

Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL

DATE: September 26, 2005

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF THE CENTRAL ARROYO SECO MASTER PLAN

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Acknowledge the City Council action on April 14, 2003 (I) certifying the Master Environmental Impact Report (MEIR) for the Arroyo Seco Master Plan and adopting the appropriate CEQA findings (including a Statement of Overriding Considerations for potentially significant short-term air quality impacts) and a mitigation monitoring and reporting program, and (II) directing staff to file a Notice of Determination with the County Clerk and Governor's Office of Planning and Research for the Central Arroyo Master Plan; and
2. Adopt the Central Arroyo Master Plan, as presented in Attachment A (Redlined Version of the Final Draft Central Arroyo Seco Master Plan) with the following amendment as recommended by staff:

Modify the locations for play equipment in Brookside Park as conceptually approved by the City Council on January 22, 2001, to reflect: 1) a medium-sized play area at the entrance to Brookside Park; 2) a larger play area east of the Rose Bowl Aquatic Center, in the old abandoned children's play area 3) the elimination of the proposal for a small play area in Section G, at the southern end of the park.

3. Find that: (1) the amendment to the Central Arroyo Master Plan is not substantial and does not require any revisions to the MEIR; (2) there are not substantial changes to the circumstances under which the Central Arroyo Master Plan is being undertaken; (3) there is no new information that the Central Arroyo Master Plan will have additional impacts beyond those analyzed in the MEIR, and thus there are no new mitigation measures or alternatives to the Central Arroyo Master Plan that would substantially reduce any of the impacts identified in the MEIR. Accordingly, a subsequent or supplemental MEIR, or an addendum to the MEIR, is not required pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15162-15164.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION

The Recreation and Parks Commission reviewed the CAMP information update provided to them, at their September 13, 2005 meeting.

At the April 8, 2003 joint meeting of the Recreation and Parks Commission and the Hahamongna Watershed Park Advisory Committee, the Recreation and Parks Commission voted to recommend that the City Council approve the Central Arroyo Master Plan. Included in the motion was the recommendation to develop a separate park plan for Brookside Park, and to reinforce City Council's previous action to limit the use of temporary lights on Area H.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION

The Planning Commission reviewed the Central Arroyo Master Plan at a joint meeting with the Recreation and Parks Commission in December 2000 and chose to withhold its recommendation until the completion of the draft MEIR. The Commission indicated its general support of the Central Arroyo Master Plan and provided a letter to the City Council indicating their concerns and comments regarding Council's consideration of the conceptual Central Arroyo Master Plan (see Attachment B.)

COMMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

The Transportation Advisory Commission provided individual comments at its regularly scheduled meeting of June 21, 2002. The Commission made no comments pertaining to the Central Arroyo Master Plan.

COMMENTS OF UTILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION

At its regularly scheduled meeting of August 21, 2002, the Utility Advisory Commission made no actions or recommendations. With regard to the Draft Lower and Central Arroyo Seco Master Plans, the UAC commented that they supported the removal of the flood channel.

BACKGROUND

In November 1999, the Recreation and Parks Commission established the Central Arroyo Master Plan Advisory Committee to oversee the master plan process for the Central Arroyo Seco area. A multi-departmental team of staff worked with the Committee and a consultant team to develop a draft plan. The Central Arroyo Master Plan was presented, and it received conceptual approval from the City Council on January 22, 2001.

On April 14, 2003, the City Council adopted the Design Guidelines for the Arroyo Seco, one of the Arroyo Seco Master Plans. At this meeting, Council also certified the MEIR for the Arroyo Seco Master Plans. At this meeting, Council also certified the MEIR for the

monitoring and reporting program. In addition, Council also approved proceeding with the project to restore the northern and southern reaches of the Central Arroyo Seco due to pending grant funds.

On June 2, 2003, the City Council directed staff to return to the City Council with a "Redlined Version" of the Central Arroyo Master Plan, indicating any staff-recommended changes resulting from the public comments on the MEIR. These were prepared and have been available to the public since September 13, 2003. Inasmuch as this plan predates the construction of the Kidspace Museum, there are no references to the use of the area and facilities overseen by Kidspace operating under separate agreement with the City of Pasadena. The recommended plan is found in Attachment A.

