

**Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee  
Minutes March 23, 2004**

Melanie Winter chaired. Attending were other members Gene Arias, Glenn Bailey, John Holmes, Muriel Kotin, and Rosemarie White, as well as non-voting members, alternates and guests Sharon Brewer, City Councilman Tony Cardenas, Lois Goodman, Gene Greene, Lynda Levitan, Joyce MacKinnon, Kevin Regan and James Ward.

Minutes of the February 2004 meeting were approved after the spelling of "levee" was corrected in the Japanese Garden report. It was requested that there be an update on proposed wetlands from the integrated resources plan at the April meeting. There was no public comment. The Users Committee will meet April 13.

Homeless Situation: Lynda Levitan reported for Council District 6 that Recreation and Parks (R&P) has eliminated the small encampments south of Burbank Blvd., leaving one large one. The number of homeless has been reduced to 5 or 6 persons from around 100. The police will be making a second sweep shortly, and the people removed will be under court order not to return. Around 4/15, there will be a major cleanup around the encampment. Vegetation will be trimmed and cleaned up. Melanie requested that Steve Hartman be consulted before any vegetation is impacted. The Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) should be putting in a ranger under the Dam Keeper in the Wildlife Area (WA) within the next 6 months.

Lynda distributed a Valley Voice newsletter from Councilman Cardenas's office.

Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) Report: Lois Goodman reported construction should begin soon on the project to enlarge Beilenson Park with a restroom and drop-off road, with groundbreaking in April or May. The ACOE will construct the project. Not much is happening on the related Bull Creek Project. Glenn is concerned that the two projects be coordinated and integrated, that proper process be followed. The committee **Moved, Seconded and Passed** a motion to ask the Chair to write a letter to Congressman Brad Sherman asking him to expedite the Bull Creek Restoration Project.

Councilman Tony Cardenas was welcomed. He expressed his concern about the homeless problem in the Sepulveda Basin. Lynda is working hard on the problem. The larger homeless problem is being worked on city-wide. His focus is on the basin. He urged us to use the electric car he arranged for Galpin Ford to donate to us. He will be delighted to help out with positive projects and will use funds from his office-holder account where the need is not over a few hundred dollars. The

Park Rangers said they would be happy to help train WA volunteers. The councilman is encouraging State Parks to put a ranger-training station in Hansen Dam, perhaps using the basin as a training site, giving a significant additional presence here.

Glenn described the history of the Steering Committee. Melanie spoke to her long-term hope that there will be a similar committee in Hansen Dam that focuses on environmental issues. Muriel and Melanie encouraged the Councilman to help encourage awareness about not littering.

Recreation and Parks: James Ward announced that the contract for landscaping improvements between Woodley Avenue and R&P Valley Headquarters has started. The roadway will be closed intermittently. The electric vehicle will be moved to the WA and made available for the committee's use after the battery is fixed. Kevin Regan said R&P can help us design a logo for the cart if we decide to use it for a volunteer patrol. However, "patrolling" can get people in trouble, so that might not be advisable. The Persian Festival will be all day 3/28 — probably over 15,000, with Woodley Ave closed for the event. The cricket season opened last weekend. User's Group will meet April 13 at Balboa Sports Center. Rosemarie and Joyce will represent us there. The sign for Wildlife Way has not been ordered yet. The street is not a dedicated street; it's a R&P road. R&P will make and install a park road sign, but it will not be a city street sign.

Japanese Garden: Gene Greene reminded us Springtime in the Garden will be Sunday, April 25. We are welcome to put out materials or tables. We will receive invitations to an anniversary celebration May 15 — a closed event. Construction in the plant will be scaling up. Mainly the northeast entry will be used and there should be no impact to the park. We should give Gene updated information to post on their bulletin board.

San Fernando Valley Audubon: Muriel Kotin reported that the environmental education program for LAUSD has been successfully completed for the school year. The Wildlife Area Cleanup will be April 17. Representatives for Sierra Club, Goose Project, and River Project agreed for their organizations to be listed as cosponsors.

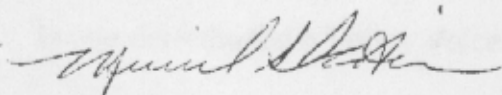
Canada Goose Project: Gene Arias reported there are two pairs of Canada geese nesting on the island. The goose count at Woodley Lakes Golf is down to about 100.

Resource Conservation District(RCD): Glenn Bailey stated that The RCD seeks requests for help in grant writing assistance. Contact Rebecca Barkin for help.

Sierra Club: Rosemarie reported that she recently asked the RCD for help in finding a biologist for Sunshine Canyon issues and found the staff of the RCD very helpful.

The River Project (TRP): Melanie Winter reported about the proposed grant application by California Native Plant Society (CNPS) that Steve Hartman discussed at last month's meeting. CNPS decided not to apply; instead, they are concentrating on Melanie's proposal to remove invasive exotics along the LA River between Balboa and the bus bridge. The ACOE is focusing on removing killed trees, mostly palms, in the river. The educational component will involve AP science classes from Birmingham High. In addition to studying, students will develop an educational display about the river for riders on the busway. TRP will be developing a Prop 50 CALFED water management plan for the Tujunga Wash including stormwater water percolation, a 2 ½ year process.

Submitted by



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