



November 6, 2017

Via E-Mail

To: Kathryn Barger, LA County Supervisor for Fifth District

Re: **LA County Flood Control District (LACFCD)
Proposed Devil's Gate Dam Sediment Removal Project**

Dear Supervisor Barger:

The West Pasadena Residents' Association (WPRA) is dedicated to maintaining and enhancing the character and quality of life of southwest Pasadena and the City of Pasadena. The WPRA represents over 7,000 households, including over 1,000 paid members in an area that includes significant portions of the Arroyo Seco and neighborhoods that would be adversely affected by the proposed Devil's Gate Dam Sediment Removal Project.

While the WPRA Board of Directors supports the removal of sediment, we strongly oppose the project as now configured. Rather, we support a slower, less aggressive alternative that would both reduce flood risk and avoid harm to our communities and the Arroyo Seco.

Well conceived, superior alternatives supported by the City of Pasadena, the State Water Resources Control Board and all communities surrounding the Upper Arroyo were submitted to the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (FDC.) Yet the FDC continues to pursue an aggressive and expensive sediment removal project that would negatively impact air quality and disrupt neighborhoods throughout the community. The FCD project would also destroy a large area of the upper Arroyo, which comprises a vital riparian forest that currently thrives behind Devil's Gate Dam.

The recirculated Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project is scheduled to come before the Board of Supervisors for a vote on November 7, 2017.

We urge you to vote against its approval and, instead, order the District to return to the Board of Supervisors with a more moderate and effective plan.

The FCD plan would load out and return over 400 diesel trucks per day for four or five years, with tandem trucks coursing through neighborhoods onto the already traffic-congested I-210 freeway. Idling trucks and heavy-duty diesel excavating and loading equipment would spew exhaust particulates and nitrous oxides into the air, affecting area infants and school children and irreparably damage the Arroyo Seco ecosystem.

Turning the natural area behind the dam into a construction zone with a deep pit would destroy presently connected rare habitats. Also, it would dry out the Arroyo

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Seco stream to support a collateral project to export Arroyo Seco water to another area – a project that was arbitrarily not included in the EIR.

Ironically, downstream flood risks can be effectively avoided by instituting a slower, less aggressive removal program. The alternative proposed by the City of Pasadena could easily have been put in place years ago, and with City and community support. We believe it to be a slower, smarter, less disruptive, less expensive option that would provide ongoing protection against the possibility of downstream flooding, which even the FCD expert reports acknowledge is extremely remote. If true flood risks were present, it seems that the FCD would long ago have focused on regular, smaller cleanouts to remove accumulating sediment.

We hope that with your encouragement the FCD will consider a less onerous alternative that would fulfill the objectives of both the FCD and the surrounding community. We believe that the FCD owes the City and other communities along the 210 an alternative that avoids the certain and lasting harm to the health and safety of our neighborhoods and to the environment that the FCD plan would cause in an attempt to address an improbable, highly speculative flood risk.

The West Pasadena Residents' Association urges you and the other County Supervisors to vote against this project as currently proposed and to instruct the FCD to adequately analyze and report to the Board on the Pasadena sediment removal proposal.

Sincerely,

Kenyon Harbison

Kenyon Harbison
President, West Pasadena Residents' Association

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Other Organizations

Pasadena Audubon Society	http://www.pasadenaaudubon.org/
Arroyo Seco Foundation	http://www.arroyoseco.org/
Arroyo Advisory Group	https://onearroyo.org/
Arroyos and Foothills Conservancy	http://www.arroyosfoothills.org/
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