On September 29, 2003, the City Council voted unanimously to approve deferral of adoption of the Central Arroyo Master Plan because the preparation of an EIR related to the renovation of the Rose Bowl Stadium was being prepared. At this meeting, Council also adopted Guiding Principles for the Arroyo Seco (Attachment C) as well as the Hahamongna Watershed Park Master Plan and the Lower Arroyo Master Plans. Council also authorized moving forward with five Central Arroyo projects in the FY 2004 CIP. These were:

- Project 77365 Brookside Park – Play Equipment Safety Replacement and New Playground
- Project 77568 Brookside Park – ADA Compliance Phase V
- Project 77367 Brookside Park – Replacement of Walkways
- Project 77562 Brookside Park – Jackie Robinson Ballfield Area
- Project 77406 Trail and Rubble Wall Restoration

The Central Arroyo Master Plan (CAMP) provides a framework for the utilization of the City's regional recreation area. The plan is not intended to provide any policy recommendations for the use of the Rose Bowl Stadium which is overseen by the Rose Bowl Operating Company. The recommended CAMP mimics the plan conceptually approved by Council with the addition/modification of one project: The request to modify the locations for play equipment in Brookside Park to: 1) eliminate the proposal for a small play area in Section G, at the south end of parking Lot I; 2) allow for a medium play area at the entrance to Brookside Park; and 3) allow for a larger play area east of the Rose Bowl Aquatic Center in the old abandoned children's play area.

The major projects of the Final Draft Central Arroyo Seco Master Plan and recommended by staff are summarized in the attached matrix (Attachment D). This matrix clarifies the edits that have been incorporated into the "Redlined Version" in response to public comment on the Draft CAMP and related MEIR.

In response to the recommendation of the Recreation and Parks Commission, staff recognizes the Arroyo Seco Master Plan does not go into detail regarding the layout of proposed improvements identified in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for the Central Arroyo. There are several funded CIP projects for Brookside Park, including ADA improvements, walkway replacements, picnic facility upgrades, playground replacements and parking lot improvements. When these projects are implemented, comprehensive

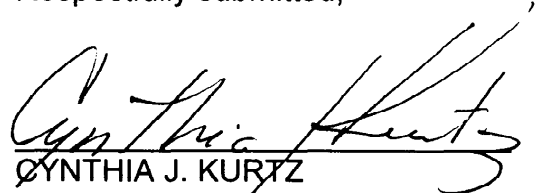
schematic designs will be developed that will integrate all the proposed work and insure overall compliance with the Central Arroyo Master Plan and the Design Guidelines. Therefore, it will not be necessary to add the additional step of developing a separate park plan for Brookside Park.

In response to the concerns with portable lights on Area H, staff supports guidelines that limit the use of portable lights in Area H. The primary need is to accommodate youth sports practices during late afternoon and early evenings of the non-Daylight Savings Time months, for the Fall and Winter sports seasons. Accordingly, staff recommends use of portable lights at Area H for youth sports activities, within the following parameters: not to exceed three weekday evenings per week nor six months per year, with lights out no later than 9:00 p.m. per evening.

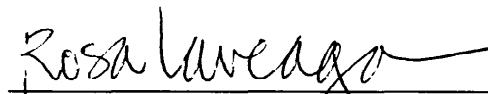
FISCAL IMPACT

As with the adoption of the Lower Arroyo Master Plan and the Hahamongna Watershed Park Master Plan, upon adoption of the Central Arroyo Master Plan, staff will pursue funding opportunities for the remaining projects as they become available.


