

## Minutes of the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Steering Committee 3-22-94

In attendance: Glenn Bailey (chairperson), Sherry Goldsmith, Steve Hartman, Ron Strong, Rosemarie White, Ted Carr, James Ward, Jill Swift, Fred Heath, Eric Carter, Stephen C. Moe, Don Goeschl, Peter Ireland.

Meeting was called to order by Glenn Bailey at 7:10pm.

### BULL CREEK ARUNDO REMOVAL PROPOSAL

Ted Carr discussed the Bull Creek Arundo Removal Proposal. The Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) has been working on this in Orange and Riverside Counties and elsewhere. ARUNDO TEAM covers from mountains to oceans. Arundo is good for soil stabilization and pigs eat it too. Developers can give money to the Arundo Team to remove arundo at a later date, which is called mitigation banking in terms of a 404 permit. ACOE is trying to get L.A. County Flood Control to take lead in arundo removal. Ted noted that Carvel Bass is the lead on arundo removal in Ted's office.

[At this point Ted handed out 1) "A Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Proposal: Giant reed eradication and riparian management, Santa Ana River" by The Nature Conservancy, 2) "Santa Ana River Resource Management Plan for the Control of Giant Reed" prepared by The Santa Ana River Interagency Habitat Management Task Force, July 1993, and 3) a draft of "How to Remove Arundo Donax - The Menu."]

Basically Arundo is difficult to remove, sucks up lots of water, but it must be removed. ACOE would like to burn it but that needs a special permit. Even then you would have to go back 3 or 4 times to cut back and apply the herbicide Roundup. Arundo Team offers support in chemicals and training. City will help expedite grant application for proposal to restore Bull Creek, and a meeting has been set up on April 23. Ted will help train whatever group is formed on arundo eradication. [At this point a draft of the "Proposal for Restoration of Bull Creek in the Sepulveda Basin" was handed out (copy attached).]

There was a discussion on which organization will be grant applicator under L.A. County Regional Park and Open Space District's Rivers and Streams Competitive Grant Program. Rosemarie is concerned with muddle-up between Consortium and Wildlife Steering Committee. On a motion by Jill Swift and seconded by Peter Ireland, the Wildlife Steering Committee supports the intent of the Bull Creek Restoration Project as proposed in the Proposition A Grant Request. A letter of concurrence from the City and ACOE will be requested. Motion carried by voice vote.

### HUMMINGBIRD HILL

James Ward, L.A. Rec & Parks, presented a proposed planting plan and cost estimate for Hummingbird Hill. Planting plan includes common trees, shrubs and perennials native to the Santa Monica Mountains. Cost estimate totalled about \$30,000 with less than a fifth going towards the purchase of native plants. Most went for a manual drip irrigation system off a 1" line, the rest for labor and overhead. The Steering Committee requested 6 copies of the planting plan and cost estimate sheet. James estimated that after the plan is approved by the Steering Committee, it will

take 3-4 months to draft detailed plans before it goes out to bid, with a 60-day bidding period. With an understanding that this project should begin in fall of 1994, it was decided that final action, pending receiving of the plans for review, would be taken at the next meeting.

### MAP OF THE BASIN

Ted says he will fly basin for aerial photography when excavation is completed, possibly by the end of June. Peter will bring map if Rosemarie reminds him.

### NORTH WILDLIFE AREA REVEGETATION MITIGATION PROJECT

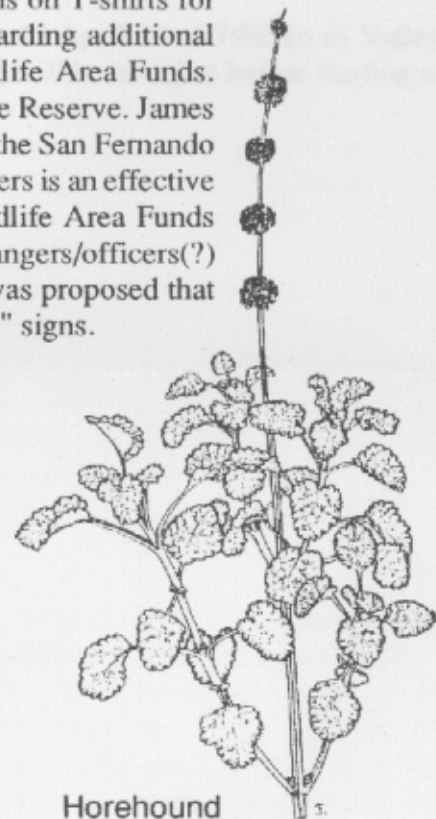
It was reported that the planting has been completed in the northern Wildlife Area which is the mitigation for the pipeline ROW disturbance. Steve Hartman asked Ted Carr for the "as built" plant list and specifications for this project. Ted said that he would request this from the Bureau of Sanitation.

