

**CORRESPONDENCE
FOR
FEBRUARY 5, 2007
CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Rodriguez, Jane

From: Kurtz, Cynthia
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 1:08 PM
To: Rodriguez, Jane
Cc: Bruckner, Richard; DeWolfe, Stephanie
Subject: FW: Arroyo Center for the Arts and the Environment
Attachments: Arroyo Project letter.doc

Jane

For 2/5 council package

From: MartynBelmont@aol.com [mailto:MartynBelmont@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2007 11:58 AM
To: Madison, Steve; Bogaard, Bill; shaderleine@ci.pasadena.ca.us; Holden, Chris; Streator, Joyce; Little, Paul; Gordo, Victor; Tyler, Sid; Kurtz, Cynthia; bwilliams@ci.pasadena.ca.us
Cc: elaineadams@earthlink.net; timbri@att.net
Subject: Arroyo Center for the Arts and the Environment

Thank you for reading this. Martyn Belmont, 500 La Loma Road, Pasadena, CA 91105

**Martyn Belmont
500 La Loma Road
Pasadena, California 91105**

January 30, 2007

Mayor William Bogaard and City Council Members

Re: Desiderio Project

I am writing to you in support of the Arroyo Center for the Arts and the Environment. This project is a truly exciting one for all the citizens of Pasadena and would be the crowning addition to the revitalization of the Lower Arroyo. As you know, we on the Board of La Casita Foundation approve this project without reservation.

I find it faintly amusing, in this era of preservation and restoration, that most of the “pure” environmentalists and restorationists want to tear down the existing buildings as they “have no significant historical value”. To me, the beauty of this project is that the Arroyo Center will enhance and soften the appearance of these buildings to fit in with the surrounding new native gardens, thereby saving millions of dollars in needless demolition and construction costs. Since when do we want to make people spend more money when they can creatively save it and, in doing so, present us with an Arroyo Center which is “green”, ecologically exciting and educationally stimulating. This Center could become a model throughout the Country for the responsible recycling of bunkers and cement.!

This proposal saves 90 % of this space for open spaces. The small museum which is proposed will be a home for the genre of plein-air painting which was born in the Arroyo. While there may be many museums in Pasadena, there are no museums which center on the California Impressionist movement which was so important to the cultural life and growth of early Pasadena. In addition, the California Art Club has already formed alliances with Kidspace, the Art Center and the Armory for collaborative classes for the children of Pasadena. These classes will not be conducted at the Arroyo Center, but at the other sites mentioned as these sites already have teaching and parking facilities consistent with higher traffic density necessary for such endeavors.

The Arroyo Seco Foundation is a proven leader in environmental education in Pasadena and is closely allied with other environmental centers, such as Eaton

Canyon Nature Center. The La Casita Foundation which oversees and maintains the garden there looks forward to collaborating with the Arroyo Seco Foundation's environmental center for the education of Pasadena's children on watershed management, drought resistant plants and the flora of the Arroyo Seco.

I think you will see at the presentation on February 5, that a large percentage of the homeowners nearest to the project favor the Arroyo Center. The majority of these homeowners do not live in huge, multimillion dollar properties for which the West Side has become known, but rather, in many cases, smaller homes and cottages tucked into the surrounding neighborhood. For some unknown reason, they have not had much of a voice in the WPRA and have gone largely unnoticed while others around them fight about what is better for their neighborhood.

And, lastly, I hope you will take into account the latest reports on the respiratory health of children that were released last week. How the current condos connected with the Vista del Arroyo project were ever passed by the planning commission and the City Directors is beyond me, but with these current medical reports widely circulating that children who live within 500 yards (1/3 mile) suffer life- long lung damage, it would seem to be very ill-advised for the City to okay this area for residential use thereby opening up the City to potential law suits in the future. As a real estate agent of long standing in Pasadena, I am familiar with these types of lawsuits which arise from a new public awareness of health problems and have seen the parade of lawsuits arising from problems associated with exposure to asbestos, radon gas, and mold. I am quite confident that this new health concern will bring the next rash of lawsuits very soon.

I sincerely hope that the City Council will vote in favor of the Arroyo Center for the Arts and the Environment. This is the most exciting project to come before the City in many years. It is truly a project for all the citizens of Pasadena, not just a very few, and will set a standard for environmental responsibility and stewardship that we can all be proud of.

