

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Minutes — November 25, 1997

In attendance were Jean Dillingham, David Ecklund, Steve Hartman, Muriel Kotin, Eric Lesser, Steve Moe, Rosemarie White, and current chairman Sandy Wohlgemuth.

Watercourses: Steve Moe updated the committee. The ACOE is funding and has let a contract for arundo removal between the L.A. River, Burbank Blvd., and the dam. Work will start soon. The contract will include maintenance for 2 years and painting the stumps with glyphosphate.

County Public Works are surveying the river and various creeks in the basin, probably for flood control clearance.

In the recontouring of Haskell Creek as part of the expansion project, only the trees this committee ok's will be removed.

Minutes of the October Meeting were approved after the spelling of CNPS president George Stevenson's name was corrected.

Consortium: Steve Hartman asked for \$202.97 to pay for the 75 plants left over from the CNPS plant sale he and Muriel bought for Hummingbird Hill. Sandy asked for an invoice from the nursery. The approximately \$5-worth of plant tags from Eric Lesser are Eric's donation.

Hummingbird Hill: Eric reported that Saturday was a big work day on the west section of H.H. It was weeded and the irrigation prepared. Hoses made available by Steve M. Were used. 6 volunteers planted 45 plants. There are still about 30 mor plants to put in. H.H. looks much better, different. R & P employee Juan is fixing the drip system. Muriel scattered wildflower seeds yesterday. Steve M. Will ask James W. For wood chips for around planting basins. We can prune sugarbushes, etc., above H.H. where it interferes with the sidewalk. Eric will plot out the location of all plants on the hill. He estimates we accomplished \$1300-\$1400 worth of work Saturday. He worked long after the rest of us, finishing up the work.

Rosemarie inquired about car repairs going on at the overlook. It's a police issue, not R & P's. R & P does not clean up trash above the fencing. Steve M. suggested fencing to block the cement drain from the overlook to the wildlife reserve. Steve H. will look at the bid on H.H. to get an idea of the cost.

Rosemarie suggested signs about adopting an area of H.H., since the cub scouts haven't started any work there. Eric's plot of what's where might be turned into a project book. Rosemarie suggested photos of the next work day for a project book.

Missing Plankton: To Muriel's questions about why the RCD education program has been seeing almost no zooplankton, Steve M. replied that the wildlife lake is nutrient limited. There is little phytoplankton. Less than 25 gallons of copper-based algicide was used this

year. Steve M. and Steve H. Feel it is a natural process of change where fish-eating birds prosper. Steve M. suggested the RCD get a proper plankton net and use it near the outlet to find a reasonable amount of zooplankton.

Science Program: Rosemarie will phone Dave Kukla about committee members visiting high-school classes.

Copy of 100% Plans: Steve H. has a copy of the bid set. He can keep it until the project is completed. Then it is to be returned to Steve M.

Canada Geese: Rosemarie reported there will be an article in the Pierce College newspaper this week. Only 10 gees have been seen there, probably because there is very little food available. 300 geese have been counted at Encino Reservoir. They're going to the pumpkin patch/ corn field at the western edge of the basin near White Oak and Louise. The Canada Goose Project Inc. is having its first board of directors meeting next Sunday.

Encino Reservoir: Rosemarie said the current plan for a filtration plant is to build a road down from dirt Mulholland. Sand said there are no plans to pave dirt Mulholland. Rosemarie checked with DWP about their plans, speaking to Doug Sunshine and the new woman water manager. They suggested the filtration plant will go where they feel fit and that it will be down from dirt Mulholland.

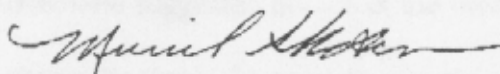
Trapping: R & P is no longer allowed to trap feral cats.

Expansion: ACOE is now accepting bids. Construction is expected to begin between late December and late January. ACOE must award the contract this year and get work started quickly. Work will last 8 months plus time lost due to rain. We will lose all parking lots east of Haskell Creek temporarily to construction. The reserve will be open during construction, but not for large groups. The education program will be able to continue during construction so long as we're willing to be flexible and the participants can walk a bit further. School buses will be able to park near where the students usually have lunch after their field trips.

Miscellaneous: Audubon members are reminded to stay on authorized paths. James Ward is not planning to mow the buffer zone, just leave it be. Nobody knew what happened at the public meeting about renaming Lake Balboa Park for Tony Beilenson.

Next Meeting: will be January 27, 1998. Meanwhile, Muriel is to call people for a H.H. work day during the first half of December. She should call Jean Dillingham, Eric Lesser, Steve H., Sandy and Rosemarie.

Submitted by,



Muriel S. Kotin
Steering Committee Member