

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Meeting July 26, 2022 -- Approved Minutes

The meeting was held by Zoom. Recording of the meeting is available at:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MRlvNtjfbewuMEXbT8uxyxzRN_c6SHFL/view?usp=sharing.

Melanie Winter called the meeting to order at 6:38PM. Quorum established. Meeting recorded. Minutes of the meeting on May 22 2022 were approved as submitted. Melanie will take over as chair for the rest of the year and Nurit Katz will serve as vice chair. Glenn is overwhelmed and requested to be relieved as chair.

Voting Members attending: Glenn Bailey, Terrie Brady, Nurit Katz (attending two meetings), Muriel Kotin, Bill Neill (alt. for George Waddell), Joe Phillips, Melanie Winter. Non-voting Members and Alternates: Pat Bates, Ruth Doxsee, Barb Heidemann and Brian Yamasaki. Guests: Shelley Billik CFAC, Shelly Backlar, Kira Durbin, Ranger Haro, Viana Parra CD6 field deputy, Miriam Preissel, Greg Stewart, and Diana Weynand. Malcolm Orrall and Amanda Thompson arrived later.

Council District 6 -- Viana Parra, Lake Balboa Deputy: Working with Conservation Corps on weed abatement on Burbank median. Event at Balboa Sport Center this Saturday. Viana and Jonah will be sharing these meetings. Viana and Jonah will be sharing these meetings with Jonah Glickman. Weeds on Balboa between Victory and Burbank? Yes, they will be addressed shortly after Burbank, hopefully in August. Aware of huge encampment in river bottom east of Balboa Blvd?

Filming closure of Woodley Ave earlier today thru 28th. Brian Yamasaki reached out to film office to ensure there will be access to Woodley II, III and IV. Access will be from Victory heading south.

Fires -- Brian: Someone was lighting fire in trash barrels in Wildlife Reserve. RAP put them out. Another in Woodley II, same. Nobody knows anything about the 1.5 acre fire reported "south of Lake Balboa and north of the LA River" reported on the news last week. Weeders on Saturday saw someone setting a fire — who should they contact at the time they observe such an activity? Answer: call 911!

Park Rangers -- Jerry Haro — a 15X15' fire so of Burbank, east of Woodley a couple of weeks ago. Fire Dept. brought in bulldozer — near tunnel, about 50x50 feet disturbed. Perhaps such disturbance to get rid of dead mustard? Angel's old encampment near cricket field has been cleaned up, trees trimmed, brush cleared. He and partner got rid of an abandoned encampment west of the lake a few weeks ago. Things at the reserve looked calm today. There are around 25 bags of old vegetation east of the lake that need pick up.

Goats: Letter related to goat grazing for weed control apparently not sent. SFV Climate Reality and SFVAS have submitted letters supporting. Lake Balboa and Encino NCs too. Melanie will send the letter for SBWASC especially S60 (and S21 too) and another for The River Project. Other orgs will too.

Special meeting in August on UCLA/RCD study of site uses? Yes, if Clark Stevens will be available. Aug 23 is the preferred date.

Fencing: Nesting birds found along fence. Courtney found nesting along the fence, so there had to be a delay. Brian said that June 24 Courtney said the nesting was over. It will be Sequoia fencing: contractor

is gathering up materials now. Around September the work will start. Assorted budgets from senior park maintenance supervisors contributed funding.

Cricket Field: Viana will try to learn what is going on regarding a possible new cricket field.

Event Calendar: We haven't seen one in a very long time. Viana will try to help with this too. Brian mentioned that RAP has had extensive major staff and management shifts. Lots of promotions, location changes, retirements. Jimmy Kim is new GM. Brian will keep working on it.

Mechanical Removal of Dried Mustard: Muriel suggested this should be done right after bird nesting season this fall. She suggested mechanical removal. (A fire in the South Reserve is being reported right now! Helicopters are flying over Pat's house as we are meeting tonight.) Greg suggested knocking the mustard down and flattening it, even without removal. He requested mulch from RAP to use when CNPS volunteers do plantings to keep down weeds. Brian will try to provide. Shelley Billik suggested mulching the medians.

Mapping: Discussion about Navigate LA not recognizing Sepulveda Basin. Shelley Billik will look into the Navigate LA issue. She will try to find out who to contact at Bureau of Engineering (BOE). Could CD-6 help with Google Maps finding WR, such as the amphitheater or the start of the paved parking lot? Viana will look into it.

