

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Minutes - Meeting November 25, 2008

Steve Hartman chaired. Quorum of 4 was established. The other voting members attending were Sharon Ford, Muriel Kotin, Robert Munsey and Rosemarie White. Non-voting members, alternates and guests were Tim Johnson and Joyce Mackinnon. Self-introductions were made.

Tim Johnson, Park Maintenance Supervisor represented the Recreation & Parks Department. He has replaced Kathleen Hanover and was filling in for Abel Perez at this meeting. Next Tuesday morning at 9AM he and Steve will tour the Wildlife Reserve (WR), looking at tumbleweed and other issues.

Announcements: Tomorrow morning at 9AM Rangers and Maintenance staff will block casual paths in the WR. Volunteers were invited. (Robert Thompson will be R&P's senior gardener at tomorrow's work session.)

Public Comment: None.

Bull Creek: Carvel Bass emailed Steve that the ACOE (Army Corps of Engineers) can't be here tonight. Rain may postpone installing of first bridge.

LA River Navigability: Steve H passed out a press release. As he understands it, LAR is now considered navigable only below the Sepulveda Dam. Mark O pointed out that the State of California still protects the tributaries and river above the dam. Steve will post info on this on the website.

Boundless Youth Ball Field: Joyce, Sharon F and Muriel attended the public meeting at Reseda Park. There was much support for the baseball field for disabled children proposed to be built at Beilenson Park. The main reason for their selecting Beilenson Park seemed to be the disabled access restrooms next to the site. Sharon F will get the info on the EIS/EA. Mark asked what the SB Master Plan says.

Friends of Lake Balboa: There will be another meeting Jan 22, 2009 here at 6:30.

Canada Goose Project: Rosemarie described a dearth of migratory geese so far this fall. She is meeting with Jon Mukri Dec. 2 for the Encino Neighborhood Council in opposition to the Boundless Youth Ball Field being located at Lake Balboa.

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Los Angeles Audubon: Bob M will submit an article on the Sepulveda Basin to their *Western Tanager* newsletter.

San Fernando Valley Audubon: Muriel needs to determine a date for a cleanup of the WR in the spring. She was advised to check with master calendar. Rosemarie suggested coordinating with the Arts for Earth event being planned.

Since fishing (all illegal) at the Wildlife Lake had been getting way out of control, Muriel contacted Chief Park Ranger Albert Torres. He has involved Cal Fish & Game (DFG) and increased patrols. Fishermen have been ticketed, most just warned.

California Native Plant Society and Website: Steve H has posted the standing rules, minutes and many other new, exciting items on the website. There are now 2218 hits on average per week.

Caltrans Selection of Alternative 1: Mark summarized the letter he drafted and brought to the meeting. It was decided that the committee will not send a letter. It may be reconsidered after the January 2009 meeting with Ron Kosinski.

Muriel suggested that we think about mitigation alternatives for flood-holding capacity. Sharon F mentioned enhancing wildlife corridors. Rosemarie suggested a tour of south of dam face before the meeting, which will be 1/27/09. Steve will contact Kelly Schmocker of DFG to see if she can join our walkthrough. Once a date is selected, Rosemarie will see if the Caltrans biologist will join the walkthrough also. Mark is concerned on the loss of foraging habitat for birds south of the dam from building Alt. 1. Steve suggested the Audubon societies look for general studies on harm to birds that would happen south of the Dam from Alternative 1.

Submitted by

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