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From: Mary Benson [mailto:c-maryb@msn.com]  
Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2006 2:06 PM  
To: thomas.erb@ladpw.com; Paul Edelman  
Cc: vbapna@ladpw.org; tgrant@ladpw.org  
Subject: IRWMP Counterproductive project

Hi Tom,

A stakeholder e-mailed me this notice just this afternoon.

I am very diaappointed that yesterday, the County was talking about protecting our natural upstream watershed, and then this turns up as an expired public comment for stream bed alteration in a critical habitat area designated and recognized for 2 federally listed endangered species in the Tujunga Wash.

This is one of the last remaining areas where the SanFernando Spineflower is growing, and now, LACDPW is going to, fill in the perennial stream pond and channelize it with a streambed alteration permit within the protected area.

This is where Haines Creek merges into the large fan head of Big Tujunga Wash. It is in the Sunland USGS Quadrangle. Haines Creek is listed in the Federal Register as critical habitat for the federally listed Santa Ana Sucker.

Channelizing the creek at this point will be disturbing the wash in an area is a travesty. It should not be approved under an MND.

Filling in the pond and ripping out the 80 year old cottonwood grove will seriously impact the natural ecosystem that includes bobcat, deer, raccoons and a green heron that I photographed fishing for tree frogs in the pond here.

This area was supposed to be a habitat preserve under the jurisdiction of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

Altering the streambed and channelizing the flow may affect the County's Mitigation Bank which is just downstream.

I cannot tell you how betrayed I feel at this last bit of the creek being altered into a channelized version of itself in an area with endangered species. Citizens believed this area was to be part of the last braided stream area and are under the impression it was to be left natural.

How can I convince stakeholders to BELIEVE THE PROMISES made that the future will be different from the past.

Mary Benson  
ladwp steering committee