

SEPULVEDA BASIN WILDLIFE AREAS STEERING COMMITTEE

Minutes of February 27, 1996

Please note that numbered references (left margin) coincide with Agenda for the above

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Muriel Kotin (San Fernando Valley Audubon Society) at 7:12 pm.

1. Self-Introductions: Peter Ireland (Coalition to Save the Sepulveda Basin); Debbie Lamb (Army Corps of Engineers); Ted Carr (Army Corps of Engineers); Andy Lopez (Army Corps of Engineers - assuming Debbie Carr's position now); Sandy Wohlgemuth (L.A. Audubon Society); Glenn Bailey (Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains); Jill Swift (Sierra Club, San Fernando Valley Group); Steve Hartman (California Native Plant Society); James Ward (Recreation and Parks).

2. Minutes of Jan. 23, 1996 were approved as written. Chairman Kotin noted, however, that Melanie Ingalls (National Audubon) will be joining our meeting for discussions of the education program in April now (instead of March).

3. Agenda Additions:

11. Septage Station adjacent to Wildlife Area (Ireland)
12. Earth Fair Apr. 24 at CSUN (Kotin)
13. Standing Item each month: Treasurers Report (Swift)
14. March meeting discussion- conflict with Primary Election (Bailey)
15. Field Trip in Wildlife Areas

Glenn Bailey passed information out for review before the April meeting's discussion of the education program and also suggested that Jean Dillingham be invited.

Glenn Bailey further questioned the preparation of the list of "Responsible Organizations" (for notification procedures by the Corps of Engineers). Ted Carr responded that each department does its own list and no one has a "master list." Glenn noted that the circulation of the notification list for the recently proposed Dog Park did not include the Resource Conservation District, a subdivision of the State of California. Mr. Carr stated he thought the RCD was on the list.

7. Brochure and Fund to Plant a Tree: postponed to March or April meeting

8. Cleanup of Wildlife Reserve 4/27/96: Chairman Kotin reported that San Fernando Valley Audubon Society will be sponsoring the event and that co-sponsors would be welcome. Jill Swift offered to contact the San Fernando Valley Group of the Sierra Club for their co-sponsorship and report back to the Chairman.

There was discussion of the Apr. 24th event at CSUN (University Student Union) with organization tables from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. The Wildlife Areas Advisory Committee will not be participating this year, by consensus.

4. New Plans for Expansion of the Wildlife Reserve: Debbie Lamb announced that the bid was awarded Jan., 1996 (after the PCA was signed). Discussion: some recreation items were cut as well as some in the Wildlife Area. The meeting (Jim Anderovich, Bob Fawcett, James Ward) to go over the EDAW plans and possible cuts was held in January. Reductions were made "not in sizes but in numbers". The fence was not cut because "we have to do it". Cuts were as follows: Restroom (cut by a percentage); concentration on Haskell Creek to Woodley Ave. (Forage Area); forage area west of Woodley would not receive any attention; some cleanup of the bridge (nothing west of Woodley). Bids will go out in June; actual construction to begin September or October.

Committee members questioned how the guidelines were established; staff response was "through priorities". Discussion centered on the high priority for loss of habitat (Canada geese); for example, Pierce College, portions of the Sepulveda Basin, etc.. Forage/habitat was fully discussed, exploring mowing rather than disking.

Glenn Bailey asked how much money was now being spent on wildlife and recreation areas. Respondent stated that there had been a \$150,000. savings by not putting in a "formal" forage area. Further, that when the project bids came in, the third lowest was higher than the project estimate.

Chairman Kotin asked about the cricket field move (and notification) project. Staff replied affirmatively.

At this point, the Eckbo, Dean, Austin & Williams (EDAW) plans of Fall, 1995, were again reviewed by the committee.

5. Hummingbird Hill Update: The (replanted) area south of Burbank. Steve Hartman suggested project control of the area, but if Arundo becomes a problem we can't deal with, will the City respond? James Ward responded affirmatively that "we have found that there are Prop. A moneys for maintenance."

Steve Hartman suggested the **Corps of Engineers bring** (to the March meeting) **a breakdown of the moneys to be allotted** (i.e., components for funding). The Corps' response was that the south of Burbank area has always been a heavy-duty trash removal area. Peter Ireland suggested leaving the south of Burbank area "as is" -- which allows Recreation and Parks the maintenance (Prop. A); then go for another "round" of Prop. A..

It was agreed that County Public Works has jurisdictional responsibility of both Haskell and Encino Creeks (Ireland and Bailey).

8. Cleanup of Wildlife Reserve 4/27/96. Public Nature Walks: Chairman Kotin noted the (in case of) Rain date as May 4, 1996. The Salvation Army might be involved. Would that change the "feel"? **Consensus:** utilize Salvation Army's offer.. Ron Strong will coordinate. Co-sponsorship merely involves a name on the flyers and appeals in the sponsor's newsletter. Debbie Lamb noted that she would contact the (southern California) Landscape Architects Association for possible co-sponsorship.

13. Standing Item: The informal treasurer's report shows @ \$25,000. remaining (of which @ 13,000. is ICI fund moneys; @ \$12,000. for physical improvement. In the future the report will be more precise and monthly.

5. Hummingbird Hill: Sandy Wohlgemuth reported that Jane Adrian had about three days of work left; fence, benches, more (@ 100 plants). **Steve suggested a field trip** to see the benches (which Sandy feels are located to look at the Mulefat.

Steve proposed a mural project (of wildlife, plants, etc.) for the tunnel (presently a graffiti and drug-dealing area).

6. Unauthorized path along the east side of north Reserve: There were differences of opinion expressed on the value of the path. The suggestion of a field trip to the site in question was set for:

April 23, 1996 at 5 pm, meeting at the parking lot of Wildlife Areas,
immediately preceding the regular Wildlife Areas meeting at 7 pm.

11. Septage Station adjacent to Wildlife Area: The proposer of this addition to the Agenda had left by this time so **it is to be added to the next month's (April 23) agenda.**

9. Revegetation at Balboa Blvd. Bridge: The meeting with the contractor produced maintenance written as a Change Order; landscaping plan to remove exotics, maintain plants. Completion anticipated in 26 weeks. Ron Strong is meeting with them. Costs \$31,312.10.

10. Potholes near parking north of reserve: Discussed briefly, no substantial resolution.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 pm.

Minutes submitted by Jill Swift.