



# ARROYO SECO FOUNDATION

## Arroyo Seco Canyon Project

BIOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

# Who we are

- ▶ Arroyo Seco Foundation works with:

- ▶ Agencies
- ▶ Stakeholders
- ▶ Citizen
- ▶ Educators
- ▶ Lawyer
- ▶ Volunteers

- ▶ To restore:

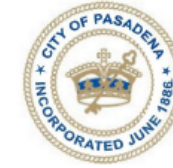
- ▶ Native fish population
- ▶ Other species of special concern
- ▶ Native habitat restoration
- ▶ Environmental education
- ▶ Community engagement

# Arroyo Seco Canyon Project (Area 2 & 3)

- ▶ Pasadena Water and Power (PWP) desires to **divert water** from Hahamongna Watershed Park and Arroyo Seco for city purposes
  - ▶ **Area 2:** Dam and Diversion Replacement
  - ▶ **Area 3:** Expansion of Spreading Basins (for percolation of ground water)
    - ▶ City can take 60-80% of this water for city use

# What did the judge say?

- ▶ 2017 LA Court Judge Richard L. Fruin required Pasadena to conduct **EIR of ASCP** as current evaluation from city was inadequate
- ▶ Did not consider impacts from **sedimentation excavation project**
- ▶ **Plans and analysis** of impacts on arroyo seco diversion and mitigation plans were required



## Arroyo Seco Canyon Project Areas 2 and 3 Draft Environmental Impact Report

Modification to Conditional Use Permit No. 6222  
State Clearinghouse No. 2014101022

*Prepared for:*

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**JUNE 15, 2020**

## Why no public meetings?

- ▶ City has not reached out to public about project adequately
- ▶ No public meeting was announced to inform public what was in draft EIR

# Why is the Arroyo Seco and Hahamongna Vital?

- ▶ **Arroyo Seco (creek)** is 45-mile river nestled in park and drains 295-sq.miles
- ▶ Named for the **Tongva/Gabrielino/Keech (Kizh)** word for “**Flowing waters, fruitful valley**”
- ▶ Historic and current home of endangered/threatened species
- ▶ Connecting link to LA River and Coast



# What has been Lost?

1. *Lampetra spp.* (Pacific brook lamprey)
2. *Entosphenus tridentata* (Pacific lamprey)
3. Rainbow Trout/Steelhead
4. *Gila orcutti* (Arroyo Chub)
  - ▶ ASF has restored some below Devils Gate Dam and below Rose Bowl

# Historic Fish Populations

4. *Rhinichthys osculus* (Ana speckled dace)
5. *Catostomus santaanae* (Santa ana sucker)
6. *Gastero asculeatus williamsoni*  
(Unarmored threespine stickleback)

Above (except trout) were last recorded 50 years ago in Arroyo Seco



# What has been Lost?

## Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)

