

SEPULVEDA BASIN WILDLIFE AREAS STEERING COMMITTEE
MINUTES – December 1, 1998

The meeting began at 4:30. Steve Hartman chaired. (The tour of the wildlife area scheduled for 3:00 was canceled because of rain.) Attending were Glenn Bailey, Gene Greene, Eric Lesser, Muriel Kotin, ACOE Dam Keeper Robert Mauring, Christian Olano of Boy Scout Troop 148 and his father Hugo Olano, Robert Parsons Jr. of BSA Troop 10 and his father Robert Parsons Sr., Rosemarie White, Lori Willis (RCD-SMM), Melanie Winter (FoLAR), and Sandy Wohlgemuth.

Park Rangers: Senior Park Ranger Anne Walsgerber read a letter of thanks to the committee for allowing the rangers to participate in the naturalist training conducted by the RCD-SMM and to Steve Hartman and Muriel Kotin for conducting special tours for them. See copy of the letter.

Eagle Scout Projects: After introductions, photographs and other documentation of Matthew Maggio's project were passed around. He planted beavertail cactus and other desert plants on part of Hummingbird Hill after clearing weeds. The area he and his team worked on looks lovely.

Robert Parsons, Jr. presented his proposal. It was moved, seconded and passed (**MSP**) to recommend to the City of Los Angeles that they consider Robert Parson's Eagle project to install a bench where one used to be near the south end of the wildlife lake. (This will give us back the viewing area that we had been about to lose, apparently by accident.) Robert will also install decomposed granite along the short path leading to the bench and eliminate the unauthorized side trail through planting of native plants such as wild California rose. James Ward indicated that R&P will provide the D.G. and suggested the path be 8 feet wide rather than 7. Steve Moe will be the R & P coordinator.

Christian Olano presented his proposal to clean up the fencing strip at the north edge of Hummingbird Hill from the tunnel to the entrance and plant it with approximately 36 native plants, including irrigation and monthly inspections. The plants will be close to the south side of the fence to protect the plants from traffic. (Steve H. suggested sowing native grasses closer to the path, not necessarily part of this project.) Eric gave Christian a list of native plants he recommends. CNPS will pay for 1 gallon plants for the project. **MSP** to approve Christian Olano's project to irrigate and plant along the north side of Hummingbird Hill.

Rosemarie suggested an award or plaque to thank the scouts.

Minutes of the meeting 10/27/98: were approved with the following changes. Glenn Bailey's organization is the RCD-SMM. Page 1 paragraph 1: remove "and M. Kotin" and change "white and green sage" to "white and purple sage." Page 1 para 1: change spelling of Eric's last name to "Lesser." Page 2: delete the second paragraph about shoal removal. (See later below for corrected information.)

Shoal Removal: David Mauring of the ACOE indicated that the mitigation is that Tapia Bros. is planting grass for goose forage in the eastern corner of the corn field east of Hjelte Field. They are doing this annually in September and leave the grass until planting corn in mid April.

Controlled Burns: David Muring presented a proposal to use controlled burns along the outside perimeter of the dam, especially beyond the flood gates and along the 405 Freeway. He hopes the burns would eventually eliminate the seed bank of Russian thistle and other thistles and weeds. After the burns, he would plant with native grass seeds, etc. Rosemarie said that migratory patterns of birds must be considered. James suggested the best time would be a foggy day in late spring but that David consult with controlled burn experts with the Forest Service. James doubts CalTrans will allow burns. Steve H. asked that if CalTrans does give permission, the ACOE work with us. Eric thought the concept excellent and that it would create a native grassland with wildflowers. David asked about the exact borders of the wildlife area, as there is no up-to-date map. James said R & P generally considers the areas east of the L.A. River to be wildlife area, though this is not formal. Muriel said the basin maps need updating, both the formal ones and Thomas Bros.

Brochure and Map: The committee met earlier today. Rosemarie gave a rough presentation of plans for a brochure. Lori Willis asked for a simple map of the wildlife area. There is none. Gene Greene will help Muriel make a simple map for the brochure and the Birds of Sepulveda Basin booklet. Muriel will give a copy of the map to the RCD.

Expansion Project Timeline: James reported that the contractor is "on time" but that change orders and rain delays have pushed back the expected completion to mid January. Probably the actual completion will be at the end of January or early February. James will let the contractor know that school tours will begin January 14.

Other City Issues: Glenn was concerned about the negativity of the rules signs that just went up. James said that "no bikes" was left off by error and that there will be welcoming signs as well. Glenn was also concerned that the trellis at the education center does not appear to be vine friendly. James will check to be sure the trellis will be covered by vines. Glenn asked about the railings at the ramp; will they be painted or otherwise fixed up? James will check. Are there seed plantings or weeds starting below the new trees? The areas below the trees are seeded and being sprinkled. Only the trees have irrigation lines. The seeded plants will receive water only from rain after a short time. Glenn also asked about the source of debris on the newly-planted willows in Haskell Creek. James said that the main irrigation line has been replaced and irrigation on Hummingbird Hill now works. The East Valley Water Recycling project is complete as it affects park roads. Steve Moe will be in charge of supervising the arundo-removal contract. Sharose is looking into a tunnel project.

Tillman Plant and Japanese Gardens: Gene Greene said the berm will be restored. DWP has requested bids to replant the berm with native plants and re-do irrigation, mains, and replace some of the soil.

Bull Creek: Sandy reported that Andy Lopez referred him to Ruth Villalobos. Ruth said there is enough money in the 1135 grant for revegetation with natives. Steve H. and Sandy will participate in a walk-through/meeting with the ACOE. James said the Beilenson Park expansion won't work as matching funds for this as ACOE rules say at least ½ has to be for revegetation and wildlife. The city wants most of its share of the project to be turf grasses and shade trees. However, the Bull Creek project will happen. Melanie Winter said there's a TREES project (Trans-agency Resources for Economic and Environmental Sustainability) that might help fund it. TreePeople is the lead agency in this project to plant trees to improve hydrology and reduce runoff. The city is applying

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for a study for an 1135 project for both sides and the center of Bull Creek. The riparian corridor will be restored and walkways made. Cindy Miscikowsky's office is collaborating, and it will happen.

Hill near Archery Range Parking Lot: Steve H. suggested that this hill, with its excellent view of the wildlife area, be the next project. There's a lot of castor bean to remove but nice native plants behind.

Education Programs: Muriel reported that the Audubon education program will begin field trips January 14 through April. The teacher workshops and naturalist training sessions are complete. Several park rangers attended the naturalist training. The rangers' involvement will result in more attention given the wildlife area and expansion of educational programs. For example, evening campfire programs for late spring and summer will be explored. More scouts are interested in doing Eagle projects. Steve H. had not been able to return Jeffrey Kubasek's call about attending tonight's meeting to present a nest-box project. Muriel is to phone Jeffrey. Other possible projects were discussed. Steve thought re-doing the bench area at the west end of Humm. H. should be the next target. James mentioned hemlock and other weed eradication in the southern portion (naturalized) of the west section.

Canada Goose Project: will be doing something special next fall. Rosemarie would like the committee to do thank you's for the scouts.

Re-dedication Ceremony: R & P will coordinate and initiate this. They are meeting soon with Councilwoman Miscikowsky. The date will depend on when the politician can participate. If possible, the ceremony will be on 4/10/99, the day of the Wildlife Area Cleanup. Otherwise, R & P will try to have it in early April, before the cleanup.

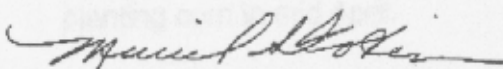
Committee Communication and Conference Materials: Glenn expressed annoyance at not being notified the 3:00 tour of the reserve was canceled. Steve H. had tried to reach Glenn but didn't and apologized. Joyce, secretary to the maintenance division, is the R & P person we coordinate through when James is unavailable. Glenn presented information on riparian restoration and weed control from a recent RCD conference.

Pedlow Field Skateboard Park: Muriel announced she is serving on a VNOC (Volunteer Neighborhood Oversight Committee) to plan a skateboard park along Victory Blvd., east of the O.N.E. center. She thinks the project appropriate and is working to have native plants used. There will be community meetings. Melanie asked about the distinction between native and indigenous. Steve said that in the artificial environment of Sepulveda Basin, any California native plant that can survive is welcome.

Directional Signage: Steve suggests we wait to see what goes up as part of the project before we plan this.

Next Meeting: January 26, 1999 at 7:00.

Submitted by,



Muriel S. Kotin, Member Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee