

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Draft Minutes May 23, 2006

Glenn Bailey chaired in the absence of Melanie Winter. Attending were other voting members Glenn Bailey, Sharon Ford, John Holmes, Dexter Kelly, Muriel Kotin, Rosemarie White and Melanie Winter. Non-voting members, alternates and guests included Carvel Bass, Sharon Brewer, Gene Greene, Joyce MacKinnon, Jesse Medina, Stephen Moe, Michael Moertl, Gary Pintar and Michael Tou. During self-introductions, it was announced that Sharon Ford is now the representative of the Sierra Club, Valley Group. Minutes of the meeting 4/25/06 were approved without change.

Public Comment: None.

LA County Funding for Wildlife Area and Bikeways - \$1M each: Jesse Medina and Steve Moe reported that MTA has asked R&P to take over the bikeways parallel to the Orange Line. The Basin \$1 M is for contractual removal of non-native species and planting along Encino Channel, Haskell, Havenhurst and Bull Creeks. The topic will be agendized for next month when Ken Novak is here.

Melanie arrived and took over as Chair.

Army Corps: Carvel Bass reported that the sports complex field proposal for the sod farm west of Balboa is on the fast track. There will be an EA, proposed to be a negative declaration. It will go out in 2 weeks for 45 days of public review. The Corps will ensure that public comments are addressed. The EA should be on next month's agenda. Glenn mentioned that there will be a presentation to the public next Wednesday at the Sepulveda Garden Center for the VNOC that should provide the design. Melanie pointed out that a greater buffer along the LAR might be needed if the sports complex is not to be in the way of the LAR Revitalization project's improving the river way. Intelligent siting of the sports fields would accommodate more passive recreation and shorten the needed sewer lines. Michael Tou said the base will be vacated in a year or two or so. Carvel said the VNOC meeting is where we can learn which of our suggestions were included in the plan.

As to the fire road, the EA will recommend 3 acres of weed eradication to 1 acre

disturbed by the road building. He has not heard anything more from Verizon about the cell tower. He will let us know if he does hear anything.

Recreation & Parks: Jess announced the Garden Faire was held Sat. & Sun., the dog faire Saturday. They are preparing a permit for MTA to build a safety fence to Bull Creek along the busway. Construction should begin soon and extend into July or so. You will still be able to access the park from the crosswalk. There will be LVNOC meeting for the LA Riverfront project 5/31, same as sports complex meeting. Prop K funding will pay for re-doing the banks of the river Sepulveda to Lankershim. At our request, Jesse will see if he can have this meeting rescheduled.

Steve Moe said avian influenza is already here in many forms. The H5N1 strain is not yet here and is likely to arrive in the fall. The LA County Health department has asked R&P to help test wild ducks. The lakes of testing will be Reseda Lake, Lake Balboa, and Machado Lake. LA Co Health will be the lead agency for the avian flu and will be testing fecal matter at dog parks for parasites throughout LA Co.

Glenn requested Jesse to get the calendar of events in the basin e-mailed to Glenn and Muriel.

Japanese Garden: Gene Greene announced construction at TWRP will begin soon and last a year or two. If there are any problems we should e-mail Gene. Access for construction will be via Dinsmore. Gene asked about the park policy on amplified music which is a problem these days from park users who play amplified music extremely loudly and dance to it.

A Kawana Pavilion meeting will be held with the city council soon regarding feasibility - should be on June agenda. The pavilion will have meeting space and educational areas.

Congressman Brad Sherman: Michael Tou said the House subcommittee on energy and water should be approving a bill tomorrow, then the Senate in about a month; \$2M for Bull Creek is in the bill. The budget bill should be finalized in August or September.

For status on the CalTrans project, someone should contact Edwardo Aguilar who attended last month's meeting and is in charge of the environmental aspects of the project. It would be very useful to write a letter from the committee as well as each member organization on the project. A committee letter should be on the June agenda.

Committee Reports:

- San Fernando Valley Audubon: Muriel said the last field trips of season will be later this month. She is horrified about the impact of a freeway on-ramp in the WA.
- Los Angeles Audubon: is equally horrified. Dexter will send a letter from LAAS. They are hosting a bond issue meeting at Debs Park on 6/10.
- Canada Goose Project: Rosemarie said the resident flock of geese on Woodley Golf Course are nesting. There are over 100 birds, perhaps 18 young. They are planning a conference in October on wildlife corridors.
- Southwest Herpetologists: John said the survey continues.
- Resource Conservation District / Sta. Monica Mts: Glenn distributed a flyer for the LAR Revitalization meetings. The RCD needs to find new space. They have to move by the end of December. He hopes they won't be distracted from their important work.
- The River Project: Melanie announced the Tujunga Watershed University held its last of 6 very successful meetings last night. The Watershed Management Plan is progressing, and they are seeking ideas for specific projects within the watershed. She encourages anyone who has specific project concepts to contact her office. TRP cannot support the current Prop K process for the LA River, as the city has not followed the VNOC recommendations, and as they object to the location of one of the projects between Whitsett & Coldwater.
- Sierra Club: Sharon Ford plans to get the local chapter into the loop and involved.

Submitted by

Muriel S. Kotin, Member

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