

Comments of Michele Zack and Mark Goldschmidt

Dear Rosa,

We are making this comment as residents of nearby Altadena, and as two people who have been both watching and participating in the public process at HWP for a long time, including as "community leaders" several years ago at your summit. We are also speaking on behalf of Altadena Heritage, a 25-year-old 501 c3 dedicated to preserving Altadena's architectural, cultural, and natural heritage.

We take special care to always check soccer field use in Pasadena at various times of day and evening. The one we go by almost every day, on Fair Oaks opposite Jackie Robinson Park, is usually empty, as are others we pass by less often. We think much of the problem with soccer fields is that when people say there aren't enough, they mean from 9-noon on Saturday, when everyone who plays soccer wants a field — and feels it is the city's responsibility to provide one. The rest of the week they are empty. Use in summer does go up a bit, but not by that much. If soccer is really so important to these kids' development, wouldn't a little time flexibility open up enough space to all? And shouldn't the space be close to where kids work and attend school?

To instead sacrifice an important watershed and natural system to build yet another soccer field far from residential and school property seems completely ill-advised. The fact that so much fill will be needed to put it above water represents a kind of arrogance and disrespect for the unique and wonderful natural park that is Hahamongna. At every meeting we've attended or read about, people come out to say, in great numbers, that they want to preserve this last bit of natural open space the way it is, without soccer fields. The soccer interests are always represented by one or two people, usually with a professional/financial/political interest in having them built.

Please remove the soccer field from the plan, and move forward with a more nature-centered and passive style park that will allow more people (not just enthusiasts from a single sport) of various ages living in Pasadena and around the park to enjoy Hahamongna's charms without all the traffic, lights, and possible future floods that soccer will bring.

Mark Goldschmidt
Michele Zack