

**Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee**  
**Minutes — August 26, 2003**

Tom Persons chaired the meeting which was also attended by Theresa Baer, Glenn Bailey, Nannette Bolles, Sharon Brewer, Lois Goodman, Steve Hartman, Muriel Kotin, Lynda Levitan, Joyce MacKinnon, Ken Novak, Patrick Rigney, Sarah Stone, Rosemarie White, and Melanie Winter.

Announcements: Recreation and Parks has been invited to apply for a grant to restore Lake Machado in San Pedro under Prop 13. The River Project has applied for a Prop 50 grant for a watershed management plan for restoration of the Tujunga Watershed. Lynda Levitan is the new field deputy for Sepulveda Basin for Council District 6 (Tony Cardenas).

Minutes: of the July 22, 2003 meeting were approved with corrections on The River Project report: "Melanie reported that they are still working on putting together funds for her project to remove the remaining concrete on the river between Hayvenhurst and the busway bridge and improve the interface between the river and the recreation area. She has been working with the bio-engineering company who wrote part of DFG's stream restoration manual. Restoring the river in the Basin is one of her passions. City Sanitation has developed signs that attach to concrete and say "No dumping; Drains to Los Angeles River". These are to be placed at storm drain catch basins. The River Project will be working with the city and volunteers to install them in Studio City as a pilot program."

Timely Submission of Agenda and Minutes: Both of these are due at least 2 weeks before the meeting (Tuesday 2 weeks ahead).

Mission Statement: We adopted a mission statement in early 1993. A subcommittee will review it. They are Glenn Bailey, Steve Hartman, Muriel Kotin, Tom Persons and Melanie Winter.

Voting Rules: Rosemarie suggested one agency, one vote. Rec & Parks does not have a policy as to who should be a voting member; it's up to us. Rec & Parks generally prefers smallish committees, as seven to nine members are most productive. The mission subcommittee is to make a list of options for the full committee to consider. Steve H suggested that activity level (frequency of attendance) of an organization be considered in determining if that organization is a member. Glenn suggested a representative from the one or two local neighborhood councils if they wish to be members. Rosemarie said it might not be appropriate to include non-environmental organizations. Melanie suggested an ex-officio status for non-enviro orgs, such as neighborhood councils. Glenn pointed out that the Coalition to Save

Sepulveda Basin, a former member organization of the committees, was primarily a homeowners' group.

Weed Abatement: (The Consortium met to clarify authorization of payment to Riparian Repairs for completed weed work.) Steve H is alarmed that Yellow Star Thistle now covers about two acres of the south part of the reserve, mainly near the LA River. He asked for the city's help. **It was moved, seconded and passed that we recommend to the city and Army Corps of Engineers that removal of the star thistle be a highest priority.** Ken Novak said the City does not have jurisdiction south of Burbank Blvd., east of Haskell Creek (what is sometimes called the south portion of the WA). Rec & Parks does some maintenance down there as an accommodation. Muriel believes Rec & Parks does have jurisdiction, that it is officially part of the WA and under city jurisdiction. Ken will check this.

Lois Goodman said Carvel Bass would know whether the Army Corps can help. Steve H will phone Carvel and Melanie will phone LA County Weed Management Area to see if either can help. On 9/6/03, TreePeople plans to water trees east of Woodley Ave., north of Burbank Blvd. Perhaps they could go after the star thistle instead. **What agency controls the area southeast of Burbank, northeast of the LA River, west of the dam should be on the next agenda.**

Program for Integrating Projects: Melanie distributed a draft dated 8/26/03 of a "Sepulveda Basin 2020 Vision" that she and Steve H wrote. Rosemarie would like to see references to habitat for wildlife, construction and maintenance added. The "vision" fits in with discussing updating goals and objectives at our next meeting.

Council District 6: Lynda Levitan, the new field deputy for Councilmember Tony Cardenas reported that the councilman wants to do all possible to support us. Jim Dantona who attended last month is now working at the downtown office. Glenn expressed the committee's concern about impacts on park users and the Wildlife Area of huge events held in the Basin. Lynda suggested interested members might try to set up a meeting with the councilman for a focused discussion.

Army Corps of Engineers: Lois Goodman reported that the "final report" for the Bull Creek restoration has some problems, mostly a lack of detail. She doesn't know how that issue will be resolved, whether the report will be sent out as is. There may be a public meeting on the plan 9/11/03. Glenn asked that at a minimum each organization represented at this meeting get a copy of the report before the meeting.

