

# Round up time for Tres Hermanos Ranch?

0 COMMENTS

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If you are somewhat new to the area you may not have heard of Tres Hermanos Ranch, once the country ranch getaway for three rich Los Angeles guys.

The 2,450-acre property is in upper Tonner Canyon, beyond the former Firestone Scout Reserve and can only be reach via private roads. Tres Hermanos and the Scout Reserve are both owned by the City of Industry.

Since the 1970s, the tiny 12-square-mile City of Industry has gobbled up prime land in San Gabriel Valley and much of Tonner Canyon, including Tres Hermanos, which is bordered by Diamond Bar and Chino Hills, but not bordered by the City of Industry.

Only 211 people reside in the City of Industry, but it is the home to many industrial corporations, distribution centers and other thriving commerce within the borders that includes 10 zip codes.

The Tres Hermanos property is the last remaining open space in the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor and according to the environmental group Hills for Everyone, one of the most biodiverse, ecologically sensitive hot spots in the world.

Does the City Industry give a hoot about what will happen to pristine Tres Hermanos, with its rolling hills, scenic vistas and grazing cattle that can be seen from the 57 Freeway, but not from its city's boundaries?

According to an Oct. 2, 2017 press release the City of Industry is committed to using the land as open and recreation space and other public purposes.

It is those "other public purposes" that is raising red flags in the surrounding cities, including Brea. A possible solar farm has been reported in the news.

Although the Tres Hermanos property is not within Brea's Sphere of Influence, it is only seven miles away and adjacent to the Scout Reserve, which is within Brea's sphere.

"Any development in Tonner Canyon and Brea's (sphere of influence) is of paramount important to the city, its residents and businesses," Brea City Manager Bill Gallardo said via email. He added city leaders have asked City of Industry officials to included Brea in

discussions about land uses within our sphere of influence, and let them know that Brea has an interest in adjacent lands that may impact its sphere.

Last July, Senator Josh Newman arranged a special meeting with the city managers of Brea, Diamond Bar, Chino Hills and Walnut and with City of Industry's city manager, Paul Phillips. The purpose was to discuss City of Industry's plans for Tres Hermanos. Phillips only alluded, said Gallardo, to a renewable energy/solar project, but gave no details.

When asked about the "recreational activities" planned for the property, Gallardo said although they pressed him for more information about the activities, Phillips gave none.

I can see them leaving some token-gesture hiking and picnicking areas for those recreational activities, but what is of greatest concern is what the City of Industry refers to as other public purposes.

Other public purposes most likely include the solar farm with tons of ground-based photovoltaic panels. But developers for some time have put out feelers about the property.

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