

Agenda Report

July 17, 2017

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: City Manager and Rose Bowl General Manager

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON THE ARROYO ADVISORY GROUP AND ACTION TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO ENHANCE AND IMPROVE THE ARROYO SECO ("One Arroyo" Project)

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Find that the action proposed herein is exempt from environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), State CEQA Guidelines Section 15262 (feasibility and planning studies);
2. Approve the following budget amendments to support the efforts to enhance and improve the Arroyo Seco:
 - a. Appropriate \$250,000 from the Rose Bowl unappropriated fund balance to the Rose Bowl Operating Company's Fiscal Year 2018 operating budget and establish a new project account "One Arroyo" Project; and
 - b. Reappropriate \$100,000 in Residential Impact Fees from the Capital Improvement Program Project *Central Arroyo – Trail Realignment and Improvements Concept Study (77380)* and appropriate \$100,000 in Residential Impact Fees to the RBOC "One Arroyo" Project.

BACKGROUND:

On January 30, 2017 the Rose Bowl General Manager and City Manager presented to the City Council a report on efforts to enhance and improve the Arroyo Seco.

As discussed during the presentation, several factors make this an opportune time to consider the future vision, operations and management of the Arroyo, including, but not limited to: 1) the recognition that the Arroyo Seco is a tremendous asset to the City of Pasadena, and a focused effort to identify projects and funding is needed; 2) plans by the National Park Service to add the Arroyo to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area; 3) a potential habitat restoration project by the Army Corps of Engineers that could, among other things, remove the concrete channel running through the Arroyo and replace it with a re-naturalized streambed; 4) the effect of the County Department of Public Works' sediment removal project behind the Devil Gate Dam; 5) the potential expansions of the Rose Bowl Aquatic Center and Kidspace museum;

To assist in the effort, the General Manager and City Manager selected an advisory group of Pasadena leaders who possess a passion for the Arroyo Seco, who have financial acumen and who are well-versed in the history and the values of Pasadena. The advisory group is referred to as the Arroyo Advisory Group or AAG for short, and has been meeting regularly since February. The membership of the Group includes: Bill Bogaard and Doug Kranwinkle, who serve as co-chairs, along with Lorne Buchman, William Chu, Robert Davidson, Jr., John Dean, Don Fedde, Michael Greene, Don Hahn, Mic Hansen, Phil Hawkey, Patricia Keane, Peter Knell, Steve Mann, Tim Martinez, Sue Mossman, Chris Rising, Dan Rothenberg, Martha Saucedo and Tom Seifert.

The effort is supported by RBOC and City staff as well as by HR&A consulting group. HR&A has been involved in several similar efforts around the country including the development of the High Line and Brooklyn Bridge Park in New York, The Anacostia Waterfront in Washington D.C. and an analysis of the Dallas park system. Such expertise is vital to the Arroyo effort, as it is recognized that identifying new funding streams, likely to include philanthropic and corporate donations, will be necessary if significant additional investment is hoped for in the Arroyo Seco.

At its initial meeting in February, the AAG formed four committees:

- Vision – Develop a single vision statement that would serve as a touchstone for the effort
- Community Outreach and Engagement –Inform various Pasadena constituencies about the effort and receive public input
- Financial Planning –Explore sustainable means of funding as well as develop a proposed budget to carry the effort through the balance of the calendar year

- Projects and Priorities – Review possible projects that implement the new vision for the Arroyo, initially seeking a foundational improvement that furthers that vision and captures the community’s imagination

To date, the Vision committee has developed—and the full AAG has approved—the following preliminary vision statement:

Pasadena’s great outdoor space, the historic Arroyo Seco, will become One Arroyo. From the headwaters in the north to the tributary waters in the south, its natural habitats, resources, and historic sites will be preserved, enhanced, and connected by an extraordinary end-to-end trail system, all anchored by a central hub.

The Community Outreach and Engagement committee has conducted initial outreach at three Pasadena community meetings: the West Pasadena Residents Association’s annual meeting, the East Arroyo Residents Association meeting and a district meeting hosted by Councilmember McAustin. Plans have been made and are being made for presentations at other Council District meetings as well as with other Pasadena groups.

The Financial Planning committee, while concerned with identifying a long-term sustainable funding strategy to enhance the Arroyo, has focused in the early stages on developing a budget and funding plan to sustain the AAG’s initial consultation, planning and outreach efforts through the balance of the 2017 calendar year. The committee will also assess a broad spectrum of sources for both capital and operating funding for the long-term.

The Projects and Priorities committee reviewed the extensive list of projects previously approved by the City Council in various plans for the Arroyo as well as taken under consideration other projects suggested by AAG members or received through initial public input. The purpose of this review was to identify one or more existing or potential projects that would create interest on the part of the community, including possible funders.

As alluded to in the vision statement, the AAG has concluded that establishing an end-to-end trail system throughout the Arroyo has the potential to integrate the Arroyo as one, and serve as a unifying feature upon which to weave together the history, features and uses of the Arroyo. Thus, it would be foundational that the “One Arroyo” vision could capture the imagination of the community, and strengthen the effort to identify new sources of financial support for the overall goal of preserving and enhancing the Arroyo.

Conceptually, the trail system would encompass current plans and new elements to create a single loop for the Arroyo Seco; ensure access for different abilities and modes

of use; involve the repair of existing trails and stone walls; and include a comprehensive signage system.

To move the process forward, including the trail system idea, a variety of professional services would be needed: additional consultation with HR&A, as well as design services to develop a project package that would be suitable for presentation to potential funders and sufficient to perform the appropriate level of environmental review. It is estimated that this work scope would take six months to complete and cost approximately \$350,000. At the conclusion of the six months, the consultant team will deliver a final summary trail concept and implementation strategy report which will include up to three fully-developed trail concept alternatives and with associated estimated capital and operating costs and strategies for funding and management.

To fund this effort, staff is recommending two sources of funding, the first being \$250,000 from the Rose Bowl Operating Company – Rose Bowl Fund. These funds will be provided as part of the agreement to host the Coldplay concert at the Rose Bowl Stadium on October 6, 2017 (this opportunity presented itself due to this being the 16th displacement event at the Rose Bowl in 2017), as well as from funds from the recently completed Arroyo Seco Weekend, with \$1.00 per ticket dedicated to a community purpose. The RBOC believes that the effort is an appropriate use of the community funds.

To cover the anticipated additional \$100,000 expense, City and RBOC staff are recommending a reallocation from Capital Improvement Project Number 77380 – Central Arroyo – Trail realignment and improvements concept study and that the City project account be closed. That project, which is currently funded with \$100,000 of Residential Impact Fee revenues, provides for the development of a concept study and preliminary design of realignment and improvement to trails near the Rose Bowl, including realignment of the west trail to avoid the existing parking lot areas. While the realignment would be an improvement over the current condition, reprogramming these funds to support the more comprehensive effort is viewed as a better use of the City's resources. The budget as referenced for the next phase of this effort is \$350,000 and is anticipated to be completed by the end of the calendar year. Components of the budget are as follows:

Trail Concept (Landscape Architect & Specialist Consultants)	\$265,000
Outreach & Engagement	\$30,000
Project Management & Facilitation	\$35,000
Contingency	\$20,000
Total	\$350,000

The scope of work associated with the trail concept will include the development of an existing conditions study & report, three trail concept alternatives with recommendations to enhance the trail experience (landscape, facilities, signage, etc.), capital cost estimation, and funding strategy development for both operations and capital.

Through the RBOC, a separate project account will be designated for the “One Arroyo” project. The RBOC will manage the project and maintain records of expenditures of these funds as required by Chapter 4.17 (Residential Impact Fee) of the Municipal Code to ensure consistency with the purpose for which the funds were collected. The RBOC General Manager and City Manager’s Office will work in consultation with Public Works to undertake the selection process for a consultant and oversee the study, and as well with the Finance Department to ensure compliance with PMC Chapter 4.17.

It is currently anticipated that the AAG will continue its consideration of efforts to preserve, enhance and improve the Arroyo Seco. As part of this, the group will consider various efforts to improve the coordination of activities occurring in the Arroyo and may offer suggestions for future governance.

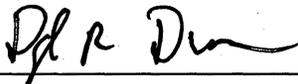
ENVIRONMENTAL:

The actions proposed herein, the allocation of new funds and the reallocation of existing funds, are exempt from environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”), State CEQA Guidelines Section 15262 (feasibility and planning studies). This effort involves only feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions which the City has not yet approved or funded, and does not involve adoption of a plan that will have a legally binding effect on subsequent activities. The action proposed herein specifically does not include approval of any trail work or other construction activities. This exemption, however, does require preliminary consideration of environmental factors. The purpose of the feasibility and planning studies is to enhance and protect the recreational and natural resources of the Arroyo Seco, in accordance with the AAG preliminary vision statement to preserve, enhance and connect the Arroyo’s headwaters in the north to the tributary waters in the south, its natural habitats, resources, and historic sites, as well as its central hub. Detailed environmental review of any plan or project that may come out of this feasibility and planning work will be completed at the appropriate time and before commitment to the plan or project.

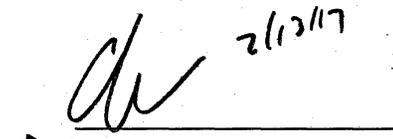
FISCAL IMPACT:

Funding for the proposed action would come from the following sources: \$250,000 from the Rose Bowl Fund and \$100,000 from the transfer of existing appropriations in Capital Improvement Program budget project 77380.

Respectfully submitted,



Darryl Dunn
General Manager, Rose Bowl Operating Company



for Steve Mermell
City Manager