

Alene Spindel

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To City of Pasadena Public Works Staff:

I have had the privilege to spend volunteer days working at the Hahamongna nursery since its creation last year. I have also worked alongside Hahamongna Co-operative Nursery Manager, Nick Hummingbird at volunteer events in the Arroyo Seco and other collaborative stewardship programs or community outreach events in the greater LA County area.

The Hahamongna nursery was built from the ground up in an otherwise unsightly area devoid of native habitat or aesthetic. It is now a thriving nursery filled with a diverse range of native plants both locally appropriate and highly valuable for restoration and conversion of residential landscaping to water-wise native landscaping. This is an invaluable resource to the City of Pasadena and represents the critically important progression that Pasadena needs to take to encourage regionally appropriate and native vegetation installation in people's homes, along public right of ways and in restoration sites along the Arroyo Seco watershed.

I can not impress enough how valuable the nursery has become to its passionate and dedicated volunteer workforce as well as the amazing potential this nursery has to help transform areas of the Arroyo Seco and the City of Pasadena. I strongly encourage you to provide the immediate long-term status of the Arroyo Seco Foundation's nursery facility. There is an extensive list of economic, cultural, environmental and social benefits that are continuously generated by this amazing facility and will continue to do so for years to come. Multigenerational participation in creating native habitat builds a culture of stewardship and conservation that makes this effort sustainable for the long-term. Pasadena should provide this nursery the opportunity to build networks within the City that reflect positively on your choice to grant the Arroyo Seco Foundation a long-term lease for the nursery facility.

It is to your ultimate benefit to support the valuable work these volunteers and staff do to make a difference every day in your city. I have attached a photo of my first experience at the Hahamongna nursery where I was lucky enough to receive both a rare coastal plant to bring home and purchased native wildflower seeds (collected by nursery volunteers) to spread in my parents' garden. I am happy to report my *Dudleya* plant is thriving and brings me joy every day I get to look at it. Also the poppy seeds I purchased at the nursery have sprouted and I am happy to bring color to my parents' garden and lives that is both beautiful, native and self-sustaining. This nursery facility represents the same sentiment and provides a mecca for positive connections to local nature and each other. Every volunteer at the nursery has an enriching experience that provides a meaningful connection to nature, the community and to their physical health and wellbeing.

Places like this are rare and the communities they create are worth fighting for. This nursery represents what the tremendous dedication of a few people can do to transform an area or an attitude. I urge you to consider providing the Hahamongna Nursery with a long-term lease so they can continue to grow their enriching facility that provides the City of Pasadena with countless benefits for this generation and those to come.

With Respect,
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