

Comments/Questions With Respect to Devil's Gate Dam (Hahamongna) Sediment Removal DEIR

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(About a block from Hahamongna Watershed Park And La Canada High School)

(1) No notice to the neighborhood community or the park users.

Why was there effectively no notice provided to neighborhood residents and park users? Signage regarding the project and DEIR should have been posted at park entrances, meeting areas- and delivered to immediately adjacent property owners/residents. This was deliberately not done. Notices placed were quickly removed. This weekend there was an event at Hahamongna of the Oak Grove Disc Golf Association—no visible notice at any park entrances or parking areas.

(2) Notably the DEIR notes as non-mitigable THREATS ensuing from the project damage to air quality and traffic.

(a) TRAFFIC

Local residents would be up in arms since already there are major traffic difficulties in the immediately adjacent areas. Oak Grove Avenue between Foothill and Berkshire, and from the intersection of Foothill and Viro(at the High School) up to St. Bede's already is a traffic nightmare for local residents (those living on and off Viro Road) due to the fact that this areas is a cluster of schools- La Canada High School (the middle school being on the same campus), St. Francis, Flintridge Prep, Hillside, and the daycare at the bottom of Foothill and Viro where children play outside all day) as well as a primary access road for NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Indeed, the City of La Canada has recently been called to respond to the difficulties residents have even exiting from their driveways at certain times of day.

Was there any objective traffic simulation devised to assess the impact of a double belly dusty dirt hauling truck departing every minute 10 hours a day 6 days a week...? THIS IS SIMPLY UNWORKABLE. Children will be unable to attend school and residents will be unable to get to work, leaving aside for the moment their difficulty breathing.

(b) BREATHING

As we know air quality already is a problem. I have hiked Hahamongna several days a week for 26 years. The unsettling and dispersal of very soft porous sediment (possibly including toxics from JPL—since we are all part of a federal Superfund Site already) to neighborhood residents is an ***unwarrantable assault*** on not only ***quality of life***, but also an ***unnecessary- reckless- imposition of potentially fatal respiratory consequences***.

Economically, children will be pulled out of schools and residents seeking escape to cleaner air will be unable to sell their homes (with related real estate value declines). Resident equines are equally sensitive to respiratory stressors and the numerous equestrian operations in the area of economic and far more than economic value to the community will suffer likely irremediable injuries.. Such equestrian activities, and the Tom Sawyer children's camp programs, comprise critical yet delicate and endangered components of the community's tradition, identity and vibrancy.

Has anyone done a best science prediction of the associated adverse health effects? Interruption of school attendance? Feasibility of school athletic programs? Children being able to play outside at the local day care and school premises? Residents able to navigate through the endemic traffic quagmires associated with this lunatic plan?

(3) Destruction of Spiritual Value of Nearly Natural Place

Why is anything natural (the wildlife, diversity of bird species, plant species, insect, amphibian, etc., etc.) deemed of such little to null value that it's not part of the DPW's equation? This is a microcosm of our destruction of the planet blinded by the almighty dollar. And who will get the economic value of what is removed? Sediment for beaches? Rockery for landscaping?

This place (Hahamongna) is an integral component of life for many-- what the DEIR terms "passive recreation" (is the definition one of not involving money?). Park users include hikers, bicyclists, equestrians, bird watchers, picnickers, frisbee golf players, naturalists, botanists, walkers. The place is a holy respite. 26 years ago I purchase my home because I could walk to Hahamongna (then Oak Grove) Park. When initially diagnosed with cancer, I walked there to hear bird song, feel sunshine, wind through trees. Sure, you can hear freeway traffic and see buildings from most vantage points, but such accessible wildness should be treated with reverence and be protected from unnecessary damage.

How is the sediment removal plan reconcilable with local open space/nature preservation, Arroyo Seco restoration goals democratically promulgated into civic obligations and requirements?

(4) Bogus Science and Alarmist Tactics for Ulterior Motives

The so-called “justification” for all of the above irremediable destruction is comprised of *bogus* assessments of potential adverse weather events and associated flooding risks and, *actually*, more the product of **funding matters (*the dollar driving the decision, rather than the scientific evidence and weighing of human values and priorities*)**. The “objective rationale” seems to lack substance and to be effectively debunked by local area experts regarding water and sediment.

What are the interrelationships between the Devil’s Gate Sediment Removal Project and the plans to transfer water to Eaton Canyon? Why are these not addressed in the Devil’s Gate DEIR?

(5) What Justifications Possibly Exist For Not Following The Expert-Recommended, Far Less Calamitous But More Effective “Go Slow, Go With the Flow” Approach?