Sincerely,

Martyn Belmont

Nancy Covington
514 S. Arroyo Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91105

RECEIVED

07 JAN 31 P4:48

CITY CLERK
CITY OF PASADENA

Pasadena City Council
117 East Colorado Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91105

RE: Advocates for Desiderio Open Space

Dear Councilmember,

I wanted to express my interests and concerns regarding the plans for the Desiderio site. As a resident of Pasadena and specifically one living right on Arroyo Blvd, I have very real concerns of the impact that any decision the council makes can have a dramatic effect on this wonderful environment we live in. I hope you are as I am an advocate for keeping public land in public hands for public benefit.

At a recent Rec and Parks meeting, citizens concerned about Open Space made the following demands:

- Place a moratorium on any/all facilities in open space areas
- Complete the sensitive land survey to identify existing/potential open space
- Survey inventory of public lands already taken by organizations/uses
- Re-establish the Parks Department

Expansion by acquisition of sections of the Lower Arroyo for preservation is stated as public policy in the Arroyo Seco Master Plan. Desiderio site could easily be annexed to Lower Arroyo Park. All that is needed is a few paths and some discreet signage to explain the site, the ecology of the Arroyo and the history of the bridge.

Pasadena is chronically short of open space/parkland. With respect to data about parkland, Section 4.5 (Acreage Analysis) of the Draft Plan, states:

"The Park and Recreation Impact Fee Nexus Study (2004) . . . determined that by 2024 an additional 44.5 acres of parkland will be needed and 30.5 acres of open space to accommodate estimated population growth. Given the built-out condition of the city, it is very unlikely that even a fraction (of) this amount of acreage could be converted to parkland."

That's 75 acres to be acquired in the next 17 years. Five acres at Desiderio would bring it down to 70 acres.

Here are some additional concerns that I and fellow advocate for open space have voiced:

Community participation: Both park documents call for community participation in the planning process. An internal decision by City staff, without input from elected officials or the citizenry, has closed off discussion of open space/parkland as an option for the Desiderio site.

Neighborhood scale: Draft Parks Master Plan, Policy 7.2, states: “Improvements are to be appropriate to neighborhood scale.” The existing buildings are clearly inappropriate to neighborhood scale, and they block views of the Arroyo and of the bridge. The Planning Commission agreed that the existing buildings were not worth rehabbing and should be demolished.

Toxic waste – make Council aware of potential toxic waste issues on the site which may make some of the proposed uses impossible or prohibitively expensive. No Phase I study has been done on the site. Possible waste issues include buried leaking fuel tanks, chlorinated solvents from a paint shop known to have been on the site, medical waste from the hospital (Ann Tait)

Air Quality – make Council aware of recent USC study recommending 550 yd (1/3 mile) buffer between major roadways/freeways and housing. Study showed decreased lung capacity in children. Also AQMD guidelines re schools (recommended distance if 2500 feet)

Protection of Lower Arroyo and native habitat. Any use other than open space will negatively affect the air and water quality through increased traffic and run-off from Arroyo Boulevard.

Too many nature centers? The environmental center proposed for this site would be the third to be built in the City. There is one in Eaton Canyon and one is proposed for the Hahamongna area. Does the City need, and can it support 3 nature centers?

Special interests and parks: Rose Bowl, golf course, Aquatic Center, Kidspace in Central Arroyo, Casting Club, Archers in Lower Arroyo, Senior Center in Memorial Park, Bowling Club in Central Park, Caltech in Tournament Park, etc.

The Arroyo Center for Art and the Environment proposal:

As stated in this proposal, the land would be conveyed to the City under a public benefit conveyance through the Federal Lands to Parks program, making the land a city park. Although ACAE claims that it would maintain the site, what guarantee does the City have that it will not eventually have to pick up the cost of maintaining both land and buildings? This is another example of the City acceding to a special interest that will use buildings on parkland and this must be maintained “in perpetuity.” Another loss of open space to the community as a whole. Let’s stop building in our parks!

Questions about the ACAE proposal:

How will they control traffic and accommodate parking for major events?

Is this a potential tourist attraction that will heavily impact the character of the neighborhood? Museums/galleries should be accessible by public transportation - ideally located in Old Pasadena or in the gentrifying industrial area south of Colorado (like Art Center), or on Colorado or South Lake.

Will they charge admission?

Will they sell paintings or act as agents for artists to sell their work, like a commercial gallery? Is this a commercial operation more suited to an urban site than to a park site?

Where is a scaled drawing that would allow measurement of their claims of "90% of the site as open space"?

Questions about Habitat proposal:

Their drawing (Scheme A) as approved by the Planning Commission with the claim of 75% open space shows only a little more than 50% open space, once the bungalows and their surrounding private yards, the art center and the 50-space parking lot are subtracted.

