

ARROYO SECO FOUNDATION

June 8, 2018

Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee
1020 N Street, Room 160
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Support for SB 1126 - Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Working Group

Dear Chairman Garcia and Members of the Committee:

The Arroyo Seco Foundation enthusiastically supports SB 1126. This legislation will ensure that the Upper Los Angeles River and Tributaries Working Group, established by legislation last year, will truly encompass all of the major tributaries in the upper Los Angeles River by including the Arroyo Seco tributary.

The Arroyo Seco, which has been called the “most celebrated canyon in Southern California,” flows from the Angeles National Forest through the communities of Pasadena, Altadena, La Cañada Flintridge, South Pasadena and northeast Los Angeles to join the LA River near downtown Los Angeles. It has historically been one of the key gems of the Upper LA River system because it is the first connecting link between the San Gabriel Mountains and the LA River. This is the stream where spectacular steelhead trout came first on their journey from the Pacific Ocean to the cool waters of the San Gabriel Mountains. This is the stream whose occasional flooding determined the siting of the original pueblo Los Angeles in 1781. The Arroyo Seco, which contains Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the Rose Bowl, Southwest Museum and other historic sites, has played an important role in water resources, flood management, history and culture in Southern California.

The California Watershed Protection and Restoration, aka the Wayne Watershed Act, designated the Arroyo Seco one of ten model watersheds fifteen years ago. The urban portion of the Arroyo from the mountains to downtown Los Angeles is currently the subject of an ongoing US Army Corps of Engineers Ecosystem Restoration Study. The Arroyo Seco Watershed has also been the beneficiary of a State of California-supported watershed management plan that should serve as the basis for future planning in the Arroyo Seco region of the Upper Los Angeles River.

To leave the Arroyo Seco out of the "Upper LA River and Tributaries Working Group" would create a serious gap in Los Angeles River planning and ignore the critical importance of the Arroyo Seco. Furthermore it would undermine the collaborative watershed-wide planning process that the Upper LA River and Tributaries Working Group should engage in. We are pleased that this important legislation would remedy that.

The Arroyo Seco Foundation, which has been involved in watershed coordination and education for three decades, urges you to approve this legislation urgently so that the Arroyo Seco can be included in the plan for the Upper LA River and Tributaries by the legislatively-mandated deadline of March, 2019.

Sincerely,



Tim Brick
Managing Director

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