

**Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee**  
**Meeting February 25, 2014 - Approved Minutes**

As a quorum was not present at 6:30PM, Chair Terrie Brady waited until 7PM and then called the meeting to order without a quorum. There were 4 voting members present, one more needed. In addition to Terrie, the other voting members present were Glenn Bailey, Steve Hartman, and Muriel Kotin. Non-voting members, alternates and guests were Pat Bates, Debra George, Chris Trent, Juan Villasenor, and Dave Weeshoff. A quorum was established at 7:20PM when Rosemarie White arrived.

As part of California Native Plant Society's symposium week, they will hold a Native Plant Sale and Wildflower Show on April 19 9AM - 4PM.

Vegetative Management Plan for the South Wildlife Reserve: the main purpose of holding this meeting is to discuss the draft alternatives.

Steve suggested we consider how do these alternatives reconcile with the master plan for the entire basin? What do they mean by mowing? How would that encourage weed growth? Why should ALL coyote brush be mowed? Goal of improving native vegetation should be changed to read: "Manage extant native vegetation, remove non-native trees and control invasive non-natives."

Steve is OK with alternatives 3, 4 and 5. The berms in #6 would be a problem. Alt. 1, passive management, might be revised to change the weed control methods. He doesn't mind widening the creek, but removal of shamel ash alone should allow growth of emergent vegetation. Lots of discussion followed Steve's remarks.

Dave commented that Alt 3, emergent marsh, says no trees. Steve assumes that no trees in emergent zone, but yes elsewhere. Why are some alternatives considered to be too close to dam, but not others?

Glenn is concerned about habitat - we all are. None of us seem to like the berm idea. What is the purpose of widening Haskell Creek? What value to the habitat? This is unclear, per Steve. There are benefits to any of this work, but bulldozers will have negative short term impacts. Why should the creek area need to be mowed? Selectively remove exotics, rather than mowing the entire creek, especially not every 4 years. Just remove exotics as needed. We don't understand their plans.

Alternatives 4 and 5 incorporate some elements of the Restoration Proposal presented by Kris Ohlenkamp.

Rangers/Law Enforcement: Chris Trent raised the issue of park rangers. Debra said that there is a proposal to hire more rangers, but for Hansen Dam and Griffith Park only. We need them in Sepulveda Basin. Now that the city is no longer leasing the South Reserve the park rangers wouldn't go there even if Sepulveda Basin gets them. Chris suggested signs about federal and state laws protecting wildlife. Can LAPD enforce those fed & state laws? We should discuss this with Evelyn Solano. She and Juan will meet tomorrow about a sign for near the tunnel under Burbank Blvd.

South Wildlife Reserve, Cont.: We would like the decomposed granite (DG) service roads/pathways restored to the equivalent of what was installed 15 years ago. The original 12 foot width is preferred, but widening them 2 or 3 extra feet is probably not a big problem.

Debra would choose Alt 3 if she had to choose now. Most of the committee was not ready to choose.

Terrie would like an EIR or EIS with a 6-month comment period for the public. Dave pointed out that Jay Field indicated there will be an EA issued around June or July.

We should send in our individual comments/questions to the Corps by Friday.

Terrie will email Jay Field and Jodi Clifford to ask that the Army Corps and Recon attend our meeting on March 25 to respond to our comments.

Terrie wants to make it absolutely clear that nesting wildlife should not be disturbed. We would like the width of roads to be limited as much possible.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33.

Submitted by

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