

## Iraheta, Alba

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**Subject:**

FW: Desiderio

Pasadena City Council, et al:

Re Desiderio:

It has been over 12 years since the Desiderio project first came into being. Many different proposals have been made and presented to the city and its inhabitants.

Early on the US Gov't and the military which had formerly occupied the property as an armory made the decision that to turn the property over to the City of Pasadena, decided the use would have to incorporate low-income housing component. Thus we have the Habitat Houses in the SE corner.

After months, if not years, after numerous public meetings to determine the "best" use of the remaining space, the consensus from the citizens, especially those in districts incorporating or adjacent to the Desiderio Project was to make it an open space, basically an extension of the Lower Arroyo.

Forces within the city staff steered the project to a Neighborhood Park which typically incorporates elements such as parking, playgrounds, public toilets, etc., not the open space that was favored. The difference between Open Space and a Neighborhood Park was downplayed and people who weren't paying close attention to the differences didn't realize they are not at all the same thing. The site is unique in that there is no parking along 2 sides, Arroyo Bl. and Arroyo Dr. Because of the new Habitat homes and the existing homes on Westminster Dr., there is little if any parking available to the project. This constitutes the primary reasoning for parking spaces on the project, but defies the notion of the proposed Neighborhood Park where the neighbors would walk to the park.. Given the proximity to the Rose Bowl and Brookside Park with their own parking, Desiderio shouldn't need to give up its limited space to parking, which also introduces additional pollution. The Rose Bowl proximity also creates problems in that with its continued expansion of use on weekends, the few parking spaces will be used by Rose Bowl attendees rather than Desiderio users unless closed to parking when Rose Bowl is in operation which then practicably precludes Desiderio users.

The addition of public toilet facilities is also problematic for several reasons. A visual survey of the other neighborhood parks throughout Pasadena (and other cities) shows that where there is a public bathroom, there are also homeless encampments. This is not simply a NIMBY statement denying toilet facilities to homeless. This is an important issue for all of Pasadena to address. These facilities are important but a Neighborhood Park is not the proper venue as it discourages the use of the park by the very people it was built to benefit. Deleting the toilets and putting that money towards building facilities for housing the homeless makes much greater sense. The somewhat detached geographic location of Desiderio makes it even more likely to become an encampment. Fencing and locking it seems antithetical as well. Parts will need to be fenced, where the grade is significantly above street level.

The unfortunate incidents of suicide from the bridge above also creates problems for placement of the playground (and bathroom, should it be part of the final plan). The current proposed fencing of the entire bridge is an unfortunately unsightly and hopefully temporary "solution" The issue still needs to be part of the considerations.

The city has had numerous hearings and community outreach on the Desiderio Project, but the proposals put forth by staff disregard the stated preferences of the citizens affected in favor of an agenda who's purpose and driving force is unclear. At the hearings, Mr. Madison repeatedly has asked for reconsideration of the issues as presented by the public speakers and at the next hearing these same issues reappear uncontested as if the staff or whoever is/are making these decisions is intractable. (See Einstein's definition of insanity.)

Please listen to the outpouring of support for Open Space: No toilets, parking, or other structures. The fact that grading and what appears to be retaining walls is proceeding suggests that the current plan is being implemented regardless of our input.

Thank you for your attention,  
George Corey  
487 California Terrace  
Pasadena 91105

**Iraheta, Alba**

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**Subject:**

FW: Desidiero Park

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

From: Barry Mendel [mailto:barrymendel@mac.com]

Sent: Sunday, September 16, 2018 8:40 AM

To: Jomsky, Mark <mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net>; Madison, Steve <smadison@cityofpasadena.net>

Cc: Sarah-Raquel Jimenez <sarahraquel1@yahoo.com>

Subject: Desidiero Park

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I've lived in Pasadena 20 years and on Arroyo Blvd for 13.

It seems DEEPLY WRONG to present the public (as reiterated in the environmental review) a passive park with NO RESTROOM.

You have baited and switched us. This is WRONG.

A restroom will change the entire nature of our neighborhood which has been free of homelessness for its 100+ years, it will change it FOREVER. It will be less safe for our children too.

I URGE you to put in the Park you initially pitched us. No bathroom. In a worst case scenario, only the compromise Concept C is acceptable.

Spend the city's money on projects like repairing the Robinson Park pool where more citizens will benefit from it.

Thank you!

Barry Mendel and Sarah-Raquel Jimenez-Mendel

**Iraheta, Alba**

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**Subject:**

FW: The Desiderio Park design

Dear Ms. Jomsky and Councilman Madison;

We wish to express our opinion about the Desiderio Park design. We live on Arroyo Blvd. and value the park like setting here. When it was first announced that a park would be built on the reserve property we thought that would extend the rustic appeal of the Arroyo. What is being planned right now is anything but. We do not think there should be a restroom there as a magnet for the homeless or people tramping up and down to go to the Rose Bowl. We have never seen a restroom in the lower Arroyo which is a much larger space and seems to work just fine. I have also heard that other parks in Pasadena need much more additional funding, and that is where it should go. Lately there seems to be a rush to build in the park with cranes working everyday and the beginnings of light poles. I can only imagine what completing the current design will mean for both the Habitat families and the families in the condos alongside.

Please reconsider. I understand Council Madison that you have asked for the Park Design to be re-evaluated. Good for you and keep at it!

Lynda Jenner and Patrick Whaley

Lynda Jenner and Patrick Whaley

166 S. Arroyo Blvd.

Pasadena, CA 91105

626 584-0033

[jennerwhaley@yahoo.com](mailto:jennerwhaley@yahoo.com)

**Iraheta, Alba**

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**Subject:**

FW: Desiderio Park Bathroom

To All concerned,

I will be out of town for the September 17th City Council Meeting but I will once again express my concerns regarding a bathroom at the Desiderio Park.

One of my biggest concerns now is that the voices and concerns of our neighborhood are falling on deaf ears. We as a community have expressed definitively that we do not want a bathroom at the Park but the City keeps insisting on wasting tax payer money on a bathroom rather than address more pending and dire needs for these funds to be used elsewhere in the our City! (That Robinson Park Pool was closed all summer because lack of funds to repair is disgraceful! The money from this unwanted bathroom could have easily helped kids have a place to cool off from the extreme summer heat!)

I have stated before, as a resident of Pasadena and particularly a resident near to where Desiderio Park is to be, I wanted Desiderio Park to be a neighborhood park with no bathrooms! We and our neighbors have personally experienced issues with a homeless man who lived in the Arroyo and therefore, rightfully so, have tremendous concern about another bathroom near an area where homeless already camp out. (It will force more police presence in the area, more calls to the PCP a public service of our City that does not need further stress on it.)

AGAIN, the City of Pasadena has insisted that Desiderio Park have a bathroom and when we tried to comprise with the City, the City shut our voices down and continues to force our neighborhood to deal with the dangers and the fallout of having a bathroom in this Park. Why? Spending our tax money on a bathroom (that no one wants) that costs more then a median priced home in Southern California is what makes tax payers upset. I am NOT against paying taxes but the City is being wasteful and whomever is overseeing this should be ashamed. This is fiscally irresponsible. The nerve to ask for more tax on our City when funds are being wasted...for shame! Spend the money more wisely in other parts of the City that need repairs or if your concern is the homeless then give the money to a homeless shelter in Pasadena or use for low income housing.

Your disgraceful and fiscally irresponsible behavior in the handling of this issue is a complete embarrassment to the City and its Citizens.

Annette Bull  
818.802.3057  
[annettebull29@icloud.com](mailto:annettebull29@icloud.com)

**Iraheta, Alba**

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**Subject:** FW: Desiderio Park/Suicide Jumps/Family Recreation/Monday Council Meeting/Please Attend

**From:** Mary Dee Romney [mailto:rmarydee@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Friday, September 14, 2018 6:14 AM

**To:** Mary Dee Romney <rmarydee@gmail.com>; Jomsky, Mark <mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net>

**Subject:** Desiderio Park/Suicide Jumps/Family Recreation/Monday Council Meeting/Please Attend

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Please attend the City Council meeting Monday evening, September 17th.

Councilman Madison will ask for Council reconsideration of the present Desiderio site design.

See item

#17: [http://ww2.cityofpasadena.net/councilagendas/2018%20Agendas/Sep\\_17\\_18/agenda.asp](http://ww2.cityofpasadena.net/councilagendas/2018%20Agendas/Sep_17_18/agenda.asp)

In addition to the SRNA board and community members, this email is being sent to the Pasadena City Clerk for inclusion in the record re: the Desiderio site park design and mitigation of impacts to neighbors and the public not considered in the review process.

Impacts not considered:

- 1) Suicide jumps from the bridge onto the park site
- 2) Activities and traffic associated with new high-attendance Rose Bowl festivals

I'm thinking we should ask for immediate, semi-permanent work stoppage at the park and recirculation of the EIR as provided for in #'s 1-4 pasted below, as outlined in the Desiderio EIR, p40.

<https://ww5.cityofpasadena.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/56/2017/08/Final-Environmental-Impact-Report-1.pdf>

There are too many serious impacts associated with the bridge and too many new uses/events at the Rose Bowl with impacts that were not included in the review process four years ago.

Construction should be stopped for reasons stated above. The money should be put to good use at other parks. The chain-link should be rolled-out at the bridge (I saw that poles are already in place). The bridge plan should be designed ASAP with a construction start date. Pasadena Beautiful should plant fast-growing trees ASAP to visually insulate Habitat families from suicide activities at the bridge and proposed park site.

Hopefully the Arroyo Advisory Group plan soon will document transitional trail use for the Desiderio area.

Below is research communication/background/advice exchanged between the SRNA board, Habitat for Humanity and Vista Del Arroyo residents re the above:

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**Advice** from a long-time public recreation area landscape architect:

- **Search for points of agreement with the city** – respecting the other side to avoid contentiousness that often escalates to “really ugly”
- A copy of the **stamped survey must be the common reference** for all parties
- Desiderio, by industry standards, is a **\*small\* park not requiring a restroom**
- The Desiderio **EIR is outdated given current impacts**
- Follow the Desiderio **money to allocate for needed park upgrades city-wide**

### **Industry Design Standards**

Public recreation space must be integrated and **considered 'as one' by including all activities at the site.**

Public recreation designers are trained to **“spot everything they possibly can”** before putting a design on paper.

**Not “spotted” in the Desiderio design/environmental review process are the following:**

1. Impacts to general welfare/safety from **suicide jumps from the bridge and lock-downs in surrounding neighborhoods**
2. Traffic/parking study for **Uber and Lyft zones appropriated for Rose Bowl event drop-off/pick-up**
3. More than just water use, **traffic/parking impacts from use of restrooms before and after Rose Bowl events**
4. The health and well-being of **23 children living in Habitat homes and exposed to the above impacts**

***City council now must consider the wisdom of creating a public recreation space with these well-documented omissions to the review process.***

### **Suggestions:**

- I. The unstructured open space surrounding Habitat should be a transitional link for trail-based public movement to the more developed Brookside area, Pirate Park and restrooms – another part of the Arroyo experience.
- II. Habitat families and children must have visual blockage of bridge jump suicides without creating a San Quentin environment. The 4-foot tall wood gates should be replaced with secure wrought-iron.

**III. An EIR can be recirculated for corrections/additions with the disclosure of significant new information, new information documented above.**

**Desiderio EIR, 3.0 p40**

<https://ww5.cityofpasadena.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/56/2017/08/Final-Environmental-Impact-Report-1.pdf>

Mary Dee Romney, President  
San Rafael Neighborhoods Association (SRNA)



## Jomsky, Mark

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**From:** Harris Hall <harriscfa@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 17, 2018 1:49 PM  
**To:** Jomsky, Mark; Madison, Steve  
**Cc:** Wife; SALLY BARNGROVE  
**Subject:** Desiderio Park

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While we cannot make the meeting tonight, we want to express our strong opposition to the planned bathrooms at Desiderio Park. A possible compromise with the neighborhood residents like us, might be the Concept C design for safety and security concerns. Thank you.

Harris Hall, CFA



**Jomsky, Mark**

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**From:** Bill Knauf <billk@arroyoins.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 17, 2018 1:46 PM  
**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Cc:** sherryknauf@gmail.com; Marcelline Solway; Madison, Steve  
**Subject:** Desiderio Park

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My name is Bill Knauf and my wife and I live adjacent to the new Desiderio park.

We would like to have the City Council reconsider the design of the park.

Regarding the bathroom, Our preference is not to have a bathroom in keeping with the original purpose of the space as an extension of the Arroyo. If one is to be put in, then placing it away from the Habitat homes and away from our homes seems to be a logical choice for the residents immediately adjacent. The same can be said for the parking.

Concept C seems to be a good solution for all involved. Please reconsider your decision.

Sincerely. Bill and Sherry Knauf

Sent from my iPhone