

**Iraheta, Alba**

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**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** RE: Lower Arroyo Access

**Subject: Lower Arroyo Access**

Dear Mr. Jomsky,

Please distribute my letter to the Council Members at the Pasadena City Council meeting on Monday September 16, 2013.

Mayor Bill Bogaard and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

The Arroyo Seco is Pasadena's Great Park. Assembled by concerned citizens over decades, the Arroyo Seco was given to the people of Pasadena as a public park, with the Lower Arroyo reserved for the enjoyment of nature, for hikers, walkers, birders, and equestrians.

Now a private club, the Pasadena Roving Archers, seeks to seize a significant portion of this wooded natural preserve for its exclusive use. Despite over 2 years of negotiations with the club, which has no legal claim to the land and pays a pittance for its use, the City is now about to give in to their demands, closing off this beautiful area to the public forever.

Ironically the peaceful pursuits to which the land was dedicated will be outlawed in favor of a private club that advocates the use of what can be considered a weapon. Until recently, walkers and archers co-existed, sharing access with civility.

Instead of awarding the exclusive use to one group, we urge that the Council grant a limited exclusive use to the club during specific hours on weekends, opening the area for passive recreation during the week. At the same time, we ask that the City proceed to prepare the Eaton Canyon shooting range for an archery range to be used during the week. This plan would provide the archers with an Olympic style shooting range that would be more beneficial to young people learning the sport than the current field range devoted to the practice of hunting.

As a regular user of the Lower Arroyo for walking and birdwatching, I cannot express enough my concern over these matters.

Sincerely,

Holly Rittenhouse

Sierra Madre, CA

LAW OFFICES  
**NEIL J. BARKER**  
 A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION  
 225 S. Lake Ave., Suite 300  
 Pasadena, California 91101  
 (626) 440-5980 / (626) 500-1417 FAX

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
 RECEIVED  
 2013 SEP 16 AM 9:04

DATE: September 16, 2013

RE: Lower Arroyo Archery Range Proposal  
Tonight's City Council Meeting - Agenda Item No. 13

TO: City of Pasadena Mayor's / City Manager's Office

FAX #: (626) 744-3727

FROM: Neil J. Barker

TOTAL PAGES (Including Cover Page): 5

TIME SENT: 7:45 a.m.

MESSAGE: Please deliver the attached letter to Mayor Bogaard, all Council members, and the City Manager ASAP for this evening's Council meeting – thank you

Confirmation Requested  No  Yes # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Original to be:  Mailed  Overnight Express  Hand Delivered

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IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE LEGIBLE COPIES OF ALL PAGES,  
 PLEASE CALL IMMEDIATELY AND ASK FOR Neil Barker

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LAW OFFICES

**NEIL J. BARKER**

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

225 S. LAKE AVENUE, SUITE 300  
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FACSIMILE: (626) 500-1417

September 16, 2013

Mayor William J. Bogaard  
Members of the Pasadena City Council  
Pasadena City Hall  
100 N. Garfield Ave.  
Pasadena, CA 91109

Re: Our client - Stewards of Public Land  
Lower Arroyo Archery Range Proposal  
City Council Agenda Item No. 13

Dear Mayor Bogaard and Council Members:

We write on behalf of Stewards of Public Land ("SOPL"), an organization of Pasadena residents concerned about use of public land resources within the City.

Your September 16, 2013 Council meeting agenda includes item 13, headed "Proposal for Lower Arroyo Archery Range and Deal Points for New Agreement with Pasadena Roving Archers". I regret that a prior commitment has me out of town, otherwise I would deliver these remarks in person.

The Lower Arroyo Seco is among the most cherished public lands in the City. The governing planning document, the Lower Arroyo Master Plan ("LAMP"), provides that "the Lower Arroyo be restored and preserved as a natural area park." SOPL urges you to embrace restoration and preservation of the Lower Arroyo as a natural area park as the first and foremost priority as you consider archery use in that area.

The staff report for this agenda item tells only part of the story. The mid-1990s saw a wonderful re-birth of the Lower Arroyo. Re-introduction of the stream beds brought back wildlife and increasing numbers of people who eagerly embraced the Lower Arroyo for jogging, exercising, birding, dog-walking, and horseback riding.

For many years, different users of the Lower Arroyo – walkers, birders, runners, horseback riders, and archers, among others - shared this precious natural resource comfortably, without difficulty or conflict. Regrettably, things have changed recently in disquieting ways. This agenda item comes before you not because things are going well, but because the profile of one of the Lower Arroyo's traditional user constituencies – the

Mayor William J. Bogaard  
Members of the Pasadena City Council  
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archers – is changing, both in size and profile, and in that in turn brings about increasing conflict and tension with other categories of users and neighboring property owners.

Dramatic growth in the number of archer users of the Lower Arroyo fuels this conflict and tension. They come from all over Southern California. The profile of archer users traditionally seen in Pasadena is changing. The new face of archery in the Lower Arroyo includes the following:

- Bows and arrows are far more powerful than ever before. Stories of arrows falling on hillsides private property and even taking flight over homes on South San Rafael Avenue are not unusual. One area property known to SOPL has been on the receiving end of more than seventy arrows that have fallen on the property or landed in the swimming pool. Some nearby hillside residents are fearful of using their backyards, rear patios, and other parts of their property for fear of getting hit by arrows.
- The powerful bows and arrows now used are not just amusing recreational playthings. They can be lethal weapons. Is it just a matter of time before a wayward arrow hits someone in the Lower Arroyo vicinity? What then?
- Cultural phenomena such as the Hunger Games movie have fed the increasing appetite for archery.
- Reports by Lower Arroyo trail users tell of another unwelcome trend: a growing number of archers who are demanding, threatening, and otherwise disrespectful, with incidents of yelling on a disturbing upswing. First-hand experience with and even just rumors about that now discourage some long-time walkers from going to the Lower Arroyo.
- The attitude of some archers who now use the Lower Arroyo is further evidenced by such disrespectful behavior there as drinking, smoking, and shooting of arrows even after nightfall, when the range supposedly is closed.

Adequate policing of the area to protect the reasonable expectations of all Lower Arroyo users and neighboring property owners has eluded the City's grasp.

There is no denying the obvious. The City has a problem on its hands. That is why this agenda item is before you.

SOPL welcomes the staff recommendation as a positive step in the right direction. The recommendation does not go nearly far enough, however. More should be done.

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1. Limit usage hours in Southern Range to weekends, combined with opening of new range for weekday use in Eaton Canyon near Pasadena Police Firing Range. The source of the problem with the Lower Arroyo archery range: too much demand. Eaton Canyon solves that problem. The Lower Arroyo is too fragile a natural resource to put up with the growing burdens placed upon it by escalating archer use. The Eaton Canyon site would be an ideal alternative. It can be covered for the time being, pending completion of environmental clean-up. Afterward, establishment there of an appropriately-sized range to serve the needs of the archer community on a long-term basis can be explored.

