

Present: Ken Kendig, Carvel Bass, Kris Ohlenkamp, Jill Swift, Bill Principe,
Jean Dillingham, Sandy Wohlgenuth, Peter Ireland.

PLEASE NOTE: Next meeting: Monday, January 27 10 am.

Discussion of the Annual Review meeting of 11-19-91 at which all agencies were to comment on the status of the Wildlife Preserve. This was the first such meeting since the Public Recreational Use Plan was signed by the Corps, Rec & Parks and State Fish & Game in 1987. (Minutes of that meeting will be sent out to you by Dick Ginevan soon)

It was felt that the meeting itself was a victory of sorts as it was called only after our letters to the agencies made it happen. However there was some disappointment that only lower echelon agency people were present, precluding a meaningful exploration of policy and attitudes.

There was agreement that agency leaders should be made aware of our views. We are asked to draw up a specific agenda - each of us - and send it to Bill Principe (3932 Robin Hill Rd, La Canada 91011) who will organize it and bring it to the Jan 27th meeting. Some of the points expressed included trails, plantings, weed-control, forage for geese, year-round water in the lake.

The Corps is planning to clear a 5-acre area of trees and shrubs on the south bank of the river near the dam spillway. Peter suggested a possible request for compensation for the loss of habitat, preferable in the 108-acre Preserve. Carvel said any proposal should go through Rec & Parks. He emphasized that Rec & Parks is oriented toward Recreation. It was pointed out that a wildlife preserve was Outdoor Recreation and that the Public Recreational Use Plan uses the word specifically. Another point: millions of people watch birds, not simply Audubon members; others are interested in native plants or other vertebrates. There is a far larger constituency for those pursuits than for archery, model planes and cricket.

Money: We seem to be no closer to the \$30,000 line item for a "wildlife study" than before. Contrary to our previous information that amounts over \$25,000 must be put out to bid, the Corps rules indicate that \$2000 is the proper figure. The Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy has some funds that might be available for education. Jean will talk to the Topanga Las Virgenes Resource Conservation board and try to get a letter to the Conservancy about that money.

The need for specific proposals was emphasized. Dick Ginevan has said if he is given a plan for mowing or putting in water lines in the south sector - that's something he can do. It can be put into the budget for City Council approval.

Steve Hartman could not make any Dec meetings and his work on a plan for improvement of the riparian area west of Haskell Channel would be put on hold.

Concern was expressed for the Canada geese. (The SF Audubon Christmas count had less than 1000 birds: 800 at Chatsworth, 150 at Pierce, "a few" at Encino Reservoir and 8 at Sepulveda. It was raining.)

usually 2000 +