



**Los Angeles County Department of Public Works  
Sediment Management Strategic Plan  
Alternatives Screening Tool Feedback Form**



Please fill this form out & return it one of the following ways by May 2, 2011 Thank you!  
 1 Drop it off today at the back table (where you signed-in)  
 2 Email responses to [SedimentMgmtPlan@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:SedimentMgmtPlan@dpw.lacounty.gov)

**ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATION**

Please make all suggested factor weights add to 100%

Are there other factors you think we should consider?	Suggested Weight?
Sustainability.	_____ %
Will "solution" to short term problem lead to more expensive	_____ %
	_____ %

Alternative Evaluation Factors	Suggested Weight?
Technical Feasibility Factor	_____ %

- Ability to meet needs: peak demand, long-term (20-year) needs
- Right-of-way
- Technical certainty
- ~~Permitting complexity~~ *problems in future?*
- ~~Maintenance intensity~~ *fix permitting to*
- Consistency with surrounding land use

Other comments on Technical Feasibility Factor

*meet pressing environmental needs.*

Cost Factor	Suggested Weight?
• Unit Present Value Cost (dollar per cubic yard)	_____ %
• Initial cost and long-term operations cost	

Other comments on Cost Factor

*Cost goes on forever.*

Environmental Factor	Suggested Weight?
• Habitat	_____ %
• Water quality or quantity	
• Air quality and emissions	

Other comments on Environmental Factor

*Change in habitat is not a one time factor - it accrues in perpetuity.*

*of destruction? # costs*

Social/Quality of Life Factor	Suggested Weight?
• Traffic	_____ %
• Noise	
• Scenic Resources	

Other comments on Social/Quality of Life Factor:

*Include time. One yr. of noise + air pollution ≠ one yr. of loss of 200 yr. old tree + trees + habitat are gone forever.*



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1. Drop it off today at the back table (where you signed-in)
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3. Email responses for item D (reservoir cleanout) to reservoircleanouts@dpw.lacounty.gov

ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATION

**A. Principles for Guiding the Planning Process:**

*This is way to  
simplistic to*

**B. Key Issues, Challenges and Opportunities:**

*Solve*

**C. General Comments:**

*anything  
Sustainability*

**D. Upcoming Reservoir Cleanout Projects:**

*is essential -  
20 years is not a  
reasonable future  
goal*

*P.S. Please provide names & affiliations of all speakers  
in print.*



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Please make all suggested factor weights add to 100%

Are there other factors you think we should consider?	Suggested Weight?
Futility of proposed solutions. Foliage dampens the force of precipitation. On sediment, weeds would be encouraged, which would pose a fire hazard and more erosion.	_____ %
	_____ %
	_____ %

Alternative Evaluation Factors	Suggested Weight?
<b>Technical Feasibility Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to meet needs: peak demand, long-term (20-year) needs</li> <li>• Right-of-way</li> <li>• Technical certainty</li> <li>• Permitting complexity</li> <li>• Maintenance intensity</li> <li>• Consistency with surrounding land use</li> </ul>	_____ %
Other comments on Technical Feasibility Factor	
<b>Cost Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unit Present Value Cost (dollar per cubic yard)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Initial cost and long-term operations cost</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	_____ %
Other comments on Cost Factor	
<b>Environmental Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat</li> <li>• Water quality or quantity</li> <li>• Air quality and emissions</li> </ul>	_____ %
Other comments on Environmental Factor	
<b>Social/Quality of Life Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic</li> <li>• Noise</li> <li>• Scenic Resources</li> </ul>	_____ %
Other comments on Social/Quality of Life Factor	



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**A. Principles for Guiding the Planning Process:**

Vegetation is ~~the~~ by far the best way to control erosion. Removal of vegetation and deposition of sediment only exacerbate the problem of sediment accumulation.

**B. Key Issues, Challenges and Opportunities:**

A comprehensive plan is needed - for instance less fire suppression ultimately leads to healthier ecosystems and less erosion.

**C. General Comments:**

**D. Upcoming Reservoir Cleanout Projects:**

See part A. above. Native vegetation growth ~~and~~ under sound ecological principles, is the best preventative measure.



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<b>Evaluation Factors</b>	<b>Suggested Weight</b>
<b>1. Technical Feasibility Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to meet needs: peak demand, long-term (20-year) needs</li> <li>• Right-of-way</li> <li>• Technical certainty</li> <li>• Permitting complexity</li> <li>• Maintenance intensity</li> <li>• Consistency with surrounding land use</li> </ul>	<b>25</b>
Other comments on Technical Feasibility Factor: Should look at other ways to move the sediment besides trucks. Should also look at at other uses/places to take sediment as SPS' eventually fill and then what?	
<b>2. Cost Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unit Present Value Cost (dollar per cubic yard)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Initial cost and long-term operations cost</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Budget</li> </ul>	<b>25</b>
Other comments on Cost Factor: If you can sell the sediment and dirt and have other people pay to have it removed, why not look into that possibility?	
<b>3. Environmental Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat</li> <li>• Water quality or quantity</li> <li>• Air quality and emissions</li> </ul>	<b>25</b>
Other comments on Environmental Factor: Disturb the natural habitat as little as possible, both at the excavation site and SPS. Animals, their habitat and their territory should be considered.	
<b>4. Social Quality of Life Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic</li> <li>• Noise</li> <li>• Scenic Resources</li> </ul>	<b>25</b>
Other comments on Social/Quality of Life Factor:	
<b>Are there other factors you think we should consider?</b>	<b>Suggested Weight</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>



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**ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATION**

