

**SEPULVEDA BASIN WILDLIFE AREAS STEERING COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting January 24, 2023 —Approved Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by Melanie at 6:32pm. Quorum established. Meeting was recorded. Jon Rishi, ACOE biologist introduced himself. Minutes of the meeting 11/22/2022 were approved without change.

Voting members attending: Deondra (Oni) Alcantara-Olivas (FoLAR), Glenn Bailey, Terrie Brady, Nurit Katz, Muriel Kotin, Joe Phillips, George Waddell, Melanie Winter. Non-voting members: Ruth Doxsee. Guests and alternates not voting tonight: Anne Abramson, Sofia Aleman, Shelley Billik, Dan Cooper, Barb Heidemann, Kevin Jauregui, Jessica Medina, Bill Neill, Miriam Preissel, Jon Rishi, Gregory Stewart, Brian Yamasaki, RAP Ranger "hnsnrpt1".

Army Corps of Engineers: Jon Rishi reporting. cleaning out of the river channel just upstream of the dam will happen asap, depending on weather. This is the stretch from the dam to the Encino Creek outfall. Same at mouths of Haskell and Encino creeks. The work was cleared by water agencies. They're diverting one side of streams at a time, leaving flow on the other side. Removing dead trees south of Burbank and limbing larger trees up 8 ft. Vehicular roads are being graded. The Vegetative Management Plan is being followed, this year on Vegetation Zone B-1, close to the river. There they are mowing and brush cutting as prescribed by the 5-year cycle. They will be careful about what limbs are removed from the coast live oaks. Jon will personally survey the impacted trees. The committee members are invited to observe. We should let him know if we want to join him on his walkthrough.

An update of the Sepulveda Basin Master Plan is on hold for lack of appropriated funds, as well as waiting for LA City's Vision Plan to be released in 2024. Jon hopes a new master plan will be complete in 2026. The update in 2020 was just corrections to the 2010 master plan with no major changes. Melia Pearson took charge of the corrections after Debbie Lamb retired. Jon will ask for any summary of changes, but there were no land-use changes. Jon expects the 2026 update will include robust public input.

There was discussion of the importance of input by this committee and the community into any land use changes, of environmental justice, and of the Corps' handling of homeless encampments. The city wanted to designate an area as a RV park for homeless, but RV parking areas are against Corps' rules.

Jon Rishi is our main ACOE contact regarding environmental matters. Other contacts are Supervising Ranger Robert Moreno and Public Affairs Officer Dena O'Dell. Jon will try to attend these meetings regularly.

Recreation and Parks: Brian Yamasaki does not have any information on the status of the detour rerouting Wildlife Way traffic next to Tillman.

Plumbers are working to repair the water supply lines which were badly damaged by a former homeless encampment near Victory that tampered with the backflow and undermined the pipes. They have not yet repaired the archery range restroom water supply, but they will then continue south to the Wildlife Reserve toilets, sinks and fountains.

The erosion and partial collapse of Viewing Area #3 (Flood Monument) was reported by Joe Mendoza to Planning and Engineering. RAP has not yet communicated with Sanitation about the lake level and erosion issues.

- The accidental pond in the amphitheater lawn is shrinking.
- Too many vehicles are driving and parking on the lawn, probably related to the broken irrigation elements involved.
- RAP is making a big push near Victory to clean and control weeds.

A spring creek cleanup of Haskell Creek may coincide with FoLAR's April 22 habitat restoration. SFVAS and FoLAR will discuss.

Muriel is to invite RAP's Forestry's advice and help for planting native trees in the amphitheater lawn to replace the four large pines that died in the September 2020 fire. She will report back at the next meeting.

Brian has no information about the vegetation at the Off-leash Dog Park in the current master plan.

The LA Sanitation Biodiversity group's volunteer planting scheduled for January 21 and 28 is postponed to Feb 18 and 25. [Note post meeting: it's now March 18 and 25.] The reason is a requirement for a right of entry permit requiring proof of liability insurance plus time for approval of paperwork and the insurance. There was comment pointing out that RAP and Sanitation are both LA City departments that should trust and coordinate with each other.

The agenda item about the mowing of the West Field was included in error. Some coyote bushes in that field were harmed by carelessness.

The proposal to use goats to suppress flammable weeds is now under a LAFD Brush Steering Committee that hasn't yet met. Dan will be the point person with Captain Richard Diede.

City Council: Committees have changed. See note at end of minutes. Lake Balboa NC is sponsoring a meet the candidates event for CD-6. Parts of Sepulveda Basin and its surrounding neighborhoods are in CD-4.

Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan: The public process is beginning with meetings and workshops. It is important for organizations and their members to be involved.

City Tree: There is a motion in city council to replace the Coral Tree with Coast Live Oak as the LA's City Tree. It will go before Public Works Committee tomorrow at 3:30. Urban Forestry is insisting on planter strips a minimum of 10 ft. wide for oak plantings.

Committee Chair for 2023: **Moved and unanimously approved** that Melania Winter will be chair and Nurit Katz vice chair.

Member Reports: CNPS and FoLAR plan to organize 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday volunteer weeding events in the Wildlife Reserve throughout 2023. This is in addition to the Tuesday and Thursday efforts of the CNPS Dawn Patrol. Last year 1,600 bags of weeds were removed.

Encino and Lake Balboa neighborhood councils will hold their elections on June 18.

We should keep reminding the Bureau of Engineering about the collapsing of Viewing Area #3.

**[Post-meeting Note:** Glenn Bailey emailed on 1/25/23: “After yesterday evening's WASC meeting, I learned that the City Council amended the meeting schedule for four of its committees, including the **Neighborhoods and Community Enrichment Committee, which will now meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 8:30 AM in Council Chambers.** If the WASC meeting minutes could be noted to reflect this change of days and time, that would avoid disseminating outdated information.”]

Chat follows.

Submitted by

Muriel S. Kotin  
SFVAS Representative to SBWASC

00:44:08 Jon Rishi, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Jon Rishi, ACOE (626) 720-7087  
00:51:47 Jon Rishi, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Dena O'Dell, ACOE Public Affairs 213-509-4193  
00:56:20 Dan Cooper: I'd be interested in going on the walkthrough if it works time-wise. Let me know what time. Thanks!  
00:56:47 Glenn Bailey - RCDSMM (& ENC): 12 noon  
00:57:26 Dan Cooper: Great Thanks, Glenn.  
01:19:14 Dan Cooper: Be curious to hear about a new RV park in the basin!  
01:26:36 Glenn Bailey - RCDSMM (& ENC): Sycamores???  
01:30:48 Barb Heidemann - SFVAS: Maybe this group could request a Contact within RAP Engineering who could keep us updated about the sinking lookout and their plans?  
01:35:14 Dan Cooper: Is that why there are “No Trespassing” signs there btwn Haskell and archery? Always wondered that.  
01:35:56 George Waddell--CNPS: Welcome Oni  
01:47:00 Oni Alcantara-Olivas (she/hers) - FoLAR: Great to hear everyone joining us tomorrow! We are up to 110 registration for Saturday  
01:53:55 George Waddell--CNPS: In defense of insurance issue, LASAN was bringing in members of the public, not its own employees  
01:54:35 Barb Heidemann - SFVAS: Anyone have any updates on those Council Files about allowing goats as a solution? Yes, Brian, we know a bit about delays because of needing a ROE.  
02:00:50 Glenn Bailey - RCDSMM (& ENC): LAFD Chief who referenced Brush Steering Committee was Wade.White@lacity.org  
02:00:57 Dan Cooper: Thx  
02:01:14 Muriel Kotin- SFV Audubon: Richard Diede (richard.diede@lacity.org)  
02:08:11 R. Doxsee, LBNC: Screen Shot 2023-01-23 at 4.12.25 PM.png  
02:08:54 Nurit Katz: the link did work from the agenda  
02:09:17 Nurit Katz: here it is though: <https://knock-la.com/nury-martinez-steering-la-river/>

02:11:08 Melanie Winter:  
<https://securereservercdn.net/50.62.198.124/k6j.c87.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/LARMP-Steering-Committee-Name-Removal-Letter-6.10.22.pdf>

02:13:15 Barb Heidemann - SFVAS: Link for enroll in public meeting  
<https://eng.lacity.org/sepulveda-basin-vision-plan>

02:21:39 Glenn Bailey - RCDSMM (& ENC): Here is the City Clerk's summary of Council File 22-1547:

To Planning and Land Use Management Committee  
To Public Works Committee

Motion (O'Farrell - Koretz) relative to instructing the Bureau of Street Services, with the assistance of the Cultural Heritage Commission, to report on the feasibility of and recommendations for also designating the California native Coastal Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) as an official tree of the City of Los Angeles.

02:22:44 R. Doxsee, LBNC: Hosted by the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (VANC): CD6 Candidate Forum Saturday, Feb.18, 10am at Osborne Neighborhood Church, 13501 Osborne Street, Arleta, CA 91331 or Live-stream from VANC34.org

02:23:03 Dan Cooper: I think it's worth pushing for it too. Raises the awareness and people think "state \_\_\_\_'s" are actually very strongly protected (CA poppy, etc.)

02:23:30 Glenn Bailey - RCDSMM (& ENC): Here is the CF link:  
<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=22-1547>

02:31:37 Shelley Billik:  
[file:///Users/Shelley/Downloads/Agenda\\_20230120215102954.pdf](file:///Users/Shelley/Downloads/Agenda_20230120215102954.pdf)

02:34:42 Gregory Stewart: 😊

02:39:11 Glenn Bailey - RCDSMM (& ENC): Here is the first link to tomorrow's 3:30 pm Public Works Committee agenda:  
[http://ens.lacity.org/clk/committeegend/clkcommitteegend28168378\\_01252023.htm](http://ens.lacity.org/clk/committeegend/clkcommitteegend28168378_01252023.htm)