



Agenda Report

May 12, 2014

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Department of Public Works

SUBJECT: FINAL RECOMMENDATION OF DEVIL'S GATE RESERVOIR SEDIMENT REMOVAL AND MANAGEMENT PROJECT WORKING GROUP – REGARDING COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES FOR THE DEVIL'S GATE RESERVOIR SEDIMENT REMOVAL AND MANAGEMENT PROJECT

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the City Manager to send a letter to Los Angeles County on behalf of the City of Pasadena transmitting the findings of the Devil's Gate Reservoir Sediment Removal and Management Project Working Group for the purpose of assisting the County in identifying a responsible Project design and sediment management program that conforms to the limitations and responsibilities of the Easement, reflects the configuration, aesthetics, habitat restoration, and vegetation management described in the Hahamongna Watershed Park Master Plan (HWMP), and is only as impactful as necessary to preserve and maintain the Reservoir for water conservation and flood control purposes.

BACKGROUND:

On December 16, 2013, the Department of Public Works presented to the City Council draft comments to Los Angeles County's Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Devil's Gate Reservoir Sediment Removal and Management Project. The draft comments were prepared by the Departments of Community Development and Planning, Fire, Human Services and Recreation, Police, Public Health, Public Works, Transportation and Pasadena Water and Power.

The City Council authorized the Mayor to send a letter to Los Angeles County on behalf of the City of Pasadena transmitting the comments to the Devil's Gate Reservoir Sediment Removal and Management Project DEIR. Mayor Bogaard transmitted the City's official comments to Los Angeles County on January 16, 2014, prior to the closure of the public comment period on January 21, 2014. The City's comment letter is contained in Attachment A.

On December 16, 2013, the City Council also directed the City Manager to establish a special Pasadena working group or committee comprised of City staff, the special consultant, and knowledgeable community members to provide focused work in developing a preferred plan for the sediment removal project. The Devil's Gate Reservoir Sediment Removal and Management Project Working Group, convened by City Manager Beck, began meeting in late-February 2014 and completed its work with the submission of its Final Recommendation on May 1, 2014. The Working Group's final report is contained in Attachment B.

The Working Group is comprised of individuals with the background and expertise necessary to lead this critical initiative, which will shape the future of Hahamongna Watershed Park (HWP) and our community. Participants include:

Don Bremner	Sierra Club
Tim Brick	Arroyo Seco Foundation
Gretchen Brickson	Community Member
Nina Chomsky	Friends of Hahamongna
Henreen Nunley	Community Member
Dr. Seema Shah-Fairbank, Chair	Assistant Professor & RBF Fellow, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, Civil Engineering Department

Dr. Shah-Fairbank, civil engineering professor with experience with hydrology, hydraulics and environmental engineering is the Working Group Chair. Advisors to the Working Group include:

Dr. Norman Brooks	Irvine Professor of Environmental & Civil Engineering Emeritus, California Institute of Technology
Michael "Mickey" Long	Former Natural Areas Administrator of LA County's 19 Natural Areas & Nature Centers & Supervisor of Eaton Canyon Natural Area Park & Nature Center

Los Angeles County personnel also provided ongoing support to the Working Group by attending meetings, answering technical questions, and making background resources available for review. One such example of information sharing includes the newly prepared Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for the Devil's Gate Reservoir Sediment Removal and Management Project contained in Attachment C.

Questions that are addressed in the FAQs include:

- What is the required capacity behind Devil's Gate Dam?
- The requirement of providing capacity of two DDEs appears very conservative. How frequently have major storm events/sediment events occurred in the past?
- (Los Angeles County) Public Works originally proposed an emergency project and stated in older documents that one DDE was 1.67 mcy. The DEIR states that the

project will remove up to 4.0 mcy and the DDE is 2.0 mcy. What accounts for the difference?

To facilitate timely review of the Project, the Working Group focused its efforts on the following Project components:

1. Hydrology, hydraulics & sediment behind Devil's Gate Dam
2. Hydraulics downstream of Devils Gate Dam
3. Wildlife & habitat within HWP
4. Lowering neighborhood impacts
5. Recreational impacts
6. Long-term maintenance plan

Highlights of the Working Group's Final Recommendation include the following:

Desired target sediment capacity in Hahamongna basin	2.5 million cubic yards (mcy)
Existing sediment capacity in basin	1.4 mcy
Amount to be removed to reach desired capacity	1.1 mcy
Maximum amount to remove each year until target goal is achieved	220,000 cy
Additional amount to remove after heavy inflow during first five years	100,000 cy

Attachment D contains a comparison of the Working Group's Final Recommendation with the City's comments to the DEIR, the Proposed Project (Alternative 1, Configuration A), and the Environmentally Superior Alternative (Alternative 3, Configuration C).

Working Group members will present at the May 12, 2014 City Council meeting and be prepared to answer questions the City Council may have regarding the Final Recommendation.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

This action is consistent with the numerous policy documents and the goals set forth therein relevant to HWP including the HWPMP (adopted by the City Council in 2003), Arroyo Seco Master Plans and Design Guidelines (2003), United Nations Urban Accords (2006), Green City Action Plan (2006), Green Space, Recreation and Parks Master Plan (2007), HWPMP Addendum for the Hahamongna Annex (2010), and Open Space & Conservation Element of the General Plan (2012).

FISCAL IMPACT:

The costs associated with this action are minor and include ongoing staff review and coordination with County staff and consultants.

Respectfully submitted,



SIOBHAN FOSTER
Director of Public Works

Approved by:



MICHAEL J. BECK
City Manager

Attachments:

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| Attachment A | City of Pasadena Comments on Draft Environmental Impact Report for Devil's Gate Reservoir Sediment Removal and Management Plan, January 16, 2014 |
| Attachment B | Final Recommendation of the Devil's Gate Dam Sediment Working Group, May 1, 2014 |
| Attachment C | Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for the Devil's Gate Reservoir Sediment Removal and Management Project |
| Attachment D | Comparison of Working Group's Recommendation with City Comments to DEIR, Proposed Project & Environmentally Superior Alternative |
| Attachment E | 1919 & 1965 Easements |
| Attachment F | DEIR Executive Summary |