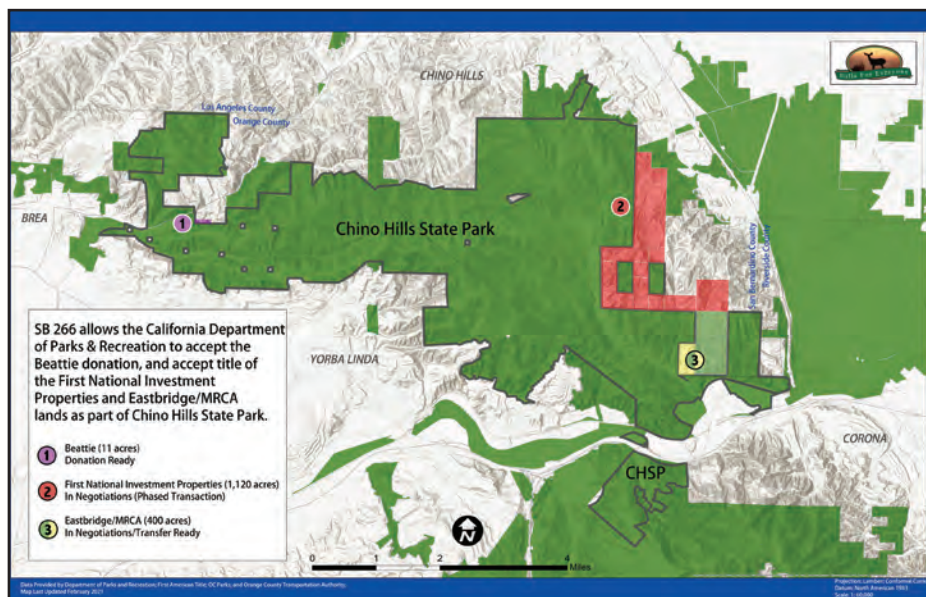
Honoring the Vision — Senate Bill 266

Senate Bill (SB) 266, carried by Senator Josh Newman (D-Fullerton) and co-authored by Assemblyman Phillip Chen (R-Brea), seeks to expand Chino Hills State Park and remedy two lingering issues.

First, the Park was designed along ridgeline boundaries to protect visitors from the sights and sounds of urban life and to protect the water quality for wildlife. The eastern ridgeline is still privately owned and could be developed, ruining the views and investment of much of the rest of the Park.

Second, and in addition, the Departments of Parks and Recreation has not fulfilled its obligation under a settlement agreement to accept land with walnut woodlands.

This bill would resolve both of these long-standing issues. It passed the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water on a bipartisan 9-0 vote. In the

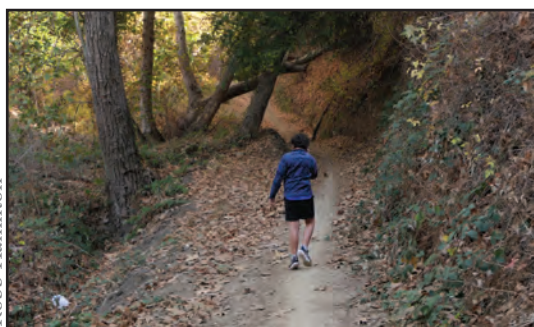


meantime, we are not losing ground and continue to preserve the eastern ridgeline and walnut woodland properties through a temporary land manager: the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

Hsi Lai Temple

The Buddhist Temple, on the eastern side of Hacienda Boulevard in Hacienda Heights, has proposed a massive expansion onto the western side of the Boulevard. The proposed Monastery site project includes 17 buildings focused on the northern portion of the property. The project also includes nearly 300 parking spaces, a seven-story underground parking garage, and grading of more than 100,000 cubic yards.

While leaving open the land adjacent to the Wildlife Corridor on the south, the additional human activity in this narrowed terrain will certainly create a chokepoint with the potential to cut off wildlife migration to the west. Even the trail on the property will become a chokepoint because it will be the only place wildlife have to traverse the land. The Environmental Impact Report is underway.



Robb Hamilton

Esperanza Hills

A decision has finally been released on the last lawsuit filed by residents challenging the dangerous 340-unit Esperanza Hills project in the hills above Yorba Linda. The three-judge panel denied the appeal by residents and found in favor of the developer and the County of Orange. Nevertheless, the project is at an impasse. The developer contends he has a right to build a much widened access road through city open space. The City of Yorba Linda disagrees and has refused to issue the developer a grading permit.

New Welcome Signs

New welcome signs have been installed at the Bane Canyon Entrance and the Telegraph Canyon Entrance to the State Park. A third sign will be installed in Lower Aliso Canyon. Many thanks to Eric Johnson for his work shepherding this, to Melanie Schlotterbeck for designing the signs, and to the California State Park Foundation for funding these.



Claire Schlotterbeck

Email Updates

If you have not heard from us lately via email please be sure we have your correct email address by contacting us at: info@HillsForEveryone.org.



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Tres Hermanos

This partnership between the cities of Industry, Chino Hills, and Diamond Bar was formed in 2019. They joined forces to “conserve” the land, forestall the construction of a solar farm, and put an end to lawsuits involving the 2,450 acres of vacant land north and south of Grand Avenue. But since then, not much else happened—until late last year. A proposal, now under review, was put forward to allow a horse rescue to operate on the property.

Hills For Everyone’s attorney sent a strong letter pointing out that any new land use like that requires environmental review. In addition, we urged that they undertake a resource inventory so that they know what natural resources exist on the land and therefore need to be protected before land use decisions begin. If the Authority really intends to conserve the land as its foundational agreement describes, it should actually take steps to do so and not start divvying up parcels without a plan and without the opportunity for public involvement.



Melanie Schlotterbeck

Get Involved

There are many ways to support Hills For Everyone’s work. In addition to these platforms, you can join our email list. We send out about one email a month and never sell, trade, or share our list. Subscribe on our website:



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