

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Minutes June 26, 2001

The meeting was chaired by David Ecklund. Also attending were Glenn Bailey, Gene Greene, Muriel Kotin, Joyce MacKinnon, James Ward, Rosemarie White, and Sandy Wohlgemuth. Minutes of the May, 2001 meeting were corrected to read show under "Brochures:" that Rosemarie reported the estimate for 5,000 brochures is \$803. Also, on the 4th line of the 2nd paragraph, change "Grand" to "Grant."

Sandy Kievement, Deputy to Councilwoman Cindy Miscikowski, did not attend tonight, nor the person proposing wetlands for CH2MHill on behalf of Sanitation. Gene Greene will send copies of the study by CH2MHill to the committee members. Steve Moe is in contact with CH2MHill, and James expects they will be at our July meeting.

Brochures (Rosemarie): It was OK with everyone that the MRP account be used to pay for the 5,000 brochures, if it has enough money.

Rec & Parks (James): The Irish Faire and Van Nuys Air Show have been survived. A music faire is scheduled in about 2 weeks for Woodley Park. Valley Pride Faire will also be in Woodley Park, in October. (Gene Greene showed one of 14 arrows that got shot into the Japanese Garden by the Irish Faire. The decibel readings at the garden from the faire were as high 98.) There will not be fireworks in the Basin on the 4th of July. There will be fireworks at Hansen Dam. General Services is going to finish the Woodley Golf Course Club House, hopefully by Christmas. Apparently, there will be no corn maze this year. Rec & Parks plans to let the area naturalize. Eventually it will be developed as parkland: grass and trees when funds are available. Kathy Richter who has been maintaining the park calendar is retiring in a week.

Japanese Garden (Gene): They've put T-gates at the north entrance to the garden. Gene asked who owns the area on the east of Haskell, between Victory and TWRP.

Los Angeles Audubon Society (Sandy): He and Glenn have been working on the DEIR for a high speed busway from the North Hollywood subway station to Warner Center. Sandy has not found any major things to criticize about the plans. Glenn said the route will pretty much follow the railroad tracks through the Basin. 486 buses a day are expected. Glenn thinks there will be significant impact on recreation uses in the Basin, though not on the Wildlife Area. David asked how the committee members feel about the bus line. He and Glenn feel that a subway would be a better solution, even if built little by little, especially because of grade separation issues.

San Fernando Valley Audubon (Muriel): Family Flashlight Walks will be held 6/30 and 8/11. The Sepulveda Basin Environmental Education Program are planned to resume in the fall. Bird Walks for Families and Beginners will be held second Saturdays October through March.

Do we need a neighborhood grant for any projects in or adjacent to the Wildlife Area? Steve H should talk to Street Services about planting native trees and/or shrubs on the strip of land west of Woodley Avenue. The weed problem: **next month, a walk through before the meeting at 5:00 at Stonehenge to look at weed eradication needed — for planning an effort to begin this fall or early spring.** We might combine Consortium funds and a neighborhood grant, or get a grant for inner-city youngsters.

More Rec & Parks: James reported the ACOE will be spending \$1M to eradicate weeds from the LA River in the Basin. Although Rec & Parks approves of the idea, the Basin will be denied the request to become an LA County SEA because the Basin is not in or adjacent to unincorporated county land. David suggested we push to have the Basin included as wildlife corridor in the city master plan. Rosemarie will phone Melanie Winter about her involvement and that of FoLAR in this steering committee.

Goose Project (Rosemarie): She has been counting the young geese: 30 young and 40 adults

today. The young look similar to the adults now. One young goose was killed by a golf ball recently. She requested that any future goose fatalities be turned over to her to be taken to Chatsworth Reservoir to be returned to nature there. The documentary about habitat destruction and Canada geese is being worked on as a major effort. Its cost is up to \$300,000, and it is out of her hands.

Resource Conservation District - Sta. Monica Mountains (Glenn): He has nothing further than the report on education last month and earlier discussion tonight of the bus is all.

More Rec & Parks: Lake Balboa Phase 1 is the only project that will happen soon: a restroom like the one at the WA and new benches around the lake. Phase 2 will be the 1135 Stream Restoration, viewing areas, etc. It's being worked on in Washington. (ACOE is getting a new colonel.) Phase 3 is R&P project to build an interpretative play area including an adaptive play area. Joyce said that there are not enough trash cans at Lake Balboa. Also, there is graffiti on benches and picnic tables there. Muriel asked about a recycling bin for the WA. James said R&P doesn't do recycling; they don't have a way to do it. Almost everything thrown away at the parks gets separated informally.

Submitted by

Muriel Kotin, Member Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee