

SEPULVEDA BASIN WILDLIFE RESERVE  
STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING  
NOVEMBER 17, 1992

1. Shoal Removal - Kris Ohlemkamp summarized the Army Corps of Engineers project to remove vegetation from the west bank of the L.A. River between Burbank Blvd. and the dam. Kris stated and many members agreed that the vegetation held on the bank during last years storm season and it acted as a bank stabilizer. This property is out of the lease area of Recreation and Parks and is not within the reserve but it is questionable whether this riparian habitat needs to be removed.

2. Peter Ireland made a suggestion to broaden the Committee's role to have advisory oversight of all environmental wildlife values areas in the basin. It is practical to look at all areas and activities that impact wildlife in the basin. The expansion of the role of the Committee as advisory to the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Corps of Engineers on environmental areas outside of the wildlife reserve was proposed, seconded and approved by the Committee.

3. There was a discussion regarding the best approach to addressing the protection of all riparian habitats in the basin.

4. Election of officers - It was decided that the Committee should elect officers on a rotating basis. There was discussion about the positions, length of term and procedure for selecting new officers. It was decided to elect a chair person now and proceed at the next meeting with the election of a recording secretary and other officers. Nominations were opened. Rose Marie White was the sole nominee and became Chairperson on an unanimous vote.

5. Rose Marie White gave a report on the progress of the Canadian Geese Study. She reported that 600-700 geese were resting at Encino Reservoir and foraging on corn gleanings at the Oxnard corn field. She also reported that Water and Power has been keeping records on the number of water fowl using the various reservoirs in the City. She presented a graph of the recent counts at Encino Reservoir. A question came up why the corn field adjacent to Hjelte Field had been plowed clean. The Committee thought that the Corps of Engineers was going to ask the farmer to have the gleanings for the geese to feed on. Dick Ginevan will contact the Corps.

6. Rose Marie White brought up the proposed expansion of the police academy shooting range. One of the proposed sites is the Van Norman Reservoir. Kris Ohlemkamp gave a summary of all the proposed sites. It was decided to wait until hearing dates are set to make comments. This concern arose because the Van Norman Reservoir is an area used by many bird species including the Canadian Geese.

7. Matt Perkins from the Tree People gave a report on the planting program in the reserve. The City has installed a drip system with 400 emitters on the shore of approximately 1/4 of the wildlife lake. Volunteers have started planting natives. They also potted oak seedlings at the Sepulveda Garden Center.

8. Jim Hardie (Tree People) gave the group an update on AB471 which provides funds for street tree and campus tree plantings. If we need street trees in the basin, we can work with the Tree People for project implementation.

9. Jill Swift announced that Sierra Club will be taking slides of the basin for presentation to groups such as the Sepulveda Basin User Group. This will occur on December 5th.

10. Jill and Peter asked if an aerial photo of the basin is available for future meetings. Dick Ginevan will investigate.

11. There was discussion about an environmental study of the wildlife resources in the basin. It was suggested that we consolidate all of the environmental documents that have been compiled in the past. Dick Ginevan will research.

12. There was discussion about how to protect the Riparian habitat in the basin from adverse development. Peter Ireland and Muriel Rotin will work on a mission statement that would encompass the concern of the Committee. We need to make people aware that wildlife habitat may be impacted by development in areas at some distance from the habitat. There is an environmental interdependency and interconnection between adjacent areas in the basin.

13. Rose Marie White asked that members who want to put items on the agenda, please call her one week before the meeting. She can be reached at 769-1521.

The meeting was adjourned.

DG:jl857