

# Agenda Report

SUPPLEMENTAL

TO: CITY COUNCIL

DATE: February 7, 2000

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: Technical Geographic Feasibility of Additional Multi-Purpose Fields in  
Hahamongna Watershed Park Draft Master Plan

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This report is for information only.

**BACKGROUND:**

At the January 24, 2000 meeting of the City Council, city staff was requested to provide City Council with technical geographical feasibility for developing additional turf athletic fields in the draft master plan for Hahamongna Watershed Park (HWP). The current recommended draft master plan for HWP, which was presented to City Council on January 24<sup>th</sup> for conceptual approval, includes four multi-purpose athletic fields which could accommodate up to nine soccer fields depending on the size of the field.

While the plan does promote facilities for a variety of organized sports including baseball, softball and soccer, soccer by far has the greatest number of users and also has the longest playing season. For purposes of this feasibility analysis only, the sport of soccer was used as the model for assessing the highest use by organized youth sports.

**Community Soccer Needs**

Discussions with youth soccer representatives from American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) Region 13 and Villa Park City Youth Soccer Program indicated that over half of the children playing soccer today are under 10 years of age. The other 50% of the children are a mix of Jr. High School and High School aged youth. Both soccer programs indicated the greatest need for fields is for the under age 10 soccer population, since interest in the game decreases as the youth become older.

The following table summarizes current field usage within the City of Pasadena:

**CURRENT SOCCER FIELD USAGE**

	<b>Age Range</b>	<b>Size of Field Used</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>AYSO</b>	Under 6	40yds x 60yds	slowly converting over from 50yd x 80yd fields
	6 to 8	40yds x 60yds	slowly converting over from 50yd x 80yd fields
	8 to 10	50yds x 80yds	
	10 to 12	60yds x 100 yds	
	12 to 14	60yds x 100 yds	
	14 to 16	60yds x 100 yds	for tournament play need 70yds x 110yds
	<b>VILLA PARK CITY YOUTH SOCCER</b>	<b>Age Range</b>	<b>Size of Field Used</b>
Under 6		50yds x 80yds	would consider converting to smaller 40yd x 60yd field
6 to 8		60yds x 100 yds	would consider converting to smaller 40yd x 60yd field
8 to 10		60yds x 100 yds	
10 to 12		60yds x 100 yds	
12 to 14		70yds x 110 yds	
14 to 16		70yds x 110 yds	for tournament play need 70yds x 110yds
16 to 19		70yds x 110 yds	

**NOTES:**

1. Fields side by side need minimum of 15 ft. buffer between them for safety zone

Available Field Development Areas

There are 41.7 acres available for new uses within the 300 acre Hahamongna Watershed Park area. The remaining 258.3 acres are considered already developed or undevelopable due to flood hazards, existing percolation/water treatment area, existing parking and roadways, existing park use and/or topography.

The current draft Hahamongna Watershed Park Master Plan proposes utilizing 41.7 acres for a variety of new uses, including recreational lakes, additional percolation ponds, parking structures and the relocation of a portion of the existing disc golf course. The four multi-purpose fields in the plan utilize 10.5 acres.

The 13.1 acre area on the northeast-side of the plan, that proposes the expansion of the percolation ponds, was not considered by staff to be a feasible site for athletic field usage because this amount in spreading is legally mandated by the Raymond Basin Management Board and its seventeen member agencies.

Current Draft Master Plan Proposal

The following table summarizes the fields provided by the existing draft Hahamongna Watershed Park Master Plan:

**FIELDS PROPOSED IN EXISTING DRAFT MASTER PLAN**

	Description	Optional Use	Maximum Use Proposed
<b>WEST SIDE</b>	(2) Tournament Size (70yds x 110 yds each)	The (2) fields can also accommodate (4) - 50yd x 80yd fields (1) - 40yd x 60yd field	(4) - 50yd x 80yd fields (1) - 40yd x 60yd fields
<b>EAST SIDE</b>	(2) Youth Size (60yds x 100 yds each)	Each field can also accommodate (2) - 40yd x 60yd fields	(4) - 40yd x 60yd fields
			<b>Total: 9 fields</b>

The four sites are designed to be flexible by allowing any variation of the various sized fields to be used depending on the need during any given moment. The current parking layout is estimated to accommodate the anticipated users for the multi-purpose fields as well as all other park users. Any additional multi-purpose fields will require additional parking.

Field Development Alternatives

In addition to the fields proposed in the draft plan, there are four areas that could accommodate additional fields. The following table summarizes these locations:

**GEOGRAPHICAL FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS FOR ADDITIONAL ATHLETIC FIELDS**

Geographical Location	Proposed Fields	Additional Required Parking	Comments
<b>Eastside Lake</b>	(2) 40yds x 60yds	60 spaces	
<b>Westside Lake</b>	(2) 50yds x 80yds	72 spaces	
<b>Relocated 9-holes Disc Golf</b>	(2) 50yds x 80yds	72 spaces	
<b>Westside Percolation Ponds</b>	(7) 40yds x 60yds includes area for	210 spaces	Assumes use of existing westside JPL asphalt parking lot for most of this parking

**NOTE:** No. of players per team x 3 = parking spaces per field

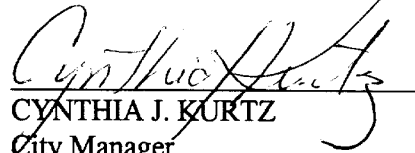
A detailed description of each option and the associated potential impacts are listed in Attachment A. Although these potential impacts are generally outlined by City staff in Attachment A, they would require further environmental analysis for full consideration. The master environmental impact report (MEIR) that will be completed for the overall Arroyo Seco Master Plan would provide this analysis.

The options outlined in the Geographical Feasibility Analysis impact several of the goals and opportunities outlined in the draft Master Plan as well as the activities and operations of involved jurisdictions and stakeholders. The City is one of several managers within this basin. Modifications to any one element of the plan could potentially cause other managers of the basin to alter their operations, thereby impacting other elements of the plan and creating a "domino effect". These impacts are also generally outlined in Attachment A.


**FISCAL IMPACT:**

A thorough financial analysis cannot be conducted until City Council provides direction on the conceptually desired park components. The Takata Associates contract includes the preparation of a complete financial analysis once this direction is provided. The consultant will then prepare revenue, financing and phasing proposals to fund ongoing park development, operations and maintenance. This financial plan will be a part of the final master plan that will come before Council in January 2001.

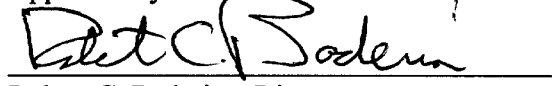
Respectfully submitted,

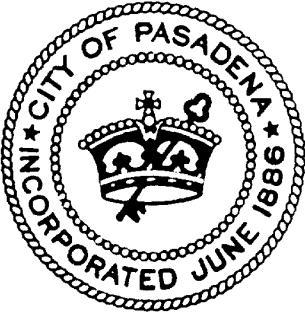
  
CYNTHIA J. KURTZ  
City Manager

Prepared by:

  
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Project Manager

Approved by:

  
Robert C. Baderian, Director  
Parks and Natural Resources



# Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL DATE: January 24, 2000

FROM: CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: **Conceptual Approval of Hahamongna Watershed Park Draft Master Plan**

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the City Council:

1. Approve in concept the Hahamongna Watershed Park Draft Master Plan, pending completion of the Draft Arroyo Seco Master Environmental Impact Report shown in exhibit 1;
2. Direct the City Manager to prepare a financing and phasing plan for the development, operations and maintenance of Hahamongna Watershed Park.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In 1997, the City Council approved the formation of the Hahamongna Watershed Park Advisory Committee to develop and implement a master plan. In July, 1998, City Council authorized \$265,000 for Takata and Associates to prepare the draft master plan. The Hahamongna Watershed Park Plan is one of three park plans included in the Arroyo Seco Master Plan, which will provide policy and guidelines for the entire Arroyo Seco.

Takata and Associates worked with a variety of government agencies, adjacent land users and neighboring property owners to develop the plan presented in this report. In addition, approval of the draft master plan has been endorsed by seven advisory commissions. Upon conceptual approval of the draft master plan, the financial plan and park development plans will be completed and approved by all participating agencies. The final plan and accompanying EIR will be presented to City Council in November of this year.

## **BACKGROUND:**

A series of significant events have occurred over the past ten(10) years, leading to the completion of the draft master plan. Appendix A outlines this project history for the Hahamongna Watershed Park area.

### Commission And Committee Reviews

The Hahamongna Watershed Park Advisory Committee(HWPAC) has reviewed the draft master plan and is recommending City Council conceptual approval. In addition to HWPAC, the plan was presented to eight commissions/committees including the Accessibility and Disability, Utility Advisory, Northwest, Transportation Advisory, Design, Hahamongna Watershed Park Advisory, and Planning Commissions as well as the Urban Forestry Advisory Committee. Seven endorsed approval of the plan. The Design Commission began discussion, but continued it to their meeting of January 24<sup>th</sup>. Commission members will attend the January 24<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting to present their recommendation verbally. Appendix B provides a detailed summary of each commission/committees recommendation and comment.

### Community Outreach

The HWPAC developed a plan for public outreach and community involvement, which is further described below. This outreach effort will continue until the draft plan is brought to City Council for adoption in January, 2001.

The preparation of this draft master plan has taken approximately eleven (11) months. The Master Plan community outreach process was extensive. The process included:

- ◆ Development of a 340 member mailing list
- ◆ 3 community workshops (including site tours)
- ◆ Stakeholder meetings with numerous public agencies (mailing list includes approximately 30 local, county, state and federal agencies as stakeholders on this project)
- ◆ Stakeholder meetings with neighboring users (MWD and tenants of their property, JPL, Raymond Basin Management board)
- ◆ Stakeholder meetings with numerous citywide community organizations and neighborhood groups
- ◆ Stakeholder meeting with regional recreation, environmental and cultural groups
- ◆ Presentations to the Altadena Town Council
- ◆ Presentation to Supervisor Antonovich
- ◆ Presentation to the L.A./San Gabriel River Watershed Council
- ◆ Presentations to various City Commissions
- ◆ Tours to various City Council members and field representatives as well as the City Manager and Mayor
- ◆ Various press releases and articles in local periodicals

All meetings were well attended by interested and enthusiastic participants. The community consensus was toward keeping the park natural while balancing some of the other major issues, such as recreation, flood management, and water conservation needs.

### Relationship to other Park Plans in the Arroyo Seco

The Hahamongna Watershed Park Plan is one of three park plans included in the Arroyo Seco Master Plan which will provide policy and guidelines for the entire Arroyo Seco. The park plans in the Arroyo Seco Master Plan are shown in exhibit 2 and consist of:

***The Lower Arroyo Seco Master Plan*** - Conceptually approved by City Council on April 1996. The plan provides a future guide for the park area from the south City limits, north to the Colorado Street bridge.

***The Central Arroyo Seco Master Plan*** - Currently being completed. It is scheduled to come before City Council for conceptual approval in July 2000. The plan will provide a future guide for the park area from the Colorado Street bridge, north to Devil's Gate Dam.

***The Hahamongna Watershed Park Master Plan*** - Now completed in draft form and before Council today for conceptual approval. The plan will provide a future guide for the 300-acre park area from Devil's Gate Dam, north to the JPL bridge. An additional 1200 acres above the JPL bridge form the Upper Arroyo Seco in Pasadena, but are not a part of this planning effort.

### Summary of the Draft Park Plan

Hahamongna Watershed Park serves multiple jurisdictions and community groups. The interests of these groups are diverse and at times compete with each other. The goal of the master plan is to establish a clear vision that balances these diverse interests.

Six major components summarize the basic framework of the plan; these are:

#### *A. Habitat Restoration*

A comprehensive vegetation and wildlife habitat inventory and analysis was completed for the Hahamongna Watershed Park (HWP) area over an approximate one-year period. Over 300 plant species and nearly 100 animal species were observed during the inventory. The inventory information about biological resources in the Park helped to define the existing setting; six natural plant communities were recorded and mapped in the HWP.

All of these communities, with the exception of non-native grassland, are considered worthy of restoration efforts to enhance and/or increase their diversity, size and distribution in the Park. The plan proposes 11 habitat restoration projects in the park to replace the widespread non-native grassland area as well as undesirable species compositions that have low habitat value for wildlife and native plant species.

