

10604 Walnut Drive
Shadow Hills, CA 91040
21 January 2014

Gail Farber, Director
Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Attn: Water Resources Division – Reservoir Cleanouts
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-9974

Re: Comments to the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Devils Gate Reservoir
Sediment Removal and Management Project

Dear Ms. Farber:

I am a junior at La Canada High School, and have attended Tom Sawyer Camp as a camper for six summers, and as a counselor for two.

The Tom Sawyer Camp program depends heavily on the recreational opportunities present in the Hahamongna Basin. The Devils Gate Sediment Removal project, as currently proposed, would be incredibly disruptive to the camp program, not only while the sediment removal is occurring, but also during the post-removal reservoir management.

I am particularly disappointed in the mitigations proposed for recreational impacts. There is no other park in the area that could offer anywhere near the unique mix of recreational opportunities present at Hahamongna. There just isn't anywhere like it.

Furthermore, to suggest that trails through a vast expanse of mowed vegetation would offer an improvement on the current state of the basin demonstrates a clear lack of understanding for what is there now and how it is utilized. The Tom Sawyer Camp recreational use of the Hahamongna basin depends on the rich habitat, with intermittent berms, bushes, and trees, providing places for people and wildlife alike to hide.

And while one could argue that Tom Sawyer Camp is "just" a summer camp for kids, and there are plenty of other summer camp programs to choose from, I would like to note that this program, where kids make forays into a complicated natural environment, provides many benefits to these developing children that are not available elsewhere. Our world is too regimented, too sterile, and we suffer because of it. I have learned and grown a great deal by experiencing nature first-hand in the Hahamongna basin. To cut that experience off from future generations would be a real shame.

I urge you to rethink the proposed sediment management project. For the kids. Please!

Sincerely,



Markus Klemm