

**SEPULVEDA BASIN WILDLIFE AREAS STEERING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES -- OCTOBER 25, 1994**

The meeting was called to order by Rotating Chairman, Steve Hartman. In attendance were Clyde Ade, Glenn Bailey, Ted Carr, Peter Ireland, Muriel Kotin, Jill Swift, Ron Strong, James N. Ward, Rosemarie White, and Sandy Wohlgemuth, *Ruth Villalobos.*

Ruth Villalobos, for the Army Corps of Engineers: The **Project Cooperation Agreement** (cost-sharing) for improvements in the Sepulveda Basin will be signed 11/1/94 at 10:30 at Lake Balboa. The PCA is for \$11 million: \$5.5 million each from the City of Los Angeles (Proposition A funds) and federal funds. Lake Balboa will have 9 acres north of the lake planted, a second restroom and children's playground. Both sod fields immediately north of Burbank Bl. will be developed as wildlife reserve, to the model airplane fields and river.

The masterplan needs to be updated. A supplement to the masterplan has been started and will be sent to the COE regional office in San Francisco early next year. Review there could be up to 30 days. Then the document will be available for public comment. It was suggested to Ruth that on the maps showing the new configuration of the wildlife reserve, the cricket field area north of the wildlife reserve be drawn to show its inclusion within the boundaries of the reserve. James Ward agreed that this should be done.

The scope of improvements planned for **Bull Creek** is being expanded. Instead of modifying the lower third of the creek within the basin for safety and active recreation, improvements to the entire length is under consideration. This would be a "1135" project, where 75% of funding is federal and 25% local. Federal funding looks promising. Studies will take about a year, before work might begin. Arundo removal ~~and planting of native species~~ will be related to the grant just received.

Concern was expressed for planning to encourage environmental value of riparian habitat, rather than active recreation. Ruth said that the COE is working at getting funding. Until there is funding, there can be no study of how to implement the project. She will mail us the draft of the funding request.

**The Bull Creek grant can be part of the city's funding share.** Our arundo removal will dovetail right in. Construction under this 1135 project may begin in the fall of 1995 or spring of 1996.

There may be some education funding available for interpretative trails and signs and a brochure, but not for educational programs.

A water-improvement system may be necessary at the north portion of the creek within the basin, perhaps a basin or a wetland.

Concern for public participation in planning was expressed. The COE has asked to include the LA River and other tributaries and the arts park changes in the supplement to the masterplan. Ruth said the COE is not ready to tackle these issues. The wildlife areas and Bull Creek are do-able; the supplement will be limited to them.

Ruth will get us a copy of the proposal for 1135 funding. Section 1135 of the Water Resource Development Act provides environmental improvements where COE projects have done past damage. Ruth will get a copy of the plant palette for the area to be vegetated north of Lake Balboa for the committee.

Glenn requested to see the PCA agreement before the signing and is concerned about public participation. It was suggested the public notification process be part of the COE's time-line milestones. Copies of the environmental documentation is being sent to all people on the Sepulveda Basin mailing list.

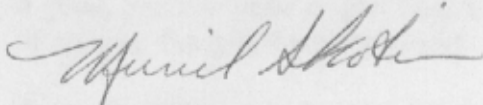
Improvements under the PCA at Hjelte Park will not include any changes east of existing sports fields. It was suggested that the masterplan be amended to show all of the agricultural field east of the existing sports fields there as agricultural/wildlife, whereas the western half is shown as athletic field now. Ruth indicated such a change was not appropriate now. The topic was requested to be on the agenda at our next meeting.

Minutes of the 9/27/94 minutes were partially corrected. At next meeting, paragraph 5 on part-time employee funding will be discussed.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, 11/22/94 at 7:00 p.m. and will include our Annual Review.

Hummingbird Hill: James Ward showed a final plan by Bob Fawcett. Steve Hartman and Sandy Wohlgemuth will organize a special meeting of Fred Heath, Bob Fawcett and all Consortium members.

Submitted by,



Muriel S. Kotin