

**Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Meeting September 28, 2021 – Approved Minutes**

Here's the link for the September 28 SBWASC meeting recording:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QVCmG3NzcHaeH9fhEFHe1lIt0uWCpOaU/view?usp=sharing>

And the chat:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FGEARl6xnakjcoiO5JwJ2mUoyfZl2eg_kSu4Xab6tcY/edit?usp=sharing

The meeting was held by Zoom, called to order at 6:34PM, and chaired by 2021 chair Nurit Katz. Other voting members attending were Glenn Bailey, Terrie Brady, Muriel Kotin, Dennis Masaba (FoLAR), George Waddell and Melanie Winter. Non-voting members were Pat Bates, Ruth Doxsee and Brian Yamasaki. Guests and alternates not voting tonight were Sofia Aleman, Pauline Allen, Linda Babcock, Brian Baldauf (MRCA), Marilyn Brody French (RCD education coordinator), Tessa Charnofsky, Kira Durbin, Robert Fisher, Alex Garay, Jonah Glickman, Barb Heidemann, Susie Herrera (State Senator Stern), Jesse Mauck, Robert Moreno, Dena O'Dell, Mark Osokow, Richard Rachman, and Clark Stevens. Quorum established. Minutes of the meeting 8/24/2021 were approved as submitted.

REPORTS FROM GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES:

Tessa Charnofsky for Sheila Kuehl's office reported that the County Supervisors passed a motion regarding Measure W that Public Works develop public information for the clean water program. Update on COVID.

Brian Baldauf of the MRCA reported that as part of The River Project's conceptual plan for Sepulveda Basin a study of sediments is needed. With partial funding from MRCA, the USGS may help install three sediment and water testing stations in SB for modeling of sediment transport.

Jonah Glickman for CD-6 discussed issues along the LA River west of Balboa Blvd: illegal dumping, debris removal and homeless outreach. Working with ACOE and LA Conservation Corps. Guerilla Gardener Angel's encampment near the cricket complex and another closer to the archery range removed. Keep Jonah apprised of any encampments noted in the Wildlife Reserve. Shelter beds are available. He has been working with LAFD Captain Diede about the controlled burns.

City Park Rangers Jerry Haro and Jesse Mauck reported that Angel's encampment and encampments on the west side of the lake are gone, although Angel's debris still needs to be removed. There's still an enormous amount of brush. They walked the Wildlife Reserve last week and the lakeside encampments were all gone.

Susie Herrera reported for State Sen. Stern about a Caltrans program for investments in local projects to enhance public spaces. It's a two year program of \$296 million. Submissions due Dec – Feb. Projects to be completed by June 2023. See email in Chat.

ACOE Ranger Linda Babcock will be working on a handshake agreement with biologist Cristan Caviel. More information to come.

CONTROLLED BURN PLAN UPDATE: There was an onsite meeting with Captain Diede near the model airplane field. The city will do training burns of under ten acres in the fields around the model airplane facility. Jonah met with RAP's environmental specialist Elena Maggione and LAFD. He is working on waivers needed from ACOE and AQMD. Ms. Maggione wants a biological survey to delimit buffer zones and protect any sensitive native plants. ACOE is concerned that the biological survey not be done by ACOE – perhaps RAP's Environmental division. Elena and Cap. Diede will meet onsite. RAP, LAFD and CD-6 are looking for possible funding. Could Consortium funding be used? Perhaps as a last resort. Survey must be done within 2 days of a burn, so surveys would be of small areas proposed for burn plus surrounding land. Dan Cooper told Nurit that a 100 ft. buffer to protect important habitat (Woodley Creek, LA River, other sensitive areas) is appropriate where no nests. Could studies be done comparing weed growth in burned and unburned patches?

THE RIVER PROJECT'S FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR RESTORATION OF THE LOS ANGELES RIVER IN THE SEPULVEDA BASIN was presented by Melanie Winter, Jessica Hall and Anne Senter. It is a conceptual feasibility plan, using geomorphic-process-based design principles for restoring the ecosystem. Removes concrete and other modifications from the waterways within Sepulveda Basin to increase and riparian habitat functions and values. Aims to increase water retention capability to protect downstream, groundwater recharge, and enhance recreation, especially fishing and boating. Considerations include flood storage capacity, enhanced flood attenuation due to lateral spread, beneficial flows at lower speed. It would result in less frequent flooding of the wildlife lake and Burbank Blvd. Bridges would be retrofitted to allow more water flow in a wider river, so that water would not back up at Balboa Blvd. Golf courses could be recontoured so that they could escape flooding in some events. It attempts to create one single great park, rather than today's several separate parks. It proposes more trails connecting parks within the basin into one greater park, with sports fields throughout, possibly moving the model airplane field, re-meandering the river, and opening barriers to kayaking to White Oak Blvd. Grand entrances at the Orange Line stations at Balboa and at Woodley. Close the central section of Woodley Avenue, developing a central green there. Surround sports fields with riparian areas. Increase the number of sports fields and not lose any recreational uses. River cultural space to incorporate indigenous displays and facilities. Wildlife Reserve left intact, with meanders creating more riparian habitat along Haskell Creek. Fix Bull Creek. Design Hayvenhurst and Woodley creeks to merge before their confluence with the LA River. Reconfigure Encino Creek to closer to its original footprint. Reduce from current three 18-hole golf courses to one 18-hole, one 9-hole and one 6-hole, all relandscaped. Storage capacity of the basin would be increased to attenuate floods by 20 minutes. Increase groundwater recharging. A report is expected by the time the Steering Committee meets next.

Two screen shots from the presentation follow:

LOS ANGELES RIVER RESTORATION THROUGH SEPULVEDA BASIN

PURPOSE
SITE CONDITIONS
TOWARDS THE RIVER
CLOSE

Feasibility Study Results

- Increased storage capacity ~3,800 acre-feet and **20% increase in storage space** with net removal (cut) of 6.2M cubic yards of soil.
- Flood attenuation equivalent to more than **20 additional minutes** at the 100-year storm event as measured by WSE at the dam gates.
- **Up to 5x increased groundwater recharge** potential of at relatively frequent return intervals.
- Increased **geomorphic functionality** as evidenced by proposed conditions model results.
- **Improved water quality**; a function of flow spreading onto floodplains and terraces and natural soils instead of concrete or other hardened landscaping.
- **Expanded accessibility** to stream ecosystems through a network of trails, paths and ADA compliant routes.
- Planting palette for the riparian corridor and upland vegetation that will include native species; resulting in increased shade, cover and refugia for aquatic and avian species and **increased habitat area** for terrestrial species.
- **Improved park and recreational aesthetics and amenities unified around the river corridor as the heart of the Sepulveda Basin.**

1:03:39

SALT GHD Balance Hydrologics THE RIVER PROJECT

1:06:05

LOS ANGELES RIVER RESTORATION THROUGH SEPULVEDA BASIN

PURPOSE
SITE CONDITIONS
TOWARDS THE RIVER
CLOSE

A Green Heart for the San Fernando Valley?

1:04:30

1:05:14

Reintroduction of the Southwestern Subspecies of the Western Pond Turtle in Sepulveda Basin: Robert Fisher of US Geological Service reported that USGS (US Geological Survey) is partnering with the ACOE in SB and other flood control basins of Southern California with Jon Rishi ACOE's main liaison. Western Pond Turtle populations are crashing. They may become listed as endangered. Problems: fishing; roads; and trails if walkers don't understand to leave the turtles alone. Awareness and enforcement are crucial. They are just starting their study. Dan Cooper. Other species of animals are relevant. They're

also looking at ponds on the golf courses. If you remove invasive fish and have only native fish, there's nothing to attract people to fish. Perhaps Brad Shaffer, UCLA, will present at a future meeting.

Recreation and Parks: Brian Yamasaki of RAP Maintenance would be happy to participate in a walking tour to look at maintenance issues in SBWR.

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:

CNPS and FoLAR are partnering on fourth Saturdays for volunteer weeding, making seedballs and planting.

Encino Neighborhood Council supports a new masterplan for SB. They will file community interest statement in SB regarding city council district redistricting. (See Encino NC website for proposed district maps.) Congressman Brad Sherman wants community input regarding use of federal funds available west of Balboa Boulevard.

See the Chat for links to Central Park Conservancy's "How to..." sessions and articles relevant to our issues.

It is undecided whether we will meet in October. Nurit will send a request for agenda items and determine from responses whether to meet or wait until November.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44.

