



Department of Public Works
Parks and Natural Resources Division

DATE: DECEMBER 2, 2008

TO: RECREATION and PARKS COMMISSION

FROM: KATHLEEN WOODS, P&NR Administrator

SUBJECT: REVIEW AND COMMENT ON THE RENOVATION OF THE CASTING POND
IN THE LOWER ARROYO SECO

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and comment on the proposed renovation of the Casting Pond in the Lower Arroyo Seco Natural Park.

BACKGROUND:

The Casting Pond Renovation project is in the central portion of the Lower Arroyo Seco Natural Park. The project is located south of La Casita del Arroyo, west of Arroyo Boulevard, and immediately south of the park entry road (see the attached Project Location map). The Lower Arroyo Seco was adopted by the City Council in September 2003. The Casting Pond Renovation Project will primarily repair the pond surface with more sustainable materials that will seal the surface for improved water conservation; the pond is currently lined with asphalt that has proven over time to not be the appropriate material to contain the pond water. Other project benefits include a repaired drainage system for the pond, replacement of park furnishings, removal of the vast asphalt deck at the perimeter of the pond which will be replaced with a decomposed granite walkway with 30 pre-cast concrete pavers laid out around the perimeter of the pond to serve as casting stations (see attached Site Plan). Of the many projects in the Lower Arroyo Master Plan, the Casting Pond Renovation Project is fully funded, part of the City's adopted FY 2009 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), and ready to be implemented. Funding is provided by 1992 Proposition A Los Angeles County Park Bond funds and a generous donation from the Pasadena Casting Club that will assist with the construction costs. The Parks & Natural Resources Division of the Department of Public Works is charged with managing the implementation of the project.

This project will be presented to the Design Commission for review and comment later this month and for compliance with the Arroyo Seco Design Guidelines. The Arroyo Seco Design Guidelines were adopted by the City Council in February 2003. These guidelines state that:

All projects shall be subject to the requirements for design review pursuant to the Pasadena Municipal Code. Park improvements shall be subject to the City's Capital Improvements Projects (CIP) review process. As such, the Parks and Natural Resources Division Administrator shall find that the major improvement and/or CIP is in substantial conformance with the Arroyo Seco Design Guidelines and will initiate reviews by the City's Design Commission and Recreation and Parks Commission.

The following sections of the Arroyo Seco Design Guidelines particularly apply to the recommendations for the Casting Pond Renovation project. Chapter 4 of the Design Guidelines, entitled Cultural Resources , and specifically Section 4.2.2 Unique Setting, states:

The Lower Arroyo Seco (from Holly Street Bridge south to the South Pasadena boundary) is designated as a Landmark (Chapter 2.75 of the PMC). As such, all improvement plans in this area shall comply with Chapter 2.75 of the PMC.

Chapter 5 of the Design Guidelines, entitled Recreation, and specifically Chapter 5.6 Lakes and Ponds, states:

5.6.1 General Guidelines

- 1. All lakes and ponds shall be designed to maximize ease of maintenance and provide long-term durability.*
- 2. ADA accessibility shall be provided where feasible to all lakes and ponds.*
- 3. Improvements to lakes and ponds shall be of the highest quality craftsmanship and utilize the highest quality of materials.*
- 4. All water bodies shall be evaluated by appropriate experts.*
- 5. Lakes and ponds shall be designed to minimize loss of water.*

The Casting Pond Renovation Project is in complete conformance with the Lower Arroyo Seco Master Plan and the Arroyo Seco Design Guidelines. The project was part of a Master Categorical Exemption that was filed with the Los Angeles County Clerk in July 2001 for "Arroyo Seco On-going Operations and Maintenance Projects".

PROJECT HISTORY:

This project will preserve the existing casting pond built in 1947 for the purpose of practicing and teaching the principles of fly fishing. The Pasadena Casting Club was incorporated in 1947 by a gentleman named Herb Schefflin and thirty two other Pasadena anglers. The first casting pond was built in Oak Grove Park (now Hahamongna Watershed Park) by the City at cost of \$4500 and dedicated on June 13, 1948. Apparently in the way of the alignment of the Foothill Freeway, this original casting pond was condemned just five years later.

The Pasadena Casting Club (PCC) had established itself by this time and in a cooperative relationship with the City, funds received from the State of California were used to build the present pond in Lower Arroyo Park. The pond was dedicated on November 1, 1955 and clubhouse was completed in 1958.

Since then, PCC has continued its community outreach efforts to all who want to learn the sport by offering fly casting clinics for beginners and more advanced casters and regular classes are also held for fly tying. Monthly meetings are held by PCC at the clubhouse during the summer months and the clubhouse is open to the public every Sunday afternoon with instruction available for anyone interested. The club is committed to youth and provides multi-weekend Boy Scout Merit Badge

programs and also has offered customized classes to groups who seek them out, such as a recent group of wounded military veterans. The mission of the club is to play an important role in teaching youth and adults alike the value of a healthy natural environment and to use the sport of fly fishing as an educational tool in understanding and appreciating the importance of clean water, wild fish and sustainability.

PCC has had an on-going operating agreement with the city and serves as a steward to the casting pond, clubhouse and grounds. The pond provides a recreational experience beyond just PCC. There are frequent users of the benches and picnic tables provided around the pond. The pond has also been permitted to children's summer camps and has served as the venue for several environmental art exhibits. It is well known in the community as a focal point and gathering spot.

PROJECT ELEMENTS:

The project includes:

- Installation of a new pond surface over the existing asphalt surface, consisting of a neoprene membrane and 4 inches of reinforced shotcrete;
- A new concrete curb (earth-toned in color) around the perimeter of the pond to anchor the new membrane;
- Removal of 7675 sq. ft. of asphalt decking and pathways totaling approximately 50 tons
- New decomposed granite walkway to replace impermeable asphalt decking
- 30 new concrete casting stations (4 ft. x 4 ft. and earth toned) set in decomposed granite walkway to serve as casting stations;
- A relocated drain line and new drain location for improved maintenance;
- A new maintenance access ramp to facilitate maintenance of the pond;
- Replacement of existing deteriorated picnic tables and benches with new standard Arroyo Seco picnic table and bench for a total of 5 tables and 6 benches; and
- Replacement of the existing drinking fountain with a new ADA drinking fountain (same design as newly installed drinking fountains in Hahamongna Watershed Park)

All project elements will conform to the Arroyo Seco Design Guidelines and are expected to be installed and the project completed by summer 2009.

Respectfully submitted:

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Attachments:

Project Location Map
Casting Pond Renovation Site Plan