

Appendix C: Stakeholder and Community Input

Stakeholder MEETINGS

The following information is a synthesis of the input provided by the participants of the November 16, 2000 Stakeholder Committee meeting. During the workshop portion of the meeting, the Committee was divided into small groups to develop lists of the key issues and concerns of the stakeholder organizations. The following input was grouped by topic/theme.

Hydrological Restoration

- Restore natural river where there is sufficient flood control
- Increase water flow through the Arroyo Seco
- Make Arroyo Seco into a multi-purpose/use area such as flood management, recreation, habitat (similar to Sepulveda Basin) – Identify case studies from other areas with similar issues for information
- Identify case studies from other areas with similar issues for information
- Look at long-range potentials
- Revisit/consider what level of flood control is needed with regard to political and economic concerns
- Any improvements must not add more impermeable surfaces (concrete, asphalt)
- Flood control/protection must be maintained
- Regional Water Quality Control Board and Prop. 13 funding
- Agency Regulations and 401 certifications—make sure to get appropriate permits

Water Resources/ Quality

- Conduct pre- and post- monitoring to see/quantify the results/benefits—water quality, urban heat island effect/tree planting, flow volumes—include recommendations for monitoring in technical report
- Water quality – consider progressive improvements (i.e., 1st plant habitat, 2nd safe for kids, 3rd fish habitat, 4th safe to drink)
- Education and outreach about water issues and to build support/involvement—use simple terms, an engaging approach
- Concerns with JPL Runoff/dischage, golf course runoff, storm drain runoff

Habitat Restoration

- Habitat restoration, removal of exotic plants—need paid labor as well as volunteers
- Minimize lighting of open space for wildlife habitat protection
- Aggressive tree planting to soften hardscape, prevent soil erosion, improve air quality
- Look at shape of channel with regard to habitat
- Develop Arroyo Seco as a wildlife corridor that integrates recreation and connects with existing parks, corridors and mountains
- Look at long-range potentials

Recreation/ Open Space

Expansion of Parkland/ Open Space

- Acquire existing open space in watershed (i.e. Mount Olympus)

- Convert brownfields to parks—
- Brownfields—how many? How close to creek? Expense? Who is going to help?
- Expansion of existing recreation facilities
- Montecito Hts./Debs Park – incorporate open space into community
- Protect/ restore open space
- Explore possibility of acquiring land for connections (possibly trails?) in upper watershed to Millard Canyon
- Identify existing recreational facilities in cities (i.e. new skate park in South Pasadena, existing municipal service yards, infrastructure, stables)
- Re-examine current zoning and its relationship to remaining open space

Access/ Connections

- Connect/ link existing resources (i.e. pedestrian trails, bikepaths, equestrian trails, open space)—connect to regional resources such as Rim of the Valley trail
- Improve access from communities to existing and future trails
- Make eastside of Arroyo Seco accessible to pedestrians
- Provide access to under-used/vacant lands which could be added to the open space network
- Encourage design of hiking trails/bikepaths as integrated part of future land plans
- Many little parks give a feeling of disconnection

Design Elements/ Considerations

- Use native landscape/ vegetation, riparian, coastal sage scrub, chaparral (less maintenance)
- If walls are to be built along parkway, design can be integrated into park concepts (i.e. see-through fencing)
- Treat concrete walls as art projects, wildlife displays, etc.
- How does confluence with LA River get addressed? Should be more natural or re-done as urban park?
- Better integrate Arroyo Seco into Highland Park
- Provide continuity to the Arroyo Seco—it should appear as one unit or entity across city boundaries
- Develop plan for parking/traffic management-shuttle, blueline, parkway,

Safety

- Need one ranger unit for Arroyo Seco
- Work with cities and police for enforcement issues
- Safety—work with law enforcement agencies. How safe will trail be? Lighting? Check residents' preferences—bike team patrol, equestrian patrol
- Attractive design will attract “positive”, active use
- Increase parks and the number of people in the Arroyo Seco to make it more safe and secure

Cultural/ Historic Resources

- Higher priority should be given to cultural & natural features
- Integrate Historic/Cultural Resources into landscape

- Rehabilitate Arroyo Seco Parkway to original identity/concept
- Parkway relationship must be evaluated. Function and aesthetics (no sound walls!)—parkway vegetation could be integrated with park design
- Provide continuity to the Arroyo Seco—it should appear as one unit or entity across city boundaries
- Identify historical locations/ cultural buildings

Outreach/ Education

- Use this project as opportunity for demonstration of holistic approaches
- Develop internships with schools
- Create website Links, educational programs, email listserve
- Multiple languages in use—need to use translators
- Develop interpretive elements where restoration isn't feasible (110)
- Pay adequate attention to more difficult areas such as urban and higher density areas
- Educate community and including in process
- Graffiti and garbage removal—address as social issues—can this be discouraged by design? Do we understand the causes?
- Better integrate Arroyo Seco into Highland Park
- Develop educational programs for all ages including school and recreation programs
- Education and outreach about water issues and to build support/involvement—use simple terms, an engaging approach

Implementation/ Maintenance and Operations

- Need more maintenance money for Parks and Recreation and Education/Training
- Reduce maintenance costs/ develop cost effective maintenance
- Integrate the work of existing groups so that are working together
- Develop incentives for local participation and ownership
- Clarify jurisdiction/responsibilities for Arroyo Seco maintenance and liability
- Concern that cities/ agencies won't work together
- How will this project work with the City of Pasadena Master Plan: get City of Pasadena to change section names of Arroyo Seco (i.e. from Lower Arroyo to Mid Arroyo to address greater context outside of Pasadena)
- Need an implementation strategy
- Use hard examples—case studies that demonstrate costs and practical issues
- Be wary of short-term solutions that may prevent / obviate long

Community Meetings

The following information is a synthesis of the input provided by the participants of the December 3 and December 5, 2000 community meetings. During the workshop portions of the meetings, participants were divided into small groups to develop lists of the key issues and concerns. The following input is grouped by topic/theme.

Hydrological Restoration

- Benefits of naturalization offset costs—it's worth it
- Flood management—create floodplain

- Multi-use for parks—flood control and recreation (i.e. CalPoly idea to divert to South Pasadena park)
- Golf course good location for spreading basin
- Unpave parking lots
- Avenue 43 to confluence—inflatable dam, lake, cafes
- Remove concrete, naturalize channel, restoration, have soft bottom sections
- Concern with “faux” stream in Lower Arroyo—don’t aim low, go for real, soft bottom river
- Big costs of naturalization
- Removal of flood channel/naturalization (central and Lower) and feasibility (including moving the concrete)
- Take out concrete in places, but keep flood management where needed
- Flood issues—protection, damage reduction, safety in channels
- How accommodate a wider channel if naturalized?
- Channel configuration inconsistent
- Potential impacts to houses adjacent to Arroyo (including erosion)
- Remove homes from floodplain
- What will happen to houses on Angeles National Forest lands?
- Build up of sediment—how to address existing dams that are full of debris

Water Resources & Water Quality

- Flood control and water quality inter-related
- Water should be drinkable, swimmable, boatable, fishable
- Negative water quality impacting children in community
- Non-point source contaminants—dog/horse waste, weed control chemicals sprayed by City, street run-off
- Groundwater quality
- Maintain drinking water quality
- Ground water contamination plume (JPL) of concern
- Clean-up of toxic areas of soil and water
- Industry clean-up
- Volunteer water quality monitoring—local schools
- BMPs/education to improve water quality/create development guidelines
- Concerned about soccer fields in Hahamongna and water quality effects

Water Conservation/Supply

- Preserve water/conserve/prevent run-off
- Harvest water to percolate/recharge water table – catchbasins
- Remove asphalt/concrete in parking lots to make multi-purpose
- Pocket park retention basins
- Naturalize golf course for better water management
- Permeable paving in communities

Habitat Restoration & Conservation/Restoration

- Long term conservation planning needed
- Community ownership of preserve
- Habitat should be a big priority [in development of a watershed plan]

- Water quality important for habitat
- Wetlands important
- Restore/ naturalize stream
- Habitat restoration—who gets to help, volunteers/organizations, who makes decisions?
- Preserve open spaces for wildlife

Wildlife/ Habitat Connectivity

- Encourage wildlife to return to watershed (i.e. salmon, trout, birds, coyotes, Arroyo chub)
- Wildlife is currently very resilient
- Presence of critical species in Hahamongna
- Combine habitat and recreation – balance human uses with wildlife needs
- Arroyo as wildlife corridor—functions/functioned as a natural corridor
- Habitat—broadening extent vs. just a closed conduit—provide linkages

Vegetation/Plants

- Native plants require floods
- Correct tree planting—good maintenance, proper pruning
- Native plants – smog tolerant plants
- Look at baseline historic and existing biological data as part of revegetation efforts
- Develop diversion channels for riparian purposes
- Remove non-native species (i.e. *Arundo donax*)
- Protect existing trees and vegetation
- Encourage people to replace lawns with native species to create habitat
- Naturalize golf courses—provide berries that attract birds, etc.