#### *B. Flood Control*

HWP is located at the foot of the most geologically dynamic mountains in the world; the basin receives periodic high-intensity floods that carry very high sediment loads from

the San Gabriel Mountains. Los Angeles County Public works Department (LACPWD) owns the Devil's Gate Dam and operates it for flood safety and sediment management.

Critical to the understanding of the environment of the basin is the impact of the dam on flood elevations. The top of the dam is set at elevation 1075.0, corresponding to the LA County Flood Control Easement of the basin. At elevation 1040.5 accumulated waters will begin to spill over the dam into the central arroyo flood control channel. Permanent park structures need to be located above the 1075 flood line or be designed to handle seasonal inundation. Trails, emergency/maintenance access, and recreation activities need to be located above elevation 1040.5 to avoid seasonal inundation and encroaching on areas identified for water conservation activities. The flood hazard zone can be extremely large and unpredictable during flood events, especially in the upper portion of the park.

The long term average annual sediment delivery to the basin since the construction of the dam in 1919 is approximately 90 acre-feet (120,000 cu. yds.). This is the best estimate of the amount of sediment that would have to be removed annually from behind the dam. Since the construction of the Devil's Gate Dam, LACDPW has actively excavated sediment from the reservoir. Sediment was not removed in a regularly scheduled basis but on an as-needed, as funded basis. In general, the amount of sediment removed over the years has been less than the amount of sediment deposited in the basin. This accounts for the overall decline in active storage capacity of the reservoir.

The draft master plan recommends that excavation take place on a performance basis; in other words, sediment should be removed from the park as needed, after deposition reached certain tolerance elevations. This would likely be the most economical method to maintain the park since sediment deposition is very unpredictable. The plan estimates that the excavation zones within the park would require excavation approximately every 6 years. Sediment sluicing should be pursued as much as possible to reduce the impacts of excavation. Ongoing meetings with LACDPW and other agencies needs to take place in the coming months to reach a mutual agreement on these procedures.

### *C. Water Conservation*

The City of Pasadena owns and operates 13 acres of water spreading basins, which recharge the Raymond Basin Aquifer. 40% to 50% of the City's water is supplied from ground water pumping (wells) from the aquifer. The water wells within the HWP basin include four wells owned by the City of Pasadena. Water lines from the basin connect to wells owned by the Lincoln Avenue Water Company east of the site. In addition, JPL has a VOC facility to remove volatile organic contaminants and numerous monitoring wells throughout the basin to track groundwater contaminants.

The draft master plan proposes an increase to the water spreading operations by 8 acres for a new total spreading area of approximately 21 surface acres, thereby increasing the spreading by nearly 60%. If the City received this entire increase it could allow for a



yearly savings of up to \$744,000 by the City in its purchase of imported water. The second water conservation element proposed by the plan is the provision of a pump back system. This system could allow water to accumulate behind the dam during high flow situations, just long enough for the sediment to drop out, and instead of losing the water to the ocean via the dam, it could be pumped back up to replenish the spreading ponds.

#### *D. Recreation*

The existing park and recreation facilities at HWP include:

- Oak Grove baseball field
- Johnson softball field
- Disc golf course
- Equestrian staging area
- Picnic facilities
- Restrooms
- Small log amphitheater

Except for Johnson field, the majority of the recreation facilities are on the west side within the Oak Grove area of HWP.

The plan proposes the following recreational elements:

- 4 multi-purpose play fields (2 on east/2 on west)
- Relocation of the back nine holes of the disc golf course to the area east of the existing parking lot.
- Oak Grove picnic area improvements
- Supervised overnight camping
- Equestrian staging area improvements
- Interpretive Center (joint venture effort between the City of Pasadena, US Forest Service and the Native American Community) with native plant nursery
- Two new lakes to create wetland habitat and passive recreational activities such as bird watching and fishing; they will be fully lined to minimize percolation and sustain a natural aquatic ecosystem

#### *E. Preservation of Cultural Resources*

The draft master plan recognizes the significance of the indigenous resources of the area. Recommendations include the involvement of the native American community in the planning, development and operation of an interpretive center. The habitat restoration plan also takes these cultural resources into account.

