From:

Zinn, Linda linda.zinn@sothebyshomes.com>

Sent:

Monday, September 16, 2013 1:31 PM

To:

Jomsky, Mark

Subject:

Fwd: Archery in the Lower Arroyo

---- Forwarded Message -----

From: Linda Zinn < linda.zinn@sothebyshomes.com>

To: mjomsky@cityopasadena.net

Cc: hearst@wpra.net

Sent: Mon, 16 Sep 2013 16:27:40 -0400 (EDT)

Subject: Archery in the Lower Arroyo

September 16, 2013

Honorable Mayor Bill Bogaard and City Council Members,

It is distressing to me that there is such acrimony over the archery range. Before his death in 2004, my husband, Richard Davis, became a dedicated archer in the Lower Arroyo and was welcomed into the archery community. He loved the sport and the friends he made in the Roving Archers. He practiced in the Lower Arroyo at least three times a week in the target area, now in dispute. He helped broker a compromise, with the City, for the Lower Arroyo Master Plan, where the archers stopped using the northern range on a daily basis. Contrary to current belief, the archery range was significantly larger in 2003 than it is today.

Unfortunately, walkers continue to walk across the shooting lanes in the archery range, inspite of the fact that there is a trail for walkers on the eastern edge of the range. This trail has become far more inviting over the years, because of the growth of planted trees, native shrubs, and wild flowers. There are miles of other paths and trails for walkers to enjoy. For the safety of all users of the Lower Arroyo, I hope you will support the exclusive use of the archery range by archers. With new instruction in field rules, safety training and cerification, there will be a safer environment for all. Please support the continuance of archery as a historic, vital and integral part of the Lower Arroyo .

Thank you for the immense amount of time and effort City Staff has devoted to resolving the disparate opinions and positions on this issue.

Sincerely,

Linda Zinn 390 South Arroyo Blvd. Pasadena, CA. 91105

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## Ann Scheid 500 South Arroyo Boulevard Pasadena, California 91105

16 September 2013

Re: September 16 Council Meeting Agenda Item 13 – The Archery Range

Dear Mayor Bogaard and Members of the Pasadena City Council:

Before you decide to award exclusive use of the archery range to the Pasadena Roving Archers, as recommended in the staff report before you, I respectfully request that you consider the following facts:

- According to the original 1918 Plan for the Arroyo, the Lower Arroyo was intended to be wild and natural as opposed to the Central Arroyo, which was to be devoted to organized recreation. Barring the public from such a large area in the Lower Arroyo to serve the interests of a private club is inconsistent with the original intent, with the Arroyo Seco Ordinance and with the Lower Arroyo Master Plan. The heavy foot traffic from all the multiple paths required to practice archery has destroyed native vegetation and compacted the soil in the natural oak woodland. The LAMP recognizes the challenges and conflicts of the varied activities in the Lower Arroyo and their impacts on the natural environment. I urge you to consider and respect the legacy of the Arroyo Seco as a natural preservation area and to ask staff to evaluate and report back on a plan to move all archery activities to Eaton Canyon, where they can be practiced safely.
- A user survey in the Green Space, Recreation and Parks Master Plan (2007) found that over 60% of respondents reported that passive recreation was the most important activity that parks could offer them. The need for more Open Space was also reinforced by the inclusion of an Open Space Element in the General Plan. I urge you to consider those needs as well as the users from nearby schools and colleges who regularly can be seen on field trips using the Lower Arroyo as a "living laboratory"(LAMP goal/objective, p. 1-14) and as space for physical education classes. The reduction of open space in the Lower Arroyo will negatively impact park users and the general public at a time when national campaigns to encourage daily exercise are encouraging more people to use parks.
- The range as currently designed does not meet National Field Archery Association standards for range safety for traditional bows and arrows. It is even farther out of compliance for the use of mechanized compound bows now in general use. These bows can shoot more than 400 yards (far enough to reach neighboring houses) and easily pass entirely through a hay bale. These are lethal weapons, not playthings. Using the private property on the hillsides as a backstop does not meet NFAA standards. The range is clearly outmoded. I urge you to stipulate that the range either be redesigned to meet professional NFAA standards or that the range be moved to Eaton Canyon, where there is no danger to the public.

- The barriers of plants and boulders proposed to mark the boundaries of the range will not effectively keep people out of the range. Barriers would have a detrimental effect on wildlife corridors and the natural habitat necessary to wildlife in this natural preservation area. According to the staff report, funds intended for habitat restoration will be used to construct these unnatural barriers. I urge you to stipulate that the funds intended for habitat restoration be used for that purpose and not appropriated to construct barriers in the Lower Arroyo.
- The Pasadena Roving Archers is a private club that organizes activities on the range primarily on weekends. Other people who shoot on the range, which is open free of charge during daylight hours, are not members of the club and have no incentive to join. In addition, unsupervised youngsters have free access to the range at all times, which poses an additional danger to wildlife and to anyone in the vicinity. The City's proposed contract is only with the PRA, so the City will have no control over other users. This is an inherently unsafe condition for which the only remedy in the staff report is that the City will "monitor" the space. It is not realistic to expect that the City will have the personnel to effectively monitor the space during park hours. This is another reason to move archery activities to Eaton Canyon, at least during the week, where there will be no danger to the public.
- One of the most troubling aspects of the staff report is that there will be no environmental study of this major change in the Lower Arroyo, despite the recommendation for one by the Parks and Recreation Commission. The physical environment has already been altered with the demarcation of range boundaries, without review by the design commission or any environmental study. Now these boundaries will become permanent which represents a major change in the landscape, which was supposed to be restored to a more natural state. This alone should require CEQA review. Another condition for invoking CEQA also exists: the tremendous controversy in the community engendered by these actions. An environmental study needs to be done to determine effects on habitat and wildlife as well as to suggest alternatives to the proposed development.
- Background on Archery and History of the PRA: The sport of archery has three major divisions: bowhunter archery, roving archery and target archery. Of these only target archery is a qualified Olympic sport. Bowhunter archery is practiced as training for hunting game; bowhunters train on the Pasadena range 13 Sundays a year. Roving archery, generally believed to have first developed in Redlands, California, grew out of game hunting, but is now recognized as a separate sport. In the early years, the Pasadena Roving Archers shot game in the Lower Arroyo, but that practice is frowned on now. Archery was first practiced in the Arroyo in the 1920s on the old rifle range located north of the Colorado Street Bridge. In 1927 the last piece of heavily wooded land on the west side of the Lower Arroyo was acquired from the Campbell-Johnston ranch. The PRA organized in the 1930s and by the 1950s had some 80 members. In the 1960s there were 40 field archery

clubs in Southern California; the Pasadena club however had dwindled to 16 members, most of them hunters practicing bowhunting on one Sunday a month. Membership increased somewhat in the late sixties hovering between 30 and 50 members and archery instruction on Saturdays was introduced. The club also joined the NFAA. In the 1970s the City's Parks and Recreation Department began to subsidize Saturday archery classes. At the same time equestrians complained about not being able to use their accustomed trails on the west side of the Arroyo, because the archers had expanded the range from 14 targets to 28, all of them temporary and only for the shoots that were held on three Sundays a month. The PRA also affiliated with the California Rifle and Pistol Association. In the 1980s PRA membership dwindled to a mere 9 members in 1984 and there were increasing conflicts with equestrians. The Pasadena Parks and Recreation Department stepped in, reducing the required rental fee to use the range and making the club eligible to get insurance through the City at reduced rates. The City paid for targets for the Saturday classes and assisted in major range maintenance by building permanent targets. Night shoots became popular, assisted by a City helicopter floodlighting the range. (Source: The First Fifty Years: Pasadena Roving Archers, Inc., 1935-1985 by Edward L. Ryman, PRA member).

I have served as a Commissioner on the Parks and Recreation Commission for the past four years. Acting on a request from a neighbor who was threatened on the range, I reluctantly brought the issue of the archery range to the Commission. I chaired a Subcommittee composed of Commissioners, representatives of the PRA, and representatives from the neighborhood to try to reach a compromise on the use of trails in the range area. Because the archers do not occupy the range at all times, walkers and equestrians have customarily used the trails on the range when no archers were present. The goal of the Commission Subcommittee was to reach an agreement on a regulated shared use of the range to avoid conflicts. City staff supported this effort by bringing in a facilitator to work with all the parties. City staff has also devoted tremendous time and energy to this difficult and complex issue for the past two years. Unfortunately, the PRA was unwilling to agree to allocate any time to other users, even when the range was not in use, so no agreement could be reached.

