

STEWARDS OF THE ARROYO SECO

To: Matthew E. Hawkesworth, Interim City Manager

Re: Goat Grazing Program in the Arroyo Seco

Date: April 24, 2026

Dear Mr. Hawkesworth:

I read your message in the City Manager's Weekly Newsletter about using goats to prevent fires in the Arroyo Seco. The Stewards of the Arroyo Seco support strong steps to enhance fire prevention, but Pasadena must also protect the natural habitat and environment in the Arroyo Seco.

I have received numerous complaints and disturbing pictures of the damage caused by the goats. This goat program is being conducted in a highly unprofessional manner, which will cause long-term damage to the Arroyo Seco's precious habitat. You have been misinformed about the requirements for this kind of program.

The program must be stopped until a plan is put in place that includes guidelines, daily monitoring, and a detailed program review.

Please inform me of any permitting authority you claim may authorize your program.

There does not seem to be any monitoring or mitigation program in place. All goat activity should be stopped until a habitat and land management program is prepared by a certified environmental professional.

It is not acceptable to delay program review until the end of the two-month program. This is not a small pilot program. Six hundred goats in 2 months can create immense, long-lasting environmental damage in the Arroyo Seco. Future generations will suffer the consequences.

There are strict provisions in California legislation and the Pasadena Municipal Code that protect the Arroyo Seco, including its slopes and bottomland. The goat program seems to ignore these measures. The Pasadena Arroyo Seco Public Lands Ordinance ([Pasadena Municipal Code Chapter 3.32](#)) establishes regulations to preserve the Arroyo Seco as a natural, cultural, and recreational resource.

This is the bird-nesting season in Pasadena, which requires mandatory actions to protect nesting bird species and other wildlife and habitat protections.

There must be a certified habitat/biology manager monitoring the goats at all times. The monitor must be independent and third-party to provide an objective review. The biology monitor should implement a carefully designed written program that protects sensitive habitats and site conditions. Extensive fencing of the sensitive areas, carefully delineated, must be used to protect the native habitat and sensitive zones. Erosion and damage to native plants must be logged daily.

The monitor must have the authority to immediately stop any destructive activities or impacts caused by the goats or their handlers.

Please inform me immediately of the steps you are taking to ensure that the City of Pasadena has implemented measures to protect the long-term ecosystem health of the Arroyo Seco.

Sincerely,



Timothy F. Brick
Executive Director
Stewards of the Arroyo Seco
(626) 492-2884