Community participation: Both park documents call for community participation in the planning process. An internal decision by City staff, without input from elected officials or the citizenry, has closed off discussion of open space/parkland as an option for the Desiderio site.

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Questions about Habitat proposal:

Their drawing (Scheme A) as approved by the Planning Commission with the claim of 75% open space shows only a little more than 50% open space, once the bungalows and their surrounding private yards, the art center and the 50-space parking lot are subtracted.

Questions about Police/Fire facility

What guarantee is there that this facility will not expand as needs expand in the future?

Neither the use nor the buildings are compatible with the neighborhood or with the Lower Arroyo

Moule/Polyzoides proposal:

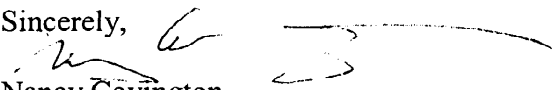
Clearly a transfer of public land, even at market rate, to a private developer, would be a giveaway that would most certainly be regretted in the future. Cf. Busch gardens land, transferred in the late 1940s, which now makes it impossible to restore the natural stream in that section of the Lower Arroyo. Moreover building so close to the Colorado Street

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Bridge, a National and City Landmark, would destroy the scenic vista of the bridge's 9 arches striding freely across the Arroyo. Two arches have already been severely impacted by building under the bridge.

Thank you for consideration of all these issues before you make your decision on the Desiderio space and I hope you agree with the need to have open space/parks as a primary use of this space.

Sincerely,



Nancy Covington

C. Kurtz
107 JAN 29 11:58 AM '07
RECEIVED

**Leelee Clement Doughty
1225 Rancheros Rd.
Pasadena, California 91103
(626) 683-3907**

January 29, 2007

To: The Mayor, Council Members, the City Manager and Assistant Manager

Re: The Arroyo Center for Art and the Environment

I enclose a copy of the email I sent to you over the weekend, as I was unable to send it along with the important attachments. I sincerely hope you will take the time to read this along with other emails that I hope are coming to you in support of the Arroyo Center.

The Arroyo Center has developed significant interest in our community, and I hope you will give it serious consideration irrespective of the fact the Planning Commission recommended another proposal. This center is exactly what we need in the Arroyo, not housing, especially near a freeway.

Thank you in advance for your attention.

Regards,



Subject: The Arroyo Center for Arts and the Environment - disposal of the Desiderio site

From: Leelee Doughty <nodoughts@dslextre.me.com>

Date: Sun, 28 Jan 2007 10:17:50 -0800

To: smadison@ci.pasadena.ca.us, bbogaard@ci.pasadena.ca.us, shaderlein@ci.pasadena.ca.us, cholden@ci.pasadena.ca.us, jstreator@ci.pasadena.ca.us, plittle@ci.pasadena.ca.us, vgorde@ci.pasadena.ca.us, bwilliams@ci.pasadena.ca.us, ckurtz@ci.pasadena.ca.us, styler@ci.pasadena.ca.us

Dear Mayor and the City Council Members of Pasadena:

By way of introduction, I am the President of the Board of the Pasadena La Casita Foundation. As you may know, La Casita del Arroyo is owned by the City, and we and the Pasadena Garden Club are the enthusiastic caretakers of the gardens. We have enjoyed this working relationship for nearly 75 years. La Casita cares very much who is awarded the property, as you might imagine, as we are one of the closest properties to this site, and being a public garden, we care deeply that our new neighbors will have a strong feeling of stewardship for La Casita.

As you know, there were four proposals in front of the Planning Commission this week, only one of which promises the re-use of the existing buildings (using "green" technology), the incorporation of an Art Center and Museum, an environmental studies and watershed management facility, and a large open air natural garden with natural drought tolerant and native plants (modeled after La Casita). This is the ***Arroyo Center for Art and the Environment***, which is a joint proposal by the California Art Club and the Arroyo Seco Foundation, both of whom have been in existence in the Arroyo for over 100 years (even longer than we have). As you might imagine, this proposal has large community support with over 1,100 signatures and support letters from nearly 20 community organizations, including the La Casita Foundation and The Huntington Gardens (scans attached). The Arroyo Center was the front runner, up and until the Planning Commission decided to recommend to the Council the site should be awarded to Habitat for Humanity.

