



# the Preservationist

## CITY RELEASES DRAFT EIR ON DRILLING IN THE HILLS

**\*\*\*Public Comments Due by December 6th\*\*\***

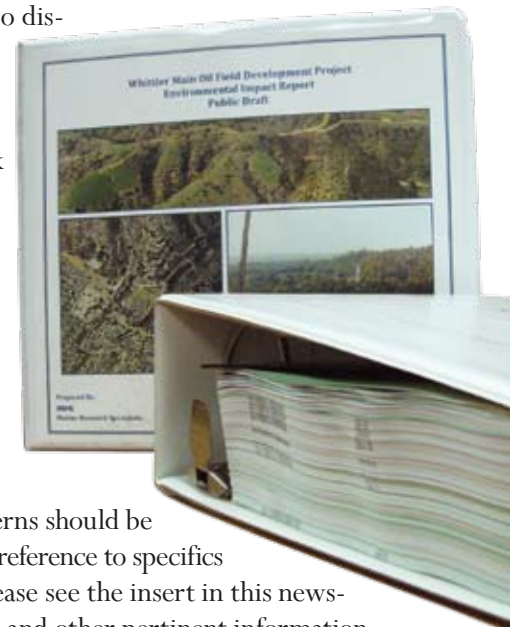
The Environmental Impact Report on the Matrix Oil Drilling proposal in the Whittier Hills Preserve is now available for the public to read, review, and respond to. The 800+ page document covers details required to address the project's impact on the local environment. While most of the document contains data and charts describing the text, the meat of the report can be found in the Executive Summary in the first section (about 80 pages).

Those who want to dive into the information can look at the project's environmental impacts and the mitigation measures proposed to offset those impacts. The sections include: air quality; biological resources; safety risks; hazardous material; geological resources; noise and vibration; aesthetics and visual resources; transportation and traffic circulation; hydrology and water resources; cultural and archaeological resources; wastewater; land use and land use policy adherence; fire protection and emergency services; public services and utilities; recreation; energy and mineral resources; and environmental justice.

As required in all environmental impact reports, alternatives to the proposed project, especially to the ingress and egress of the actual drilling site, are also discussed. Also included are alternative routes to and from the site as well as different options for truck loading facilities and central operating zones.

The entire document is available on the City of Whittier website as well as in both libraries. The comment period runs for 60 days and will conclude on December 6th.

Any questions or concerns should be submitted in writing with reference to specifics mentioned in the EIR. Please see the insert in this newsletter for a map of the site and other pertinent information. There will be a city-sponsored forum to submit spoken or written questions or comments on Tuesday, NOV 30th at 6:30 pm at the Community Center Gym (Washington Ave and Mar Vista). No decision on the merits of the proposed project will be made by the City until the final EIR has been received and reviewed. Public input will be added to the final EIR, and responded to within the document, if it is submitted before the December 6th deadline.



## National Trust Award Goes to Earlham Hall

**Conservancy Receives L.A. County Preservation Fund Grant**

The Whittier Conservancy has won \$5,000 from the National Trust for Historic Preservation as seed money to support the structural and architectural assessment of Whittier College's Earlham Hall. "Each year the National Trust brings its funding programs and extensive on-the-ground experience to bear in hundreds of projects across the country," said Stephanie Meeks, president of NTHP. "These funds encourage organizations and communities in the greater Los Angeles area to take creative action to preserve the buildings, landscapes and places they treasure." [see "GRANT" pg. 2]

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30**  
**6:30 PM COMMUNITY CENTER GYM**  
 (SEE DETAILS IN CALENDAR ON BACK)

# HERITAGE TREE LOSES ITS FIGHT



## La Cuarta Jacaranda to be Removed

Last month the Conservancy appealed the death sentence of a specimen jacaranda that has stood on the corner of La Cuarta and Catalina for over 80 years. Citing full growth and greenery galore, both the adjacent homeowners and the Conservancy asked for a second opinion and a supporting pathology report to see if there might be an alternative to removal. Following the public hearing, the Parks and Recreation Commission voted in favor of our request for further review.

Since that September meeting, an independent arborist hired by the City has concluded that the tree poses a significant risk of limb failure and that it must come down. According to the report, “the subject tree has been in a state of deterioration since initial topping treatment decades ago.” This resulted in improper pruning in subsequent years, with the stub-cuts exposed to disease and other damage. The final report concluded that, “Given the poor structural

stability of the canopy, the high-risk assessment and the potential damage that a limb failure could cause (to humans or property), it is recommended that the subject tree be removed.”

The demise of this familiar feature of central East Whittier could have been prevented had proper pruning and trimming techniques been employed to ensure the tree’s health. “Topping” is one of the worst things that can be done to a tree, yet residents and public utilities still do it all the time. The lesson learned here is that trees need proper care and nurturing; and some, like the grand jacarandas of La Cuarta, fare very well without aggressive cutting of their extensive canopies.



*["GRANT"- continued from pg. 1]*

Built in 1903 by Charles E. Tebbetts, first president of Whittier College, the structure holds historic and cultural significance to both the college and the Quaker community that founded it. Two years ago, the college put aside its plans to demolish Earlham Hall and has since worked with the Conservancy to explore preservation options.

Made possible by support from the Getty Foundation, the Ahmanson Foundation, and the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, this competitive grant goes only to established non-profit organizations for preservation, stewardship, organizational outreach, and community revitalization involving historic resources.

Earlham Hall’s future use will be determined as part of the college’s next Master Plan once the rehabilitation and renovation costs are known. Coupled with an earlier award of \$25,000 from Southern California Edison, the total grant monies received will be enough to get the assessment under way by early 2011. An architectural firm specializing in historic preservation practices will be retained in a competitive bidding process that has already begun.