Water development such as diversions and Land Conversion reduced numbers

- Dams landlock
- Groundwater pump remove adequate depth
- urban runoff

Hatchery stock do NOT breed with native fish

- ▶ Historical pop: ~tens of thousands
- ▶ Current >1000 individuals

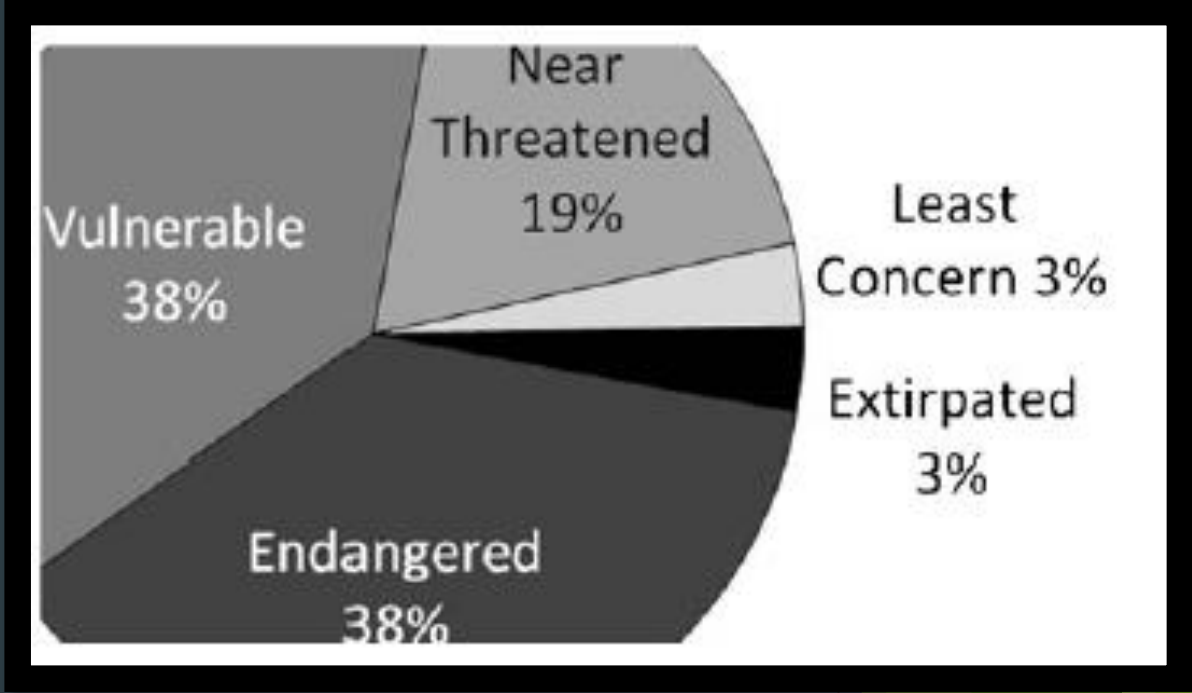


BOX 33.5 FIGURE 1 What has been lost? 1946 catch of steelhead from the Ventura River at Foster Park. Angler: John B. Colla. Photo: Robert Phelan.

**Table 1** List of all native salmonid fishes known to breed in California, ranked by level of extinction threat. Conservation status is for California only and approximates the

IUCN classification system. For definitions of status scores and categories see Table 4

Species	Distribution	Status score	Conservation status
Bull trout, <i>Salvelinus confluentus</i>	Pacific Northwest	0.0	Extirpated in CA
Central coast coho salmon, <i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i> <sup>b</sup>	California <sup>d</sup>	1.1	Endangered <sup>a</sup>
Pink salmon, <i>O. gorbuscha</i>	Pacific Coast <sup>d</sup>	1.3	Endangered
Upper Klamath-Trinity spring Chinook salmon, <i>O. tshawytscha</i> <sup>b</sup>	California <sup>d</sup>	1.6	Endangered
Southern Oregon Northern California coast coho salmon, <i>O. kisutch</i> <sup>b</sup>	California & Oregon <sup>d</sup>	1.6	Endangered <sup>a</sup>
Chum salmon, <i>O. keta</i>	Pacific Coast <sup>d</sup>	1.6	Endangered
Central Valley late fall Chinook salmon, <i>O. tshawytscha</i> <sup>b</sup>	California <sup>d</sup>	1.7	Endangered
Klamath Mountains Province summer steelhead, <i>O. mykiss</i> <sup>c</sup>	California <sup>d</sup>	1.7	Endangered
Southern California steelhead, <i>O. mykiss</i> <sup>c</sup>	California <sup>d</sup>	1.7	Endangered <sup>a</sup>
Paiute cutthroat trout, <i>O. c. seleneris</i>	California	1.7	Endangered <sup>a</sup>
Northern California coast summer steelhead, <i>O. mykiss</i> <sup>c</sup>	California <sup>d</sup>	1.9	Endangered <sup>a</sup>
McCloud River redband trout, <i>O. m. stonei</i>	California	1.9	Endangered
Kem River rainbow trout, <i>O. m. gilberti</i>	California	1.9	Endangered
Central Valley winter Chinook salmon, <i>O. tshawytscha</i> <sup>b</sup>	California <sup>d</sup>	2.0	Vulnerable <sup>a</sup>
Central Valley spring Chinook salmon, <i>O. tshawytscha</i> <sup>b</sup>	California <sup>d</sup>	2.0	Vulnerable <sup>a</sup>
Central Valley fall Chinook salmon, <i>O. tshawytscha</i> <sup>b</sup>	California <sup>d</sup>	2.0	Vulnerable



Chum salmon, <i>O. keta</i>	Pacific Coast <sup>d</sup>	1.6	Endangered
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McCloud River redband trout, <i>O. m. stonei</i>	California	1.9	Endangered

Mountain whitefish, <i>Trosopium willamsoni</i>	Pacific Northwest	3.9	Near Threatened
Klamath Mountains Province winter steelhead, <i>O. mykiss</i> <sup>c</sup>	California & Oregon <sup>d</sup>	3.9	Near Threatened
Coastal rainbow trout, <i>O. m. irideus</i>	Pacific Coast	4.7	Least Concern

<sup>a</sup> Taxon listed by federal and/or state Endangered Species Acts

<sup>b</sup> Taxon is an evolutionary significant unit (ESU)

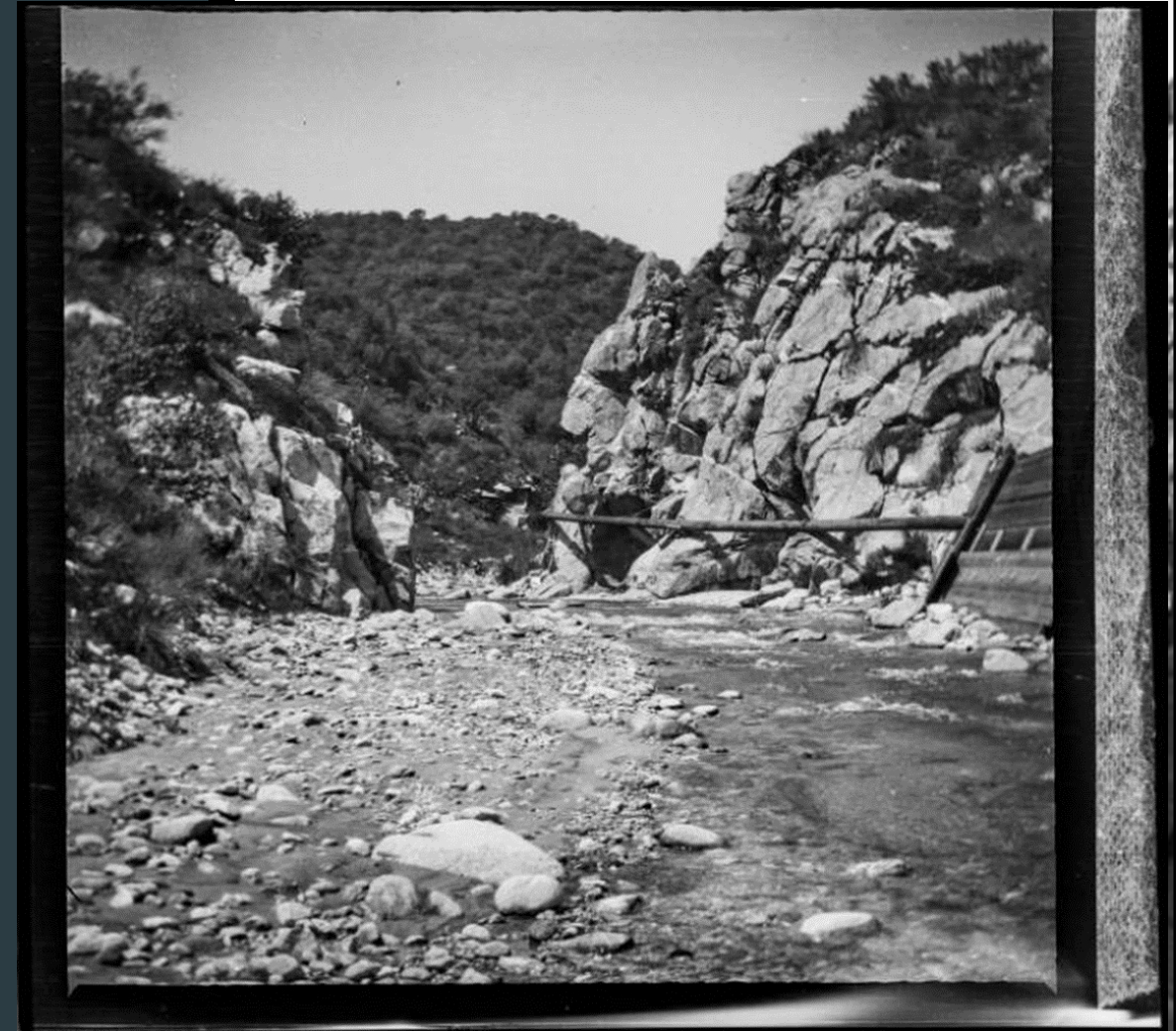
# Possible Extinction of Trout

- ▶ 13 species (42%) of endemic salmonid in CA at risk for extinction in near future
- ▶ Some predicted to reach extinction in 50-100 years



# Native Fish Restoration

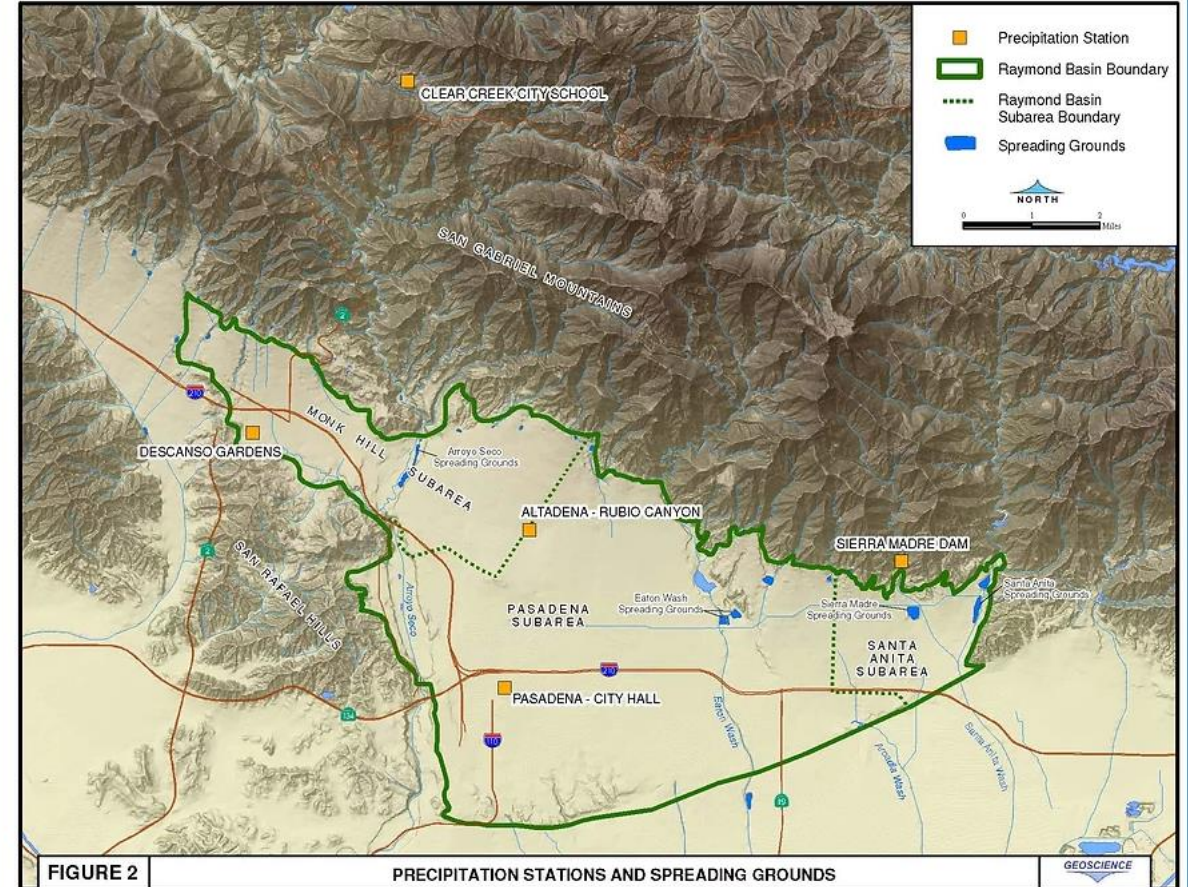
- ▶ Once thriving area for Steelhead Trout (*O. mykiss*) who **migrated:**  
San Gabriel Mountains → Arroyo Seco → LA River → Ocean
- ▶ Dams, coastal estuary development, urban development, city water demands led to **Endangered Status**
- ▶ 2009 Station Fire, few have been spotted



Source: KCET.org

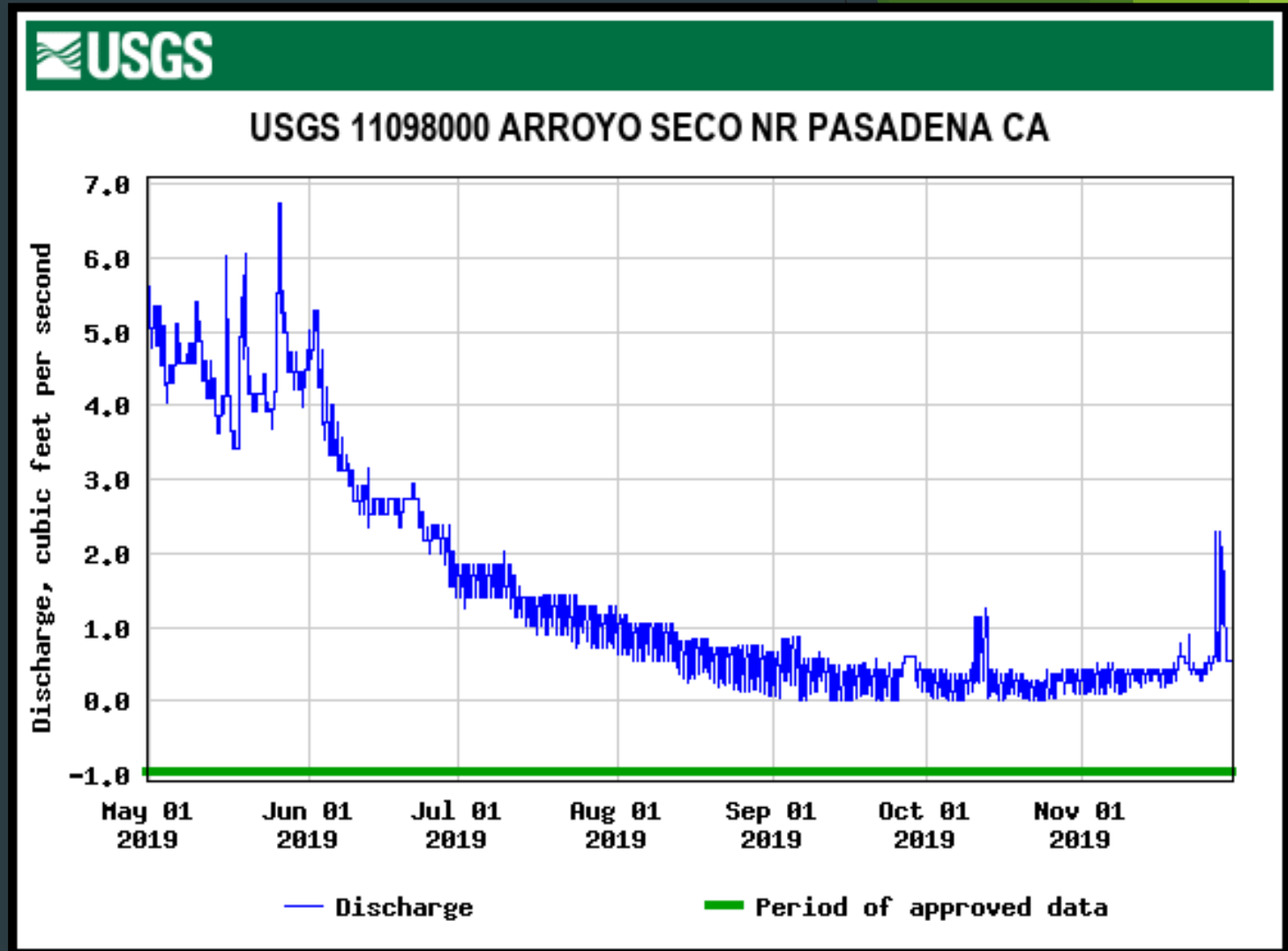
# Living Stream vs. Spreading Basins

- ▶ Arroyo Seco is prime groundwater recharge area for **Raymond Basin**
- ▶ Continue to remove **little available** surface water



# Living Stream vs. Spreading Basin

- ▶ PWP wants **25 cfs** (**cubic-feet/sec**) when **average is 7 cfs** drier seasons avg. is **2 cfs**
- ▶ PWP has not indicated any plan **volume or timing** in DEIR





# How often do the spreading basins have water?

- ▶ Built in the 1940s by previous water management to clean water
- ▶ Rarely are all filled.
- ▶ City plans to divert surface water and place in spreading pools
  - ▶ Can take 60-80% of diverted water for use
  - ▶ The rest is percolated

# Environmental Flows

- ▶ Fish and Wildlife Code #5937 **requires dams and water facilities provide enough water** for fish to survive during critical period.
- ▶ #5901 requires fish to be able to **go up and downstream**.
- ▶ The current Draft EIR **does not** provide mitigation for this and future **climate change**



# Threatened Species of Arroyo Seco

## Amphibians

- ▶ *Taricha torosa* (California newt) species of special concern (SSC). Observed in 2013, was NOT observed in survey for EIR in 2019
- ▶ Suitable Habitat in Area 2 according to EIR



"File:Taricha torosa, Napa County, CA.jpg" by Connor Long is licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0

# Threatened Species of Arroyo Seco

- ▶ *Anaxyrus (Bufo) californicus* (arroyo toad) FE and SSC, considered extirpated, negative survey 2013 + 2019.
- ▶ 3 inch
  
- ▶ *Rana draytonii* (California red-legged frog) FT and SSC. Species considered extirpated



fws.gov



# Threatened Species of Arroyo Seco

## Reptiles

1. *Aspidoscelis tigris* (California whiptail)



2. *Thamnophis hammondi* (Two-striped gartersnake) SSC, both
  - observed in 2013, assumed to be present now but not recorded in 2019



© Vince Semonsen



# Threatened Species

## 3. *Anniella stebbinsi* (Southern CA legless lizard) SSC, recorded in 2018. Suitable habitat in Area 2 + 3

- ▶ 7 inch.
- ▶ Can burrow down to 2 feet



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# Threatened Species: Birds

1. *Accipiter cooperii* (Coopers hawk)
2. *Baeolophus inornatus* (Oak titmouse)
3. *Spinus lawrencei* (Lawrence goldfinch)



# Environmentally Superior Alternative

## Let the River Flow!

- a minimum environmental flow for fish and aquatic species of **3 cfs in the Spring**;
- **No "engineered"** stream material
- A **living river and natural stream** hydrology to allow the water to percolate into the groundwater basin rather than spreading basins.



# Hope

- ▶ Ojai Land Conservancy acquired part of Ventura River and developed first **CA Steelhead Preserve**
  - ▶ Working to remove Matilija Dam
- ▶ Friends of the LA River (**FOLAR**)
- ▶ Citizen, Nature, Environmental Groups like us **Arroyo Seco Foundation**



*Source: [ovlc.org](http://ovlc.org)*

# What can we do?

- ▶ Study project documents <https://ww5.cityofpasadena.net/water-and-power/arroyosecoproject/>
- ▶ Learn about **Arroyo Seco**, Arroyo Seco Foundation website, Hahamongna Nursery, or receive updates [fish@arroyoseco.org](mailto:fish@arroyoseco.org)





# What we can do

- ▶ **Submit letter** or feedback comments about the draft EIR:
  - ▶ Urge PWP adopt **better alternatives**
  - ▶ **Keeping surface water** for fish, wildlife + native plants.
- ▶ [eventura@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:eventura@cityofpasadena.net) by 5:30 pm on July 31, 2020.