Meeting by Zoom? A lot of preference expressed for continuing to meet by zoom rather than in person. In person walkthroughs are liked, even on weekends, keeping them twice a year. No objections to zoom meetings. It is not clear how long the Brown Act and other state legislation will allow us to continue meeting remotely. We will stay on zoom for now and hope the ability to meet virtually will be extended by legislation. It might be a good idea to let our state legislators know advisory groups should be permitted to meet by zoom.

Member Organization Reports:

CNPS – Bill Neill: Volunteers have put in over 2,000 volunteer hours, a record breaking year. Horsetail plants are coming up in rose areas, very common post wildfires.

Sierra Club — Terrie: Pilot wildlife policy requiring wildlife friendly policies in Sta. Monica Mountains.

Community Forestry Advisory Committee (CFAC) — Shelley Billik explained the Wildlife District Ordinance — public comment period is extended to August 22. It will go to City Planning before going to City Council.

SFVAS largely on summer vacation. All will resume in the fall, incl field trips for schools and Second Saturday Tours/Bird/Nature Walks. Leading tours again in Aug for FoLAR habitat restoration volunteers. (FoLAR had major personnel changes. Not represented today.)

Enc NC – Pat: working on community impact statements, supporting goat grazing and regional habitat connectivity plan.

LBNC -- Ruth: renovations and upgrading Jesse Owens minipark.

Public Comment:

Diana Weynand **SFV Climate Reality Project:** Melanie W's presentation on re-wilding the waterways through Sepulveda Basin — what Sep Bas could be using nature-based solutions. Hosting a presentation tomorrow at 4PM.

Kira Durbin — CD-4 is hiring a field deputy for Encino and Reseda.

Shelly Backlar – Strongly supports Melanie’s feasibility study. Diana is trying to make the study known to the LA28 Sustainability Committee. Shelly B suggested making TWRP aware.

Amanda Thompson just joined the meeting after photographing near the dam. Fire just now in So Reserve. She watched a strangely-behaved person who was running through the river. Likely the arsonist.

Miriam Preissel — advocate for the Sepulveda Basin Dog Park is concerned that the Dog Park isn’t represented anywhere. Glenn said both LB and Enc NC have the basin in their district.

Glenn: LA 28 Committee just reached out to NC and regional alliances indicating interest in making presentations.

Ruth: LBNC Parks Comm has checked out the Dog Park trees.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30PM. An August meeting is yet to be decided.
The Chat from the meeting follows my name.

Submitted by

Muriel S. Kotin, San Fernando Valley Audubon’s Representative to the SBWASC

The Chat:

19:00:12 From Diana Weynand to Muriel Kotin(Direct Message):
FYI - Our chapter submitted a letter of support for using goats.

19:07:04 From B H to Muriel Kotin(Direct Message):
We stepped over mechanical mowing?

19:23:30 From Patricia Bates to Everyone:
Fire south of Burbank, east of Haskell Creek now, many units
enroute07-26-2022 6:28pm 15700 W Burbank Bl MAP:
<https://bit.ly/3aPmUFx>

PRELIM: LAFD ground and air response to several spot fires in
volatile light-to-medium density brush south of Burbank Boulevard. No
road closure. No structure threat. No evacuation.

INC#1311; FS88; Battalion 10; Valley Bureau; Council District 6;
Dispatched Units BC10 BC14 E100 E109 E239 E288 E290 E81 E88 E90 E99
EM14 H1 H2 HA1 HA2 RA83 T39 T88 T90 WT88; Dispatch Channel 5; TAC 17;
LAFD Spokesperson: Brian Humphrey

<https://bit.ly/3zz7T7t>
19:25:36 From Bill Neill to Everyone:
I believe goats are better at eating green mustard, not dry
mustard, although not sure.

19:28:33 From Muriel Kotin to B H(Direct Message):
Thanks for the reminder

19:29:56 From B H to Muriel Kotin(Direct Message):
You got the discussion going here!