2. Situate targets to eliminate entirely, not just “minimize”, encroachment onto private property. The staff report states (on page 4, fifth paragraph) that “[a]ll targets will be located on public property and situated to enhance safety and *minimize encroachment onto private property*” [emphasis added]. “Minimizing” encroachment onto private property is not good enough; there should be no encroachment onto private property, period. Encroachment happens now because the City has turned a blind eye to the problem. A zero tolerance policy toward encroachment in any amount is essential. If that requires reduction or relocation of targets, then so be it.

3. Tighter monitoring of effectiveness of new license and operating agreement with PRA by limiting the agreement term to two years maximum. The staff proposes (page 6, second full paragraph) the “agreement term . . . as a one-year agreement with four one-year renewable options at the discretion of the City Manager.” That essentially means a five-year agreement if the City Manager so chooses. A shorter term is desirable given the seriousness of the current situation. The Lower Arroyo is too important a natural resource to everyone in Pasadena for the strain posed by archer use to be put on the back burner for the next five years. The matter should be brought back to the Council within two years.

4. Removal and/or locking of targets when range closed. Target access after hours contributes to the current untenable situation of unruly users (see previous page, fifth highlighted point).

5. Increased presence of range officers to assure safety. The staff report gives this scant attention. It does little good to have more rules in place without sufficient enforcement oversight. If cost is a consideration, that should be factored in to the fees charged to PRA under the new agreement.

6. All archer users of Lower Arroyo range to be PRA members. PRA has a vested interest in the success of the proposed arrangement and curbing renegade use of the Lower Arroyo. PRA is in the best position through use of its persuasive power and influence to motivate its membership to be good stewards of the Lower Arroyo. Requiring users of the Lower Arroyo range to be PRA members will go a long way to

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improve the current relationship between the archer community and other user constituencies.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this difficult, but hopefully solvable, situation.

Sincerely yours,

NEIL J. BARKER,  
A Professional Corporation

*/s/ Neil J. Barker*

By: Neil J. Barker

cc: Michael Beck, City Manager  
Stewards of Public Land

200nb013

Dianne Philibosian, Ph.D.  
436 South Arroyo Boulevard  
Pasadena, CA 91105  
626-440-0585

September 15, 2013

Mayor Bill Bogaard and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

As a former president of the Arroyo Seco Foundation and resident in Pasadena since 1976, I urge you not to close off a significant part of the Arroyo Seco for the exclusive use of a special interest group. The Lower Arroyo Master Plan clearly states that the Lower Arroyo should be devoted to passive recreation with the central Arroyo available for organized sports and activities. Closing off a large section of the Arroyo, equivalent to seven Rose Bowl fields, to public access is a **violation of public trust**. This is an area of open parkland for use by walkers, equestrians, bird watchers, botanists, and others who will be **permanently excluded from entering a large oak woodland area** if the agenda report (Proposal for Lower Arroyo Archery Range and Deal Points for New Agreement with Pasadena Roving Archers) is accepted.

As an alternative, I would suggest that you defer action on this agenda item in order to explore a use agreement that would provide **LIMITED exclusivity** rather than TOTAL exclusivity and allow for a shared use. Granting the Roving Archers use of the archery range for designated weekend hours during tournaments and allowing other uses during the week seems to be a fair compromise. In addition, I encourage the City to explore the development of the Eaton Canyon shooting range for use by archers who wish to practice during the week and weekends.

Respectfully submitted,



Dianne Philibosian  
Pasadena Resident

**Iraheta, Alba**

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**Subject:** FW: Lower Arroyo

**From:** Hatsumi Kitani <[momkitani@yahoo.com](mailto:momkitani@yahoo.com)>

**Date:** September 15, 2013, 6:42:25 PM PDT

**To:** "[mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net)" <[mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:mjomsky@cityofpasadena.net)>

**Subject:** Lower Arroyo

**Reply-To:** Hatsumi Kitani <[momkitani@yahoo.com](mailto:momkitani@yahoo.com)>

Dear members of the Pasadena City Council:

As a regular user of the Lower Arroyo, I object too awarding exclusive use of any pat of the Lower Arroyo to the Pasadena Roving Arches. This is an unconscionable award of public land to a private club, which reduces access to precious open space for all.

Hatsumi Kitani  
resident of Pasadena, Ca.



## Jomsky, Mark

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**From:** Paul Little <Paul@pasadena-chamber.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2013 10:46 AM  
**To:** City\_Council  
**Cc:** Beck, Michael; Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** Pasadena Chamber support for Pasadena Roving Archers agreement  
**Attachments:** Roving Archers agreement support letter 9-13.pdf

Good morning.

Attached is a letter from the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce supporting the agreement between the City of Pasadena and the Pasadena Roving Archers. While they may not draw tens of thousands of visitors, as the Rose Bowl does, there is a positive economic impact in Pasadena as a result of the Roving Archers activities.

Please include this as public comment for the item on tonight's City Council agenda.

Thank you,

Paul

*Paul Little*

Paul Little  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Pasadena Chamber of Commerce  
844 East Green Street, Suite 208  
Pasadena, CA 91101  
626-795-3355  
[www.pasadena-chamber.org](http://www.pasadena-chamber.org)

**Exchange** Message Security: [Check Authenticity](#)



September 12, 2013

Mayor Bill Bogaard and Pasadena City Council  
100 North Garfield Avenue  
Pasadena, CA  
VIA EMAIL

RE: Support for Pasadena Roving Archers Agreement

Dear Mayor Bogaard and City Council members,

The Pasadena Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the agreement proposed between the City of Pasadena and the Pasadena Roving Archers. The agreement preserves an important resource in the Lower Arroyo and protects the interests of the City of Pasadena.

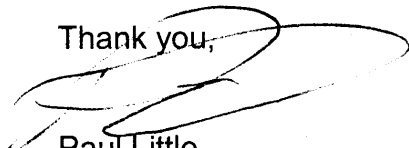
The Pasadena Roving Archers have been in the Lower Arroyo for 70 years. In all that time, they have operated in a safe, respectful manner while providing an opportunity for novices to learn archery and safety and been a place for experienced and competitive archers to practice.

The Pasadena Roving Archers are another unique attraction for the City of Pasadena. While they may not attract the numbers and volume the Rose Bowl does, they remain an important facility for archery practitioners from throughout the region.

The agreement between the Pasadena Roving Archers and the City provides for insurance requirements, usage schedules and payments to the city. The agreement mirrors those with other sports-related non-profit organizations such as AYSO.

The Pasadena Chamber appreciates that the Pasadena Roving Archers are a historic and important recreation element in the Lower Arroyo and encourage the City Council to support the agreement and continue the relationship with the Pasadena Roving Archers.