I believe that moving archery activities to Eaton Canyon is the only safe solution for the general public using the Arroyo as a public park. As letters from adjacent property owners indicate, the City may incur substantial legal expenses unless the range is moved or redesigned to avoid infringing on private property rights. If this proposal to erect permanent barriers around the range goes forward, then an environmental study must be done to comply with CEQA, because of the introduction of permanent changes in the natural landscape, the potential impact on habitat and wildlife, and the public controversy surrounding this proposed action.

Yours truly,

Ann Scheid, Former Parks and Recreation Commissioner



September 15th 2013

Via Email

Pasadena Mayor, Honorable Bill Bogaard, and Pasadena City Council

Pasadena Roving Archers has reviewed the proposal released by the City on Thursday and we are in agreement with the proposal. We believe that the combination of:

- requiring archers to have taken a safety class and obtained a certification for use of the range during periods of public use
- encoding the range rules in the Pasadena Municipal Code such that they are readily enforceable
- relocating the targets that have been removed from private property onto city property
- improving the barriers and signage consistent with the Lower Arroyo Master
- removing the ad hoc trail that runs adjacent to the target bales between the bales and the archers' shooting positions

will ensure that this historic range continues to have an unblemished safety record.

I regret that I personally will not be present Monday night as I will be in our Nation's capital at a workshop for a NASA Earth Science Decadal Survey Mission for which I am a member of the mission steering committee, appointed by NASA HQ. Steve Lee the club's vice president together with other members of the club will offer our support to the city proposal.

Sincerely

**Gary Spiers** 

President, Pasadena Roving Archers, an all volunteer 501(c)3 public charity Celebrating the art of the bow and arrow in the Lower Arroyo since 1935

From:

Madison, Steve

Sent:

Monday, September 16, 2013 1:12 PM

To:

Jomsky, Mark

Subject:

FW: PROPOSAL FOR LOWER ARROYO ARCHERY RANGE AND DEAL POINTS, FOR

NEW AGREEMENT WITH PASADENA ROVING ARCHERS

Please share with other Councilmembers.

Dear Mayor Bogaard and Councilmember Madison,

Coming before the City Council next Monday evening is an agreement that would close the southern archery range in the Lower Arroyo Seco to any use other than archery. I urge you to consider an alternative to the staff recommendation.

The Pasadena Roving Archers (PRA) have had an archery range in the Lower Arroyo since at least the 1940s. Their continued use of the Lower Arroyo for this purpose is recognized in the Lower Arroyo Master Plan. In 1940, however, Pasadena's population was less than 82,000 and the county's population density was 686 people per square mile. Now Pasadena has 140,000 residents, nearly twice as many as it did when the archery range was established, and the county's population density is 2,420 per square mile, an increase of 350% from the 40s.

This increase in population has increased the pressures on all parks and open space for recreation, and in the Lower Arroyo, that increase has been compounded by the creation of the low-flow streams in 2005, which made the area considerably more attractive to walkers, joggers, horseback riders, families and people exercising dogs.

The Council is being asked to restrict the entire south archery range exclusively to archery, and substantively to the PRA. This recommendation is grounded in safety considerations in recommendations from the Police Department and the City's risk manager, and safety certainly should be a paramount concern in your decision making process. A number of the homeowners living above the range have handsome collections of arrows that have landed on their property, so it's clear some users of the range do so unsafely. Last November, I observed two archers shooting in an area I knew didn't have a target. When I approached them, they were happy to show me that they were shooting at a tennis ball they'd placed high in the branches of a tree! No wonder arrows make their way to the homes above them.

For maximum safety, the City should consider removal of the archery range from the Lower Arroyo altogether. Archery equipment has evolved greatly since the original range was installed in the Lower Arroyo and the Council should not lose sight of the fact that it is weaponry, however you look at it. Presumably the City Council would not authorize the

use of the Lower Arroyo for an open-air gun and rifle range. It ought to apply the same standard to archery. PRA members may use safe practices, but the range cannot, in practical fact, be limited to them outside of their event times or to those they train in safe archery practices. It's now used by anybody who wants to during daylight hours; there is nothing to stop anyone from buying a bow and some arrows and using the range with no training or practice whatsoever. This is especially true of Target 1, which is out of sight of the remaining targets and the people using them.

