

18 JUL 23 12:38PM

CITY CLERK

July 23, 2018

Dear Mayor Tornek and Members of the City Council:

Thank you for agreeing to take the time to review this project, which is so important to the residents of the Lower Arroyo neighborhood, to the Habitat community and to those living in the Vista del Arroyo condos. We really appreciate it.

The review process has been seriously flawed, because despite the many meetings, the site plan has evolved at the same time as new residents have moved here, without the benefit of sufficient input on a project that affects them most directly. In addition, the plan offers an "off the shelf" design that is inappropriate for this historic setting adjacent to Pasadena's Lower Arroyo Park.

The proposed building directly blocks views from Arroyo Boulevard of a portion of the Colorado Street Bridge, a National Historic Engineering Landmark, and affects the views uphill to the National Register Vista Del Arroyo Hotel (9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court), impacting the historic setting. Furthermore, S. Arroyo Boulevard is a designated Scenic Drive; the restroom will be the most prominent structure that you see when you drive by.

Sited directly on the street, the building is too large and incongruous: restroom building as park entrance! It is too large for the park itself, almost the size of one of the Habitat bungalows in square footage. The design and materials (cement block, fake wood, etc.) are incompatible with nearby buildings. The City and the Design Commission devoted much time and effort to creating the Habitat houses and the Vista del Arroyo condos as positive contributions to the area. The restroom building needs to rise to those standards. The present proposal degrades the Arroyo, the Bridge and the surrounding neighborhood.

There are better solutions:

1. No restroom at all. Early designs did not include a restroom, and it is uniformly opposed by the neighborhood. It is not required for a neighborhood park.
2. If there must be a restroom it should be a single toilet and sink, with a door lockable from the inside. Single lockable restrooms are the norm in National Park/National Forest/Wilderness settings.
3. Location: Any restroom should be sited so that it is not visible from the road and does not detract from the view of the Bridge or the Vista del Arroyo.

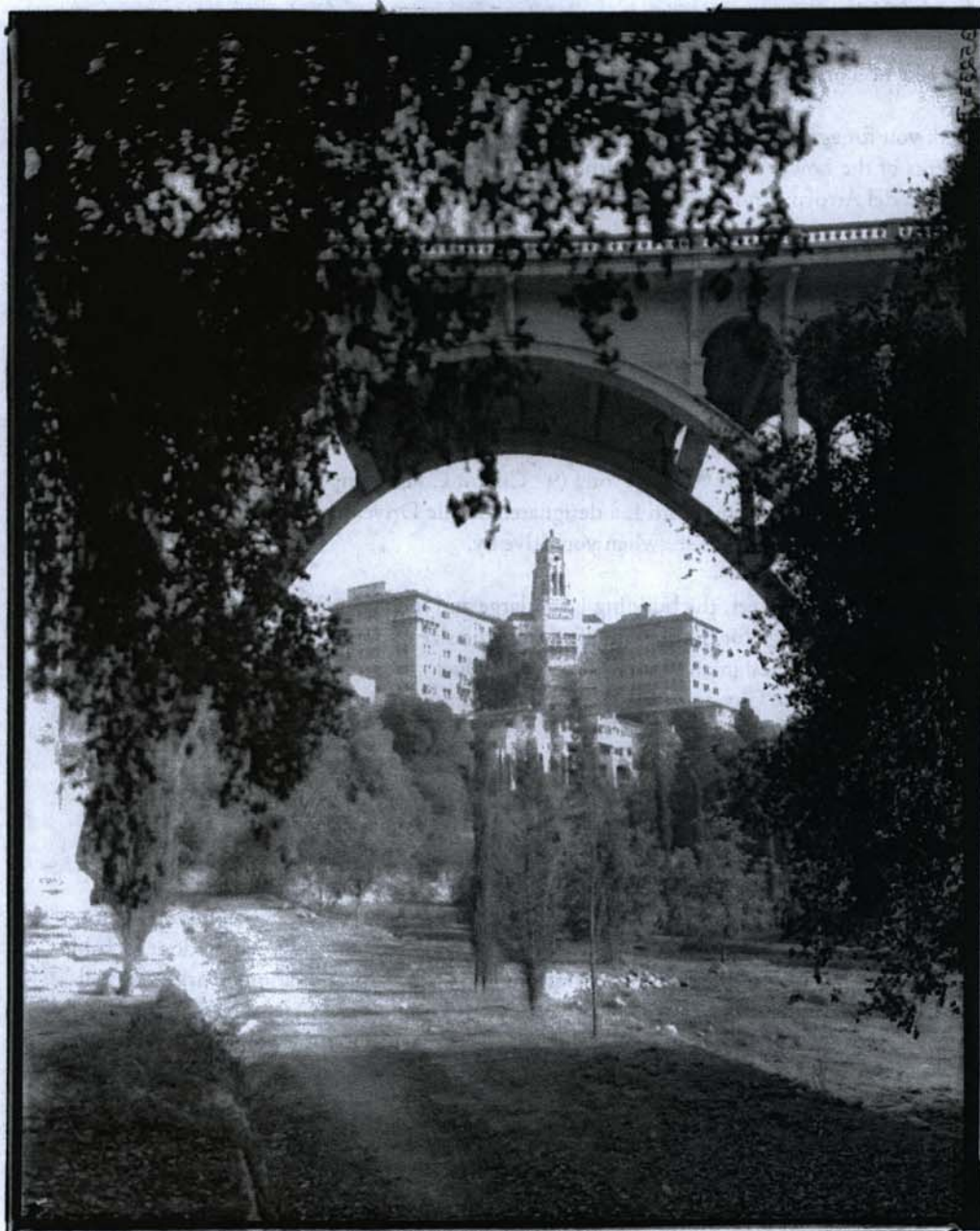
Please review the Green Space element regarding both the Arroyo and Neighborhood Parks (see attached).

Sincerely,



Ann Scheid  
500 S Arroyo Boulevard

07/23/2018  
Item 15



View to Vista del Arroyo Hotel through the Colorado Street Bridge, 1935. Photo: Harold Parker

# *The City of Pasadena*

## ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

### Green Space, Recreation and Parks Element

#### II. OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

**OBJECTIVE 2 – PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION OF THE ARROYO SECO AND ADJACENT OPEN SPACE AREAS:** Recognize the importance to Pasadena of the history, cultural resources, and unique character of the Arroyo Seco, and conserve and enhance these assets.

*Policy 2.1 – Arroyo Seco Planning:* Fully implement all master plans and design guidelines for the Arroyo. This includes the Lower Arroyo Master Plan, the Hahamongna Watershed Park Master Plan, and the Central Arroyo Master Plan. (LUE Policy 9.2)

*Policy 2.2 – Balance of Interests in the Lower Arroyo Seco:* **Improve the aesthetics and preserve the historical elements and unique natural character of the Lower Arroyo. Manage and maintain the area to balance the natural habitat, recreational needs and public health and safety.**

*Policy 2.3 – Balance Recreation with Environmental Protection:* Implement the Arroyo Seco Master Plans by balancing recreational opportunities with protection and restoration of the ecosystem, while recognizing the important existing water resources and flood management functions of the area.

*Policy 2.4 – Promote multi-faceted use of the Arroyo:* Through implementation of the Arroyo Seco Master Plans, continue to **maintain and enhance the area as a prime resource for quality of life of Pasadena residents.**

**OBJECTIVE 10 – PARK AND GREEN SPACE DESIGN:** Park and open space projects should be planned so that recreational facilities reinforce the historic nature of Pasadena's parks as well as Pasadena's character, heritage, and neighborhoods.

*Policy 10.1 – Pasadena's Character and Heritage:* Appropriate elements that reflect Pasadena's character and heritage should be incorporated into the design and appearance of parks and green spaces.

*Policy 10.2 – Appropriate Neighborhood Scale:* Improvements within parks or recreation facilities should be scaled to their location and should relate to the neighborhood they are placed in.