This decision was a shock to all of us, as this is not a location for any housing whatsoever, with its being so close to two bridges, one of which is the 210. I am sending along Saturday's article in the Star News (also scanned) which talks of the recent research done on young children living near freeways and its harmful effects on their lung development. Living under a freeway can only be worse, since the particles really have only one way to fall. Also attached is a letter from Lee Wallace, who is an adviser to the Air Quality Management District and lives on the Arroyo, asking the Planning Commission to not recommend this property be used for housing of families. The Planning Commission did not even ask questions about this, nor did they inquire of Habitat any of the following important questions:

- * Who was going to pay for the demolition of existing buildings and asphalt,
- * Who is going to pay for the clean up of any remaining hazardous materials,
- * Who was going to pay for the utilities hook up (gas, electricity and water) for the houses and the landscape,
- * Who will oversee the re-sales of the houses in the future to ensure it remains as it was originally mandated (e.g. no flipping of the properties)? Who will be able to buy them in the future, and how will these sales be controlled going forward for some time to come?
- * Who will oversee the running of the properties and continue to be responsible for the upkeep of the grounds? We maintain the gardens at La Casita and know the challenges of a perpetual commitment to them, both in the aesthetics and financially.
- * Should there eventually be a health hazard to the families due to the exposure to car exhaust, who would be ultimately held responsible? The City?
- * Will there now be a need for public transportation on the Arroyo?
- * How long is Habitat's involvement in this property? What will be their role once the houses are built? What happens should

Habitat's board not be able to sustain its financial viability?
What kind of indemnification is the City getting from them?

It seemed to us that the Planning Commission did not plan for any safeguards against future liabilities, many of which will fall back on the City or perhaps the US government. The questions need to be answered. I would think the largest liability in the future to the City will be the potential health hazards of the low income families who inhabit these dwellings due to the proximity to the 210. Of additional concern is ensuring an orderly and fair re-sale process. Should Habitat not undertake any of these indemnities, it will fall to the City to do so for a very long time, and thus they will be passed on to the future residents of Pasadena who will pay the taxes to fund them.

The California Art Club and The Arroyo Seco Foundation's presentation next Monday will show you the history of the Arroyo going back to the 1700's. It is rich with artists and environmentalists' enthusiasm for the Arroyo, including La Casita, one of the first environmental showcases. The Arroyo is what makes Pasadena unique, and it is remarkable that it has not been completely swallowed by development. The Arroyo Center "re-cycles" the Army's existing buildings, preserves open space, and houses the one place for the celebration and history of the Pleine Aire Artists that lived on the Arroyo in the early 1900's, as well as a facility for environmental and watershed studies. The gardens will be modeled after the La Casita gardens, using plants that grow in the Arroyo with a limited need for water.

We are concerned the Planning Commission did not think through all of the future liabilities they would retain in */perpetuity/*, should you award this property to Habitat for Humanity. Habitat has done good work in the past, but placing these families under the 210 freeway is thoughtless and potentially dangerous. Should you award this property to them, you will need to put in some strong safeguards for our protection. The City may get sued, but we, the residents, pay the taxes to pay the legal bills and fund the settlements.

I am certain those in favour of the Arroyo Center will make a good case to you at Monday's meeting to support it and we are asking you to vote for it.

Thank you for your attention,
Leelee Clement Doughty
President of Pasadena La Casita Foundation

N.B.Attachments by scan

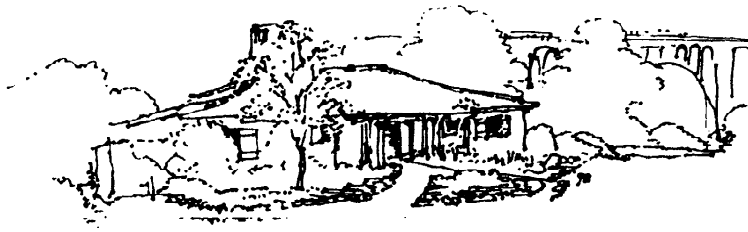
Arroyo Center Star News article.tif **Content-Type:** image/tiff
Content-Encoding: base64

Arroyo Center Huntington letter.tif **Content-Type:** image/tiff
Content-Encoding: base64

Arroyo Center La Casita letter.tif **Content-Type:** image/tiff
Content-Encoding: base64

Arroyo Center Lee Wallace letter.tif **Content-Type:** image/tiff

Return to Leelee



La Casita Foundation

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Leelee Clement Doughty
President

Pat Moreland
*Vice President and
Garden Co-chair*

Martyn Belmont
Treasurer and Secretary

Kay Onderdonk
Assistant Garden Chair

Pat Bedford
George Brumder
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Patty Burschinger
Bob Cooke
Marie Jones
Nancy McDonald
Mitch Milias
Susan Seidel
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Betsey Tyler
Alyce Williamson
Petrie Wilson

Advisors

Patty Burschinger
Pat Compton
Jim Folsom

Ex-Officio

Chris Benter

January 9, 2006

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Adams
California Art Club
75 S. Grand Avenue
Pasadena, California 91105

Dear Peter and Elaine:

I am so thrilled that you and the Art Club are teaming up with the Arroyo Seco Foundation to restore the 5 acre site of the Army base to an art center and educational facility for the Arroyo and the artists that have been painting it for a century. We really have no place in all of the arroyo where people can come and learn about its heritage. With you as stewards, all of us in Pasadena and our visitors will finally have a place to learn about its truly remarkable history.