Unless someone from PRA or the City who can verify credentials is present during all daylight hours, which obviously isn't going to be the case, there is really nothing to keep non-members with no safety training whatsoever from coming to use the range outside of event times. Staff proposes that PRA members and those trained in safe archery practices by PRA will be issued credentials that can be checked by any police officer, park ranger, or park safety officer. I've used the Lower Arroyo for walking my dogs for many years. My experience is that police, rangers and park safety officers rarely make an appearance in the Lower Arroyo, so practically speaking, this proposal is cosmetic and insufficient to protect residents above the range and other park users.

This uncontrolled access places the public in danger. The City should not simply wait for someone to be injured or killed before they consider whether an archery range in a public park is such a good idea. PRA's insurance policy limits under the proposed agreement almost certainly wouldn't fully cover the kind of liability that City would be exposed to in California's litigious climate. If an injury or death is caused by someone not a member of PRA, all liability exposure would fall to the taxpayers of Pasadena. Can you imagine the kind of damages a jury might award in the case of injury or death when they hear it occurred at an open shooting range in a public park adjacent to homes? It's inappropriate – magical thinking, even – for the City Council to act as if the likelihood of injury or death on a weapons range is so remote that it needn't concern itself with making a more serious effort to protect lives, to say nothing of shielding our tax dollars from litigation.

For some years, the idea of relocating the archery range to the former police shooting range in Eaton Canyon has been mooted about. The City Council should put that proposal on the front burner and instruct staff to move forward expeditiously to make that move a reality in the next few years. There are no houses near that course and there are police personnel coming and going frequently from the adjacent indoor shooting range who could routinely perform credential checks. There's plenty of parking there and the land no longer possesses the natural character of the Lower Arroyo.

I also think the Council should consider whether acres of publicly owned land should essentially be ceded to a private organization serving a limited constituency in exchange for a very limited benefit to the residents who actually own the land. When public land is effectively ceded to any private organization, there should be a very considerable benefit to the public in exchange. The City has sometimes been remiss in this, as witness the fact that Kidspace Museum has no free or low-cost programs for PUSD students. And we are, after all, talking about the Lower Arroyo here, a precious piece of relatively unimproved

land, a vanishingly rare thing to find anywhere. It is not enhanced by barriers (however naturalistic or sensitively designed they are), scary signage, straw-bale targets and a storage container. There are better, and much safer, uses for it by a wider spectrum of residents than as an archery range, and that is what Council should focus on.

I urge you to move forward expeditiously on relocating the archery range to Eaton Canyon and returning the land occupied by both the north and south ranges to full use by the public. Thank you for your consideration.

Diana Britt West Pasadena Resident

From: Sent:

Esteban Lizardo <elizardo@pacbell.net> Monday, September 16, 2013 4:00 PM

To:

Jomsky, Mark

Subject: Attachments:

Tonight's Council Agenda Item #13
Archery Range and Golf Course jpg

Dear Mr. Jomsky,

I am attaching a photo file relating to Tonight's Council Agenda Item #13 and request that your office provide a copy to each Councilperson. The photo depicts the area occupied by the Lower Arroyo Seco Archery Range in comparison to the area occupied by the Brookside Golf Course. I hope this Google maps photo, which shows the relative size in area of each of these uses, provides Council with a useful perspective. I note that the Archery Range area leaves 85% of the Lower Arroyo open for use by walkers, joggers, hikers and all others who want to enjoy this area. I also wish to highlight the trail alongside the Archery Range which is accessible to walkers, joggers and hikers at all times and allows these users to enjoy the beauty of the range at all times. Thanks,

Esteban Lizardo

Council District #2 Resident



Subject:

FW: Council Meeting Sept 16, Lower Arroyo

From: TGertmenian@GERTMENIAN.COM [mailto:TGertmenian@GERTMENIAN.COM]

**Sent:** Monday, September 16, 2013 1:52 PM **To:** Bogaard, Bill; Madison, Steve; Beck, Michael

Cc: Suzuki, Takako

Subject: Council Meeting Sept 16, Lower Arroyo

Letter By Email- Please distribute to ALL Councilmembers

To the City Manager, Mayor and Councilmembers City of Pasadena, California

Sept 16, 2013

#### Gentlemen:

I received on Thursday, Sept 12, the agenda for a Council meeting Monday, Sept. 16. Upon reading this agenda I was amazed and dumbstruck by recommendations presented regarding the Lower Arroyo and archery range.