Respectfully submitted,


CYNTHIA J. KURTZ
City Manager

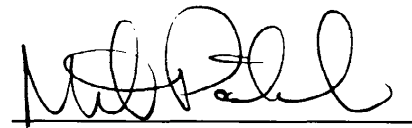
Prepared by:


Rosa Laveaga, Arroyo Seco Project Supervisor
Parks and Natural Resources Division

Reviewed by:


Kathleen Woods, Administrator
Parks and Natural Resources Division

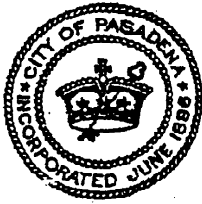
Approved by:


Martin Pastucha, Director
Department of Public Works

Attachments:

- A. "Redlined Version" of CAMP
- B. Letter from the Planning Commission to Council regarding the Commission's comments on the CAMP
- C. Guiding Principles for the Arroyo Seco
- D. Final Recommended Project Matrix for CAMP

ATTACHMENT 'B'



Planning Commission
City of Pasadena
175 North Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91109

April 1, 2003

City Council
City of Pasadena
100 North Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91109

Dear Council members:

Recently the Planning Commission was informed that the Arroyo Seco Master Plan and Master Environmental Impact Report is scheduled to be considered by the City Council at its April 14th meeting. It is our understanding that extensive revisions have been made to this Master Plan since the Planning Commission's initial review of the adequacy of the MEIR on August 28, 2002. The Planning Commission has not had an opportunity to review, consider and advise the Council on these revisions. Therefore we request that the Council not consider this agenda item on April 14th and, instead, refer this item to the Planning Commission for additional review, consideration and advice regarding the adequacy of the MEIR. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Estrada". The signature is stylized with loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Daniel Estrada
Planning Commission Chair

ATTACHMENT 'C'

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE ARROYO SECO Adopted by Pasadena City Council September 2003

- To encourage and promote the stewardship and enjoyment of the Arroyo Seco in Pasadena.
- To balance and integrate the interrelated issues of water resources, recreation, natural resource preservation and restoration, and flood management in the Arroyo Seco.
- To provide a safe, secure and accessible Arroyo Seco for public enjoyment.
- To recognize the importance to Pasadena of the history, cultural resources and unique character of the Arroyo Seco, and to conserve and enhance these assets.
- To preserve and acquire open space in or adjacent to the Arroyo Seco.
- To recognize that the Arroyo Seco in Pasadena is comprised of distinct geographical areas that are interconnected by a number of resources and features including, but not limited to water, habitat, geology, recreation and culture, and that it is part of a larger watershed.

Attachment D
CENTRAL ARROYO MASTER PLAN
Staff Recommended Project Alternative
 Last Revised 9/26/05

NOTES:

1) For further description of a listed project, please see Appendix A of Vol. III of the MEIR entitled "Staff Recommended Alternative".

PROJECT	KEEP	CLARIFY	MODIFY	ELIMINATE	ADD	NOTES
Draft Central Arroyo Seco Master Plan	●					
<i>Create a Ceremonial Main Entry to the Rose Bowl</i>						
<i>Parking</i>		●				Incorporate recommendations from Arroyo Coordinating Committee regarding Lot I, which are to restripe this parking lot and designate the striping for the parking spaces with a color coded system. One color would designate the spaces allotted for the Aquatic Center, a second color would designate the spaces allotted to Kidspace Museum and the 3rd color would be for the general public. When the lot is permitted for events or when either of these establishments within Birrokside Park direct their users to park in Lot I, the color coding will help direct the users to the correct parking area.
Landscape Asphalt Lots B, D, F, G, I, K, L, and M	●					
Make Turf Improvements in Lots H, G, and K						
<i>Unreserved Picnic Area</i>						
Develop Children's Play Area (Section G)	●					
Replace Picnic Shelters and Provide Improved Picnic Amenities	●					
Resurface Existing Pathways from Holly Street Bridge to Lot I	●					
Convert existing Reserved Picnic Area at Southern end of Lot I (known as Section G) to an Unreserved Area	●					
<i>Hillside Improvements</i>						
Restore Entries, Pathways, and Arroyo Stone Walls	●					
Widen Central Path for Easier Patrol Access				●		
Restore Amphitheater	●					
<i>Group Picnic / Active Recreation Area</i>						
Restore Rockery, Arbor, Bandstand w/ Seating and Stone Barbecues	●					
Remove Obsolete Elements and Play Equipment	●					

