

**SEPULVEDA BASIN WILDLIFE AREAS STEERING COMMITTEE
MINUTES -- DECEMBER 3, 1996**

Jill Swift chaired the meeting which was held at her house, following a potluck dinner. Others attending were Glenn Bailey, Gene Green, Steve Hartman, Melanie Ingalls, Peter Ireland, Muriel Kotin, Rosemarie White, and Sandy Wohlgemuth.

Announcements: The committee is 9 years old. It was formed in 1987. Rosemarie White will be the next chair, starting after our January meeting.

CNPS Plant Sale: was reported on by Steve Hartman. He indicated it was very successful. Next year, participating Steering Committee organizations will be invited to have tables at the event and perhaps to use it as a fund raiser.

Hummingbird Hill: Steve H. suggested we get together and remove the weeds and then see what needs to be done. The area seems to be in good shape east of the tunnel but that also needs weeding. He is trying to contact Rhapsody in Green for their help. We will have weed wars at Hummingbird Hill on 4th Saturdays at 8:00 a.m. starting January 25th. Meet at the tool shed. Bring shovel or hoe and trowel and gloves. [NOTE THIS CHANGE SINCE MEETING: THE FIRST WEED WAR WILL BE FEBRUARY 22 AND BE FROM 9:00 TO NOON PER STEVE H., MSK]

Japanese Garden: Gene Greene said that there is an information desk at the garden and an information kiosk is being developed. He will duplicate and put out information for visitors about events in the basin. His phone is 818/756-8000, fax 818/756-9648.

Public Works Projects: Gene reported that planting of the levee project is close to completion. They are presently working on setting irrigation timers. They got rid of pampas grass around the levee but left it for now along Niwa Road. He is looking for a permanent planting there to replace the remaining pampas grass and will look at the area with Steve H.

Gene discussed what to do about replacing dead plantings in the 4.5-acre mitigation area in the north reserve and the south reserve R.O.W. Two years of mitigation maintenance remain. In 6 months, the levee will be turned over to another agency for maintenance, but Gene will continue to keep an eye on it. Gene and this committee hope to coordinate plantings with the new detailed master plan we're expecting from NUVIS.

Minutes of the October Meeting: were approved after correction of the spelling of the Carrizo Plain and that there still is pampas grass along Niwa Road within the Tillman property.

Treasury Update: Sandy reported that there is no change except for a small amount of interest earned. He will get the amount with interest earned for the next meeting.

Letter to Farmer of Lands near Christian Softball Field: As James Ward was not at the meeting, it was unknown if the letter was sent. The geese seem to be using the area in question.

Environmental Coalition Gift: Glenn Bailey reported that a check will be given to Sandy Wohlgemuth for LA Audubon's Consortium account by the end of the week for \$326.77 plus a small amount of interest. Jill will send an acknowledgment when the gift is received.

Priorities for Consortium-Sponsored Signage: Peter is thinking of informal recognition of other areas in the Basin where wildlife occur, e.g., along the LA River, calling out those areas as having significance. They would be inexpensive wooden signs. He hopes they might prevent inappropriate uses, such as hunting which he has observed there. Other areas are the east side

of the wildlife lake, the south wildlife area, overlook. Signs in areas with dog problems would include information about the off leash dog park.

The Meeting Paused Briefly for a Consortium Meeting.

Goose Forage Crops: Rosemarie reported that she has seen many people with unleashed dogs east of the Wildlife Lake. She spoke to R & P's James Ward and Dick Ginevan. They like the idea of a corps of citizen warders to discourage this inappropriate use. **Moved, Seconded and Passed** that we request the city to place temporary signs in key locations informing people to use the new off leash dog park, by 12/12/96 if possible.

Sewage Transfer Facility: Peter reported that the city Sewer and Waste Management Committee met and voted to open the facility in the Basin as the sole permanent location. Laura Chick opposed, suggesting the location on Hayvenhurst next to the Van Nuys Airport. The city Dept. Of Transportation was requested to look at that interim site and report to the full city council around the second week of December. They're talking about opening an additional site in Sun Valley. Glenn pointed out that any funds taken in the Sepulveda Basin must remain in the Basin per federal law. This might be pertinent to fees received from septic haulers.

Spring Cleanup: Muriel Kotin announced that the cleanup of the wildlife reserve will be Saturday May 10, 1997 at 8:00 a.m. Publicity for the cleanup should include its connection to EarthDay.

Arts Park Update: Jill reported that nothing is happening. The EIR process is on hold.

Postponed to Next Month were the FoLAR event of 11/16/96, the Biological Assessment of Bull Creek, 1/25/97 Walk of Haskell Creek, Proposed Projects List.

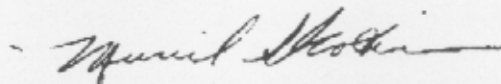
California Audubon: Peter asked whether an Audubon representative could come to one of our meetings to discuss elevating the status of Los Angeles within the Pacific Flyway. Melanie Ingalls explained that the specific program he referenced was for agricultural fields. LA County has the second greatest diversity of birds in the nation. Perhaps we could start with an inventory of important habitat. LA Audubon might be interested. Melanie will speak to Catherine Rich, their president. All present were interested in a meeting on this (Gene G. And Steve H. had left).

Public Interest in Meeting: Jill reported receiving a call from a Richard Koskey about tonight's meeting. Since he is unknown to this group and this meeting is a potluck and at her private home, she suggested he come to the January meeting instead.

Ospreys: Sandy W. Reported that we have 3 ospreys fishing in the wildlife lake. He suggests building osprey nest platforms in the Basin. DWP seemed interested when he contacted them. The island might be the safest place to protect nesting ospreys from hunting, which might be important since Bud says he found a dead osprey in the south reserve and buried it. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Propositions A and K: Glenn Bailey suggested that we keep our sample ballots for the legal description of Prop K. For Prop A, we can ask the registrar of voters for the text. We should have full texts for our next meeting, especially as this applies to the Sepulveda Basin.

Submitted by,



Muriel S. Kotin, Steering Committee Member