As you know, the Pasadena La Casita Foundation shares your commitment to open space and returning the Arroyo (where we can) to its indigenous roots. The Board supports your project and offers our assistance to you in developing the gardens and open space, similar to what we continue to do at La Casita. We are delighted to know that Jim Folsom and the Huntington Gardens are in full support as well.

We look forward to your being our neighbors!

Sincerely yours,

Leelee Clement Doughty's
presentation to the
Planning Commission

Arroyo Center presentation 1/24/07

I am President of the Pasadena La Casita Foundation.

History of partnering with the City of Pasadena since 1933. Nearing our 75th anniversary together. We have a similar structure to the Arroyo Center, in that the City owns the land and we have the responsibility and pleasure of the gardens.

The Army site is right across the street from us, and our Board is very concerned about what happens to the property. We studied the four proposals in front of you carefully. There is only one in our view that is consistent with what we are about, and that is native and water-wise gardens, open spaces and education about the Arroyo, its history. While we have many places in the Arroyo, including Kidspace and La Casita, we don't have one place where people from the community can come and learn about its history, the artists who painted and lived here, and all in a surrounding of its natural environment. We can't think of better partners in this endeavor better than the combination of the Arroyo Seco Foundation and the California Art Club. We heartily agree with the words of the Star News, "While the other proposals are well-meaning, they are not really appropriate for the site."

The other proposals are single use sites that will benefit a small group of people, whereas the proposed use of the Arroyo Center will benefit the community and visitors to our city who have interest in the environment, the Arroyo and gardens which promote low water usage. Those of us at La Casita are hopeful that they will win the future use of the Army site. We look forward to working with them on their garden and educational programs.

I cannot stress the importance of preserving what is left of the Arroyo for public use, and the need for a strong fiduciary infrastructure to ensure its perpetuity. La Casita has a strong board, and we have (fingers crossed) been able to cover our expenses and keep some money in the bank. With the City's help, we have been doing this for almost 75 years. Both the Arroyo Seco Foundation and the California Art Club have demonstrated their ability to keep a not-for-profit going for a long period of time with two strong boards. I understand there may be a proposal for "open space", although I am not sure what that means. I have many concerns here, the biggest of which is, what will they put into place to ensure this space will be preserved in perpetuity? I can only imagine what the costs will be to tear down those buildings and put in gardens, and I worry how much of this financial responsibility will be put on the City.

Thank you for your time.

return to
leela



T H E H U N T I N G T O N

LIBRARY, ART COLLECTIONS, AND BOTANICAL GARDENS

1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, California 91108

Elaine Adams
Executive Director
California Art Club
75 S. Grand Avenue
Pasadena, Ca 91105

8 January 2007

Dear Elaine,

I was very excited to learn of your proposal for a project to retrofit the Desiderio Army Reserve Center in the Arroyo Seco as an art center that gives full recognition to the beauty and importance of the natural environment. In our highly built communities, it would be wonderful to create public value within the context of preserving greenspace at every opportunity, but most especially in the Arroyo Seco, bringing this significant feature greater promise and prominence as a significant aspect of quality of life in Pasadena.

The gardens staff here at The Huntington welcomes the opportunity to assist Arroyo Seco Foundation and California Art Club in whatever manner we can to discuss and plan what it means to appreciate and respond to the natural and built histories of this zone. Most particularly, I believe we can bring thoughts and options to the table in regard to design, plant choice, and interpretation that would yield a handsome, appropriate, sustainable, and meaningful landscape in association with structures you would be retrofitting and the programs you would offer.

Though The Huntington is known for its more elaborate landscapes and exotic plants, we are dedicated to preserving and enhancing natural areas as well, and would delight in the opportunity to interact and support you and other collaborators.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James P. Folsom', written over a horizontal line.

