

Agenda Report

DATE: JANUARY 22, 2001
TO: CITY COUNCIL
FROM: CYNTHIA J. KURTZ, CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: CONCEPT APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT CENTRAL ARROYO MASTER PLAN

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council approve in concept the Central Arroyo Master Plan.

COMMISSION AND ADVISORY BODY RECOMMENDATIONS

The Central Arroyo Master Plan was developed by staff in conjunction with the Central Arroyo Master Plan Advisory Committee. The Committee was established by the Parks and Recreation Commission as an advisory group to City staff and includes four members of the Parks and Recreation Commission, two RBOC Board members, three neighborhood representatives, two at-large representatives, and representatives from Brookside Golf Course, the Rose Bowl Aquatic Center, and youth sports. The advisory committee met monthly with City staff to develop the plan.

The Rose Bowl Operating Company (RBOC) board reviewed the draft concept Central Arroyo Master Plan and unanimously recommended City Council approve the concept plan with a clarification that a pedestrian path around the stadium is not currently feasible and any proposed future path would need to meet the safety and operational concerns of the Rose Bowl and golf course (attachment A).

The Parks and Recreation Commission unanimously recommended the City Council approve the concept plan.

The Planning Commission chose to withhold its recommendation until the completion of the draft Master Environmental Impact Report. The Planning Commission generally supported the concept plan and has provided a letter to the City Council with additional concerns and comments (attachment B).

BACKGROUND

The Central Arroyo Master Plan is one of five components, which comprise the Arroyo Seco Master Plan. These components are: 1) Hahamongna Master Plan, 2) Rose Bowl Operating

Plan, 3) Central Arroyo Master Plan, 4) Lower Arroyo Master Plan, and 5) Arroyo Seco Design Guidelines. Currently, City Council has conceptually approved the Hahamongna Master Plan and the Rose Bowl Operating Plan. In total, the components will be reviewed for the cumulative environmental impacts as part of the Master Environmental Impact Report for the Arroyo Seco Master Plan. Upon completion of the Environmental Review and analysis of the cumulative impacts of all five components, staff, the Central Arroyo Master Plan Advisory Committee and City Commission will have an additional opportunity to review the plan and forward a recommendation to City Council.

The outreach process began approximately a year ago in January of 2000. The first task was to conduct three public meetings. These meetings were widely publicized and well attended. The purpose of these meetings was to listen. Staff asked those in attendance to draw attention to what they liked and disliked in the Central Arroyo and what improvements they would like to see in the Arroyo. These suggestions were refined and presented as three draft alternatives. Many of the items in these alternatives were dismissed as either not feasible or contradictory to existing established uses. Those items which remained were further developed and presented to the Central Arroyo Advisory Committee for further refinement.

The comprehensive planning process included stake holder interviews, public workshops and a City-wide survey sent out to 5,000 Pasadena residents. Ten percent of the survey was returned by mail and statistically tabulated. Staff also met with many of the major stakeholders in the area. These include the Pasadena Tournament of Roses, the Rose Bowl Operating Committee, the Rose Bowl Aquatic Center, and representatives of the recreational users of the Central Arroyo. Several iterations of the plan were reviewed by these stake holders who provided valuable feedback. This feedback was incorporated into the plan where feasible.

SUMMARY OF THE PLAN

The Central Arroyo has multiple uses and as a recreation asset has many definitions, some which seem to contradict. Since the early 1920's, the area has served as the City's regional recreational needs while playing host to one of the premier sporting stadiums in the world. Today, the Central Arroyo continues to host the Rose Bowl, provides for much of the regional recreation demand of the City and serves as a neighborhood park to the residents to the East and West of the Arroyo Seco. How it will continue to function successfully, while continuing to meet the ever increasing demands placed on it, has been the task of the Central Arroyo Master Plan and its Advisory Committee.

The Central Arroyo Master Plan is a management plan that strives to maintain the varied existing assets and seeks to improve the features of the area. The Plan documents the existing conditions in the area, presents a vision of what the future could be and recommends specific actions for both implementation and maintenance. The Central Arroyo Master Plan Advisory Committee tried to balance the needs of its stakeholders and operate under the constraints of the Arroyo Seco Public Lands Ordinance. The Master Plan does not add any additional active recreation features to the area, although it improves upon those that already exist in the Central Arroyo.

The Plan provides recommendations on twelve separate geographic or functional aspects of the Central Arroyo. These are the following:

1. Brookside Park
2. Rosemont Pavilion

3. Recreation Loop
4. Recreation Trails
5. Landscape and Aesthetic Improvements
6. Parking
7. Flood Protection
8. Permitting Process
9. Management and Maintenance
10. Land Conservation and Acquisition
11. Accessibility for the Disabled
12. Implementation

These twelve areas include background on existing conditions, issues and opportunities, and recommendations. Some of the recommendations are long range and rely on a separate governmental agency for implementation. Other recommendations are more immediate and can be implemented by the City.

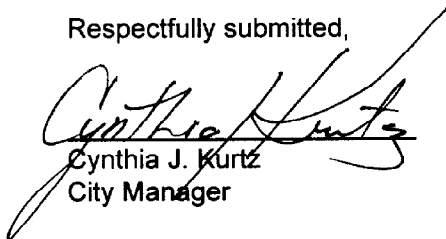
Environmental Analysis

A separate Master Environmental Impact Report of the plan is being prepared which will allow the impacts of the Central Arroyo Master Plan to be analyzed cumulatively with the impacts of the four other components of the Arroyo Seco Master Plan. Until the analysis is complete the plan can only be approved in concept. The completion of the Environmental Review will allow the opportunity for further refinement of the plan based on the impact analysis.

Fiscal Impact

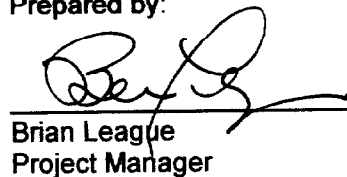
The fiscal impacts of the plan are unknown at this time.

Respectfully submitted,



Cynthia J. Kurtz
City Manager

Prepared by:



Brian League
Project Manager

Approved by:



Edward Helfeld
Interim Director of Planning &
Permitting

Attachments:

- A. RBOC Letter
- B. Planning Commission Letter
- C. draft Central Arroyo Master Concept Plan