

# CASO Meeting

Thursday, June 30, 2005  
Los Angeles River Center, Los Angeles

**Present:** Mary Renaker, Joyce Dillard, Augustine Rios, Raymond Yu, Dev Vrat, Alexia Teran, Evelyn Garcia, Elva Yañez, Jill Sourial, Nicole Possert, Travis Perry, Dan Sharp, Anne Dove, Jason Pellitier, Nancy Steel, Michele Zack, Rosa Laveaga, Jerry Schneider, Evelyn Ortiz Winchester, Tim Brick, Josh Brody, Lupe Vela, Jeff Chapman

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## **Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting began with a welcome and introduction of CASO by Jeff Chapman, Arroyo Seco Watershed Coordinator, who then presented an overview of the agenda for the meeting.

Self-introductions by meeting participants followed.

## **The Arroyo Seco Greenway**

Tim Brick, Arroyo Seco Foundation Managing Director, made a presentation on the Arroyo Seco Greenway Project, detailing the scope and vision and how CASO organizations could get involved. He invited people to get involved in a task force to develop the greenway program.

### Questions and Comments from members:

- Joyce Dillard – Make sure to look at wildlife corridors
- Raymond Yu – Incorporate Cornfield connections
- Joyce Dillard – Look into California High Speed Rail Project and its potential impacts on the confluence area.
- Michele – Where would people walk down the Arroyo?
- Anne Dove – The greenway is another way to conceptualize and market, as a backbone of watershed region, connecting open space areas to a broader network of community resources
- Tim Brick – LA River state park has three components. Taylor Yards and the Cornfields are proceeding, but there has been little progress on the Arroyo Seco Confluence. We need to help build the community base for a confluence project.
- Anne Dove – Opportunity: tap into Cornfield energy, help build a constituency for Greenway and Confluence
- Elva Yañez – What are the funding mechanisms for paying for such program?

- Tim Brick – There are several different structures. The Greenway can help develop governmental authority to pursue common objectives as part of a comprehensive watershed management and enhancement program.
- Nicole Possert - Four great cities, county, SMMC, unique challenges in the Arroyo that will bring together cities...coming together with one regional benefit
- Peggy Stewart – Examine the key issues of governance and structure?
- Joyce Dillard – Make the group participatory
- Jason Pellitier – Are there current or planned greenways in southern California?
- Nicole Possert – CASO should explore other Southern California Greeways.

### **Councilmember Ed Reyes, City of Los Angeles**

Councilmember Reyes spoke about the social and environmental justice issues in Council District 1. Key work includes working on the North East Community Plan, North East Linkages, and the Los Angeles River Revitalization. Reyes is working to create a scenario where you can actually see change.

#### Questions and Comments from members:

- Anne Dove asked about the *North East Linkages project*. How will the date be summarized; she would like to see the document available in libraries. Will use info to compete in call for projects. Council Office can come to CASO to come to explain linkages.
- Jason Pellitier asked about the LA River revitalization and clean water issues. Mr. Reyes responded that the LA river revitalization needs to become an institution instead of a whim. In the process, there will be as many as 26 community meetings 26 with a lot of feedback to determine what communities want to see. He discusses the use of natural processes for retaining and cleaning stormwater.
- Elva Yañez asked about the Interim Control Ordinance Created to preserve open space in Montecito Heights and Lincoln Heights. The councilman responded that he is strongly committed to its goals.
- Rosa Laveaga states that she is impressed with the complexity of issues as well ask the councilman's ability to grasp issues. She asks how agencies along the Arroyo can best collaborate.

#### **Updates from CASO Organizations**

- **Michele Zack** of the Altadena Foothills Conservancy reported that the Altadena Pocket Park is funded has been funded by a Metropolitan Water District grant; this project will create a waterwise pocket park at Woodbury and Marengo. A movie is now being completed that will tell the history of water development and history of the area and how to conserve.

- **Jerry Schneider** discussed another model for creating projects in the Arroyo Seco regarding the maintenance of trails in Debs Park; LA doesn't have funds, so the Arroyo Seco Neighborhood Council will fund trail projects working with the LA Conservation Corps and North East Trees to get projects going in parks.
- **Josh Brody** of Sequoia School in Pasadena discussed place-based education in the Arroyo. He is looking for collaboration to help students get involved in Arroyo issues and would like to see the educators in the region come together to develop mutually beneficial programs.
- **Rosa Laveaga**, Pasadena's Arroyo Seco Coordinator, reported that restoration work continues in the Arroyo as part of the stream and habitat restoration project in the unchannelized areas of the stream in Pasadena. Pasadena has acquired 30 acres of land from the Metropolitan Water District to be added to Hahamongna Watershed Park.