I object to your taking any action at this time on this agenda item for two reasons:

Firstly, you would be passing on an ordinance or policy which authorizes lethal arrows to be shot within range of my private land, which would then become an impact zone. For this matter I am in the process of obtaining legal representation to bring an action against the City of Pasadena for usurping my property rights and endangering me, my family or my friends' use of my property for whatever purpose I may have. You will be hearing from an attorney within 30 days of today regarding this action.

Secondly, I sent all of you a letter in Feb. 2012, regarding a possible agreement with the City concerning my possibilities for giving license to the City to use part of my land as an impact zone under certain conditions which fit my needs. I did not receive a reply to this letter. I did have a consultation with Mr. Charles Peretz, but he basically said the city was not willing to make any agreements about this subject with property owners.

Now I see that the city is planning to yield exclusive use of many acres of the Arroyo park lands for archery purposes and exclude all others from that area during daylight hours. This recommendation is totally unfair to citizens who are not archers and who want to enjoy the Arroyo. During the weekend of Sept 14-15, 2013, a beautiful weekend sunny day, from noon to 6 pm there were virtually NO archers present in the entire area south of the line of targets which are used for training children (where the container is). Under the proposed plan this unused archery area would be out of bounds to all, even when the archers are not using it. This is unfair to the public.

In all the meetings, committee or otherwise, prior to this time did anyone give consideration to how many (really few!) archers use the archery area during the length of a day, weekends or weekdays?. Admittedly, during the morning hours of Saturdays and Sundays there is heavy archer use. Otherwise, it is light, sporadic and much of the time void of archery use; to close this area off for walkers, joggers, school field-trip groups, bird watchers and others who wish to enjoy the public natural parkland would a disservice to the citizens and taxpayers of Pasadena.

Therefore, I ask that you delay any decisions pending legal action and reasonable consideration of land use for the public.

Sincerely,

Thomas G. Gertmenian 310 South San Rafael Avenue Pasadena. CA

## LAW OFFICE OF CHRISTOPHER SUTTON 586 LA LOMA ROAD

## PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91105-2443

TELEPHONE (626) 683-2500 ··· FACSIMILE (626) 405-9843 email: christophersutton.law@gmail.com

### Monday, September 16, 2013

City Council
City of Pasadena
City Hall
100 North Garfield Avenue
Pasadena, California 91101

Re: Objections to Pasadena Roving Archers Five-Year Exclusive Use Agreement;

Violation of California Environmental Policy Act ("CEQA");

Violation of Lower Arroyo Seco Master Plan;

Violation of Pasadena City Charter, Article XVI, Unrestricted Parkland Uses;

Violation of United States Clear Water Act;

Dear Members of the City Council:

This office represents the Lower Arroyo Protection Association. The current proposal to grant an exclusive five-year use agreement over of a portion of the Lower Arroyo Seco Parkland to the Pasadena Roving Archers violates various provisions of federal, California and local law.

There must be compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") (Public Resources Code § 21000 et seq.) prior to consideration of this five-year exclusive use agreement with its impacts on:

- (1) Over-crowding limited parking resources near the casting pond and in residential areas fronting on the Arroyo Seco;
- (2) Increased introduction of thousands of poisonous lead-tipped arrows into a riparian and watershed environment;
- (3) Increased hazards to native and protected species of plants an animals by human intrusions and misdirected and lost arrows;
- (4) Change and diversion in existing recreational trails and non-archery uses of the Lower Arroyo Seco Parkland;
- (5) Increase in the generation of litter, trash, human waste, hazards to human health;
- (6) Increased burden on public safety and law enforcement resources, including police, fire, public health, and park management staff;
- (7) Increase in use of the Rosemont Pavilion and its limited parking resources for hundreds of archery safety classes;
- (8) Over-burdening of other nearby recreational areas by cordoning off large portions of the Lower Arroyo Section Parkland;
- (9) Failing to prohibit use by archers of adjoining private properties (the goal is to "minimize" such trespassing;
- (10) Uprooting and re-planting or planting new species into a delicate environment;
- (11) Installing potentially hundreds of signs, postings, targets, barriers, etc; and

# Pasadena City Council Re: Oppose PRA Five-Year Exclusive Use Agreement

(12) Causing a reduction in City services elsewhere by failing to recover from PRA the full cost of implementing and administering the exclusive-use agreement.

