

SEPULVEDA BASIN WILDLIFE AREAS STEERING COMMITTEE

Minutes of June 25, 1996 Meeting

(please note: numbers correspond to Agenda)

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:18 pm by Acting Chair Muriel Kotin. Members and guests present:

Muriel Kotin (S.F. Valley Audubon Society); **Rosemarie White** (Goose Project); **Sandy Wohlgemuth** (L.A. Audubon Society); **Peter Ireland** (Coalition to Save the Sepulveda Basin); **Gene Greene** (Tillman Wastewater Reclamation Plant); **Ted Carr** (Army Corps of Engineers); **Steve Hartman** (California Native Plant Society); **James Ward** (Rec. & Parks, City L.A.); **Jill Swift** (SF. Valley Group, Sierra Club). **Glenn Bailey** (Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mts.) arrived at 7:55 pm.

Gene Green announced that he would be coming regularly since TWRP is resolving the mitigation of the right of way for the pipeline and the wildlife lake.

2. **Minutes of May 28, 1996** meeting were approved as read after Sandy W. questioned the status of item 9 (Baseball/Bird Sanctuary Project). James Ward stated, "It is essentially dead." The proposers are doing an EIR, offered a bird sanctuary as mitigation and are continuing to do "paper work".

Announcements: Steve Hartman distributed a flyer for CNPS' Oct. 12 & 13 sale in the Sepulveda Basin and requested assistance from Audubon for some tour leaders. Muriel Kotin responded affirmatively but asked that Steve call and remind her.

3. **Agenda Additions:** 11. Consideration of a relocation of the SBWASC meeting place; 12. EDAW Plan

4. **Plantings on exterior of Tillman Plant Berm:** Gene Greene, TWRP, reported on issues related to the exterior plantings, pipeline and upper Wildlife Area projects. The area will be actively managed for a total of 5 years (within the current contract), then transferred to the Department. Batteries and timers are to be replaced since there have been problems. Maintenance starts 6 months after plantings (May, 1996?). \$133,000. has been withheld from the contractor.

Steve H. inquired about the plant list and the "as planted" list for the two re-ve sites. Gene Greene agreed to supply them. Mr. Greene also indicated that there is to be an 80% survival rate. Irrigation problems were also occasioned by gophers eating the pipes.

SOUTH RESERVE:

Appears to be doing well. The field trip today (attended by Steve H., Muriel K., Sandy W. and Jill S.) was productive. Muriel noted in the ROW an area where small trees are dead and wondered whether the watering system was not working. Gene G. indicated they would replant in the fall. Steve H. offered to call Gene for an on-site visit to look at selected weeds (including spiny cocklebur, arundo, star thistle, etc.).

EARTH BERM

The contractor did not have some, species and they are in the process of ordering plants. The Public Works staff/Greene are considering a project with CSUN to develop a workbook related to the Basin. Muriel handed Gene a copy of the Audubon pamphlet for the Basin.

Steve expressed concern for the weeds in the (tree, etc.) basins. Gene indicated that herbicides would be used to eliminate them; netting for erosion control. After July 8th they will attempt to walk atop the berm to view the plantings.

5. Hummingbird Hill Update: Sandy reported that 3 weeks ago he, Steve and the project foreman (Haehn of Env'tl. Consultants) walked through the project. Even though the maintenance period is over, Env'tl. Consultants wants the project to "look good". A proposal will be made to the Advisory Committee and Consortium for an on-site with him. Currently repair work is being done on the emitters, weeding and replanting. Less than 10% of the plants area dead; Steve has asked for a plant list, Sandy awaiting a letter. Muriel stated that she would appreciate that the list include an analysis of why some things died.

6. Consortium Funds Update: Treasurer of L.A. Audubon has been out of town. Sandy promised a report next meeting.

7. Prop. K and Public Meeting July 9, 1996. Muriel reported on the City Council meeting of June: standing room only; angry taxpayers; and her "pitch" was not well received. The letter to Rec. and Parks Commission regarding Prop. K and inclusion of capital needs was discussed briefly, although the letter has not gone out yet.

8. Prop. A competitive grants and Prop. A2: Discussion related to a meeting for the second round of Prop. A (1992) which Glenn and Rosemarie attended. Glenn suggested the possibility of the Corps and City working with us to achieve Arundo donax removal. Steve Hartman offered to contact Melanie Ingalls regarding the first Arundo removal grant application as a model, substituting the Los Angeles River, etc.

Rosemarie suggested that several people write 5 or 6 grants for consideration of the August 1 deadline and ultimately Prop. A2 if it passes.

The following motion was made and seconded (Bailey-Hartman) and postponed to the next (July) meeting:

"To support that portion of the 1996 Prop. A [Section 2 (EE) (xii)] which, if passed, would provide not less than \$1,000,000. for restoration of the Wildlife Area and the "development of a native plant/wildlife area west of the existing Wildlife Area."

9. Valley Independence Movement's Effect on Sepulveda Basin: postponed.

10. Dog Park: James Ward reported the soil is good; DWP has an interdepartmental order for a water meter, August planting of the site. Some funding was cut as of July 1st. Commercial and special events will be allowed five times a year, dog shows, classes, etc. will be routine. Area is not lighted. Budget sources: \$50,000. from Quimby; \$30,000. from Frisks/Alpo (corporate funder. They will wait until fall, 1996, to plant natives.

Roller Derby Velodrome: looking for corporate sponsors (contact: Ann Kerman).

Baseball & Bird Sanctuary: discussed earlier. Sublease would be submitted to R & P, then Department submits to Corps.

There are two other Projects: New cricket fields (Valley Crest); and Balboa Recreation Centers Project.

11. Relocation of SBWASC meetings: relocating should consider something more accessible for the public; lack of being "locked in"; more support by the public for wildlife area activities; etc. James W. indicated that the Club House (club room) will be improved in several years and there will be an entrance corridor. Steve Hartman suggested "theme meetings" for the Users' Meetings, which would be a better encouragement to attendance. Presentations could be made by a different user group each meeting.

12. EDAW Plan: EDAW lost their bid (too high) for the finalization/re-write of the plans. Nuvis [Thomas Munoz, Costa Mesa (714) 754-7311, FAX (714) 754-7346] received the job. Various members of the committee asked for copies of the re-write and were told by Ted Carr that the public could not access them. Downsizing of the project is paramount; the scope cannot be changed. Glenn Bailey stated that he has tried since Feb. '96 to get copies of the EDAW plan and still had not received them. It was suggested that those interested call the number listed above.

The outgoing Rotating Chair, Muriel Kotin, conceptually passed the gavel to new Rotating Chair, Jill Swift, who commented on Muriel's exceedingly proficient and sensitive leadership skills.

The meeting was adjourned around 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Swift