

### 3.11 RECREATION

As a result of the *Initial Study*,<sup>1</sup> the City of Pasadena determined that the *Arroyo Seco Master Plan* (proposed project) had the potential to result in impacts to recreation. Therefore, this issue was carried forward for detailed analysis in this draft Master Environmental Impact Report. This analysis was undertaken to identify opportunities to avoid, reduce, or otherwise mitigate potential significant impacts to recreation and identify potential alternatives. This analysis considers the potential for impacts to recreation that will occur from all phases of the proposed project including construction, operation and maintenance. This section is based on a review of the City of Pasadena Comprehensive General Plan<sup>2</sup> and site reconnaissance. The analysis of recreation includes a description of the regulatory framework that guides the decision-making process, existing conditions of the proposed project area, thresholds for determining if the proposed project would result in significant impacts, anticipated impacts, mitigation measures, and the level of significance after mitigation.

#### 3.11.1 Regulatory Framework

This regulatory framework identifies the local statutes and policies that relate to recreation and must be considered by the City of Pasadena during the decision-making process for the proposed project.

### FEDERAL

#### National Environmental Policy Act

Elements of the proposed project could potentially be funded by federal grant monies. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and its supporting federal regulations establish certain requirements that must be adhered to for any project "...financed, assisted, conducted or approved by a federal agency...." In making a decision on the issuance of federal grant monies for elements of the proposed project, the federally designated lead agency pursuant to NEPA is required to "...determine whether the proposed action may significantly affect the quality of the human environment."

#### Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide

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<sup>1</sup> City of Pasadena, 2000c. *Initial Study Arroyo Seco Master Plan Project*. Contact: Department of Planning and Permitting, 175 North Garfield, Pasadena, CA 91109. Prepared by: Sapphos Environmental Inc., 133 Martin Alley, Pasadena, CA 91105.

<sup>2</sup> City of Pasadena, Planning Division, 1994. *City of Pasadena Comprehensive General Plan*. Contact: Community Planning Section, 175 North Garfield Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91109-7215.

The Open Space and Conservation Element of the *Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide*<sup>3</sup> states that urban-type land uses and facilities need to support future additional population growth, which will consume a large portion of the remaining privately held land in the region. The plan emphasizes the conservation of open-space areas that provide opportunities for outdoor recreation, considered important for providing a good quality of life for residents who live in highly urbanized areas of the region.

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<sup>3</sup> Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), 1995. *Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide*. Contact: 818 W. Seventh Street, 12th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017.

## LOCAL

### City of Pasadena Comprehensive General Plan

The goal of the City of Pasadena Comprehensive General Plan<sup>4</sup> Parks and Recreation Element is to provide a wide range of recreational facilities and services as a means of improving the quality of life for all Pasadena residents. The City of Pasadena has established six land use objectives that are relevant to the Arroyo Seco Plan:

**Objective 1.1** - Increase emphasis on the arts in planning for and in the provision of recreational facilities and service.

**Objective 1.2** - Broaden participation by the community in the planning and delivery of recreational services.

**Objective 1.3** - Encourage the expanded use of private resources and resources owned or controlled by public entities other than the city that are suitable for recreational purposes.

**Objective 1.4** - Perform a systematic assessment of recreational facility needs and preferences in recreational programming.

**Objective 1.5** - Make optimum use of existing recreational facilities wherever possible; and

**Objective 1.6** - Provide adequate financial support for recreational services.

In addition, the Mobility Element of the City of Pasadena Comprehensive General Plan<sup>5</sup> calls for developing a citywide bikeway system that would encourage biking and walking. In response, the City developed the Pasadena Bicycle Plan,<sup>6</sup> which presents a guideline for the City of Pasadena to provide for the safe and attractive environment necessary to promote bicycling as a mode of transportation. The City of Pasadena has adopted a policy to make Pasadena "a place where bicycling and walking are encouraged and fostered, where all streets are bikeways, and where safety, education, and facilities are provided as an ongoing part of transportation and recreational planning and programs."

