

**Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee**  
**Minutes -- March 24, 2009**

The meeting was chaired by Rosemarie White. After a quorum was established, self introductions were made. Other voting members were Glenn Bailey, Sharon Ford, Steve Hartman, Muriel Kotin and Bob Munsey. Guests and non-voting members were Pat Aceves, Sharon Brewer, Tim Johnson, Kenny Ortega and Evelyn Solano. Minutes of the February 2009 meeting were approved without change.

Announcements: Rosemarie described a phone call and ensuing action regarding an egret on the 101 median, east of the 405. The bird left under its own power.

Muriel reminded the committee about the cleanup planned for April 18.

Glenn announced that General Manager Jon Kirk Mukri will be a featured speaker at the Encino Community Council, Encino Comm. Ctr. at 7 p.m. tomorrow.

April 14 [at 6:30 p.m.] there will be a public meeting at the Sepulveda Garden Ctr. about the importance of the public staying out of the plantings at the Bull Cr. Project until the plants are established. Tim said there will be signs posted telling people to keep out of the plantings.

Rosemarie booked a table at the Sepulveda Garden Center Fair May 16 and 17, 9:00 - 5:00. Setup Fri evening May 15. Member organizations are welcome to participate. Please notify Rosemarie if you have any ideas for Endangered Species Day is Fri May 15.

Public Comment: Guest Kenny Ortega said he used to walk into the Wildlife Reserve from the overlook on Burbank Blvd. and was concerned about apparently drugged out people hanging out in that area. He is also concerned about people trying to catch ducks at the Reserve. He would like to involve people from the local churches in things like cleanups. He was given a cleanup flyer. He would like to assist the committee. Glenn reminded Kenny to phone 311 if he observes non-emergency items.

Office of Public Safety: Officer Evelyn Solano is the Senior Lead Officer for the West Valley. They are extremely understaffed. She is responsible for 87 parks and also other facilities such as libraries. She is very familiar with the Sepulveda Basin. She made several arrests (lewd conduct) and issued several citations (fishing, dogs off leash) in the Wildlife Reserve recently. She is very familiar with the problem of semi trucks parking on Woodley and is working to eliminate it.

Signs that say no overnight parking and with a 4-hour limit are up. She and Ranger Pat are working on getting signs for later that more specifically target the semis.

She will be here for the Persian Festival April 5, probably the only officer here. Her focus will be traffic flow and public safety.

Park Rangers: Ranger Pat removed 2 homeless encampments last week. He removes them as soon as he finds them. Lewd conduct is a focus also, so families will not be offended or deterred. He does consider the trail in the South Reserve safe for families now. Officer Solano has requested assistance from LAPD's Vice section to help control the lewd conduct.

"No Fishing LAMC 5411" signs (18 X 24) will go up soon. Pat has been at the Wildlife Lake early in the mornings with Fish and Game agent Norwood. Soon they will start hitting the area late in the afternoons and less often in the mornings. He often confiscates fishing gear. He is sometimes under cover. The rangers are working the tunnel too.

Muriel should send Pat the dates of field trips planned. Pat is interested in having a SFVAS flashlight light this summer.

Phone Numbers for Rangers:

OPS Police Dispatch # 213.978-4670

Officer Evelyn Solano's City Cell Phone # 213 305 9223

Park Rangers # 323.644-6661.

We will add Officer Solano and OPS to our committee list of agencies.

Caltrans Mitigation: Rosemarie has not been able to contact Chief Biologist Paul Caron of Caltrans yet to set up a visit to this committee.

Dog Policy: Muriel reported that Chief Ranger Torres is working towards a No Dogs policy in the Wildlife Reserve. It may be that City Council will need to pass a law making it illegal. Rosemarie noted that Chatsworth NP does not allow dogs. Glenn suggested we make a list of similar facilities that prohibit dogs. This should be on next agenda.

Publication of the 405 - 101 Connector FONSI in the Federal Register: Steve H has learned that a FONSI probably does not need to be published. He does not think it worthwhile to continue the issue of publication.

Russian Thistle in TWRP Contractor's Lay-down Area: Steve H has not gotten together with Gene Greene yet. Before the end of summer Steve hopes to map all infestations in the Basin and identify their owner. Then the lessees of the land can be asked by the owner to control it.

Bull Creek Restoration: Glenn got an emailed update from Project Mgr Ed Louie. "Bull Creek will have the final walk-through this Thurs at 9a.m. with contractor, City of LA RAP and Corps staff members. Fence around project site WILL come down two weeks prior to ribbon cutting event in late May 09 (date to be determined). Public mtg is scheduled for 14 Apr 09 at Garden Center to explain importance of public keeping out of the planting areas until the native plants species established during the 1 year establishment period.

Ed Louie, Project Manager, Civil Works Branch, (213) 452-4002"

Dodger Dream Field: Tim has not heard anything lately about the proposal. Glenn noted that none of us have received replies to our comment letters on the environmental documentation. Glenn suggested that the City should avoid being tainted by association with a project being funded through a foundation with money raised through fraud.

Recreation & Parks: Tim supports the idea of flexible fencing to augment signs at Bull Creek. He is concerned about homeless people sleeping under the bridges once the hard fences are removed. Ramon Barajas has moved up to Acting Superintendent. Ken Novak now is the Acting Principal Grounds Maintenance Supervisor.

Planting Native Trees & Shrubs North of Parking in Wildlife Area: Muriel suggested plantings, possibly with volunteers planting them in holes dug by the City and funded by the Million Trees Program or by the Consortium next fall. Bob M suggested a native plant demonstration garden and trail as part of the effort.

May Committee Field Trip: The committee will have a field trip at 4:00 p.m. before the May meeting, to look at the area proposed for the project and at the east bank of northern Haskell Creek. We will have a picnic dinner in the amphitheater before

the meeting. Meet at Stonehenge at 4:00. Rosemarie will phone Barri Worth, the Mayor's new representative to attend.

Japanese Garden 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thank You Celebration: Glenn reminded the committee to put June 13 on their calendars for this. The committee will be invited.

San Fernando Valley Audubon: Muriel mentioned Toyota Grant possibilities for future projects in Sepulveda Basin. [Toyota's Forever Green grants are available only to Audubon entities. The grant might be appropriate for revegetation projects within the WR or in other habitat areas of the basin. They require at least 5 event days during a year, involving a total of at least 150 volunteers. If able to organize a project with at least one partner, SFVAS might apply early next year.]

Submitted by

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