



BRAD SHERMAN
UNITED STATES CONGRESS

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January 3, 2012

Colonel R. Mark Toy
Commander, Los Angeles District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
915 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1101
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Dear Colonel Toy:

I am writing to bring to your immediate attention an urgent matter involving a vegetation management project in the Sepulveda Basin. I have received correspondence from constituents expressing their concerns with the project to clear-cut vegetation in the area south of Burbank Blvd. and the lack of notification about the project prior to its approval.

Given the protests from the community and concerns with the extent of the Vegetation Management Project, I strongly urge the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to immediately cease all work on the project and to convene a meeting with community and environmental organizations and my office to: (1) discuss the goals and objectives of the project and future management of the site; (2) develop a mitigation plan to restore *native* vegetation and trails on the site; and (3) ensure the plan properly balances the objectives of flood control, habitat restoration, passive recreational use and public safety.

In addition, I would request that the Los Angeles District include all individuals and organizations on the distribution list for each of its Environmental Assessment (EA) documents that are posted online for public review and comment. Those on the list should include the individual organizations that make up the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee, neighborhood councils, homeowner organizations and park user groups. This will ensure that all those concerned have the opportunity to review and comment on all projects within the Sepulveda Basin that require the preparation of an environmental assessment.

I would also encourage the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks to co-host a quarterly meeting to update the community about upcoming projects and improvements in the Sepulveda Basin to gain input from the public on ways to improve this valuable public resource for all park users.

I am confident the Los Angeles District will take all the necessary steps in the coming days and weeks to address this urgent matter for the betterment of our community and our environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brad Sherman".

BRAD SHERMAN
Member of Congress