### UNIFORMS FOR WILDLIFE AREA MAINTENANCE EMPLOYEES

Steve Moe reports that maintenance employees have name tags and hats with the City seal. Sherry has seen people fishing on weekends but there are few park rangers. Most use is on weekends, with people cutting through to the east side and wading in Wildlife Lake. Suggestions included signs in Spanish, or with international symbols, and more guard rails. Ted noted that when Prop A money is received, signage, trails, fences, etc. will be determined in a public process, and it might take more than a year before the money arrives. Rosemarie suggested using volunteers to try to control incompatible behavior. Ted suggested emblems on T-shirts for volunteers. Jill mentioned letter of commitment from City regarding additional staff for next year, in addition to the staff paid for with Wildlife Area Funds. Rosemarie will call to arrange volunteers to "supervise" Wildlife Reserve. James Ward suggested they wear orange work vests. Dan Goeschl, of the San Fernando Flyers, states that by putting orange Park & Rec vests on volunteers is an effective deterrent to incompatible behavior. It was asked whether Wildlife Area Funds could pay for part-time rangers, and the answer is that off-duty rangers/officers(?) could be hired for about \$11/hour in an overtime capacity. It was proposed that money could be spent by the Consortium to pay for "no fishing" signs.

### WILDLIFE AREA PAID STAFF

Steve Moe reported that the paid Wildlife Area staff (two persons) are on site Monday thru Thursday, 7am-noon, Friday for 4 hours, and Saturday and Sunday, 7am-3:30pm. Their tasks include but are not limited to litter pick-up, watering, maintenance of irrigation, vegetation removal, work on Haskell Creek and areas south of Burbank. Steve Hartman reported that on a recent survey of the north Wildlife Area, he found no castor bean, giant reed, or tree tobacco, but found significant concentrations of horehound; Steve requested that more effort be directed to horehound removal.



Horehound

4/26/94 Muriel states this is NOT happening

## TREE SWALLOW NESTING BOXES

Up to twenty tree swallow nesting boxes have been proposed to be donated, installed and maintained by San Fernando Valley Audubon Society. Steve Moe suggests putting them on the east side of the island, installed on poles or in cottonwood trees. Tree swallows like to nest around water. Wood ducks are happening in Prado Basin- is the Sepulveda Dam Basin next? Kimball Garrett (not present) suggested to wait for 5-10 years until cottonwoods are bigger and food resource is there. Steve Hartman moves, Rosemarie seconds the motion which carries by voice vote.

## SEPULVEDA BASIN DOCUMENT REPOSITORY

Steve Moe has developed a file on documents stored in his office (in the trailer west of building). His office is open 6:30am to 3:00pm daily, but individuals must make advance arrangements to view his documents. Rosemarie reports that the intern developed a preliminary bibliography which will soon be collated and a list developed by Steve Moe (the list is 75 per cent complete). Group agreed that we should be able to have access to information upon demand. To be further discussed at next meeting.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

San Fernando Valley Audubon Society sponsoring *Clean-Up and Tours in the Sepulveda Dam Basin* on April 23 (see notice attached).

Open House at Conserve-A-Seed (Sacramento Delta Area) April 15.

Next meeting of Wildlife Areas Steering Committee will be held April 26 at 7:00pm in Valley Regions Headquarters conference room. A Consortium meeting will be held just before starting at 6:00pm, same place.

Meeting adjourned.

[Minutes prepared by Steve Hartman]