

Council of Arroyo Seco Organizations December 18, 2006

The fourth quarter CASO meeting was held at La Casita del Arroyo in Pasadena. The meeting began with an informal networking session at 6:30 pm as attendees enjoyed holiday refreshments and chatted about various Arroyo doings.

Paula Sirola, who runs the Arroyo Seco Watershed Sustainability Program, was the emcee for the event and called the group to order at 7:10 pm.

Brian Whelan of the US Army Corps of Engineers made a presentation on the Corps Ecosystem Study on the Arroyo Seco Watershed, explaining the scope and goals of the study, which will identify and outstanding restoration projects in the Arroyo Seco for future funding and implementation.

After a series of questions about the Corps study, Paula Sirola introduced the main event of the evening by explaining the origins and purpose of the Arroyo Verde Awards. She pointed out that this is the second year for the awards which honor individuals, agencies and organizations that have contributed to enhancing the quality of life for residents of the Arroyo Seco.

She then introduced the honorees who accepted their awards with brief but enthusiastic speeches. Jerry Schneider received the 2006 Volunteer Award for his outstanding work in Northeast Los Angeles. Nancy Steele of the Altadena Foothills Conservancy accepted the "Greening the Arroyo - Organization" Award for the documentary, "Eaton's Water," the story of local water development. The Arroyo's new assemblyman, Anthony Portantino, attended the event and pledged his support for Arroyo efforts. Jeff Chapman received the "Special Award" for his work in establishing the Arroyo Seco Watershed Coordination program. Mark Pestrella spoke eloquently of the County's commitment to watershed management in his acceptance speech on behalf of Los Angeles County. Judy Wilson received the Best Advocacy award for her work in securing funding for the Corps of Engineers Arroyo Seco Ecosystem study.

Category	Awardee
Best Advocacy	Judy Wilson
Greening the Arroyo (Organization)	Altadena Foothills Conservancy
Greening the Arroyo (Agency)	Public Works Watershed Management Division
Greening the Arroyo (Business)	
Best Volunteer	Jerry Schneider
Citizen Activist	Carolyn Naber and Pasadena First
Public Official	Anne Dove, National Parks Service
Lifetime Achievement	Scott Wilson of North East Trees
Special Award	Jeff Chapman

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.