

September 5, 2017

Supervisor Kathryn Barger

Dear Supervisor Barger:

I am writing to request that you and your Board not certify the Revised FEIR for the Sediment removal in Devil's Gate basin (Hahamongna Watershed Park), Pasadena. The "Preferred Alternative" for the project, by the County Flood Control District is simply too much of an environmental and community impact and is overly aggressive. I provided a detailed letter of my concerns during the comment period for the EIR and suggested significant changes to the plan to protect existing willow woodlands and other habitat in the basin while removing a reasonable amount of sediment. The District did not respond adequately to my concerns.

The proposed project for massive sediment removal is simply too much, too fast and unnecessary to provide adequate flood protection. The permanent loss of 51 acres of mature willows and temporary destruction of 70 acres, 5 years of trucks removing sediment out of the basin is unacceptable, and not sustainable in the long term. I had requested the project serve a dual purpose during this severe drought and on-going water shortages by creating a lake at the south end of the basin, as they remove sediment. This would allow for water percolation and wildlife habitat, both in short supply locally. The Flood Control District dismissed this suggestion as "not part of the project."

The citizen comments and the environmental community fully support sediment removal but I am urging that you not certify the FEIR until the Flood Control District has developed a less damaging program similar to that adopted by the Pasadena City Council. This is the reasonable and balanced decision for you to make at this point.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,
Michael Long
Natural Areas Administrator (retired)
Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation
Temple City, CA