

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
August 23, 2011 Minutes

A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 6:35PM. This special meeting was chaired by Steve Hartman who hosted the meeting at his office, as the usual meeting place at Recreation & Parks Valley Headquarters was not available. The other voting members attending were Glenn Bailey, Sharon Ford, Muriel Kotin and Bob Munsey. Guests were San Fernando Valley Audubon members Pam Folgert and Diana Keeney. No agencies were in attendance.

Announcements: Sharon Ford has resigned as Conservation Chair of the Sierra Club San Fernando Valley Group and has been replaced by Terrie Brady. Sharon does not know whether she or Terrie will attend our future meetings as Sierra Club representative.

Minutes of Meeting July 26, 2011 were approved as submitted.

Large Events at Woodley Park III: Steve reported that the "Bully Dog" event held July 9 on the Wildlife Reserve lawn was informally acknowledged by the ACOE at the August 20th meeting on the revised Master Plan as having been allowed in error. Glenn attended the R&P Commission meeting the week after the July 26 SBWASC meeting and told them they would hear further. Steve will draft a letter to RAP Commission.

Sepulveda Basin Master Plan: The updated plan does not clearly indicate the northern boundary of the Wildlife Reserve. Maps 10 and 11 - Existing Recreation show the boundary as a straight line parallel to and north of the east end of Wildlife Way at the Archery Range Restroom. Map 23 - Proposed Land Use Classification shows the "Environmentally Sensitive" area ending at the Woodcrete fence, where the lawn begins. The area around the WR parking lot up to the archery range should be Environmentally Sensitive.

The part of the Wildlife Reserve that is north of Burbank Boulevard between Woodley Avenue and the wall of the Sepulveda Dam is the only area shown as Environmentally Sensitive. The South Reserve (south of Burbank, east of Haskell Creek) and the Bull Creek Restoration Area are not so designated. Apparently Bull Creek and most of the South Reserve should have been shown as Environmentally Sensitive, and the committee should ask for that to be corrected.

Regarding Map 24 - Future Projects and Potential Opportunity Sites, the committee members were delighted that all waterways within the Sepulveda Basin were designated for potential restoration, with the exception of the Bull Creek Restoration Project. It is hoped that problems in the recent restoration there will be corrected. The Committee is puzzled that the Wildlife Reserve from the Wildlife Lake east was not included as a potential restoration area; in fact we expect to consider developing Burrowing Owl nesting habitat there in the near future. We were delighted that the area south of Burbank Boulevard was included. We request that the area around Haskell Creek north of Wildlife Way and the lawn around the Wildlife Reserve amphitheater and parking be included for potential restoration. We feel that the area just east of the northern reaches of Haskell Creek would be ideal for a mitigation project that might create riparian habitat and pathways and would like to develop an easily accessed native plant garden north of the parking lot.

Similarly regarding Map 25 - Restoration Opportunities, the committee was puzzled that the area of the Wildlife Reserve from the Wildlife Lake east was not included and also wishes to see the areas north of Wildlife Way mentioned regarding Map 24 included. The committee was delighted at the inclusion of all Basin waterways except the recently restored part of Bull Creek, and that the not yet restored confluence of Bull Creek with the LA River is included.

There was concern about some of the areas in purple, designated as Inactive and/or Future Recreation, such as the Corn Maze. Could some of them be designated as Inactive and/or Low-Density Future Recreation? Glenn will draft

some language for Steve to use in drafting a letter from this committee. Equestrian uses should be removed from the plan, and dogs should not be allowed in the Wildlife Reserve. Muriel is to email Steve the sections referring to horses and dogs in WR. She suggested that the Master Plan should refer to the Public Recreational Use Plan of 1987.

It was also noted that the location of where the Least Bell's Vireo (Map 21) has been sighted is inaccurate.

Special Events of over 1,000 participants require ACOE approval according to the Master Plan and events over 5,000 must be filed for 90 days in advance. The committee wants to specify that this should be the case regardless of what entity is the sponsor and that the committee should be notified promptly of such applications.

We should ask that if the cherry trees in Beilenson Park prove to be unsustainable, flowering native trees be used instead.

Comments to be circulated among the committee by 9/2, so that Steve can send SBWASC's comments to the ACOE by 9/12. The ACOE's funding for the Master Plan update runs out at the end of September, so no purpose would be served in requesting more time to prepare our comments.

There is no current enforcement in the WR; Steve will talk to Councilmember Tony Cardenas's office about the possibility of hiring the MRCA for law enforcement.

Bull Creek: The Resource Conservation District asked Glenn to write a letter about the erosion and slope failure. He'll forward a copy of the letter once it is finalized. Steve commented that there is similar erosion along the LAR in the Basin. The ACOE will probably have to deal with both.

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Wildlife Reserve Address: Robert Baker was unable to come up with a better address than 6350 Woodley Ave. Steve will request that the Master Plan provide a physical address for the Wildlife Reserve. The Committee hopes to make it easier for people who want to visit the Reserve to be able to find it.

Submitted by

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