

January 13, 2005

Sara Denzler, Program Coordinator
State of California, Department of Water Resources
Division of Planning and Local Assistance
Urban Streams Restoration Project
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-001

Dear Ms. Denzler:

The Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council (NWSPNC) is pleased to support the Peck Park Urban Stream Restoration Program application submitted by the Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative (LANI).

The NWSPNC is a part of the system of Neighborhood Councils established under the Charter for the City of Los Angeles and represents approximately 20,000 stakeholders. Our Council is committed to enhancing the San Pedro community for residents, businesses and visitors alike. To further this goal, NWSPNC has undertaken a number of initiatives to improve Peck Park which we consider to be a real jewel in the rough in our community. The park contains approximately 160 acres with a majority being undeveloped and underutilized areas. Our Council initiated a planning process for these areas and contributed the initial \$10,000 towards a contract with LANI for the development of a conceptual plan. We are participating on the local steering committee for the conceptual planning phase and now eagerly anticipate the improvement of this unique open space including stream restoration.

The restoration of the stream within the park presents opportunities to reduce existing erosion, improve water quality and slow down hazardous storm water velocity within a valuable public park. Additionally, restoration opportunities provided by the riparian and wetland stream system in Peck Park offer many possibilities for habitat restoration, erosion control and public nature education. These benefits include the creation of habitat for urban wildlife, erosion control through vegetative methods, nature education and the removal of problematic non-native and invasive plant species.

The NWSPNC has long spearheaded the community-driven efforts to bring positive change to Peck Park. In 2004, we organized a clean-up event in the Canyon in which 15 tons of trash, 17 shopping carts and a washing machine were removed by a team of over 70 volunteers. In 2005, we will host a similar community clean-up event to kick-off the restoration project and engage the surrounding community in the process.

Additionally, the NWSPNC is demonstrating its strong support of this project by committing \$5,000 in cash to be used during the design and construction of these important stream improvements. Combined with the \$10,000 originally committed for the conceptual design phase, this raises the Council's total cash contribution to \$15,000 and serves a strong indicator of the local support enjoyed by this project.

The NWSPNC therefore enthusiastically endorses this application with the hope that this important community-driven project can be fully realized for the benefit of all members of the San Pedro community.

Sincerely,

John Greenwood
President