Thank you,



Paul Little  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Pasadena Chamber of Commerce

CC: M. Jomsky, M. Beck,

10 September 2013

CITY CLERK  
13 SEP 16 09:34AM

Re: September 16 Council Meeting  
Agenda Item: Archery Range

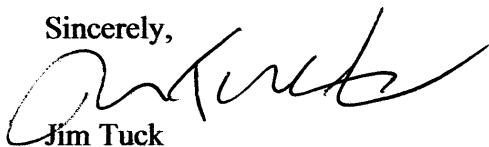
Dear Mayor Bogaard and Members of the Pasadena City Council,

I am a walker and a birder, and I frequent the Lower Arroyo, where I have personally seen many kinds of wildlife, including bobcats and a wide array of birds. The Lower Arroyo is on a migratory path and is rich in birdlife. I frequent the Audubon trail on the west side of the Arroyo, in the area that will be closed to walkers and birders if the proposal you are considering is approved.

A few years ago I saw a fine red-tailed hawk flying around the area with an arrow through its body. I tried to capture it to take to the Humane Society, and I called the Humane Society who sent a crew to try to capture it as well. We were unsuccessful. I saw the bird on three successive days, but then it was gone. Seeing the suffering of this wild creature was not only unsettling, but it made me realize that the archery range is not a benign sport in an area that is supposed to be devoted to the preservation and restoration of wildlife and habitat. Clearly it is impossible to control the actions of individual archers who may act irresponsibly.

I urge you to act in the interest of all the users of public park land in Pasadena and also in the interest of the preservation and restoration of wildlife and habitat in the Lower Arroyo. The archery range should be moved to the former shooting range in Eaton Canyon, where it will not be a danger to park users, close off an important Audubon trail, or impact protected wildlife habitat.

Sincerely,



Jim Tuck  
687 Prospect Crescent  
Pasadena, CA 91103

9/16/2013  
ITEM # 13

Thomas D. Seifert  
436 South Arroyo Boulevard  
Pasadena, CA 91105  
626-440-0585

September 15, 2013

Mayor Bill Bogaard and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

As a former Chair of the Recreation and Parks Commission and Pasadena resident since 1979, I urge you not to close off a significant part of the Arroyo Seco for the exclusive use of a special interest group. The Lower Arroyo Master Plan clearly states that the Lower Arroyo should be devoted to passive recreation with the central Arroyo available for organized sports and activities. Closing off a large section of the Arroyo, equivalent to seven Rose Bowl fields, to public access is a **violation of public trust**. This is an area of open parkland for use by walkers, equestrians, bird watchers, botanists, and others who will be **permanently excluded from entering a large oak woodland area** if the agenda report (Proposal for Lower Arroyo Archery Range and Deal Points for New Agreement with Pasadena Roving Archers) is accepted.

As an alternative, I would suggest that you defer action on this agenda item in order to explore a use agreement that would provide **LIMITED exclusivity** rather than TOTAL exclusivity and allow for a shared use. Granting the Roving Archers use of the archery range for designated weekend hours during tournaments and allowing other uses during the week seems to be a fair compromise. In addition, I encourage the City to explore the development of the Eaton Canyon shooting range for use by archers who wish to practice during the week and weekends.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Tom Seifert*  
Thomas D. Seifert  
Pasadena Resident

Continued....

9/16/2013  
ITEM # 13

Additionally, to enter an agreement to close off virtually half the Lower Arroyo in return for an estimated \$8,000 per year and to conclude such an agreement without first seeing the PRA membership roster is beyond my comprehension.

**Jomsky, Mark**

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**From:** jturovsky@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2013 11:56 AM  
**To:** Jomsky, Mark; Bogaard, Bill  
**Subject:** archers in the arroyo

**Dear Members of the Pasadena City Council:**

**I walk every day with my dog in the lower arroyo.**

**We feel very fortunate to enjoy such a beautiful natural oasis in the middle of a city.**

**We object vehemently to the proposal of restricting access to this wonderland so people with weapons can wander freely.**

**Unless you spend a lot of time here, as we do, you have no idea how threatening it can be to share this space with armed individuals.**

**Unless you have guards here 24/7, you will never be able to control the random crazy person with a bow and arrow.**

**The only thing that makes any sense regarding archery access is supervised classes at specific times.**

**The city of Pasadena continues to flirt with disaster and it is beyond my understanding how you can let this happen.**

**I urge you to consider the consequences of your actions.**

**JoAnn Turovsky  
1550 Washburn Road  
Pasadena, CA 91105**

## Jomsky, Mark

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**From:** Wendy Gilmore <gilmorewg@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2013 11:57 AM  
**To:** Bogaard, Bill  
**Cc:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Subject:** Arroyo Seco  
**Attachments:** 1Archery Range Rodent Poison 6Jan2012.pdf; 1Archery Range Rodent Poison 6Jan2012.pdf

To Mayor Bill Bogaard and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

I am a daily user of the trails in the Lower Arroyo Seco Park, and I offer the following concerns that have led me to oppose granting exclusive use of a large section of the arroyo by the Pasadena Roving Archers and fellow non-member archers. They revolve around safety, environmental impact, PRA position of non-compromise, lack of input by non-archer arroyo users, and exclusive use of a public space by a private club.

**Safety:** There is evidence that safe practices are not appropriately monitored, for the public, and between fellow archers. Arrows have been found in the yards of residents west of the range--away from the walking trails. I have personally witnessed children aiming arrows (in drawn bows) at each other, unsupervised. Archery range rules for non-PRA members and the public are not posted. I have also witnessed archers "hunting" tennis balls in bushes adjacent to walking trails away from the archery range. The proposal to erect barriers present an additional safety issue--natural or not, they may limit visibility of non-archers by archers, creating a false sense of security and risk of injury or accident.

**Environmental impact:** There is minimal concern for environmental impact of range use (see attached photos of the presence of d-CON in and around straw targets). This is not only impacts wildlife, but may also be inadvertently consumed by people, especially children. Trails have been modified, threatening native plants and wildlife habitats. Trash (paper targets, paper and plastic plates, cups, candy wrappers) is a constant problem throughout the range. Trash bins overflow with food and food containers, left for forage by wildlife. Coyotes regularly raid these, and have becoming increasingly bold--an additional threat to people.

**PRA position of non-compromise:** Unfortunately, the PRA has been resistant to compromise, which is essential to equitable sharing of public spaces. Archers and non-archers have enjoyed a relatively peaceful co-existence for many years. This has changed significantly in the last few years. Although many of the archers are courteous and friendly, there are others who are intimidating and threatening --- and armed. I've attached a copy of a blog written by a PRA member who eventually was asked to apologize for his rhetoric--too little and too late. Responses to the blog and comments by archers in other forums reveal a ripple of disregard for the public, negotiation and review processes that often either rise to the level of outright conflict, or that increase the risk of conflict. The attached photo of a log chained to a post to discourage use of the south range indicate a willingness to take action in their own hands, presumably without review. All of this discourages meaningful and productive dialogue between non-archers (many of whom support shared use), archers and other interested parties.