James P. Folsom

Living near freeways hurts lungs

USC study charts types of damage to youths

Study cities

USC researchers studying the effects of freeway pollution on lung capacity followed 3,600 children from fourth grade until they graduated high school in the following cities: Alpine, Anaheim, Glendora, Lake Arrowhead, Lake Elsinore, Long Beach, Mira Loma, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Dimas, Santa Barbara, Santa Maria and Upland.

By ELISE KLEEMAN
STAFF WRITER

Children growing up near freeways are not only more likely to develop asthma and other respiratory problems, their lung function also may be permanently stunted, according to a USC study released Thursday.

The USC study found that children who lived within 550

yards (about a third of a mile) of a freeway for the first 10 years of their lives grow up to have lower lung capacity than their peers who live a mile away.

"What we see on average by the time these children reach age 18 is about a 7 percent reduction in their natural lung health," said James Gauderman, the study's lead author epidemiologist.

The researchers followed more than 3,600 children in 13 Southern California cities — including Glendora and San Dimas in the San Gabriel Valley — from fourth grade until they graduated high school.

The damaging effect of living near a freeway was evident, Gauderman said, even after taking into account such factors as

Please turn to LUNGS / Page 6



STAFF / FILE
CONGESTION: A recent study found that youths who live near freeway like the 210 in Azusa, will have lower lung capacity than their peers.

LUNGS

Proximity to freeways is key

Continued from page 1

socioeconomic status and whether they or their family members smoked. The impact on children's lungs seems to be permanent, he added.

"We have continued following these children into their 20s and we don't see any evidence that they are experiencing rebound growth," Gauderman said. "That's probably because the development of the body and the lungs is pretty much done."

Though the children would probably not be immediately affected by their weakened lungs, "what we do know from other studies is that decreased

lung function is a significant factor for respiratory problems and more severe problems like cardiovascular disease and emphysema," Gauderman said. Previous work by Gauderman and his colleagues also has demonstrated a link between poor regional air quality and stunted lung growth.

Though this study did not investigate which component of freeway pollution affected lung function, Gauderman guessed that one important factor could be the high concentration of ultrafine particles — the "very smallest little bits of dust that come out of the tailpipes of trucks and cars."

"It is known that ultrafine particles can be inhaled deeply into the lungs," he said. "Ultrafine particles have been found in the bloodstream, in the brain."

Such particles could cause

chronic irritation and swelling that would keep lungs from filling completely with air.

Whatever the precise cause, the impact can perhaps be seen at Huntington Hospital's asthma clinic, said allergist Sarah Kehl; many children come in with lung function of 60 or 70 percent of what would be predicted for them.

Though it is complicated to untangle which factors could lead to such dismal numbers — one very common source of chronic lung irritation is cockroach droppings — many of the sickest children come from poorer families, more likely to live near freeways.

"The implications are potentially important in terms of thinking about where we live, where we put our schools," said Jonathan Samet, an epidemiologist at Johns Hopkins University who lead an advisory panel for the study.

The impact on living near a freeway, Samet said, "certainly is not small. The Clean Air Act that the [Environmental Protection Agency] should set a standard that protects the public from adverse effects. Certainly, this is an adverse effect."

elise.kleeman@syrn.com
(626) 578-6300, Ext. 4451

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT RECEIVED

'07 JAN 31 P 4:49

CHAMBERS OF
CYNTHIA HOLCOMB HALL
UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE
125 S. GRAND AVENUE
PASADENA, CA 91105

CITY CLERK
CITY OF PASADENA
TEL: 626-229-7300
FAX: 626-229-7454
EMAIL: CYNTHIA_HALL@CA9.USCOURTS.GOV

January 30, 2007

For Hand Delivery to the
Pasadena City Council for consideration at
their meeting of February 1, 2007

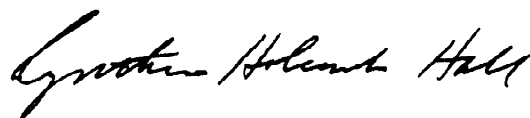
Re: Desiderio Army Reserve Center

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

The attached letter was delivered to the Planning Commission last week. I am now authorizing copies to be delivered for your consideration. We Ninth Circuit Judges are currently attending a workshop and cannot prepare a new letter in time for your February 1 meeting. However, our views about this project have not changed and we remain strongly in support of our position as outlined in the letter of January 23.

We hope that you will take our comments into consideration in your discussion of the fate of this property.

