

ARROYO SECO FOUNDATION

We Need Your Support Now More Than Ever

December 18, 2016

Dear Friends,

The Arroyo Seco Foundation has been working for many years to celebrate and enhance the Arroyo Seco Watershed and surrounding communities, but recent political developments demonstrate that our work and your support is more important than ever. The concerns that have motivated our programs -- clean water, clean air, ecosystem health and sustainability -- are being challenged as never before. We believe that sustainability and stewardship are the way to respond to California's long drought, the prospects of climate change, and threats to biodiversity. In a local way, we are addressing the big environmental issues that are being fought out nationally and globally. We are motivated by the mantra "Think Globally, Act Locally," and urge you now to step up your support of good environmental policy and programs both politically and financially.

It's ironic that we find ourselves in this current quandary because we believe the Arroyo Seco is on the verge of a wonderful environmental renaissance and that ASF programs have set the stage for that.

Just last month, after many years of careful study and planning, the US Army Corps of Engineers unveiled a series of alternatives for how to restore the Arroyo Seco ecosystem from Hahamongna at the foot of the San Gabriel Mountains down to the confluence with the Los Angeles River near downtown LA. The alternatives they propose are ambitious, bold, and can restore much of the grandeur of the Arroyo Seco. The Corps has outlined how to restore a living river through long stretches of the Arroyo in Altadena, Pasadena, La Canada-Flintridge, South Pasadena and northeast Los Angeles. It's a dynamic program and a historic opportunity, but it is clear that we can only achieve its success with broad public support, both locally and nationally.

Another exciting development is ASF's Hahamongna Nursery that is now open for business. This is a spectacular resource for the kind of restoration the Corps is promoting, cultivating native plants for conservation and habitat restoration programs as well as to beautify local homes and businesses. Nursery Manager Nicholas Hummingbird and a dedicated band of volunteers have produced more than 10,000 native plants in 2016, and we are now able to sell them to the public.

With the support of the National Forest Foundation and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, ASF has recently initiated a Fish and Forest Restoration Program for the upper watershed in the Angeles National Forest. This program requires that we back up their contributions with public support, both volunteer hours and financial matches.

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The No Big Dig Lawsuit, our campaign with Pasadena Audubon to save Hahamongna, is set to go to court on January 31, 2017. Our lawyers, Mitchell Tsai and Christina Caro, have done a great job of identifying the inadequacies and unmitigatable impacts of LA County Flood Control District's massive sediment mining and trucking program in Hahamongna Watershed Park. The County still has not been able to secure the permits to pursue their draconian program.

I hope the theme is clear: all of these important accomplishments are only possible with your help and support, and we need that support now more than ever.

This is our annual appeal for your support and membership. Please give generously.

Gratefully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Brick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tim Brick
Managing Director