

**Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee**  
**Minutes September 28, 2004**

The meeting started with self introductions, very late because of terrible traffic problems. Gene Arias chaired. Also attending were voting members Steve Hartman, Dexter Kelly for LA Audubon, Muriel Kotin, and Ken Novak and non-voting members and guests Sharon Brewer, Gene Greene, Joyce MacKinnon and Hal Sullivan. Approval of the August minutes was postponed until a quorum of 5 voting members was available.

Public Comment: Sharon asked about our motion on restricting fishing at Lake Balboa. Apparently it was in early 2003. Muriel can't find the minutes. Apparently she was the chair at the time and does not have the pertinent minutes on her computer and can't find paper copy. Sharon will see if Steve Moe has the minutes.

Consortium Meeting: Regarding transfer of funds from Los Angeles Audubon Society (LAAS) to San Fernando Valley Audubon Society (SFVAS) as custodian, Dexter Kelly said that Garry George thinks there may be a written agreement that should be looked at. At the Thursday LAAS board meeting, they will decide how to move the funds to SFVAS. All present agreed.

Viewing Areas: Ken Novak will ask Steve Moe to have the plants blocking viewing areas trimmed.

Keeping People on Pathways: Gene Arias had put up yellow tape to deter people from barbequing, fishing, etc. along the lake. Muriel objected as birdwatchers like to see the birds better and the naturalists need to get water samples for the education program. Steve Hartman does not want to have the urban ugliness of yellow tape. Ken commented that the most dangerous problem is poaching with firearms, and then it's almost impossible to get a ranger out to deal with the situation. Steve H said the problem is basically enforcement and the city doesn't have the funds to hire enforcement. The committee agreed Gene A is doing a great service and also that the yellow tape will go. Rec & Parks has removed 14 tons of trash within the past 12 months. Gene A advised the homeless that their trash is what alerts people to their presence, so they are trying to pick up after themselves now. Rudy and the rangers are very helpful to Gene A.

Electric "Think" Cart Storage: The city safety officer won't let any electric cart be charged at the Wildlife Area (WA) storage as there is not enough ventilation. There is also a major security problem. Gene Greene said we may park the cart at the Japanese Garden — there should not be a vandalism problem there. Cart users must use great caution at the very dangerous intersection just outside the garden.

Recreation & Parks Department: Ken Novak reported that the department is

finally hiring. They will be able to fill some of their vacancies, on a one year basis. For our volunteers to use it, they would not need fingerprinting but should fill out some paperwork to be official and insured. New signs are going up at Lake Balboa about bicycles, skates, fishing, and digging for worms. The entrance project to Rec & Parks Valley Headquarters near Woodley will be complete in about 2 weeks. Steve H commented that the plantings generally look good. The Garden Center is due to be completed in mid-October or mid-November. DWP's phase B to put reclaimed water line down Woodley to Burbank seems likely to begin next year. There will be homeless sweeps in the Wildlife Area in Oct or Nov, an attempt to get the homeless out before floods. The WA will get a "Wildlife Way" street sign.

Japanese Garden: Gene Greene reported difficulties because of unfunded maintenance. October 31 is Autumn in the Garden. They will try to open the gardens on holidays, to meet a public need. Berm tours have begun. The sketch for the Woodley Avenue median has been found. They are ready to start planting some trees.

SFVAS: Gene G replied to Muriel's question. She does not need to gather license plate numbers ahead of the teacher workshop. She gave flyers to Gene G and Ken about the Bird Walks for Beginners and Families that will be held on second Saturdays October through March at 8:30 in the WA.

California Native Plant Society: Steve H reported that Bill Neill is making a major effort on Castor Bean and other weeds. Steve H will have a weeding on Hummingbird Hill in November, the date to be announced.

LAAS: Dexter Kelly reported that LAAS is very interested in the Sepulveda Basin and may use it for their education program in the future.

Canada Goose Project: Gene A requested that Muriel give him a schedule of field trips for sharing the cart.

Submitted by

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