

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee

**Meeting notes prepared by Patricia Bates using Zoom AI meeting summary
9/30/2025**

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 PM at Balboa Sports Center

Voting Members present:

California Native Plant Society - Gregory Stewart

Friends of the Los Angeles River - Erin Vierra Orr

Los Angeles Audubon Society - Nurit Katz

Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains - Dan Cooper

San Fernando Valley Audubon Society - Pat Bates

Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter - Absent

Sierra Club, San Fernando Valley Group - Theresa Brady

Non-voting Governmental Groups:

US Army Corps of Engineers Hanna Weyland (Zoom)

Department of Recreation and Parks, City of Los Angeles - absent

Encino Neighborhood Council - (Joined at 7:56) Glenn Bailey

Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council - Miriam Preissel (in person)

Los Angeles Council District 6: Rosie Avetisyan

The River Project - Melanie Winter

Patricia made a motion to add an agenda item to allow Melanie Winter to participate remotely due to a contagious illness, which was approved unanimously.

The minutes of the July 25, 2025 Meeting were approved unanimously.

2028 LA Olympics Community Overview

Michael Menjivar, the Director of Community Relations for LA28, provided an overview of the upcoming 2028 Los Angeles Olympics and Paralympics. He explained that the games will be held across various locations in Los Angeles County, with the Sepulveda Basin hosting several events between July 15 and July 29. He emphasized the importance of community engagement and collaboration, noting that while the games are three years away, there is still time to provide feedback and suggestions. She also highlighted that the games will be privately funded, with any surplus potentially supporting legacy initiatives.

2028 Olympics Sustainability and Environment

The meeting focused on the sustainability and environmental impact of the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, particularly in the Sepulveda Basin area. Becky Dale VP of Sustainability presented LA28's impact and sustainability plan, highlighting efforts in economic empowerment, environmental stewardship, and resilience. The group discussed concerns about habitat impacts and biodiversity, with Hanna Weyland from the Army Corps of Engineers confirming their involvement and commitment to environmental protection. Melanie raised questions about post-game habitat restoration, to which Becky responded that specific plans are still in development but will be community-focused through a grant-making fund launching in 2026. The discussion concluded with agreement to continue engaging with local stakeholders and consulting experts on biodiversity and habitat impacts.

Park Ranger Operations and Safety

LA City Park Rangers Deocampo and Sharp provided a detailed overview of their operations in the Valley, focusing on their work at Sepulveda Basin and Hanson Dam. They shared statistics on arrests made since last year, highlighting the need for accurate documentation and follow-up on individuals with warrants. The rangers also discussed their efforts to investigate and report fires in the area, including a recent lead on an arson suspect provided by an informant. They emphasized the importance of collaboration with other law enforcement agencies and the need for continued support and funding to enhance their efforts in maintaining public safety in the parks. Dan Cooper and other committee members are thankful for the progress.

Sepulveda Basin Cleanup and Planning

The meeting focused on updates and discussions regarding the Sepulveda Basin, including cleanup efforts, master planning, and illegal dumping issues. Hanna Weyland from the Army Corps mentioned a scheduled river bottom cleanup on October 15th and shared that a draft of the master plan changes would be available for public comment in April or May 2026. Rosie Avetisyan, representing Councilmember Imelda Padilla CD 6, discussed ongoing efforts to address illegal dumping, including potential funding for enforcement and cameras, and highlighted plans for a new Sepulveda Basin website to improve navigation and communication. Rosie noted water contamination monitoring, and the Park Needs Assessment, and the importance of community input. A cleanup event at Bull Creek was announced for Saturday 10/4/2025 , involving various organizations and focusing on education and resource sharing.

Rosie will follow up with Capt. Joyce regarding camera installation.

Metro G-Line RV Storage Plan

Michelle Vergara from the LA Mayor's office presented a plan to use the Metro G-Line parking lot at Victory Boulevard and Balboa for temporary storage of relinquished RVs, with a capacity of 125 vehicles, as part of efforts to address homelessness and improve public safety. She emphasized that the lot would have 24/7 security, no residential occupancy, and would only be used for a two-year period leading up to the Olympics. The discussion raised concerns from attendees about the impact on parking availability and the environmental review process, with Glenn Bailey and miriam preissel and others expressing opposition to using the lot for this purpose rather than maintaining it as a park-and-ride facility.

Michelle Vergara emphasized the importance of ongoing community feedback and collaboration between the Mayor's office, the Council Office, and Metro for the RV lot project. She confirmed that the presentation materials are available and shared Betsaira Aguilera's (betsaira.aguilera@lacity.org) contact information for further inquiries. Concerns were raised about environmental impacts, fire hazards, and zoning regulations, which Michelle addressed by promising to look into these issues and provide updates. The group discussed the timeline for the RV lot's operation, estimated to open in mid-December, and the need for transparency in future meetings.

Sepulveda Basin Website:

Rosie noted work on the website is progressing and she will provide updates on progress. Nurit and Pat commented that the SBWASC should be included in the planning and implementation.

SFV Audubon Sponsored Goat Grazing Project:

Pat noted the Right of Entry permit is being considered by Recreation and Parks. The project would be 35 acres near the Model Airplane facility.

The meeting was concluded at 8:19 PM

The next regular meeting will be November 25, 2025

Zoom chat File:

01:08:33 Samsung SM-G990U2: Nurit, Thx for the invite

LA 28 presentation was fantastic

01:08:57 Samsung SM-G990U2: This is Chief Aimiuwu from LASAN signing out

01:09:02 Samsung SM-G990U2: Thx everyone.

01:30:08 Glenn Bailey: Please note Glenn Bailey joined the meeting at 7:56 pm Thanks.

01:51:33 Nurit Katz: Reacted to This is Chief Aimiuw... with ""