

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Minutes January 29, 2002

Glenn Bailey chaired the meeting which was attended by David Ecklund, Gene Greene, Steven Hartman, Muriel Kotin, Eric Lesser, Joyce MacKinnon, Stephen C. Moe, Anne Taylor (EarthDay LA/ Whole Earth Productions) Rosemarie White, Melanie Winter, and Sandy Wohlgemuth. After introductions, minutes were approved as distributed. New agenda items added were EarthDay and a recent LA Times article about waterfowl at Lake Balboa. After this meeting, Steve Hartman will become chair.

Constructed Wetland Update: the Concept Design draft is being reviewed within the Bureau of Sanitation. When final, it will be released and we will get copies. It should be an action item on the agenda of the meeting following release of the report, as we may wish to vote whether to support or oppose the concept design report. Glenn asked Linda Waade to mail the full report at least to all of us on this committee who are the main representative of an organization. All who want the full report are to put asterisk next to their name on the sign in sheet tonight. Glenn will let Linda know who they are.

Weed Eradication (Steve H): Bill Neill's group will have to wait until spring to work as plants are dormant. However, Bill has been spraying along the river for a CNPS-funded project. The arundo is pretty much removed along the LA River east of Balboa Blvd. Bill has surveyed between Balboa and the railroad tracks, but not worked on that area yet. Steve H is proposing a 3-year project at \$20,000 annually for 2 years, then 1 at \$10,000. The work would include Haskell Creek north of the W.A., Hayvenhurst Creek between the LA River and Victory Blvd., and Bull Creek. Also, Encino Cr. and the clump near the river in area next to the Tapia Bros field need to be done. A Wildlife Conservation Grant might be a possibility. [Steve will be doing a survey of the Mulefat area so of Burbank on 3/1 — phone him if interested in participating.] Steve H and Bill Neill have put together a draft grant proposal to get this work done; Steve distributed copies. Steve Moe pointed out that the Encino Creek drainage is under management of the storm drain division of Sanitation.

Tour for new R & P Commissioners: Rosemarie suggested this as very important. **Moved, Seconded and Passed** that the committee have a tour for the Rec & Parks commissioners and that we all attend the tour to greet them. Steve H will notify James of this decision. Rosemarie will contact the commission to arrange a tour.

Recreation & Parks Report (Steve Moe): There will be a big Cricket event in June in the new cricket field area. The Tillman Plant may possibly be de-rated to a smaller capacity (approximately the current amount of sewage being processed), due to the new requirements to treat to a higher level. Phase 3 (which will be within the berm) will probably be built around 2010. (Phases 4 & 5 would be where the new cricket fields are, if they ever happen.)

Japanese Gardens (Gene Greene): Sanitation has removed the weeds in the laydown area just west of Haskell Creek and the new cricket fields. Training on the berm has started and tours will begin in spring. Muriel will call Patrick in Gene's office to set up an 8:30am tour of the berm for interested committee members, then notify them.

Los Angeles Audubon (Sandy): Consortium funds are \$15K in money market fund and 13-mo CD. The total value was \$36,059 in December. In March, CD will mature. LAAS, who holds our funds is wondering how to invest the CD funds. Their treasurer will consult with Steve H just before the reinvestment period.

San Fernando Valley Audubon (Muriel): Muriel requested co-sponsors for the **Cleanup on April 13**. California Native Plant Society, Sierra Club, and The River Project will cosponsor. The Canada Goose Study and RCD will let her know. The focus will be on cleaning up along Haskell Creek. Muriel again raised the issue of very large events in the basin. She asked about the possibility of Sanitation's planting in the median on Woodley Ave. Gene says ok if Steve H will make plan and the Steering Committee or

another group will agree to help maintain. Muriel commented on lack of rangers in the Wildlife Area, a big problem on weekends and holidays.

Canada Goose Project (Rosemarie): About 600 geese at Encino, 100 at Chatsworth, 75-100 (resident) at Basin, totalling about 800 geese in the valley this winter. Regarding the article Monday in the LA Times about Sharon Brewster, a woman who has been picking up fishing line and hooks at Lake Balboa: is there no staff to help monitor? How did R&P get volunteers at Lake Balboa? (They're like the 4 volunteers at the WA.) Muriel said to **IF MAJOR MISBEHAVIOR IS OBSERVED, PHONE THE RANGERS' DISPATCH NUMBER: 323/913-7390.** On Sun April 7 from 10 to 4, the Goose Project will have an EarthDay celebration at Chatsworth NP, including tours and kids' hikes.

Resource Conservation District - SMM (Glenn): A Conservation on Wheels mobile classroom for kids is available for use. Housed in Riverside, it has to be used for large groups and in conjunction with other events. But it is something to keep in mind. Requests for it should be made through the RCD-SMM.

Sierra Club (Eric): Eric met with the landscape architect for the MTA rapid busline in December. He saw plans for intensity of landscaping at various points. Gene asked if they're considering using reclaimed water. Steve H said they've been highly resistant to changing anything in that direction. They're considering both natives, native cultivars and exotics. Eric will let us know of future community meetings on the landscaping. He expects the plans will be drawn by a design/build firm.

EarthDay LA (Anne Taylor): She is working with Woody Hastings and WholeEarth Productions on EarthDay and the LA River. She wants to cleanup the LA River south of Lake Balboa. Steve H explained that the ACOE has cut back the arundo there and is supposed to spray it. If not, CNPS will take care of it. FoLAR is planning a river cleanup from around Louise to Hayvenhurst. The committee did their best to let Anne know who is doing what and where in the Basin. Steve H suggested Anne might want to work with one of the organizations already doing things in the basin that she wants to do, since we are all short of volunteers.

Next meeting will be 2/26/02. The agenda deadline will be 2/11 (2 Tuesdays before.)

Submitted by

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