

# ARROYO SECO FOUNDATION

June 21, 2013

City Manager Michael Beck  
Pasadena City Hall  
100 N. Garfield Avenue  
Pasadena, CA 9110

Dear Mr. Beck:

On May 15, 2013, a contractor working on behalf of Southern California Edison cleared a giant swath of prime habitat in Hahamongna Watershed Park. Even though the rich habitat there was destroyed during a particularly sensitive season for birds and other species in Hahamongna, the destruction apparently was conducted without any environmental documentation or even notification of the City of Pasadena.

The City of Pasadena granted Edison a utility easement through the Hahamongna area for their power poles heading north/south to Jet Propulsion Laboratory more than sixty years ago. The giant electric utility claims that the easement gives them the unfettered right to maintain access to the poles that lead along the west side of the park from near Devil's Gate Dam all the way up to JPL. But Edison's easement was established long before Hahamongna Watershed Park even existed, and it has never been revised to reflect the new conditions in the park and the value of the rare habitat found there. Commercial entities clearly are not appropriate in such natural areas, regardless of when their easement was established.

The condition of the habitat in this part of Hahamongna has dramatically improved in recent years, as was documented in "Preliminary Habitat Assessment of Southern Hahamongna," prepared by the Arroyo Seco Stream Team and issued August 23, 2012. Nonetheless, over the years the Edison poles have grown in size and number, and the access road they insist on has gotten wider and wider. Since the California Environmental Quality Act was not enacted until 1970, Edison's intrusion on the rare natural conditions in Hahamongna has never been evaluated according to contemporary environmental standards or law. It is time to review the Edison easement. We believe that if the easement and Edison's operational practices are reviewed according to contemporary standards, it will be clear that Edison should move its power lines out of the Hahamongna Basin. They can do that, if Pasadena insists on it and if the California Public Utilities Commission approves it.

Edison could and should relocate its power poles along Oak Grove Drive or some other route, but they will not do so until the City of Pasadena demands it. This is what stewardship is about, protecting rare natural areas like this. We urge you and your staff to review the Edison easement in the light of current conditions and instruct Edison to move its power lines out of the Hahamongna Basin.

Sincerely yours,



Tim Brick  
Managing Director

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