Recreation/ Open Space

Expansion of Parkland/ Open Space

- Preserve/ expand natural, open space
- Land acquisition—buy back land/easements
- Acquire land in Arroyo

Access/ Connections

- Provide better access to trails
- Issue of driving into Arroyo—encourage use of steps down as an alternative
- Encourage access to Arroyo through transit, pedestrian, Blueline
- Need better pedestrian links, especially in Rose Bowl area
- Link bike paths, pedestrian and equestrian trails
- Link cultural and educational facilities—link to youth
- Provide access across freeway for pedestrians/bicyclists
- Confluence area needs attention—get bikes, etc. through
- Connect Arroyo Seco to Elysian Park/Debs Park especially by foot
- Chain link fences block access
- Roads don't flow between South Pasadena and Highland Park and this limits access
- Fragmented areas between South Pasadena and LA River—need a connection at Avenue 43

- There is a break in links of South Pasadena parks, privatized
- Continuous bike access along river/ attractive
- Provide regional connections (Pt. Mugu, Baldy, Rim of the Valley Trail)
- Easement configuration
- Look at historical links
- Appropriate access (i.e. access to Arroyo for non-impacting uses)
- Accessibility to a natural experience

Design Elements/ Considerations

General

- South Arroyo areas are fundamentally different with different issues
- Southern stretch (L.A. River to South Pasadena) needs more attention
- Focus on what is unique to Arroyo
- Identify Arroyo as river, create regional identity (currently it is weak)
- Keep Arroyo as parkland

Aesthetics

- Aesthetics a concern
- Chain link fences are ugly [existing, and in general]
- Make more beautiful – open minded approach to planning/management

Art

- LA City has designed walls for murals (i.e. maybe could in Arroyo/channel walls also)
- Recent L.A. River stuff is great (art walk, new pocket parks, etc)
- All graffiti in earth tones
- More art work/murals/installations

Trails/Trail Uses

- Longer bike path would get more users—currently, path doesn't go anywhere
- More/better/safer bikeways
- Fewer vehicles/including mountain bikes
- Can be a major commuter corridor
- Less use of Arroyo for transportation
- No bikes in Arroyo/Lower Arroyo (takes too much space—want passive/quiet uses)
- Recreational use interface/conflicts (bikes/pedestrians/equestrian, canoes/boats, motorized)
- Mountain bikers going too fast on pedestrian trails
- Separate bikes and pedestrians and horses
- Post rules/etiquette
- Equestrian uses are low impact and harmonious

Levels/Intensity of Use

- Over use/impacts of existing recreation facilities and conflict of uses
- Soccer fields not good around Arroyo—too much land needed
- Archery land use excessive- too large/valuable site for small user group (annual lease)

- Low impact uses – Encourage nature observation points/passive recreation/educational signage
- Active/organized vs. passive recreation
- Central Arroyo heavily used—will become bigger issue with population increases
- What is capacity to provide for users (recreational)
- Balance level of enjoyment in relation to number of users
- Non-motorized uses in Arroyo
- Balance of development/ planning – challenge with space uses
- No structures in natural areas
- Provide for human uses (beyond just habitat restoration) – integrate natural with need for recreation
- Apply lessons learned about activities in Arroyo (i.e. no casting pool, BFI's multi-use, other examples)
- Traffic—impacts of recreation
- Pasadena violates own Rose Bowl limits/laws by holding extra events – large Scale events displace other users
- Change (City of LA's) Recreation and Park's attitude to encourage use

Existing Recreation Uses

- Leave the casting pond—make it more naturalized
- Youth recreation now more focused on organized activities
- Restoration of Brookside Park—consider Myron Hunt master plan (purportedly in Santa Barbara)
- Restore buildings at Fannie Morrison Center
- Ensure public open space is kept public and not privatized (i.e. Fannie Morrison Center)
- Do not allow Kidspace project – put natural stuff there instead or Parks and Recreation headquarters
- Naturalize golf course