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<b>Evaluation Factors</b>	<b>Suggested Weight</b>
<p><b>1. Technical Feasibility Factor</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to meet needs: peak demand, long-term (20-year) needs</li> <li>• Right-of-way</li> <li>• Technical certainty</li> <li>• Permitting complexity</li> <li>• Maintenance intensity</li> <li>• Consistency with surrounding land use</li> </ul>	
<p>Other comments on Technical Feasibility Factor: A presentation by LADPW staff during the April 12th meeting used the example of maintaining a conveyor could be costly and/or not feasible. Before these conclusions are made, it is important that staff be fully informed of the technical aspects of systems and equipment. Construction aggregate operations utilize conveyors because they are very efficient in transporting material. Conveyors are very feasible and cost effective. In addition, they have low maintenance costs.</p>	
<p><b>2. Cost Factor</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unit Present Value Cost (dollar per cubic yard)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Initial cost and long-term operations cost</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Budget</li> </ul>	
<p>Other comments on Cost Factor: The cost of the system should be evaluated over the long run. The short run cost of removing sediment from an SPS to maintain capacity as opposed to opening up new sites each time an SPS location is full should be evaluated. It is also important to weigh in the cost benefits/savings from reusing the sediment.</p>	
<p><b>3. Environmental Factor</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat</li> <li>• Water quality or quantity</li> <li>• Air quality and emissions</li> </ul>	
<p>Other comments on Environmental Factor: Comparing the overall environmental impacts for alternatives is important. Removing the material from an SPS location for reuse may have short term environmental impacts. However, clearing a location to continue and store more sediment will have a long and ongoing affect.</p> <p>Weighing the environmental impacts should consider the overall picture. And ensure that all stakeholders are aware of the possible alternatives. The environmental benefits of reusing the material should be balanced with the environmental impacts it could potentially create by removing the sediment.</p>	
<p><b>4. Social Quality of Life Factor</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic</li> <li>• Noise</li> <li>• Scenic Resources</li> </ul>	
<p>Other comments on Social/Quality of Life Factor: Making sure that all information is available for consideration on each alternative is important. Is traffic and noise appropriate measures? If short term traffic and noise impacts result in the reuse of the sediment and sustainability of an SPS location, these impacts may actually improve quality of life. Especially if the periodic removal of sediment would ensure new areas would not be disturbed to store material. In addition, the community could benefit from the reuse of the material in public works projects that could benefit the area.</p>	

<b>Are there other factors you think we should consider?</b>	<b>Suggested Weight</b>
<b>Does the alternative encourage result in the reuse of the material</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>

**Please state any other comments:**

As opposed to using a weighted criteria system, it might be more useful to use a ranking system. Each criteria, cost, technical feasibility, environmental etc would have a 1-5 ranking. An alternative would be given a number based on its ability to be environmentally sensitive, cost effective etc. Then all numbers could be added up for a total number for each alternative. Those alternatives with the highest ranking could be then be considered in the final evaluation. Example.

## Alternative 1

Technical Feasibility 4 out of 5 (highly technically feasible)

Cost 2 out of 5 (very costly)

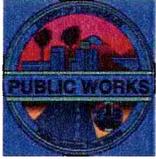
Environmental 3 out of 5 (has some environmental impacts)

Quality of Life 5 out of 5 (in the long run the community is better off)

Total Ranking: 14

Adding the criteria of assessing whether an alternative encourages or results in the reuse of the material should be considered. The construction aggregates industry could play an important role in solving the sediment management issue. The material in the SPS locations etc. could be used by the industry for reuse, reclamation and many other ways. The industry could be a significant advocate for assisting LADPW with this issue. I strongly encourage LADPW to work with all of the aggregate producers in the area to help solve the problem. Using the material for construction, reclamation etc. is the most sustainable and environmentally responsible solution to this problem.

To help in this process it will be important for LADPW to understand the location of all aggregate facilities in the Los Angeles area. Each operation could provide unique benefits for individual projects due to location etc. It is also important for LADPW to work with all companies within the industry that are willing to participate. LADPW should develop and open and ongoing communication with the industry in order to share information and needs.



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<b>Evaluation Factors</b>	<b>Suggested Weight</b>
<b>1. Technical Feasibility Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to meet needs: peak demand, long-term (20-year) needs</li> <li>• Right-of-way</li> <li>• Technical certainty</li> <li>• Permitting complexity</li> <li>• Maintenance intensity</li> <li>• Consistency with surrounding land use</li> </ul>	30
Other comments on Technical Feasibility Factor:	
<b>2. Cost Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unit Present Value Cost (dollar per cubic yard)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Initial cost and long-term operations cost</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Budget</li> </ul>	20
Other comments on Cost Factor:	
<b>3. Environmental Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat</li> <li>• Water quality or quantity</li> <li>• Air quality and emissions</li> </ul>	30
Other comments on Environmental Factor:	
<b>4. Social Quality of Life Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic</li> <li>• Noise</li> <li>• Scenic Resources</li> </ul>	20
Other comments on Social/Quality of Life Factor:	
<b>Are there other factors you think we should consider?</b>	<b>Suggested Weight</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

**Please state any other comments:**

Clearly, Public Works would not have been in this predicament if the emptying of the debris basins had been an on-going process. I think that the basins should be emptied and the debris removed from the area, and not next to the mouth of the canyons, as is happening in La Crescenta and in Arcadia. It seems very odd to me to store the debris at the foot of the mountains from which it came

The debris should be sold to help defray the cost of removal. There are other ways to remove the debris besides trucks and those should be investigated.



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Other comments on Technical Feasibility Factor:	
<b>2. Cost Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unit Present Value Cost (dollar per cubic yard)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Initial cost and long-term operations cost</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Budget</li> </ul>	15
Other comments on Cost Factor:	
<b>3. Environmental Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat</li> <li>• Water quality or quantity</li> <li>• Air quality and emissions</li> </ul>	50
Other comments on Environmental Factor:	
<b>4. Social Quality of Life Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic</li> <li>• Noise</li> <li>• Scenic Resources</li> </ul>	20
Other comments on Social/Quality of Life Factor:	
<b>Are there other factors you think we should consider?</b>	Suggested Weight
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

**Please state any other comments:**

Factor 1 is really superfluous. Feasibility is a downstream concern already factored into cost. The key element here is the use of some of the very few fire-undamaged woodland areas for sediment dumping. Another major factor regarding the La Tuna Canyon site is the road rating. Significant costs will be associated with upgrading the current road to permit the needed heavy equipment and trucking. Despite some concerns and slightly elevated costs, the Vulcan site appears to be the best short-term solution to sediment problems.



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Evaluation Factors	Suggested Weight
<b>1. Technical Feasibility Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to meet needs: peak demand, long-term (20-year) needs</li> <li>• Right-of-way</li> <li>• Technical certainty</li> <li>• Permitting complexity</li> <li>• Maintenance intensity</li> <li>• Consistency with surrounding land use</li> </ul> <p>Other comments on Technical Feasibility Factor: Technical feasibility experts should creep outside the box to discover new ways to solve old problems.</p>	10
<b>2. Cost Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unit Present Value Cost (dollar per cubic yard)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Initial cost and long-term operations cost</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Budget</li> </ul> <p>Other comments on Cost Factor: The cost factor should address long-term costs to the environment. If a monetary value is placed on the actual trees and habitat, as well as the initial monetary cost to cut them down and destroy them, you have a more balanced reality of the actual cost.</p>	15
<b>3. Environmental Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat</li> <li>• Water quality or quantity</li> <li>• Air quality and emissions</li> </ul> <p>Other comments on Environmental Factor: Habitat and other environmental factors should be weighted in value as an irreplaceable resource. You can build your debris basin somewhere else, or use your intellectual resources to find a solution that doesn't have as high a cost to the environment.</p>	50
<b>4. Social Quality of Life Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic</li> <li>• Noise</li> <li>• Scenic Resources</li> </ul> <p>Other comments on Social/Quality of Life Factor: Human health and welfare are proven to be of better quality when natural spaces are available as a respite from urban life. No matter how technically feasible and cost effective your project is, quality of life will be weighted greater in terms of social well-being.</p>	25
<b>Are there other factors you think we should consider?</b>	Suggested Weight
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>



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Please make all suggested factor weights add to 100%

Are there other factors you think we should consider?	Suggested Weight?
	_____ %
	_____ %
	_____ %

Alternative Evaluation Factors	Suggested Weight?
--------------------------------	-------------------

<b>Technical Feasibility Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to meet needs: peak demand, long-term (20-year) needs</li> <li>• Right-of-way</li> <li>• Technical certainty</li> <li>• Permitting complexity</li> <li>• Maintenance intensity</li> <li>• Consistency with surrounding land use</li> </ul>	<b>Suggested Weight?</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">5 %</div>
---	--

Other comments on Technical Feasibility Factor:

Needs to be a "forever" plan that is not stop-gap measures that will run out in 20 years

<b>Cost Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unit Present Value Cost (dollar per cubic yard)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Initial cost and long-term operations cost</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>Suggested Weight?</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">5 %</div>
--	--

Other comments on Cost Factor:

Get FEMA involved! Get FEMA \$ to help remove the debris to Vulcan Materials sites

<b>Environmental Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat</li> <li>• Water quality or quantity</li> <li>• Air quality and emissions</li> </ul>	<b>Suggested Weight?</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">70 %</div>
---	---

Other comments on Environmental Factor:

This is paramount!

<b>Social/Quality of Life Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic</li> <li>• Noise</li> <li>• Scenic Resources</li> </ul>	<b>Suggested Weight?</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">20 %</div>
---	---

Other comments on Social/Quality of Life Factor:

What will we bequeath to our children?  
A landscape of debris pits & none of their natural inheritance?



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<b>A. Principles for Guiding the Planning Process:</b>
<b>B. Key Issues, Challenges and Opportunities:</b>
<b>C. General Comments:</b> <p><i>No more destruction of natural landscape. <u>Period.</u></i></p>
<b>D. Upcoming Reservoir Cleanout Projects:</b>



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Are there other factors you think we should consider?	Suggested Weight?
	_____ %
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	_____ %

Alternative Evaluation Factors	Suggested Weight?
<b>Technical Feasibility Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to meet needs: peak demand, long-term (20-year) needs</li> <li>• Right-of-way</li> <li>• Technical certainty</li> <li>• Permitting complexity</li> <li>• Maintenance intensity</li> <li>• Consistency with surrounding land use</li> </ul>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">50 %</div>
Other comments on Technical Feasibility Factor: <i><del>_____</del> • Sustainability - over many years, can this be implemented at regular intervals?</i>	
<b>Cost Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unit Present Value Cost (dollar per cubic yard)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Initial cost and long-term operations cost</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">50 %</div>
Other comments on Cost Factor: <i>Could high initial costs (setting up a sediment as soil sale project) lead to long-term gains?</i>	
<b>Environmental Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat</li> <li>• Water quality or quantity</li> <li>• Air quality and emissions</li> </ul>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">50 %</div>
Other comments on Environmental Factor: <i>↳ Habitat (include <del>water</del> animals + plants, wildlife corridors, endangered species)            Add <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Geological stability</span></i>	
<b>Social/Quality of Life Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic</li> <li>• Noise</li> <li>• Scenic Resources</li> </ul>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">50 %</div>
Other comments on Social/Quality of Life Factor: <i>Add <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Recreational use</span></i>	

Step 2

Step 1



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**A. Principles for Guiding the Planning Process:**

Need a tiered way of prioritizing factors, i.e. there may be guiding values that must be met before the practical factors (cost + technical feasibility) are weighted - Obviously something must be feasible, but this shouldn't be considered on plans which violate basic social +

**B. Key Issues, Challenges and Opportunities:**

Environmental values.

Getting enough flexibility in the bureaucracy to consider creative alternatives like using the sediment where it's need to protect the fertility of the soil

**C. General Comments:**

Soil is a resource!  
Sediment builds soil!

**D. Upcoming Reservoir Cleanout Projects:**

(Empty space for handwritten responses to section D)



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We are requesting that you provide input into the factors, criteria, and weighting we will use to screen sediment management alternatives. As you are considering your responses, please keep in mind that the Flood Control District needs to balance many factors in order to carry out our mission of Flood Risk Management and Water Conservation

Evaluation Factors	Suggested Weight
<b>1. Technical Feasibility Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to meet needs: peak demand, long-term (20-year) needs</li> <li>• Right-of-way</li> <li>• Technical certainty</li> <li>• Permitting complexity</li> <li>• Maintenance intensity</li> <li>• Consistency with surrounding land use</li> </ul>	10 %
Other comments on Technical Feasibility Factor:	
<b>1. Cost Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unit Present Value Cost (dollar per cubic yard)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Initial cost and long-term operations cost</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Budget</li> </ul>	10 %
Other comments on Cost Factor:	
<b>1. Environmental Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat</li> <li>• Water quality or quantity</li> <li>• Air quality and emissions</li> </ul>	10 %
Other comments on Environmental Factor:	
<b>1. Social/Quality of Life Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic</li> <li>• Noise</li> <li>• Scenic Resources</li> </ul>	10 %
Other comments on Social/Quality of Life Factor:	
<b>Are there other factors you think we should consider?</b>	<b>Suggested Weight</b>
WE NEED A MANAGEMENT PLAN THAT TAKES SEDIMENT OUT OF DEBRIS BASINS ON A REGULARLY SCHEDULED BASIS, RATHER THAN ONCE EVERY 30 YEARS.	60 %
	%
	%
	%

with a limited budget.

	<b>TOTAL %</b>
	<b>0%</b>

PUBLIC

Please state any other comments:

OPEN SPACE IS BECOMING MORE VALUABLE IN AN INCREASINGLY URBANIZED LOS ANGELES. WE NEED TO FIND OTHER OPTIONS FOR SEDIMENT PLACEMENT BESIDES JUST PILING IT UP IN VARIOUS SPOTS AROUND LA. HOW ABOUT THE GRAVEL PITS IN SUN VALLEY AND IRWINDALE? CAN THEY BE USED AS SPS'S?



## Los Angeles County Department of Public Works Sediment Management Strategic Plan Alternatives Screening Tool Feedback Form



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PUBLIC

**Please make all suggested factor weights add to 100%**

Are there other factors you think we should consider?	Suggested Weight?
↳ WILDERNESS + HABITAT PRESERVATION	70 %
↳ ENERGY CONSUMPTION + AIR POLLUTION + GREEN HOUSE GASES	30 %
	_____ %

Alternative Evaluation Factors	Suggested Weight?
<b>Technical Feasibility Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to meet needs: peak demand, long-term (20-year) needs</li> <li>• Right-of-way</li> <li>• Technical certainty</li> <li>• Permitting complexity</li> <li>• Maintenance intensity</li> <li>• Consistency with surrounding land use</li> </ul>	18 %
Other comments on Technical Feasibility Factor	
<b>Cost Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unit Present Value Cost (dollar per cubic yard)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Initial cost and long-term operations cost</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	0 %
Other comments on Cost Factor	
<b>Environmental Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat</li> <li>• Water quality or quantity</li> <li>• Air quality and emissions</li> </ul>	70 %
Other comments on Environmental Factor	
<b>Social/Quality of Life Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic</li> <li>• Noise</li> <li>• Scenic Resources</li> </ul>	20 %
Other comments on Social/Quality of Life Factor	



Los Angeles County Department of Public Works  
Sediment Management Meeting - April 18, 2011  
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PUBLIC

**A. Principles for Guiding the Planning Process:**

- PRESERVE WILDERNESS - MINIMIZE LOSS OF TREES
- USE A STEADY STATE PROCESS THAT REMOVES THE AVERAGE AMOUNT OF SEDIMENT DEPOSITED EACH YEAR

**B. Key Issues, Challenges and Opportunities:**

- DROP LA TUNA - ADD LAND TO VERDUGO MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS AREA

**C. General Comments:**

- CONSIDER SLURRY PIPELINES (USING SALT WATER) TO TAKE SEDIMENT TO THE OCEAN (USE DRAINAGE CHANNELS FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY,

**D. Upcoming Reservoir Cleanout Projects:**

- DEVIL'S GATE - MINIMIZE LOSS OF TREES
- 300-400 TRUCKS PER DAY ON 210 FREEWAY WILL MAKE TRAFFIC JAMS MUCH WORSE
- CONSIDER RISKY + AIR POLLUTION IMPACTS



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ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATION

Please make all suggested factor weights add to 100%

Are there other factors you think we should consider?	Suggested Weight?
Rare, threatened + endangered species	10 %
Water detention + infiltration on watershed basis	10 %
	_____ %

Alternative Evaluation Factors	Suggested Weight?
<b>Technical Feasibility Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to meet needs: peak demand, long-term (20-year) needs</li> <li>• Right-of-way</li> <li>• Technical certainty</li> <li>• Permitting complexity</li> <li>• Maintenance intensity</li> <li>• Consistency with surrounding land use</li> </ul>	30 %

Other comments on Technical Feasibility Factor:

- work with longer time frame for system that will be sustainable
- re-use is most sustainable
- permitting can be accomplished

<b>Cost Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unit Present Value Cost (dollar per cubic yard)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Initial cost and long-term operations cost</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	5 %
--	-----

Other comments on Cost Factor:

- loss of watershed/habitat/air quality benefits is a long-term (20yr) cost not a one-time cost

<b>Environmental Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat</li> <li>• Water quality or quantity</li> <li>• Air quality and emissions</li> </ul>	40 %
---	------

Other comments on Environmental Factor:

land can't be replaced - mitigation doesn't fulfill

<b>Social/Quality of Life Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic</li> <li>• Noise</li> <li>• Scenic Resources</li> </ul>	5 %
---	-----

Other comments on Social/Quality of Life Factor:

- stewardship of natural systems builds better citizens
- long term job generation is valued



**Los Angeles County Department of Public Works  
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ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATION

**A. Principles for Guiding the Planning Process:**

Sustainable  
transparent  
protecting environment

**B. Key Issues, Challenges and Opportunities:**

lack of longterm planning needs to be overcome  
habitat corridors, land value as habitat needs to  
be assessed (watershed, air quality, sensitive habitat,  
recreation)  
look at watershed impact, loss of attenuation of events  
infiltration, filtration

**C. General Comments:**

re-use of debris desirable  
multi-use solutions desirable (in fill unstable  
gravel pits, use materials for beach replenishment)  
Advisory Committee omits environmental orgs - I  
request seat for the Theodore Payne Foundation

**D. Upcoming Reservoir Cleanout Projects:**

most concerned w/ La Tuna Cyn.  
consider gravel pits → gravel hills @ terraced,  
elevated maximum capacity



**Los Angeles County Department of Public Works  
Sediment Management Strategic Plan  
Alternatives Screening Tool Feedback Form**



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ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATION

Please make all suggested factor weights add to 100%

Are there other factors you think we should consider?	Suggested Weight?
<i>we should not do further developments in the hills + mountains; building in the path of debris flow is not good planning</i>	_____ %
	_____ %
	_____ %

Alternative Evaluation Factors	Suggested Weight?
<b>Technical Feasibility Factor:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ability to meet needs peak demand long-term (20-year) needs</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Right-of-way</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Technical certainty</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Permitting complexity</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance intensity</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Consistency with surrounding land use</li> </ul>	<b>10</b> %

Other comments on Technical Feasibility Factor:

*I think we have reasonable alternatives; doing the easiest thing isn't always the best or most cost effective in the long run.*

Cost Factor	Suggested Weight?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Unit Present Value Cost (dollar per cubic yard)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Initial cost and long term operations cost</li> </ul>	<b>15</b> %

Other comments on Cost Factor:

*yes, \$\$ is not unlimited; however, we can find a way to pay for what is done if it is the "right" thing*

Environmental Factor	Suggested Weight?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Habitat</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Water quality or quantity</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Air quality and emissions</li> </ul>	<b>50</b> %

Other comments on Environmental Factor:

Social/Quality of Life Factor	Suggested Weight?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Traffic</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Noise</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scenic Resources</li> </ul>	<b>125</b> %

Other comments on Social/Quality of Life Factor:



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ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATION

**A. Principles for Guiding the Planning Process:**

*Does the County pay attention to its own regulations + documents? for example the Draft L.A. County Oak Woodlands Conservation management Plan. Why should the County be allowed to destroy oak woodlands but encourage property owners to conserve??*

**B. Key Issues, Challenges and Opportunities:**

*- Conserve open natural spaces at all costs  
- mitigation will not cover this loss  
- need to use the sediments for something useful*

**C. General Comments:**

*- need better notification for meetings  
- why allow <sup>any</sup> destruction of habitat for the 5 Reservoir Cleanout projects? especially when so much was destroyed in the fires? where are the animals supposed to go??*

**D. Upcoming Reservoir Cleanout Projects:**



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PUBLIC

We are requesting that you provide input into the factors, criteria, and weighting we will use to screen sediment management alternatives. As you are considering your responses, please keep in mind that the Flood Control District needs to balance many factors in order to carry out our mission of Flood Risk Management and Water Conservation with a limited budget.

<b>Evaluation Factors</b>	<b>Suggested Weight</b>
<b>1. Technical Feasibility Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to meet needs: peak demand, long-term (20-year) needs</li> <li>• Right-of-way</li> <li>• Technical certainty</li> <li>• Permitting complexity</li> <li>• Maintenance intensity</li> <li>• Consistency with surrounding land use</li> </ul>	0
Other comments on Technical Feasibility Factor:	
<b>2. Cost Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unit Present Value Cost (dollar per cubic yard)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Initial cost and long-term operations cost</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Budget</li> </ul>	0
Other comments on Cost Factor:	
<b>3. Environmental Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat</li> <li>• Water quality or quantity</li> <li>• Air quality and emissions</li> </ul>	0
Other comments on Environmental Factor: The presence of archeological artifacts should be included in the environmental factor section.	
<b>4. Social Quality of Life Factor</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic</li> <li>• Noise</li> <li>• Scenic Resources</li> </ul>	0
Other comments on Social/Quality of Life Factor:	
<b>Are there other factors you think we should consider?</b>	<b>Suggested Weight</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>

**Please state any other comments:**

As stated by one of the participants at the task force meeting, there should be some initial go/no-go decision points in the process. One of those decision points is the establishment of an environmental "threshold" It is never acceptable to destroy pristine, previously undeveloped land (let's say within the last 100 years) to create a dump. It is understood that the debris basins have to be cleared and the material must be placed somewhere else. There are other options besides on pristine, previously undeveloped land. As long as Technical Feasibility and Cost factors are weighted within the same framework as environmental factors, the technical feasibility and cost factors can trump the environmental factors. That is not acceptable; our responsibility for caring for the environment is a long-term, over-arching endeavor that does not begin or end with our lives and our jobs. Technical Feasibility and Cost on the other hand are much more immediate factors that even fluctuate within the timeframe of our lives and our jobs. Please do not sacrifice the future for the present.

I did not add weighting factors to the form because that makes it appear that we can value the environment the same way (within the same framework) as we value technical feasibility and cost. Simply stated Technical feasibility is about what is easiest to do. That is a valid parameter when we are considering what method should be used to remove the debris from the basin and transport it. It certainly isn't a valid parameter in deciding whether or not to preserve pristine, undeveloped land. Cost is about what is cheapest to do. Again, this is a valid parameter for determining what methods should be used to remove the debris and transport it. However, we cannot replace the environment we have inherited. Thus, the preservation of the environment needs to be considered first and foremost, and after that has been done, then the technical feasibility and cost factors can be considered for the remaining options.

There are options for disposal of debris basin contents that do not impact pristine, undeveloped land. Please work with the various agencies and stake holders to identify those options and get the buy-in necessary to make them work.

Some may, and probably will, disagree with me but I see social/quality of life issues as more short-term and subject to fluctuation than the environment and again, the environment should not be held hostage or sacrificed for short-term local quality of life issues.

Thank you for starting this process of stakeholder involvement. I appreciate the difficult task that you have taken on in agreeing to this process. I have worked for a public utility and understand the constraints of your operation. In advance, please forgive the commenters who really don't understand when they make impossible requests, but listen for the kernel of truth that you may be able to apply

Thanks again for this opportunity to contribute to the discussion.

We are requesting that you provide input into the factors, criteria, and weighting we will use to screen sediment management alternatives. As you are considering your responses, please keep in mind that the Flood Control District needs to balance many factors in order to carry out our mission of Flood Risk Management and Water Conservation with a limited budget.

**Evaluation Factors**

1. Technical Feasibility Factor - Suggested Weight 15 %
2. Cost Factor 25 %
3. Environmental Factor 40 %
4. Social/Quality of Life Factor 20 %

Are there other factors you think we should consider? Please include along with weighting percentage.

Please state any other comments:

I'm no expert when it comes to sediment management, but obviously lately there's been great public concern over transparency, process, and whether or not habitat destruction really needs to occur as quickly as it has in some recent incidents. I think everyone wants to save money and be as sensitive to the needs of green space as possible. Proper planning should ensure this, and including the public / stake-holders as important partners in this process will save the county major headaches in the long run. Thank you for distributing this survey.



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ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATION

A. Principles for Guiding the Planning Process:

- ECOSYSTEM INTEGRITY HAS TO BECOME PRIMARY
- WORK WITH NATURE, NOT AGAINST IT
- MAKE DECISIONS RELATIVE TO THEIR GENERATIONAL IMPACTS - THINK DECADES INTO THE FUTURE, NOT WHAT SEEMS EXPEDIENT FOR THE MOMENT

B. Key Issues, Challenges and Opportunities:

- MOST EFFECTIVE USE OF RESOURCES WITH MINIMAL IMPACT TO EXISTING ECOSYSTEMS
- PRESERVATION OF NATURAL OPEN SPACE & HABITAT
- LIMITING GROWTH IN ORDER TO MANAGE DEMAND

C. General Comments:

THIS DEPARTMENT CLEARLY NEEDS MORE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN ITS DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES. TRYING TO SLIP DESTRUCTIVE SHORT TERM DECISIONS PAST THE PUBLIC IS A DANGEROUS AND COUNTER PRODUCTIVE GAME TO BE PLAYING AND WILL ULTIMATELY PROVE TO BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE IN TERMS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AS WELL.

D. Upcoming Reservoir Cleanout Projects:

ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATION

To Whom It May Concern:

Participants in the Urbanwild Network which grew out of the demolition of the Arcadia Woodlands by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (DPW), have carefully reviewed the attached form. As individuals, some will be responding directly. As an informal grass-roots organization with a steering committee, Urbanwild has been unable to meet prior to your deadline of May 2<sup>nd</sup> and will be responding formally within the next two weeks. However, based on numerous phone calls from participants, there is a clear feeling among those who attended the Sediment Task Force meeting that this Alternatives Screening Tool Feedback Form will totally distort their comments. It is an attempt to convert the public's thoughtful statements and suggestions related to sediment removal into a computer program that screens out viable alternatives not acceptable to DPW. By asking highly technical and percentage based questions of non-engineers, it also reduces the number of responses likely to be received.

People from all parts of Los Angeles County attended the Sediment Management Task Force meeting and shared their thoughts and comments. You should have those on record. Those comments should be the basis for DPW's efforts to move forward with a Sediment Management Plan. The attached form does not reflect those comments nor an appreciation of what the public tried to communicate. Few of their comments related to the top two Evaluation Factors on your Alternative Screening Tool Feedback Form which really effectively screens them out.

What did the public say at the Sediment Task Force meeting? They requested a plan from DPW that reflects a balance between sediment management and protection of the environment. They requested that this concept be incorporated into the DPW Mission Statement. There was no comment made more forcefully and more consistently. Yet the result is this totally irrelevant form that asks none of the right questions. How do you attach a cost or percentage value to protecting the environment, the most often stated comment? Where is the place for it on this form? Therefore, the bottom line for most of those contributed comments is that this form is a totally unreliable and ineffective way of measuring the public's aspirations for a workable Sediment Management Plan.

The Urbanwild Network is not seeking to stop DPW from performing its important role of flood control and water management. We do however believe that by having a real conversation with the concerned public, DPW will be able to perform its mission and simultaneously enhance the environment. **Therefore we request a careful review of the comments made at the last Sediment Task Force meeting to be shared with those of us who attended and left e-mail addresses. From those comments, we hope to work with DPW to prioritize concerns and recommendations that can lead to a truly workable and publicly supportable Sediment Management Plan.**

Urbanwild Network

ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATION

Thank you for the update

I hope that sites less destructive to watershed and habitat such as the Vulcan gravel pits be considered as alternatives.

ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATION

Dear Sediment Management Group,

I support the position of the UrbanWild Network Steering Committee concerning the Alternatives Screening Tool Feedback Form.

Since I am not an engineer, I would need much more background before I could complete this questionnaire in a meaningful way. It does seem to me, however, that this form does not allow for the variables which each individual project would have. For example, Hahamongna has several schools in immediate proximity. Wouldn't the air quality impacts be weighted more heavily here than in a project far from human habitation?

The form is also inadequate in that it does not even address overarching considerations such as sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATION

To Whom it May Concern,

The most obvious principles for guiding the planning process are transparency and a sincere desire to work with the community. The composition of the County Sediment Management Advisory Working Group announced at the very last minute at the end of the April 18 meeting suggests more a desire to circle the wagons.

The group has five members who are involved with the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan and one other who was an engineer for LA County for 16 years. One of the members represents the implementing agency for the Hahamongna Basin Multi-use Project, a component of which is sediment removal/relocation in Hahamongna, an apparent conflict of interest should Prop 84 grant funds be awarded for this project.

Where are the scientists and engineers who could bring a fresh perspective concerning sediment removal? JPL and CalTech are here in our back yard. Why doesn't the Advisory Group draw on this expertise? Why not include more water experts who can be impartial because they are not involved in any projects in Los Angeles County?

It is very disappointing particularly in terms of Hahamongna. Along with many other activists, I have worked for over a decade to try to keep it natural in the face of continuing development pressures. We are not asking that the sediment not be removed from behind the dam but rather that it be done in as environmental sensitive a manner as possible. If you take a look at the Save Hahamongna website or the testimony before the Pasadena City Council on 7/5/10, you will get some idea of the community's fervent desire to protect Hahamongna. The Advisory Group could provide the opportunity to bring new thinking to balancing the complex demands placed upon this unique place. The solutions arrived at could be the template for the future for other reservoirs as well.

I urge you to rethink the composition of the Advisory Group to better represent the community which has come out in large numbers to both the sediment management meetings.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATION

WE ALL KNOW TWO NEGATIVES MAKE A PLUS, so we have been told!

I am going to reiterate what I suggested at the end of the Monday, April 18 meeting at the LA County Department of Public Works Headquarters Building in Alhambra, plus, add a few more comments.

After heavy rains, the natural path of water and debris from the mountains would be to flow towards the Pacific Ocean. However, because we have built houses and buildings smack dab at the bottom of the mountains, we have a problem and have to devise an alternative method of disposal.

This is a given NUMBER ONE. Now another given, NUMBER TWO - is the nuclear plant at the edge of the ocean. There is a small shelf in the ocean along the coast of California, and it would seem we would prevent a possible disaster from a tsunami by dumping the rocks and debris out in the ocean thereby forming a "mini - island" in front of the plant protecting it from damage should such an event occur as what happened in Japan recently

A lot of issues have to be taken into consideration for such a project. One is transporting the material. I think this could be done with helicopters dumping the debris in the ocean in front of the facility.

I don't think, though I could be entirely wrong, that the people in environmental groups would voice lots of opposition. It would be a plan for that could be used over and over again for as long the need exists, and after all if it would protect the people, they would endorse the plan.

If the "island" even got large enough, coast live oaks could be planted on it!

What is certain, we have to think outside the box. There is no way we can destroy what pristine places we have left in our canyons. It would not be natural to do so.

My second suggesting - why not dump the debris in the mountains where the roads have washed out in Angeles Crest?

Keep us posted, and again, it was a very interesting meeting, but I felt some of the county employees were not listening to the comments of the audience. They were working on their lap tops and seemed like they had to be there. Not that they wanted to be there or to contribute their thoughts. The monitor and the woman who took notes were exceptional.

Thank you and look forward to your solution to these horrendous problems. My suggestion is to make a difficult problem easy, not an easy problem difficult.

DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS

(CLARIFICATION REGARDING PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES IN PREVIOUS EMAIL)

Thank you for your comment. Our apologies if the gentleman on the laptop during the meeting on April 18th seemed uninterested. He is one of our consultants and was taking notes on the information and comments presented at the meeting.

Thank you for your interest.

*The Sediment Management Strategic Plan Team*

---

Keep us posted, and again, it was a very interesting meeting, but I felt some of the county employees were not listening to the comments of the audience. They were working on their lap tops and seemed like they had to be there. not that they wanted to be there or to contribute their thoughts. The monitor and the woman who took notes were exceptional.

Thank you and look forward to your solution to these horrendous problems. My suggestion is to make a difficult problem easy, not an easy problem difficult.

PUBLIC

Hello,

I attended Monday's meeting. I did not receive your request for followup information. A friend forwarded it to me. Would you please see that you put me on your contact list? Thank you.

These are very difficult times and how to proceed is a challenge to all. This is not an easy task for you. It is my hope that city, county and state agencies can have a collaborative relationship with various community groups as we resolve how to protect the environment and maintain the dams. Again, it is clear that your task is a very challenging one.

I do not want to fill out the enclosed form because I do not have enough background to do so. I also do not want to provide documentation that can be presented as validation for something that I do not necessarily approve of. Frankly, and I wish there was a nicer way of saying this, from what I have seen of how you have operated, I do not trust what you will do with what I submit in survey format.

To date, how you have presented yourselves to the public is unfortunately duplicitous. I think that you want to be able to present proof that you involved the community. I hope I am wrong but I am left with the impression that staff members in fact feel the audience which was present to be a bunch of tree huggers who are out of touch with the realities you must grapple with.

I make the following three suggestions to help alleviate these impressions.

1. The **meetings need to be advertised clearly in the local papers so the community can know what your plans are.**
2. The **meetings need to be in the evening or on weekends** so the public can attend. You can put this down as what I would consider a priority cost that the public/ county needs to pay so that the populace can be informed. The excuse that the involved agencies cannot work beyond the standard 9-5 is quite inadequate and a poor reflection of your motivation to be honest to the public.
- 3 You are clearly manipulating the **La Tuna Canyon situation** to provide the most flexibility for your advantage in the future. This **makes those who listen to you mistrust you and also consider you an adversary**. I think you should reconsider how you proceed on this canyon.

In the past I have been respectful and appreciative of the county staff I have interacted with. I have written letters of appreciation for individual county employees I have been fortunate to have assist our family. It is my hope that my previous high opinions of the county's staff and quality of service to the public will be restored.

Thank you.

PUBLIC

Mr Sharp---I attended the Sediment Task force meeting last week. I intend to file remarks of how to "get this job done"---a phrase I heard over and over at the meeting. Mr Sharp, we who put ourselves on the line to protect the environmental heritage our kids will HOPE TO SEE, understand more than anyone the nature of "responsibility," but in a MUCH LARGER CONTEXT THAN THE SO FAR LIMITED WAY YOUR AGENCY HAS OPERATED. Your note reminds us----

put yourself in a position of responsibility to provide a service with limited public funding --- I now lecture you on the meaning of "providing a service" which here- to- for, has been addressed as 'plugged plumbing'

We humans do not exist in a human provided world, a human based world, or a human run world, as much as our over-wrought hubris would like to believe otherwise. So the "providing of services" is largely taken for granted by humans, because the "services" of life support have always been there. We are soiling our bed, however, and "getting the JOB done" has contributed greatly to that problem.

Human notions of "value" have caused us to not assess the "true cost analysis" to the trashing of intact ecosystems, and our pitiful economic systems have "externalized" the VALUE of losing those ecosystem services. Your agency is now being forced to account for the poor economic system of "providing a service with limited public funding" by staring in the face the many clogged debris basins which were not designed with the FACTS OF GEOLOGY IN MIND

The language is right there in the documents of DPW -- this document in regard to Devil's Gate dam---

"the channel was not designed to handle heavy sediment flows from the watershed above the dam" BUT

- 1) "Devils Gate is subject to a highly erosive watershed "
- 2) "Nearly 100% of the undeveloped watershed burned in 2009"
- 3) "On average, a watershed requires 5 years to recover"
- 4) "Downstream channel capacity was designed with the assumption that most of the sediment would deposit behind the dam before flows discharged downstream"
- 5) sediment accumulation was 10 times heavier last year, than what was seen during the period when the watershed had not burned.

So, DPW knows the hydrological and geological facts, but makes no more effective a plan than pretending that what happened historically (in geological time) would be agreeable with their "design assumptions"!! In other words, we will control Nature.

I draw your attention to DESIGNED WITH THE ASSUMPTION-- a capricious and flawed economic model phrase for "the job we have to do" I remind you, these structures "designed" by DPW and Flood Control

have been in place a actual NANOSECOND of real time, and therein is the expression of the inadequacy of the planning and designing. I submit to you, we are wiser and should admit our hubris, and go back to the drawing board.

I happen to live in the downstream beach town of Manhattan Beach, and the design flaws of 1920's flood control projects are why our beaches and the beaches all up and down the coast of California have eroded dramatically Coastal towns south of us have beaches of only rocks in some areas. There IS NO SAND BECAUSE CHANNELIZED RIVER FLOWS AND SEDIMENT TRAPS DEPRIVED THOSE AREAS OF REPLENISHMENT

You will be hearing input to change the complete economic paradigm DPW has taken as Gospel from those of us with a wider view on the world. This is good.



Public

Dear Los Angeles County Department of Public Works,

I find that the *Alternatives Screening Tool* form cannot capture the most important concern that so many participants at the last two **Sediment Management Strategic Plan Task Force** meetings have been attempting to convey to the DPW. That point is that natural chaparral and woodland habitat obtained many decades ago by L. A. County DPW through purchase or land swap *should no longer be considered "expendable" and destined for destruction as Sediment Placement Sites (SPSs)*. These County lands have intrinsic value far greater than their use as sediment dumping grounds. Natural old-growth chaparral and mature woodlands close to urban areas are desperately needed as public parkland (especially for local communities that are 80% "park poor"); as critical habitat for native flora and fauna; as wildlife corridors; as functional watersheds; to provide trail connections to the National Forest and as local recreational destinations; for carbon sequestration; for their scenic qualities and so forth.

What is needed at this juncture is for the County to declare these public wild lands *off limits* for use as sediment dumps. Existing oak woodlands, riparian habitat, and natural ravines should no longer be "available" for destruction by conversion into massive, barren piles of sediment. Public support for conservation and acknowledgement of the high ecological and recreational values of such open land needs take precedence... not remain a sub-criteria on the *Alternatives Screening Tool* form.

I find it ironic that the County is developing a plan to protect oaks... and individual landowners can be cited for even cutting a single large limb on an oak in their own yard... yet it is somehow OK for the DPW to obliterate acres of ancient oaks and associated native shrubs and trees. The very idea that it is ever acceptable to destroy woodlands for the convenience of dumping sediment into a large pile, particularly oak trees, is the crux of the dilemma. Oak woodlands are currently under assault by the gold spotted oak borer in San Diego County and sudden oak death (*Phytophthora ramorum* infestation) north of this region. Healthy oak woodlands must be given a higher priority in County plans.

Removing woodland and other habitat from consideration would serve to refocus the DPW on exploring effective alternatives to conventional SPSs, including (but not limited to) the use of quarries for sediment disposal, sluicing strategies, and recycling sediment for beaches, construction fill or whatever. I believe as long as beautiful wild lands, such as La Tuna Canyon's old oaks and sycamores or the riparian habitat above Pacoima Dam, are "fair game" and "on the table," the DPW will be disinclined to seek alternatives. Instead, the DPW will continue to "kick the can" into the future until an inevitable time arrives when there will be no lands left where sediment from dams and catch basins can be dumped. Why not anticipate the future and save open space now?

I am among those who suspect that the DPW's **Sediment Management Strategic Plan Task Force** meetings and hand-picked "Working Group" will repeat what happened at the Highland Oaks Elementary School meeting about the Arcadia Oak Woodland: After abundant and almost unanimous public input from neighbors and other stakeholders on behalf of sparing the oaks... After an expert engineer was hired to provide technically accurate data confirming that there was room for current sediment needs on existing Arcadia SPS sites... After thousands of people signed an online petition... After evidence and public will was presented... Magnificent oaks were still toppled, an entire woodland was destroyed, and the wildlife that depended upon that habitat was killed or displaced. The Santa Anita Wash Trail now ends in a blighted dirt lump on the edge of Monrovia's protected parkland and the National Forest. So much potential for recreation has been lost. The DPW hid behind its "process" to precipitate this disaster. The public's concerns were recorded by a facilitator, a report was generated that misrepresented criticism of the project, and that report was delivered to the County Supervisors, who mistakenly and tragically believed the incorrect data.

Clearly, I am not an engineer, nor do most Task Force participants have a detailed and technical understanding of all the various alternatives that the DPW might utilize for removing and managing sediment in spectrum of sustainable ways. Because of this, filling out the *Alternatives Screening Tool* form will inevitably be lacking the sort of rigorous data necessary for objective evaluation of new ideas. What I do know is that the DPW should not be allowed to once again manipulate data to justify the removal of centuries-old trees, in order to build another massive, inert dirt dump. The cost to restore lost land, if, indeed, such places can ever be "restored" to any semblance of their former biodiversity and beauty, will be astronomical. Nor will replacement woodlands appear anything like what was destroyed within anyone's current lifetime. So-called reclaimed SPSs will not sequester carbon, replenish aquifers, or host highly diverse habitat to the same high degree as the original, mature woodland. Where will these adverse impacts factor into the total cost of each project currently in the SPS pipeline?

It seems as if the DPW is marching down the same "process" road, just with a greater patina of "consensus." One suspects that the DPW will use the convenient, filled-in *Alternatives Screening Tool* forms to generate another report that contains all the reasons that the suggested alternatives will not work... because they are allegedly too impractical or too costly or too innovative or too experimental or will take too long to implement, etc. There seems to be a strong intention to justify the removal of woodlands on the current SPS project list, such as the proposed La Tuna Canyon SPS site. The DPW has proven stubbornly inclined to continue "business as usual," even under pressure. Perhaps that is because change brings uncertainty, possibility of failure and criticism, as well as potential increases in short-term costs.

Instead of filling out the recommended *Alternatives Screening Tool* form to establish "criteria and input factors" that will fit into a formula matrix chart, I urge the County and the DPW to do the right thing, right now *Remove all the imperiled chaparral, sycamore and oak woodlands, riparian streams and scenic ravines from SPS consideration.* Commit to avoiding what happened to the Arcadia Oak Woodland. Dare to work together with citizens and expert colleagues to find viable alternatives for sediment removal and recycling. I would be happy and honored to roll up my sleeves and help, knowing that the wild lands are safe. There have always been alternatives. It is time to recognize that fact and spare the imperiled County lands.

I remember what was lost in Arcadia. I walked among the oaks and other trees that are no more, inhaling the fragrance of California laurels and white sage. I recall the horrific, unnecessary toppling and crushing of all that lived in the Arcadia woodland and the carnage that continued into the evening as flocks of night-blind small birds and frightened bats (species that could fly) panicked and swirled through the oaks. One by one, the ancient trees were pushed over and broken. I have photos to remind me of what that parkland once looked like before it became the Arcadia Wasteland.

If the DPW fails to be forthright yet again, the public reaction will be far, far more consequential than in Arcadia. 3 dedicated tree sitters will be the least of your worries. Please change course now Preserve the natural land. Work honestly with the public and agencies to solve the sediment removal problem for local dams and catch basins into the future. Spare the woodlands and wildlife instead of using formulas to justify the same old reasons why these lands must be buried. Consider this my input for the **Sediment Management Strategic Plan Task Force.**

Respectfully,

**Before:**



**After:**



P.S. Have you noticed the DPW's \*new\* parking lot? At the last task force meeting, I noticed that asphalt was being laid down right up to the trunks of trees and took the following photos. Employees cars now park right under the drip line of each tree. These paved-in trees will eventually die, unable to get water to their roots which are further compromised by cars compacting their disturbed roots. If the DPW cannot even "see the forest for the asphalt" around trees in its own parking lot, what hope is there that the DPW will place appropriate value on wild trees, coastal sage scrub, and parkland? I recommend that the DPWs hire a qualified arborist who can help you revise your new parking lot design before you lose your expensive, mature shade trees.



Note the lowered level of soil around the top of the tree's supporting root mass. What happened to the planter that once surrounded this now elevated tree trunk with soil?



Surface root buttresses have been cut away.

