

Devil's Gate Sediment Removal Project FEIR Comments

Holly Schiefelbein <holly.schiefelbein@gmail.com>
To: reservoircleanouts@dpw.lacounty.gov

Thu, Sep 7, 2017 at 11:03 PM

As a biologist that has spent time surveying the habitat in Hahamongna Basin, I stand strongly against the Los Angeles County Flood Control District's proposal for sediment removal at the Devil's Gate Dam. While public safety should be taken into account, this plan is an environmentally devastating plan taking place in some of the rarest habitat type in Southern California. Hahamongna is in one of the most forward looking states, and counties, in the nation. As such, LACFCD should be at the forefront of sustainable water and environmental management. Sadly, this plan is nothing besides antiquated and unnecessarily destructive.

Since LACFCD still asserts that their plan is the best way to move forward with the sediment at Hahamongna, and in the event that this project does receive final approval, there should be drastic changes made to the mitigation plan. The mitigation ratio of 1:1 that LACFCD determined as sufficient is relying on out of date data to assign habitat value to the basin. Since the habitat data was collected in 2013, much has changed in the basin, especially with the most recent wet winter of 2016/2017. As someone who has been out in Hahamongna to evaluate the habitat, I cannot stress enough how important it is that current relevant data be collected before determining the appropriate ratio for mitigation. **I ask that LACFCD collect up to date habitat surveys, and assign appropriate value to the rare riparian habitat that exists in Hahamongna by increasing the mitigation ratio to a minimum of 3:1.**

Thank you in advance for considering my comments and incorporating them in your future plans.

Holly Schiefelbein, MS