

SEPULVEDA BASIN WILDLIFE AREAS STEERING COMMITTEE

Minutes of March 26, 1996 Meeting

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m. by Chairperson Muriel Kotin (San Fernando Valley Audubon Society). Attendees: Clyde Ade (California Native Plant Society), Glenn Bailey (Resource Conservation District), and James Ward (L.A. City Department of Recreation and Parks).

2. **Minutes of February 27, 1996** were approved as written.

3. **Agenda Additions:** items 13-17 were added.

4. **Congressman Beilensen's Request for Funding** projects in the Sepulveda Basin was discussed. As reported in the Los Angeles Times on March 9, \$3.5 million was requested to "restore the natural habitat and establish a nature path along a two-mile portion of the Los Angeles River that crosses the Basin." An additional \$4.2 million was requested for Lake Balboa Park improvements.

James reported that the City has requested \$5 million (out of a total \$120 million City request) for Sepulveda Basin development be included in a park measure proposed for the November 1996 ballot. He agreed to obtain a detailed breakdown for the next meeting.

5. **Hummingbird Hill Update** was given in a written report dated March 13. The issue of the chain link fence along Burbank Boulevard will be looked at during next month's walk. About ten plant species have not yet been received but otherwise the project is nearly complete. Rodent control for gophers was undertaken by Steve Moe. The final payment has been withheld.

6. **Consortium Funds Monthly Update** was provided in writing. The total amount remaining as of March 7 was \$27,791.08.

7. **Brochure and Fund to Plant a Tree** will be discussed at the next meeting. James said that monies raised must go into a specific account (900/MRP accounts).

8. **April 27 Cleanup of Wildlife Reserve and Public Nature Walks** was reported on by Muriel. She distributed an informational flyer on the event.

9. **Revegetation at Balboa Boulevard Bridge** is still pending. For an update, contact Kathleen Bullard (RCD Executive Officer) at 310/455-1030.

10. **Timing of Mowing/Disking in Expansion Areas to Avoid Disturbing Nesting Birds** was discussed. James indicated that a 20 foot wide strip will be disked/mowed along Woodley Avenue and Burbank Boulevard and that the entire site west of Woodley Avenue will be disked starting from the flight field.

11. **SFVAS's Search for Center** was reported on by Muriel. A zoning variance was granted for the bequeathed property, but it limited meetings to 12 people. It will cost \$100,000 for building repairs and \$30,000 to widen the street. Several alternative sites were suggested.

12. **Septage Receiving Station** will be discussed at the next meeting.

13. James reported that the **Balboa Lake** project is proceeding; construction will last eight months. He stated that the **tunnel under Burbank Boulevard** is the jurisdiction of Street Maintenance. Clyde reported witnessing gang/drug activities at the tunnel.

14. James reported on a cutback of **part-time employee** hours due to the end of the fiscal year.

15. Muriel sought clarification of the "**avian migration study site**" including acreage as reported in the recent RCD newsletter.

16. Muriel announced that the **education program presentation** /discussion will be moved from the April meeting to the May one instead.

17. James reported that the **off-leash dog facility** was approved the previous week but that they do not have funding from the corporate sponsor at this time.

(Copies of an informational packet provided by Ted Carr (Army Corps of Engineers) regarding *Arundo donax* (giant reed) was distributed.)

18. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Bailey