19:30:47 From Glenn Bailey to Everyone:

Fire reported contained: Contained - #SepulvedaBasin Brush Fire
07-26-2022 7:18pm 15700 W Burbank Bl MAP: <https://bit.ly/3aPmUFx>
Thanks to precise water drops from a pair of quickly arriving
LAFD helicopters, forward progress of the fire/s has been stopped in
just 50 minutes. The 40 ground-based LAFD firefighters are finalizing
control of the perimeter of the blaze with hand tools and hose lines.
No final acreage estimate is available. No injury. No structures
damaged. Fire cause under investigation.

INC#1311; FS88; Battalion 10; Valley Bureau; Council District 6;
Dispatched Units BC10 BC14 E100 E109 E239 E288 E290 E81 E88 E90 E99
EM14 H1 H2 HA1 HA2 RA83 T39 T88 T90 WT88; Dispatch Channel 5; TAC 17;
LAFD Spokesperson: Brian Humphrey

<https://bit.ly/3cJOMi1>
19:31:15 From Shelley Billik - CFAC to Everyone:
would be great to mulch the medians that CD6 is working on!
19:31:47 From Patricia Bates to Everyone:
Yes on mulching the medians!!
19:34:07 From gregory stewart to Everyone:
Van Nuys(near D.C. Tillman Plant) - Council District 6
Entrance South of Densmore Avenue Intersection
15800 Victory Boulevard, San Fernando Valley, CA 91406
Open weekdays: 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Mulch on Mondays
19:34:08 From gregory stewart to Everyone:
https://www.lacitysan.org/san/faces/home/portal/s-lsh-wwd/s-lsh-wwd-s/s-lsh-wwd-s-gw/s-lsh-wwd-s-gw-fmg?_adf.ctrl-state=131fogrxa_5&_afLoop=10547514674245401#!
19:37:05 From Melanie Winter to Everyone:
Google Maps feedback:
Report a problem and send feedback
On your computer, open My Maps.
Open or create a map.
At the bottom, click Help .
Select Send feedback, Report inappropriate content, or Help.
Follow the steps and click Ok or Send .
19:38:22 From Diana Weynand to Everyone:
Balboa Park is also not listed in Navigate LA.
19:38:50 From B H to Everyone:
It would be nice if Google Maps Directions didn't send people
driving into the middle of the lake, it would be nice, too.
19:53:05 From Patricia Bates to Everyone:
Balboa Park is on map as Lake Balboa/Beilenson (sp?) Park
19:57:00 From Shelley Billik - CFAC to Everyone:
<https://www.clawonline.org/support-las-wildlife-ordinance>
19:58:38 From Shelley Billik - CFAC to Everyone:
<https://dpw.lacity.org/commissioners-boardroom/community-forest-advisory-committee>
20:00:17 From Terrie brady to Everyone:
thank you shellyfor the details
20:04:07 From Patricia Bates to Everyone:

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=22-0483>

20:05:12 From Terrie brady to Everyone:
thanks pat

20:07:11 From Diana Weynand to Everyone:
Diana Weynand / sfvclimatereality@gmail.com

20:13:03 From Miriam Preissel to Everyone:
I dont see an option to raise my hand,..

20:13:42 From Malcolm Orrall to Everyone:
Hi everyone, I'm here as a member of SFV Climate Reality at the invitation of Diana Weynand. All the best to all, Malcolm

20:13:47 From Muriel Kotin to Everyone:
Miriam Preissel wants to raise her hand.

20:13:51 From Melanie Winter to Everyone:
I'll call on you, Miriam.

20:14:48 From Melanie Winter to Everyone:
Also, the raise hand option is under the Reactions section on the bottom panel.

20:15:30 From R. Doxsee, LBNC to Everyone:
Thank you for joining us, Malcom.

20:21:32 From Patricia Bates to Everyone:
It is in bothe Encino and Lake Balboa areas

20:22:07 From Shelley Billik - CFAC to Everyone:
It's managed by Rec & Parks - Valley supervisor is Wayne Neal

20:26:05 From Miriam Preissel to Everyone:
Miriam Preissel sepulvedadogpark@gmail.com

20:27:44 From Shelley Billik - CFAC to Everyone:
hang in there Miriam! many of us deal with this probably every single day! I did email the RAP arborist in early July after I got your email.

20:29:01 From Shelly Backlar to Everyone:
Great meeting everyone!

20:30:07 From Diana Weynand to Everyone:
I've really enjoyed being on this call. Thanks for all the great work you're doing.

20:30:12 From gregory stewart to Everyone:
This was great. Thanks so much.