### 3.11.2 Existing Conditions

The entire proposed project area lies within the limits of the City of Pasadena, which operates the three existing park areas that comprise the Arroyo Seco for passive and active recreation;

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<sup>4</sup> City of Pasadena, Planning Division, 1994.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> City of Pasadena, 6 November 2000b. *Century of Bikes: Final Bicycle Master Plan; City of Pasadena*. Contact: 100 N. Garfield Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91109. Prepared by: Crowley & Jacobsen, 150 South El Molino, Suite 200, Pasadena, CA 91101.

the Upper Arroyo Seco (Hahamongna Watershed Park), the Central Arroyo Seco, and the Lower Arroyo Seco Park. The proposed project area is located in areas designated as Open in the City's Comprehensive General Plan EIR<sup>7</sup> and the city's zoning map and ordinance. This category is designated for a wide variety of active and passive public recreational facilities and for City-owned open space facilities.

Recreation in the Arroyo Seco has an extensive history dating back to 1884 and the then-famous Switzer Camp.<sup>8</sup> The Switzer Camp and Falls was the premier wilderness resort in the San Gabriel Mountain range through the 1930s; both were accessed by foot, horse, or burro from the Upper Arroyo Seco. In 1913, acquisition and plans for the Upper, Central, and Lower Arroyo Seco were initiated by the City of Pasadena, and in 1917-1918, plans to preserve the Arroyo Seco were initiated. Emil T. Mische, a landscape architect, and Myron Hunt, head of the Arroyo Seco Park Committee, recommended that the Lower Arroyo Seco be preserved, restricted to walking and bridle paths, and planted with only native plants.<sup>9</sup> In the early 1920s, development of parks and fields continued in the Arroyo Seco, including an outdoor amphitheater, built in the Central Arroyo Seco in 1924, and the Rose Bowl, built by the Tournament of Roses in 1926. The acquisition of public lands within the Arroyo Seco by the City was largely completed by 1927. Acquisition of these lands conserved them for public recreation and through the 1950s, the Arroyo Seco, including well-used picnic areas and trails, was one of the most popular vacation spots in the San Gabriel Mountains.<sup>10</sup>

### ***Upper Arroyo Seco (including Hahamongna Watershed Park)***

The Hahamongna Watershed Park (HWP) lies at the foot of the San Gabriel Mountains. The lower eastern portion of the *Hahamongna Watershed Park Master Plan*<sup>11</sup> area is currently a sediment plain due to the development of the Devil's Gate Dam. It also contains Johnson Field, which is used for informal softball games and group picnics and activities. The western portion of the *Hahamongna Watershed Park Master Plan*<sup>12</sup> area contains Hahamongna Park

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<sup>7</sup> City of Pasadena, Planning Division, 1994.

<sup>8</sup> John W. Robinson, 1990. *Trails of the Angeles: 100 Hikes in the San Gabrielinos*, Berkeley: Wilderness Press.

<sup>9</sup> Ann Scheidlung, 1999. *Historic Pasadena: An Illustrated History*, Pasadena, CA: Pasadena Historical Museum.

<sup>10</sup> John W. Robinson, 1991. *The San Gabriels: The Mountain Country from Soledad Canyon to Lytle Creek*. Arcadia, CA: Big Santa Anita Historical Society.

<sup>11</sup> City of Pasadena, Parks and Natural Resources Division, 2001. *Hahamongna Watershed Park Master Plan*. Contact: 175 North Garfield, Second Floor, Pasadena, CA 91109.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

(formerly Oak Grove Park). The Upper Oak Grove facilities include picnic facilities, restrooms, a maintenance building, and the equestrian staging area. The Lower Oak Grove facilities include group picnicking areas, a multipurpose play field, restrooms, and a disc golf course. There are four trails that connect HWP to regional and other local trails. These trails include the Gabrieliño Trail, the Arroyo Seco Trail, Equestrian Trails, Inc. (ETI) Corral 2 Trail, and the Flint Wash Trail.

### **Central Arroyo Seco**

The 550-acre Central Arroyo Seco is the most intensively developed portion of the proposed project area. The Central Arroyo Seco contains the Rose Bowl, a multi-use arena that has hosted Olympic games, University of California, Los Angeles and National Football League football games, music concerts, World Cup soccer, and other events. The Central Arroyo Seco also contains the Rose Bowl Aquatic Center, Jackie Robinson Baseball Field, tennis courts, Brookside Golf Course and Clubhouse, multi-use trails, equestrian loop, multipurpose fields, Rosemont Pavilion, an amphitheater, and Brookside Park. This area is currently characterized by active recreational uses. The Rose Bowl and Aquatic Center are designated for commercial recreational use, as defined by the city's zoning code.

