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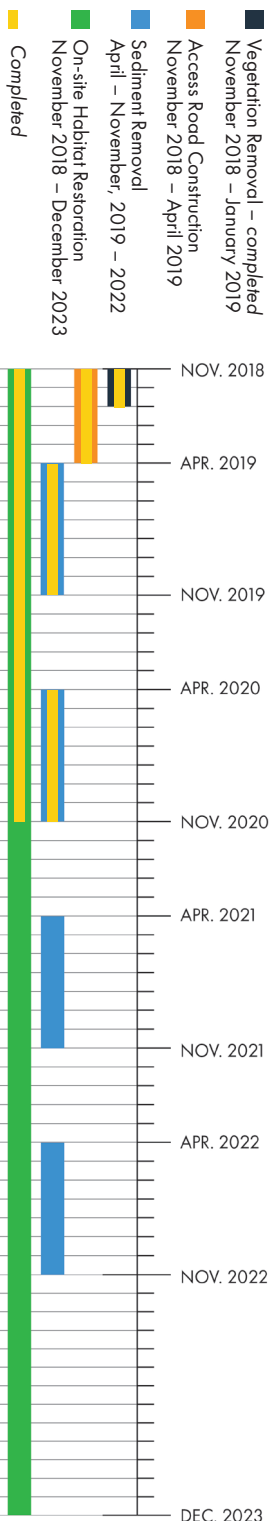
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# Devil's Gate Reservoir Restoration Project A Sustainable Approach to Sediment Removal

Community Update: Second Season of Sediment Removal Begins

## 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.



Each truck goes through a tire washing station before leaving the reservoir.



## Keeping Sun Valley Informed

The sediment removed from the reservoir is being distributed each year between two locations: Manning Pit in Irwindale and Sheldon Pit in Sun Valley. To date, 336,327 cubic yards of sediment from the project have been safely distributed to Sheldon Pit, one of the largest sediment management sites in the County.

During the project, Public Works met monthly with representatives from the Los Angeles City Council and community leaders from the Shadow Hills Property Owners Association, the Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council and the Pacoima Neighborhood Council. The meetings were very productive. The Project Manager shared updates and timelines and received community suggestions and feedback. Regular monthly meetings will resume in March 2021 before the third season of sediment removal begins.



## 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!

- **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.



## 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).

## 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 at:



[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.