

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Meeting May 24, 2022 – Approved Minutes

Attending: Voting Members were Glenn Bailey, Terrie Brady, Nurit Katz, Muriel Kotin, Dennis Mabasa, Joe Phillips, George Waddell, and Melanie Winter. Non-voting Members and Alternates were Pat Bates, Ruth Doxsee, Barb Heidemann, Bill Neill, Clark Stevens, David Troy, and Brian Yamasaki. Guests were Tessa Charnofsky, Kira Durbin, Jonah Glickman, Courtney McCammon, Ranger Jesse Mauck, Mark Osokow (Simi Hills Bird Observatory), and Amanda Thompson.

Chair Glenn Bailey called the meeting to order at 6:34PM and recording began. Introductions. Minutes of March 2022 were approved as submitted in Draft V2. Votes were 6 yes and 1 not voting. No membership requests. Link to the recording:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uHt0steRrmQr2nsNVXV4rk80yR0KzHkY/view?usp=sharing> .

CD -6 Jonah Glickman: LAHSA is visiting sites in Sepulveda Basin, including Wildlife Reserve and South Reserve. Current focus is encampments along the Victory bike path. Discussion of bird-friendly lighting along bike path additions.

Supervisor Kuehl's Office: Tessa Charnofsky reported that a Youth Climate Commission is forming. Let Tessa know of interested youth, starting at age 18. LA River Master Plan is published. Supervisors' formal hearing will be June 14, 2022, when the supervisors will be taking action.

LAPD: No word yet on a Senior Lead Officer for SB.

Recreation and Parks: Brian Yamasaki reported he just got notice to proceed with **replacement fencing** along lawn/natural area of WR. Next few weeks. Dead trees within 10 feet of the fencing will be removed by forestry beforehand. It will be a two-rail fence, Sequoia Fencing, rather than Woodcrete. Concern was expressed that removing dead trees in lawn now might disturb nesting. Courtney will survey for nesting birds.

Park road closure while Tillman modifies wall/berm: There should be orange signs from contractor about detour, etc. Discussion of lack of notice about the detour, signage and the schedule.

Courtney McCammon, RAP's new (and first) Urban Ecologist was introduced: She is based at Griffith Park, which is her main focus. Services all LA parks. She's training RAP forestry staff on things like nests and working with rangers on interpretation. She will meet with maintenance next. Does nesting bird surveys, etc. Nurit and Clark will involve her with the planning/Practicum. Committee would be happy to show her the Wildlife Reserve. Comments: WR is neglected and not treated as a wildlife reserve: dog and fishing rules little enforced, ducks killed by dogs. Concern was expressed about RAP's understanding the ecological values of native species of trees.

City Park Rangers: Jesse Mauck replied to questions about increasing ranger patrols. Only 2 rangers plus their supervisor are assigned to SFV. Their station is at Hansen Dam. Number of rangers (now 30 for the city) increasing 20%. Arson is happening often at Hansen Dam. Rangers visit SB twice a week, emphasizing WR. No encampments in WR currently, 2 in So Reserve. Angel's encampment has been cleaned out and the trees around it trimmed. Comments made that SFV is 40% of the population of City of LA. Griffith Park has huge needs, with 4,200 acres and lots of calls, rescues, etc. Jesse is working with the fire Marshall on Hansen Dam and Sep Bas is next. Huge amount of mustard, especially south of

Burbank, so encampments are a tremendous risk. Let Jesse know of encampments we find by email (contact info in chat), including GPS coordinates. Clark mentioned his related grant/project from the Calif Firesafe Council. Collaboration possible.

The River Project Study (TRP): Melanie Winter said their full report will be out in the next few days. Apparently Geosyntec got the contract as city's lead planner on river restoration. They are focusing on aquatic facility and soccer fields, with a large, hard-infrastructure focus, rather than the restored river and waterways approach of TRP. She would like a link to River Project Study on the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife website.

UCLA/RCD Practicum: Nurit advised that the Practicum presentations will be given 6/4/22. They will make a presentation at our next SBWASC meeting.

Maps: Muriel said we still need a map of agency responsibilities in Sepulveda Basin, that the app Navigate LA doesn't include the basin, let alone show what agency is responsibility for what area. She suggested that RAP request Google Maps to improve directions to the WR so that you continue all the way to the east end of Wildlife Way (and perhaps show the walk to the entry).

Cricket Field: Muriel doesn't know about the new proposal. There was an earlier proposal for overflow parking lot between Woodley II and the west end of the WR. Melanie heard about it from the cricket association's landscape architect that it's moving forward. The map she was shown is that same overflow parking lot. Brian has no information — higher level. Jonah was contacted by cricket association in the past but isn't aware of any motion on it. Jonah will look into what's happening and advise us.

Bull Creek Weir: It's still a mess. Pat will contact Tessa as we think it's probably a county responsibility. Water quality in Bull Creek is bad.

Haskell Creek Cleanup: Muriel reported the cleanup second Saturday of April was successful!

Weed Control: Bill shared with committee the email he proposed to send to CD-6 about proposal for goat grazing and (along creek) herbicide. Discussion of one letter or 2, one for goats the other for herbicide. Motion (Melanie) and a second to send letter. Objection to the part of the request referring herbicide. RAP is not allowed to use herbicide. There is a city council motion (S61 to RAP) and another (S20 to LAFD) see chat from Pat. Focus on the Arts, Parks, Health and Neighborhoods Committee for S61 regarding parklands. Terrie requested a first letter just about goats, discussing a second about herbicides later. A requested amendment (Terrie) to send a letter now only regarding goats and take our time for the herbicide issue. Melanie accepted the amendment (focus on use of goats only, S61 and its council committee for expanded distribution): **Vote: Send letter of support for using Goats / S61: Motion passed, 7 yes votes, 0 opposed.** Defer the request to use herbicide to later.

Master Plan/Vision Plan Project for SB: Jonah said funding identified, city reviewing proposals. Update at next meeting. (Council File #s available on agenda and in chat.)

Special Events Calendar: Brian has not been able to obtain a copy, nor has Glenn. Brian will let FilmLA know about the detour situation. Muriel to send Jonah information about the closure. FilmLA has been fine about notifying Muriel and the RCD Education Office about their events. Woodley Ave northbound

closures would be a disaster during detour. Jonah will try to get hold of a list of summer events from RAP Events Office (or longer-range).

2028 Summer Olympics Venues: Encino NC is trying to get someone in the Olympics committee to attend a town hall. It would be separate from the SBWASC. Pat said Stuart Waldman said things are too much in the air now. Probably there won't be a slalom course. There will apparently be a swimming pool in the overflow area next to the RAP Valley Regional Offices, in their overflow parking, near the Orange Line.

Calif Native Plant Soc: George announced CNPS and FoLAR having habitat restoration this Saturday, working on milkweed field at the south end of the lake. USGS biologist keeps telling them there are Least Bell's Vireos in the WR.

Res Cons Dist – SMM: Glenn said they are investigating with the county extending their territory to include the rimming mountains and entire San Fernando Valley (or the valley just west of 405).

The River Project: Melanie said to expect a report imminently. She asked us to speak out at the June 14 Board of Supervisors meeting.

SFV Audubon (SFVAS): Winding down programs until fall. Continuing 1st Sunday Bird Walks throughout summer. Special walks available on request.

Encino NC: — Pat announced a South Reserve cleanup June 25. Native Plant Pollinator Garden at Fire Station 83. 6/26 1:00 – 5:00 open house as fund raiser. [Time changed later to 4:00 – 6:00PM.]

Lake Balboa NC: Ruth said LBNC is supporting FoLAR River and Enc NC cleanup on June 11.

Mark Osokow: He has established a 501(c)(3) Simi Hills Bird Observatory. Report on eBird if you see banded birds coming through and email him too.

Barbara Heidemann: Water level in lake seems stabilized. Overwatering in lawn area and sprinklers running at odd times. Brian is trying to solve the issue. Zumba group's sound level is way too loud — could they turn it down with ranger help? We don't want to move the group out, just reduce the volume.

Meeting by Zoom: Is it still allowed? SBWASC has been designated to use the Balboa Sports Center if we are required to meet in person. State legislature is considering AB 1944 and AB 2449 to amend Brown Act to allow remote meetings to continue. We like meeting virtually.

Raptor Study and Wildlife Contacts: Nurit asked us to keep her telephone number handy in case of raptor in trouble or nests (including) probable nests in SB or in our neighborhoods. She's especially interested in owls in the S. Reserve. She'll be happy to present about raptor study at a future SBWASC meeting.

Save June 28 for a possible workshop from RCD or a late afternoon walkthrough.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:19PM.

Submitted by

Muriel S. Kotin, SFVAS Representative to SBWASC

The Chat:

18:29:23 From Nurit Katz to Everyone:
Here is the link to the sign in sheet:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UPE9_QfCbx-dkNamVVVYOretyVhjmwJ8GDg6IUL8lq0/edit?usp=sharing

18:33:29 From Brian Yamasaki Yamasaki to Everyone:
Brian Yamasaki Recreation and Parks I am here

18:45:47 From Dennis Mabasa, FoLAR They|Them to Everyone:
@Tessa this is amazing! I'd love to spread the word when the details are ready

18:46:39 From Terrie brady to Everyone:
regarding wildlife safe lighting travis longcore is an expert. what i know is yellow lighting is safer for drivers and for wildlife.

