

WILDLIFE CORRIDOR CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

Date: September 1, 2004

To: The Governing Board Members

From:  for
Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

Subject: **Agenda Item XI: Discussion and possible action regarding the City of Industry's recreation and facilities management plan for Tonner Canyon and any potential improvements.**

Background: It appears that the City of Industry may have recently purchased the 525-acre Tonner Canyon property (sometimes known as Brea Cañon Oil property). Including this property, the City of Industry would now own roughly 4,800 acres within the Puente-Chino Hills wildlife corridor. This includes the Tres Hermanos property in San Bernardino County and the Firestone property in Los Angeles and Orange counties. Proposed facilities (e.g., reservoirs) and other activities on Industry land within the Puente-Chino Hills wildlife corridor are of interest to WCCA because of the central location, and ecological significance, of these lands with respect to the wildlife corridor.

The City has authorized the solicitation of Request for Proposals for the preparation of a draft recreation and facilities management plan for the City's Tonner Canyon property. This refers to the Firestone Scout Reservation. The City's staff report is attached.

The Board may want to discuss whether to direct staff to include an item on a future agenda, in which WCCA adopt a resolution stating its position regarding proposed roads and any reservoir on City of Industry land, consistent with previous positions WCCA has taken on these types of activities.

CITY OF INDUSTRY

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Memorandum

City Council	Date February 18, 2004
From: Mike Kissell, Planning Director	
Subject: Development of Recreation And Facilities Management Plan for the City's Tonner Canyon Property	

BACKGROUND

In June 2001, the City purchased from the Boy Scouts of America approximately 2400 acres of the Firestone Scout Reservation located in Tonner Canyon, which consisted of open space land and a number of recreational facilities. As set forth in the transactional documents, one of the purposes for acquiring this land was to enable the continued recreational use of the property that for years has served the needs of youth in surrounding communities including City of Industry. Although the Boy Scouts have the right to use the property under the terms of a Use Agreement those rights are non-exclusive.

As you are aware, certain individuals and organizations challenged the City's acquisition of the property on numerous grounds, including the allegation that the transaction should be set aside because the City intended to use the property for passive recreation but had not prepared a full blown environmental impact report (EIR) at the time of purchase despite the fact that the City had not approved any particular recreational or other use when it acquired the property. As you are also aware, both the trial court and the California Court of Appeal that heard the case rejected this argument.

Regrettably, the only apparent purpose served by the plaintiffs' litigation was to deny greater recreational and other access to the property since this department did not want to move forward with any plans or policies for the property until the litigation was concluded. With that event behind us, this department is seeking Council direction and the approval of funds to undertake the preparation of a draft Recreation and Facilities Management Plan for City property located in Tonner Canyon.

Mike Kissell
MK:jm

Signature



DISCUSSION

Because of the size and the potential public uses of the City's Tonner Canyon holdings, staff believes that effective management of this open space land and facilities requires the development of formal management plans and policies. Staff recommends the retention of a consulting firm through an RFP process that would assist in the preparation of a draft Recreation and Facilities Management Plan (RFMP or Plan). The tasks associated with the Plan would include the following:

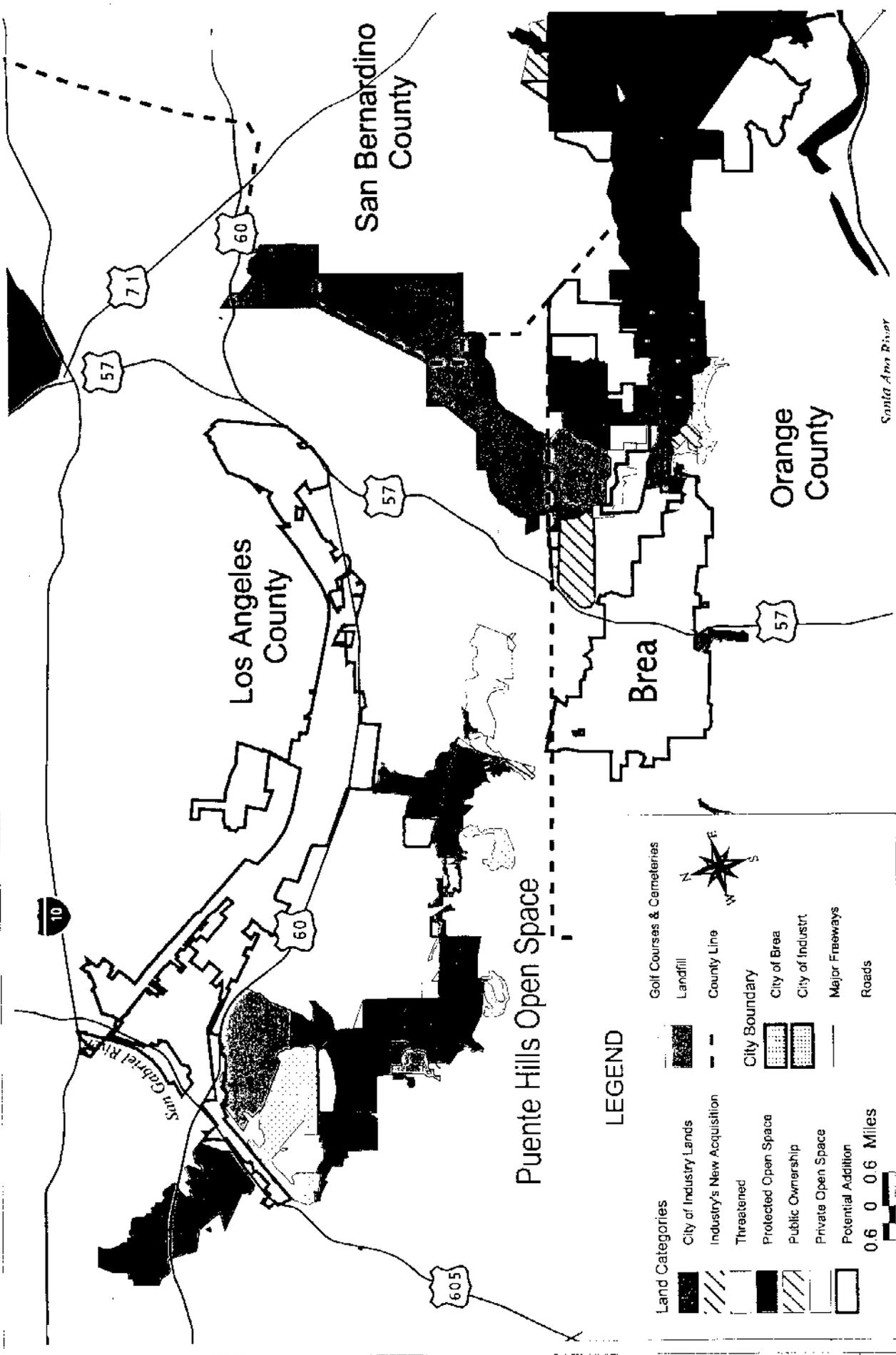
1. Develop a base line inventory of the facilities and their historic and current use as well as other resources present.
2. Identify potential users of the facilities. For example, the following organizations and entities have indicated a desire to use the facilities:
 - City of Industry Youth Activities League
 - Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Youth Foundation
 - Los Angeles County Youth Activities League
 - Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department In-Station Youth Activity League
 - Del Haven Community Center in La Puente
 - City of Diamond Bar (for its youth programs)
 - Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (for training)
 - Los Angeles County Fire Department (for training)
3. Prepare recommendations regarding the need to upgrade or expand any of the facilities. For example, the City is already contractually obligated to refurbish the Times Training Center. However, the manner in which it is repaired is partially dependent on the specific needs of the groups that may use the Center. Other issues may include whether the City individually or in conjunction with the Boy Scouts wants to upgrade the existing "Nature Center" to make it more of an interpretative center for the natural environment found in Tonner Canyon.
4. Propose policies regarding categories and priorities of facilities users and variable fee schedules. For example:
 - Group One: Contractually required (e.g. BSA), City-sponsored and public safety related activities.
 - Group Two: County, municipal, or non-profit youth-oriented programs.
 - Group Three: City of Industry-based commercial businesses or organizations conducting non-commercial activities that are closed to the public.

5. Make recommendations regarding staffing to manage the facilities and property and estimated amounts for a Tonner Canyon budget section in the City's annual budget.
6. Explore partnerships with other governmental agencies and organizations to reduce resource and facilities management costs.
7. Prepare applicable California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analysis and documentation.

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the City Manager and Planning Director to retain consultants through an RFP process to assist in the preparation of a draft Recreation and Facilities Management Plan for City owned property in Tonner Canyon and any applicable CEQA analysis and documentation.

City of Industry Lands



LEGEND

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|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Land Categories | Golf Courses & Cemeteries |
| City of Industry Lands | Landfill |
| Industry's New Acquisition | County Line |
| Threatened | City Boundary |
| Protected Open Space | City of Brea |
| Public Ownership | City of Industry |
| Private Open Space | Major Freeways |
| Potential Addition | Roads |
| 0.6 0 0.6 Miles | |

