

SEPULVEDA BASIN WILDLIFE AREAS STEERING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING OCTOBER 5, 1993

Frank Catania, Director of Planning and Development for the L.A. City Department of Recreation and Parks, reported that county funds available from Proposition "A" for Sepulveda Basin total \$4.7 million, with a minimum of \$1.8 million of that specified to be for the wildlife area. A generic application for funds is pending, with either Recreation and Parks or the Army Corps of Engineers as the lead agency.

Frank Catania: What do we want done? What about the area between Woodley and Haskell Creek?

Peter Ireland: What areas are we talking about, e.g. L.A. River, Bull Creek, wetlands west of Balboa?

Frank Catania: We must follow the Basin master plan. We are talking primarily about the current wildlife areas and the sod area west of Haskell Creek.

Peter Ireland: Could a master plan for wildlife throughout the basin come from the \$1.8 M or \$4.7 M?

Rosemarie White: Wants to see the wildlife area extended west to Woodley. What do we do? We should recommend to Recreation and Parks who can contact the COE after Rec. & Parks Dept. approves it. Suggests a letter directed to Jackie Tatum, General Manager of Recreation and Parks.

Steve Hartman: Would like to see an arc of additional wildlife area, including some area west of Woodley also. Drew Diagram.

Jill Swift: Perhaps an amendment to the master plan for incorporating such an arc of land into the wildlife area could be done at the same time as any amendment for moving the Woodley Golf Course Clubhouse.

Carvel Bass: We should talk to Ted Carr informally about this.

Rosemarie White: Will talk to Ted about changing sod farm lease arrangement, so that maybe we can free the sod farm west of Haskell Creek. She will write a letter to Jackie Tatum expressing her concepts to increase the wildlife area to include the sod farm areas west of Haskell Creek on both sides of Woodley Avenue to the L.A. River.

Glenn Bailey: We need estimates of costs on various projects.

Frank Catania: They will bring in consultants to plan in a general sense at first, make a plan and get feedback. About a 1 1/2 - 2 year process of planning. The main ideas the City has are to improve the existing wildlife areas and the sod farm west of Woodley.

Peter Ireland: Suggests each organization submit written ideas of what we'd like for review and send them to Frank Catania.

Frank Catania: There are to be additional competitive grant funds available for the City of L.A. from Proposition "A" with \$5 M for tree planting, \$12 M for youth at risk, and \$5 M for planting along the L.A. River. Bob Campbell is the staff person handling these grant requests.

Steve Hartman: The area west of Woodley may be the most important to most of us.

Muriel Kotin: Agrees. Perhaps we should decide now if that is our main focus.

Rosemarie White: Ditto. We need the land first.

Sandy Wohlgemuth: Asked for a show of interest in that land. (All present raised their hands.)

Peter Ireland: Doesn't want to limit to that area. Wants wildlife master plan for the Basin. We need to coordinate our ideas with FOLAR's improvements along the L.A. River.

Frank Catania: The City will pick projects for the \$4.7 M. The only proviso is that at least \$1.8 M be for the wildlife areas (or is it areas for wildlife? He'll check on the working). The Board of Supervisors may have the ultimate say through L.A. County Parks and Recreation Department. In multi-phase projects, Recreation and Parks will put together recommendations and hold public meetings for comment.

Carvel Bass: Ted Carr is negotiating with Tapia Brothers. Tapia will plant grains for waterfowl this winter in return for a rent reduction.

Steve Hartman: Peter is right about the big picture, but we need the land west of Woodley. Perhaps we should make two lists; the 60 acres of sod farm and another of other projects.

Peter Ireland: Would like a planning workshop for all of the Basin.

Frank Catania: Had in mind an informal session.

Steve Hartman: This is the group. We can decide we want the 60 acres.

Peter Ireland: We need to know what the City plans are for the Basin, have a planning process.

Frank Catania: It will cost \$30,000-\$40,000 which the City Council won't be willing to pay. He intends an informal planning process.

