



ASF's Statement on the Restoration of the Southeast Entrance of Hahamongna Watershed Park

To: Los Angeles County Flood Control District

Date: October 11, 2021

The southeast entrance to Hahamongna Watershed Park (HWP) and Devil's Gate Dam has a special importance because it is the main area for pedestrians to enter HWP and the dam area from the Pasadena side (eastern) of Hahamongna Watershed Park. Prior to the sediment removal project, the entrance was a lovely shaded, oak tree-lined entrance that was pleasant and somewhat natural.

There are two key priorities for restoring the southeast entrance:

1. restore the natural character of the area replacing oak trees and using appropriate habitat-type vegetation, and
2. protect the nearby neighbors on La Cañada Verdugo Road from undue traffic, noise, and pollution.

To facilitate the sediment removal, Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) created a new access or "slip" lane for trucks to enter the park from Oak Grove Drive that tore into the oak trees and the pedestrian walkway. Numerous well-established oak trees and other native plants were damaged and destroyed in the process. A native Ponderosa Pine, which provided a lot of shade for the area, was removed. The grade from Oak Grove Drive was lowered, which has had detrimental impacts on the noise and lighting for neighbors on the La Cañada Verdugo Road cul-de-sac. LACFCD also established an additional, more direct second entrance from Oak Grove Drive where trucks coming from both sides of Oak Grove Drive can enter the basin closer to the dam.

According to the "*Oak Tree Inventory Report for the Devil's Gate Reservoir Sediment Removal and Management Project*," prepared by ECorp Consulting in November 2018, "Twenty (20) trees are within the impact area but only 11 of these trees will need to be completely removed to accommodate the access road, including the trees numbered as 23 through 31, 37, and 66 (indicated with shading in Table 1)." Now a new survey like the 2018 report should be conducted to determine the actual project impacts to the southeast entrance.

To restore the southeast entrance, the Arroyo Seco Foundation recommends:

1. Eliminate the slip lane entrance to restore the natural character and to protect the local neighbors from noise, lighting, and other negative impacts
2. Restore the natural ambience of the southeast entrance to its pre-project character

3. Replace the oak trees and other native plants that have been removed or damaged
4. Landscape the area with only habitat-type native plants found in the Hahamongna area as found on the attached plant list
5. Remove the old maintenance sheds and the fencing adjacent to the walkway.

Thank you for your commitment to restore the natural ambience of the southeast entrance. Please let us know how we can assist you further.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Brick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tim Brick
Managing Director
Arroyo Seco Foundation
(626) 492-2884

Attachments:

- *"Oak Tree Inventory Report for the Devil's Gate Reservoir Sediment Removal and Management Project,"* prepared by ECorp in November 2018
- Southeast Entrance Plant list prepared by Hahamongna Native Plant Nursery.