



**THEODORE PAYNE
FOUNDATION**

**for Wild Flowers &
Native Plants, Inc.**

ESTABLISHED 1960

GROUNDS

Native Plant Nursery
Demonstration Gardens
Wild Flower Hill Trail
Art Gallery
Library and Archives
Seed and Book Store

PROGRAMS

Classes and Workshops
K-12 Field Trips and Outreach
Seed Collection Program
Volunteer Program
Speakers Bureau

EVENTS

Native Plant Garden Tour
Fall Plant Sale
Poppy Day Plant Sale

10459 Tuxford Street
Sun Valley, CA 91352
(818)768-1802
info@theodorepayne.org
theodorepayne.org

23 February 2016

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

RE: Support for 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 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 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.

Like the Theodore Payne Foundation (TPF), the HCN is one of a small number of native plant nurseries located within the Los Angeles area. Unlike TPF, it 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. This is an excellent beginning for the local production that will be needed for local restoration projects, and provides simultaneous benefit for 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 and the need for extended establishment periods.

- *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, raising awareness and support for Pasadena's natural areas and parks. 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.

The Theodore Payne Foundation is dedicated to promoting the understanding and use of California native plants. TPF has existed since 1960 and it is only in the last few years that we have seen that work being adopted by sister organizations. It would be a shame to see one of them fold in its infancy. Restoring the Arroyo is a long-term investment that will require much patience and many helping hands but will enrich the entire community.

Respectfully,

Kitty Connolly
Executive Director

Cc: Pasadena City Council