

SEPULVEDA BASIN WILDLIFE AREAS STEERING COMMITTEE
MINUTES -- January 26, 1999

Steve Hartman chaired the meeting. Also attending were Glenn Bailey, Gene Greene, Scout Jeff Kubasak, his mother Jayne Kubasak, Muriel Kotin, Sharose Niedelman, James Ward, Rosemarie White, and Sandy Wohlgemuth.

Minutes of 12/1/98 Meeting: Minutes were approved after correcting the name of the ACOE Dam Keeper to consistently read "David Muring."

Eagle Scout Projects: Jeff Kubasak described his proposed project: 15 to 25 bluebird houses. Jeff is to survey the larger trees in and near the wildlife area and then contact James Ward to determine whether and how to attach them to the trees or posts. **MSP** to approve the project.

Expansion Project Construction Update: James reported that the project is ready for pre-final inspection. Rec. & Parks is probably 4 to 6 weeks from final acceptance, which he expects will happen at the end of February or start of March.

James will investigate whether the trellis next to the storage building will be covered by vines. The railings have been painted. Areas below trees in the expansion area have been seeded with the mix of native plants specified in the plans. The irrigation pipes are temporary, as the drip system is only for the trees. We will need to keep cleaning trash from Haskell Creek whenever rains brings it to the Wildlife Area, but as the willows along the creek grow bigger, the task will likely concentrate at the north end. Muriel asked about the cottonwoods and other riparian trees she expected above the west bank of Haskell Creek; James will check whether such trees were included in the plans as bid. She also complained about placement of the large monumental stones in the viewing area directly west of the island and inside the fence near the northeast corner of Woodley Ave. and Burbank Blvd. James said that R & P will make a narrow pedestrian entrance through the fence near that corner, and perhaps near the gate along Woodley. He will find out whether cars can be parked along the east side of Woodley. Rosemarie requested that keep-out signs near the tunnel be moved to visible positions. James will see if Steve Moe can do a walk-through with the committee. Sharose complained about the inappropriateness of the "gravestones" (little monuments). James pointed out that things are raw and bare now, because of the construction. What is truly objectionable when plantings and weeds have grown can be removed or moved later.

East Valley Recycling Project: Gene Greene reported that the west portion of the Tillman Plant berm will be completed soon. The east portion will take a few months.

Arundo: Steve Hartman complained that he recently observed a lot of arundo in the south reserve, as well as other exotic plants, such as eucalyptus. He urged that these most invasive exotics not be allowed to take over.

Tunnel Mural: Sharose said that gang and homeless issues are holding her back from pursuing a mural project for the tunnel. She is looking to create community involvement in the project. James said there is not a gang problem in Sepulveda Basin. (She also described ideas for arts programs at the amphitheater.) James summarized approvals from R&P that would be needed for the tunnel mural. He will check on who has jurisdiction of the tunnel. Glenn thinks LA Dept. of Transportation does. He suggested that high schools might help with the project.

LA River Shoal Removal Mitigation and Bull Creek: Muriel said Carvel Bass of the ACOE is working on mitigation plans. He hopes the shoal removal will be completed this winter, but that will depend on availability of the ACOE's resources. James said there is nothing new on Bull Creek. There will be a study of the creek for an 1135 Project.

Street Names: R & P plans to name the wildlife area access and other park roads in the basin and get signs up, which will make it easier to find the wildlife area parking.

Hummingbird Hill Irrigation: Matthew Maggio recently complained that the drip irrigation on HH is still not working. James will check on it.

Brochure: Rosemarie presented a rough mockup of a brochure. The committee requested the following phone numbers be included:

CNPS:	818/881-3706	LAAS:	818/344-8531
SFVAS:	818/783-4293	R & P:	?

The Consortium will buy paper for the brochure. Gene Greene will print the first thousand copies.

Canada Goose Project: The LA Times will do an article on the project. Counts are down by about 2/3, except at the basin, from the start of the project.

Re-dedication Ceremony: R & P will try to have the ceremony on 4/10/99, the same date as the wildlife area cleanup.

Problems: Sandy expressed a number of concerns. There were dogs all over the place last Saturday. James said that R & P is not yet maintaining the wildlife area (the contractor supposedly is), so they can't call the rangers in yet. The lake is becoming increasingly unfriendly to ducks. (Muriel and Steve H were less concerned, since there are so many fish and fish-eating birds.) Sandy would like to get a grad student to study what is wrong for the ducks. James said that R & P would not object to studies, though they might object to introductions.

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.

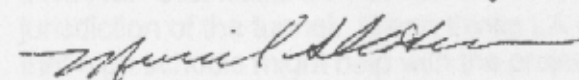
Directional Signage: Steve suggests we wait to see what goes up as part of the project before we plan this.

Rotating Chairs: Muriel now starts her turn as chairman.

CNPS Walk: The California Native Plant Society will have a walk at the Basin on 2/21/99 at 10:00 a.m.

Next Meeting: February 23, 1999 at 7:00.

Submitted by,



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