

SEPULVEDA BASIN WILDLIFE AREAS STEERING COMMITTEE

Minutes

Tuesday, July 28, 2026 6:30 pm

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

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81696115633?pwd=Cafxa7awPica7Qz5lyejMMSLw0vA1C.1>

Meeting ID: 816 9611 5633

Passcode: 168837

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

- *Quorum reached*
- *Meeting called to order 6:32pm*

Committee Members

- *Pat Bates SFVAS, Jason Schlatter FOLAR, Nurit Katz LAAS, Shelly Backlar RCDSMM, Maryane Davis (Sierra SFV Alternate), Glenn Bailey Encino NC, Kathy Schreiner NCSA, Joe Phillips (late arrival) LA Sierra*

Virtual Attendees

- *Muriel Kotin SFVAS, Larry Frank LA Mayor, Rosie Avetisyan CD6, Chief Robert Barna, LAFD, Barb Heidemann SFVAS, Hanna Weyland USACE, Joshua Ramirez RAP, Ari Cuellar SFVAS, Bill Neill CNPS, Drew Ready CWH, Lionel Mares, Joshua Martinez RAP, Ari Cuellar, Yvonne Velazquez Sr Dir Balboa Sports Center, Paul Koehler LBC, Paola Flores Nunez REC*

Guests

- *Richard Davis, Kira Durbin, Veronica Davie, Charles Hannah FALA and Carrie Zeitz, Mike DeMaine LA28 Michael Menjivar LA28*

2. Discussion/approval of minutes of June 23, 2026 Meeting

- *Pat motions to approve minutes. Seconded by Kathy Schreiner.*
- *Wildfire not Wildflower correction in minutes*
- *Requests to make changes in third line notice in agenda - two dates - delete that first line. And in second line in prepared by and date move to bottom.*
- *Motion passes*

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

- *None in person or online*

4. Report from LA28: Mike Menjivar (deMaine online, Head of Venues)

- *Intro slides on Games Scope*
- *Only 1 of 3 hosted 3 times and nothing in Valley last time*
- *July 14 - 30th and will be largest games to-date*

- Aug 15-27 Paralympics
- Over 11K athletes competing
- Shared map of Valley Sports Park being built for the Valley Games
- Balanced between Woodley on East and Balboa on West
- Skateboarding & Pentathlon, 3x3 basketball (only venue covered and in play past 530pm), BMX racing on golf course hosting 6K people only first few days and then used for FanFest activations
- Only 1 pedestrian entry on Southeast
- On Lake Balboa Northwest side is accredited, VIP, Players, etc entrance
- July 5/6 closed for use until July 24
- Move to golf course side moves from reserve and
- Comment - active raptor nesting in that golf area with 500ft buffer for construction (Nurit) offering to get more detail on timelines and disruption in region of raptor nesting
- Noted last area to have any activity in re: construction and prep going up in mid-June.
- Comment - nothing north of Lake Balboa? NO
- Question - Do redlines represent fencing and is perimeter as well? YES
- Question For parking on East side on Woodley Creek are vehicles parking in basin are they designated for it or are there other areas outside of immediate area? NO bus only, rideshare geofenced off further around perimeter, Bus parking on lots in park already in existence by south of the lake w/accreditation. Woodley closed to traffic for security. Accredited bus Woodley or Burbank but NS access limited.
- Question - Wherever public does arrive, will Games mitigate trash and pick up? Very strong sustainability and cleanup plan creating fully staffed and self sufficient in terms of trash removal and recycling and collection points.
- Question No permanent facilities except aquatic integration on far north? Can olympics help them with their funding? What will site look like at aquatic facility when you're gone? Only thing possibly left behind is pool and in negotiations with City on that partnership. Agreement is to restore through as good or better than before construction.
- Question - Are there significant tree impacts or are surveys still being done? SURveys still ongoing - some trees/tree groves trying to avoid - 4 or 5 may be at risk on course but trying to maintain as much as possible. If do remove will put back similar stage trees as close as possible.
- Question - Basketball Court installation and spectator area limiting tree removal for that area? That sits on driving range and shouldn't be a concern.
- Suggestion - Ways to leave golf course better than found and request do restoration at those ponds or improvements to golf course for biodiversity. All part of thinkings on pathways and mobility those are part of proactive discussions that can live on after Games.
- Question - If something building in SPB presume LA28 involved. Construction on Victory west of Balboa is that LA 28? No that's LINK Housing. Late 27 prep early 28 Build
- Question - What is square arrow pointing to? Storage lay down areas. Utilities are gray boxes.
- Question - Woodley stop on G line as a big arrival strategy but how get in park? For games relocating stops further south on Woodley and possibly Balboa as well. G Line

closest busses will get close to entrance as well. FOLLOW UP - sketch only is only entrance? Main entry for drop off and pedestrian - other is accredited entrance and ADA.