*Policy 10.3 – Quality:* Pasadena's green spaces should have a quality appearance that instills pride in the surrounding neighborhood and the City at large.

## **Jomsky, Mark**

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**From:** Arnold Siegel <arnold.siegel@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 23, 2018 1:28 PM  
**To:** Jomsky, Mark; Tornek, Terry; Hampton, Tyron; Madison, Steve; McAustin, Margaret; Kennedy, John; Gordo, Victor; Wilson, Andy; Masuda, Gene; Mermell, Steve  
**Subject:** Desiderio Bathroom, Item 15 on 7/23 agenda

I am writing to urge you to halt the construction of the Desiderio park and bathroom until, at the minimum, the suicide prevention measures are installed and tested on the Colorado Street Bridge. In light of the rash of suicides and the opening of the Habitat housing, this is not the time to move ahead with construction.

This is not an area lacking in parks. Across Arroyo Boulevard is the Lower Arroyo which has served the needs of the community for decades. If you have to spend the money on parks, use it for some of the deferred maintenance on parks throughout the city.

Given the affordable housing crisis in Pasadena, a much better use of the land would be for additional Habitat Housing, which has been very well received by th community.

Finally, if you decide to proceed with the park, then I support the construction of a bathroom so the park is available to all Pasadena residents. Reject the overblown rhetoric about people who are homeless and alleged criminal activity. Pasadena is better than that.

Arnold Siegel

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Arnold Siegel  
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626-793-0508

**07/23/2018**  
**Item 15**

18 JUL 23 03:27PM

CITY CLERK

July 23, 2018

Re: **Desiderio Neighborhood Park**

Dear Mayor Tornek , Vice Mayor Kennedy and Members of the City Council:

Thank you for addressing this project once again and recognizing its importance. My key issues with the project include the following:

1. Suicides continue to be a critical issue with the Colorado Street Bridge and there appears to be minimal consideration with regard to the impact on the potential park users. Siting of the elements within the park is paramount and in addition to whatever suicide prevention planning that goes into top of the bridge, massive tree plantings below the bridge must be a critical part of that plan.
2. The size and location of the proposed restroom, if one is absolutely necessary, are both wrong...too large and in the wrong place. I refer to the attached illustration of the recommended restrooms put forth by the consultants Rios, Clementi & Hale for AAG's One Arroyo Project. Considering that the Desiderio Park is to be an extension of the natural elements of the Lower Arroyo Seco, I think one of these four choices would be much more appropriate. With regard to location, having a huge restroom at the immediate entry into the park blocking the panoramic views of both the historic Colorado Street Bridge and the Visa del Arroyo makes no sense. A smaller more appropriate sized restroom should be moved south immediately adjacent to the tot lot and near the South Arroyo Boulevard boundary.
3. And in conclusion, since funding is a big issue, scrap both the tot lot and the restroom and spend available monies on trees and native plants. Per the staff report: **"Council has no obligation to honor the prior decisions and has authority to make an entirely different decision."** I encourage you to do so.

Thank you for your consideration,

**Thomas Seifert**, 436 South Arroyo Boulevard

Attachments: Concept C (which I strongly support) and restroom alternatives





# PASADENA

Department of Public Works

- Parking adjacent to Arroyo Blvd.
- Play area in western location of site
- Underground drainage system
- Open meadows



RR RESTROOM

CONCEPT C



# Parking, Restrooms & Information Stands

## Restrooms

- Freestanding public restroom with 2 unisex stalls and 1 external sink, \$100K each
- 3 facilities proposed at gateways/main entries in under-served areas
- Restroom design should be natural, "light on the land," and blend into the environment to the extent possible
- Potential for restroom design to double as a special gateway element / landmark or part of "One Arroyo" brand
- Restrooms can be either permanently fixed or freestanding / movable

*"This element may require amendments to Master Plans and/or municipal code*



Inspiration for natural design outdoor restrooms