

SEPULVEDA BASIN WILDLIFE AREAS STEERING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 23, 2026 6:30 pm

LOCATION: 17015 Burbank Blvd., Encino, CA 91316 - Balboa Sports Center, Allstar Studio

Meeting Minutes Prepared by Ryan Mayeda/Pat B. 6/24/2026

Non-voting members and the public may join online via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81696115633?pwd=Cafxa7awPica7Qz5IyejMMSLw0vA1C.1>

Meeting ID: 816 9611 5633

Passcode: 168837

1. Determination of quorum, eligibility, call to order, introductions

- *Quorum reached*
- *Meeting called to order 6:33pm*

Committee Members

- *Pat Bates SFVAS, Ryan Mayeda FOLAR, Steve Hartman CNPS, Nurit Katz LAAS, Shelly Backlar RCDSMM, Marianne Davis (Sierra SFV Alternate), Glenn Bailey Encino NC, Kathy Schreiner NCSA, Joe Phillips (late arrival) LA Sierra, Theresa Brady (SFV Sierra)*

Virtual Attendees

- *Muriel Kotin SFVAS, Larry Frank LAMayor, Rosie Avetisyan CD6, Barb Heidemann SFVAS, Hanna Weyland USACE, Joshua Ramirez RAP, Ari Cuellar SFVAS, Bill Neill CNPS, Drew Ready (CWH), Lionel Mares, Max (?)*

Guests

- *Paola Flores Nunez, Ricardo Carrillo, Richard Davis, Kira Durbin*

2. Discussion/approval of minutes of April 28, 2026 Meeting

- ***Pat motions to approve minutes. Seconded by Kathy.***
- ***Motion passes***

3. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items within the subject-matter jurisdiction of the Committee (Lionel Mares)

- *Mayor Bass' declaration of emergency for very poor air quality due to warehouse fire in East LA.*
- *Bike path maintenance is ongoing along LA River at the Sepulveda Basin.*

4. Reports from Government Agencies and NGOs not on Committee:

4.1. Los Angeles Office of the Mayor: Larry Frank

- *LA River Rangers with LA Conservation Corps are working 4 days per week and LAFD working 1 day per week removing vegetation in Zone 11.*
- *Lighting will be installed at soccer field and parking lot off Balboa Blvd south of LA River. Collaboration with partners to reduce light pollution concerns for birds.*
- *Bull Creek trail maintenance project updates shared.*

- *LA City Council approved a motion to amend LA City Charter to allocate 0.065% of annual city budget for City Recreation & Parks.*
- 4.2. Los Angeles Council District 6: Rosie Avetisyan
- *Relocation of unhoused individuals in Zones 3, 4, and 6. Taking preventative measures and removing vegetation in other zones to reduce repopulation of unhoused individuals.*
 - *Interim housing (tiny homes) will be available in mid-July in Sun Valley. Other housing sites in other districts were discussed. Working with LASAH and Mayor's Office on this effort.*
 - *Working to update the basin's website. Share comments to Ricardo. Ricardo will share slides and webpage with Pat to disseminate to committee members.*
- 4.3. Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks: Joshua Ramirez
- *Some signs have been received and will be installed shortly. More signs have been ordered and waiting to be delivered.*
- 4.4. Los Angeles Fire Department: Chief Robert Barna
- *Absent*
- 4.5. US Army Corps of Engineers: Hanna Weyland
- *Awaiting Sepulveda Basin Master Plan due to technical difficulties. Also awaiting comments regarding Sepulveda Dam.*
- 4.6. Encino Neighborhood Council - Glenn Bailey
- *EncinoFest event held on May 31, 2026*
- 4.7. Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council - Miriam Preissel (Note - this was comments by Shelly Backlar - RCD, not LBNC)
- *Cal Fire grants on wildfire education regarding defensible space and home hardening assessments*
 - *Effort to remove Mexican palm trees*
 - *Attending Ventura RCD meetings to learn fire mitigation strategies*
- 4.8. Reports/Comments from other Government and/or Environmental Organizations attending
- *N/A*
5. Discussion/Presentation - Chrysalis - Veronica Davey
- *SFVAS will submit a letter of recommendation for Chrysalis' Prop 4 Cal Fire grant to restore Encino Creek.*
6. Discussion/Presentation - Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains - Shelly Backlar
- *Grant activity updates shared regarding Cal Fire Prop 4 grants*
7. Discussion/Presentation - REC Los Angeles - Paola Flores Nunez
- *Coordination between FoLAR, CNPS and REC LA for maintenance at SBWR*
 - *Attempting to close gaps in restoration projects by creating vegetation maintenance plan.*
 - *Create a database sharing impact of the work being done.*
 - *Create classes to educate community members on restoration best practices.*

