

**Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee  
Meeting May 24, 2016 Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Joe Phillips at 6:37PM at the Balboa Park Sports Center. Voting members attending: Glenn Bailey, William Bowling, Theresa Brady, Steve Hartman, Muriel Kotin, Robert Munsey and Joe Phillips. Non-voting members: Juan Villasenor. Guests and Alternates: Mario Acevedo (DWP), Jodi Clifford (ACOE), Lenise Marrero (San), Kris Ohlenkamp, Mark Osokow, Tom Riley (LBNC), Susan Schalbe, Jim Stein (guest from LBNC), Chris Trent, Jennifer Valdez (DWP), Dave Weeshoff and Kenneth Wong (USACE). Quorum established. Introductions. LAPD not here. Glenn requested a letter from Lake Balboa NC (non-voting member) appointing a representative and alternate.

Minutes of 4/25/16 were approved with addition of Robert Munsey's name as attending.

**Presentation, LA Groundwater Replenishment Project:** Jennifer Valdez DWP, Mario Acevedo DWP, and Lenise Marrero Bureau of Sanitation. Draft EIR is on street. 60 day review period ends 60 days beyond May 12 (release date). Water resources, drought, recycled water. Existing and new pipes will take recycled water from TWRP to Hansen and Pacoima spreading grounds. How recycled water is produced. They're looking to further purify the tertiary treated water for this project and testing a number of advanced treatment processes. Tours are available for the pilot treatment project. All within the Tillman berm. New pipe construction in Arleta. Final EIR this fall. Construction in 2023. 6/14 public evening meeting. Woodley Park will not be impacted. Not clear whether Orange Line will be put on recycled water soon; they're working on it. Flows to Wildlife Lake, Lake Balboa and Japanese Garden will not be reduced. Same regarding LA River. Phase 2 will divert some of the current flows that now go to Hyperion to groundwater replenishment. They don't yet have ACOE approval and a NEPA process will be needed. NEPA 2017. Construction will be around 2019 - 21.

Reclaimed water for south Reserve is not part of this project, but they are extending irrigation to additional parts of SB. They want to add Birmingham HS and other schools in that complex. Encountering difficulties getting OK from Corps. Also, the groundwater recharge will take all the water that will be available. What about rainwater runoff? There's not a lot of pervious soil in the Valley; Stormwater Group is looking at the problem. There are small projects to do onsite recharge. Chatsworth Nature Preserve's Ecology Pond -- could that be revisited? Write letter. To get reclaimed water to SB Dog Park, NC's etc. should write letters. Cisterns?

**Alternatives for VMP:** Army Corps was represented by Jodi Clifford and Ken Wong. Alt. 3 is Phased Mowing Alternative. Alt. 4 is Marsh Alternative, water pumped from Haskell Creek into the marsh, then back to Haskell Creek. Alt. 5 is Sinuous Channel Alternative. They have a meeting scheduled to discuss Pothole Pond with technical folks. Glenn suggested a line through Burbank Tunnel from Wildlife Lake to Pothole Pond: best to write a letter suggesting. Why widen the pathways to 14'? The width of the road will remain the same, just with buffer along the sides. Terrie asked about a motion of Alt. 4 with a request to not use herbicides, use volunteers. Ken mentioned that their herbicide spraying has been upland, not along the riparian

corridor. The corps would consider such a proposal with the proviso depending on that being successful. Why do the alternatives still refer to poison oak which has never been there? Why is water hyacinth still listed in the plant palette?

On 2/29/15 this committee passed a motion Preferring Alt. 4 (Marsh Alternative) with volunteers for a year to do the weeding, no herbicide. Bill and Terrie will prepare a statement for Joe to send in to the Corps on behalf of the committee.

Why does Alt. 1 show annual mowing as the current management plan, when there has not been annual mowing? Answer: the original VMP that we didn't see. Suggestion was made that if herbicides are used, the soil and creek water should be tested for herbicide residuals. Background level would need to be tested to see starting condition due to past herbicide use and residue from urban runoff.

Muriel moved to reaffirm the motion of 9/29/15. Bill Bowling seconded. Motion was withdrawn.

**Muriel moved that this committee support Alternative 4, the Seasonal Marsh Alternative, of the Environmental Assessment of 4/19/2016. Seconded by Glenn. Unanimously approved.**

**Glenn moved that we support the inclusion of the restoration of Pothole Pond and that the feasibility of providing reclaimed water to it on a reasonable basis be considered. Unanimously approved.**

**Bill moved that we request to the Army Corps a one year program of volunteers hand clearing non-native vegetation rather than using herbicide; and mowing brush down only to 3 feet.** Glenn commented that he's counting on FoLAR and Sierra Club to provide a knowledgeable and large crew. Mark commented that the Corps hasn't made any suggestions for controlling weeds other than by herbicide. Steve pointed out the tiny amount of herbicide that is used on the wild lands in SB. Glenn pointed out that this is the Corps land to manage. Muriel suggested reducing the time span or size of the pilot project. Dave suggested prioritizing areas. Kris suggested using Haskell Creek as a dividing line between herbicide and volunteer areas. Terrie seconded. **Passed: 4 yes, 1 no, 1 abstention.**

VMP Comment period is still open. Critical time to get comments to the Corps. Final product probable around a month later. June 15 is the new deadline for comments. !!!

Can the Corps help with management of weeding volunteers? Maybe and would vary with the appropriation at the time.

**Location of Committee Meetings:** We may be moving these meetings to Balboa Sports Center.

**Website Enhancement:** Steve would like someone to take it over. Joe suggested a drop down with activities. They're already on the website. Any group can submit activities to Steve.

**AngelFest (Delayed to October 2017):**

- Joe: it's a polarizing event. If it happens, what can we do to control harm? Joe will submit the motion from last meeting to the Corps.
- Steve sees this event as the death knell of the Wildlife Reserve, RAP slowly eating away at it, a plan to eliminate the Wildlife Reserve. There is no inventory of existing plants. Proposing to trim trees -- no definition. Reeks of duplicity.
- Terrie: Sierra Club is asking for an EIS and a different location.
- Four Gyres has withdrawn their support of A/F.
- Glenn objected to a statement at the 5/10 meeting by promoters that TreePeople had planted most of the trees in SB -- not so. Steve: after TP planted eucalyptus in the Burbank Blvd median, Steve phoned Andy Lipkis and they then planted oaks additionally in that median.
- RAP says the 5/10 meeting agenda was set by the ACOE.
- Chris Trent mentioned the 3 busloads of people who sat and cheered A/F presentation 5/10.

Steve said people have been planting exotic trees in the WR -- a bunch of them between viewing areas 1 and 2.

Muriel moved that this committee opposes holding AngelFest in Woodley Park. FoLAR and Sierra Club and LAAS would abstain. RCD isn't taking a yea/nay position, only submitting comments. The motion was not seconded.

Adjourned at 9PM.

Submitted by

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