

Introduced by Director Richard W. Jencks

RESOLUTION NO. 8603

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE CITY OF PASADENA DECLARING ITS INTENT THAT THE
ARROYO SECO AREA LANDS BE PRESERVED AND MAINTAINED
AS A NATURAL PARK

NOV 4 1964
Introduced and read the first time
NOV 10 1964
Read and placed upon its passage
Records, Vol. 69 Page 192
Records, Vol. 69 Page 192

WHEREAS, the Arroyo Seco and its banks, between Oak Grove Park and the South city limits, provide an expanse of open space unequaled within the city limits of any Southern California city; and

WHEREAS, previous Boards of Directors of the City of Pasadena, dating back to the early days of the community, have intended that this area be preserved and maintained so far as possible as a natural park; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of this City Board of Directors to reaffirm such policy and to work towards its further implementation;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it hereby resolved that it shall be the policy of the City of Pasadena to preserve and maintain the Arroyo Seco area lands owned by it as a natural park, in so far as such lands have not already been devoted to existing active recreational facilities, and that pursuant to such policy

- (1) no dumping, earth moving or other operations should be permitted which disturb the natural contours or natural vegetation of the Arroyo banks;

(2) new planting programs calling for the planting of trees and shrubs in the Arroyo area shall be done wherever at all feasible with native plants and shrubs and, in particular, new planting of trees along the Arroyo bottom shall be done with such trees as our native Sycamores, Alders, Laurels and Cottonwoods;

(3) at such time as additional check dams or other flood control measures in the upper Arroyo have removed or reduced the necessity for the flood control channel in the bed of the Arroyo, ways of eliminating or modifying such channel shall be explored, and in the meantime planting shall be commenced to reduce its unsightliness;

(4) recognizing that the safe use of any large park area, particularly by children, depends upon maintaining sufficient user traffic in the area to discourage criminal or delinquent activity, efforts shall be made to increase public use of the lower Arroyo and in particular, consideration should be given to the establishment of riding stables such as exist in Eaton Canyon and in Oak Grove Park;

(5) in accordance with a resolution of the Pasadena City Board of Directors of more than half century ago, an area of the lower Arroyo shall be seeded to California wild flowers, in particular the California Poppy, and an annual spring wild flower festival established;

(6) a program of gradual rebuilding of trails and walks leading into the lower Arroyo shall be encouraged, including the placement of nature study identification markers; and

(7) we reaffirm our support of a recreational lake area behind Devil's Gate Dam.

The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this resolution.

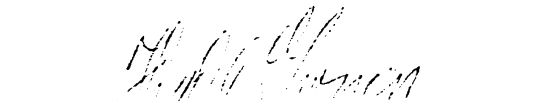
I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Board of Directors of the City of Pasadena at its meeting held November 10, 1964, by the following vote:

Ayes: Directors Benedict, Cooper, Edwards, Gwinn, Jencks, Oakley, Welin
Noes: None



City Clerk

Signed and approved this 10th day of November, 1964.



Chairman of the Board of Directors
of the City of Pasadena

} cc: Park Dept., Water Dept.
(2) City Engineer

OFFICE OF CITY MANAGER

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

JAN 28 1972

January 27, 1972

IV - 10:30am

for B. F. ...

To the Honorable Board of Directors
of the City of Pasadena

Report No. 72-18

Gentlemen:

A Report on the Arroyo Seco

Long before there was a Board of Directors, the Arroyo Seco presented a challenge to those who would live in and around it. The Arroyo has continued to challenge the governing bodies of Pasadena. During this period of time man has cleared much of the natural vegetation; he has re-shaped the stream bed; he has covered substantial areas with a land-fill operation; he has bridged it; he has planted it; and he has regulated the natural flows of water.

The problem of planning the Arroyo, or, more accurately, the problem of determining an appropriate set of policy guidelines for the Arroyo, is that most planning programs for improvements of the Arroyo have grown out of a specific historic incident which has caused us to either want to do something or to prevent something from happening. Today the Board of Directors has before it three separate documents, each of which illustrates the same type of planning. The Master Plan for the Arroyo Seco, prepared by the Arroyo Seco Master Plan Steering Committee, developed out of the controversy over placing a float building in Brookside Park. As a result, a good deal of the thinking and recommendations in this report stem from that controversy. The Master Development Plan for the Devil's Gate Reservoir Area - Upper Arroyo Seco emanates from a general recognition of the fact that a number of public agencies are going to be constructing facilities in this area, most of which relate to the management of water. As a result, this report has a great deal to say about water.

In many respects the third document, the Policy Statement adopted by the City's Board of Directors in 1964, comes closest to being an example of long-range planning and policy development which stems from a broader perspective. It has also weathered many of the tests of time, and the Board might want to consider it as a benchmark from which to review the various policy recommendations.

**OFFICE OF CITY MANAGER
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA**

To the Honorable Board of Directors
of the City of Pasadena

Page 2.

The staff would propose to make a descriptive presentation of the Upper Arroyo Master Development Plan and either a member of the Committee or the staff would give a description of the Steering Committee's Master Plan for the Arroyo Seco. There is a great deal of information in both reports which is significant, timely, and valuable for your future deliberation. At the conclusion of these presentations, we would like to review the currently adopted 1964 Policy Statement relating to the Arroyo.

We have proposed this method of presentation because of an inherent pitfall in the planning process: that is, a desire to consider a specific recommendation before there is an agreed upon definition of problems and goals. For example, it would be an error to focus at this time on the question of how we should plant any area, or what should be built at a specific site. A second inherent problem of the planning process is that in the stating of a goal we frequently generalize where there is a need to be specific. For example, "to take a firm and unswerving position in favor of open space" doesn't really say much. It can be interpreted in a multitude of different ways. Herein lies some of the problems with the existing Policy Statement adopted in 1964.

We would like to provide a few thoughts which may be helpful in reaching decisions as to a more specific set of policies for the Arroyo. There are four of these thoughts which I will mention but briefly to give an insight to our thinking and can develop more fully, if it is the desire of the Board.

1. The history of the last thirty years, in this country and in this state, indicates a strong tendency, and perhaps an overriding urge, to use or improve land simply because it is there and is unimproved. Thus, each report on the Arroyo that we have seen takes a rather strong position that: (1) the Arroyo has not had the attention that it should, (2) it should be developed and improved, and (3) it should have a greater use. The basic question facing us is simply this: Should we at this time give way to this urge, plan improvements, expend a number of million dollars, and encourage greater use of the Arroyo? Perhaps the Arroyo is the City's greatest asset and perhaps it is one which should not lightly and without due consideration be considered for development and for greater use simply because the land is there and in certain sections relatively unused.

OFFICE OF CITY MANAGER
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

To the Honorable Board of Directors
of the City of Pasadena

Page 3.

An example is the Arroyo Seco Canyon area which is primarily a water shed and a water resource for the people of Pasadena. Any other use should be secondary to and of such a nature as not to interfere with the primary function of this area. Perhaps here is an area to be held apart for relatively little use. Similar questions as to use or non-use, or improvement or non-improvement could be raised with reference to the area between Devil's Gate Dam and the golf course, and the south end of the Arroyo from Holly to the south city limits.

2. In considering any improvements or the encouragement of the greater use of any section of the Arroyo, the question must be asked and answered: For whom are the improvements to be made and who will be encouraged to use the Arroyo? It is not enough to generalize that the Arroyo should be opened, improved and used "by the public" or for the "public enjoyment".

There is a large question as to who uses the Arroyo. In connection with Oak Grove Park, the determination was made that there was very little use by Pasadenans and that the vast majority of users were from elsewhere. Hence, this portion of the Arroyo was turned over to the County as a regional or county park. The brief head count by Mr. Bignell's people in the Brookside Park area, if the sample was valid, indicates that similarly in this area the majority of the users are from outside Pasadena. (28% Pasadenans, 72% from outside.)

Do we wish to put in improvements and spend thousands, or a million or so dollars, to provide facilities for the region and to encourage use by persons who are not Pasadenans and who are not paying any portion of the cost?

