

From: [Mark Abramson](#)
To: [Comments](#)
Subject: Public Hearing Item 15051221
Date: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 1:27:18 PM
Attachments: [image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[05-11-212 PaloComadoLinear Park.pdf](#)

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May 12, 2021
Honorable Mayor and City Council,

RE. RESOLUTION NO. 21-1972, Reject the FINAL INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (IS/MND) AND THE MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM (MMRP) FOR THE PALO COMADO CREEK LINEAR PARK PROJECT.

EcoMalibu urges the Mayor and City Council to reject Resolution No.s 21-1972 and 21-1973 as currently proposed. It is unconscionable to bury a blue line stream in the Santa Monica Mountains in 2021. The MND and Initial study does not adequately identify the impacts or environmentally superior solution associated with proposed project and therefore does not provide the Mayor or City Council with the information necessary to make the best decision for their constituents. The MND erroneously concludes that a stream restoration is not possible on the site and severely under reports the project impacts. This stream was previously identified by the City and its residents in the General Plan to be restored. Building a linear park on top of the stream does not constitute restoration and ignores the past efforts and vision of the City's General Plan.

The arguments made by the consulting firm and City staff that the creek can't be restored because of size and the presence of a Las Virgenes Municipal Water District pumping station are false. We have conducted a separate analysis of the creek channel and other stream restoration efforts that have occurred in the Malibu Creek watershed. The existing location of the proposed park ranges in width between 102 feet and more than 110 feet, including the stream channel and adjacent undeveloped space. This area provides more available restoration space than the Las Virgenes Creek Restoration project adjacent to the Starbucks at the corner of Malibu Canyon and Lost Hills Road, and the Chumash Park Restoration at Kanan and Thousand Oaks Boulevard. The pumping station could be moved underground, as has been done with similar stations in the City, or creative designers could

incorporate the pumping station as part of the project like they did on the existing storm drain at Chumash Park.

Medea Creek at Chumash Park and Las Virgenes Creek at Lost Hills Road are substantially larger creeks with much larger drainage areas than Cheseboro/Palo Comado Creek. Both of these restorations are in fact linear parks with recreational trails. The City could accomplish their goal of creating both a linear park that accommodates equestrians, pedestrians, and a restored creek. This could likely be accomplished for a lower cost. A restored stream will provide a “No” to “Low” maintenance improvement to water quality that requires no electricity or power to operate, will not need future replacement, and does not require constant maintenance. Burying the creek and building a park on top would eliminate the possibility of doing stream restoration up and downstream of this site. A restored creek will benefit fish and wildlife. A restored creek with running water and linear trails for people and equestrians provides a bucolic landscape feature that would be far superior to burying the creek and building a park on top. The restored creek linear park better fits into the rural character of Agoura Hills.

We urge the Mayor and City Council to reject the MND and Initial Study and pursue a linear park that incorporates a creek restoration.

Sincerely,

<!--[if !vml]--><!--[endif]-->



Mark

Abramson MLA
Vice President

Comments written by Mark Abramson, who has more than two decades of mapping, monitoring, and creek restoration experience in the Santa Monica Mountains and Malibu Creek Watershed.



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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Abramson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mark Abramson MLA
Vice President

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