

# CHATSWORTH NATURE PRESERVE COALITION

Working Together to Save a Crucial Habitat in Los Angeles-San Fernando Valley

[www.savechatsworthpreserve.com](http://www.savechatsworthpreserve.com)



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Marcie L. Edwards  
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Reference: Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP)  
Chatsworth Pond Update – February 11, 2016

Dear Ms. Edwards:

The Chatsworth Nature Preserve Ecology Pond (CNP-EP) is dry. We recognize there is an extended drought, which is a natural occurrence in Greater Los Angeles-Southern California. LADWP made a commitment, both in a public community meeting, August 6, 2015, and follow up notices, including the Chatsworth Pond Update – February 11, 2016, to restore the CNP-EP and to provide a sustainable water source.

Maintenance work was completed with the two-pond configuration with the berm in the middle for retention of water, minimizing evaporation during the summer months. The new pond configuration was created to remain in compliance with the Pacific Flyway for migratory birds and all local wildlife. Maintaining the CNP-EP water level year-round is required to support fringing marsh, a critical habitat for birds and small mammals, for feeding, nesting, sleeping, roosting, and other activities.

Complete loss of water in the CNP-EP is devastating for all wildlife in the northwestern Los Angeles-San Fernando Valley. Aquatic habitat persisted and is documented with continuous wildlife use since the decommissioning of the Reservoir. This constitutes established beneficial use of the area by local and migratory species. The CNP supports the continuation of rare and threatened species of wildlife and native plants, as an unique biodiverse ecological area with a pond, grasslands, oak woodlands and savanna, chaparral, and seasonal wetlands and vernal pools. If maintained properly, the CNP-EP is the only water supply available in the region during extended droughts and throughout the year.

Los Angeles City continues to support urban sprawl and new developments -- both in the inner city and into surrounding open space and hillsides – that is devouring wildlife habitats. Even with the proclaimed “water shortage” continuing development is not arrested.

Mandatory water restrictions have been lifted statewide, potable water is currently being used to fill recreational water bodies not crucial to wildlife. CNP-EP is being singled out for restrictions, hence habitat and wildlife suffer.

Chatsworth Nature Preserve Coalition is the voice for the wildlife who cannot speak. We ask that LADWP keep its promise to the community to maintain a water level year-round in the CNP-EP. It is your commitment. Will you keep it?

Sincerely,

CNP Coalition Delegates

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