Sincerely,



Judge Cynthia Holcomb Hall

**UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT**

CHAMBERS OF
CYNTHIA HOLCOMB HALL
UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE
125 S. GRAND AVENUE
PASADENA, CA 91105

TEL: 626-229-7300
FAX: 626-229-7454
EMAIL: CYNTHIA_HALL@CA9.USCOURTS.GOV

January 23, 2007

For Hand Delivery to the
Pasadena Planning Commission

Re: Desiderio Army Reserve Center

The judges of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals whose names appear below have their home chambers located in the courthouse on Grand Avenue as noted above. This building overlooks the Army Reserve Center and the courthouse gardens abut the Center. In our individual capacities, and not speaking for the Court, we wish to express our considered view that open space is the most appropriate use of this site and would have the least impact on the Lower Arroyo from the point of view of traffic, the native environment, and the historic character of the Arroyo and the Colorado Street Bridge that spans it. If, for some reason, open space is not a possible choice, our second choice would be the proposal for the Arroyo Center for Art and the Environment.

We appreciate your consideration of our position.

Sincerely,



Judge Cynthia Holcomb Hall

On behalf of these judges who have indicated their agreement with the content of this letter:

Judge Raymond C. Fisher
Judge Dorothy W. Nelson
Judge Milan D. Smith, Jr.
Judge Kim McLane Wardlaw

Judge Alfred T. Goodwin
Judge Richard A. Paez
Judge A. Wallace Tashima

Rodriguez, Jane

From: Williams, Brian
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 2:16 PM
To: Rodriguez, Jane; Jomsky, Mark
Subject: FW: WWW PUBLIC COMMENT

BKW

-----Original Message-----

From: cityweb-server@cityofpasadena.net [mailto:cityweb-server@cityofpasadena.net]
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 1:18 PM
To: Williams, Brian
Subject: WWW PUBLIC COMMENT

Subject: Desiderio Property
Name: Carolyn V.Horne (Cece)
Address: 445 Madeline Drive
City: PasadenaC
State: CA
Zip: 91105
Email: cchorne@aol.com
Date: 1/29/2007
Time: 1:17:40 PM

Comment:

I strongly support The California Art Club/Arroyo Seco Council proposal for this site. Please NO MORE HOUSING especially there. We must protect the art/history/environment of this area. This project will be good for everyone city/citizens/visitors/stateetc. The City of Pasadena has a great opportunity here- please do not make a mistake.
Cece Horne

Laila Muderspach and Charles Hilliard
492 South Arroyo Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91105

RECEIVED

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CITY CLERK
CITY OF PASADENA

January 31, 2007

Dear Members of the Pasadena City Council:

We are writing to share some of our views pertaining to the Desiderio Army Reserve site that is being made available to the City of Pasadena by the Federal government. Pasadena has been our home for more than twenty-five year. For the past fifteen years, our family has lived just south of the site on Arroyo Blvd, where we have come to cherish the Arroyo Seco as a gem shared by many from across Southern California. Recent restoration efforts in the lower Arroyo, including water diversion, removal of a small building, and the planting of native species, has greatly improved the quality of this incredible open space within our city. These efforts have significantly increased the variety of wild life that makes the Arroyo home or finds it a temporary haven on flights north or south. In recent years, we have spotted a family of bobcats, several variety of owl, many ducks, coots and loons, and most recently, a Golden Eagle. These animals have benefited from the many efforts that have improved the quality of this precious open space.

With the Desiderio site, you have a historic opportunity to add to and complement the Arroyo Seco open space that has been repeatedly infringed upon—Kidspace being the most recent tragic example. The Desiderio site begs to be added to the Arroyo Seco rather than developed into another eyesore or magnet for more traffic and congestion. In recent years, we have seen unprecedented residential and commercial growth that threatens to bring to Pasadena a Silver Lake like building density (e.g. houses and business built to the curb and side by side) and level of congestion that will ruin our city. We urge you to be bold and reject all eleven proposals before you in favor of open space.

We realize that open space is not included in the proposals before you. This is a tragedy that can only be laid on the City staff that serves us. During the presentations last week to the Planning Commission, a city staffer

admitted that the process followed had not included consideration of open space as an option for the Desiderio site. While perhaps not surprising, this oversight does a disservice to all of Pasadena. Before you make a final decision about the site, at the very least please instruct the City staff to make a genuine study of the open space option.

Please consider several excellent arguments for choosing the open space option for the Desiderio site:

- **Open space is a State-mandated element in the General Plan.** At a recent Recreation and Parks meeting, citizens concerned about Open Space made the following demands:
 - Place a moratorium on any/all facilities in open space areas
 - Complete the sensitive land survey to identify existing/potential open space
 - Survey inventory of public lands already taken by organizations/other uses
 - Re-establish the Parks Department

- **Expansion of the Lower Arroyo.** Expansion by acquisition of sections of the Lower Arroyo for preservation is stated as public policy in the Arroyo Seco Master Plan. After removal of existing buildings, all that is needed for this adjoining Desiderio site to help achieve this goal is a replanting of native trees and plants, a few paths and discreet signage that educates about the ecology of the Arroyo and history of the bridge.

- **Shortage of park land/open space in Pasadena.** Pasadena is chronically short of open space/park land. Section 4.5 (Acreage Analysis) of the Draft Plan articulates important goals in this regard:

“The Park and Recreation Impact Fee Nexus Study (2004) . . . determined that by 2024 an additional 44.5 acres of parkland will be needed and 30.5 acres of open space to accommodate estimated population growth. Given the build-out condition of the city, it is very unlikely that even a fraction (of) this amount of acreage could be converted to parkland.”

That's 75 acres to be acquired in the next 17 years. Five acres at Desiderio would bring this down to 25.5 acres of open space or 70 acres of combined park land/open space.

Many more excellent arguments can be made in favor of open space. If you must move forward with one of the eleven existing proposals, at the very least select a proposal that replaces the unsightly current buildings with modest structures, with a small footprint that will co-exist with as large a percentage of open space as possible. Your vote for using this opportunity to restore and add open space is a vote for a better, healthier and saner Pasadena.

Sincerely,

Signed by

Laila Muderspach and Charles Hilliard

Rodriguez, Jane

From: Williams, Brian
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 9:32 AM
To: Rodriguez, Jane; Jomsky, Mark
Subject: FW: WWW PUBLIC COMMENT

Comment received re Desiderio.

BKW

-----Original Message-----

From: cityweb-server@cityofpasadena.net [mailto:cityweb-server@cityofpasadena.net]
Sent: Sunday, January 28, 2007 9:33 AM
To: Williams, Brian
Subject: WWW PUBLIC COMMENT

Subject: land use
Name: George F. Newell
Address: 999 Stonridge
City: Pasadena
State: Ca.
Zip: 91105
Email:
Date: 1/28/2007
Time: 9:33:16 AM

Comment:

We are 100% in favor of The California Art Club proposal.

Rodriguez, Jane

From: Bruckner, Richard
Sent: Monday, January 29, 2007 8:29 AM
To: 'RReischMD@aol.com'
Cc: Rodriguez, Jane; DeWolfe, Stephanie
Subject: RE: Please Support the Arroyo Center for Art and the Environment

This issue, including the Planning Commission's recommendation is scheduled to be on the City Council's February 5 agenda. I will forward your comments to the City Clerk to ensure that The City Council receives them.

From: RReischMD@aol.com [mailto:RReischMD@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 28, 2007 1:07 PM
To: Bruckner, Richard
Subject: Please Support the Arroyo Center for Art and the Environment

Mr. Bruckner,

My wife and I are Arroyo residents and nearby neighbors to the Desiderio Army Reserve Base. We were disappointed to see the Planning Commission recommend the Habitat for Humanity proposal over the Calif Art Club/Arroyo Seco Foundations' proposal for future use of Desiderio.

We have been long-time supporters of Habitat for Humanity, and we applaud their mission, but the Desiderio site is an inappropriate location for Habitat's proposed housing development. This wonderfully located piece of Arroyo land juxtaposed to wilderness should be entirely devoted to community use.

The Arroyo Center for Art and the Environment is a well thought out plan for an appropriate use of this Arroyo location, and absolutely should not be abandoned, modified or scaled down. The California Art Club and the Arroyo Seco Foundation are two very well respected organizations who have given much to the Pasadena community, and could give much more with a well-deserved permanent home in the Arroyo at the Desiderio site. They have an excellent vision for using the venue to promote California plein air art, Arroyo history and environmental awareness, in a beautifully landscaped site of native plants. Their much needed display space, educational programs and public outreach, as well as scenic viewing areas of the Arroyo would be significantly and permanently compromised in the scaled-down version that the Planning Commission suggests as a compromise. Celebration of the beauty of the Arroyo truly is the best use for the Desiderio base.

Pasadena has always been a well respected hub of cultural programs and institutions, museums, and education. The CAC/ASF proposal continues in that strong tradition with a very intriguing proposal, which I'm sure will be well-attended not only by locals, but would act as a strong draw for tourism as well.

We appreciate your understanding of the importance in maintaining and promoting the environmental beauty and cultural institutions that have made Pasadena famous.

Thank you for your time,
Bob and Shelly Reisch