

Council of Arroyo Seco Organizations

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

The Seis de Mayo CASO meeting began with refreshments and networking at 6:30 in the conference of the office of the Arroyo Seco Foundation at the Los Angeles River Center. ASF has just moved into the space which is in the suite occupied by the Trust for Public Land.

The meeting had a festive atmosphere and was held in celebration of Cinco de Mayo.

The first major topic of the meeting was a report on the State bond freeze which has had devastating impacts on several CASO organizations. It was a lively discussion, but most participants were hopeful that the funding freeze would soon be lifted and programs restored. Tim Brick and Arturo Gonzalez of both spoke about the negative impacts on watershed organizing in the Arroyo Seco.

Considerable discussion then ensued on the topic of the County of Los Angeles' plans for the Arroyo Seco bikeway. County officials had recently held a meeting at which they indicated that they intended to kill the bikeway project that had been in planning for almost twelve years. A storm of protest came from community representatives at the meeting, and the County officials agreed to go back to the drawing board to see if there was some way the project could continue. Jerry Schneider and others from Northeast Los Angeles have formed a bikeway committee and discussed their plans.

Arturo Gonzalez reported on the recent March for Water held in observance of World Water Day and on the Confluence Organizing project he is directing to promote greater participation in Arroyo Seco and LA River planning projects from Latino residents in the neighborhoods of Cypress Park, Lincoln Heights, and East Los Angeles.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.