

# Arroyo Currents



**Let the River Flow**

**Why We Oppose the Arroyo Seco Canyon Project**  
**Thursday, December 17, 7 pm**

# Let the River Flow

## *Why We Oppose the Arroyo Seco Canyon Project (ASCP)*

- Greetings and introduction - Tim Brick, Managing Director, Arroyo Seco Foundation
- Overview of the ASCP and Our Concerns - Tim Brick
- Biology and Other Negative Impacts of ASCP – Angel Pinedo
- The Benefits of a Natural Stream - Hugh Bowles, Hahamongna Neighbor
- The Declining Raymond Basin and ASCP - Ken Kules , PE –
- Questions and Discussion
- Adjournment

# Why is Hahamongna So Vital?



ASCP is located in Hahamongna Watershed Park near the mouth of the Arroyo Seco at the critical junction where the mountain stream enters the urban Arroyo on its way to the Los Angeles River.

- Hahamongna contains five unique habitat zones and is home to several endangered and threatened species.
- This is our region's greatest natural treasure, vital for water resources, habitat, wildlife and nature-appreciation.
- It is the gateway to the San Gabriel Mountains and the connecting link to the Los Angeles River.



Hahamongna -

The Most  
Precious  
Habitat Zone  
in Our Region

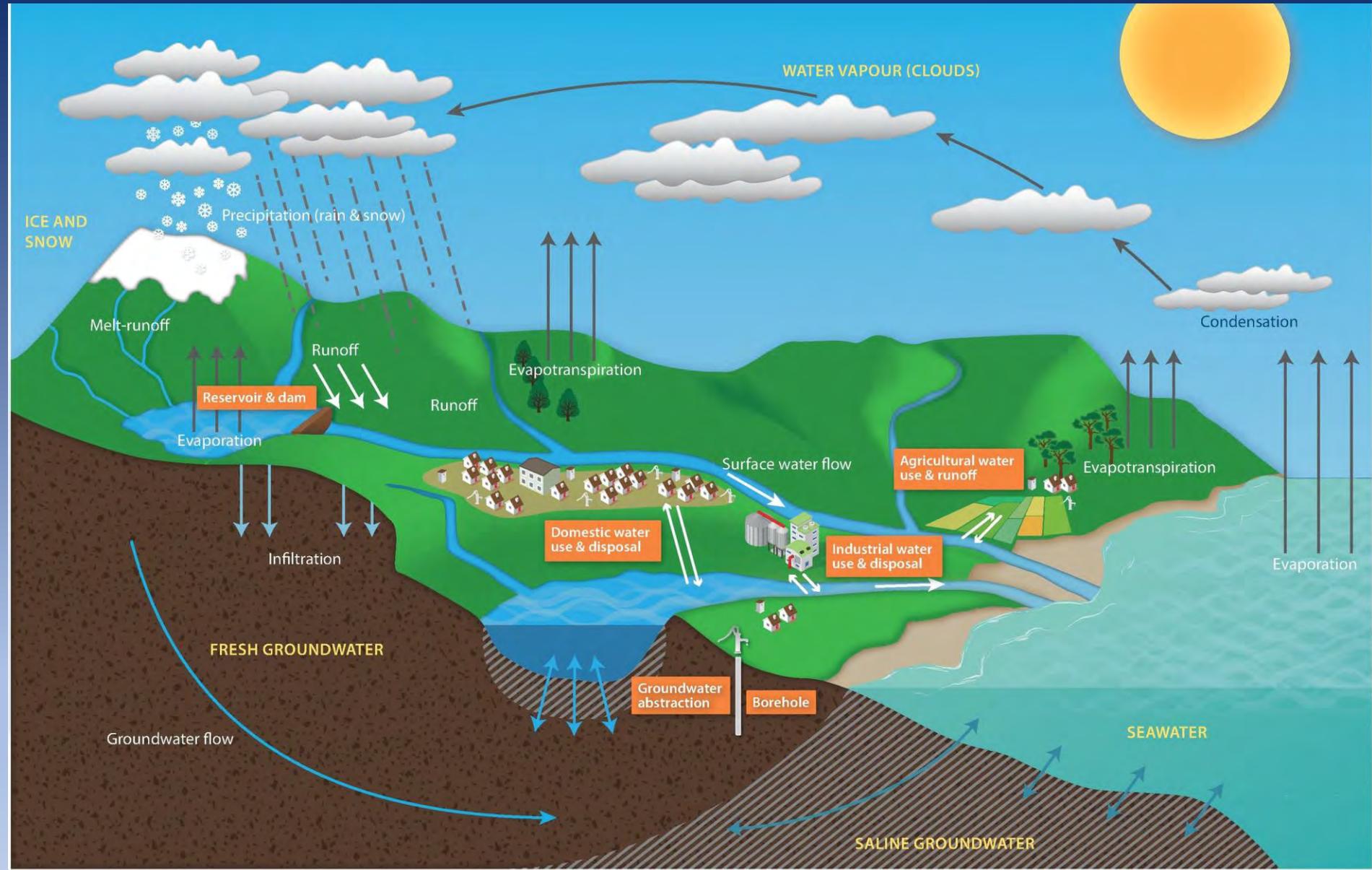
# What is the ASCP

- The Arroyo Seco Canyon Project (ASCP) is an attempt by the Pasadena Water and Power Department (PWP) to increase the amount of water it diverts from the Arroyo Seco stream for municipal purposes as well as its pumping from the Raymond Groundwater Basin.
- It includes two major elements:
  - **Dam and Diversion Replacement**
  - **Expansion of the Spreading Basins** at the mouth of the Arroyo in Hahamongna Watershed Park
- The ASCP **Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)** was posted last summer for public review.
- The **Final EIR** will soon be released for consideration by Pasadena officials and regulatory agencies.

# History of the Project

- 2008 – Initial Plan developed by ASF and CDM
- 2009 – Station Fire and flood aftermath damages water intake
- 2011 - CA Integrated Water Resources Funding awarded to ASF; \$3.3 million; Pasadena to head the project with ASF cooperation.
- 2015 – Negative Declaration Approved by City Council; Lawsuit filed by Spirit of the Sage Council; State funding of \$3.3 million forfeited; ASF excluded from participation in the program.
- 2017 – Superior Court Judge Fruin rules PWP must do full EIR and consider impacts on down stream habitat
- 2019 – Sparsely attended initial scoping meeting held in November
- 2020 – DEIR released; environmental amenities eliminated; public comments close on June 30
- January 6, 2021?? - Public Hearing on CUP and EIR
- Date Uncertain - City Council Action ???

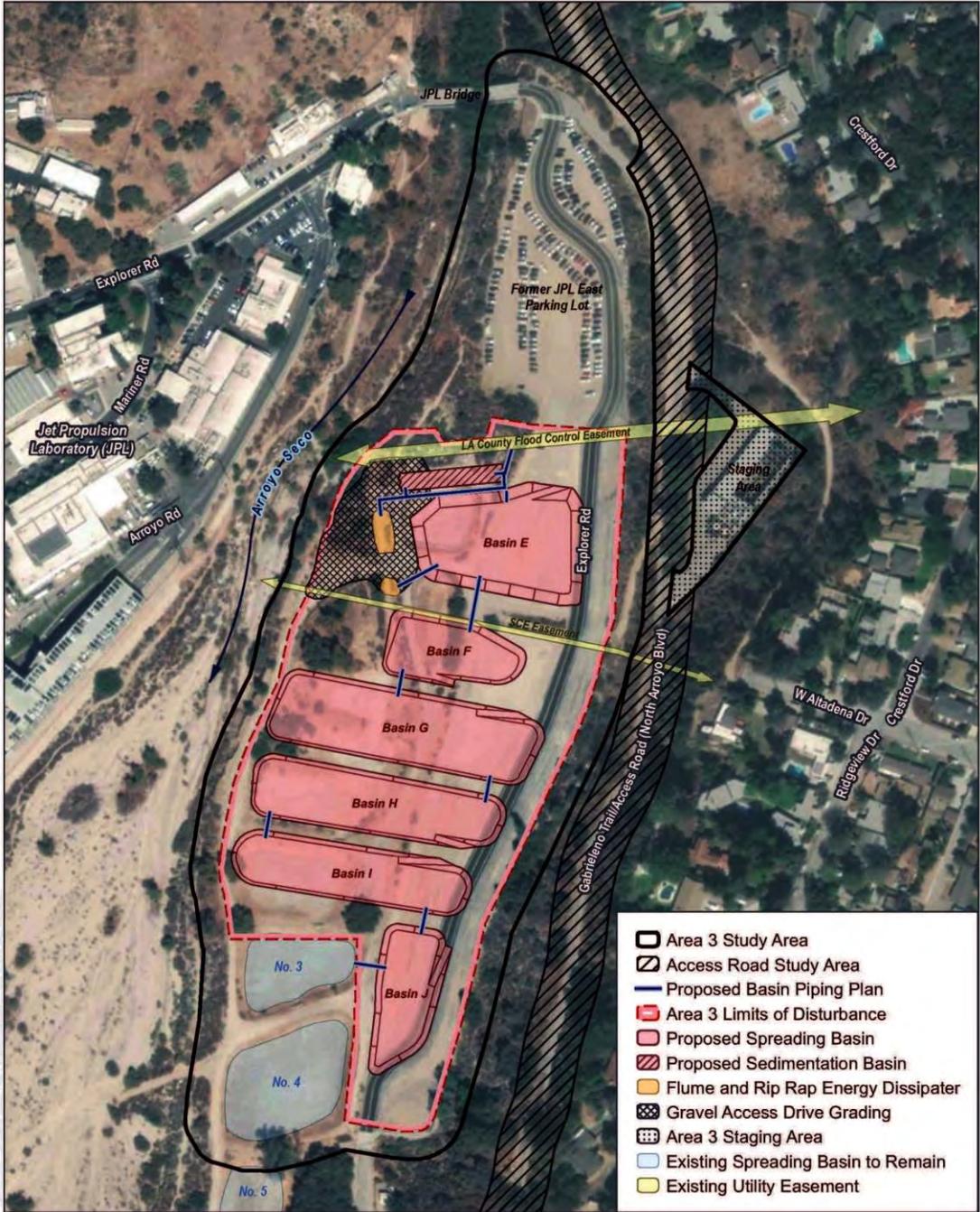
# The Water Cycle







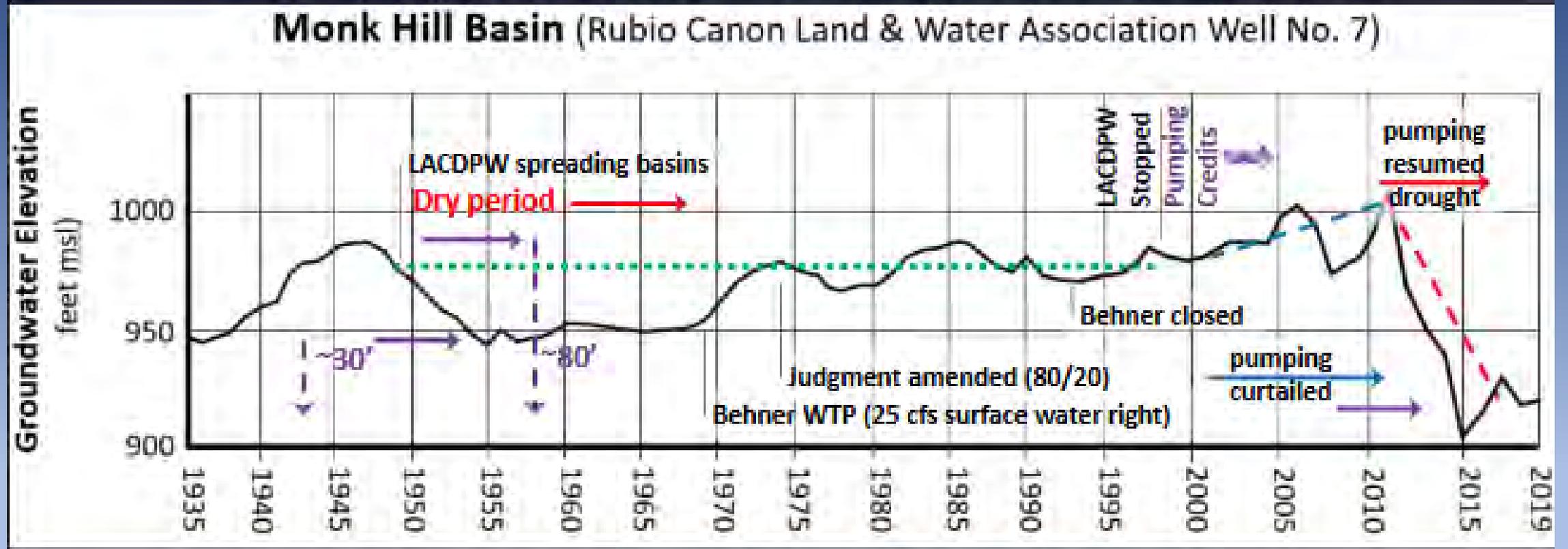
# Area 3 – Spreading Basins



# What's Wrong With ASCP?

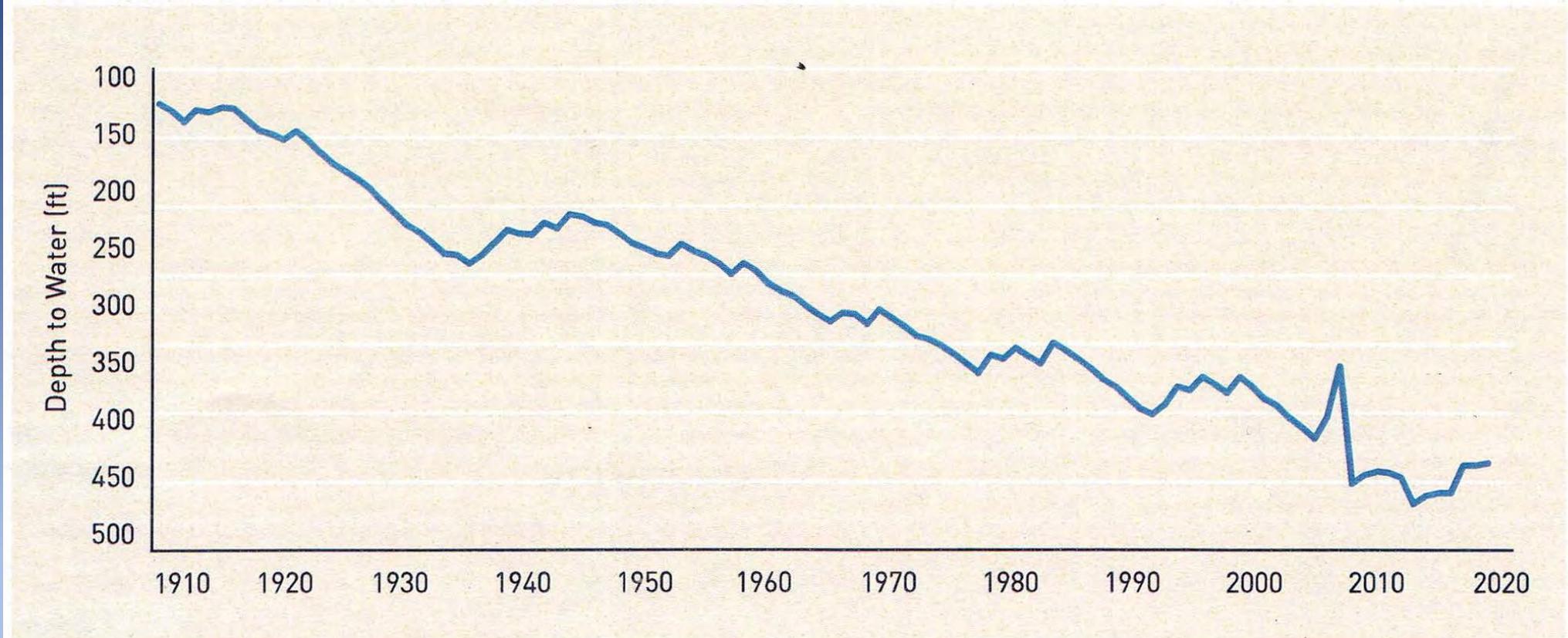
1. Fails to respond to Judge Richard Fruin's order to thoroughly evaluate the effects on downstream habitat
2. Discards without study more environmentally superior alternatives
3. Impacts on habitat, fish and wildlife dismissed as insignificant
4. Failure to follow principles of Integrated Water Resource Management
5. Will aggravate the decline of the Monk Hill subbasin groundwater level in the overdrafted Raymond Groundwater Basin
6. EIR fails to consider native fish and impacted species - Fish Study conducted on October 14, 2019
7. CA Fish and Game Code 5937 requires environmental flow for steelhead and all fish and aquatic species; none provided
8. Fills up precious Hahamongna habitat destroying nature with more "utilitarian" uses
9. Relies on inefficient spreading basins
10. Devastating Impact on groundwater levels
11. Fails to evaluate the impacts of Climate Change

# Monk Hill Basin



# Raymond Basin

Historic Pasadena Area Groundwater Levels



Source: RMBM, Draft Opportunities to Enhance Groundwater Levels in Pasadena Subarea.

Wake Up Pasadena – The Well Is Running Dry

# CA Water Policy

- Governor Newsom Calls for a **Resilient Water Policy**

- **What does Resilience Mean?**

Resilience is the ability "to cope with more extreme droughts and floods, rising temperatures, declining fish populations, over-reliance on groundwater and other challenges." - Governor Newsom

- **Sustainable Groundwater Management** - *But only for agricultural basins?*

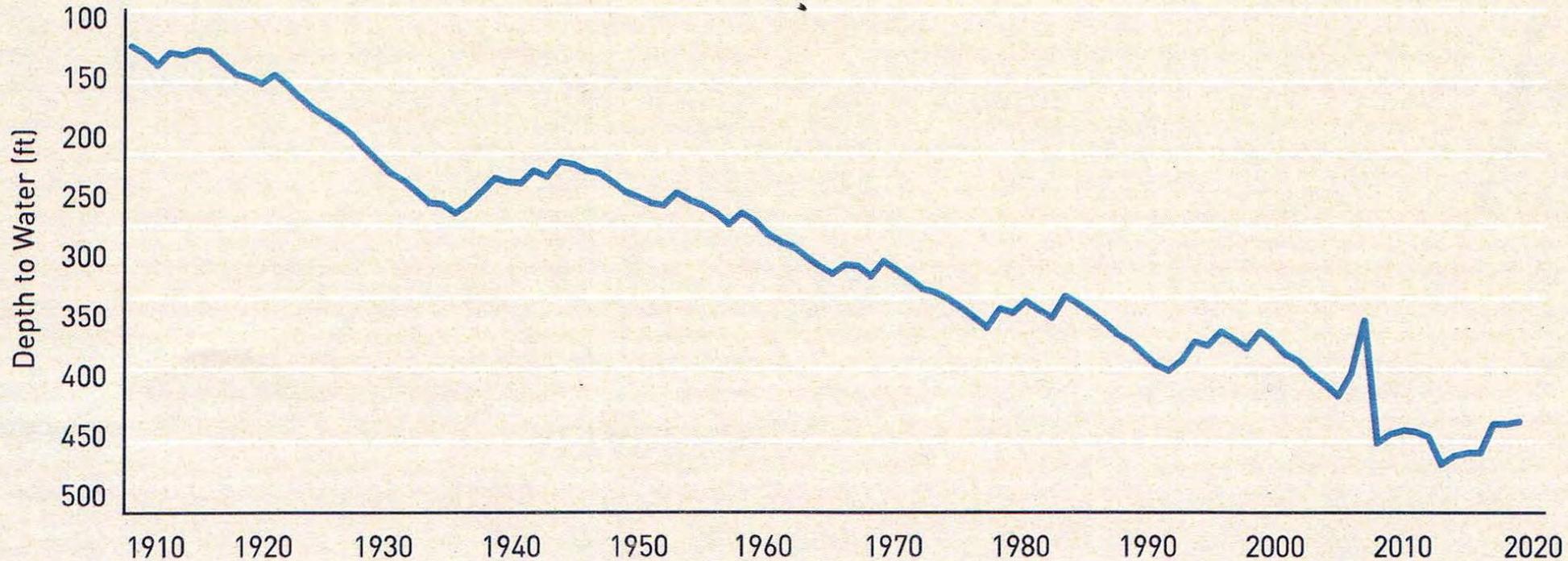
# Definition: Critically Overdrafted Basin

- **Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)** : “A basin is subject to critical overdraft when continuation of present water management practices would probably result in significant adverse overdraft-related environmental, social, or economic impacts.”
- **Overdraft** occurs where the average annual amount of groundwater extraction exceeds the long-term average annual supply of water to the basin. Effects of overdraft can include seawater intrusion, land subsidence, groundwater depletion, and/or chronic lowering of groundwater levels.

Pasadena has had a “Sustainable Groundwater Management Plan” for eighty years but has ignored it.

# Raymond Basin

Historic Pasadena Area Groundwater Levels



Source: RMBM, Draft Opportunities to Enhance Groundwater Levels in Pasadena Subarea.

Wake Up Pasadena – The Well Is Running Dry

# Pasadena's Water Crisis

- The well is running dry. Further draining will destroy the resource for future generations.
- PWP has used cheap groundwater for many decades, but now it is disappearing rapidly
- Imported sources are much more costly and increasingly unreliable
- Water development needs to protect nature and be resilient
- Climate change cannot be ignored.

# Goals of the Arroyo Seco Foundation

- Restoration of the natural hydrology of the Arroyo Seco as much as possible
- Conservation and better management of water resources
- Protection of the fish and wildlife and species of the Arroyo Seco
- Development of resilient water strategy for the future

**We urge you to get involved :**

- Attend the public hearing in January
- Let your Council Member know this is important to you.

*There's a Better Way: Develop a Resilient Water Future for Pasadena*

**Let the River Flow — Heal the Basin**

# Pasadena's Water Crisis

View the *Arroyo Currents Show* — Pasadena's Water Crisis

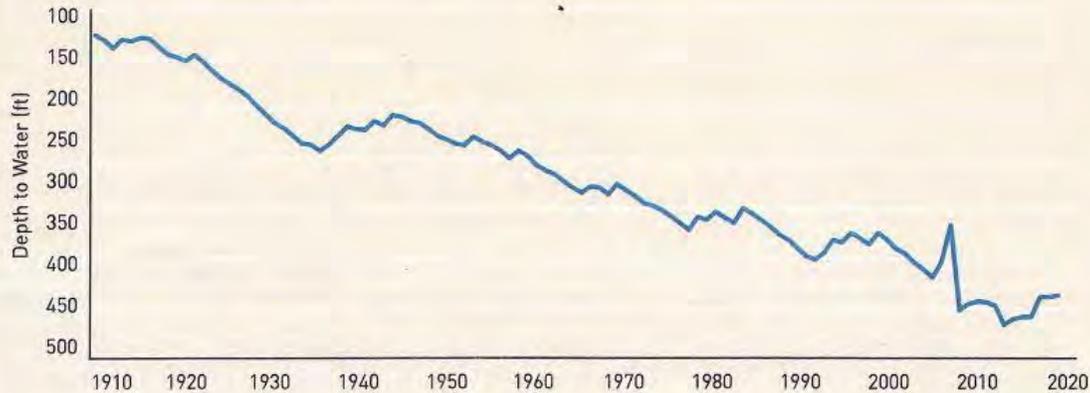
Pasadena's Water Crisis

Groundwater

PWP's Plan

AS Canyon Project

## Historic Pasadena Area Groundwater Levels



Source: RMBM, *Draft Opportunities to Enhance Groundwater Levels in Pasadena Subarea*.

You Don't  
Miss Your  
Water Till  
the Well  
Runs Dry

For complete information on  
ASCP and Pasadena's Water  
Crisis go to:

[www.arroyoseco.org/watercrisis.htm](http://www.arroyoseco.org/watercrisis.htm)

### The Crisis

Pasadena has been relying on water from the Arroyo Seco and the Raymond Basin for 35% of local supply for many decades. The other major source is much more expensive water from the Metropolitan Water District.

The local supply is now threatened and the imported supply is increasingly expensive and less reliable.

Pasadena's Crisis

### Groundwater

Pasadena Water & Power (PWP) told us they were managing groundwater with a "safe yield" standard that would balance pumping with natural replenishment, but the overdraft of the Raymond Basin has continued steadily for more than one hundred years. The end (or bottom) is now within sight.

It would be a terrible legacy to destroy this invaluable water resource for future generations.

Groundwater

### PWP Has A Long-range Plan

Pasadena Water & Power has unveiled a plan for the next 25 years called the Water System and Resource Plan (WSRP) that will be considered by the City Council sometime in early 2021. Its a \$425 million plan, however, that relies heavily on continuing to drain the Raymond Basin and neglecting the impacts of climate change.

25 Year Water Plan

Wolfson's Report

### Arroyo Seco Canyon Project (ASCP)

ASCP is a PWP project that would further drain the Arroyo Seco stream and expand sterile spreading basins to allow PWP to pump more from the underlying groundwater basin.

ASCP will degrade the natural environment in Hahamongna Watershed Park for fish and wildlife. PWP will present the plan to the Pasadena City Council for consideration in January, 2021.

Canyon Project

Kules' Analysis

There's a Better Way: *Develop a Resilient Water Future for Pasadena*

Let the River Flow — Heal the Basin

Tim Brick

Managing Director, Arroyo Seco Foundation

# Arroyo Seco Canyon Project Overview

Angel Pinedo

# Biology and Other Negative Impacts of ASCP

Hugh Bowles

# The Benefits of a Natural Stream Method

Ken Kules, P.E.

# The Declining Raymond Basin and the Arroyo Seco Canyon Project

# Questions and Answers Discussion



# Arroyo Verde



Join Us for a Fun, Festive Holiday Celebration  
Honoring Those Who Have Demonstrated  
Exemplary Environmental Stewardship and Leadership  
in the Arroyo Seco This Year

Tuesday, Dec. 22, 7 pm