Peter Ireland: Okay on project discussed tonight, but he has a lot of additional projects to suggest.

Frank Catania: Would appreciate ideas anytime in the next few weeks.

Rosemarie White: We need the land. Let's not get fragmented, rather work together.

Dick Ginevan: The City considers the land available once there is a project the City can afford to build and maintain. After plans are made, the City will make a Maintenance Impact Plan, an estimate of the costs of maintenance.

Peter Ireland: Wants a wildlife master plan.

Glenn Bailey: Asks that planning projects for the \$1.8 M be the only item on the agenda for the next meeting. (That will be 10/26/93 at 7:00 pm.) This was moved and seconded but not voted on.

Jill Swift: Would like to see the \$16,000 for part time employees matched. Wants information on the process to apply for EPA's Green Cities grants. Frank Catania will talk to Lillian Kawasaki about it.

Van Thompson: Regrets the first aerial photograph of the Basin didn't work out. Our request for an aerial photo is being worked on. (Dick: Recreation and Parks is separately trying to get one to scale also.) The flood protection project is on schedule. Effluent line construction is complete and will be tested later tonight.

They will be revegetating the area of effluent line construction, working with Carvel. The sod farm northwest of Burbank and Woodley is complete. The sod farmer isn't returning yet due to back trouble. The work on compensating excavation east of Woodley will slow soon, with work going on in the northerly sod farm areas west of Woodley from late October on, to avoid impacting the Canada geese. The wall around Tillman continues. Tethered model airplane pads will be done in mid October.

He is working with Carvel on revegetating the 4.5 acres of wildlife area. Carvel has provided a rough plan.

Steve Hartman: When will that be presented to the steering committee?

Van Thompson: It's up to Carvel if and when.

Steve Hartman: Objected.

Dick Ginevan: Will convey our request to Carvel for us to review his plans.

Steve Hartman: There's a problem with weeds along edges of the compensating excavation. Mowing is needed. Noxious giant reed grass is even in bloom.

Muriel Kotin: Dust from the dirt mounds is starting to get blown towards wildlife area.

Van Thompson: The dust should be mitigated with watering. He'll look into it. Call him if any problem.

Glenn Bailey: Will review of Carvel's plans delay planting?

Van Thompson: Hopefully not. It depends on how good Carvel's plans are. The contractor has donated about \$1,000 of landscaping for the goose forage area east of the wildlife pond.

Dick Ginevan: Recreation and Parks will take care of planting grass in that forage area.

Dick Ginevan: Would like to get a Recreation and Park's designer to do a signage master plan for Basin. We could put in temporary signs for the next year or so.

Jill Swift: Would like to do that. Wants a field trip to review signage. A subcommittee was formed: Jill, Peter, Sandy and a representative from Recreation and Parks.

Rosemarie White: Reported on the Canada Goose Project: premiers at Environmental Affairs Department and Commission, Hale Middle School for the Chatsworth Reservoir Conservancy and at the L.A. Reservoir. A final premiere coming up 10/14 at the zoo.

Jill Swift: Requested Recreation and Parks to request of the Corps of Engineers that this committee be notified of all projects proposed for the Basin. Sandy will send a letter to the COE on this.

Dick Ginevan: Will invite the COE to present all new projects in the Basin to the Users' Committee.

Steve Hartman: He'll be working Rhapsody in Green on a project in the north wildlife reserve 11/13/93, 9 am to 12:30 pm, weeding spiny cocklebur, etc. This will not interfere with Valley Audubon's planned walk for high school science and ecology clubs that morning.

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Steve Hartman: Will attend the Tree People planting 10/9/93. He and others would like to know more about it.

Dick Ginevan: Recreation and Parks is providing seed for the forage area that has been cleared east of the wildlife pond. Portable irrigation will be installed for that area.

Submitted by,

Muriel S. Kotin

MSK:jlbl087