Desired Recreation Uses/Improvements

- Stroller hike around Rose Bowl
- Skateboard park in concrete areas/under underpass areas
- Urban camping stations along river (Debs Park, mid-point)
- Community gardens
- Plant orange groves
- Vegetated bridges
- Provide for dog/pet uses—dog park – dogs off-leash a problem
- Noise issues
- Restore slide rock
- Jet ski waterpark—rules for motorized/ no motorized
- Riverwalks
- Use River water for water parks
- Terrace channel walls/river edges at Via Marisol, Sycamore Grove Park
- Provide safe pedestrian access to river/streams
- Use river water for water parks
- Restrooms along path

- Interpretive center/signs/better signage
- More trash receptacles

Safety

- Erosion and safety on hiking trails
- Path/trail uses around Rose Bowl need to be segregated for safety
- Safety/perception of safety—need “eyes on” the Arroyo and good emergency response times
- Safety—crime/accident prevention, education, attacks, homeless, substance abuse
- Safety patrols for entire area—need resources to provide adequate patrol
- Perceptions of unsafe areas make the areas unsafe and unused
- South Arroyo areas have safety concerns
- Solution to criminal/gang problems
- Lighting, sensor lighting, better access points, more frequent maintenance would contribute to safety
- Bike freeway would bring people into Arroyo and solve/lessen crime/gang problems
- Debs Park not used in Highland Park because perceived as not safe/gang area
- Safety concerns along bike path (more use/safety, call boxes)

Cultural/ Historic Resources

- There are many historic resources in Arroyo
- Lummis House can be a centerpiece of Arroyo—beautiful, existing place, could interpret cultural, flood/hydrology, Native Americans, natural systems
- Old bridges valuable, sites seem to be well protected—potential undermining, seismic issues
- Restore historic structures (mainly south of the Colorado St. Bridge)
- Old bridge foundations exist—potential resource?
- Leave legacy of how current generation inherited the Arroyo (i.e. leave it in the same condition)
- Historic interpretation—use of old/ historic stone paths—some were WPA projects
- Restore historic Bird Observatory
- La Loma Bridge—money for restoration/retrofit
- Stables on Arroyo—historic (since 1926) should be historic resource/possible National Register nominee

Outreach/ Education

- Need public education on the history, importance, nature, maintenance of the Arroyo
- Good use of volunteers—could use for maintenance
- Get kids involved—youth involvement may prevent vandalism
- Community teams to adopt a reach to maintain
- Form a lobby for hikers and nature lovers of the watershed
- Build sense of community and commitment to neighborhood
- Prevent neighborhood gentrification once Arroyo area becomes more desirable
- Inclusion (multi-cultural)—make it everyone’s river—multilingual, don’t alienate
- Arroyo as a community link/culturally
- Promotions/cultural history

- Have events: Arroyo fest, clean-up, parade up the channel, rubber ducky race
- Education for the children (through local schools) curriculum development—educational materials
- Involve schools in process—field trips to Arroyo/Arroyo as an environmental education resource

Implementation/ Maintenance and Operations

- Trail maintenance
- Long term maintenance—who? Long term commitment
- System for trash clean-up (i.e. Rose Bowl)
- At-risk youth employment for maintenance and education and to foster stewardship values
- Maintenance of parks in central and lower Arroyo (need basics like trash receptacles)

Fiscal Issues

- Funding for park maintenance
- Long term maintenance funding should be identified to prevent further neglect of existing paths, trails and irrigation
- Funding sources—state/federal agencies, Prop 12 & 13,
- Issue of local taxes going up vs. broad-based funding (county-wide)
- Cities motivated to expand tax base
- Cities need grant administrators to maximize ability to obtain grant funds
- Financial incentives to keeping government status quo (golf course makes money for Rose Bowl)

Jurisdictional Issues

- Jurisdictions— need an organized responsible entity to oversee, possibly a watershed-based agency/Joint Powers Authority
- Who has the liability?

Planning Process

- Hold off on any new development until NET/ASF study done
- Will this study result in a framework for other agencies plans
- How network/partner to manage Arroyo Seco for consistency and how will it tie to LA River
- Coordinate with City of Pasadena – need to coordinate agencies and their planning efforts
- How outreach to everyone? Target zip codes? Notify/post via email or mail?
- Provide analysis on web site
- Include representatives from soccer and Kidspace groups and resident associations