

**Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Minutes -- September 24, 2002**

Rosemarie White chaired the meeting, which was also attended by Patrick Aubuchon, Sharon Brewer, Susan Bok (LA DOT), Gene Greene, Steve Hartman, Lynne Kennedy (Woodley Lakes Golf Course), Muriel Kotin, Joyce MacKinnon, Mark Pattison (MTA), Tom Persons, Cathleen Sanchez (consultant to MTA), Mark Starr (LA Bur Sanitation), Mark Van Gessel (consultant to MTA), James Ward, Melanie Winter, and Sandy Wohlgemuth. Intros. Minutes of the August meeting were approved without change. Minutes of the August Consortium meeting were corrected to read in the next to last sentence of the third paragraph: "Rosemarie does not think that Audubon should return to the Consortium for future funds but rather seek funds from other sources."

Public Comment: Sharon Brewer complained about continuing problems for wildlife at Lake Balboa. Rosemarie suggested meeting with her as a subcommittee for wildlife problems at Lake Balboa.

MTA presentation: Cathleen Sanchez, project manager, reported on the high-speed busway (BRT). City has only a short-term license to use Haskell for access to the TWRP septage facility. The BRT will displace the septic hauling trucks and access to the Air National Guard. MTA has developed alternatives. (The bike path will remain.) They want to create a new access to both facilities by extending Densmore south to cross Victory Blvd. in a straight 90 degree intersection. The access will turn east just south of the bus ROW and continue to Haskell. There will continue to be a signal at Haskell which will be 1 of 3 access ways to the park-and-ride east of the 405, s of Victory. The culvert for Haskell Creek will be rebuilt. The flow along Haskell Creek will not be altered. Drought-tolerant native trees will be used wherever possible, with almost all existing trees along Victory left. There will not be any sound walls through the basin. The proposed access from Densmore will be permanent.

MTA wanted to know committee's reaction. There was no opposition to the proposed route of the septage station access, as we do not want septage trucks on Woodley. There will be signs to keep the public out of the access road and room to turn around once at Haskell. Riparian landscaping will be used wherever possible. The committee wants to see reclaimed water used and native plants. Native plants where possible — the committee wants to see all native plants — that is plants indigenous to the area. We should find a way to find native plants, rather than leaving it up to the contractor. The committee feels that there is plenty of reclaimed water in the basin, so that drought tolerance is not key. MTA said that the contractor will be required to use only reclaimed water between Balboa and

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Sepulveda, though it is not clear whether that stretch will be entirely irrigated. The committee suggested that the entire stretch does not have to be planted out all at once and that MTA adopt an all native policy generally (excepting limited amount:: of turf grass). Rosemarie requested a copy of their plant lists.

The rail road bridge at Bull Creek will be replaced by a new one that has not been designed. Melanie requested attractive bridges over Bull Cr and the LA River. The MTA said bridges are being designed to accommodate light rail later, but there are no plans yet for light rail. DOT likes the present design for septage & National Guard access.

Pedestrian access: A footpath is planned near Hayvenhurst. What about the Bull Creek project? It was suggested that MTA meet with the ACOE to coordinate the Bull Creek Project with the BRT. Committee wants crossings at Hayvenhurst and at Bull Creek. Rec & Parks considers the crossing at Hayvenhurst the highest priority.

Rosemarie would like MTA to come back to another of these meetings, to discuss landscaping, crossings and creeks. MTA will check their plant lists with Steve H and discuss with him when to come back. MTA will try to discuss the Bull Creek project with ACOE. ACOE has never mentioned the Bull Cr project with them. None of the committee members objected to the concept of the proposed road alignment. MTA will return at our Jan, 2003 meeting.

Swallows at Woodley Lakes Golf Course: Lynne Kennedy, head gardener there, described a problem with swallows nesting in the archway. She is looking for a friendly way to deal with the problem, rather than blasting the nests with a hose before eggs were laid. She also mentioned an injured swan (fine now) and mess from 64 Canada and 2 snow geese.

San Fernando Valley Audubon: Muriel gave an update on the environmental Education program.

TreePeople : Tom reported that last Saturday he and 26 volunteers watered and weeded around oaks along the northwest section of Haskell Creek and the path just west. They also weeded mustard from the irrigated burned area east of the creek. N. Hollywood High students & teachers, incl some from Zoo Academy. They want to return for future projects. Tom has abt 4 teachers interested in growing native grasses.

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Goose Project: Rosemarie reported that about 25-30 volunteers from the Disney Studio weeded the reserve east of Woodley Avenue on Sept. 7.

Plantings and Pipe Replacement in Burned Part of WA: Steve H gave out handouts on native grasses. He also suggests a re-discovered sunflower that had been thought extinct. He was told by Kelvin Lew of DWP that they need to do 0.14 acres of mitigation. Steve H proposed 35 cottonwoods on 15' centers just south of the north bridge, along the west side of Haskell Creek. DWP proposes growing cuttings to give us female cottonwoods. Steve H suggested Tom start his plantings working north from Burbank Blvd. Bill Neill is working on weed eradication in the WA, north of Burbank and also near the LAR. Steve gave a PowerPoint presentation on the burn.

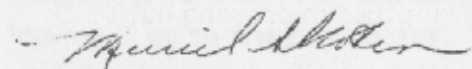
Recreation and Parks: James reported that the fire near Burbank & Woodley was caused by an auto accident. A car went thru the fence. Steve Moe is busy on water issues and has not been available for the basin much. There were periods of low oxygen in lakes because of heat, but no fish kills. The golf course restaurant has its permit and should have a grand opening soon. On Labor Day, the WA and the Garden Center both got badly hit by graffiti on buildings and stone monuments. There will be big events in Woodley Park this Saturday, 3000 people for Mayor's volunteer thank you at Lake Balboa and World Fest in Woodley Park. All volunteers, including on park advisory boards, need to be fingerprinted and background checks made. If we've done it before, we don't need to do it again.

River Project: Melanie reported on a recent meeting of the California Resources Agency. There were workshops on priorities for land acquisition of various sorts. She prevailed in getting different criteria for urban core and urban fringe in LA. On Coastal Cleanup Day, about 25 volunteers worked along LAR near Lake Balboa. Melanie is meeting with Kevin Regan, Assistant General Manager, tomorrow. Muriel suggested she request more ranger presence.

Japanese Gardens: Gene reported that tours of the TWRP berm have started.

It was felt the meeting with the MTA was a good start of a long process.

Submitted by



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