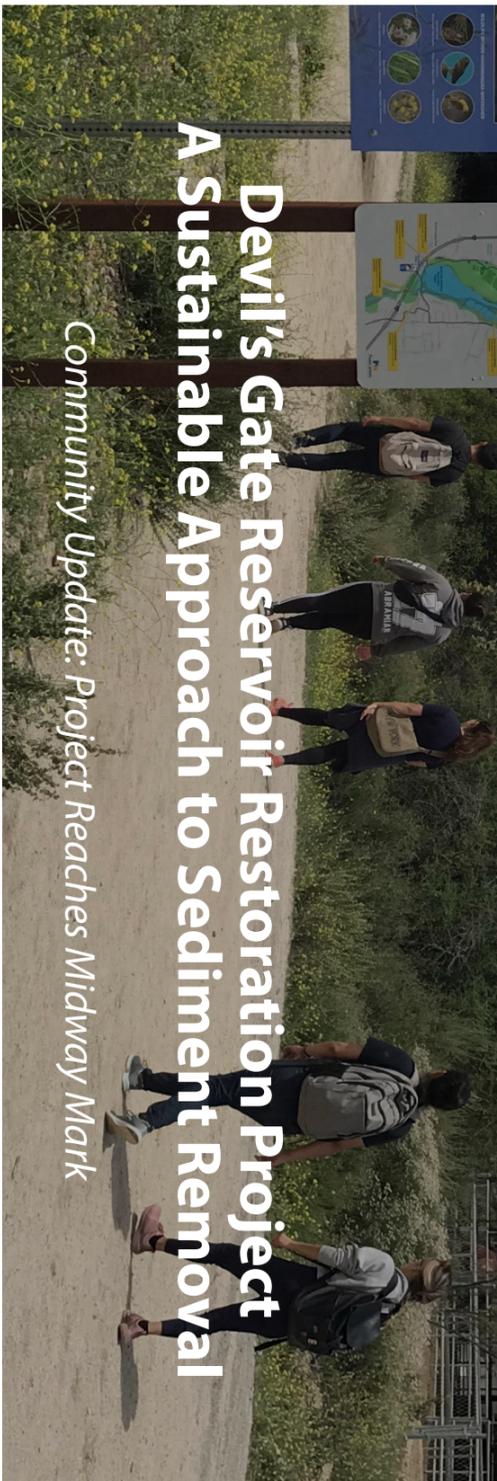


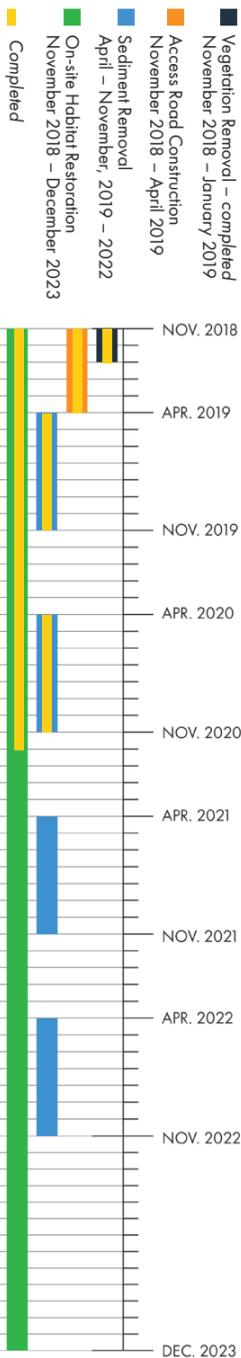


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### Timeline



## Devil's Gate Reservoir Restoration Project Reaches Midway Mark

The Devil's Gate Reservoir Restoration Project is a four-year effort by Los Angeles County Public Works to remove 1.7 million cubic yards of sediment and any additional seasonal storm inflows into the reservoir. The project will restore flood control capabilities for the Arroyo Seco Watershed and LA Basin.

In December 2020, the project reached its half-way mark with the conclusion of the second season of sediment removal and habitat restoration. To date, approximately 980,000 cubic yards of sediment have been removed from the reservoir.

Fahim Rahimi, who oversees the day-to-day activities for the Project noted, "The restoration work is going well and on schedule. We have worked closely with the community to make sure we are keeping dust and dirt minimized within the reservoir, keeping surrounding areas clean and maintaining air quality."

Restoration efforts and planting of new plants are helping to bring back Devil's Gate Reservoir's natural habitat. This season, the Least Bell's Vireo and the Great Horned Owl who make the Hahamongna Watershed their home, returned.

The first season of sediment removal began in April 2019 and resulted in the removal of 447,407 cubic yards of sediment. The second season began in April 2020 and concluded in November 2020 with the removal of 532,692 cubic yards. Sediment removal work is scheduled to resume in mid-April 2021.

As the project continues, if anyone would like to learn more about the Devil's Gate Project or have any questions, please feel free to call the project hotline at (626) 458-2507 or visit the project website at [devilsgateproject.com](http://devilsgateproject.com).

Upon completion in 2022, the County will begin an annual maintenance program to sustainably manage future inflows of sediment. The new configuration will allow native habitat areas to flourish alongside reservoir flood control operations for both the safety and well-being of adjacent communities.



## County Forms an Agreement with Community Stakeholders

On July 7, 2020, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors announced a settlement agreement with the Arroyo Seco Foundation and Pasadena Audubon Society on the Devil's Gate Reservoir Restoration Project in Pasadena.

"In collaboration with our communities and environmental leaders, we made significant progress to complete this critical work" said Supervisor Kathryn Barger. "Since the project was authorized, we have actively engaged our community, increased environmental monitoring, and garnered input from the Community Advisory Committee. The resulting project delivers long-term flood protection for the communities in Pasadena, South Pasadena and northeast Los Angeles while improving recreational areas and protecting more than 70 acres of high-quality habitat."

The settlement includes additional measures to further reduce the project's potential environmental impacts. When the project is complete, there will be restored flood protection capacity behind the dam and a sustainable reservoir management system.

"We believe that this agreement will protect the land, the birds, and the people by shrinking the permanent footprint size of the project, verifying the use of the cleanest trucks possible moving the sediment and restoring additional habitat in the Hahamongna basin," said Laura Solomon, President of the Pasadena Audubon Society.

For more information about the settlement measures please visit: [devilsgateproject.com](http://devilsgateproject.com).



## Meet Fahim, Civil Engineer, Construction Manager/Community Liaison

Civil Engineer Fahim Rahimi is the new Construction Manager/Community Liaison for the project and he is looking forward to keeping open the same lines of communication with the community and partners. Get to know Fahim:

- How many years have you worked at Public Works?**  
 It has been my sincere pleasure to work with Los Angeles County Public Works for more than 23 years.
- What projects have you worked on before the Devil's Gate Reservoir Restoration Project?**  
 During my time with Public Works, I have overseen numerous construction contract projects throughout the County, including roadway and bikeway access improvements, bridge replacements, pump stations, and stormwater capture projects. I've been very fortunate to have been introduced to a wide range of exciting projects where I have been able to grow professionally every day by taking part in solving issues and challenges that have truly made my work meaningful and rewarding.
- Where is your office located?**  
 While the sediment removal project is being done, I work out of my field office at the Devil's Gate Reservoir. More often than not, this project demands immediate actions as day-to-day issues come up, so I need to be on-site for rapid response.
- Why are you excited to work on this project?**  
 When this project is completed, the benefit to the community will be tremendous and multidimensional. It will improve public safety by restoring flood protection to the communities and businesses downstream of the Devil's Gate Dam. The project will increase flexibility in managing the watershed, will provide enhanced recreational opportunities and revitalize the natural wildlife habitat. This is an awesome legacy project for a Construction Manager!

## Community Spotlight: Tom Sawyer Camps

For generations, young "campers" from the greater Pasadena area have explored the Hahamongna recreation area as if it were their own backyard. Tucked away in the Hahamongna Watershed Park in the northern part of the Arroyo Seco is the Tom Sawyer Camps, originally established in 1926.