**Lack of input by non-archer arroyo users:** The PRA is a well-organized group of individuals who dominate conversations and negotiations. In a very short period of time, they can generate support for their wishes and opposition to any voice not in agreement with their intentions. Other users of the arroyo are not organized as a group--they are individuals like you and me, walkers and nature lovers, equestrians, runners, science classes, artists, marathon and high school cross country training teams, and so many more. I don't have any numbers to offer you, but I suspect that we outnumber the archers by the dozens. Nevertheless, we have to fight to find out what the issues are, how the negotiations are going, and how we can lend our voice to enjoy the quiet and beauty of this marvelous park.

**Exclusive use of a public space by a private club.** Although I am not well-informed about the policies and procedures governing the use of public spaces, the notion of granting exclusive, 24/7 use of a natural park by a private club is clearly at odds with the public. It sets an unusual precedent for current and future use of public parks--something that the city might regret.

I know that I'm late sending this email to you, but since I may not be able to attend the City Council meeting this evening, I hope that my comments can be incorporated into the discussions.

Respectfully,

Wendy Gilmore  
Alhambra  
Daily Arroyo User





**South Arroyo Seco Archery Range (January 6, 2012)**  
**D-con rodent poison behind one out of the six targets near the bridge**



**South Arroyo Seco Archery Range (January 6, 2012)  
D-con rodent poison behind target #7**



**South Arroyo Seco Archery Range (January 6, 2012)  
D-con rodent poison in front of (photo B) and behind (photos C & D)  
target #15 (photo A)**



**South Arroyo Seco Archery Range (January 6, 2012)**  
**D-con rodent poison behind target #16**



**South Arroyo Seco Archery Range (January 6, 2012)**  
**D-con rodent poison in front of target #17**



**South Arroyo Seco Archery Range (January 6, 2012)  
D-con rodent poison behind target #18**



**South Arroyo Seco Archery Range (January 6, 2012)  
D-con rodent poison behind target #20**



## Here we go again...

Posted on May 15, 2013

After the Recreation & Parks Commission voted to support the archery range in every way possible back in November 2011, the arrogant swine leading the anti-archery campaign got very quiet. It probably didn't help their cause that two major motion pictures (*Hunger Games* and *Brave*) came out in the spring, both prominently featuring archery and promoting the sport to the point that every shop in the country ran out of equipment. Louis Vuitton featured an archery theme in their window displays at every store in the world. Archery was added to several TV shows, was featured in several more movies, and the sport became so popular in the US that there were news stories about the phenomenon in Australia. By the time the Summer Olympics rolled around, archery became the most-watched event on cable TV. The TV show *Arrow* became the highest-rated new show of the season. Several archery-themed reality shows are currently in development.

Meanwhile, Queen Claire the First has been quietly meeting with members of the City Council, bringing them down to walk the range and filling their heads with false information about the range's history and operation. Her plan is to convince the Council to ignore the Recreation & Parks Commission's recommendations and give her whatever she demands, regardless of whether it makes sense or even is legal.

This week, we were informed that there is a special Rec & Parks Commission meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 21, at which the city will present their "proposal for a new operating agreement with the Pasadena Roving Archers." I put that in quotes, because the bulk of their proposal has nothing to do with PRA at all; it's simply about restricting the use of the range for archery entirely and imposing egregious and abusive conditions on users at what's left of the range. Here are the big points:

**Say goodbye to almost half the range.** Targets 20-28 will be locked up in enclosures (to be paid for and maintained by PRA at their own expense, of course) and archery prohibited in that area except for PRA tournament use on Sunday mornings. The rest of the time it will be a new hiking trail, a direct violation of the Pasadena Municipal Code, which prohibits the expansion of any recreational program in the Lower Arroyo.

**Self-taught archers stay out.** Once the deal is inked, anyone wishing to use the archery range during times other than the Saturday classes or Sunday tournaments will have to show a card proving they've taken a basic archery training class that the PRA is obligated to offer and administrate on behalf of the city at their own expense. Shooting without that card will get you a citation and fine.

**Say goodbye to your privacy.** That certification card? The city will issue it to you by mail, and it will have



your photo on it. The city is demanding that PRA take a photo of everyone who takes the classes (and presumably everyone who has already taken them and wants to come back on their own time). PRA is supposed to submit these photos, along with the students' personal information, to an unspecified office at the city which will be tasked with creating and mailing these ID cards at taxpayer expense for no good reason other than to make things complicated and difficult for everyone.

**Say goodbye to on-site storage.** From 1935 to 2002, there was a building on the archery range where the club could store equipment; first it was down around target 17 or so, then in 1945 a new one was built not far from the footbridge. In 2002, the building was destroyed by arson. For a few years after, the club stored all gear in members' garages and transported it to the range in their personal vehicles; they parked near the practice area and used the trucks as their base of operations, until eventually a donor provided the large metal storage bin currently being used, which was installed with city permission. The new deal proposal is a double-whammy; it requires that the storage bin be removed, and that the volunteer club members return to the burdensome practice of hauling in all the equipment needed for classes and tournaments every weekend, and they aren't allowed to drive onto the range to do it. One parking space in the tiny parking lot will be allocated for a vehicle; apparently the instructors or other volunteers will have to off-load the gear there and carry it to the range; roughly a hundred bows, several dozen sets of arrows, target faces, boxes of arm guards and finger-tabs, etc. Vehicles are only allowed across the bridge for "maintenance" purposes.

This is nothing but a back-door attempt to destroy a thriving and popular program, solely because a small handful of nearby residents don't like the range. They don't like the range because it "attracts the wrong element," which is to say people who aren't filthy rich." This is nothing but an exercise of power abuse by the well-connected crowd that's controlled the city for several decades too long.

We need you to come to the Recreation & Parks Commission meeting on May 21 and tell Queen Claire the First that she can't have whatever she wants just because she wants it.

Posted in **Action, The Range** | Tagged **city council, recreation parks commission, regulation** | [Leave a reply](#)

## An interesting insight

Posted on **December 26, 2011**

On December 23, an article appeared on the LA Times website concerning the Pasadena Tournament of Roses and its floats.

Of particular interest is this quote: "*At Phoenix Decorating's Rosemont Pavilion, one of two facilities the*

*company maintains in Pasadena, dry decoration is nearly complete.”*

Huh. “Phoenix Decorating’s Rosemont Pavilion.” Really.

As I understand it, the Rosemont Pavilion was built by, maintained by, and is owned by the city of Pasadena. In fact, according to the city documents I read at the Pasadena History Museum some time ago, there was considerable discussion of this very topic by the city’s then-board of directors; it was recorded in the minutes that the Rosemont Pavilion would only be constructed if it were a multi-use facility and available for a variety of recreational uses in addition to being used seasonally by the TOR.

Up until October 2002, the Pasadena Roving Archers’ youth program conducted regular evening practice sessions in the Rosemont, before suddenly being unceremoniously booted out and told that it was “an inappropriate use of the facility.” I assume that this was around the time the building was deeded to Phoenix Floats.

This is how things are done in Pasadena. The white-suited fascists of the Tournament of Roses can throw their weight around, unjustly harass and arrest t-shirt vendors on bogus trumped-up charges (at city expense and using city resources to protect their corporate trademarks), and apparently can seize city property for their own purposes without any public discussion of the matter.

Just another example of how the rich and arrogant of the city can do whatever they want.

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

## Ignorance in action

Posted on **December 1, 2011**

An archer was cited on Monday, November 19 for “unsafe use of archery equipment” and his bow confiscated. It is unclear what law enforcement agency took this action; the Pasadena police have no record of a call for service at the range that day, and the archer was required to appear in downtown Los Angeles on Wednesday, November 21, rather than the Pasadena courthouse or police station.

Upon his arrival at the downtown location, the archer was informed that the charges had been dropped and his bow was returned. There was some damage to the bow as a result of the officers’ negligent handling. At no time was the archer ever informed as to what law he was accused of breaking, or what exactly he had done that was supposed to be unsafe, despite asking several times.

The archer told me this account of the events: On Monday morning, about 7:30 AM, he was practicing on the range. He shoots a compound bow, but has become interested in traditional archery, so he has removed the sight from his bow and begun shooting using fingers rather than a mechanical release in order to learn to shoot instinctively in preparation for transition to a longbow. He was shooting at target 14, which is one of the two longest distances on the range, from the 80-yard marker, when two officers approached from the north, coming from the parking lot. While still some distance away, one of the officers shouted "put the bow on the ground and step away!" Not wanting to get dirt into his bow, the archer asked if he could instead hang it on the nearby bow-stand, but was again ordered to put it on the ground and step away from it. He complied with the instruction, and the officers approached. The officer who had shouted was extremely aggressive; when the archer asked what he was doing wrong, he was told that he was being unsafe, and no more information was given.

The officers then escorted him to his car and asked to search his trunk for "more weapons." He complied, they found nothing, and had him sign a form identifying his bow as seized property.

The reason this happened: Target 14 is one of the targets that was moved last year due to the city's survey indicating that it was located on private property. Because of the move, there is no longer enough room for the 80-yard marker to be in the shooting lane; the distance would require shooting across the hiking trail, an unsafe and illegal action. In order to achieve the 80-yard distance, the marker was moved about 10 feet north of the shooting lane. Archers at this distance now shoot at a slight angle to the target, but they are inside the range area and are acting in a perfectly safe manner.

Evidently, someone saw this archer practicing and erroneously concluded that he was shooting unsafely. This person evidently called, not the police, but an officer in another agency, possibly LA County Sheriffs, who came down and conducted this gestapo action.

The person who called is most likely one of the privileged and arrogant neighbors trying to eliminate the range; his/her utter ignorance of the sport, combined with the ignorance and arrogance of the arresting officer, resulted in a completely unnecessary waste of everyone's time.

On a side-note, I was also informed that the archer seen by Mrs Bogaard and Councilman Gordo on November 10, allegedly "shooting across the trail" was actually an archer at the 80-yard marker of Target 14, who explained to them exactly what he was doing and why. They chose for whatever reason to mischaracterize it as something other than what it was in order to promote the myth of unsafe practices on the range.

Posted in **The Range** | [Leave a reply](#)

## A little history

Posted on **November 29, 2011**

Here's an interesting article about our Mayor's wife and her interest in Pasadena's parks:

Pasadena Weekly: No Room for Jazz

"To her, parks are for families and picnics and children's games, not public events that she says can not only damage the grounds but prevent residents from enjoying them."

This is what we're up against. Mrs. Bogaard has absolutely no compunctions about imposing her will on everyone else, and is perfectly happy to do so behind the scenes and away from public scrutiny. Like all elitist snobs, she believes that she knows best, and that everyone must enjoy doing what she enjoys doing. She likes dog-walking and picnics, so in her mind, those are the only things anyone should ever be allowed to do in "her" parks. It never once occurs to her that many (if not most) of the people attending those public events were Pasadena residents. It never occurred to her that the public awareness, goodwill and revenue generated by these events were good for the city. She doesn't like jazz concerts, so you can't have one.

She also doesn't like archery. If you do, you'd better speak up loud and clear, and do it soon, because Mrs. Bogaard is right now doing exactly what she did in 2005; she is privately lobbying the members of City Council, using her husband's political machine to impose her opinion on the city without benefit of a popular vote. She is trying to convince the Council, especially the members of the Safety Committee, to ignore the Recreation & Parks Commission's recommendation, ignore the police department's report, and ignore the public's stated desire for an archery range.

If she gets her way, archery will be just one more in the long list of unique and special things that Pasadena used to have. She has done it in the past; were you asked how you felt about the Pasadena Summer Fest, Playboy Jazz Festival, Del Mano Art Fair, and all the other great public events that we can't have anymore because Mrs. Bogaard didn't like them? Do you remember voting for any of them to be discontinued?

"In December 2005, Pasadena City Council members adopted new policies for large events in public parks that both limit the size and frequency of scheduled events." This scheme was pushed through behind the scenes with very little public notice, entirely through the Bogaards' good old fashioned cronyism. Claire wants it, and so it shall be. None of the City Council members thought to ask their constituents what they wanted; they just kept Claire happy, as they always do.

Are we going to continue to allow our city to kowtow to the whims and wishes of one self-important citizen who thinks she owns Pasadena? It's time to depose Queen Claire the First. Please call, write or email your

City Council representative today and inform them in no uncertain terms that you object to Mrs. Bogaard's attempts to subvert the will of the people.

Posted in [Action](#), [The Range](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

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## Progress report

Posted on **November 22, 2011**

The archery range will NOT be going before the Public Safety committee on December 6, as was previously believed. The hearing was postponed so that some new ideas can be considered.

Some of the recent suggestions for resolving the situation are actually quite brilliant; they give the elitists what they claim to want, so if they reject this idea it's clearly because what they actually want is something entirely different from what they say they want. We all know that what they really want is a private park with no archery range.

Posted in [The Range](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

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## Round Two

Posted on **November 12, 2011**

Last week, while we were on the range, Councilman Victor Gordo came through, taking a walking tour of the range guided by Mrs. Bogaard. Since Mrs. Bogaard by her own admission has exactly zero knowledge of archery or archery safety, and has on several occasions repeated the same false claims that have been thoroughly discredited in public forums, she is in no way qualified to conduct any such tour, but there it is.

My wife ran into them while they were on the east side of the flood control channel, and they seemed surprised to find that we were still there, since our class had ended an hour earlier (as it happened, our kids decided to come down with some friends for a session). The two of them then went north on the east side, so we figured they would come down the west side in a little while, which they did.

Before they reappeared, an odd thing happened. Two guys that we'd never seen before showed up on the range with a bow case in hand. They seemed to be unsure of where to go, finally heading north toward the sighting-in target. I debated whether I should go over and tell them not to shoot there, since it's only supposed to be used on Sunday tournament days, but finally decided that since (a) that policy has not been

officially adopted by the city and (b) there are no signs to that effect currently posted, I would let it go. It became a moot point; the two stayed on the north range for only a minute or two before abruptly turning and heading for the south range. There was something odd about them that I was unable to put my finger on; maybe the fact that most archers take their bows out of the case in the parking lot, or possibly their sudden change of plan. In any case, I noticed them and was immediately curious about what they were up to.

A few minutes later, Mrs Bogaard and Councilman Gordo strolled down from the north. We chatted with them for a few minutes, mostly because I enjoyed the fact that Mrs. Bogaard was clearly uncomfortable having to be civil toward me. Gordo had his young son with him, and we invited him to the Saturday class. He ended up keeping a broken arrow as a souvenir, and they went on their way.

Later in the week, we were informed that further down-range, the Mayor's wife and the Councilman came upon an archer shooting across the hiking trail.

~~I can't prove it, but I am certain that (a) the archer they saw was one of the two guys I noticed earlier, and (b) the whole scene was deliberately staged.~~ UPDATE: The archer in question was at target 14, shooting from the marked 80-yard position, which was (target has been removed) about 10 feet to the north of the marked shooting lane because the target had to be repositioned due to the city's erroneous identification of the property line in an earlier survey. The archer was not shooting across the hiking trail, and he explained that to Mrs. Bogaard and Mr. Gordo. Mrs. Bogaard, being fundamentally mendacious, chose to create her own false version of the events. We know that these elitists will stop at nothing, will stoop to any depths, will lie, prevaricate, distort, misrepresent, and do anything at all to get their way. I would not for one second put it past them to fake something like this. I have no doubt that Mrs. Bogaard is planning to bring each and every member of the city council down to the range for a similar tour, always when the PRA is unlikely to be present, and every one of them will "coincidentally" encounter an archer shooting across the hiking trail, "proving" how dangerous the range is.

Despite being told by the police, the Recreation & Parks Commission, the Pasadena Municipal Code, and the public, that it is inherently dangerous to allow other activities in the middle of an archery range (or a golf course, casting pond, baseball diamond, skate park, or other designated activity area), the privileged and connected are continuing to attempt to subvert the process and get their way.

Make no mistake: They don't want "shared use." They don't want to walk in "the nicest part of the Arroyo" (a flat-out lie). It isn't about the environment, or nature, or dog-walking, or safety or anything else. They want us out. Period. They have said repeatedly that it is **THEIR** Arroyo, it belongs to the neighbors, and they demand "no outsiders."

Lower Arroyo Park is the only park in Pasadena that has no public transit access; the nearest bus stop is over a mile away. There are no signs anywhere indicating the presence or location of the park, other than

the one sign at the entrance.

Mrs. Bogaard is willing to do whatever it takes to get her own private dog-run in the middle of what will, if she gets her way, someday be the former archery range. Mayor Bogaard is willing to do whatever it takes to give his wife and his loyal donors/friends whatever they want. And what they want is to do exactly as they did to the target range in 1975; tear it out under false pretenses and plant trees on it to hide their dirty deed. They will stop at nothing.

The only things that can stop them are thundering public outrage or a lawsuit. We may have to eventually resort to the latter, but first we need to try the former. Shame them.

Call your council-person and ask them to come down to the range for a real tour of the area, led by somebody who actually knows what they are talking about. Tell them that the law is clear: archery is a permitted activity and the law says every activity has to be confined to its defined area. It is an archery range and it can't be anything else at the same time. "Shared use" is inherently dangerous, a recipe for accidents; there is no safe way to share the range. There are 22 miles of hiking trails outside the range that are perfectly safe to walk on (except when somebody is staging a fake incident of rule-breaking in order to con people), and there is no reason for any change other than once and for all telling the rich white overlords "no, you can't take this."

If they get "shared use," it will be less than a year before archery is banned on the range due to manufactured "safety concerns." It's called incrementalism. They are trying to take the range away one little bit at a time.

Unless you stop them.

Posted in [Action](#), [The Range](#) | [2 Replies](#)

## **We won this round, but we're not done.**

Posted on **November 2, 2011**

Last night the Recreation & Parks Commission voted to support the archery range in every way possible, even going so far as to attach a general statement rejecting the very concept of "shared use" of the area. They told the city very clearly that (a) it's an archery range; (b) there should be no restriction of archery by times and/or days; and (c) it should not be the PRA's responsibility to provide supervision of the range when they aren't running an event or class. They also addressed the issue of revenue, specifying that the costs of maintaining the range should come out of the city's portion of the revenue derived from the use of the range,

such as tournament fees and instruction charges.

All in all, it went as well as it could possibly go. Though Ann Scheid voted against most of the items, she was all alone in that. Apart from her, the commission was very fair, mindful of the range's history, our value to the city and region, the real facts of archery safety (as opposed to the boogie-man scare tactics trotted out by the opposition), and the absurdity of the anti-archery contingent's demands.

It helped a lot that of the relatively few people who spoke in favor of "shared use," two of the more prominent advocates stood up and stated that the proposal before the commission was unfair and went too far. Pretty much the only people who supported the staff proposal were Ann Scheid (who probably wrote it, based on some of the language used in it), Claire Bogaard, and John Favre (who started the whole brouhaha just as he did 20 years ago, and as he will continue to do in the future).

I actually felt sorry for Charles Peretz, the guy from Public Works who was tasked with presenting this proposal and defending it. In advertising, there is a term for trying to sell a bad product, or trying to make an ill-thought campaign look good: "putting lipstick on a pig." The less polite call it "turd-polishing." No matter how much lipstick you put on a pig, it's still a pig, and no matter how much you polish a turd, it's still a turd. That's the job Peretz was handed, and to his credit, he tried hard to do it. It's pretty obvious that he didn't write the proposal, or at least that he was directed by higher-ups as to what it had to include. The idea to limit hours was arbitrary and had not been broached at all in the Subcommittee meetings, had not been proposed by any of the people speaking at the various public meetings; city staff had no basis for building their proposal around this out-of-left-field idea. The only possible explanation is they were told to do so.

The writing style and content were very similar to the "anonymous" proposal submitted by "the neighbors" back in the spring; that proposal, according to the document properties, was authored by Scheid. When this new proposal was going down in flames, Scheid attempted to re-write it on the spot, proposing that the limitation be based on set days rather than hours. She seemed well-versed in the details of the plan, far more than any of the other commissioners.

Scheid took exception to having been portrayed as an elitist or "plutocrat," even getting emotional when describing her working-class background. I'll take her at her word; she's not an elitist snob. But she is a faithful lackey of the Bogaard Political Machine, working very hard to advance the elitist cause of her good friend Mrs. Bogaard and carry out the wishes of neighbor John Favre's pet councilman, the man who appointed her to this commission. She is also a very bad historian, one willing to distort and suppress facts in order to advance her political agenda. She is also unethical, secretly writing documents intended to undermine and subvert the subcommittee she chairs, doing everything in her power to defeat the democratic process, and spewing out pseudo-historic claptrap, exploiting her status as a self-proclaimed historian to muddy the waters and sell her pals' abusive and oppressive proposal.

At one point, she tried the old reliable "straw man" argument, in which she attacked a claim that nobody



had made in order to give the illusion of being correct. She falsely claimed that the PRA asserted there had never been an archery accident, a "claim" she then refuted by citing the case of a woman who was thrown from her horse when it was struck by an arrow. She reported that because of this case, the city of Los Angeles enacted restrictions on the practice of archery. I have not yet had time to go to the library and look up this case, but from the context of her statement, it's clear that this happened very long ago, possibly even in the 1800s; it did not happen on an archery range, and it certainly did not happen in Pasadena. In other words, it is utterly irrelevant.

The PRA has never claimed that no archery accidents have ever occurred. In fact, they have done the exact opposite, they have cited the government statistics for archery-related injuries; 0.69 injuries per 1000 participants. This is half the rate for fishing and about a quarter the rate for golf, and a tiny fraction of the rates for all other sports. What the PRA has said repeatedly is that there has never been a shooting injury on the range. Nobody has ever been hit by an arrow at the Pasadena range. That fact stands, despite Ms. Scheid's irrelevant ramblings about horses in some other part of the county many decades past.

So what happens next? Apparently, the proposal and the Commission's recommendation will go to the Public Safety Committee, which meets on the first and third Monday of each month at 4:15 PM. This committee is made up of four city councilpersons, specifically Steve Madison (chair), Gene Masuda, Margaret McAustin, and Jacque Robinson.

Madison is obviously going to push hard to carry out the wishes of his donor and his mentor's wife. We can count on solid opposition there.

Gene Masuda was elected in spite of the Bogaard Machine, having received no endorsements from any sitting councilmen. He will not be voting out of Pavlovian loyalty, so we have to make our case and convince him. My hunch is he's a man who values common sense, so this should be an open-and-shut case, but I'm not assuming anything.

Margaret McAustin represents Bungalow Heaven, so I would hope that the range's historic and cultural significance would carry some weight with her. She's also been pretty pro-business, so the fact that archery produces revenue and attracts customers to the city's shopping areas may help. Again, I don't think we're going to see her jumping instantly to orders from on high, but we will have to make our case convincingly.

Jacque Robinson represents District 1, the Northwest, one of the areas that residents of West Pasadena sometimes refer to as "those people" (not referring to race, but to economics; they just don't like anyone who isn't wealthy). Lower Arroyo Park, and by extension the archery range, is simply irrelevant to her constituents, except for the few who have come down and participated in the sport. Given the PRA's commitment to reach out to under-served communities in recent years (providing classes to students from Day One and attempting to start an indoor class at either the Villa-Parke or Jackie Robinson Centers), I think we can convince Ms. Robinson to give us a fair hearing.

Long and short of it is we should get a fair hearing from three out of four committee members. Our odds when it gets to city council may be even better. But it's not over yet. And remember, even if this whole process goes our way and the city council ends up supporting us completely, it's still not over. John Fauvre and Claire Bogaard will continue to come back every few years with a new attempt to shut us down, coming up with new angles and re-trying the old ones hoping they can finally get one to stick. "The price of liberty is eternal vigilance."

But having said that, I'll say this: Congratulations to the PRA on a job well done, hearty thanks to the many people who took time to write to the city officials, and sincere appreciation to the Rec & Parks Commissioners who were fair, just and deliberate in their votes and recommendations last night. And shame on Ann Scheid.

Posted in **Action** | **1 Reply**

## My story

Posted on **October 31, 2011**

In 1999, my eldest daughter was 13, and she wanted to try archery. Several years earlier, we had gone into the old Archer's Haven store in Monrovia to ask about taking lessons, but they said she wasn't old enough then. Still a little miffed that they would have an arbitrary age limit when clearly children develop at different rates, I decided not to go back there, and instead went online and searched for information about archery in the Pasadena area.

I was stunned to discover that a world-class field archery range happened to be right down the street, and so we headed down to the Arroyo and signed up for a class.

Within about a year, my daughter was shooting with the JOAD (Junior Olympic Archery Development, a national program run by USA Archery) club, and my son, who was then about 10, had also taken up the sport. My youngest daughter also began shooting even though she was only four years old. Eventually my wife also took up the bow, and became the best archer in the family, until a shoulder injury took her out of the sport for several years.

In 2002, I got my certification as an instructor, and not long afterwards I got listed as a Boy Scout merit badge counselor. I have helped literally hundreds of Boy Scouts earn the badge, teaching them proper form and helping them to construct an arrow and make a bowstring. I believe I have worked with boys from virtually every troop in the Pasadena area. I've also conducted numerous sessions with the Girl Scouts, as well as many churches, private schools, charter schools and other such groups.

By 2005, I had my Level II certification, and was asked to take over operation of the JOAD club following the departure of the previous coach. Since then, I have upgraded my credential to the Community Coach level, my wife has also earned the same certification, and we have been teaching 10-20 children under the age of 10 every week, as well as running a practice session for advanced competitive archers, mostly teens and pre-teens. For the past year or so, I have also been teaching an archery class for homeschool students on Thursday morning.

It has been a marvelous experience. In the course of teaching kids about archery, I get to covertly teach them a lot more; art, science, literature, history, world cultures, music, anatomy and kinesthetics, film and many other subjects, all of it related in some way to archery. I get to teach ADHD kids to focus and develop discipline. I get to take kids with physical challenges and help them to participate with their peers on an equal footing.

Parents come to me and say their kids do better in school after an archery practice session. The parents use my class as leverage; they tell their kids "if you don't finish your homework (or clean your room, or mow the lawn, or any number of tasks), you don't get to go to archery class."

One of my students just won a gold medal in the annual competition between Arizona and California, "The Duel in the Desert."

Archery is the sport for kids who hate sports. Nobody is trying to tackle, block, catch, stop or otherwise interfere with you. On the other hand, the target tells the story, no excuses. If you're shooting poorly, everyone knows it.

Archery has been a central feature of my life for 12 years. I hope to continue teaching for years to come. To do that, I'll need a range.

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Leave a reply](#)

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## What Does the Law Say?

