

## Jomsky, Mark

**From:** Ken Kules  
**Sent:** Monday, July 19, 2021 1:39 PM  
**To:** Jomsky, Mark  
**Cc:** Gordo, Victor; Madison, Steve; Hampton, Tyron; Wilson, Andy; Masuda, Gene; Kennedy, John J.; Rivas, Jessica; Williams, Felicia  
**Subject:** 7-19-2021 City Council Agenda Item 13: Arroyo Seco Canyon Project (CUP #6222)

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PWP has insisted that the Arroyo Seco diversion dam was damaged as a result of the Station Fire:

"The Project is being proposed to repair and replace water infrastructure facilities in the Upper Arroyo Seco that were damaged by debris flows caused by storms following the 2009 Station Fire. Damage to these structures has **greatly reduced** the City's capacity to divert water from the Arroyo Seco for spreading and pumping credits." (ASCP DEIR, p. ES-3, emphasis added)

"The city says damage to the structures has greatly reduced the city's capacity to divert water from the Arroyo Seco. The proposed improvements would allow for increased utilization of the city's pre-1914 surface water rights from the Arroyo Seco." (Pasadena Now, July 19, 2021)

I've not seen a condition assessment of the diversion dam (none was included in the ASCP DEIR), but examination of Arroyo Seco spreading since 2000-01 suggests that the Station Fire probably resulted in reduced spreading in 2009-10 year and that the reduced spreading in later years was due to dry conditions and not damage to the facilities (other than perhaps sediment accumulation behind the dam). Spreading in 2010-11, 2011-12, 2018-19 and 2019-20 - after the fire - was as productive as the years preceding the fire..



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**Jomsky, Mark**

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**From:** Rivas, Jessica  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 18, 2021 6:37 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Fwd: Breaking News

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**From:** Tim Brick  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 18, 2021 6:09:23 PM  
**To:** Rivas, Jessica <jerivas@cityofpasadena.net>  
**Subject:** Breaking News

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Hi, Jess,

Here's some breaking news for you that is relevant to tomorrow's discussion of the Arroyo Seco Canyon Project. PWP General Manager Gucharan Bawa informed me in a message on Friday that PWP water division chief Mitch Dion "has decided to move on." ASCP Project Manager Elisa Ventura resigned several weeks ago.

As you know, ASF, Pasadena Audubon and some concerned residents have been concerned about the lack of focus on key issues related to Pasadena's water challenges, such as the presence of trout, the best way to conserve water in Hahamongna, and how to stop the decline of the groundwater level in the Raymond Basin. I hope that new leadership in the Water division can play a positive role in resolving many of these vital issues and developing a resilient water program.

Sincerely,  
Tim Brick

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# FOOTHILL MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

ALTADENA • La CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE • La CRESCENTA

July 19, 2021

Pasadena City Council  
100 North Garfield Ave.  
Pasadena, CA 91101

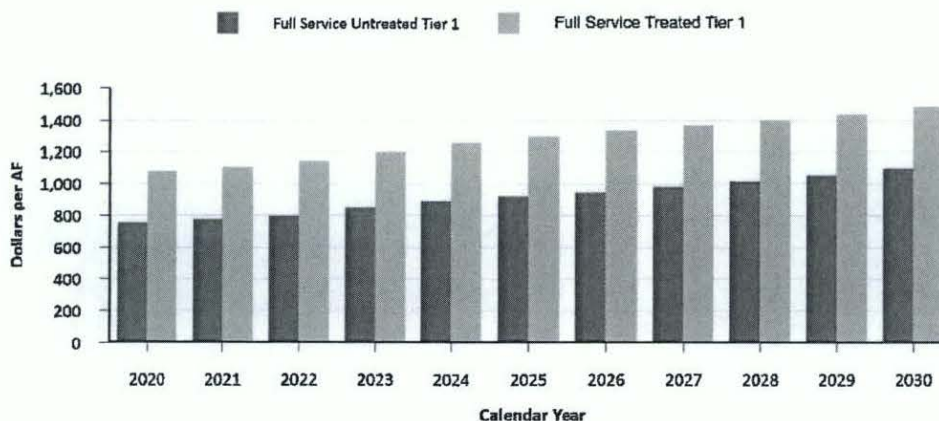
Dear Councilmembers:

## Arroyo Seco Canyon Project

Foothill Municipal Water District would like to provide our input on the Arroyo Seco Canyon Project. The Raymond Basin is a valuable natural resource that should not be ignored. The Basin has been declining for years and Watermaster has been working with the producers from the Basin including Pasadena in slowing down and stopping that decline.

In conjunction with a renewed commitment to water conservation, this project is the first step for the City of Pasadena in becoming more sustainable and self-reliant on local resources as it used to be. From an economic perspective, this is significant as Metropolitan's rate projections continue to increase as can be seen in the graph below from its Fiscal Years 2020-21 and 2021-22 Biennial Budget.<sup>1</sup> These projections do not include the costs of constructing the Regional Recycled Water Project and the cost of the Delta Tunnel both of which would make the incline steeper.

