

**SEPULVEDA BASIN WILDLIFE AREAS STEERING COMMITTEE**  
Minutes of April 23, 1996 Meeting

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm after the tour of the Wildlife Area (5:00 pm, pre-noticed in the Agenda for this date).

**Present:** Muriel Kotin, Acting Chair (San Fernando Valley Audubon); Steve Hartman (California Native Plant Society); Sandy Wohlgemuth (Los Angeles Audubon Society); Kathleen Bullard (Ex. Director, Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains); Glenn Bailey (RCD of SMM); Jill Swift (Sierra Club, San Fernando Valley Group); jTed Carr (Corps of Engineers); James Ward (Recreation and Parks Dept.)

2. Minutes of March 26, 1996 were approved as read.

3. Agenda Additions:

a. Jill Swift asked that Item 7 (Brochure) be deleted. Chairman Kotin explained the item is a Consortium project and that the Consortium will meet to discuss this fundraising for educational programs in the Wildlife Areas.

b. Muriel Kotin added Item 10: Proposed Youth Baseball and Bird Sanctuary

c. Grants and Prop. A (1996)

4. **Hummingbird Hill** (Steve Hartman reporting): We need an "As Planted" list. Jane Adrian needs to be contacted regarding payment. She has submitted a bill for \$10,000. plus \$5,000. more. We need to know the commencement and termination dates for maintenance period as well as confirmation of missing plants. Steve H. and Sandy will go over the list. In general, Steve is very pleased with how Hummingbird Hill looks.

5. **Fencing near overlook** (Sandy reporting): Jane Adrian's estimate of fencing is \$950; Sandy suggests we leave it "as is" since it will come down no matter what. Steve Hartman

expressed concern over the tawdry look now. Ted Carr stated that people's ingress and egress is presently permitted and that he will "take a look at it". References were made to a Hansen Dam project where bicyclists built a Corps endorsed path and then "turn keyed" the project to the City of Los Angeles (Rec. & Pks.), possibly a solution for this issue.

**Policy regarding paths along dam in North Reserve:** Steve H. reported that the trail is mostly gone and that we should consider re-locating the sign or ~~sign~~ signs. The consensus of the group: south end should have a sign worked out like the north. James Ward will check on the sign.

6. **Consortium funds Monthly Update** (Sandy reporting) \$27,791.08 plus interest, about \$15,000. remain in outstanding bills.

7. (Deleted)

**8. Cleanup of Wildlife Reserve 4/27/96 and Public Nature Walks** (Muriel K. reporting) Sandy and Steve H. will supervise the weeding and overlook, complete by 11 am or noon. Perhaps cut seed heads of fountain grass.

**9. Re vegetation at Balboa Bridge** (Kathleen Bullard reporting): The contractor doesn't want to maintain beyond July. It is too late to plant now; it was agreed there would be willow cuttings next to the river channel: cattails, bulrushes, paint Arundo; real planting would be done in the fall. The bulk of plantings to go along the "top". The contract was signed 4-23-96. In general, she is very pleased with the change. It is a visible area and needs success. Plants will be "caged" in the upland area; tree "plant protectors" will be utilized for sun intensity. Cost is \$32,750. and will start October or November (after the first rain).

**10. Proposed Youth Baseball/Bird Sanctuary at Oxnard & White Oak** (Muriel Kotin reporting): This project as proposed would incorporate two full-sized baseball diamonds east of White Oak, south of the Valley Christian Little League fields (east of L.A. River). The Corps and city representatives (Carr/Ward) concurred that there would need to be NEPA and CEQA documentation. Area was diamonds and is now cornfields. It was suggested that this matter be included in every (WRAAC) agenda so that if it does firm up, we will be notified in a timely fashion.

Jill Swift inquired as to whether there were any other projects coming up and the response was affirmatively "yes": A Velodrome/Roller Hockey facility. The Department has been given (by the R & P Commission) roller hockey as a "priority". Alex Baum supports it.

**11. Grants and Proposition A (1996)** (Muriel K. suggested we apply for the Education Programs since we need funding for 1996-1997. Possible recommendation to Recreation and Parks for a hiking, jogging path atop the dam. No one will re-apply for Bull Creek and Arundo Removal grant at this time since those initiating the first application (essentially, National Audubon paid staff as well as community volunteers) feel and felt very betrayed by the lack of candor on the part of the Corps and City on the original grant proposal.

Glenn Bailey said we should consider where we could fit projects into the funding criteria. Sandy spoke of the southern section of Haskell Creek. Muriel suggested we go for Prop. A, next phase to get enough to develop a Grassland-scrub Plain between Woodley and the Los Angeles River (i.e., a "Plantscape" west of Woodley. Glenn Bailey moved we recommend to the City the area west of Woodley and the restoration project that was cut out of the EDAW plan for Prop. A (1996) funding. Seconded by Jill Swift. Unanimous approval.

Discussion was initiated by Chairman Kotin: If the intent is to removed Arundo from the south Reserve, where and what amount do we apply? Various responses led to setting a field trip (before the next WRAAC meeting) for

**June 25th at 5 pm to view the south Reserve Arundo Problem  
Meet at Burbank and Woodley (adequate parking there)  
Bring a bag lunch/!**

**Education Programs** (Muriel K. reporting) Melanie Ingalls may be applying for funds under the U.R.P. If Melanie does not or cannot apply for such, Muriel will look into it and seek help in accomplishing it. We have \$10,000. to use as a "match". Muriel also reported there would be a Grant Writing Workshop (two-phased process) on May 6th from 6 to 8:30 pm; contact her for more details.

Ted Carr (reporting for the Corps of Engineers) stated that the Wildlife Area cost estimates cannot be given to us. A letter from Andy Lopez to James Ward confirming this information was distributed at the meeting.

Also reported: Septage Facilities Alternatives (EA) would be coming out soon.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Swift