

**SEPULVEDA BASIN WILDLIFE AREAS STEERING COMMITTEE
MINUTES -- January 27, 1998**

The meeting was chaired by Sandy Wohlgemuth. The others attending were Clyde Ade, Girl Scout Karen Anderssen, Glenn Bailey, Richard Coskey, David Ecklund, Gene Green, Steve Hartman, Eric Lesser, Arthur Lopez (L.A. City Bureau of Sanitation), Muriel Kotin, James Ward, and Rosemarie White. As there were visitors, the meeting started with introductions.

Tillman Plant: Gene Greene reported that the East Valley Recycling Project is underway, causing some disruptions to the berm. The advisory group of the Japanese Gardens meets on the third Thursday of each month. They are still working on raising funds for a visitor center at the gardens. Their meeting room can hold about 45 tightly and is available to groups. The Japanese gardens are open for people to stroll through on Mondays through Thursdays from noon to 4:00.

Minutes of the December 1997 meeting were approved as submitted.

Arundo: Clyde Ade reported that he has been cutting arundo and using it to make walking sticks. There is a firm that pays \$30 per ton for arundo. Perhaps it might help with our arundo problem. Clyde left material from the firm. James Ward pointed out that the arundo needs to be delivered to the plant. Steve Hartman pointed out that there's a contract for arundo removal and maintenance over the next 2 years. Sandy asked if all the arundo has been removed yet. James said yes, but herbicide will be needed in the spring. He is interested in whether the little pieces that resulted from grinding up the cut arundo will sprout new plants. Steve suggested we tour the south reserve in the spring when it's not too muddy to survey the arundo situation.

Status of Wildlife Area Expansion: The contract has not been signed yet. In fact the contractor is still being selected, with the qualifications of the low bidder being reviewed. The extent of the contract — which add-ons will be included — is being decided. The Corps of Engineers will let R & P review the contract before it is signed. James will let this committee see a copy as soon as R & P receives it.

Steve requested that if the contractor didn't participate in the walkthrough, there be one for the contractor selected. James said that the "start meeting" will be the occasion to address our concerns to the contractor. James will co-ordinate with the ACOE. Andy Lopez is the ACOE's person on the project. There will be an ACOE inspector on site daily. James doesn't know who. He estimated it will be 3 to 4 weeks before the contract is signed. Work will start perhaps 30-90 days after. Hopefully Andy can attend our next meeting and let us know the contract scope. James and Sandy will ask Andy to our February meeting. James will keep us posted so that if there is a need to leave aspects out, we can recommend which ones. The heaviest construction will probably occur this summer, with trails and viewing areas constructed next fall. The Audubon education program may be heavily impacted next fall.

Hummingbird Hill: Eric Lesser reported that he, Steve H. and Rosemarie planted about 24 plants about 1 ½ weeks ago. R & P got a hose set up for them to use. The recent plantings are doing fine, but rabbits are nibbling deergrass and yucca which we may need to fence. R & P's employee, Juan, will continue to work on repairing the irrigation which is partially functional now. It is important to have the irrigation working to where the system can be turned on by hand. Mulefat needs pruning as does shrubbery along the Burbank Boulevard walkway. Steve Moe and his crew removed the horehound north of Hummingbird Hill. Steve H. suggested a horehound eradication day to remove the stuff from scattered spots still remaining. Eric said we need about 30 more plants for the narrow area along the steel railing north of H.H., west of the tunnel. He suggested bladderpod, black or purple sage, and golden currant. He and Steve H. will order the plants. Perhaps Girl Scout Karen Andersen can do her project in connection with H.H. James will see about adding decomposed granite over the muddy area south of the lake outlet. The swamp sparrow is still at the marshy area north of H.H.

Education Program: Muriel reported that the Audubon education program has been going well. The fall program is complete, the recent workshop for the winter teachers was a success, and 15 winter walks are scheduled for February and early March. Steve H. shared the program's new naturalists' handbook with the education program director at the Big Morongo Valley Preserve who was delighted with ideas she got from the handbook.

