

SEPULVEDA BASIN WILDLIFE AREAS STEERING COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of

May 29, 1997

Present: Glenn Bailey, Rosemarie White, Eric Lesser, Steve Moe, Muriel Kotin, Sandy Wohlgenuth, James Ward (briefly)

The meeting was called to order by Rosemarie White at 7:05. The minutes of the previous meeting were enthusiastically accepted with a few minor corrections by the temporary secretary himself, Eric Lesser.

Muriel reported that the recent Clean-up was well done but, with 25 people taking part, there was not as many as expected considering the excellent publicity it received. Hummingbird Hill was weeded properly in the area west of the tunnel but the eastern portion could not be covered. Muriel said that next year she will plan the clean-up earlier in the spring to attempt to avoid the heat which may have discouraged attendance.

Muriel led a field trip in the area for some Girl Scouts and one of their leaders suggested that Eagle Scouts might be interested in getting involved with projects in the forthcoming new areas west of Haskell Creek. Glenn remarked that Eagle Scouts did a fine job of organizing a clean-up at Santa Susanna Post Road.

Rosemarie proposed a walk-through for the committee to consider areas in the existing wildlife area for future projects for volunteers. The committee agreed to meet at the north parking lot at 6:30 AM on June 5th. It was also decided to contact high school environmental classes and/or clubs to see if there is interest in this kind of involvement. Glenn volunteered to get in touch with Reseda HS and Rosemarie will contact Birmingham. Discussion included the possibility that graduate students of local colleges might be interested in using the wildlife area for papers and theses. Jill (in absentia) suggested contacting Paula Schiffman at CSUN to see if her botany classes might get involved.

James arrived and announced a serious water problem for the Basin. The wildlife lake, with 6.5 million gallons circulating daily and a 2.5-day turnover is a healthy lake with no algae or fish kills. But Lake Balboa with a run-through of 14 million gallons has a turnover of 5.4 days and has experienced both fish kills and algae. To compensate for the East Valley Recharge project which will take a large portion of Tillman's reclaimed water, it has been proposed that there be no run-off into the LA River from Lake Balboa and that some 2 million gallons of potable water be added to Balboa. This mixture of water will be circulated and the improvement in quality is expected to solve Balboa's problems. The addition of potable water will take care of water lost by evaporation. Rec and Parks, Sanitation, Engineering and Public Works will

be meeting on this problem next week. James said that there still are plans to use Tillman water on all three golf courses. There is not expected to be any diminution of reclaimed water in the wildlife lake. (The 6.5 million gallon turnover in the wildlife lake includes water added to Haskell Creek.)

Sandy said he finally heard from Chevron: they claim they prefer helping out in classroom environmental study and they turned down our application for money for an osprey nesting platform.

Steve Moe said he would like to see the bike path near the Balboa entrance to the wildlife area discontinued in an effort to discourage bikers from entering the area. There is still a serious problem with the disabled water pipe that feeds Hummingbird Hill and the drip system that depends upon it. Steve is using the drip system every other week. Weeding in the dry soil of Hummingbird Hill is extremely difficult and a wistful hope was expressed for the possibility of obtaining a small water truck to spray the area a day before the clean-up.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Wohlgemuth