



January 20, 2014

Via E-Mail

Los Angeles County Flood Control District, reservoircleanouts@dpw.lacounty.gov

Re: Draft Environmental Impact Report: Sediment removal plan for Devil's Gate Dam

The West Pasadena Residents' Association (WPRA), which represents an area of 7,000 households and has nearly 1,000 members, strongly opposes the LA County Flood Control District's crash plan to clean out Devil's Gate Dam.

The plan, to remove as much as 4 million cubic yards of sediment from the Devil's Gate Dam over a 5-year period, results in substantial impacts on aesthetics, biology, transportation, and air quality which the DEIR says cannot be mitigated. The impacts are far too devastating to the environment and the surrounding communities. WPRA recommends that the plan be scaled down significantly and completed over a much longer period of time, with smaller amounts of sediment removed each year, for as long as it takes. If the County proceeds at a slower pace, the damaging impacts will be greatly reduced and, in fact, somewhat mitigated.

In the proposed plan, air quality is ignored. There would be a truck a minute entering the freeway system 6 days each week. These are double-bed diesel trucks, which you said, during at least one of the public meetings, would not meet current air quality standards. This is not acceptable. All the vehicles that are ultimately used must adhere to the air quality standards in effect at that time.

The Hahamongna Watershed Park has become an important wildlife area. After the 2009 Station Fire destroyed vast wildlife habitat in the mountains above the Park, its importance was further increased. Hahamongna has become one of the richest riparian and woodland habitats in Los Angeles County. The City of Pasadena and its citizens worked hard to develop the Hahamongna Watershed Park Master Plan, and it remains the City's underlying document for managing water resources, habitat, recreation, flood and sediment management and cultural resources. The sediment removal plan proposed by LA County ignores and obliterates this document.

WPRA recognizes that something needs to be done to restore the storage capacity at Devil's Gate Dam. The County needs to reevaluate its plan and develop a project that will be the first of a new generation of sustainable flood management projects, with a measured approach, that only temporarily disturbs small areas and maintains the important, beautiful environment of Hahamongna.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Urban".

William Urban
WPRA President

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