Submitted by

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

The Chat:

18:28:51 From Nurit Katz to Everyone:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UPE9_QfCbx-dkNamVVVyOretyVhjmwJ8GDg6IUL8lq0/edit?usp=sharing

18:31:03 From Nurit Katz to Everyone:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UPE9_QfCbx-dkNamVVVyOretyVhjmwJ8GDg6IUL8lq0/edit?usp=sharing

18:33:19 From Nurit Katz to Everyone:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UPE9_QfCbx-dkNamVVVyOretyVhjmwJ8GDg6IUL8lq0/edit?usp=sharing

18:33:37 From cstevens@rcdsmm.org to Everyone:
clark stevens, RCDSMM

18:34:54 From Robert Moreno, Army Corps to Everyone:
Robert Moreno USACE

18:36:06 From Joe Phillips, Sierra Club Angeles Chapter to Everyone:
Joe Phillips here. NO access to microphone. Audio works.

Questions - I will post in the chat or I can text or call in

18:36:29 From Nurit Katz to Everyone:
Got it, I'll keep an eye on the chat Joe, thank you!

18:50:52 From Susie Herrera (Senator Stern) to Everyone:
Susie Herrera, Office of Senator Henry Stern

Susie.Herrera@sen.Ca.gov

<https://cleancalifornia.dot.ca.gov/local-grants>

19:24:05 From Kira Durbin to Everyone:
this is amazing thank you Melanie for this presentation!!

19:35:28 From Joe Phillips, Sierra Club Angeles Chapter to Everyone:
This is Joe Phillips. I am leaving my job site. I will attempt to get in the meeting with my phone or not and I will get on on the computer at home.

19:45:06 From Richard Rachman to Everyone:
Agree!

19:56:57 From Richard Rachman to Everyone:
Thank you really fascinating!

19:57:58 From Joe Phillips to Everyone:
Joe checking back in with full radio and video

19:58:00 From Melanie Winter to Everyone:
winter@theriverproject.org

20:09:58 From Glenn Bailey to Everyone:
Illegal fishing, and the resulting hooks and fishing line, has been out of control in the Sepulveda Basin for decades.

20:19:43 From R. Doxsee, LBNC to Everyone:
Glad you are back, Joe.

20:20:15 From R. Doxsee, LBNC to Everyone:
Yes, let's get the Western Pond Turtle back!

20:21:26 From R. Doxsee, LBNC to Everyone:
Rosi Dagit led crayfish removal on Topanga Creek Sept. 18 and I caught 15. Very fun.

20:21:49 From Nurit Katz to Everyone:
as a reminder to those who joined later, don't forget to sign in:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1UPE9_QfCbx-dkNamVVVyOretyVhjmWJ8GDg6IUL8lq0/edit?usp=sharing

20:26:05 From Pat Bates Encino NC to Everyone:
Glenn is right!!! We need education and advocacy re: no fishing in the wildlife area!!

20:26:33 From Mark O to Everyone:
No mention of steelhead!

20:32:27 From Richard Rachman to Everyone:
It was so fun!

20:32:44 From Richard Rachman to Everyone:
George did a great job!

20:37:45 From Glenn Bailey to Everyone:
Los Angeles City Council Redistricting Commission next meets 5pm on Thursday September 30 to adopt plan (maps)

20:38:37 From Melanie Winter to Everyone:
https://www.centralparknyc.org/institute/partnerships-lab?utm_campaign=Institute-2021-09-ParkPros-Partnerships%20Lab%20Application&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Eloqua

20:38:49 From Pat Bates Encino NC to Everyone:
encinonc.org check here to get see the maps being considered. This is a fig you know what deal - we live with this for 10 years!

20:39:03 From Melanie Winter to Everyone:
<https://www.altasonline.com/dispatches/a37385693/the-secret-waterways-of-los-angeles-creek-freaks/>

20:39:21 From R. Doxsee, LBNC to Everyone:

I attended a redistricting meeting and spoke in favor of keeping Sepulveda Basin part of CD6 and Lake Balboa Community.

20:39:49 From Pat Bates Encino NC to Everyone:
<https://www.encinonc.org/>

20:40:35 From Richard Rachman to Everyone:
Yeah Ill email you Melanie!

20:41:46 From George Waddell CNPS to Everyone:
Nice job Nurit