

INITIAL STUDY: Hahamongna Multi-Benefit/Multi-Use Project

1. Introduction

- 7 project components -Sycamore Grove Multi-Purpose Field, Westside Perimeter Trail, Restoration of Berkshire Creek, Oak Grove Field Restroom, Foothill Drain Improvements, Expanded Parking Area, and Habitat Restoration
- Hahamongna Master Plan.... “Establishes a visionary framework for recreation, water resources, flood management, habitat restoration, and cultural resources in this area.”
- Project components are referred to as “improvements”
- Relationship of this IS to the AS Master EIR
 - Determine whether the proposed project may cause any additional significant effects which were not analyzed in the Arroyo Seco Master EIR pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) § 21157.1 and State CEQA Guidelines § 15177;
 - Determine whether the “Limitations on the Use of a Master EIR” have been exceeded pursuant to PRC § 21157.6 and State CEQA Guidelines § 15179; and
 - Identify the mitigation measures from the Master EIR that are applicable to the project.
- CEQA allows for incorporation of the existing master EIR (in its entirety or portions of) into project EIR. The City of Pasadena has chosen to incorporate the entire existing master EIR in its entirety.
- CEQA allows for the Lead Agency to declare the previous EIR sufficient to pursue the project without a supplement EIR

2. Project Description

- Site Characteristics claim improvements to open space/natural areas, and utility, drainage and flood control features.
- Per the HWP Master Plan, terrestrial plant communities in the project area include coast live oak woodland, southern willow scrub, sage scrub, streambed riparian, and southern sycamore riparian woodland, as well as landscaped, ruderal, and developed areas.
- Hahamongna Watershed Park is zoned “OS (Open Space),” no designation of “Natural Open Space” is mentioned.
- Easements are held by the LA County Department of Public Works and by Southern California Edison for the Devil’s Gate Dam and the power lines in the park, respectively.
- Claim: “Basin” is formed by the Devil’s Gate Dam
- Project objectives
 - Respect and implement the master plan

- Respect and implement the Green Space, Recreation and Parks Element, Open Space and Conservation Element, and Green City Action Plan
- Leverage state, local and other funds for master plan
- Satisfy city commitments to grant applications for components of the project
- Comply with Spirit of Sage Council
- Restore, enhance, and reestablish the historical native plant communities of the Arroyo Seco, including improving habitat quality and diversity where possible, and removing non-native and invasive plants where possible
- Correct erosion and sedimentation impacts at Berkshire Creek and improve stormwater quality and hydrology
- Respect functionality of Hahamongna Basin and Devil's Gate Dam
- Provide athletic fields
- Provide safe, suitable and year round trail system
- Accommodate existing recreation
- Provide adequate parking

Athletic field

- “The HMP Master Plan calls for **two new multipurpose fields** in the Oak Grove Area to accommodate a variety of field sports, open play, group picnics, and other group and non-group activities. **The proposed project includes installing one of these fields**”
- “Several holes of the Oak Grove Disc Golf Course would need to be reconfigured, which would involve= demolishing/reestablishing concrete tee pads and relocating disc golf baskets”

Expanded Parking Area

- The existing parking area, immediately east of the Oak Grove Field, is proposed to be expanded to the south into an open space area used for disc golf.

Habitat Restoration

- The proposed restored habitat would transition from woodland/upland habitat to riparian habitat following the topography of the area.
- Sycamore woodland in the vicinity of the proposed Sycamore Grove Field
- Oak woodland on the upland side of the Westside Perimeter Trail
- Southern willow scrub and mulefat habitats in the habitat zone between the proposed Westside Perimeter Trail and the western edge of the basin; and
- Removal of non-native and invasive species from all natural areas

Specific habitat types and locations will be identified through the development of a habitat restoration plan that will build upon the habitat restoration recommendation proposed in the HWP Master Plan for all of these sub-areas of the project.

3. Environmental Checklist Form

- Aesthetics
 - Vistas
 - “The proposed construction and habitat restoration would change current views of and beyond the project site to an extent not anticipated by the Arroyo Seco Master Plan Master EIR”
 - Time between removal of non-native trees and restored tree growth to maturity
 - Bathroom
 - Parking lot
 - Graded slopes
 - Multi-purpose field
 - Scenic resources
 - No change within current highway corridor
 - No historic structures
 - Scenic resources on the project site primarily comprise oak and sycamore groves, chaparral vegetation and the woodland and scrub vegetation in the Arroyo north of the Dam
 - The proposed project could result in significant long-term changes to the site’s existing visual character.
 - Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?
 - could degrade the existing visual character and quality of the site for a temporary but extended time period after construction
 - Parts of the project, notably the Berkshire Creek restoration and the Foothill Drain improvements, would ultimately improve the project area’s aesthetics
 - Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?
 - Project would not create a new, substantial light or glare source
 - minimal, if any, lighting would be installed
 - no lighting is proposed for the athletic field
- Agricultural Resources

- No Impact
- Air Quality
 - No Impact
- Biological Resources
 - Habitat modifications
 - The proposed project has the potential to temporarily disturb the habitat onsite during construction.
 - no substantial adverse effects would occur to federal or state-listed rare, threatened or endangered plant or animal species, because none were observed in the project study area. However, the environmental conditions have changed
 - Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community?
 - The proposed project is intended to improve habitat, including riparian habitat
 - proposed project has the potential to temporarily disturb woodland, riparian, and upland shrub habitats
 - the HWP Master Plan has the potential to result in significant impacts to southern willow scrub and mule fat scrub habitats.
 - Have a substantial adverse effect of federally protected wetlands?
 - The Arroyo Seco Master EIR indicated that significant adverse impacts on waters of the U.S., including wetlands, could result from HWP construction and operation
 - Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?
 - No Impact
 - Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?
 - City of Pasadena Ordinance No. 6896 “City Trees and Tree Protection Ordinance”
 - The Arroyo Seco Master EIR did not address this Ordinance, since it was not adopted at the time the Master EIR analysis was undertaken.
 - Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP), or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

- No Impact
- Cultural Resources
 - Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource?
 - Less than Significant Impact
 - Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource?
 - The archeological report prepared for the Arroyo Seco Master EIR indicated that hillsides and native soils in the HWP area have a “high sensitivity” for archaeological resources, notably remnants of the Native American population known as the Gabrieliño, or Tongva
 - Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?
 - No Additional Significant Impact
 - Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant
 - The archeological report prepared for the Arroyo Seco Master EIR indicated that hillsides and native soils in the HWP area have a “high sensitivity” for archaeological resources, notably remnants of the Native American population known as the Gabrieliño, or Tongva
 - Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?
 - No Additional Significant Impact
- Energy
 - No Impacts
- Geology and Soils
 - No Additional Impacts
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
 - Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?
 - The proposed project would generate greenhouse gases (GHGs) from construction equipment and from vehicles accessing the site. GHG emissions were not evaluated in the Arroyo Seco Master EIR, because GHG emissions was not a CEQA topic at the time the Master EIR was prepared.
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
 - No Additional Impacts
- Hydrology and Water Quality
 - Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?

- could potentially violate water quality standards or waste discharge requirements in either construction or operation phases, as well as cause excess erosion and siltation off-site, because both phases involve activities that could discharge material into receiving waters, exacerbating water quality issues in the Arroyo Seco
 - Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge
 - Less than significant impact
 - Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner, which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site? AND/OR Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner, which would result in flooding on- or off-site? AND/OR Create or contribute runoff water, which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?
 - Potential for New Significant Environmental Effect Caused by a Change in the Project or Circumstances
 - Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?
 - The proposed Hahamongna Multi-Benefit/Multi-Use Project includes substantial site work, including vegetation removal for habitat restoration that could result in short-to-medium term increased in erosion, siltation and other changes to site drainage that could affect water quality.
 - Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures, which would impede or redirect flood flows?
 - No Impact
 - Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?
 - Portions of the project site are below the dam spillway level (1040.5 feet above msl), and are proposed to be raised above that level to accommodate the Westside Perimeter Trail. People using that Trail could foreseeably be endangered when floodwater accumulates behind the dam.
 - Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?
 - Less than Significant Impact/No Additional Impact
- Land Use and Planning
 - Less than Significant Impact/No Additional Impact

- Noise
 - Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?
 - The proposed project would generate noise from temporary construction activity and from operation of the proposed recreational facilities
 - Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?
 - construction of the proposed project could generate groundborne vibration
 - A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels
 - Less than Significant Impact/No Additional Impact
 - A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?
 - Construction of the proposed project could generate increase in noise levels.
- Population and Housing
 - No Additional Impacts
- Recreation
 - No Additional Impacts
- Transportation and Traffic
 - Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system?
 - Substantial Increase in the Severity of a Previously Identified Significant Effect Caused by a Change in the Project or Circumstances
 - Conflict with an applicable congestion management program?
 - Project would generate vehicle trips during both construction and operation.
 - Result in inadequate emergency access?
 - No Impact
 - Result in inadequate parking capacity?
 - Potential for New or Substantially More Severe Significant Impacts Shown by New Information
 - Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?
 - No Impact
- Utilities and Service Systems

- No Additional Significant Impact/Less than Significant with Application of Mitigation from Existing MEIR
- Mandatory Findings of Significance
 - Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment?
 - See Sections 3.4 and 3.5, above. The proposed project has the potential to degrade the quality of the environment as a result of temporary impacts on natural habitat. In addition, the proposed project has the potential to reduce habitat of wildlife species and uncover buried archaeological resources, including Native American (NA) resources.
 - Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable?
 - The proposed project has the potential to result in impacts that are cumulatively considerable. The project has the potential to contribute to cumulative aesthetic, air quality, biological resource, hydrology, water quality, noise, and traffic impacts.
 - Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?
 - The proposed project has the potential to result in substantial adverse effects on human beings. Specifically, construction activities could generate traffic, noise, and air quality impacts that could affect nearby residents, students, and park patrons.

4. Determination

It has been determined by Rosa Laveaga that the proposed project has the potential to result in one or more potentially significant environmental impact that were not identified in the existing Master EIR and the proposed project has the potential to result in the substantial increase of one or more of the significant environmental impacts that were identified in the Arroyo Seco Master EIR.