

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Minutes June 27, 2006

The meeting was chaired by Melanie Winter. Also attending were voting members Glenn Bailey, Snowy Dodson, Sharon Ford, John Holmes, Muriel Kotin and Rosemarie White. Non-voting members, alternates and guests were Carvel Bass, Sharon Brewer, Joyce MacKinnon, Ken Novak, Hal Sullivan and Michael Tou. The Sierra Club has not yet sent a letter appointing Sharon Ford as their representative. Minutes of the May 2006 meeting were approved with the correction of the spelling of Densmore.

Public Comment: Sharon Brewer reported there are 7 Canada geese at Lake Balboa, one with fishing line entwined around its legs. Rosemarie suggested that when Sharon sees an animal in distress she phone Rec & Parks office who will call the appropriate agency, usually the California Wildlife Center. Ken said the office personnel will phone a rescue group or Animal Services. The geese were not there today. Rosemarie will make up a flyer on whom to phone when one finds a sick or injured bird. Ken was requested to bring a list of members to the next meeting, from which a list can be made. Glenn suggested a notice with phone numbers to call about injured birds. Rosemarie suggested an updated Wildlife Area brochure with information on what to do with sick & injured birds.

Two Basin Grants: Ken Novak reported on two \$1M Prop A grants. The \$1M for Wildlife Areas will be used for removal of non-native plants in Wildlife Areas. R & P's priority use is creeks. The other \$1M for operation and management of R & P Bikeways. The funds should be received in around 90 days.

Environmental Assessment for Sports Complex: Only some members of this committee received the public notice. Bureau of Engineering sent it out. Melanie got her copy last week. Carvel will have them e-mail us. August 7 is the deadline for comment. Copies were made and passed out to people attending tonight. Why was the address shown as 6300 N Louise? The document can be reviewed online at http://eng.lacity.org/techdocs/emg/Environmental_Review_Documents.htm.

The committee expressed concerns about the traffic study; the nature of the use (will it be local, e.g. Girls softball, vs tournaments pulling from the entire region?); a community room in the support building; width of the river (riparian) buffer; lighting impacts; and nature of uses allowed on the multi-use field. Carvel commented the city will be the definer of the appropriate recreational uses, including type of programming and whether large events are allowed. (Ken commented that the city's sports department will run the Sports Complex so the only large events possible would be a tournament. Sports Dept. doesn't run

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festivals or carnivals.) Glenn wants a pervious walking trail will be built parallel to the river that is separate from the fire road. The chain link fence should be removed to enhance the trail. The committee is not opposed to the project per se.

Melanie wants the concrete out of the river in that stretch and a sufficient buffer that will be compatible with the LAR Revitalization Project. She considers removal of the concrete to be feasible with bio-technical bank stabilization and has worked out the calculations. Melanie would like to see this as part of the project by applying for Prop O funds. Ken pointed out that the LVNOC did vote to proceed with design at the 5/31 meeting. This should be on next month's agenda.

Kawana Pavilion: Lynda Levitan said Hyperion is being allocated about \$10M for an education center. Kawana Pavilion is still a question mark. Councilman Cardenas' office supports it. Gene was not at tonight's meeting. Next month's agenda.

Committee Letter Regarding Caltrans Project: Lynda is forwarding the comments she received to the councilman. Our letter could be very brief just telling Caltrans to keep out of the Wildlife Reserve. We do not want any impacts on the Reserve which was established as mitigation. We feel it would be illegal to encroach on it for a freeway or any other project. Our bottom line is that it's really, really - extraordinarily expensive to take a mitigation project. For mailing address, use c/o Joyce MacKinnon.

Army Corps of Engineers: Carvel said the Corps is looking into palm tree and shopping cart removal as requested.

Dept. of Recreation and Parks: Ken said Sandy Castle is their new secretary. S.O. Little League has been told to consult various groups regarding their plans at Victory and Louise where there was an old Babe Ruth field. There has been a massive homeless cleanup along Haskell Creek north of Wildlife Way during the last 3 weeks. They evicted 50-100 people, many of whom are now south of Burbank Blvd., and made 4 arrests.

At Hansen Dam, R & P is planning to designate the borrow pit lake into a wildlife lake and area. The Hansen Dam PAB will meet Thurs [7/6] 7:00 PM at Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center about this.

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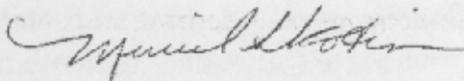
Water quality in Basin lakes has been pretty good, probably because of cool weather. They haven't had to even treat L. Balboa water yet. Reseda Lake is better than the last 2 years. Tournament at cricket fields the first weekend of July. There should not be any problem accessing the Wildlife Reserve. The MTA fence between the Orange Line and Lake Balboa is delayed until sometime next month or so. There have been 5 dead birds: 1 natural causes at Reseda Lake, 4 Lake Balboa (2 hybrid ducks, 1 mallard, 1 GBH). The heron is being tested. Traffic control at L. Balboa: they're putting a couple of stop signs within the next two months to slow down traffic and protect fowl from being run over. Woodley Lakes Golf Course goslings. Users Group meets 7/12 at 7:00 at Garden Center. Glenn encourages members of this committee to attend.

Congressman Brad Sherman's Office: Michael Tou wants copies of comments on any Basin projects, including the Caltrans project. Energy Water appropriation bill with \$2M for Bull Cr has passed the House and now is at the Senate.

Councilman Tony Cardenas' Office: Lynda Levitan said the Councilman will be briefed tomorrow afternoon by Caltrans. Please get comments to her, even if they are after the briefing. An RFP for driving range upgrade at Encino Golf will be sent out around August. They're doing a project with 3 of the local elementary schools to teach kids how to recycle and plant. (Maybe get SB Environmental Education Program flyers to them thru Lynda.)

Committee Members: Glenn will be checking out a 30-day free membership in a fee group that could benefit WA. The River Project is doing a day-long tour of the Tujunga Watershed on Sat 7/8 for Watershed U participants. Melanie invited the committee members.

Submitted by



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