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There is simply no other place like the Hahamongna Cooperative Nursery.

Every Sunday since July of 2015, the two of us have driven from our home in Mount Washington to the nursery to gather with a growing community of volunteers from diverse walks of life, ages, backgrounds and life experiences. For two hours, Nursery Manager Nicholas Hummingbird teaches us about the beautiful and iconic plants who are indigenous to the Arroyo Seco. We learn their place in this unique and fragile ecosystem, and we begin to understand each one's relationship with other plants, animals, insects and ourselves, most especially the Native people who have been their stewards for thousands of years. Whether we are tenderly separating rare native grasses, seeding fragrant black sage, sowing rare canyon and Engleman oak acorns, or learning the many uses of the pungent bay laurel or the precious willow, we experience a deepening in our relationships to these plants, these ecosystems, the Arroyo Seco and each other.

Since July, we have seeded and propagated and planted thousands upon thousands of trees, grasses, shrubs, plants and flowers indigenous to this very location. The two of us have documented the gatherings and workshops and plants through the photographs you'll find on the Hahamongna Cooperative Nursery website. Through all this, we have grown in our understanding and appreciation of the Arroyo Seco and surrounding areas, and, like many others, we are committed to its restoration. This would not have happened without the Hahamongna Cooperative Nursery.

Pasadena is a remarkable place. It's the first place we fell in love with when moving to California nearly 14 years ago. It's where we shop, where we go out to eat, where we celebrate, and where we visit most of our friends. But what truly makes Pasadena so remarkable is her breathtaking nature. Her scrubjays and her toyons. Her buckwheat and her wild cucumbers. Her critically endangered Bell's vireo and her copious coyotes. We were even fortunate enough to have been in the Arroyo one morning to see an allusive bobcat.

Even though we not technically Pasadena residents, we are Pasadeneans enough to be proud of the public stance that Pasadena has taken to green herself. To ask her citizens to live more consciously, to give back to the land from which we take. Perhaps the most important thing we can do locally is to restore Pasadena back to her original natural grandeur. As we restore the Arroyo Seco and surrounding areas with plants native to her ecosystems, we invite life back into her watersheds and woods. As the plants return, the insects and birds and animals return, the water is held, the ground is cooled, and Nature is restored.

The Hahamongna Cooperative Nursery is the starting point of this restoration. We couldn't be prouder to be a part.