3. The next basic question to be asked is a continuation of question 2. above. This is: Who should pay for the improvements and who should make the improvements, if any are to be made?

In a built-up area it is recognized that any park or recreation facility by one jurisdiction may have a minor usage by persons from outside that jurisdiction. However, for the taxpayers of Pasadena to support a regional facility, with the majority of users from outside of Pasadena, would seem to require a justification beyond simply that of providing a public facility for public enjoyment.

**OFFICE OF CITY MANAGER
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA**

To the Honorable Board of Directors
of the City of Pasadena

Page 4.

4. The final point that occurs to me, and one which may assist in the decision making, is that the Arroyo is not one area, but is six separate areas and the specific policies may be different in each of these six areas. The areas are:

a. The Arroyo Seco Canyon, which, because of the constraints, should have different policies as to improvements, development and use than any of the other areas and might well be limited as a use for a wilderness hiking area.

b. From Devil's Gate Dam up to the Canyon, certain major decisions have already been made. The Oak Grove Park area is turned over to the County as a regional recreation area and it has the established policy that a lake for boating will be developed adjacent thereto. In addition, this area must meet the needs of flood control and of water resources and production through spreading basins and perhaps water diversion facilities. Thus, the policies, and the plans coming from these policies, will be different in this section of the Arroyo than in any of the others.

c. The area from Devil's Gate Dam southerly to the golf course. This is an undeveloped area and one to which the question of improvement or no improvement is especially valid.

d. The fourth area, of course, is the golf course and Rose Bowl area to Seco Street. Here the major development has already taken place. The golf courses are there. The clubhouse is there. The Rose Bowl is there. And the demonstrated need for parking is also there. Thus, in this area the question is not to improve or not to improve, but of the type of auxiliary uses, such as parking and other open field uses which will not interfere with the golf course and Rose Bowl primary uses.

e. The next area is generally what is called Brookside Park and is the area from Seco south to approximately Holly. This is an area which is partially developed for a number of uses, is partially vacant, and partially used for parking.

f. The final and sixth area is generally from Holly south and is largely undeveloped with the casting pool and archery uses being the main development and use of the area.

**OFFICE OF CITY MANAGER
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA**

To the Honorable Board of Directors
of the City of Pasadena

Page 5.

It is our suggestion that consideration be given to each of these six areas separately and the basic determinations be made as to each, whether or not additional improvements should be made and uses encouraged at this time. By doing this on a systematic basis, the determinations will be deliberate, rather than simply assuming that because there are undeveloped or underdeveloped areas in the Arroyo, development should take place. If the determination is that one or more of these areas is to have further development, then we should answer the other two questions: For whom are the improvements to be made? By whom are the improvements to be made and who will pay the cost?

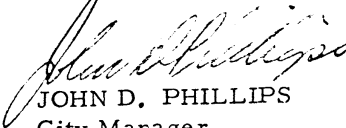
One position might well be that the Arroyo is our greatest undeveloped resource and that very little additional improvement or development should be made except to facilitate existing uses. Other positions might well vary.

However, it appears to us that these questions should be answered before we start talking about any improvement or development in any of the six sections of the Arroyo.

Conclusion: It is our conclusion that the Board proceed to hear the presentations of the two planning proposals (of Gruen Associates and of the Arroyo Seco Committee) and then review the existing (1964) policy of the City. It is then suggested that the basic decisions referred to above be made. If there is additional information or studies which the Board desires which will assist in the decisions, the staff will make them upon request.

For your assistance, attached is a copy of the 1964 resolution which is the policy statement for the Arroyo, a copy of the Arroyo Seco Master Plan developed by the Committee, and the report by Gruen and Associates. You have previously had copies of the Arroyo Seco Master Plan and the Gruen Report. They are attached for your convenience. Because of a shortage of reports, particularly the Gruen Report, we would appreciate having them returned when they have served this present purpose.

Respectfully submitted,


JOHN D. PHILLIPS
City Manager

P:s

Attach.