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Puente Hills preservation group could get millions in oil revenues

By Steve Scauzillo, SGVN

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Posted: 08/15/2012 07:32:22 PM PDT
Updated: 08/15/2012 07:37:44 PM PDT



Gina Manriquez, of Whittier, walks along the Arroyo Pescadero trail in Whittier on Wednesday. The Puente Hills Native Habitat Authority was awarded a royalty payment of up to \$2 million from proposed Whittier Oil Project Tuesday night. (SGVN/Staff photo by Keith Durlfingler)

Gallery: [Habitat Authority get a royalty payment from Whittier](#)

The agency responsible for managing nearly 4,000 ecologically significant acres in the Puente Hills will receive up to \$2 million a year in oil royalties, according to an agreement approved Tuesday night by the Whittier City Council.

By a 4-0 vote, the City Council agreed to share about 4 percent of the city's royalty payments that would flow from its controversial oil and gas extraction project in the hills.

The action is both ironic and historic.

If drilling were to produce oil revenues, the agency, the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority, would be benefitting from oil drilling on the same land it protects from development.

It also marks the first time the city has formally agreed to allow oil revenues from the project to flow outside the city.

"This is a good way to share the money. And the hills are better managed," said Councilman Bob

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