

III. Preliminary Investigation for Technical Studies

In the following sections, team members and consultants have developed preliminary technical reports. These findings will be further developed during the upcoming technical studies to take place in Phase II. During Phase II, through the ecosystematic planning and design process discussed earlier in this report (see Section IIC), the project team will integrate seemingly conflicting findings from the individual technical reports. This reconciliation of the studies will result in a final comprehensive watershed plan.

In the hydrology report, Montgomery Watson Harza, the consulting engineering firm, has summarized existing technical information and gaps in information needed to meet the stream naturalization and flood management goals of the project. The project team will develop the water resources technical study. Water resources include both the water quantity and water quality aspects of the hydrologic cycle within this watershed. An overview of groundwater recharge will also be addressed in this technical study. Potential sources of water quality degradation are described in the previous section of this document under the heading *Initial Planning Investigation, Water Resources – Quality*. Another known source of pollution is the NASA/CalTech Jet Propulsion Laboratory, located just north of Hahamonga Watershed Park.

For the habitat restoration technical study, North East Trees is working with four biological consultants. Conservation ecology consultant Verna Jigour and stream biologist Matt Stoeker have undertaken an extensive overview field reconnaissance trek above Devil's Gate Dam. The team plans on examining the area below the Devil's Gate Dam later in the process. Their firsthand account is included in this section. In addition, Dan Cooper of the Audubon Society, and Ellen Mackey are contributing field work to this study. Ellen Mackey, on loan from the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council is undertaking a larger effort to physically map critical riparian habitat for both the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers. The Arroyo Seco has been chosen as a pilot project, and will be among the first stream reaches to be mapped within this region, in accordance with state mapping standards.

The project team will develop a recreation and open space plan for the watershed. The plan will focus on unsupervised recreation such as bicycling and hiking, but also consider supervised recreation such as soccer fields. Particularly important are the regional trail connections that will be developed within this watershed. The potential exists to extend trail connections to the Los Angeles River and regional trail systems in the Angeles National Forest, such as the Rim of the Valley and Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.