

Subj: **Kayaking in the L.A. River**
Date: 6/30/2011 12:18:16 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time
From: NatureBase@aol.com
To: Lisa.m.sandoval@usace.army.mil
CC: carvel.h.bass@usace.army.mil

Dear Ms. Sandoval:

As chair of the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee and Consortium, a recognized advisory group to the City of Los Angeles Dept. of Recreation and Parks, I am writing to protest the lack of initial notice and the subsequent short notice of comments due on the proposed non-motorized boating pilot program along the Los Angeles River in the Sepulveda Basin.

Our committee, which has been in existence for over 20 years, advising the City as well as collaborating with the Army Corps of Engineers, and funding restoration projects in the Basin, has had regular contact with the Corp during the entire time. For many past projects the Corp has contacted our committee first to get a take on the public sentiment.

How our committee could be left out of a proposal that will definitely impact wildlife is unclear and regrettable. It is bird nesting time now and possible through mid-September. The Los Angeles River riparian corridor is the only habitat of its kind in the San Fernando Valley. Yet for some reason there is a rush to start kayaking early in July.

If a trash clean-up event earlier this year required an environmental assessment, wouldn't it be appropriate for an assessment of the impacts created by kayaking during bird nesting season? (Especially that the project proponents have requested multiple kayak runs every day of the week during the first two weeks, and then only Friday through Sunday after that.)

The motion by the City of Los Angeles to establish the pilot program specifically requests the "Department of Recreation and Parks to work with ... wildlife advocacy groups."

The persons in the community with the greatest knowledge and experience regarding the wildlife in the Sepulveda Basin were not consulted during this process.

We therefore respectfully request a 30-day extension for the comment period and that the start of the pilot project be postponed. A better time for wildlife would be after September 15.

Sincerely,

Steve Hartman
Chair
Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area Steering Committee
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