- *Victory closed 405 to Balboa from July 6-24th full perimeter closed for security.*
- *Question - only location in all valley? YES some other activities in Valley*
- *Question - Road closures during/prior to construction? NO only in July, might have some temporary but not till Games in early July*
- *Question - Bicycle friendly to ride to event - can we? YES is bike parking on east side of Woodley near preserve. Will the bikes be supervised? Attendant yes - not sure on lock availability.*
- *Question - Can we get overlay superimposed on satellite view for better indication on outlines of existing structures? Pat will lay on map*
- *Question - If road closures on perimeter are there provisions for emergency vehicles? YES - residents and business owners within perimeter have passes*
- *Question - Impact on take off or approach to VNA? YES some adjustment on flight paths to games. - Is that being communicated to citizens advisory and local NCs? YES taskforce working on that for security to communicate*

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

5.1. Los Angeles Office of the Mayor: Larry Frank

- *LAFD report on Q2 fires*
- *Rosie has Homelessness Report*
- *Zone 3 report not currently available*
- *River Rangers working full time in Zone 11 but stepping away (2 crews running but have backlog)*
- *RAP interim pool permitted and AC supportive but needs more engineering involved. \$3M for permit to permanent. Olympics \$35M pool we may get for 3 in permitting. CD6 working on this.*
- *Hearst team identified new encampments north of archery currently being addressed*
- *4 id'd by Rangers*
- *LA San operating and BOE focusing on 3 brick mortar projects from Prop 4*
- *\$3M for observation posts from BOE and RAP adding irrigation, and parking in that field*
- *Press event w/Jesse Gabriel in Stearns office upcoming*
- *Ranger Station may be closer to Sports Complex*
- *235 Point in time count in January 2025 and this year in 2026 to 200 130 in vehicle and 70 in encampments*

5.2. Los Angeles Council District 6: Rosie Avetisyan

- *Homelessness and housing efforts - moving forward as tiny homes opening Aug 10 and housing those especially in Zone 3 that week on Aug 12 and aiming for 2 people per week. Most receptive to going indoors and receiving services and already identified. Those on Bull Creek resistant. Asked orgs for top 5 goals for area overall. Huge opportunity for Basin to improve and have lasting impact so want to know our priorities and how get funding to have them happen. Please email me those items/suggestions to*

see in Basin if City had money. Thinking big and how accommodate. Medians and maintenance of them quarterly or semi annually to beautify already working on street designs. will have native species - get ideas in asap so Nate can start on sourcing funds. Need sustainable funding for Basin. Additional night work for 2 weeks on housing project and did pull permit so as not to back up traffic on Victory. Will repeat in October for 2 weeks.

5.3. Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks: Joshua Ramirez

- *Archery area clearing brush and watching water lettuce which still appears in boat ramp area - signage ordered*

5.4. Los Angeles Fire Department: Chief Robert Barna

- *Success of vegetation management program - Q2 29% reduction in fires over last year - 86 in 2025 to 61 incidents in Q2 - what see in second half more equal drop off as have 3yrs of data for comparison. About 50% reduction in Q1 YoY. Reduction in homelessness which was major source of fire activity - all due to partnerships and vegetation mgt - Zone 9 had model plane fire start gave good sample over various break lines - Deputy Mayor of Safety visited areas on working on and high risk areas - want to see more native planting in Reserve area.*

5.5. US Army Corps of Engineers: Hanna Weyland

- *Good news on Master Plan - going through chain of command for approval in August - release of draft and presentation upcoming in Fall for public comment - working w/LA28 - Zone 3 homeless count done 3 weeks ago not sure on when cleanup occurring but is in works - Will see if 45 day public comment period but may need to be 30 to meet deadlines as 30day is standard. Request was made for 60 day opening for NC input.*

5.6. Encino Neighborhood Council - Glenn Bailey

- *NC will watch for meetings and updates on LA28 as they clarify - LA28mtg on Saturday NC went to and got additional information - NC 4th Wednesday of August is next meeting and having movie night in September*

5.7. Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council - Miriam Preissel

- *NOT HERE*

5.8. Reports/Comments from other Government and/or Environmental Organizations attending

- *N/A*

Interjected Before Glenn - Veronica Davie from Chrysalis LA28 grant under sustainability project Meredith and others want to see legacy portion of Olympics begin as soon as possible. Pitched fuel management in Basin. Clearing pedestrian pathways, etc but we're not needed for that as site moved. Grant is to help others get jobs and beautify the Basin. Money funds some training and 2-3mos of work and may help in Bull Creek area and could do debris cleanup or graffiti removal. Do want fuel reduction and restoration of an area. 100K grant

6. Wildlife Reserve Enforcement: Birds are dying and people are endangered by illegal activity in the reserve - fishing, bikes including eBikes and motorcycles, fires, and uncontrolled off-leash dogs. Discussion and possible motion to support formation of a volunteer corps to provide education and monitoring in the Wildlife Reserve and other

sensitive basin areas, similar to the CDFW Natural Resource Volunteer Program or CA State Park/MRCA's Mountain Bike unit. Support will include interfacing with RAP Park Ranger Division, seeking volunteers, funding for training and uniforms.

- *Attachment on dead birds due to illegal fishing sent out*
- *CAFW volunteer patrols should be considered as resource in WR lake*
- *Rangers not frequent*
- *Lots of groups fishing*
- *Audubon meeting to have next steps to approach CD6 and RAP and other volunteer groups to assist*
- *Will look at other Reserve areas that handle similar items*
- *Mountain Bike Unit may be able to present on monitoring*

7. Old Business status:

7.1. Status of Haskell Creek blockages and trash

- *Still has breeding birds on it*

7.2. REC Los Angeles Paola Flores Núñez - need for equipment storage.

- *Still needs storage and not much progress made yet*
- *Strategic plan with CNPS and FoLAR want to present in September or October*

7.3. Thank you to RAP and Larry Frank for the “No Fishing” and “Dogs on Leash” Signs!

7.4. Sepulveda Basin Website - any updates?

- *N/A*

8. Reports from Member Voting Organizations

8.1. California Native Plant Society - George Waddell

- *Absent*

8.2. Friends of the Los Angeles River - Jason Schlatter

- *[RiverFest](#) on August 9th at LA State Historic Park - 2,500+ attendees, 60+ exhibitors, live music, food vendors, River Rover museum, arts activities, free and family friendly.*
- *CleanUp tentatively scheduled for October 10 south of Sports Complex along LA River*
- *Impact highlights from July 25 Habitat Restoration Day - Roughly 40 people removed 33 leaf bags of mustard, thistle, false clover and horehound. They watered 112 native plants. Next event is August 22, 2026. Bring a bucket/bin the next time you're near the wildlife reserve to grab free mulch from the dirt lot south of Woodley Archery Range (leftovers from a previous event).*

8.3. Los Angeles Audubon Society - Nurit Katz

- *No updates*

8.4. Neighborhood Council Sustainability alliance- Kathy Schreiner

- *No Updates*
- *Tree committee from Charles Miller on Oak Trees as main session from Westwood Greenway was recorded May improve urban forestry and expanding native available trees.*

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

- *Come up with joint proposal with MRCA And CalFire for funding as capacity building grant for home ignition zones, firewise communities, etc.*
- *Job openings Sr Conservation Biologist an assist program manager for Topanga Lagoon project - Dir of Natural Resources with aquatic issues -*
- *2 events Oak planting on Saturday at Tripic Ranch and Aug 7&8 Community wildfire training opportunity 5-730 zoom on friday and 8th at Debs park w/Zoom option w/simultaneous Spanish translation*
- *Will share fliers*

8.6. San Fernando Valley Audubon Society - Pat Bates

- *Quiet summer*
- *Birds and Beer walk at Hansen Dam*
- *Beginner bird walks moving to second sundays starting August at 8am then Sept - May second sundays at 9am*

8.7. Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter - Joe Phillips

- *Aug 8 Awards ceremony honoring 6 public officials including lindsay horvath, Ben Allen, Sen, and Katy Yurovslosky and 3 others corey Brown, Palar Skiofony, Kathleen Tresadore Irvine at Angeles Chapter office DTLA 2-5pm will send Flier*
- *Next meeting for this body on Aug 25th and I'll be having surgery may attend via zoom*

8.8. Sierra Club, San Fernando Valley Group - Theresa Brady

- *Quiet now as coming into elections*

9. Committee members' comments on items not on agenda.

- *No other commentary*

10. Next regular meeting is August 25, 2026

Meeting adjourned at 8:34pm.

Meeting Minutes Prepared by Jason Schlatter/Pat B. 7/28/2026

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.