- *Request made for shared space to store equipment (water hoses, shovels, weeding tools). Joshua Ramirez confirmed we are unable to store equipment at the storage room near the amphitheater.*
- *Questions:*
 - *Has REC asked RAP if we can have a storage shed? Glen:*
 - *Storage room by amphitheater has been vandalized. Concern that a shed might be more susceptible. Any thoughts on storing equipment off site?*
 - *Suggested potential use of smaller equipment that's easier to store off-site and transport.*
 - *Has ACE or RAP been involved in vegetation plan development?*
 - *Ask for more partner feedback.*
 - *REC can present the plan once it's completed.*
- *Comment: 3 sightings of Least bell vireo's in restored habitat west of Haskell Creek.*

8. Discussion & Possible Motion: LA RAP IPM Technical Advisory Committee progress/vision - is anything taking place?

- *No comments*

Continuation of comments from CD 6: Intern Ricardo Castillo presented [slides on beta version of SFVAS Website](#).

9. Discussion & Possible Motion: As of 6/16/26 - no signs yet and the depredation and incidents continue!

- *RAP shared some signs have been received and will be installed soon.*

10. Discussion: LA28 Venues in Sepulveda Basin

- *Updates from LA28 and Forward Alliance at a future meeting.*

11. Old Business Status:

- *Status of Haskell Creek blockages and trash shared.*

12. Reports from Member Voting Organizations

12.1. California Native Plant Society - Steve Hartman

- *Issues with e-bicyclists - concerns that bicyclists are drug couriers*
- *Issues with fishermen and dog walkers*
- *Reports of bad behavior are being collected at the wildlife reserve to share with city staff*

12.2. Friends of the Los Angeles River - Ryan Mayeda

- *272 volunteers attended four events in May and June removing 5,850 gallons of invasive plants and clearing 0.38 acres.*

12.3. Los Angeles Audubon Society - Nurit Katz

- *N/A*

12.4. Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance- Kathy Schreiner

- *N/A*

12.5. Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains - Shelly Backlar

- *Wildfire Festival and other tabling events*

12.6. San Fernando Valley Audubon Society - Pat Bates

- *Monitoring goat grazing area is ongoing*
 - *Rag weed, telegraph weed, (natives) and bastard cabbage, and some other invasive plants are reported. Potential grazing next season.*
 - *Hansen Dam bird walk this Saturday 6/27*
- 12.7. Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter - Joe Phillips
- *Observation that plants were cut along Woodley Ave; contracted project*
 - *Plant clearing exposed litter that needs to be removed*
- 12.8. Sierra Club, San Fernando Valley Group - Theresa Brady & Miriam
- *Story posted on YouTube about benefits of lakes to migratory birds*
 - *Future stories in the fall on the importance of public land*
13. Committee members' comments on items not on agenda.
- *Muriel requested for updates and construction impacts of Tillman Water Reclamation Plant. Nurit shared there has been no impact to the wildlife areas from the plant or construction. Construction is estimated to be completed in December 2027. Nesting hawks reside near construction and have NOT been impacted.*
 - *Glenn requested a topic added to the July meeting regarding City Council Charter and what will be added to the November ballot. Pat shared more information will be shared at the next meeting.*
 - *Ari from CNPS sharing impacts of trash, fishing line, and e-bikes. Suggestion to partner with Mountain Bike Unit (www.mountainbikeunit.com) to conduct hike patrols around the wildlife areas and educate the public about policies/laws. Could report violations to law enforcement or other agencies.*
14. Next regular meeting is July 28, 2026

Meeting adjourned at 7:54pm.

The Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee is an advisory alliance comprised of the following organizations (as of 1/31/2026):

Environmental Groups:

California Native Plant Society - Steve Hartman/George Waddell

Friends of the Los Angeles River - Ryan Myeda

Los Angeles Audubon Society - Nurit Katz

Neighborhood council Sustainability Alliance - Kathy Schreiner

Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains - Shelly Backlar

San Fernando Valley Audubon Society - Pat Bates

Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter - Joe Phillips

Sierra Club, San Fernando Valley Group - Theresa Brady

Governmental Groups:

US Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Recreation and Parks, City of Los Angeles

Encino Neighborhood Council - Glenn Bailey

Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council - Miriam Preissel

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee shall be to oversee, in its advisory capacity, the wildlife reserve areas and other areas of present or potential natural value within the Sepulveda Basin, including the Los Angeles River and its tributaries; and to support policies and programs that ensure their long-term preservation and protection.

Public Comment:

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items within the subject-matter jurisdiction of the Committee is limited to two minutes per speaker. Time may be adjusted at the Chair's discretion. Public comment on agenda items will be heard when the item is up for discussion. Public comment on agenda items is limited to two minutes per speaker per agenda item. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Time may be adjusted at the Chair's discretion

Public calling in, please press *9 on your phone to raise your hand to speak. For those that are using the Zoom Webinar please use the raise hand feature to speak.

Remote Participation for Disabled Members (Gov. Code 54953): Members with disabilities may participate remotely as a reasonable accommodation, counting toward a quorum without having to publish their location, provided they use both audio and video.