

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Minutes — October 28, 1997

In attendance were Glenn Bailey, Gene Greene, Steve Hartman, Muriel Kotin, Eric Lesser, James Ward, Rosemarie White, and Sandy Wohlgemuth.

Minutes of the September meeting were approved as submitted.

Rosemarie White asked James Ward where David Gonzales was, as he had told her he would attend the meeting.

Final 100% Plans and Haskell Creek: Rec & Parks have requested of the ACOE that the cottonwoods be left in place with wells around them. The ACOE project manager (Andy Lopez) will make sure this is done, and an addendum will be in the bid package which is being drawn up by Nuvis. We can flag everything that should be kept, including the old willow.

The east bank of Haskell Creek north of the inlet will be included in additional drawings and be part of the bid document. The committee members will be invited to the job-start meeting with the contractor.

Ted Carr has retired as ACOE operations manager. James Ward will invite his replacement to these meetings. She is Phyllis Trabold, 213/452-3391.

Glenn inquired about the window for planting. James said that the bid will probably go out in about a month, and work will probably begin next spring with removals and work on hardscape. Planting would then begin next fall.

Glenn suggested staging a group tour of the site for potential bidders. James will suggest this to the department. Steve asked if fennel will be removed west of Haskell Creek: no.

Educational Field Trips: Muriel reported that the teacher workshops have taken place. The first field trip for the children was this morning.

North Mitigation Area: Gene Greene reported that the Bureau of Sanitation will work on the mitigation area near the north entrance to the reserve. They are repairing the irrigation which was widely chewed on by thirsty rodents and will replace dead plants, weeding only within the basins. No new trees will be planted, only lower-growing plants, because of concerns about the view discussed earlier. Eric Lesser's notes will be the basis for the plant palette.

Science Program: Rosemarie reported that she and David Eklund made presentations to Dave Kukla's science program classes at North Hollywood Highschool. 30 students signed up to participate in the goose count and many of them are good prospects for volunteer efforts in the Basin.

Canada Geese: Rosemarie counted over 200 geese were at Encino Reservoir last Sunday. Only a few have been seen in the wildlife area where the grass is thin but up. There are still standing corn stalks near Oxnard and White Oak that may be helping provide goose forage. The Canada Goose Project has incorporated and will apply for 501(c)(3) status.

Rosemarie will share the telephone number of an interested Boy Scout leader with Steve Hartman for volunteers for projects in the wildlife area.

Lake Balboa: James said that most agencies favor recirculating water in Lake Balboa. They are considering a request under Proposition K for \$700,000 to implement this. It is not decided yet whether to use nutrient-stripped reclaimed water or drinking water for makeup water.

There will be a community meeting on November 13 to discuss changing the name of Lake Balboa Park to Anthony C. Beilenson Park. The lake would keep the name "Lake Balboa." It was moved, seconded and passed that the Committee support the name change to Anthony C. Beilenson Park.

Stream Clearing Permits: Glenn asked for information about ACOE permits for stream clearing within the Basin. Apparently Bull Creek is scheduled for clearance from near Victory Blvd. to near the confluence with the L.A. River, among other proposed projects in the Basin. The results of the meeting of the County Board of Supervisors today are unknown. The ACOE is proposing a blanket 404 permit for all watercourses in Southern California under their jurisdiction.

Hummingbird Hill: Steve reported that he and Muriel decided to purchase 75 plants left over at the CNPS native plant sale last weekend for Hummer Hill, at the cost of \$202.97.

Bert Wilson, the owner of Las Pilitas Nursery that supplied plants to the sale, is an outstanding expert on growing natives. He advises against drip irrigation. Rather we should dig deep planting holes 3 week ahead, fill them with water and let it dry. Then plant and water. To avoid war in which bacteria-based weeds harm fungus-based native plants, we should apply pre-emergent control all over and mulch all of Hummer Hill and zap any weeds that grow anyway. After planting, we should water 3 times.

East of tunnel, George Stephenson will wack down big weedy stuff and clear basins. He will not do any planting. West of the tunnel to the path, we need to remove weeds. R & P will haul away bagged weeds. Chris Van Shaak of Tarweed Nursery has offered to dig planting holes, supervise and do weed removal, and do watering. He submitted an estimate of \$1785 for the work, which could be reduced by volunteer efforts which he would be happy to supervise. It was felt his costs were on the high side. He also submitted an "invoice" for plants he suggests we purchase to fill out those purchased from Las Pilitas at the cost of \$670.

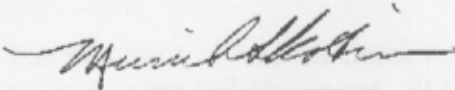
James suggested the planting and weeding might better be done in the spring.

Volunteer Effort Saturday November 22 at 9:00 a.m. will do weed removal at Humm Hill. If it has rained or a standpipe is available for watering, there will be planting too. Eric and Steve will figure out how to get water, possibly borrowing a pump from R & P or Tillman. They will consult with Steve Moe.

Septage Facility Access: Muriel inquired about access to the Septage Receiving Station at TWRP. MTA has not given permission to the city to build a permanent road across their tracks near Victory Blvd. It was discussed with City Councilperson Cindy Miscikowski at a recent community meeting.

Hands Across the Parklands will take place along Mulholland Highway on 4/29/98 according to Glenn.

Submitted by,



Muriel S. Kotin
Steering Committee Member