

# Arroyo Seco Water Reuse Project

## Frequently Asked Questions and Concerns

| Frequently Asked Questions and Concerns                                             | Answer                                                                                                                                                                     | Explanation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |              |                  |          |                 |           |                  |                  |           |                                          |                         |               |                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------|----------|-----------------|-----------|------------------|------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Is the project creating a new diversion in the Arroyo Seco?</b>                  | <b>No.</b> The project <b>does not</b> create a new diversion system.                                                                                                      | The existing diversion infrastructure has been in place for more than a century. The project proposes improvements to existing vegetated city-owned land to improve stormwater capture, treatment, and reuse.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |              |                  |          |                 |           |                  |                  |           |                                          |                         |               |                         |
| <b>How will the captured water be used?</b>                                         | Captured stormwater runoff will be treated and reused for approved non-potable (non-drinking) purposes.                                                                    | <p>Captured stormwater runoff will be treated and reused for approved non-potable purposes, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arroyo Seco Golf Course irrigation</li> <li>• Other approved non-potable water uses</li> </ul> <p>Using treated recycled stormwater will reduce the need to use treated drinking water for these purposes.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |              |                  |          |                 |           |                  |                  |           |                                          |                         |               |                         |
| <b>Will this project destroy a natural wetland?</b>                                 | <b>No.</b> The existing wetland conditions are associated with the historic man-made diversion system that has influenced water movement in the area over time.            | <p>The project area is an undeveloped, City-owned vegetated area located on an engineered stream dyke. While the site supports grasses, shrubs, and some wildlife typical of urban environments, it is <b>not</b> currently designated as a natural habitat or protected ecological area.</p> <p>The project <b>does not</b> create a new diversion or remove a natural stream. Instead, it improves existing infrastructure to better manage stormwater, improve water quality, and support long-term sustainability.</p> <p>Environmental protection will continue to be evaluated throughout the project process.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |              |                  |          |                 |           |                  |                  |           |                                          |                         |               |                         |
| <b>Is South Pasadena taking land from the City of Los Angeles?</b>                  | <b>No.</b> This is a partnership, not a takeover.                                                                                                                          | <p>The project area includes property interests involving both the City of South Pasadena, City of Pasadena, and City of Los Angeles. The project footprint covers approximately <b>3.6-3.7 acres</b> across two sites.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Project Site</th> <th>Approximate Area</th> <th>Location</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>San Rafael Site</td> <td>1.4 acres</td> <td>City of Pasadena</td> </tr> <tr> <td>San Pascual Site</td> <td>2.2 acres</td> <td>Cities of South Pasadena and Los Angeles</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Project Footprint</td> <td>3.6–3.7 acres</td> <td>Three-city project area</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>South Pasadena will continue coordinating with partner agencies. Any use or improvements involving property outside of South Pasadena ownership will require the appropriate agreements and approvals.</p> | Project Site | Approximate Area | Location | San Rafael Site | 1.4 acres | City of Pasadena | San Pascual Site | 2.2 acres | Cities of South Pasadena and Los Angeles | Total Project Footprint | 3.6–3.7 acres | Three-city project area |
| Project Site                                                                        | Approximate Area                                                                                                                                                           | Location                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |              |                  |          |                 |           |                  |                  |           |                                          |                         |               |                         |
| San Rafael Site                                                                     | 1.4 acres                                                                                                                                                                  | City of Pasadena                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |              |                  |          |                 |           |                  |                  |           |                                          |                         |               |                         |
| San Pascual Site                                                                    | 2.2 acres                                                                                                                                                                  | Cities of South Pasadena and Los Angeles                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |              |                  |          |                 |           |                  |                  |           |                                          |                         |               |                         |
| Total Project Footprint                                                             | 3.6–3.7 acres                                                                                                                                                              | Three-city project area                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |              |                  |          |                 |           |                  |                  |           |                                          |                         |               |                         |
| <b>Is the project being built within the City of Los Angeles' San Pasqual Park?</b> | <b>No.</b> While approximately 0.53 acres of the project area is located on land owned by the City of Los Angeles, that parcel is entirely separate from San Pasqual Park. | The fact that both properties are owned by the City of Los Angeles has led to some confusion, but they are distinct parcels in different locations. The City of Los Angeles' Parks Needs Assessment does not identify the project parcel as part of San Pasqual Park, and the City of Pasadena has similarly confirmed that the project site is <b>not</b> located within San Pasqual Park.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |              |                  |          |                 |           |                  |                  |           |                                          |                         |               |                         |

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| <b>Is South Pasadena taking water from another community?</b>       | <b>No.</b> The project creates a new source of non-potable (non-drinking) water.                                                                    | The project captures and reuses untreated stormwater runoff, creating a new source of treated non-potable water. Rather than allowing stormwater runoff to leave the area untreated, the project provides an opportunity to treat and reuse the water locally for irrigation, reducing dependence on potable water supplies.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Did Native Consultation take place?</b>                          | <b>Yes.</b> Tribal consultation and coordination were conducted as part of the environmental review process.                                        | <p>The City of Pasadena engaged with Native American tribal representatives from the Kizh Nation in 2023 to review the project and discuss Tribal Cultural Resource considerations. As part of this process, the Tribe's conditions and recommended measures were incorporated into the project's Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND).</p> <p>The City recognizes the cultural significance of the Arroyo Seco area and remains committed to continued coordination, respectful engagement, and compliance with all applicable environmental requirements.</p>                                                                                                             |
| <b>Will trees be removed?</b>                                       | <b>Yes.</b> The project would remove approximately 130 trees; however, about 82 of those are believed to be invasive, non-native Mexican fan palms. | <p>More than half of the 130 trees proposed for removal are invasive and highly flammable palm species. In particular, the 80 invasive non-native Mexican fan palm trees have been identified as a documented fire hazard within the Arroyo, which is designated as a Very High Fire Severity Zone. The project preserves and cultivates mature native trees while removing invasive species as part of the site's restoration and management. Additionally, the project will include the planting of 155 new, native trees on site.</p> <p>The project aims to improve the existing area while balancing infrastructure needs, environmental stewardship, and long-term sustainability.</p> |
| <b>Why modify the Arroyo Seco?</b>                                  | This is an infrastructure modernization project, not a new alteration of the Arroyo Seco.                                                           | Water infrastructure has been part of this portion of the Arroyo Seco since the 1800s. During the construction of the Arroyo Seco flood control channel between 1935 and 1940, the existing diversion and dike system was improved and maintained. This project continues that long-standing use by upgrading existing infrastructure to improve stormwater capture, water quality, and long-term water sustainability. The project is not creating new water infrastructure; it is modernizing and improving infrastructure that has existed for more than 100 years.                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Is this project diverting water to irrigate the golf course?</b> | <b>No.</b> The golf course is already irrigated through the existing water diversion system and conveyance pathway.                                 | The project does not create a new use of the water or establish golf course irrigation as its primary purpose. Instead, it modernizes and improves the existing infrastructure that has long been in place. Additionally, the project includes a planned filtration system at the golf course to further treat the water before it is returned to the Arroyo, improving water quality as part of the overall project.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |