

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Meeting August 24, 1999 **Page 1**

Eric Lesser chaired. Also attending were Gene Greene, Steve Hartman, Muriel Kotin, Mike Spiker, Lisa Walker (CNPS), James Ward, Rosemarie White, Melanie Winter, and Sandy Wohlgemuth. After introductions, the minutes of July 27, 1999 were approved without change.

Youth Projects: Muriel reported that Jeffrey Kubasak's bluebird boxes have been installed on the island. Patton Stang's bat boxes were turned over to Steve Moe to install because of delays with Corps approval. A discussion ensued regarding whether Muriel should have run interference with the Corps and why the Corps ever got involved in the issue. Robert Parsons' bench will be installed later this summer. Cub Scouts helped by watering new trees by hand during their one week day camp in July.

Recreation & Parks Report: James reported that the pedestrian entrance near Woodley & Burbank will be put in when the newest break in the fence is repaired. (The errant motorist was apparently insured.) Wildlife street signs are in the works. Gene will contact Steve Moe. A quick coupler for Hummingbird hill should be used for future plantings with spaghetti wiring and electronic timer.

A full-time position for the wildlife area should be filled within around 2 weeks. Cricket Association is planning a major international event in Woodley Park 9/11 - 9/19. Access to the Wildlife Area will be impacted if the event happens. Melanie Winter suggested that the cricket association make a contribution to the Consortium for negative impacts on the wildlife area, such as trash and lack of access. R & P is asking a \$1,000 fee for week, the expense for rangers and a \$1,500 security deposit. Steve Hartman suggested that publicity about the Wildlife Area be included. Perhaps 3,000 will attend the last day.

Cost of Repairs: R & P records costs of material and in-house labor. They do special occurrence and loss reports for vandalism, etc. for each park, primarily to work on targeting rangers. Right now it would be a major effort to get figures. We should report vandalism and non-employee injuries to R & P.

Bull Creek: no news. The article in the *Our Times* section should show the project as \$5M (\$1.25M of that coming from city funds, probably Prop A2). This is the 1135 project. There is very little money in the congressional fund for Beilenson Park, and most of that will go for new benches.

Street Trees in the Basin: Steve Hartman reported that Chief Forester George Gonzalez said the city's Street Tree Division did approve the eucalyptus project on Burbank Blvd. Gonzalez has been non-responsive about policies for trees in the Basin. Gene said the staff of the Bureau of Street Services is being expanded. He may join them. He will help Steve H, Melanie and Eric draft a letter to Street Services.

Weeding of Hummingbird Hill (HH): There will be weeding days on 4th Saturdays September -- November starting 9/25, 8:00 am to noon, led by Steve Hartman. Eric will organize weekdays, starting September 9 (Thursday) 9/9/99 8am. Meet at HH for both.

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Weed abatement: (Cameron Gobble is willing to dig out the mulefat on HH and do some planting in their place as his explorer scout project.) Steve H presented a proposal from Bill Neill who has done major, successful tamarisk eradication in the California desert for 16 years as a volunteer. His proposal was discussed: \$1,000 to control exotic trees this fall. \$5,000 more to control weeds next spring. This would include weeds in Haskell Creek from north end to Burbank Blvd on both sides and along the trail east of Haskell Creek. So of Burbank, a 15' swath along the main trail. Expansion area won't be touched. (Neill recommends mowing the area west of Haskell Creek in the fall starting in 2000.)

Consortium: **Moved, seconded and passed** to contract with Bill Neill for up to \$2,000 for exotic plant control. A second phase including training will be considered later. Passed unanimously.

Wildlife Area Donation Post: We should look at the one at the off leash dog park. R & P could make us one if we like it. We can look at the kiosk there also.

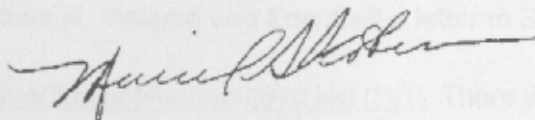
Education Programs: Muriel reported on SFV Audubon's education programs. The field trip program for 60 4th - 6th grade LAUSD classes is being planned for the 1999 -2000 school year. The 8/15 Family Flashlight Walk was successful. About 60 people participated. An October repeat is being considered. Beginners & Family Birdwalks will resume on second Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. in October (and continue through March). Gene Greene asked Muriel to provide flyers so the Japanese Gardens can help with publicity as in the past. SFVAS's 1st Sunday Birdwalks continue as ever at 8:00 a.m. SFVAS led a successful field trip on 8/13 for over 30 teachers as part of L.A. Education Partnership's Target Science bird workshop.

Brochure Reprint: 2,000 printed at a \$446.78 cost. Rosemarie expressed concern that we give them out only to special groups rather than leaving them out for the public, since they are so expensive. Gene Greene would like to keep putting out some at the Japanese Garden too. He will purchase 500 of them from us for the Garden.

Feral Cats: Lisa Walker of CNPS suggested trapping them, but Gene Greene said trap theft has been a big problem. Betty Ethridge of the Japanese Garden has been trapping, neutering & releasing cats there. Lisa will talk to Betty and do other research and return next month with suggestions.

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 28. Agenda and minutes due at R & P by early 9/16.

Submitted by



Muriel S. Kotin, Steering Committee Member