



ARROYO SECO WATERSHED RESTORATION FEASIBILITY STUDY SUMMARY REPORT: PHASE I

March 2, 2001



Arroyo Seco Watershed Restoration Feasibility Study

Summary Report: Phase I
Data Collection & Initial Planning Review

March 2, 2001

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&
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preface

The purpose of the *Arroyo Seco Watershed Restoration Feasibility Study (ASWRFS)*, a cooperative project of North East Trees and the Arroyo Seco Foundation, is to develop an environmentally-sensitive and sustainable plan to manage the Arroyo Seco watershed. The study is intended to integrate issues of flood management, stream naturalization, water resources, habitat rehabilitation, and educational and community recreational opportunities. The 46.6 square mile Arroyo Seco watershed is tributary to the Los Angeles River and spans five jurisdictions, including from north to south the Angeles National Forest, the unincorporated community of Altadena, the City of La Cañada Flintridge, the City of Pasadena, the City of South Pasadena, and the City of Los Angeles. The watershed is one of southern California's greatest natural treasures. The watershed represents an outstanding opportunity for the region to demonstrate a collaborative, multi-purpose approach to the management of vital natural resources. We are pleased that the study has the support of the California Coastal Conservancy, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, the National Park Service, the cities of Pasadena, South Pasadena and Los Angeles and a variety of other agencies with management and regulatory responsibility for the Arroyo Seco watershed.

In Phase I of *ASWRFS*, presented in this report, the team surveyed and catalogued the extensive documentation that already exists about the watershed, identified gaps in the analysis and technical studies, defined goals and objectives for watershed management and developed substantial support for our project from local agencies, stakeholders and the public at large.

This preliminary report outlines the approach and progress made in a variety of areas critical to our watershed plan including:

- Documentation;
- Mapping;
- Hydrology;
- Water resources;
- Biology and ecology; and
- Recreation.

An interdisciplinary team of landscape architects, planners, engineers and biologists has been mobilized to contribute to this project which utilizes an ecosystem-based approach to planning and design for the watershed.

We have assembled an extensive bibliography of related reports, literature, and historic photos, listing over 500 entries. Review of critical documents has begun and technical studies have been initiated. The bibliography database is available online at www.arroyoseco.org.

Phase I revealed the complexity of the Arroyo Seco Watershed. Through mapping and documentation we have begun to organize, analyze and synthesize complex relationships. Patterns are beginning to emerge that will provide direction to the preliminary master plan.

As we begin Phase II, we look forward to achieving the highest level of technical analysis and community involvement to ensure the quality of our final report and the workability of its recommendations.

We are pleased that the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works has stated that they intend to incorporate our study in their *Los Angeles River Master Plan*. In addition, the City of Pasadena has made a similar statement regarding the comprehensive *Master Plan for the Arroyo Seco* that they are now compiling.

Our work thus far has revealed that several areas of further investigation will be needed beyond the completion of this Feasibility Study. Next steps include securing funding for additional planning, engineering and technical studies. To support these future efforts, requests have recently been submitted for Proposition 13 and Cal Fed Bay Delta Program funding.

Sincerely,



Lynne Dwyer
North East Trees
Project Manager



Tim Brick
Arroyo Seco Foundation