



3815 Old Topanga Canyon Road
Calabasas, CA 91302
Tel: 818-591-1701
mrtrust@mountainstrust.org
www.mountainstrust.org

A California Public
Benefit Corporation
To Preserve, Protect and
Enhance the Natural
Resources of the
Santa Monica Mountains

6 March 2016

Mayor Terry E. Tornek, City of Pasadena
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:

I am writing this letter to the City of Pasadena to support the renewal of the lease for Hahamongna Nursery, a co-op nursery supported by the Arroyo Seco Foundation. Although I had not previously heard of this nursery, I was asked to write a letter of support because of my expertise with over 35 years of experience working in the native plant industry.

I have worked as the land restoration/nursery manager for Mountains Restoration Trust (MRT) since 2009. MRT is a non-profit land trust based in the central Santa Monica Mountains. We quickly began collecting seed from the Headwaters Corner area, upper Los Angeles River watershed, and Cold Creek, Malibu Creek watershed, many collections to be placed into propagation for restoration projects. Local non-profit co-ops or land trusts, along with botanic gardens such as RSABG have become the seed banks that help preserve the native plants that have survived and prospered and helped define the floral characteristics of a given region. Just as our nursery is invaluable for producing native plant material from local sources, the Hahamongna Nursery is an extremely important resource to grow natives from/for the Arroyo Seco watershed. In addition, by using volunteers to grow and plant these natives, the foundation is providing an invaluable outdoor education link for the local community.

There are only a few native plant nurseries in the Los Angeles area, including El Nativo Growers in Azusa, Theodore Payne Foundation in Sun Valley, Matilija Nursery in Moorpark and Tree of Life Nursery in San Juan Capistrano. However, these retail/wholesale nurseries generally do not propagate from local plant sources, rather they use seed from commercial sources, often resulting in the introduction of inappropriate subspecies and blurring the genetic integrity of the local flora.

Mountains Restoration Trust is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (Tax ID #95-3677444).
Your contribution is fully tax-deductible to the extent of the law.

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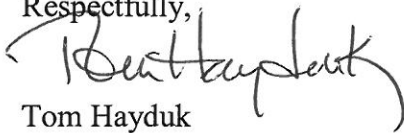
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Mountains Restoration Trust

The importance of local institutions such as the Hahamongna Nursery to preserve and promote our native flora cannot be denied. The ability to plant from local seed and cutting sources rather than planting containers grown from seed collected in another county or state is reason enough to extend the lease. As the foundation's mission also involves education and community involvement, it also has become an invaluable educational resource for the City of Pasadena. Please, for the benefit of our local native plants, do the right thing and allow the Foundation to continue to operate and improve this native plant nursery.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Hayduk", written over the word "Respectfully,".

Tom Hayduk
Restoration Manager
Mountains Restoration Trust
(818) 591-1701 ext.211