Recreation and Parks: Ken Novak announced a proposal to close Oxnard Blvd. at the west end of the Basin except for the Franklin Fields Little League who would maintain it. This is in the pre-design stage. LADWP is surveying Woodley and Burbank boulevards for a reclaimed-water irrigation line. A native plant garden for Woodley Blvd. and the park road to Woodley golf will go out to bid soon. Lake Balboa's oxygen level is very low. A fish kill is expected. R & P can't do much. Sharon Brewer asked if anyone will remove dead fish. Ken said the water testers are instructed to remove dead fish, to let Ken know if this is not done.

The Bureau of Sanitation wants to give us an update on the water-treatment wetlands project. Joyce attended a recent meeting of the West Van Nuys - Lake Balboa Community Council where the model plane users said they are opposed to any wetlands or public access west of Woodley except for flight field activities.

About 800 square feet of the WA burned near Haskell Creek. There is no major damage, but some cottonwoods are singed. The cause is unknown. Ken was questioned about a new cricket field near the amphitheater, but he did not know of any such.

Japanese Garden: Patrick Rigney announced the recent planting of California natives along the east side of the septage facility access road. With that, the Tillman Plant now has about 6 acres of native plantings. Tillman's education program is incorporating the native plants. MTA's Mark van Gessel has asked Patrick for help with the Bus Way landscaping plans.

San Fernando Valley Audubon: Muriel reported that the 2003-04 environmental education program is being organized, moving along fine.

Canada Goose Project: Sarah Stone is their new representative for this committee. She introduced herself.

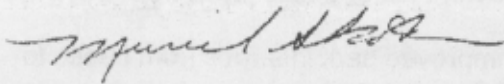
Resource Conservation District of the Sta. Monica Mts.: Glenn described a new education program they are working on, "FARMS," for high school students to learn about agriculture, natural resources and careers. Reseda and Canoga Park Highs will participate.

Sierra Club: Rosemarie announced that the Sta. Monica Mts. Conservancy voted last night to take over negotiations to purchase the Ahmanson Ranch. She is alarmed about the US Fish and Wildlife Service's proposal to put individual states in charge of protecting migratory birds, permitting killing of 'nuisance species.'

The River Project: Melanie is delighted that there is finally agreement on the Taylor Rail Yard. Her Studio City river project has begun; a 3/4 mile of river greenway should be completed by the holidays. City Prop K funds are making this possible. State, County, and City Prop K funds have made these possible. "Ernie's Walk" along the river in Sherman Oaks is being refurbished.

TreePeople: Tom said TreePeople volunteers will either water trees and weed north of Burbank or work on the star thistle on 9/6 at 8 a.m. They will plant along Haskell Creek on 10/4. They have needle grasses available to plant.

Submitted by



Muriel S. Kotin

Member Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee

# SEPULVEDA BASIN 2020 VISION

DRAFT 8/26/03

## OBJECTIVES:

- 1) Exotic and Invasive Non-Native Plant Weed Control throughout the basin
  - Wildlife Reserve
  - Upper Haskell Creek
  - Encino Creek
  - Hayvenhurst and Woodley Channels
  - Los Angeles River
  - Bull Creek
- 2) Native plantings along Woodley median strip and Burbank Blvd Median (between Woodley and Freeway)
- 3) Los Angeles River enhancement (non-native plant removal) east of trestle (view from Busway)
- 4) Los Angeles River bio-engineered bank stabilization & improved park interface from trestle to Hayvenhurst Channel [see Melanie for details]
- 5) Construction of "Nature Center Kiosk" adjacent to "garage/storage building" at wildlife reserve entrance (by amphitheatre / restrooms) [see Steve for detail on this]
- 6) Fully funded education program
- 7) Los Angeles River trail improvements on north bank between Burbank & Balboa
- 8) Companion booklet entitled "Vegetation of the Sepulveda Basin" as companion to Birds of Sepulveda Basin.
- 9) Native grassland demonstration project (Tree People) with subsequent goal to introduce native grasses into east portion of Wildlife Reserve and other areas (west of Woodley under model airplane flight zone).
- 10) Native plant & wildflower demonstration project along outside Dam face/berm facing 405 & 101 Fwys.