

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee

Minutes: November 23, 1999

Eric Lesser chaired the meeting. Other members attending were Gene Greene, Muriel Kotin, Stephen Moe, and Sandy Wohlgemuth. Guests were Dan Cooper of National Audubon Society and Scott Munson, Charlotte Rodrigues and Nancy Wigner of the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. After introductions, Eric distributed a tentative roster and asked for corrections and additions.

The minutes of the October meeting were approved without changes. Steve Moe advised, regarding the question of a supply of water for the oxbow west of Bull Creek, that stream releases may not have any chlorine. Therefore the only way reclaimed water might be used there is if it came from the outfall of Lake Balboa.

Ventura Boulevard Trunkline Replacement Project: DWP representative Scott Munson announced the Ventura Boulevard (water) trunkline is scheduled for replacement. Constructed 1921, it does not have good construction (riveted) or materials and is leaking. It is undersized (30"). It extends from Encino Avenue to Hayvenhurst to Kester, between the lines to Encino and Stone Canyon reservoirs. DWP proposes to put a new line under Burbank Boulevard to replace the one under Ventura. Nancy Wigner described alternatives.

The first alternative would be to lay a new trunkline by open trench method from Encino Avenue east to the LA River under the pavement of Burbank Boulevard the jack under the river either to the north or south of Burbank Blvd, run through the Wildlife Area on one side or the other of Burbank, and then jack under the dam and 405 freeway. The trench would be 6 feet wide, 10 feet deep, but the total area disturbed would be 55 feet wide. Steve Moe pointed out that the north side of the reserve would have more bodies of water to be disturbed. Muriel agreed and was concerned about the nearby bridge also. She was also concerned about the 20-year-old plantings and pothole pond south of Burbank. Construction of the entire project would last about a year, about 2 months in the wildlife area. DWP is working with Carvel Bass and others of the ACOE. Daniel Cooper said that Mickey Long of the Eaton Canyon Nature Center worked with a similar disturbance to the Whittier Narrows and might be consulted.

The second alternative would be to turn southeast from Burbank Blvd. along the southwest edge of the river, jacking under the Encino Channel and going along the edge of the farmland, close to the river, then under the dam and freeway. Muriel commented that this would be greatly preferable as the ACOE has already removed all of the riparian vegetation along that stretch of the southwest bank of the river.

A third alternative would start at Encino Ave on Burbank. At Hayvenhurst, it would veer south into the agricultural land and go along the south edge of the of the agricultural land, under the dam and freeway and then onto city streets, probably Magnolia. Muriel commented that this would be even more preferable.

No committee members knew of anything special in Encino Creek that would be disturbed, although Steve Moe suggested that Arroyo Chub, an endangered fish, might

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be there. The committee noted that the ACOE has removed all riparian vegetation along southwest bank of the LA River from Burbank Boulevard to the dam.

The committee was very concerned about impacts from the first alternative. The lake and bridges would probably be disturbed, as well as 12- and 20-year-old plantings. The DWP representatives will return in a few months with news as to where the project will go.

A 36" high pressure line from the Tillman Plant to irrigate the golf courses with reclaimed water that will parallel the existing line to Lake Balboa will probably go in this summer. Water to Lake Balboa will be cut off temporarily. Steve was quite concerned with the likelihood of a fish kill.

Youth Projects: Robert Parsons is still working on getting materials for the bench installation and may need to ask the Consortium for funding. Steve Moe has not been able to install the bat boxes from Patton Stang's project because the ACOE wants them above the height of the dam. He will see what he can do about locating them above the 100 year flood level. Muriel gave Eric a partial list of environmental projects she was associated with. Other members are requested to do the same.

Recreation & Parks Report: Goose sign is reattached. 150 geese and 1 white pelican appeared today. A part time employee has been hired: Tim. They also are looking to fill a full time position for the wildlife area. Irrigation lines at Hummingbird Hill are working. A work request to make a donation pole has been made. We will discuss signage next meeting. Artwork with leaf logo is not available. Muriel will call Andy Lopez and ask for a disk copy of it and e-mail to Gene Greene. She suggested the old sign at the old north entrance to the wildlife area be removed. The map is incomplete and confusing, and it inappropriately asks people to sign in. Steve Moe considers the "NO" list useful. Committee members should look at the sign before the next meeting to decide whether it should come down.

Bull Creek Restoration Plan: Steve Moe reported that Collins Pina's preliminary drawings look interesting. A new drawing is up on the net. Water from Lake Balboa might work for charging Bull Creek and the oxbow. As soon as Steve gets any level of plans, the committee will be able to view it as well.

Japanese Garden: Gene reported that the levy is being repaired: planting, irrigation and weeding. They're planning student tours emphasizing water reuse once the work is finished. The garden is now open every Sunday 9 to 4. Admittance is \$3, \$2 for seniors and children. Their advisory group is interested in a monthly joint event with us. Suggested linking our web sites.

Exotics Removal: "Riparian Repair" has started removing eucalyptus. Steve Moe has seen about 6 they missed near the toe of the ramp along the inside face of the dam in the south area. Sandy will let Steve Hartman know about the eucalyptus. They have selectively sprayed in the north reserve.

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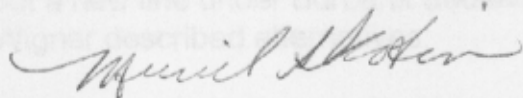
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UCLA's eco heroes program will bring about 40 highschool students on December 4 to work in the north reserve, not on HH. They will probably remove tumbleweed and horehound west of Haskell Creek.

Consortium has about \$42,000 reports Sandy. City would like a Daihatsu mini 4-wheel drive "mule" for the worker in the wildlife reserve who would be able to be much more efficient without needing to spend so much time walking. "Mules" cost \$4,000 - \$5,000. Muriel suggested we discuss using some of the Consortium funds at the next meeting. She would like to see some of the funds used for environmental education program.

Next meeting: We will not meet in December. The next meeting will be January 25, 2000 (4th Tuesday). The minutes should be sent out in December to let members know there will not be a December meeting. Minutes should be sent to Patty, as Joyce has been promoted. Eric will chair the January meeting, then Rosemarie will become chair.

Submitted by



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