#### *F. Circulation and Parking*

HWP is served by the 210 Freeway and two major arterials, Windsor Ave. on the east and Oak Grove Drive on the west. The main access is from Oak Grove Drive at Foothill Blvd. The eastern access is at the Windsor and Ventura intersection. The plan proposes circulation improvements to the west entrance, the east entrance and to the access onto the dam. Also proposed is the closure of La Canada Verdugo Road as a primary maintenance entrance onto the dam.

HWP serves as a hub for trail connections to Angles National Forest on the north, Altadena on the east, Central and Lower Arroyo to the south, and Flint wash and the City of La Canada Flintridge on the west. Regional connections from HWP include the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy's Rim of the Valley trail and the Pacific Crest Trail. The existing trails in HWP are not continuous, especially during wet weather, where east to west connections are not passable because of high water flows from the Arroyo stream, Flint Wash and water behind the Dam. The draft master plan proposes an all weather perimeter trail for equestrians, hikers and emergency and maintenance vehicles.

Existing parking at HWP includes park visitor parking and JPL parking. The City of Pasadena leases two parking areas to JPL for employee parking. The parking lots are located on the east and west sides of HWP. The total parking provided is 1400 spaces. The lease revenues fund the operations and maintenance of HWP. JPL parking improvements are proposed in two phases. The first phase reduces the east parking lot by 25% to 849 spaces. This allows for increased spreading and a park visitor parking area in the northeast portion of the park. In phase two, a 1200 space parking structure is proposed by the plan on the existing west parking lot site to accommodate JPL's parking. The JPL parking spaces on the east side will be relocated to the new parking structure, providing additional acreage for water conservation on the east side. Access to the new parking structure will continue to be from both Oak Grove and Windsor to evenly distribute the traffic flow. The JPL parking is recommended to be shared use parking and available to the park visitor on weekends and holidays.

#### Next Steps

Conduct several meeting comprised of representatives from the following agencies:

- ◆ County of Los Angeles Public Works Department
- ◆ County of Los Angeles Fire Department
- ◆ City of Pasadena Public Works and Transportation Department
- ◆ City of Pasadena Purchasing Department (Claims and Liability)
- ◆ City of Pasadena Water and Power Department
- ◆ California State Fish and Game
- ◆ US Fish and Wildlife
- ◆ US Army Corps of Engineers
- ◆ US Forest Service
- ◆ Raymond Basin Management Board
- ◆ Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL)

Formal advisory meetings with these representatives will allow all the agencies to come together in a unified forum to achieve consensus and streamline the permitting process on issues such as habitat mitigation, dam operations & maintenance, liability, security, sediment management, permitting and development of proposed park elements. The results from such a technical group will provide the City Council a better perspective on the reality of implementing the recommendations of the plan.

A more detailed financial plan will be prepared to address the elements as recommended by City Council. This plan will include potential revenue, financing and phasing proposals that will address both capital and maintenance operations.

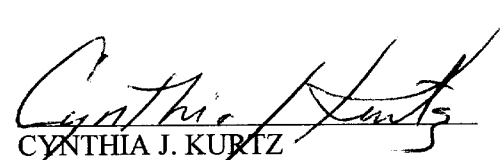
**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:**

A master environmental impact report (MEIR) will be completed for the overall Arroyo Seco Master Plan. The environmental review of the Hahamongna Watershed Park Master Plan will be included in the MEIR as will the environmental for the draft Lower Arroyo Seco Park Plan and the draft Central Arroyo Park Plan. The consulting firm of Sapphos Environmental has been hired to complete the MEIR. The Draft Arroyo Seco Master Plan and the Draft Arroyo Seco Master EIR is scheduled to come before City Council for adoption in January (November?) 2001.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

A thorough financial analysis cannot be conducted until City Council provides direction on the conceptually desired park components. The Takata Associates contract includes the preparation of a complete financial analysis once this direction is provided. The consultant will then prepare revenue, financing and phasing proposals for park development, operations and maintenance. These proposals will be presented with the final master plan that will come before Council in January 2001.

Respectfully submitted,

  
CYNTHIA J. KURTZ  
City Manager

Prepared by:



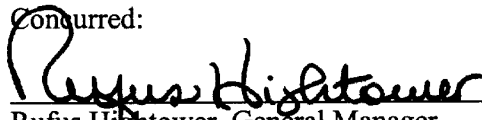
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