



SIERRA CLUB
San Fernando Valley Group/Angeles Chapter

June 14, 2016

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Kenneth Wong, Planning Division
915 Wilshire Blvd., 14th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017
kenneth.wong@usace.army.mil

Honorable Mr. Kenneth Wong:

The Sierra Club supports alternative 4 with the amendment suggested by Friends of the Los Angeles River to initiate a pilot program to eliminate the use of herbicide in the south preserve for one year, and to especially avoid the use of herbicide in the riparian area. We will work with FOLAR to have a monthly volunteer day to remove nonnatives in the south reserve, if the pilot program to avoid herbicide is approved. There are many experts about the native plants who volunteer on this committee. We expect to develop our expertise even more through the manual removal of nonnatives if this pilot program is approved. The parks have also provided a helpful document of the "dirty dozen" weeds that will help us in the initiation phase of removing nonnative plants by hand rather than by chemical.

We agree with the CNPS comment that the description of the south preserve in the state prior to the removal of vegetation in December 2012 was mischaracterized in the EA. There were many native trees that were damaged in the removal, as well as the Decomposed granite path was damaged. Many native plants were removed.

We agree with the Audubon society request for a fifth year in the cycle in which no mowing occurs. Many plants, and the animals that depend on them, need the plants to go through the seed bearing cycle.

If you would like to discuss the details of these comments further, you can contact our conservation chair for the San Fernando Valley group of the Sierra Club, Theresa Brady. Her number is 818 349 8889.

Sincerely,

Barry Katzen
Chair
San Fernando Valley Group
Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter