

**Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee  
Minutes October 23, 2001**

Glenn Bailey chaired the meeting. Also attending were Gene Greene, Steve Hartman, Muriel Kotin, Eric Lesser, Joyce MacKinnon, James Ward and Melanie Winter. Minutes of 9/25/01: Paragraph on CNPS report at bottom of page 2 was corrected to use the correct spelling of Bill Neill's name. Also, in the same sentence, change the first word from "He" to "Carvel". Glenn pointed out that he has added "Public Comment" to the agenda after "minutes" to be in compliance with the Brown Act about open public meetings. James described the act's requirements for action agenda items and will bring an abbreviated version of the Brown Act for our next meeting.

Constructed Wetland Update: Copies of a letter to the committee from the Bureau of Sanitation's Director Judith A Wilson was distributed. The survey is complete: Area 7 is 60.9 acres, according to an e-mail from Linda Waade this afternoon. [The text of her recent e-mails follow these minutes.] The members of the committee who visited the San Joaquin Marsh commented on their field trip impressions. Glenn Bailey, Muriel Kotin, Eric Lesser, Melanie Winter, and Sandy Wohlgemuth went on the trip. Glenn will send a letter thanking the Irvine Ranch Water District and also Judith Wilson for the field trip. Steve H noted that the letter from Judith A. Wilson's letter does not clearly state that absolutely no other area of the Basin will ever be used as a constructed wetland and is not what we requested. Glenn will discuss the lack of clear language on this and the description of the location of Area 7 with Adel Hagekhalil. Melanie would like to raise the question of just what other methods besides the constructed wetlands will be used to bring the Tillman effluent to the new TMDL standards. This would have implications on other greening projects along the LA River.

Steve H. reported that CNPS feels that this is a growth-inducing project and voted against it. The RCD and SFVAS boards will vote in November. Eric will see whether Sierra Club wants to become involved and then let Linda Waade know. Glenn will ask that the Bureau of Sanitation attend the November meeting and ask that each committee meeting be mailed a copy of the Concept Design Report.

Woodley Park Event Site: Glenn read a draft of a letter to Ellen Oppenheim, General Mgr of R & P from this committee. Melanie made a few suggestions that Glenn will include in the final. He will e-mail the improved version to committee members. Please reply with any detail or suggested improvements.

Weed Eradication: Steve H presented a detailed proposal from Bill Neill of Riparian Repairs. (Additionally, CNPS has voted to spend \$2000 on the LAR between Burbank and Balboa for arundo removal if the ACOE can't remove it. R&P may be taking over arundo control in Bull Creek.) Steve H asked James if R&P can't weed whack the mustard in the north reserve. Muriel asked if anything can also be done about the star thistle; we will keep an eye on whether it is becoming a major problem. A few other questions were raised. Steve H will clarify and then proceed.

Recreation & Parks Department: James Ward reported that the Woodley Clubhouse is being completed by the city's General Service Dept. The DWP pipeline is moving along, with DWP trying to get as much done in the basin as possible before the rainy season. A Proposition K project for a new building at the Garden Center is being

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designed. \$800,000 is available to complete the new building, which is not enough. They're looking for additional funds; about \$800,000 more may become available from Prop A II funds. The project's Volunteer Neighborhood Oversight Committee (VNO) met for the first time last night. (It would cost more to repair the old building instead of tearing down and rebuilding.) Rec & Park personnel are getting training to use AEC (automatic defibrilators).

Japanese Garden: Gene Garden announced that Autumn in the Garden will be this Sunday. Berm tour training will begin soon for their docents.

San Fernando Valley Audubon: Muriel will has several classes and one whole school that want to do community projects. Where should she have volunteers weed? Hummingbird Hill, along the trails, including the area north of the first bridge on the west side of Haskell Creek.

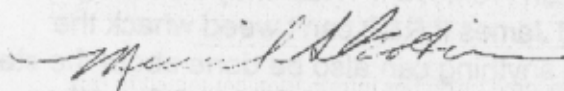
Goose Project: After Rosemarie told Melanie of problems in MTA's plans for a rapid busline through the SFV, Melanie requested that the Watershed Council take up some of the issues about the MTA's busline's impact on local waterways. The council took up the issue and is requiring that creek crossings be done better, that native plants be used, not "native-like" plants, less concrete for walkways, onsite water retention, trash containers, etc. A committee from the Watershed Council will work with MTA on redesigning the project to be done right.