Posted on **October 31, 2011**

At the last meeting, one of the residents asked the police officer who was present several questions about the law and archery. Recently, the Pasadena Police Department carried out a review of the archery range to assess safety in the erroneous belief that such a review was required by law, and this resident tried (and failed) to get the officer to say that the police report states that the range is unsafe.

Here are the facts: archery is only mentioned in two places in the Pasadena Municipal Code, in Section 9.76 and section 3.32. Let's look at them.

■ **9.76.010 – Designated.**

No person shall carry or discharge any slingshot, catapult, gum-shooter or other like instrument within the corporate limits of the city.

*(Ord. 4309 § 1, 1953)*

■ **9.76.020 – Air guns and archery equipment.**

No person shall carry any air guns, bows and arrows or other type of archery equipment in the city, except when going to or from a place particularly designed for such use; nor shall said equipment be discharged except in places particularly designed for said use and approved by the police department of the city.

*(Ord. 4309 § 2, 1953)*

■ **9.76.030 – Violation—Penalty.**

Any person, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions of this chapter is deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punishable by a fine of not more than \$500.00, or by imprisonment in the city jail for a period of not more than 6 months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

*(Ord. 4309 § 4, 1953)*

The resident asserted that this law requires the archery range be certified as safe by the police department, and then further asserted that the report instead certified it as unsafe. In reality, the only thing unsafe about the range is this resident's flagrant disregard of the law by deliberately walking between shooting positions and targets.

Read it again carefully; the law does not say the range must be certified or inspected. At the time this law as enacted, the range had been in existence for almost 20 years, and the target archery range on the east side of the channel had been operating for 25 years. This law actually assumes that those places are safe areas for practice, and requires that anyone wishing to practice archery elsewhere in the city submit to a police inspection of their facility. The city nonetheless accepted this erroneous interpretation of the law and went ahead with an unnecessary inspection, which determined that the only unsafe thing about the range is people negligently walking in front of targets. The police recommended taking action to eliminate this problem.

The issue of walking in front of targets is addressed indirectly by Section 2.32:

■ **3.32.110 – Natural preservation area—Permitted uses on public lands.**

A. Low intensity recreational activities within defined activity areas, including hiking, horseback riding, archery, casting, picnicking and jogging.

B. New structures shall be limited to those required for utility operations, park maintenance and

protection of plant and animal communities. Such structures are to be adequately screened to conceal their visual presence.

C. All existing uses may be allowed to remain but not allowed to expand.

*(Ord. 6403 § 2 (part), 1990)*

This law was enacted in 1990 as a direct result of this resident's agitation for the right to walk through the range, which was actually an attempt to shut down the range, just as the neighbors had successfully shut down the target range in 1975. Instead of caving to his unreasonable demands, the city board of directors (Pasadena didn't have a city council then) passed this law.

The law specifically states that archery is a permitted activity, on equal footing with other activities such as hiking, horseback riding and fly-casting. (Interestingly, nobody is demanding that the casting pond be shared with dog-walkers, kayakers or waders.) It further goes on to state categorically that all activities must take place within defined activity areas. In other words, the casting pond is for casting, the hiking trails are for hiking, and the archery range is for archery. The only thing lacking from this law is a section detailing the penalty for violation.

The third section states that "all existing uses may be allowed to remain but not allowed to expand;" given the context, which deals with land-use, and the prior passage regarding construction, it is patently obvious that the "expansion" referred to is of a physical nature; no new hiking trails may be added, the casting pond cannot be increased in size, and the archery range cannot add targets.

There has been a deliberate campaign of disinformation to try to convince the ignorant that the PRA has in fact added to its area, but a quick visit to [Historic Aerials](#) will show that the range has had the same configuration for decades prior to the passing of this law.

In summary, then: the archery range in Lower Arroyo Park is the only place in the city of Pasadena where one may legally practice archery, and it is actually illegal to walk on the range.

Why are we even having this conversation?

Posted in [The Range](#) | [1 Reply](#)

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## A Letter from the PRA President

Posted on [October 31, 2011](#)

PRA President Gary Spiers sent this letter to the members:

Dear PRA Members,

I urge all of you to make it to the Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting on Tuesday night. We've attached the city report again for your review. {EDITOR: The packet can be downloaded from the City's website.}

If you can not make it to the meeting then please send a letter (email) of support to Stacy Houser, Liaison: shouser@cityofpasadena.net (She will distribute your letter to the Commission members) with a copy to info@rovingarchers.com. Keep your letter short and polite and address just one or at most a couple of points – some suggestions are below:

This issue has arisen because people have chosen to hike between the targets and the shooting positions and now claim they have the right to do so even though the city's Lower Arroyo Master Plan (LAMP) clearly states that the hiking path is to the East of the archery range to ensure separation of archers and walkers. The LAMP also addressed the need for improved signage yet 9 years after approval of the LAMP the city had not acted on the signage need until pushed to do so this past January and even then this was done in a temporary fashion and the signs ignored.

The Pasadena PD report issued in May reiterated the need to block the trail to prevent hiking on the range and to install adequate signage.

A week long survey of people hiking in the Lower Arroyo conducted by the PRA found that the vast majority of people were hiking the paths designated as hiking paths in the Lower Arroyo Master Plan and that only a handful (<10) people were hiking on the archery range.

There are many miles of hiking trail through the Arroyo as well as elsewhere in Pasadena but there is only one archery range and it is unique in being the oldest Field Archery Range in the World.

Although there has been discussion about arrows landing in gardens overlooking the Arroyo Pasadena PD has never been called on such an incident.

Pasadena PD has publicly stated (Lower Arroyo Sub Committee Meeting Oct 27th 2011) that the issues that occupy their time in the lower Arroyo relate to dogs off leash, homeless people in the vicinity of the casting pond and other non archery related incidents.

Archers act as eyes and ears for the community and have notified Pasadena PD when suspicious activity has been observed. We keep a medical kit on site and have assisted in medical emergencies in the Arroyo before the first responders could arrive.

In talking about safety it is interesting to consider a couple of examples:

People have been injured and died because of bicycle crashes all across Pasadena yet bicycling, quite reasonably, has not been restricted in the city.

According to the US Consumer Product Safety Commission the injury rate for Archery is 0.65 injuries per 1000 participants. The rate for fishing is 1.27 injuries per 1000 participants – twice as dangerous yet no one considers restricting access to the casting pond on the opposite side of the Arroyo!

The city should implement the recommendations in the Lower Arroyo Master Plan, keeping the separation between the archers and hikers and finally put up the signage that was called for in the LAMP and by Pasadena PD.

Calling for the restriction of hours on the range and constant supervision is not a reasonable response to this concern given the real safety record versus a rumor fed perception!

Keep an eye on our Facebook page as it is very easy to post information there.

Note that attendance is always preferable to writing a letter – the time commitment to attend shows a higher degree of interest. Hope to see you Tuesday.

Thanks

Gary

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President, Pasadena Roving Archers, a 501(c)3 Charity

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