

8 March 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 upcoming, local restoration projects. 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 5,000 native plants representing 80 species. 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 significant environmental and community benefits:

- *Environmental Impact:* With proper selection, siting, and care, native plants are adapted to our summer dry conditions. Growing these natives locally, such as in the HCN, decreases emissions associated with shipping plants in from other cities and states; increases local wildlife habitat (especially for pollinators); and produces plants that will likely be better adapted to LA project areas, thus increasing survivorship.
- *Community Impact:* The growth of native plants provides hands-on educational and social opportunities to the community. Hundreds of volunteers participate in HCN's workdays and educational programs. The nursery offers opportunities for the public to learn about the importance of water conservation, 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 communities of Pasadena and the greater Los Angeles area. I strongly support the continued existence of the HCN and urge the City of Pasadena to work cooperatively with the Arroyo Seco Foundation to ensure the continued existence of this important nursery.

Respectfully,

Carol Bornstein
Horticulturist and co-author, *California Native Plants for the Garden*

Cc: Pasadena City Council