18:47:50 From Melanie Winter to Everyone:
Here's the link to the County's MAster Plan Update:
<https://larivermasterplan.org/resources/>

18:48:22 From Terrie brady to Everyone:
tessa looking forward to the info regarding climate youth advocates

18:48:24 From Tessa Charnofsky, Office of Supervisor Kuehl to Everyone:
<https://pw.lacounty.gov/swq/peir/>

18:48:24 From Melanie Winter to Everyone:
And here's where you can find the comment log and the County's responses: <https://larivermasterplan.org/resources/documents-from-the-planning-process/>

19:01:38 From Barb Heidemann - SFVAS to Everyone:
There is No Southbound signage. Yes, a sign to allow a safe U-turn would be great.

19:08:25 From courtney to Everyone:
rap-urban-ecologist@lacity.org

19:08:31 From Barb Heidemann - SFVAS to Muriel Kotin(Direct Message):
Muriel, direct msg to you: Were you going to mention replacement trees? Maybe Valley Oak for the amphitheater area?

19:09:25 From Muriel Kotin to Barb Heidemann - SFVAS(Direct Message):
Maybe. The tiny oak seedlings from TreePeople wouldn't work for the lawn.

19:14:47 From Terrie brady to Everyone:
i would love to be part of the wildlife training for weeders

19:19:10 From George Waddell to Everyone:
the new fencing will be a great step forward for establishing the identity of the Wildlife Area

19:32:47 From Patricia Bates to Everyone:
We obviously need a lot more rangers. A lot.

19:36:58 From Glenn Bailey to Everyone:
Does anyone know the name of the current manager of the Tillman Water Reclamation Plant? Thanks.

19:38:00 From Patricia Bates to Everyone:

Are the rangers using what3words?

19:39:54 From Patricia Bates to Everyone:
My Encino neighborhood has received evacuation alerts from basin fires. A Santa Ana driven fire will spread embers over the whole community.

19:49:06 From Nurit Katz to Everyone:
nkatz@fm.ucla.edu

19:53:53 From Glenn Bailey to Everyone:
Minor comment: No item for Adjournment!

19:54:10 From Glenn Bailey to Everyone:
Disregard my last Chat message

19:56:05 From Jonah Glickman CD6 to Everyone:
I'll look into the Navigate LA issues as well.

20:04:16 From Patricia Bates to Everyone:
I think we are getting encampments back in Bull Creek.

20:10:26 From Jonah Glickman CD6 to Everyone:
Hi Pat, LAHSA outreach teams have reported some new encampments around Bull Creek and I'm working with Rec and Parks on addressing them

20:12:33 From Patricia Bates to Everyone:
Thanks Jonah, yes, there are new encampments, thanks for working on them. It would be good if they are out before the 6/11 cleanup. I am going in about every week.

20:17:53 From Patricia Bates to Everyone:
[https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.vi
ewrecord&cfnumber=22-0600-S20](https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.vi
ewrecord&cfnumber=22-0600-S20)

20:18:20 From Patricia Bates to Everyone:
[https://clprep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2022/22-0600-S61_misc_05-18-
22.pdf](https://clprep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2022/22-0600-S61_misc_05-18-
22.pdf)

20:27:23 From Patricia Bates to Everyone:
It should go to the APHEN committee as well as to the press to start asking why aren't we doing this!!!!

20:28:14 From courtney to Everyone:
I have to get going but I appreciate being a part of this conversation and please email me if you have any questions/concerns.

20:28:24 From Nurit Katz to Everyone:
Thank you Courtney!

20:30:38 From clark stevens, RCDSMM to Everyone:
thanks everybody- have to drop now

20:31:30 From Patricia Bates to Everyone:
It has not been heard yet.

20:33:45 From Patricia Bates to Everyone:
To comment on a council file:
<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/publiccomment/>

20:39:58 From Kira Durbin, Sherman Oaks NC to Everyone:
whats the council file ?

20:40:33 From Glenn Bailey to Everyone:
Council Files are on the agenda: 20-1205 and S1 and S9

20:40:47 From Kira Durbin, Sherman Oaks NC to Everyone:
thank you !!

20:42:45 From Kira Durbin, Sherman Oaks NC to Everyone:
city clerk connect also brings up 22-0600 S61 and S20

20:49:19 From Patricia Bates to Everyone:
WOW

20:55:38 From Patricia Bates to Everyone:

www.encinonc.org
21:12:50 From George Waddell to Everyone:
our attendance improved greatly with the Z**M meetings
21:13:36 From Nurit Katz to Everyone:
cell number 818-384-9493
21:14:13 From Glenn Bailey to Everyone:
Proposed Brown Act amendments bill in the State Legislature:
Assembly Bill 1944 and Assembly Bill 2449
21:14:53 From Patricia Bates to Everyone:
There does not seem to be any City CF on AB 1944 or 2449...yet
21:16:07 From Glenn Bailey to Everyone:
I could not find a Council File either....