

**SEPULVEDA BASIN WILDLIFE AREAS STEERING COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 23, 1999**

Sandra Block (Office of Councilwoman Cindy Miscikowsky), Rosemarie White, David Ecklund (RCDSMM), Muriel Kotin (SFVAS), Steve Moe, Gene Greene (Sanitation), Melanie Winter (FoLAR), Sandy Wohlgemuth (LAAS)

Minutes were read and accepted.

After a slight discussion it was MSP that 2 of the 3 benches with their backs to Burbank Blvd just west of Hummingbird Hill would be given to volunteer Boy Scouts to restore the southern-most viewing opening to the wildlife lake.

Steve announced that informational signs will be installed shortly. He also said that Arundo in the south wildlife area and east of the Los Angeles River will be cleaned out within the week. It will be sprayed every three months. Steve said that the Osprey nesting and feeding pole will be installed by Southern California Edison on the east side of the wildlife lake in the next week or two. The 35 ft pole will have a 4ft x 4ft wooden box on top and is a gift from Edison.

Gene Greene announced that the East Valley project will be electrified. The pipeline to Hansen Dam is not yet completed. The water must be tested before it is released to be sure it is appropriate for recharge. The construction crew is responsible for \$40,000 worth of damage and it will be repaired. Nota bene for Steve Hartman: Most of the pampas grass has been removed (25 of 30 plants) and that area will be used as a nursery for the non-native Japanese cherry trees.

Muriel reminded us that the upper west bank of Haskell Creek was not planted as we expected. Rec and Parks has no funding to buy the trees and Muriel suggested that the Consortium pay for the purchase. A serious discussion followed. It was estimated that 20 to 50 trees at the average price of \$8 for a 5-gallon can would be reasonable. Gene said he could help us with a wholesaler the Sanitation Department uses. Steve said Rec & Parks would use their equipment to dig the holes. Members of the Consortium present did not introduce a motion in this matter. Muriel will investigate cost. The advice of Steve H. and Eric Lesser, who could not attend the meeting, will be solicited.

April 10th will be a big day. Muriel announced that the San Fernando Audubon's annual cleanup of the wildlife area will take place in the morning (8-noon) with many volunteers. Trash bags and later pickup will be courtesy of Rec & Parks. At noon, the dedication ceremony for the Wildlife Area Expansion will begin and later there will be guided tours of the areas led by intrepid docents.

There was some discussion of a pedestrian entrance to the new area just west of the creek as many people have difficulty climbing the brand-new fake wood fence. It was decided to leave final discussion with James Ward.

Rosemarie distributed the first draft of the brochure that her committee - with great

SEFULVEDA BASIN WILDLIFE AREAS STEERING COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 23, 1999

page 2

assistance from Gene - has produced. It was well-received by all. We then went over the brochure line by line and made corrections and suggestions for the text and the illustrations. The small section asking for tax-deductible donations met with approval. The final printing of the brochure will be on pale green paper.

The education program continues in full swing. The storage space for equipment will be available within the week and the bathroom facilities in an even shorter time. We look forward to the day when the children will be at the northern-most viewing areas with their binoculars at the ready when an osprey feeds its scrawny young.

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 23rd
Agenda items to Muriel by Wednesday 3/10

Submitted by Sandy Wohlgemuth, Committee member