

June 29, 2025

Christina Monde, P.E.

City of Pasadena, Department of Public Works
100 North Garfield Ave, Suite N306
Pasadena, CA 91101
Email: CMonde@cityofpasadena.net

Re: Arroyo Seco Reuse Project, EIR Scoping Comments

Dear Ms. Monde,

I'm writing about the environmental study for the proposed *Arroyo Seco Water Reuse Project*.

As a field Biologist and Administrator, I managed the Los Angeles County Natural Areas and Nature Centers, for 39 years with the County Department of Parks and Recreation. The Arroyo Seco has been my hiking area and natural history outdoor laboratory for over five decades and I feel a close attachment to the wild portions of the Arroyo. I still contribute photographs and identifications of birds, plants, insects, reptiles and amphibians in the Arroyo to citizen science projects, including iNaturalist and eBird.

The project proposed could seriously harm the environment, so the study needs to look closely at the following important issues.

Wildlife and Trees: This project will cut down 142 trees, including 42 that are supposed to be protected. That's most of the 195 trees in the area. We need studies showing what wildlife lives there now and how long it would take for new habitat to actually become established. I would like to see alternatives that maintain the existing native trees and shrubs.

Natural Alternatives: Many cities and counties are now implementing water projects that restore natural flows, above ground, returning native vegetation and the hydrology that supports wildlife. The early days of pipes and concrete are fading away. Study natural solutions like swales, non-lined wetlands, and removing the concrete channel at the San Rafael site to allow for less destructive ways to stop pollution upstream. Also, look at doing nothing and still meeting clean water goals by stopping pollution at the source.

Long-term Costs and Care: This is complex infrastructure. We need to know who will maintain it, how much it will cost over time, and how we'll know if it's working

Regional Planning The addition of pipes, pumps, artificial filters, and lined wetlands to meet water quality requirements is contrary to plans to introduce natural hydrologic function and improve habitat along the Arroyo Seco. Include projects that fit with over 20 years of Arroyo restoration plans and other watershed projects, as well as the recent Arroyo Seco Restoration Study announced by LA County Supervisor Kathryn Barger in March 2024.

To emphasize: This project will *destroy a natural stream ecosystem* that, while impacted by weeds, still provides important habitat right now. The environmental study must show exactly what exists today and requires specific, enforceable fixes with clear standards and guaranteed long-term funding.

The public and decision-makers need complete, honest information about what this project will destroy and whether there are better ways to clean the water that don't cause so much environmental damage.

Thank you for seriously considering these comments in the EIR scope of work.

Sincerely,

Michael Long

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