

Sepulveda Basin WA Steering Committee
Minutes November 27, 2001

Glenn Bailey chaired the meeting which was also attended by Sheree Adams (representing Councilman Dennis P. Zine), Patrick Aubuchon (Lake Balboa Neighborhood Assn.), Charles Brink, Gene Greene, Steve Hartman, Muriel Kot n, Eric Lesser, Joyce MacKinnon, Stephen C. Moe, Sandy Wohlgemuth and Rosemarie White.

After introductions, minutes of the October, 2001 meeting were approved without changes. The letter recommending limits on the size of events permitted at Woodley Park has not gone out yet.

Public Comment: Patrick Aubuchon commented on (against) the constructed wetlands. Discussion will be made later in the meeting.

Next meeting would normally be Christmas. We will cancel December. We will meet on the 5th Tuesday, January 29, 2002.

Constructed Wetlands Update: Glenn spoke with Linda Waade today. The Concept Design Review draft document will not be ready until 12/15. It has been written but is under internal city review. We will have opportunity to comment on the draft. Linda plans to mail out the draft directly to all regular attendees of these meetings, but only the executive summary. Since many in attendance want the full document, we put a star next to our name on the sign-in sheet to request same. (The EIR has not yet been started and will not be until City Council and the ACOE decide to proceed.)

Linda Waade also told Glenn (speaking for Adel Hagekhalil) that Sanitation is discussing with Rec & Parks helping build more ball fields on land west of Hjelte Field. There was an article in today's LA Times on the project being scaled back to 60.9 acres. Patrick Aubuchon wanted to know whether Sanitation has contacted Fish & Game which he believes they said previously they would do.

SFVAS supports the concept. The Sierra Club has not taken a stand and will go with Eric's judgment which is thus far largely favorable. LAAS unanimously approved the project. Rosemarie White is against; as she did not arrive at the meeting until later, we did not find out whether her board has voted. The RCD will probably consider the issue on Dec. 11; most members seem favorably inclined to at least support the concept. (CNPS voted against earlier, but Steve H feels all groups should review our stands once we have seen the actual proposal. We need to look at the document closely.) Lake Balboa Neighborhood Association opposes. Members of this committee should be prepared to vote on the proposal at our January, 2002 meeting. When we see the document, we should let Glenn know if we want to ask for a postponement of the deadline for comments or for an earlier meeting of this committee.

Patrick had questions about the treatment of runoff water by the constructed wetlands. The committee members were uncertain about the plans for this but expect the coming document to clarify this. Also, it should cover how they plan to deal with the deposition of silt, which issue the Bur of Sanitation is aware of.

Charles Brink said that dry water diversions will go through the Tillman Plant prior to

going to the constructed wetlands. The reason this is being considered a pilot project is that such wetlands could be used in Sylmar to treat Tillman effluent prior to its being used for ground water recharge. There is a growth-related issue, related both to sewage treatment and drinking water supply. Charles feels that toilet-to-tap should be voted on by the people, although he would be likely to vote for it if the water is properly treated before it is used for recharge. He would like to see a constructed wetlands built in the Sylmar area. He agreed with Joyce who commented that public education is crucial. He also described a proposal for a double-piping system in the west valley.

Weed Eradication: Bill Neill responded in a satisfactory manner to our questions about his proposed contract. Ellen Mackey, ecologist for the LA-San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council surveyed the riparian vegetation in the WA today and was very impressed by its health. Glenn suggested a possible source of funding to help with restoration, although it may not work in the Basin as it's owned by the US government — tho it's run by the city.

Recreation & Parks (Steve Moe): The new golf course clubhouse should be open in Feb, 2002. The Basin was closed on Saturday as it began to flood. It received 0.8 of an inch in a short period of time. The ACOE has not yet removed its pile of arundo from the back side of the golf course. Apparently the arundo did not float into the LA River during the storm. Steve M has a full time person in the WA currently. He is pulling out lots of castorbean from the creek bed. Steve H requested that the person help on HH in the fall under his direction.

Japanese Garden (Gene Greene): They initiated the training on the native plant berm for 10 docents yesterday. Steve M asked to include some people in their January training session. Gene would like to collaborate with various organizations in introducing facilities in the Basin to the public. Steve H asked about the field of tumbleweed east of the Tillman Plant. Gene can get rid of the tumbleweed, but not the junk that people dump. Steve H suggested that the tumbleweeds be mashed without disturbing the soil, rather than plowed under, with a small layer of mulch over.

San Fernando Valley Audubon (Muriel): Muriel is organizing a cleanup of the Wildlife Area on April 13, 2002. She asked for co-sponsors. Tomorrow, all of Westland School will weed the west bank of Haskell Creek between the first bridge and the north entrance. In addition to the 30 field trips partnered with the RCD, Audubon is leading about 10 special walks. Muriel thinks she has gotten Thomas Bros. to update their future atlases to better show where the Wildlife Area is.

Canada Goose Project (Rosemarie): There are about 350 migrating geese at Encino Res and 12 at Chatsworth. That's about it except for about 75 resident geese in the Basin. Pat Ward Biederman will have an article on the geese in tomorrow's LA Times.

California Native Plant Society (Steve H): Steve attended a meeting about the proposal for MTA bus line to make it more environmentally responsible. They will use native plants wherever feasible, which will be in most cases. He suggested using reclaimed

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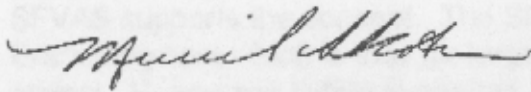
water to irrigate along the line. Glenn reported that David Ecklund is concerned about access to Balboa Park from the bus line and also suggests they electrify the line to reduce pollutants. Melanie Winter had pointed out that the public won't be able to cross the tracks to access Balboa Park from the neighborhood to the north.

Bill Neill has done work on the LA River for CNPS between Burbank and Balboa, spraying the second re-sprouts from the ACOE's earlier work. There are no current re-sprouts; he will check again in the spring. They will try to get the river through the basin free of arundo. Steve H will meet with the Fish and Wildlife Service person doing the design of Bull Creek, December 11, 9 a.m. at Stonehenge. Bull Creek has gotten its federal funding (almost \$1M) through Brad Sherman.

Sierra Club (Eric): As above, Eric is entrusted to act for Sierra Club on the wetlands project, and he is leaning towards supporting. They're looking for a new conservation chair.

New Business: Steve H wants to get more people involved in the WA. Would be willing to edit a Consortium Newsletter, soliciting articles from the members of the Steering Comm. He would like to send out a free issue and then ask for payment for the newsletter, payment to go to the Consortium. He also would like to see a wooden interpretative kiosk. It could include information about the Basin and the member organizations of the Steering Committee. We will discuss this more later. Glenn just attended a conference where the Native Grasslands Assn. had handout bookmarks. Perhaps we could use the concept. Muriel asked for additional organizations to cosponsor the Cleanup next April 13.

Submitted by



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