

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
October 24, 2000

Sandy Wohlgemuth chaired the meeting. Attending were Glenn Bailey, David Ecklund, Gene Greene, Steve Hartman, Muriel Kotin, James Ward, Rosemarie White, and three Pepperdine students: Chad MacDonald, Karen Burhoe and Inna Shapiro. After introductions, minutes of the September meeting were approved without change.

Agenda Additions: Glenn inquired about the Corn Maze operators attending a meeting of this committee to discuss how it went. James Ward will invite Stu Miller to the November meeting. Rosemarie remarked that the July minutes said the maze would be mowed within 5 days of operation closing which has not happened. Muriel mentioned a fairly large castor bean plant growing below the "temporary" road just north of the maze. James will have Steve Moe take care of it.

Muriel inquired about closures of Woodley Park, including for the Aids Walk last Saturday when people were not allowed to enter Woodley Park. James said a better communication / notification procedure should be developed between Street Department, Rec & Parks, and the Japanese Garden. Gene Greene said the Japanese Gardens advisory board is going to discuss the problem with Cindy Miscikowski's office, as major events impact weddings and other garden events.

Scheduling and permitting events: Muriel suggested that a policy be developed about track meets being held in the wildlife area. Glenn suggested that activities permitted in the area be posted in the bulletin case near the amphitheater. James will have Rec & Parks make up a schedule to post in the bulletin board. Muriel is to copy him with the weekday activity schedule she now sends only to Steve Moe.

The Pepperdine Study: The students asked questions of the group. They'll return next month with a presentation. Saturday, 11/4 they'll weed Hummingbird Hill with Muriel.

Recreation & Parks Report: James Ward said that on 11/4/00 there will be a dedication at the flight field of new field surfacing. Grass for the geese is up and growing. There has been a noticeable increase in the number of birds at the W.A. in the last three weeks. Pipeline work is now blocking only ½ lane. The utility cart is back in use.

James met with the ACOE today on the Beilenson Park "1135" project to restore and enhance Bull Creek. The total estimated cost is \$3.8 million with \$1M the city's share. If the total cost rises, the city will contribute maintenance up to \$250,000. Susan Little, aide to Brad Sherman, said they have \$700K left which will be used for a restroom, dirt road to it, bus turnaround and handicapped parking. That's all that will be built in the near term. Collins-Pina has broken up and Andy Lopez has left the ACOE, which now has no "institutional memory" of what is going on. James will keep us informed as the Bull Creek Project develops. There will be no new parking other than handicapped spaces, just a footpath from the DOT parking lot. Dave Ecklund asked about a transportation corridor along the south side of Victory. Glenn described what he learned at a scoping meeting for a high speed busway he and Sandy attended last summer.

Japanese Gardens: Gene announced that the W.A. signs are up. He met with a

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representative of the ACOE. The ACOE is highly impressed with what LA is doing in the Basin. The ACOE is OK with the Kawana Pavilion, which Gene thinks will be complete in 2 ½ - 3 years. [James said the Garden Center building will be rebuilt also.] The TWRP will fence in their land along the west side of Haskell Creek to eliminate illegal dumping and BMX bike riding. **Steve H suggested that the area be planted with rye grass seed for the Canada Geese. The Committee was enthusiastic of goose forage being planted there.** Gene asked that Rec & Parks lock the T-gate along the south side of the TWRP after dark every night. This Sunday will be Autumn in the Garden.

Los Angeles Audubon Society: Sandy replied to Steve H's question about interest last month: over 4%. **MSP to recommend to LAAS that they invest \$20,000 in a high-interest instrument.**

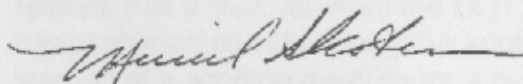
San Fernando Valley Audubon Society: Muriel reported that the field trip program for classes from LAUSD is going well. The first field trip was Monday. Additional schools will have field trips with some schools doing revegetation programs.

Canada Goose Project: Rosemarie said the geese were seen at Encino Reservoir but not at the Basin yet. Unleashed dogs are a problem! Over 90 resident geese have been seen on the Basin golf courses. James said that Rec & Parks will scare off the birds when they get to nuisance numbers. Rosemarie would like to see the plowed area in the WA made larger. James said not at this point. Abandoned dogs seemed to be the biggest problem in the geese not using the forage area last year. James will see if he can get the dogs captured and placed, since they're apparently becoming relatively friendly. There is a major off leash dog problem in parks throughout the city. James suggested we and members of our organization get shirts or hats identifying us as a wildlife support group and patrol the WA, asking people to not bring their dogs into the WA. Rosemarie brought a butterfly box. James will give it to Steve Moe to put up.

California Native Plant Society Steve H said that Bill Neal of Riparian Repair referred him to the Center for Natural Lands Management as a source of funds for weed control. Steve H requested that the city mow the expansion area so fennel can be controlled. James is reluctant but is willing to consider mowing except maybe between the path and creek if Bill raises the funds for the projects. James said it must be in proper season when small native plants can be seen.

Resource Conservation District: No report. Glenn asked for a consensus that **no meeting in December.** He got it.

Submitted by



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