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Draft Central Arroyo Seco Master Plan <i>Group Picnic / Active Recreation Area (cont'd)</i>						
Construct Children's Play Area at Park Entrance and replace Abandoned Play Area Behind Aquatic Center	•	•	•	•	•	Project description modified to recommend specific locations for the play areas. These specific locations are: 1) a medium play area at the entrance to Brookside Park; and 3) a larger play area east of the Aquatic Center in the old abandoned play area.
Improve Restrooms and Picnic Amenities	•	•				All 5 restrooms have been either replaced or renovated. Goal is to maintain appropriate standards and provide access for the disabled at all park amenities.
Re-orient Softball Field to Provide Soccer Overlay and Relocating Field Lights	•					
Replace Colonnade Patio at Aquatics Center with Usable Open Space	•					
Restore Brookside Maintenance Office and Yard					•	
Improve Security Lighting within the Park	•					
<i>Three-mile Recreation Loop</i>						
Develop a Pedestrian Lane with Buffer	•					
Consider Loop around the Stadium	•					
Reduce Traffic Speed	•					
Provide Additional Rest Areas along Recreation Loop	•					
Consider Outside Patio at Brookside Clubhouse for Recreational Users	•					
<i>Multi-use Recreation Trails</i>						
Restore Rim Trail North of Washington Ave. on Slope Above Rosemont Ave.		•	•			Keep and restore rim trail north of Washington; recommend elimination of trail crossing at Rosemont & Washington
Provide Safe Eastside Equestrian Crossing on Rosemont Ave.		•	•			Install new safety lights and activators
Provide Directional and Safety Signs		•				
Provide a Defined Path of Travel for Equestrians through the Rose Bowl Parking Areas	•					

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Draft Central Arroyo Seco Master Plan						
<i>Multi-use Recreation Trails (cont. 'd)</i>						
Remove impediments to equestrians at the northern end of the flood control channel	●	●				This project is a part of the "Restoration of the Northern and Southern Arroyo Seco Channel Areas" Project that has been funded & completed with a State Resources Agency Grant for \$999,670. It includes habitat restoration at the southern and northern portions of the softbottom streamcourse located under and north of the Colorado Street Bridge and south of Devil's Gate dam.
<i>Improve Pedestrian Pathways</i>						
Salvia Canyon Road	●					
Rosemont Avenue	●					
Seco Street from Linda Vista Avenue to West Drive	●					
Park View Avenue	●					
Seco Street from Lincoln Boulevard to Rosemont Avenue	●					
<i>Landscapes and Aesthetics Improvements</i>						
Restore and Enhance Native Planting on Slopes and in Park Areas	●					
Identify Native Plant Restoration Areas	●					
Plant Trees	●					This project is a part of the "Restoration of the Northern and Southern Arroyo Seco Channel Areas" Project that has been funded & completed with a State Resources Agency Grant for \$999,670. It includes habitat restoration at the southern and northern portions of the softbottom streamcourse located under and north of the Colorado Street Bridge and south of Devil's Gate dam.
Improve and Minimize Signage	●					
<i>Rosemont Pavilion</i>						
Maximize Indoor Recreation Facilities and Programs	●					
Restore Building's Appearance and Landscaping	●					

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PROJECT	KEEP	CLARIFY	MODIFY	ELIMINATE	ADD	NOTES
Draft Central Arroyo Seco Master Plan <i>Accessibility and Security</i>						
Improve Existing and Require New Facilities to Comply with ADA Standards	•					
Provide security lighting in activity areas for safety	•					Only where necessary and in a manner that does not impact the neighborhoods
<i>Arroyo Seco Stream Restoration</i>						
Restore Streamcourse, Where Feasible		•				This is in support of the Arroyo Seco Watershed Feasibility Study and is a part of the "Restoration of the Northern and Southern Arroyo Seco Channel Areas" Project that has been funded & completed with a State Resources Agency Grant for \$999,670. It includes habitat restoration at the southern and northern portions of the softbottom streamcourse located under and north of the Colorado Street Bridge and south of Devil's Gate dam.