

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
DECEMBER 9, 2013

CORRESPONDENCE

UPDATE BY COUNTY OF
LOS ANGELES ON THE DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
AND PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES
FOR THE DEVIL'S GATE DAM
SEDIMENT REMOVAL PROJECT
(To be heard at 7:00 p.m. or thereafter)

12/09/2013
Item 18

TERRY E. TORNEK
PASADENA CITY COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT 7

MEMORANDUM

DATE: DECEMBER 3, 2013

To: KEITH LILLEY
LA COUNTY DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS

FROM: TERRY E. TORNEK

**SUBJECT: DEVIL'S GATE SEDIMENT REMOVAL & MANAGEMENT
PROJECT DEIR - COMMENTS**

I have had the opportunity to review the DEIR & I attended one of your public informational meetings as well as a presentation to the City Council's Municipal Services Committee. Unfortunately, I will be out of the country for your scheduled presentation to the Pasadena City Council on December 9, 2013.

While I am supportive of the need to remove sediment from behind the Devil's Gate dam, I am deeply concerned about the magnitude & pace of the proposed project, even Alternative 3, the "Environmentally Superior Alternative". I therefore wish to go on record with the following questions & comments.

- 1) The DEIR does not adequately explain the risks associated with the need to remove various quantities of sediment. It postulates the requirement to achieve a 2 DDE capacity without documenting that need. For example:
 - a) How frequently have storms associated with the Design Debris Event occurred? What is the shortest interval between such storms?
 - b) Why is the inundation plan presented to the County Board of Supervisors in 2011 not included in the DEIR? How extensive would the flooding be in the "deficient" areas shown on that plan?

Without knowing how real the threat is & truly understanding its magnitude, decision-makers cannot adequately evaluate the proposed project.

- 2) Why is the sediment removal schedule so aggressive? Could it be safely accomplished over a longer period of time?

TERRY E. TORNEK
PASADENA CITY COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT 7

It has been suggested that by removing the sediment more slowly, environmental consequences would be further mitigated & the FAST/sludging method could take advantage of additional storm-flow, thereby reducing the volume that would have to be trucked.

- 3) Please provide more specific information regarding the Reservoir Management phase.
 - a) How large does the Maintenance area really need to be?
 - b) Will the Maintenance area be completely denuded annually?

Pasadena has been working hard to protect the irreplaceable asset that is Hahamongna. Our planning has evolved as we have learned more about the natural wonders that it contains. While flood control & public safety must receive the highest priority, I fear that the proposed project is predicated on arbitrary targets, inadequately supported by real data & that it will inflict unnecessary environmental damage & incur excessive expense.