

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Revised Minutes of May 28, 2002

Muriel Kotin chaired the meeting in Steve Hartman's absence. Other committee members and alternates in attendance were Glenn Bailey, Joyce MacKinnon, James Ward, and Sandy Wohlgemuth; public attendee was Sharon Brewer. After self-introductions, the minutes of the April 23, 2002 meeting were approved without change.

Public Comment: Regarding Lake Balboa, Sharon Brewer expressed concern about various issues, including the treatment of ducks by park users, off-leash dogs, and trash in the lake which flows into the Los Angeles River. James Ward indicated that there is a hiring freeze, and that there are 36 positions unfilled in the Valley Region.

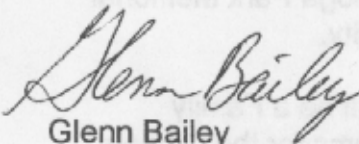
Recreation and Parks Department (James Ward): James distributed a calendar of Outdoor Events for the Valley Region revised May 15. A 4th of July event with fireworks will be held in Beilenson Park; a portion of the park will be fenced for paid admission; no attendance estimate has been made. Also a cricket event will be held the same day. The Irish Festival will be held June 15-16; approximately 8,000 attended last year. The Woodley Clubhouse will be finally completed in July. Manuel Mollinedo will be the new Department general manager as of July 1, taking over from Ellen Oppenheim.

Constructed Wetlands Project: A letter dated May 28 from Adele Hagekhalil of the Bureau of Sanitation was distributed which gave an update on the project (copy attached to minutes). Steve Hartman emailed that the California Native Plant Society voted at its May 7 meeting to support the development of a constructed wetlands at the site known as Area 7.

San Fernando Valley Audubon Society (Muriel Kotin): On Saturday, June 1, 70-80 teenagers from the Church at Rocky Peak are expected to do weeding east of Hummingbird Hill/Burbank tunnel. One dusk flashlight walk will be held on one of the first two Saturdays in August. This academic year school tours of the wildlife area included almost 3,000 school children, with 2,000 children participating in the formal program in partnership with the RCD and partially funded by LA Audubon Society and almost 1,000 more in less formal walks.

Sierra Club San Fernando Valley Group: Glenn reported that Eric Lesser will be moving to Riverside in a few months; Eric will seek a replacement representative.

Respectfully submitted,


Glenn Bailey

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Minutes June 25, 2002

Steve Hartman chaired the meeting which was also attended by Glenn Bailey, Gene Greene, Muriel Kotin, Joyce MacKinnon, James Ward, and Melanie Winter, and visitor Sharon Brewer.

Minutes of the May 2002 meeting were approved as revised.

Announcements: Next month will be Steve H's last as chair. Then Muriel's turn (8/27). Muriel's home is in escrow. She will remain active on the committee as SFVAS's representative. Carvel Bass will be at our July meeting.

Public Comment: Sharon Brewer reported that kids are still mistreating wildlife at Lake Balboa. Individual kids and school groups need to be taught how to behave at the park. Melanie suggested that maintenance personnel carry a pamphlet with guidelines to hand to responsible adults as needed, in at least English and Spanish. Pamphlets could be distributed to LAUSD and private schools. Lifeguards could hand them out too. Glenn asked about the ongoing problem of trash in Lake Balboa. He hopes the next meeting of the Users' Committee will include management of Lake Balboa — and also at the next meeting of Friends of Lake Balboa.

Recreation and Parks Report: James Ward reported there was a 45-acre fire in the Wildlife Area (WA) during the Irish Faire. It was probably started by a person. Glenn thought something educational on fire succession might be interesting later if we document it. Steve H and Melanie will contact the native grass association to ask them to donate lots of native grass plugs if the coming cool season is during an El Niño. **Prior to the 7/23 meeting, there will be a 5:30 tour of the WA, in particular looking at the burned areas and the possibility of a native grass and wildflower seeds planting.** Muriel's idea of weed-whacking dry weeds just west of Haskell Creek was thought ineffective in reducing fire danger.

MTA Transit Way: Rec & Parks is concerned about pedestrian access across the future busway between Victory Blvd. and the Basin and about access to the septage dumping site in Tillman Plant.

Japanese Gardens: (Gene Greene) announced that starting July 1, the WA and Tillman Plant will be in Council District 06, Ruth Galanter's new district. Several other council districts will border the Basin. Glenn suggested we invite Ms. Galanter to visit the WA and rest of the Basin. Hal Bemson has the west portion of the Basin. Glenn will invite Galanter or an aide to our July tour and meeting. John Howland is her planning and environmental deputy. Evening tours of the garden have started Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6pm— through Labor Day. At the Canoga Park Memorial Day Parade, the Garden's float won 1st prize and gave great publicity.

San Fernando Valley Audubon Society: Muriel announced there will be a Family Flashlight Walk in the WA on 8/10. She is planning fieldtrip programs for the coming school year. The RCD is raising its fees to SFVAS for the fieldtrips.

**Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Minutes June 25, 2002 -- Page 2**

Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains (RCD): Glenn said the RCD is still in search mode for a new District Manager. Margo has agreed to stay on until 8/1. The RCD anticipates resurrecting its newsletter. They are looking for a new District Manager. Margo has agreed to stay on until 8/1.

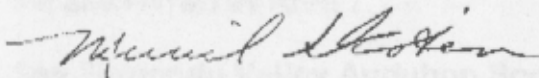
The River Project: Melanie is recovering from pneumonia. She and other groups involved with water issues met with Mayor Hahn today. He is supportive of parks, alternative vehicles, clean buses & fleets and is interested in Tujunga Wash. He is starting to understand the nexus between small urban parks and urban runoff treatment. Solis & Schiff have bills to involve the National Park Service in the local area — an expansion of the National Recreation Area and starting an Urban National Park along the San Gabriel Watershed. Unfortunately it does not include the upper LA River Watershed.

California Native Plant Society (CNPS): Steve H will forward an invoice for \$816.40 from Riparian Repairs to Sandy for payment. Steve will request Bill Neill to provide copies for us of a recent survey of non-native plants in the Basin. Steve met with the MWD which wants a list of recommended native plants for xeriscaping from CNPS.

Joyce MacKinnon: There is now a daily ranger ride through on bike of the WA.

Remember the 7/23 5:30 P.M. walk through!!!!

Submitted by



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

