

**Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee**  
**Minutes -- February 27, 2001**

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Sandy Wohlgemuth chaired the meeting, which was also attended by Glenn Bailey, Gene Greene, Steve Hartman, Muriel Kotin, Eric Lesser, Joyce MacKinnon of SFV Audubon, James Ward, and Rosemarie White. After introductions, Sandy announced that Jean Brandt was unable to attend to discuss a citizen patrol this evening and will attend a future meeting. Minutes of the January meeting were approved.

Recreation & Parks (James Ward): Katie Parks should be invited to attend these meetings for the ACOE. She's in operations, doing Ted Carr's old role. The Basin was closed to traffic Sunday but there was not a flood. Three men with some sort of rifles were arrested near lake Balboa today. R&P is working on drainage issues in the Basin. 2 signs (bicycles and dogs) are being ordered. The 2 homeless dogs were removed.

The Model Airplane Flight Field users approached R&P to resurface the field & improve drainage. They raised the \$ (\$50K) and it was done. They want to add a helicopter pad to the east of the most northerly tethered plane circle, improving the drainage, removing brush and putting in grass.

Vegetation removal in the LA River has been approved by ACOE. R&P will push for it to happen. Arundo will be the primary target. James will draft a letter for the committee in support of the removal — Glenn wants a paragraph added about the ACOE taking responsibility for trash removal along the river — and get it to Rosemarie who will coordinate with Steve H, Glenn and Eric.

Regional VNOG (Volunteer Neighborhood Oversight Committee) meeting (Prop K) included fixing and expanding the Garden Center building. The Competitive Grant phase for the next cycle around \$200K amount is about to open.

Japanese Gardens (Gene Greene): They have a new web site: [TheJapaneseGarden.com](http://TheJapaneseGarden.com). The Steering Committee is welcome to add a notice to the site. They're about to build a small ancillary storage building and are trying to raise \$.5M currently for the Kawana Pavilion.

L.A. Audubon (Sandy Wohlgemuth): He's been getting phone calls about the Basin based on information on a web site about parks. ([lacityrap](http://lacityrap)) is R&P's web site. A few months ago, we decided to move \$20K of our funds to a CD. LAAS's treasurer finally was able to satisfy the required red tape, so we now have a 5.3% CD.

Thomas Bros and Auto Club maps don't show the WA correctly. Muriel is to phone them.

S.F.V. Audubon (Muriel Kotin): She is organizing a Basin Cleanup Sunday 4/29 as an SFVAS project. She will e-mail a press release to the various members. All groups at this meeting will co-sponsor, though Muriel should check with Nancy Helsley about the RCD. Parking should be on the east side of Woodley, on the dirt. Let rangers know about it. (Contact the City Dept of environmental affairs. Get flyers to Rosemarie before 4/1.)

Canada Goose Project (Rosemarie White): They're having an Earthday event 4/1 at

Chatsworth Nature Preserve. She had several reports from the public about model airplanes chasing the geese. James has not yet heard from the Corn Maze concessionaire but expects he will. The migratory geese have left. R&P will try to chase off the geese from staying on the golf course. Japanese Gardens run a toy boat on their water courses to chase cormorants away. She is putting together a symposium with the National Wildlife Federation and other agencies on what is going on with the environment in LA County: habitat destruction, forage areas.

California Native Plant Society (Steve H): He sprinkled lots of native seeds on HH. He noted Kimball Garrett's comments about the WA's habitat having improved to the point that it supports an American Bittern. Bill Neal was to come back and spray Shamel Ash north of Burbank Blvd for free but was rained out. CNPS is having an April 3 program at CSUN for Earthmonth.

Resource Conservation District-SMM (Glenn): Cyndi Cygnet who runs the CSUN Earthday event Wednesday 4/25 would be happy to have display from this group. L.A. County is accepting comments on Significant Ecological Areas (SEA's). Should we try to get the WA included as an SEA? (Steve H will check CNPS's proposal on SEA's to see if the WA is included.)

The walk through to review the expansion project last week (2/22) did not take place as several people, including James, were missing. We need a post-occupancy inspection. James would like to put it together. Muriel suggested that the inspection include people from the planning departments of R&P and the ACOE, as most of what we don't like seems to be mistakes by the architects. Steve H suggested also that someone who could see about repairing some of the mistakes should attend too. Rosemarie inquired about meetings of the R&P Commission, that we might visit their next meeting to request of the Commission that we get the inspection.

Submitted by

Muriel Kotin, Member Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee