

Martinez, Ruben

From: City Web
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2020 12:56 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment for Meeting on November 23, 2020 about Agenda Item 5

Public Comment for Meeting on November 23, 2020 about Agenda Item 5

Name:	Email:	Phone:	Address:
Michael L Dodge			Street, LOS ANGELES, California 90042

Comments:

I'm writing in support of the Lower Arroyo Habitat Restoration Program as an important local example of how the transformation/ rehabilitation of the landscape can restore local flora and fauna to combat climate change and symbolically atone for past colonization.

I do, however, strongly object to keeping the invasive trees from the Canary Islands and Australia in the city's only designated nature preserve. By not removing these trees, it sets unfortunate precedence that sets the standard for restoration too low and symbolic message of remaining colonization. Future projects looking to previous examples need to be able to see a fully carried out project that doesn't stop short.

I sincerely hope the Council approves the program, but orders that the Eucalyptus and Canary Island pines should also be removed. Pasadena has a chance to be a leader as an example of both native plant restoration and making a symbolic gesture for colonial reparations.

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

Martinez, Ruben

From: City Web
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2020 5:27 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment for Meeting on November 23, 2020 about Agenda Item #5 Contract for the Lower Arroyo Habitat Restoration Plan

Public Comment for Meeting on November 23, 2020 about Agenda Item #5 Contract for the Lower Arroyo Habitat Restoration Plan

Name:	Email:	Phone:	Address:
Thomas Priestley			St, Pasadena, California 91105

Comments:

I am a resident of the Lower Arroyo neighborhood who enjoys spending time in the Lower Arroyo Seco. I have reviewed the plans for the Lower Arroyo Restoration Project and have visited the proposed restoration area to look at the trees proposed for removal as part of the project.

I want to state my strong support for approval of the contract for the restoration project, but with the proviso that all of the non-native trees the plan identifies for removal be removed.

There should be no reprieve for the large eucalyptus and Canary Island pine trees, whose retention will undermine the success of the restoration. I understand that there are those making a case for their retention, but that case is sentimental, does not reflect scientific analysis, and is not consistent with the policies the city has adopted designating that part of the Arroyo as a nature preserve. The sentimental arguments for retaining these trees do not justify the impacts caused by their retention. These impacts include occupying space that could be used to plant native species, changes to the soil that hinder the establishment of native plants around them, fire dangers, and aesthetic incompatibility with the natural landscape setting.

Martinez, Ruben

From: City Web
Sent: Sunday, November 22, 2020 8:09 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment for Meeting on November 23, 2020 about Agenda Item 5. CONTRACT AWARD TO G TEAM LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION, INC., FOR LOWER ARROYO SECO HABITAT RESTORATION FOR AN AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED \$484,998

**Public Comment for Meeting on November 23, 2020
about Agenda Item 5. CONTRACT AWARD TO G
TEAM LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION, INC.,
FOR LOWER ARROYO SECO HABITAT
RESTORATION FOR AN AMOUNT NOT-TO-
EXCEED \$484,998**

Name:	Email:	Phone:	Address:
Thomas Seifert			., Pasadena, CA 91105

Comments:

The La Casita Foundation was made aware of the plans for the Lower Arroyo Habitat Restoration project on July 20, 2020. Representatives met with City staff, extensively toured the Lower Arroyo with both staff and the consulting restoration ecologists and studied the long history of the Lower Arroyo. We also participated in all of the public commission, committee and town hall meetings held from August through November.

Congratulations and thanks go to City staff and the consultants for both their insights and knowledge and especially their patience. The Arroyo is a complex subject with many strongly held opinions throughout the community and one size most certainly does not fit all but the project plan being presented is solid.

I strongly recommend that you vote to adopt the staff recommendation.

Martinez, Ruben

From: City Web
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2020 11:18 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment for Meeting on November 23, 2020 about Agenda Item Consent Calendar No 5

Public Comment for Meeting on November 23, 2020 about Agenda Item Consent Calendar No 5

Name: Ann Scheid **Email:** **Phone:** 626- **Address:** Pasadena, CA 91105

Comments:

I urge you to support the staff proposal before you today, which results from consultation with members of the community and which includes the retention of a few mature trees, so that the site is not completely denuded of large trees and the shade and habitat they provide to wildlife.

I would like to bring to your attention the following wording in the Arroyo Seco Public Lands Ordinance approved by the Council in 1990, which was incorporated into the Arroyo Seco Master Plans (revised version approved by the City Council in 2015):

““Native plants” means those plants historically known to be indigenous to the Arroyo Seco of Pasadena and nearby arroyos of similar ecology and also those indigenous plants of Southern California or countries of similar climates that could naturally exist and flourish in the Arroyo Seco in its present ecology.” (Article I, City of Pasadena/Arroyo Seco Master Plans – Design Guidelines).

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

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Sincerely,

Dr. Barbara Lamprecht

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

Martinez, Ruben

From: City Web
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2020 1:05 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment for Meeting on November 23, 2020 about Agenda Item 5. CONTRACT AWARD TO G TEAM LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION, INC., FOR LOWER ARROYO SECO HABITAT RESTORATION

Public Comment for Meeting on November 23, 2020 about Agenda Item 5. CONTRACT AWARD TO G TEAM LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION, INC., FOR LOWER ARROYO SECO HABITAT RESTORATION

Name: Tim Brick, Managing Director of the Arroyo Seco Foundation
Email:
Phone:
Address: Pasadena, CA 91101

Comments:

The Arroyo Seco Foundation supports habitat restoration in the Lower Arroyo. Sadly, though, it is difficult to describe this flawed contract as “habitat restoration” because in order to restore habitat it is necessary to remove the invasive, non-native plants that crowd out and out-compete the indigenous, high-value habitat species that are so important to the birds and wildlife. At the insistence of a small group of disgruntled residents, this contract will preserve two large groves of the worst of the weed species, the Canary Island pines and fire-prone Eucalyptus trees. These trees are massive and messy and will be very expensive to remove in the future. Pasadena has been given county parks money for habitat restoration. Do the job right.

Your vote today sends a signal about how serious Pasadena is about protecting the rare nature of the Arroyo Seco for future generations. We urge you to approve the contract, but to instruct the

vendor to remove the Canary Island pines and the Eucalyptus trees as was originally planned by the professional consultants.

Should the Lower Arroyo be a nature preserve or a neighborhood park? Will you vote for a science-based program or for special privilege?

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

Martinez, Ruben

From: City Web
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2020 1:35 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment for Meeting on November 23, 2020 about Agenda Item 5

Public Comment for Meeting on November 23, 2020 about Agenda Item 5

Name: Ken Kules **Email:** **Phone:** **Address:**
Pasadena, CA 91107

Comments:

I urge the City Council to reconsider retention of eucalyptus trees considering the safety hazard potential:

“Falling eucalyptus branches do not necessarily mean that your trees have a rot disease, or any disease for that matter. When eucalyptus tree branches keep falling, it may mean that the trees are suffering from extended drought.

“Trees, like most other living organisms, want to live and will do whatever they can to prevent demise. Branch drop in eucalyptus is one means the trees use to prevent death in times of severe lack of water.

“A healthy eucalyptus tree suffering from long-term lack of water may suddenly drop one of its branches. The branch will not show any sign of disease on the inside or the outside. It will simply fall from the tree to allow the remaining branches and trunk to have more moisture.

This presents a real danger to homeowners since the eucalyptus branches falling on property can cause damage. When they fall on human beings, injuries or death can be the result.

Advance Signs of Falling Eucalyptus Branches It is not possible to predict the falling eucalyptus branches in advance.”

<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/trees/eucalyptus/eucalyptus-branch-drop.htm>

Consent given to read my comments out loud: No

Martinez, Ruben

From: City Web
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2020 2:08 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment for Meeting on November 23, 2020 about Agenda Item 5

Public Comment for Meeting on November 23, 2020 about Agenda Item 5

Name:	Email:	Phone	Address:
Michael Polka	.		Dr, Pasadena, CA 91105

Comments:

In favor of removing all non-native plants (including all eucalyptus and Canary Island pines) in the Lower Arroyo Seco for the restoration project.

UFAC public comment rebuttal

I heard that the invasive non-native Red Gum Eucalyptus trees are still trying to be saved in the Lower Arroyo Seco. There was a public written comment at the 9-23-20 UFAC meeting and I would like to address the comment. The public comment was in favor of saving some of the eucalyptus trees because a beloved rancher planted them in the arroyo. But we should seek honor in the space, not the rancher, especially when we seek to honor him by retaining non-natives that wreak havoc on the ecosystem. Surely destroying the habitat was not what the rancher intended. Eucalyptus trees are known for their ability to suck up all the moisture in the area so this was probably the rancher's intent when they were planted. There are plenty of other eucalyptus trees along the hillside of the arroyo and along the freeways and since those are not part of the Lower Arroyo Restoration Project, those will still be there.

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes

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From: City Web
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2020 3:36 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Public Comment for Meeting on November 23, 2020 about Agenda Item 5

Public Comment for Meeting on November 23, 2020 about Agenda Item 5

Name: Glenn Camhi **Address:** , Pasadena, CA 91106

Comments:

Clarification on defining “Native Plants” for the Lower Arroyo:

Some correspondents referred to the Arroyo Seco Public Lands Ordinance and “Arroyo Seco Master Plans - Design Guidelines,” in which the term “native plants” includes plants from “countries of similar climates that could naturally exist and flourish in the Arroyo Seco in its present ecology.”

However, there are 2 issues with this: 1) the species in question don't work well for the present ecology, and 2) the “Arroyo Seco Master Plans - Lower Arroyo Master Plan” differs from the broader document, specifying for the Lower Arroyo: “Use only native plants indigenous to the area in any habitat restoration activities.” (Sec.1.6)

The “Lower Arroyo Master Plan” even directly clarifies the definition of “native plants” from the Arroyo Seco Public Lands Ordinance: “This is an expansive definition, as some Southern California indigenous plants would never have occurred in the Lower Arroyo but could survive there now. Appropriate native plants for restoration purposes are those plants indigenous to the Arroyo Seco watershed.” (Sec.3.2.2)

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This project is a habitat restoration. Thus, the invasive, allelopathic Canary Island Pine and Australian Red Gum Eucalyptus don't seem to fit the “native plant” definition per the Lower Arroyo Master Plan.

Consent given to read my comments out loud: Yes