Compliance with CEQA commences with preparation of an Initial Study. This is a series of questions that must be answered as to maximum possible impacts a proposal will have. No Initial Study has been prepared. The applicability of any exemption under CEQA may only be determined after an Initial Study is prepared.

The incorrect assertion of CEQA exemptions under State CEQA Guidelines 15061, 15301, and 15302 is wholly misplaced and based on a <u>false and misleading description of the impacts</u> of this five-year exclusive use agreement. There will be major changes to the physical environment associated with this exclusive use agreement. There will be major changes to human activities such as parking at many locations, human waste and litter generation, use of other facilities, and use of City personnel. There will direct degradation of the environment with the introduction of thousands of poison-tipped lead arrows (many of which will be permanently lost and embedded in the soil of a watershed area), and the risks posed to animals, plants, and human life and safety caused by the massive use of standard archery equipment.

The Lower Arroyo Seco Master Plan does not allow for exclusive uses of any part of the Lower Arroyo Seco. The entire area must be open and available to the entire public.

Pasadena City Charter Article XVI, Park Preservation (also known as the Bogaard Amendment) prohibits exclusive use agreements which banned all but one type of park uses and banned all members of the public except the members of one organization.

The United States Clear Water Act and regulations the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers banned the introduction of poisonous lead arrow tips and increase human waste and litter into a watershed environment and the flows into Waters of the United States.

In 1978, William Bogaard asked at another exclusive use agreement hearing: "Will the applicant be indemnifying the City from the risk of litigation?" We must ask this question again.

Please oppose this five-year exclusive use agreement until all laws have been followed.

Sincerely,

Christopher Sutton

## Robert and Catherine Woolway 282 South San Rafael Avenue Pasadena, California 91105 626-568-1017

February 29, 2012

City Manager Michael Beck
Mayor Bill Bogaard
City Attorney Michelle Bagneris
Council Members: Jacque Robinson, Margaret Mcaustin, Chris Holden, Gene Masuda, Victor
Gordo, Steve Madison, Terry Tornek
Dept of Public Works, Charles Peretz
Chief, Pasadena Police Department, Phillip Sanchez

City of Pasadena 100 North Garfield Avenue Pasadena, CA 91109

Subject: Dangerous Archery Range Activities

#### Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am the owner (since 1994) of 282 S. San Rafael Avenue in Pasadena which overlooks the Arroyo right above the archery range. The purpose of this letter is to express my wife's and my extreme concern to the City of Pasadena (the "City") regarding the manner in which the Pasadena Roving Archers (the "Archers") operate.

The Archers engage in activities that have created an extremely dangerous condition on our property and the adjacent residences along the western rim of the Arroyo. Because they literally shoot arrows at targets on our property, it is only a matter of time before an arrow will strike someone. It is self-evident that operating bows and arrows in close proximity to occupied homes creates a serious hazard and risk of injury, or worse yet, death.

It is our understanding that the City has tried to negotiate with the Archers in order to restrict their activities and that the Archers have been unwilling to reasonably compromise. This is not an acceptable situation. Clearly it is time to take action to re-locate the archery or otherwise eliminate the unreasonable danger we and our neighbors are living with. Therefore, we respectfully request that the City take whatever steps possible so that our exposure to such dangers is no higher than any other residential property in the City of Pasadena.

Furthermore, if the range is not re-located, there should be an insurance policy in place carried by the City that specifically covers us for any injury or death and holds us harmless as to any action brought by any person resulting from the Archer's activities on or adjacent to our property.

## February 29, 2012

We look forward to a response from the City on the scrious concerns expressed above.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Woolway

cc: Catherine Condon Woolway