

Friends of South Pasadena Nature Park

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County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Watershed Management Division
Attn: Mr. Patrick Goodfellow
900 S. Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803

Dear Mr. Goodfellow,

I attended the scoping meeting held at the South Pasadena Public Library on April 29, 2015. The following are my comments on the proposed alternatives for the Arroyo Seco Ecosystem Restoration Integrated Feasibility Study

I support action to increase habitat along the Arroyo Seco. As such, I would like to see as much of the channel removed as possible. The parallel natural system, low-flow channel alternative and the parallel natural system with culverts do not go nearly far enough in restoring habitat and natural hydrologic function to the Arroyo Seco. I cannot comment on the last three alternatives (notched side-walls with low-flow channel, floodplain benching, and sheet-pile bank protection with floodplain benching) without understanding more about what these alternatives mean. It was unclear to me, from this early scoping meeting, what any of these alternatives actually involve. I hope that the public will be fully informed about the consequences of all of the alternative as they are being considered.

Ecosystem restoration of the Arroyo Seco should include the following elements:

1. Restore habitat and structure and function to the Arroyo Seco, while maintaining flood control services required by law.
2. Water conservation and the improvement of water quality, also critical to the region's well being, should be considered along with flood control goals.
3. Remove as much of the concrete channel as possible to restore a beautiful and natural waterway.
4. Plan for natural stream conditions including the flooding of parkland adjacent to the Arroyo Seco. Integrate parkland and the river.
5. Work with cities to encourage the removal of buildings and houses located within the flood plain to facilitate the restoration of riparian, wetland and alluvial sage scrub habitats. In particular work with my city, South Pasadena (Reach 6), to relocate tennis courts and recreational buildings and structures that are directly adjacent to the flood control channel.

6. Integrate the existing 4-acre habitat park, South Pasadena – Arroyo Seco Woodland and Wildlife Park, into the plan to increase habitat and restore the ecosystem along the Arroyo Seco.
7. Include plans for the Hahamongna Watershed that will result in the development of a sustainable flood control system. The current system of dams along the San Gabriel Mountains is not sustainable given the need for ongoing sediment removal due to continuous deposition in the dams. Large scale changes downstream should include plans for the future need to re-engineer these archaic structures.

Thank you for providing an opportunity for the community to be involved in this exciting project. We all look forward to getting our river back!

Yours,

Barbara Eisenstein
Founder and Organizer of
Friends of South Pasadena Nature Park