

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Minutes - November 29, 2005

Rosemarie White chaired the meeting which began with self-introductions. Also attending were other voting members Glenn Bailey, Steve Hartman, Dexter Kelly, and Muriel Kotin, as well as guests and non-voting members Sharon Brewer, Sharon Ford, Gene Greene, Lynda Levitan, Joyce MacKinnon, Jesse Medina, Ken Novak, and Michael Tou.

Minutes of the 10/25/05 meeting were approved by consensus. Glenn said that additions to the agenda should not continue to be shown on the meeting agendas. This item is not appropriate as we operate under the Brown Act.

Public Comment: Sharon Brewer complained of model airplanes going over the parks and Japanese Garden. There have been white pelicans entangled in fishing line at Lake Balboa, where the California Wildlife Center has rescued two pelicans and a coot. Sharon asked for an update on a "do not feed wildlife" sign. Muriel asked whether this committee has decided to support such a sign. Ken indicated we did so about a year ago and that a sign like the ones in the Wildlife Area (WA) was ordered for L. Balboa. When it is installed, it will not be legally enforceable, just like in the WA. Glenn said that the human impacts on wildlife is a very important topic and urged that Rosemarie bring the need for enforcement to General Manager Jon Mukri's continued attention. Steve H commented that we should emphasize requests of Jon Mukri that will make a big difference. Steve considers invasive weed control very important. Rosemarie suggested a letter from this committee as a follow up to Jon Mukri's visit to our meeting last month.

Glenn would emphasize that neighborhood councils and probably this committee should be included in planning of large events in the Basin. Rosemarie read from the Lake Management plan for the Wildlife Area: wildlife is primary along with human appreciation of wildlife. Therefore, she feels this committee has some purview of Lake Balboa as well.

Bull Creek Project: Michael Tou announced that \$2M has passed the appropriations process. The Corps is nearing completion of the project report, including responses to our comments, and finalizing coordination with other federal agencies. Bull Creek is a high-priority project in the L.A. district. Brad Sherman's office is already looking into what other priorities are for the SFV and Sepulveda Basin for

2007. The Bull Creek restroom isn't budgeted for yet. Muriel asked about portable toilets. Ken said they're probably not feasible; he hopes a proper restroom will be built in the spot reserved for it later. Joyce suggested putting in more parking if there's no restroom to be put on its spot.

Proposed Fire Road for South Reserve and Mitigation: Glenn suggested that Michael Tou might be able to help fund the Wildlife Area Expansion along the east side of Haskell Creek north of the park access road. This is an area that is disced annually by R&P. There is a riparian area along the creek. Perhaps Haskell Cr. could be charged with reclaimed water just below the busway.

In response to a question from Steve, Muriel said there is not usually time to take kids on nature walks south of Burbank Blvd. If it were safer, SFVAS would occasionally take kids down to the LA River. Muriel would like to see expanded parking in the southern edge, just north of the access road. Glenn suggested that the riparian area shouldn't be taken up by parking; make more parking north and east of the present WA parking instead. Muriel agreed that would be preferable.

Moved Seconded and Unanimously Passed That we recommend as a possible mitigation for the proposed fire road in the south reserve, that the wildlife area be expanded to include the ruderal fields directly east of Haskell Creek to the north of the access road and north to the MTA right of way and Haskell Creek itself from the access road to the MTA right of way. We have not heard whether Ron Berkowitz has discussed alternatives such as proper maintenance with the Fire Department. Rosemarie will talk to Carvel Bass tomorrow. Glenn will write a letter to Carvel of our concerns and ideas.

Verizon Wireless Construction Proposal: Rosemarie does not think any part of the WA is appropriate for any private venture. Nobody has heard from Verizon since we pointed out that the tower would be periodically inundated. Glenn pointed out that the WA officially stops at the bike path, so it is part of the public right of way. Sharon Ford will start an effort to organize people's comments on the proposal, so that the committee can become ready to write a letter opposing it. Verizon has not contacted Council District 6 recently. One of our points needs to be that when the equipment is no longer used, it must be removed. Gene G

commented that the city has little control over these sites; perhaps we should request bird-nest sites on the tops.

Moved Seconded and Passed that this committee take a position in opposition to the siting of a proposed wireless Verizon facility along Burbank Blvd. between Woodley Ave. and the LA River.

Reports and Updates:

Gene G for Japanese Garden: He invited us to provide literature to distribute at next year's events. The native plant berm is doing well. Their advisory group is going to make a video for spots on cable TV to introduce people to the garden. Perhaps they can help us advertise the WA. A duplicate of the Think Cart key is now being kept at the guard shack for weekends.

Ken N for Recreation & Parks: There was a sweep of homeless this month in the South Reserve. 12/8 they will have another. New city e-mail addresses are now all in the format firstname.lastname@lacity.org. Since July, 287 trees have been planted in Sepulveda Basin Park District under the Mayor's Million Tree program. Muriel reminded Ken that all trees planted in Sep Bas should be California native trees and shrubs, under President Clinton's executive order for plantings in federal properties, which order has not been repealed. Steve H will send Ken a copy of the order. Ken has had 2 requests to develop the area of the Bull Cr recently - from MTA for residential development and from a private developer for an arts amphitheater and 4-level parking. California Fish & Game reviewed Sep Bas's bodies of waters; they are greatly restricting R&P's ability to remove trees, even exotics, from streams or to widen creeks. Ken will give us a copy when it's finalized. Balboa Sports Complex VNOG meeting will be 12/8.

Lynda Levitan for CD 6: They're trying to help people and improve the homeless situation. The day-labor site at Home Depot on Roscoe is being upgraded. R&P can't handle the homeless problem alone, will be asking for help from the council districts.

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Muriel for SFV Audubon: The field trips for school classes and family walks are ongoing.

Dexter for LA Audubon: He asked if Lake Balboa could be enhanced by F&G taking it over. F&G is not interested in being involved with L Balboa.

Steve H for California Native Plant Society: Bill Neill is actively working on weed control in the Basin.

Rosemarie W for The Canada Goose Project: She is very concerned. There have been only 200 Canada geese in the SFV so far this fall.

Glenn B for Resource Conservation District - Sta. Monica Mts.: The 3000 RCD's nationally will be meeting in the LA area in late January 2007. The WA could be the venue for a field trip.

Submitted by

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