Sierra Club: Eric will discuss the wetland proposal with Sierra Club leadership.

Future Meetings, Etc: Glenn said we should think about whether we should skip our December meeting or reschedule it. Also, he would prefer to meet the 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of January rather than the 4<sup>th</sup>, because he will be out of town. We might want to invite the new R & P commissioners to visit the Basin soon after they are appointed, to show them what we are accomplishing here. The MTA project shows a retaining wall closing off possibility of a pedestrian walkway from the Balboa station to Lake Balboa.

Following this page is the text of Linda Waade's e-mail from 10/23 which includes that of 10/22: (Please excuse the excessive underlining.)

Submitted by



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

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Linda Waade's e-mail dated today (10/23/01):

Hello, everyone:

James Ward will distribute copies of the letter (to the committee) from Judith Wilson at tonight's meeting. Some of you may have received the letter via U.S. mail -- but, I just want to make sure, so James agreed to have copies at the meeting.

Also, Adel Hagekhalil asked me to let you know that the size of the Area 7 parcel is 60.9 acres. This information is per the recent survey of that area.

Please let Adel or me know if you have any questions.

Linda Waade

310/451-1662

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Linda Waade <lwaade@earthlink.net>

**To:** Muriel Kotin <akotin@earthlink.net>; CANADAGOOSEPROJ@aol.com

<CANADAGOOSEPROJ@aol.com>; emlesser@earthlink.net <emlesser@earthlink.net>; G. Bailey

<glenn.bailey@csun.edu>; GGreene@San.lacity.org <GGreene@San.lacity.org>;

JWARD@RAP.lacity.org <JWARD@RAP.lacity.org>; krisohl@hotmail.com <krisohl@hotmail.com>;

NatureBase@aol.com <NatureBase@aol.com>; sandyw8@juno.com <sandyw8@juno.com>;

winter@sper.com <winter@sper.com>

**Cc:** Adel Hagekhalil <alhageka@san.ci.la.ca.us>; Kelly Ristuccia <kristuccia@rosekindel.com>; Tony

Coroalles <TCoroalles@RAP.lacity.org>; Jack Bavlis <jbavlis@ch2m.com>; Chris Harris

<charris@harriscompany.net>; Tina Navarro <tnavarro@san.lacity.org>

**Date:** Monday, October 22, 2001 6:38 PM

**Subject:** Proposed Constructed Wetlands Project Update

**To:** Wildlife Area Steering Committee

Hello: I want to let you know that the Concept Design Report (CDR) for the proposed constructed wetlands project in the Sepulveda Basin is scheduled to be released (in draft form) the week of November 12. [This is the report we originally estimated would be available at the end of October.]

During the week of November 12, the City (Bureau of Sanitation) will provide your committee with a copy of the draft CDR for review and comment. Later this week or next, I will let you know if there is a deadline to submit your comments on the draft CDR.

I believe that Bureau of Sanitation staff will be available to attend your committee meeting on November 27 if you have questions and want to discuss the draft report at that meeting.

Three additional items:

The survey of the site for the proposed wetlands project (Area 7) has been completed. A copy of the survey will accompany the draft CDR. In the meantime, I will send information to you regarding the size (number of acres) of Area 7.

A copy of a letter from Judith Wilson (Director/Bureau of Sanitation) will be faxed to the Recreation and Parks office for distribution at tomorrow night's meeting. You may have already received a copy of this letter in the mail.

As discussed at your committee meeting on September 25, enlarged aerial photos of the Sepulveda Basin have been produced and will be mounted on foam core board for your committee's files and use. Once they are mounted, we will deliver copies to Glenn Bailey or Muriel Kotin.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the proposed project or information contained in this email message.

Thank you.

Linda Waade

Harris & Company (on behalf of the City of Los Angeles)

310/451-1662