### **Lower Arroyo Seco**

The 150-acre Lower Arroyo Seco is designated as open space and contains a natural park, fly casting pond and clubhouse, archery range and clubhouse, and multi-use trails for walking, jogging, cycling, and equestrian use. The area is currently characterized by active and passive recreational uses.

#### **3.11.3 Significance Thresholds**

This section lists the thresholds used to assess the potential for the proposed project to result in significant impacts to recreation. These thresholds of significance are described in Appendix G of the State *CEQA Guideline* and the City of Pasadena CEQA Guidelines. The likelihood for significant impacts on recreation to occur was evaluated based on the potential for the proposed project to result in:

- ?? an increase in the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities, such that the parks would no longer be safe for public use, or
- ?? recreational facilities or the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might produce an adverse physical effect on the environment through construction or maintenance of the recreational facility.

#### **3.11.4 Impact Analysis**

The proposed project is intended to improve facilities within an existing recreational area. The proposed project elements may incur a short-term construction/rehabilitation impact to recreational facilities requiring the implementation of mitigation measures. There would be no

long-term impacts as a result of the proposed project.

### **3.11.4.1 Hahamongna Watershed Park**

#### 3.11.4.1.1 Significant Impacts

The proposed project would involve the development and expansion of 16 parking areas in the Upper Arroyo Seco. Construction of new parking areas may temporarily decrease available parking spaces or block park access, which would be expected to result in significant short-term impacts to recreation, requiring the consideration of mitigation measures.

The proposed project would involve the construction of four public restrooms and renovation of one public restroom in the Upper Arroyo Seco. The unavailability of public restrooms and potential blocking of park access during construction would be expected to result in significant short-term impacts to recreation, requiring the consideration of mitigation measures.

Johnson Field in the Upper Arroyo Seco would be expanded to accommodate a youth-size soccer field, open play area, picnic area, and other group/non-group activities. While this expansion is being completed, Johnson Field would be closed, resulting in significant short-term impacts to recreation, requiring the consideration of mitigation measures.

A number of multi-purpose trails in the Upper Arroyo Seco would be improved. These improvements would be expected to require the closure of the primary trail, resulting in significant short-term impacts to recreation, requiring the consideration of mitigation measures.

#### 3.11.4.1.2 Issues Found Not to Be Significant

Three areas in the Upper Arroyo Seco would be converted to play fields. These areas are not currently used for recreational purposes and would not impact existing recreational facilities or users.

The construction of a 1,200-space parking structure on the existing west parking lot on the JPL campus would not impact recreation; there are no existing recreational uses on the proposed parking structure site.

Contribution of the new park entrances to the Upper Arroyo Seco would not block access to recreational facilities via existing entries and therefore would not have a significant impact on recreation.

Construction of the 4.8-acre west lake and 3.6-acre east lake would occur on areas not currently designated for recreational purposes, and therefore would not have a significant impact on recreation.

Water conservation, flood management, security fencing and utility improvements to the

Upper Arroyo Seco would not impact recreation, in that they would not change use levels in neighborhoods and regional parks and will not constitute an adverse effect on the environment.

### **3.11.4.2 Central Arroyo Master Plan**

#### 3.11.4.2.1 Significant Impacts

The proposed project would involve repainting an existing parking area in the Central Arroyo Seco at Jackie Robinson Stadium. Parking space restriping would be expected to temporarily decrease available parking spaces or block park access, resulting in significant short-term impacts to recreation, and requiring consideration of mitigation measures.

One restroom would be renovated to meet current standards for accessibility pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The temporary closures of a public restroom during construction would constitute a significant short-term impact to recreation, requiring the consideration of mitigation measures.

The stone walls, rockery, amphitheater, arbor bandstand and stone barbecue in the Central Arroyo Seco next to the Aquatic Center and tennis courts would be renovated in conjunction with the proposed project. Construction related to renovating these elements may be expected to result in significant short-term impacts to recreation, requiring the consideration of mitigation measures.

The enhancement of the 3 -mile recreational loop, renovation of trails, and relocation of trails for improved access and safety would be expected to result in temporary closure to portions of the trails during construction, resulting in significant short-term impacts to recreation, requiring the consideration of mitigation measures.

Existing Baseball Diamond No. 2, located within the developed recreation area on the east side of the Central Arroyo between Seco Street and West Holly Street, would be reoriented and the overhead lights would be relocated. Baseball Diamond No. 2 would not be available for use during construction, creating a short-term impact to recreation, requiring the consideration of mitigation measures.

The existing social pedestrian path that connects Lot I to the Holly Street Bridge would be resurfaced. The pathway that connects Arroyo Terrace and the Aquatic Center and the pathways and arroyo stonewalls on the hillsides would be restored and improved. During the improvement and resurfacing period, pedestrians would not be able to use the paths, thereby causing a short-term impact to recreation requiring consideration of mitigation measures.

#### 3.11.4.2.2 Issues Found Not to Be Significant

Landscape improvements, picnic area improvements, and signage improvements in the Central Arroyo Seco would not limit recreational use of the area and would not have a significant impact on recreation.

Construction of the new ceremonial entry and front plaza to the Rose Bowl would not impact recreational use in the Central Arroyo Seco and would not have a significant impact on recreation.

New pedestrian pathways would be constructed for improved access to portions of the Central Arroyo Seco. Construction would not impact existing access to those portions of the Central Arroyo Seco; therefore, there would be no significant impact on recreation.

Construction of new play areas would not impact recreational use of the Central Arroyo Seco, and would therefore not result in significant impacts to recreation.

#### **3.11.4.3 Lower Arroyo Seco Master Plan**

##### 3.11.4.3.1 Significant Impacts

The proposed project would involve the development and expansion of two parking areas in the Lower Arroyo Seco. The locations where parking areas would be under construction may cause a decrease in available parking spaces or block park access, resulting in significant short-term impacts to recreation, requiring consideration of mitigation measures.

A 1,000-square-foot public restroom and storage area would be added onto the roving archers clubhouse, and the public restroom near the proposed new south entrance would be demolished and replaced. Temporary closures of public restrooms during construction would constitute significant short-term impacts to recreation, requiring the consideration of mitigation measures.

Proposed improvements in the Lower Arroyo Seco include trail enhancement/improvement, entry improvements, and widening of access roads. Construction and renovation of these elements would obstruct opened portions of the trails, roads and entryways during construction, resulting in significant short-term impacts to recreation, requiring the consideration of mitigation measures.

The 20,000-square-foot surface of the Casting Pond would be resurfaced. The Casting Pond would be unavailable for use at that time, resulting in significant short-term impacts to recreation, requiring the consideration of mitigation measures.

##### 3.11.4.3.2 Issues Found Not to Be Significant

Landscape and lighting improvements, picnic area improvements, and improved signage in

the Lower Arroyo Seco would not deter recreational use of the area and would not be expected to have a significant impact on recreation.

New pedestrian pathways and multi-use trails would be constructed for improved access to portions of the Lower Arroyo Seco. Construction would not impact existing access to those portions of the Lower Arroyo Seco; therefore, there would be no significant impact to recreation.

Placement of boulders for informal rest areas would not be expected to deter recreational use and would not have a significant impact on recreation.

#### **3.11.4.4 Rose Bowl Use Plan**

The Rose Bowl Operating Company (RBOC) has recommended that the City Council approve a Rose Bowl Use Plan<sup>13</sup> that would allow 25 major events, or displacement events, to be permitted annually. An increase in events scheduled at the Rose Bowl would be expected to result in an increase in the use of existing recreational facilities in the park for picnics and other pre-event activities. The renovation of existing recreational facilities and construction of new recreational facilities is anticipated to offset increased demand for use facilities that would accompany the requested Rose Bowl event increase. Therefore, increased recreational use of the Arroyo Seco resulting from increased Rose Bowl events would not be expected to result in significant impacts to recreation.

#### **3.11.4.5 Design Guidelines**

The *Arroyo Seco Master Plan Design Guidelines*<sup>14</sup> do not include elements that will have a significant impact to recreation. The Design Guidelines are a tool for the City of Pasadena to provide a unifying set of criteria for the site development improvements set forth in the proposed project. The criteria in the Design Guidelines would not have a significant impact on recreation.

### **3.11.5 Mitigation Measures**

#### **Measure Recreation-1**

Construction impacts on recreation resulting from temporary closure of existing recreational facilities during construction and expansion of recreational facilities shall be minimized through advance communication and redirection to the nearest comparable facility within the

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<sup>13</sup> City of Pasadena, 14 August 2000. Agenda Report to the City Council: *Rose Bowl Use Plan from Rose Bowl Operating Company*. Contact: 100 N. Garfield Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91109.

<sup>14</sup> City of Pasadena, 2002. *Arroyo Seco Draft Design Guidelines*. Prepared for the City of Pasadena, Parks and Natural Resources Department, 100 N. Garfield Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91109. Prepared by Forma Planning & Design, 17500 Red Hill Avenue, Suite 100, Irvine, CA 92614.

Arroyo Seco. Prior to completion of final plans and specifications, the City of Pasadena shall review the plans and specifications ensure that they contain language requiring the construction contractor to ensure that signs be posted at every entrance to the Arroyo Seco at least one month in advance of construction, indicating the proposed construction schedule and alternative recreation facilities (including location and hours of operation) located in the service area that can be used during the construction period. This measure will be monitored and enforced by the City of Pasadena Department of Public Works.

### **Measure Recreation - 2**

Construction impacts on recreation from temporary closure of appurtenant facilities, including restrooms, shall be minimized through advance communication and redirection to the nearest comparable facility within the Arroyo Seco. Prior to completion of final plans and specifications, the City of Pasadena shall review the plans and specifications to ensure that they contain language requiring that signs be posted at every restroom that is temporarily unavailable at least one month in advance of construction, indicating the proposed construction schedule and alternative restroom facilities that can be used during the construction period. The plans and specifications for each construction project requiring temporary closure of existing restroom facilities shall specify that the construction contractor shall be required to maintain temporary restroom facilities in place throughout the duration of restroom closures resulting from construction or expansion of restroom facilities. This measure will be monitored and enforced by the City of Pasadena Department of Public Works.

### **Measure Recreation-3**

Construction impacts to recreation resulting from temporary closure of play fields shall be minimized through advance communication and redirection to the nearest comparable facility within the Arroyo Seco. Prior to completion of final plans and specifications, the City of Pasadena shall review the plans and specifications to ensure that they contain language requiring that signs be posted at every play field that is temporarily unavailable at least one month in advance of construction, indicating the proposed construction schedule and alternative fields that can be used during the construction period. This measure will be monitored and enforced by the City of Pasadena Department of Public Works.

### **Measure Recreation-4**

Construction impacts to recreation resulting from temporary closure of designated parking spaces shall be minimized through advance communication and redirection to the nearest comparable facility within the Arroyo Seco. Prior to completion of final plans and specifications, the City of Pasadena shall review the plans and specifications to ensure that they contain language requiring that signs be posted at every parking facility that is temporarily unavailable at least one month in advance of construction, indicating the proposed construction schedule and alternative parking facilities that can be used during the construction period. This measure will be monitored and enforced by the City of Pasadena Department of Public Works.

### **Measure Recreation-5**

Construction impacts to recreation from temporary closures of trails shall be minimized through advance communication and redirection to the nearest comparable facility within the Arroyo Seco. Prior to completion of final plans and specifications, the City of Pasadena shall review the plans and specifications to ensure that they contain language requiring that signs be posted around all trail systems indicating that they are temporarily unavailable at least one month in advance of construction and the proposed construction schedule and alternative trails that can be used during the construction period. This measure shall be monitored and enforced by the City of Pasadena Department of Public Works.

#### **3.11.6 Level of Significance after Mitigation**

Implementation of Measure Recreation-1 through Measure Recreation-5 would be expected to reduce anticipated significant impacts to recreation resulting from construction of the proposed project below the level of significance.