20 February 2016

Mayor Terry E. Tornek
100 N. Garfield Avenue, Room S228
P.O. Box 7115
Pasadena, CA 91109-7215

RE: Importance of Nursery Facilities in Hahamongna Watershed Park

Dear Mayor Tornek and Members of the City Council:

It is with great enthusiasm that I submit this letter of support for the continued existence of the Arroyo Seco Foundation's Hahamongna Cooperative Nursery (HCN) in Hahamongna Watershed Park.

The HCN is actively producing locally-collected and locally-grown native plants for local restoration projects that are coming down the pipeline. Last year, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) announced its support for approximately 700 acres of restoration along 11 miles of the Los Angeles River, and is currently completing a similar restoration study for the Arroyo Seco Streamway. The anticipated restoration projects associated with these plans will require millions of native plants in the coming years, a supply that does not currently exist in the Los Angeles area.

The HCN is one of a small number of native plant nurseries located within the Los Angeles area, and is the only nursery solely devoted to native plant production for restoration projects associated with the Arroyo Seco. Thus far, the HCN has produced more than 80 different species of native plants, totaling over 5,000 plants. The nursery bridges the gap between the plans for, and actual implementation of, local restoration projects—and does so while simultaneously benefiting the local community.

Producing this native plant material locally, within the Los Angeles metropolitan area, provides benefits to both the local environment and community.

- *Environmental Impact*: Native plants are better suited for drought conditions and climate change. Growing these natives locally, such as in the HCN, decreases emissions associated with shipping plants in from other cities and states, increases local habitat (especially for pollinators), and produces plants that are likely to be better adapted to the project areas they will be installed, thus increasing survivorship.
- *Community Impact*: The growth of native plants provides hands-on educational and social opportunities to the community. The HCN impacts hundreds of volunteers who participate in the nursery's workdays and educational programs. The nursery offers opportunities for the public to learn about the importance of water, ecological restoration, and stewardship while actively engaging in the transformation of their local community and waterway.

The Hahamongna Cooperative Nursery is a tremendous community-generated project that responds to urgent environmental needs, while simultaneously providing social benefits to the community of Pasadena and greater Los Angeles area. I strongly support the continued existence of the HCN, and urge the Public Works Department and City of Pasadena continue to work cooperatively with the Arroyo Seco Foundation to ensure the continued existence of this important nursery.

LANI TROCK
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Respectfully,
Lani Trock

Lani Trock

Artist, Alma Community Outreach

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Cc: Pasadena City Council