

## Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee May 23, 2000

Rosemarie White chaired the meeting which was also attended by Glenn Bailey, David Ecklund, Gene Greene, Steve Hartman, Muriel Kotin, Eric Lesser, and James Ward. David Ecklund's new address is 6223 Lubao Ave., Woodland Hills 91367.

Minutes from April meeting were approved with the following correction: Page 2 under Canada Goose Project, Garden Fair dates should be May 20 and 21<sup>st</sup>.

General: Francine Oschin should be invited on a tour of the WA, as should be Ellen Oppenheim on a separate occasion. Rosemarie will call them and let us know when. Glenn suggested they might like to attend the Family Flashlight Walk. Street Tree people did not appear for the meeting they scheduled recently with Steve H and Glenn. Steve H will make a new appointment for them to tour the WA and let committee members know when.

Recreation & Parks Report, James Ward: Publicity is out about the corn maze. The corn has been planted and has just started to sprout. Gene asked if the whistling sounds he has heard are from devices to deter the crows. James will check it out. Drip irrigation system is in place. Steve H suggested leaving up the fence to protect the Canada geese from dogs. The city can look into the possibility of assuming the lease on the fence out of season if the maze goes well. The funds the city gets from the maze will be spent in the Sepulveda Basin. Muriel objected to the proposal of pony rides. James said there will also be moon bounces and amplified music as well as a tower in the center of the maze. There will also be a petting zoo for children near the pony rides. On weekends, the corn maze will not use the Woodley Park parking areas — the concessionaire will be required to provide shuttles from lots near Victory Boulevard. A \$7.50 entrance fee is being discussed with a discount for park and school groups. Rosemarie expressed consternation that the project has expanded into so many activities that we committee members had not been told about, that the extent is much greater than we had realized. James said that R & P hopes to improve the recreational aspects of the area and get rid of some of the undesirable uses. R & P will not allow continuance of any activities that impact other parts of Woodley Park or the WA negatively. Rosemarie will invite maze developer Stu Miller to our next meeting.

Construction of a DWP High Pressure Recycled Pipe Line will start in June and finish in August. It will go along the road south of TWRP, angle across Woodley Park to Woodley Avenue. Then along the road past R & P headquarters. It will water Encino, Balboa and Woodley Parks eventually.

Restrooms in Woodley Park except for those at the WA are closed during the week with only port-a-potties open. Hot weather this last weekend lowered afternoon attendance at the Garden Center and Police Celebrity Golf event. James gave Rosemarie as chair of this committee a key to the WA education storage room. The key is to be in the possession of the chair.

James invited all committee members to visit Woodley golf course and see the birds. About 34 Canada Geese (singles and families), Great Blue Herons and Egyptian

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Geese. Arrange visits with Steve Moe for weekdays or let James know for weekends.

Japanese Gardens, Gene Greene: He has been getting requests for filming near WA. They should be referred to R & P. Various filming is planned in the Gardens. DWP's reclaimed water project will be completed by August 10 plus any rain days. If the water is not used for ground water recharge because of public outcry, it will be used for irrigating many of the valley parks.

Delivery of directional signs to the WA for the streets with arrows on them is expected within about a week. DOT will post them. Gene and James will coordinate on some of the issues of aesthetics.

Los Angeles Audubon Society, Sandy: Consortium has \$36,699 in its account, after the club car purchase. James inquired if any publicity has gone out on the club car. Gene suggested that be combined with publicity about our directional signs. R & P's Jane Cobb will send out a press release.

San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, Muriel: James will be certain school buses going to Audubon nature walks can get through the road to the WA tomorrow, despite DWP blocking the road this afternoon. Audubon's nature walks for schools are almost over until the fall. June 24 Audubon and the Park Rangers are sponsoring a Family Flashlight Walk. Audubon will also lead nature walks for scout daycamps that will be held in Woodley Park in July. Aided by a grant of \$5,000 from LA Audubon, funding of basic expenses for Audubon's LAUSD environmental education program has been put achieved for 2000-2001. Muriel will apply for grants to fund needed equipment and materials.

Canada Goose Project, Rosemarie: The number of locally-resident geese is increasing. She would like a plan to identify the geese that are staying here, such as banding them. However, she has run into difficulty doing that. James indicated that if the geese become a major nuisance, R & P may have to try employing Australian sheep dogs.

California Native Plant Society, Steve H: He, Rosemarie & Muriel did a walk through this afternoon. Riparian Repair has completed their work, but there are still some weeds. Would another application of herbicides be appropriate? We owe \$3,000. There is quite a lot of poison hemlock west of Haskell Creek. He submitted a copy of a paper on the toxicity of poison hemlock. Steve will have Riparian Repairs submit an invoice to the Consortium. Riparian Repairs suggested that R & P hack off the hemlock's flowering stalks this year, then maybe mow it next year.

<<Acting Superintendent Kevin Regan stopped in to introduce himself. Steve H showed Kevin and the committee a draft of a letter to Steve Dunlop asking the city to remove the mature eucalyptus trees in the WA south of Burbank Blvd.>>

At the Committee's request, James will arrange with Andy Lopez of the ACOE for a post project review. Steve asked if there was anything in the contract that could replant the

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dead trees. 15 gallon trees cost \$35 wholesale and 24" cost \$110. Double the cost of the plants for labor if not volunteer. Irrigation might be feasible along the west side of Haskell Creek for future projects. James can look into the possibility of a plan for future projects to plant riparian trees along the west side of Haskell Creek. Muriel will write a grant application for an Urban Forestry LAURP project. Dave Ecklund said that smaller trees do better, for example 1 gallon. Muriel explained that rabbits have killed most 1-gallon trees planted in the WA and James that vandalism makes 15-gallon the minimum size practical. Dave thinks use of chicken wire cages and solar tubes over would protect 1 gallon plants.

Steve also brought up the need for a good map of the wildlife area. James suggested asking Andy Lopez if he has something condensed from the many plans, which an artist could then add to. If it is in electronic form, Gene could make is computer and software available to Eric or any of us who could use it.

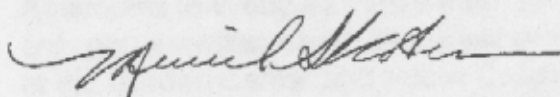
CNPS has been putting on major fund-raising events with other non-profits. Steve thinks it time to start working on a Friends of Sepulveda Basin event to raise funds for the WA and education program. Maybe for this fall. James thought it sounds good. Each participating organization would bring about 3 top donor prospects. Wine and cheese. Gene suggested that there be something in it for the participants.

Rosemarie suggested name tags and Gene T-shirts for the Steering Committee. James suggested lanyards or something that can go with any amount of clothing. We'll discuss further next month, which will be Rosemarie's last as committee chair. Muriel suggested a label of "Friends of Sepulveda Basin WA".

Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains, Glenn: At a recent Encino Homeowners Association meeting, Congressman Brad Sherman spoke in favor of developing soccer fields on the sod fields west of Balboa. Glenn told him that the master plan calls for a swim stadium there. Sherman will see about updating the master plan. James said that updating the master plan would cost about \$1 million that would reduce funding available for other projects. A busway is proposed by MTA to go through the Basin from Haskell to Whiteoak near Victory. There are scoping meetings coming up.

Sierra Club, Eric: no report.

Submitted by



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