"It is really a precious environment," said Sarah Horner Fish, executive director of Tom Sawyer Camps. "You are transformed when you enter into the Hahamongna, having fun, telling stories and getting dirty, very much like the life of Tom Sawyer."

Kids, ages three to 14, go hiking, birdwatching, horseback riding and even perform area cleanups in the guise of treasure hunts. According to Horner Fish, the Tom Sawyer Camps has seen many changes over those years impacting the watershed including the 2009 Station Fire and the inflow of sediment and debris following the fire and the current restoration and sediment removal operation.

"We've always adapted to conditions here," Horner Fish said. "We learn about the flora and fauna, as the Tongva people did who were here before us. "As neighbors, camp staff have worked with Public Works crews and have appreciated their efforts to keep us informed and protect the natural habitat, acting as professional stewards of the environment as they go about their work."



- What do you enjoy most about your day-to-day activities?**  
 I love working with our team. We have assembled an incredible and very capable team that really works well together. I'm able to make many positive contributions to one of the biggest construction projects that Public Works has undertaken.
- What were you doing before joining LA County Public Works?**  
 For six years prior to joining Public Works, I worked with a local water industry consultant firm, helping to support clean water initiatives and assisting in managing the groundwater production in the Main San Gabriel Basin.
- When you are not managing Devil's Gate, what do you do for fun?**  
 I enjoy spending time with my family. We love outdoor activities, such as biking, hiking and water sports.
- Rams, Lakers, Clippers, Dodgers, Sparks, LA Galaxy or LAFC?**  
 Go Dodgers! I am thrilled that the 32-year World Series drought has ended.

## Enhancing the Habitat

Public Works is committed to significantly enhancing the natural habitat around Devil's Gate. Work performed since the project began includes the removal of non-native and invasive plant species and replaces them with appropriate native plant species.

The project team has now completed phases 1 and 2 of the habitat restoration plan. Collectively, the team has now planted 300 coast live oak acorns, 10,346 container plants, and approximately 71 lbs. of seeds.

Phase 2 of the habitat restoration includes grading work at Johnson Field and the old mining pit and also includes improvements near Altadena Drain. This work, which is not yet complete, is being monitored by the County's environmental consultant. The grading work will allow for the creation and restoration of native plant communities. Each of the areas in Phase 2 will be planted with appropriate native plant species in the coming months.



Yellow-Breasted Chat Photo Credit: Martin Meyers

In addition, the area is being recontoured to facilitate water flow through the area to support the growth of native plants. Non-native plant control will be an ongoing task to control the invasive vegetation. Meanwhile, comprehensive soil samples have been analyzed yearly for the herbicide, glyphosate, and the results have come back as non-detectable in each of the samples.

With each activity, the project team has taken great care to have as little impact as possible on the local habitat and wildlife. When complete, the restoration efforts will result in 70 acres of enhanced habitat. Native birds, including the Yellow-Breasted Chat, the Least Bell's Vireo, the American Yellow Warbler and Great Horned Owl are already enjoying their restored natural habitats.

## Community Update Meetings

The Public Works team continues to hold regular stakeholder calls with local leaders to inform and to address any community concerns. With COVID-19, many of these meetings are now being held online or in conference calls. If you would like to request a meeting for your neighborhood, contact the project team at: [devilsgateproject@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:devilsgateproject@pw.lacounty.gov).

## For More Information

To learn about the project, receive project updates or contact the project team, please feel free to contact us:

- [devilsgateproject.com](http://devilsgateproject.com)
- [devilsgateproject@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:devilsgateproject@pw.lacounty.gov)
- (626) 458-2507

LA County continues to urge everyone to take precautions to slow the spread of COVID-19. For the most up to date information, please visit: [ph.lacounty.gov/Coronavirus/](http://ph.lacounty.gov/Coronavirus/)

If you have questions and would like to speak to someone, or need help finding medical care, call the Los Angeles County Information line 2-1-1, which is available 24/7.