Volumetric Cost, \$ AF



From a resiliency standpoint, as the climate changes, the sources of Metropolitan's imported water – both the State Water Project and Colorado River, are becoming more unreliable. The State Water Project allocation was only 5% of its entitlement for this year. The Colorado River will likely have a Tier 1

<sup>1</sup> Pasadena takes Full Service Treated Tier 1 water in green.

shortage declared this year. It is anticipated that a Tier 2 shortage will be declared next year. Once the elevation of Lake Mead reaches 1045 feet, California will need to reduce its take of Colorado River water by 200,000 acre-feet. This reduction will start with Metropolitan since it has the lowest priority in California. The greater the dependence on Metropolitan, the greater the impacts of these water shortages to Pasadena.

Pasadena should do all it can to capture rainwater when it can whether it be 5 inches of rain in a dry year or 25 inches of rain in a wet year to reduce these impacts. The Arroyo Seco Canyon Project is the foundation of that effort from a capital improvement perspective. Other actions should also occur such as water conservation, the use of recycled water, continued maintenance of the system to reduce leakage, the continued implementation of Pasadena's greywater program and many more.

It is with these improvements and programs that Pasadena can continue to be a water supply leader in the area.

If you have any questions, please contact Nina Jazmadarian at (818) 790-4036, extension 102.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard W. Atwater".

Richard W. Atwater  
Board President

**Martinez, Ruben**

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**From:** Caroline Blake <  
**Sent:** Monday, July 19, 2021 4:02 PM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Cc:** tim@arroyoseco.ort  
**Subject:** Preserve Trout in the Arroyo

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Dear Pasadena Council Members

In this decision, consider your legacy. It should not be one of encouraging extinction of this species trout, native to our area.

Climate change requires adapting to preserve whatever precious remaining trout in the stream survives and breeds. Better conservation decisions and alternative can be made than blocking these fish.

For eleven years I lived on Orange Grove near Colorado and walked the trails there. I visited friends on the Arroyo and worked at Pasadena City College. I do business weekly in Pasadena. Therefore I think my opinion should count.

I encourage you to halt the changes to Arroyo Saco & vote to preserve the trout.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Caroline Blake

Arcadia, CA, 91007



## Martinez, Ruben

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**From:** Dorothy Wong  
**Sent:** Monday, July 19, 2021 4:35 PM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Subject:** Item 13 - OPPOSE: Arroyo Seco Canyon Project

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Dear Council Members,

My name is Dorothy Wong and a resident of Altadena, Lincoln Ave Water Shareholder. I also spend much time in the mountains and trails and the last two decades around the watersheds. I've learned a lot over the years and also saw the changes and now devastation of habitat in the Arroyo Seco/Hahamongna Watershed much to do with the Devil's Gate Project. Also over the years seeing the impacts of climate change and drought. Also, the decades of lack of acknowledgement of the treasure this key tributary to the LA River was and a balancing act of consumption, flood control and nature.

Over the years, no longer do we see the robust migration of birds, waterfowl cycle are no longer in the watershed, frogs and toads, and the mass reduction of biodiversity has been very disconcerting. All the while, plans to capture more water including the reasons for the big dig was to catch the water at the Dam and let it make its way into the aquifer. The Eaton Canyon Pipeline and other projects met with resistance, when all the while time to address new ways of water resilience including water credits and not working hard enough it seems to get those agreements re-written.

The effects of this project seemingly will continue to stress the streamzone. We need to start caring about and embracing nature's solutions. Please rethink and vote no to move forward with this project as there is yet another opportunity lost.

Also, the Hahamongna watershed is a treasure and respected as a river will bring back many riches. Now is the time to care for the lands which has been ignored, stressed and abused over time. Let nature bring us back and in the right direction for the future.

- Pasadena Water & Power please do the right thing. Adding spreading basins is not the answer. Expand natural open space, prioritize native habitat. You have a jewel in this magical watershed, nurture it and it will provide you the resources you need. Allow the water to flow to enrich the corridor.
- Stop the depletion of the Raymond Basin. Heal the Basin.
- Protect the native fish and wildlife in the Arroyo Seco and a key wildlife corridor.
- Pasadena Water & Power must shift its water capture paradigm to nature based solutions and a resilient plan for the future. The Arroyo Seco Canyon Project must prioritize and utilize the river to restore the basin and to flow and restoration rather than further degradation.

There are many innovative solutions, now is the time, before it's too late. A better plan forward is needed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Dorothy Wong

**Martinez, Ruben**

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**From:** Ann Scheid <[ann.scheid@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:ann.scheid@cityofpasadena.net)>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 19, 2021 4:38 PM  
**To:** PublicComment-AutoResponse  
**Cc:** Ann Scheid; Victor Gordo; Madison, Steve; Felicia Williams; Suzuki, Takako; Hugh Bowles  
**Subject:** Agenda Item #13. July 19

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Dear Members of the City Council:

This appeal is critical to the future of the Arroyo Seco and our water supply in this era of fast-moving climate change. I fully support Hugh Bowles in his efforts to turn the City's policies around and save this most precious watershed from further deterioration.

I have read the Phillips-Williams Report, which clearly states that diverting water into the spreading basins will result in greater loss of water to evaporation than allowing the water to flow down in the natural stream bed. This is a strong, respected scientific analysis.

I urge the City Council to read the report, follow the science, and return the FEIR for reconsideration of the "environmentally superior alternative" allowing natural flows to be restored in the Arroyo stream bed.

Sincerely,  
Ann Scheid

Pasadena, CA 91105

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