Public Use and Abuse: Muriel reported with pleasure on the large number and diverse nature of people who visited the wildlife reserve on New Year's Day. On the other hand, the area is being used inappropriately by people who head for the wildlife area when Lake Balboa closes at sunset. James will ask rangers to check on the wildlife area at sunset. Sandy expressed his concern about people taking dogs along the dam wall and the many casual paths near the base of the dam.

Canada Geese: Rosemarie expressed her concern about dogs going down from the berm. She is working on copy for a sign explaining the Goose Project and why people should keep their dogs out. R&P will have a sign made for the overlook. Steve H. suggested the sign explain why to stay on top of the dam and keep dogs leashed. He requested that James and Steve Moe look at the area to consider additional chain-link fencing near the overlook. Rosemarie continued: the Goose Project is sponsoring a Canada Goose Celebration Saturday 2/21/98 1:00 - 4:00. The goose count is up this year. Some geese sleep in the wildlife area. She finds the forage area is really making a difference.

Fund-raising and Development: Steve H. suggested that CNPS sponsor a May meeting on the Basin in the Basin, maybe at the Garden Center. He would send a mailing to the neighbors inviting them and including a fund appeal for the Consortium. All groups from the Steering Committee will be invited to have an information table. The program would include the history of the Basin, revegetation, a bird slide show and a goose presentation. There would be field tours before. He is considering Tuesday, 5/12. Muriel expressed discomfort with the Consortium paying for mailings, suggesting newspaper publicity. Other suggestions were radio,

cable stations, homeowners' associations, and partnering with member organizations. Glenn also suggested a 2-hour time limit to keep the audience. Arthur Lopez commented on the importance of contacting the tribe traditionally associated with the site if a Native American ceremony is incorporated. Perhaps the importance of preserving the place can be most effectively communicated by a Native American. He is heartened to see our committee members doing something to preserve the earth. He suggests we get Native Americans involved and would be happy to help us do so. Rosemarie said we must always involve the children and the Native Americans and promote respect for all life. Steve will present a detailed proposal next month.

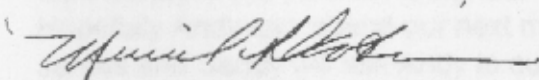
Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Consortium: Glenn asked for a financial statement of the Consortium next month and a list comparing our goals with a breakdown of how funds have been spent. He suggested investigating grants. Rosemarie suggested we have a Consortium meeting.

Miscellaneous: There is nothing new with Dave Kukla and the AP science program. Lake Balboa is now located in Anthony C. Beilenson Park. The park will be dedicated Monday 3/2/98 at 10:00 a.m., when completion of phase 3 of the park will be celebrated as well. James said the cricket fields are the best in the U.S.A. They may be the site of World Cup playoffs in 2001.

Future Plans for the Basin: James said that R&P expects \$7 million for the Basin which they plan to use to plant the Arts Park site with turf and trees, sloping the sides of Bull Creek and making bridges across it, changing the Lake Balboa water system, building a trail along the L.A. River as an extension of the Wildlife Area, and planting trees at the northwest corner of Woodley and Burbank. The funds would come from various sources: \$1.9 M from Beilenson for Lake Balboa before he left plus equal matching funds. The NW corner, Beilenson Park and Arts Park site would come from Propositions K and A. Federal funds would pay for Bull Creek. Muriel expressed excitement at the possibility of a wildlife corridor along the river and suggested FoLAR be re-involved with this committee. James said a citizen advisory group will lead the planning. Steve H. requested that R&P plant out the expansion area of Woodley Park as soon as possible, to gracefully connect the park and wildlife area.

Temporary Chairman: Glenn Bailey will chair starting next month.

Submitted by,



Muriel S. Kotin, Member Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee