

From: "R. Klemm and L. Newlin" <treehuggers@ca.rr.com>
To: <rlaveaga@cityofpasadena.net>; <mbmuproject@cityofpasadena.net>
Sent: Thursday, August 23, 2012 3:43 PM
Subject: Comments on Hahamongna Multi-Benefit-Multi-Use Project

Dear Rosa:

I would like to reiterate a couple of the comments I made in person at the scoping meeting several weeks ago.

The Station Fire in 2009 changed a great deal about how the basin behind the Devils Gate Dam will be managed in the future. The scope of the County's plans to remove sediment from behind the dam necessitate revisiting most, if not all, of the Hahamongna Master Plan. It does not make sense for the City to add fill to the sediment basin while the County is removing sediment from the same basin. At the very least, before adding fill in the basin, the City must coordinate with the County Department of Public Works to ensure this fill is accounted for in the pertinent flood control calculations.

Please use local plant materials in revegetation efforts in the Hahamongna basin, and to the greatest extent possible, in landscaping projects as well. By local, I mean on-site. There are plenty of botanical resources in the Hahamongna basin, and the best plants for revegetation are those that were there first, before the site is disturbed. In this case, since the projects are planned well in advance, it would be prudent to establish a propagation program sooner rather than later. Establishing a nursery to grow the plants currently on site for future revegetation and landscaping efforts would enable seeds to be collected before the start of construction. Then the plants could be growing during construction, and would be ready for planting once the project is built. Seeds ripen and must be collected at different times of the year, so to wait for the start of a project to establish the nursery, when construction contractors are eager to get started with their work, is too late. The nursery program needs to be started at least a year in advance of any construction activities, to allow sufficient time to gather all of the plant materials necessary for propagation.

Additionally, I would like to see the City first take adequate care of the existing park, before expanding the developed areas. I'm speaking specifically about the current playing field. While I realize we're just coming out of an extended (for us) heat wave, the turf of the current playing field is in sad shape. There are large patches of bare dirt, large patches of weeds, and not many areas of good grass. I seriously question the wisdom of increasing the burden on the park maintenance staff if they are not able to keep the current field in good order. Please, first take proper care of what we've got, before overextending ourselves even further. Especially so when construction of the new field entails destroying habitat and diminishing the volume of the basin available for flood control.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Roger Klemm
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