

**SEPULVEDA BASIN WILDLIFE AREAS STEERING COMMITTEE
MINUTES -- January 28, 1997**

Jill Swift chaired the meeting which was held at Rec & Parks valley headquarters. Others attending were Clyde Ade, Bob Birk, Ted Carr, Richard Coskey, Gene Green, Steve Hartman, Peter Ireland, Muriel Kotin, Merwin Lucas, Joe Mundine, James Ward, Rosemarie White, and Sandy Wohlgemuth.

Treasury Report: Sandy Wohlgemuth reported that the treasury now has \$29,749.65.

Public Works Projects: Gene Greene reported that planting of the TWRP berm is nearing completion. Steve Hartman requested a walkthrough when it is done. Joe Mundine who is in charge of maintenance at TWRP will work closely with Gene during the 6-month establishment period that will begin in around 30 days.

The right of way plantings will be re-addressed after the master plan is complete, in consultation with Steve H. In the 4.5 acres of mitigation planting north of the wildlife lake, there will be more weeding and replanting of dead trees. Muriel Kotin suggested holding off on tree planting there to coordinate with the new master plan and view considerations.

Peter Ireland inquired if there will be any mitigation for disruption to the park from the East Valley Water Reclamation Project. Hoover Ng is the project manager. Ted Carr knew of no need for mitigation. Perhaps there are some funds available. Peter suggested Hoover Ng be invited to our next meeting.

TWRP will sponsor Swallow Day, an open house at the Japanese Gardens on April 17. [Corrected date is April 14] Bob Birk would like SFV Audubon's help, especially a tour or bird walk in the wildlife reserve, to which Muriel agreed. Steve H. suggested a berm walk. Organizations can set up information tables at the garden entrance.

Christian Softball Field: James Ward said the farmer of the land near there turns the soil under. James did not send a letter on this. A public hearing on the 2 proposed baseball fields there will be held at the February 13th Users Meeting.

Hummingbird Hill: Steve H. Reported that Rhapsody in Green did a major weeding on Jan. 18. The next project is identifying empty basins to see what needs to be replanted. THE WEED WARS AT HUMMINGBIRD HILL WILL BE 4TH SATURDAYS 9:00 - NOON FEBRUARY THROUGH ~~JUN~~ STARTING FEBRUARY 22. MEET AT THE TOOL SHED. BRING SHOVEL OR HOE AND TROWEL AND GLOVES. *May*

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.

Nuvis Plan for Interpretative Signage: Muriel requested that members of the committee phone her tomorrow morning with any comments and she will forward them to Andy Lopez of the ACOE in the afternoon.

Sewage Transfer Facility: Peter said the facility in the Basin is not a done deal. The City Council Budget and Finance Committee is working on it. Peter prefers a site off Hayvenhurst, next to Van Nuys Airport. The MTA easement along Victory Bl. will preclude a long-term road along Haskell Creek for sewage-hauling trucks.

Wildlife Area Cleanup May 10: Cleanup priorities will be Haskell Creek and weeding the Dave Lewis Memorial Cottonwood Grove. The cleanup will run from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Volunteers will meet at the picnic table in the cricket field.

Arts Park Update: Jill Swift reported there are no changes to the status quo.

Biological Assessment of Haskell Creek: a copy is available.

Osprey Roosts: Sandy W. reported that DWP says building a platform is too expensive. Sandy is investigating other possibilities using the pole now in the south reserve. Peter suggested investigating mitigation funds (see earlier in these minutes). James W. thinks the ospreys may be nesting in the eucalyptus trees along the L.A. River near the golf courses, but Steve H. would like to see osprey nest in the north reserve for educational purposes.

Donation from Informal Environmental Coalition: Sandy W. Has not received the check yet. Jill suggested he call Glenn Bailey.

Bench Along L.A. River: Merwin Lucas suggested a bench along the river near Haskell Creek. Ted Carr indicated it would need to be sited away from the area used for COE dam operations and suggested we ask Nuvis to include it in the plans. [Muriel asked Andy Lopez to forward the request.]

Proposed Project List: We will hold a special meeting to discuss this next month.

Brochure on the Wildlife Area: Jill wants the brochure to include birds and plants and give the brochure to local hotels and motels. This should be considered in the proposed projects meeting.

Pampas Grass: Steve H. Suggested the city have a policy of eradicating pampas grass and fountain grass throughout the Basin. Gene said they'll remove pampas grass from the Tillman Plant later when Niwa Road is finalized. The ACOE is trying to remove pampas grass on the dam and at the armory building.

Procedures on Dead Birds: Rec & Parks disposes of dead birds but notifies the Calif. Dept. of Fish and Game only if there seems to be a problem. **MSP that the Steering Committee recommend to the City that records be kept of all dead raptors found in the Basin.**

Other: Park Ranger's phone is 213/913-4688. We will discuss the fall ball next time and set a date for a signage walkthrough. Dr. Ghirelli resigned from the water quality board; Jill will send a letter of thanks to him for the committee.

Minutes of the December, 1996 Meeting: On the second page, the name of the city council committee should have the words "Environmental Quality" instead of "Sewer." Approved as corrected.

Committee Chair: Jill turned over the position to Rosemarie White.

Submitted by,

Muriel S. Kotin, Steering Committee Member