## WHITTIER CONSERVANCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010

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P. O. Box 9114  
Whittier, CA 90608  
[www.whittierconservancy.org](http://www.whittierconservancy.org)

Whittier Conservancy/Edison International Palm Park Station Is Nearing Completion



The Conservancy/Edison Palm Station, utilizing salvaged columns from a demolished building that stood on the Fred C. Nelles site, is near completion. A collaboration among the Whittier Conservancy, Edison International and the City of Whittier, this project was made possible by a generous \$50,000 grant from Edison. The committee, made up of members from the three participating agencies, included Maria Claver (Project Manager), Tom Bihr, Shauna Bryan, Nancy Mendez, and Sylvia Southerland. Jim Kurkowski also served on the committee until his retirement. Thank you to Barney Verdugo of Verdugo Construction for an outstanding job restoring the columns and building the structure.



# GOOGIE

## Chris Nichols

You really missed something special if you didn't make it to the Conservancy's Annual General Meeting. Chris Nichols, of the famed LA Conservancy Modern Committee, gave us the low-down on all things Googie! Held at the Whittier Art Association Gallery, those in attendance were treated to a riveting presentation with plenty of fabulous slides and juicy insider anecdotes from the crusade to save culture from the wrecking ball!

Nichols is also an associate editor at Los Angeles Magazine where he answers ANY question about LA in the "Ask Chris" column.

### Mission Statement

*The Whittier Conservancy is committed to the preservation and enhancement of Whittier's unique character and quality of life. The Conservancy promotes awareness and appreciation of Whittier's historic, aesthetic, and natural resources. The Conservancy works for the preservation and sensitive use of Whittier's significant residential structures, landmark commercial buildings, and notable landscapes, including its valuable cultivated trees, public parks, and the natural beauty of the Whittier Hills.*

## The Whittier Conservancy Membership Application

*Please consider making an end-of-year, tax deductible, contribution. To become a member or renew your membership, please complete and send this form with your tax-deductible donation to:*

**The Whittier Conservancy, P.O.Box 9114, Whittier, CA 90608-9114**

*Yes, I want to be a part of the Whittier Conservancy!*



- \$25.00  Friend
- \$40.00  Household
- \$100.00  Patron
- \$250.00  Preservationist
- \$500.00  Heritage Circle
- \$1000.00  Environmental Steward
- Other
- New Member
- Renewal Member
- Contact me to volunteer

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR / EVENTS / NOTES

**City Sponsored Public Comment Meeting -- Tuesday November 30 -- 6:30PM**

The Community Center Gym Washington AV & Marvista.

This meeting is a forum convened to assist the public in submitting their questions and comments on the Draft EIR. They will be formally recorded and be part of the final report. It is not designed as a public hearing for the purposes of expressing opinions. *The comment period ends Dec 6, 2010.* You can also email your questions/comments to: comdev@cityofwhittier.org or mail them to: Jeff Adams, Community Development Department City of Whittier, 13230 Penn Street, Whittier, California 90602

**Whittier Cosmonaut Club: inner space & outer peace ~ Dec 1 Blast Off!**

FENIX 5-4 A Healthy Cafe *a.k.a. Peoples Republic of Food* will be ongoingly hosting the creative community with live music, specially themed music events, DJs & performance art. Beer & wine will be served. Beginning December 1. 6754 Greenleaf Ave, Whittier (562) 693-9780.

**Whittier Conservancy Annual Historic Candlelight Walk ~ Thurs, Dec. 9, 7PM**

This year we will enjoy a walk through the the College Hills Historic District. Transportation will be provided up the hill, for a leisurely downhill walk! Info: (562) 693-5853. Free to the community!

**57th Annual Uptown Whittier Christmas Parade  
Greenleaf Avenue**

Saturday, December 11, 10AM



**The Los Angeles Conservancy Holiday Matinee Screening of "Scrooge"!**

Million Dollar Theatre, Downtown L.A. Sunday, December 5th, 2PM  
\$10 -adults & \$5 -children 12 & under. Laconservancy.org (213) 430-4219

**Hike the Hills - Every 3rd Sat, 9AM – 11AM ~ www.habitatauthority.org**

11/20 - Hacienda Hills Trailhead

12/18 - Sycamore Canyon Trailhead (Easy)

Check the Habitat Authority website for upcoming nature opportunities and workshops on Birding, Wildflowers & Butterflies - funded by the Barbara Lee Fisher Memorial Education Fund. There is also a meet-up group for hikers! www.meetup.com/Puente-Hills-Preserve-Hikers/ ~For more info contact Helen Cohen at: 562-945-9003 or email hcohen@habitatauthority.org

**Friends of the Whittier Public Library**

Support your library, donate and shop at the "Friends" bookstore, corner of Comstock & Bailey. Hours: Tues 10-2, Fri 9-12, Sat 10-12, Thurs 10AM - 2PM (for donations only) 562-696-4498

**Whittier - CA Grown - Farmers Market - Philadelphia & Bright**

Vegetables, fruits, flowers, breads, fresh fish, and more.  
8AM - 1PM, every Friday



*Historic College Hills*



**FREE!**  
This year the Candlelight Walk will feature the College Hills Historic District. Meet at the Mendenhall parking lot at Painter and Philadelphia. Transportation will be provided up the hill, for a leisurely downhill walk! Refreshments provided. This is the Conservancy's holiday gift to the community!

**ANNUAL WHITTIER CONSERVANCY CANDLELIGHT WALK**  
*Thursday, December 9th, 7PM*

The Whittier Conservancy  
P.O. Box 9114  
Whittier, CA 90608-9114



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