

## **Council of Arroyo Seco Organizations CASO Wednesday, December 12, 2007**

The holiday meeting of the Council of Arroyo Seco Organizations was held on December 12, 2007 in the atrium at the Los Angeles River Center and Garden, 57 West Avenue 26 in Los Angeles.

Refreshments were served at 6:30 as a festive holiday crowd gathered for the meeting and celebration of the champions of the Arroyo Seco. At seven pm Andy Byrne of the Arroyo Seco Foundation stepped forward to serve as master of ceremonies for the event.

Brian Whelan of the US Army Corps of Engineers presented a report on the progress of the Corps ecosystem study of the Arroyo Seco. He explained that funding cuts had restricted the pace of the study, but that progress was being made.

After a lively discussion, Andy Byrne began the awarding of the Arroyo Verde Awards. The awards are presented each year to people who have made an outstanding contribution to beautifying or enhancing the Arroyo Seco and its related communities. This was the third presentation of the awards.

This chart lists the awards and the recipients for 2007.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Awardee</b>
Best Advocacy	Peter and Elaine Adams
Greening the Arroyo (Organization)	Audubon Center at Debs Park
Greening the Arroyo (Agency)	Mountains Resources & Conservation Authority
Best Volunteer	Steve Slaten
Citizen Activist	Barbara Eisenstein
Public Official	LA Councilmember Ed Reyes
Lifetime Achievement	Peggy Stewart

Each of the awardees was introduced and then made a statement of acceptance. Each speech was moving and motivational. Los Angeles City Councilmember Ed Reyes told of growing up near the Arroyo and LA River and what a powerful influence it had been on his development. Peggy Stewart recount decades of involvement in local environmental causes, most recently as President of the Arroyo Seco Foundation.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 and attendees celebrated the honorees and finished off the refreshments.