

24 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 on behalf of Grown in L.A., for the continued existence of the Arroyo Seco Foundation's Hahamongna Cooperative Nursery (HCN) in Hahamongna Watershed Park. The Arroyo Seco Foundation and its Hahamongna Cooperative Nursery are an essential component of Grown in L.A. and its mission of increasing native plant production within the greater Los Angeles region, while simultaneously providing educational and vocational training opportunities to Angelenos.

In the coming decades, millions of native plants will be needed for restoration projects along our local waterways, such as the Los Angeles River and Arroyo Seco Streamway. This supply of native plants does not currently exist in the Los Angeles region, which jeopardizes our ability to successfully implement such projects coming down the pipeline. Keeping the HCN in operation is essential because it is actively helping to bridge the gap between the plans for, and actual implementation of, local restoration projects—and does so while simultaneously benefiting the local community.

As partners of Grown in L.A. are working together to increase the amount of native plants produced locally, it is imperative that existing native nurseries remain in operation—not only for the amount of plants they produce, but also for the precedent they are helping to set. Grown in L.A. and its partners look to existing nurseries, such as the HCN, as a case study and expert example that demonstrates best practices for local plant production and community engagement. Not allowing the HCN to extend its land lease and continue producing plants will have negative impacts that ripple far beyond the future of the Arroyo Seco.

Grown in L.A. strongly supports the continued existence of the HCN, and urges 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.

Respectfully,



.kat superfisky.
Executive Director, Grown in L.A.
248.890.6409 | kat.superfisky@growninla.org

Cc: Pasadena City Council