

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Meeting March 26, 2019 -- Approved Minutes

Steve Hartman chaired, substituting for George Waddell. Meeting was called to order at 6:35PM. Quorum established. Introductions. Voting Members: Glenn Bailey, Theresa Brady, Steve Hartman, Muriel Kotin, and Joe Phillips. Non-voting Members: Pat Bates, Ruth Doxsee (for late part), and Jorge De Loera. Guests and non-voting alternates: Tessa Charnofsky, Evan Doxsee, Barb Heidemann, Kelly Kazmirchuk, Phil Serpa, David Troy, and Tony Tucci.

January 2019 Minutes: Approval postponed until the next meeting at Terrie's request regarding coverage of rodenticides discussion.

Announcements: Chatsworth Nature Preserve Open House 4/6. Homeless Information Fairs 3/30 and other dates. Haskell Creek cleanup 4/13. Also 4/13 Encino Chamber of Commerce will remove graffiti from Balboa bridge over LAR. Re-imagine Your River planning events will be held on several dates and locations. Angeles Chapter Sierra Club's play on limber loss 4/7. Their awards banquet 5/5 in Long Beach. Sponsoring trips to Channel Islands. Lake Balboa NC election Sunday 5/19 at Gault E.S. Chess tables to be installed at Louise Park soon. Bird LA Day 5/4.

Tessa Chernofsky for Sheila Kuehl's Office: The County's Draft Sustainability Plan will be released in April with public meeting. She will forward copies of the plan. [Note: She sent the link and word that people can make comments on the plan until May 24th. Link: <https://ourcountyla.org/discussion-draft>.] 4/27 summit/meeting on it. It makes recommendations for entire county. For unincorporated areas, there's a pause in the use of Glyphosate for 30 days while a study is done on human health impacts and alternatives are sought.

Tessa will also provide information about homeless portal where you can make referrals to the outreach team that can work with homeless individuals and encampments. [Note: Terrie forwarded the link: <https://www.lahsa.org/portal/apps/la-hop/request> .]

Kelly Kazmirchuk for Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains: She described what the RCD does in Sepulveda Basin. The LA River Masterplan asked RCD to do an outreach event; they'll offer public environmental education in coordination with the 4/13 cleanup.

Tony Tucci for CLAW (Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife): Advocacy, conservation and education are what they do. Part of the coalition to regulate pesticides at the state level. Ban on consumer use of rodenticides has not been enough. Comment letters are due Friday on bill to ban 2nd generation rodenticides statewide and to discourage parks and cities from using any rodenticides. On CLAW website, click on Ban Rodenticides link. Includes how to sign into state portal. Discussion will ensue between CLAW and ACOE on methods of ground squirrel control to avoid dams being undermined. Tony suggested that the county needs better policies on squirrel and gopher control. AB 1788 has been introduced in the State Assembly by Bloom.

It is a bill that would ban the "second generation" category of anticoagulant rodenticide in California, and all rodenticide on state parkland.

Phil Serpa for ACOE: They're building their resource management team. Expecting a third ranger and a new biologist, John Rishi. Hesperia is in the far northeast corner of their region. Rangers work every weekend Thurs – Monday at some part of their large region. They work with local law enforcement, including LAPD and city park rangers. Homeless issues. Visiting elementary schools explaining flood risk management. Nick Figueroa's cell phone # still good. MRCA is still working on river recreation and possibly will expand area west to the Orange Line trestle. Maintenance has done the annual vegetation management in the South Reserve and removed the silt in the river channel. Committee would like to see what was done. Perhaps we could do this as part of the walkthrough east of the Wildlife Lake before the May meeting! Let Phil know.

Three-Day Concert Labor Day Weekend: What is the Corps' criteria? Can't impact public use for adjacent areas. Adequate security, traffic, parking plan. The first event this large since the 2011 Master Plan. Corps is interested in reports after the event. Suggestion of no ins and outs from the concert, so people don't wander into the Wildlife Reserve. Suggestion to limit parking to encourage use of public transportation. On the other hand, expensive or non-existent parking leads to parking in nearby neighborhoods. Incentives to take public transportation might be better. Neighborhood councils were surprised to have so little notice before the comment deadline, about a 30 day comment period. Opinion expressed that we shouldn't exceed 5K people for any event in Sepulveda Basin.

May Walkthrough: — invite ACOE to take us to South Reserve.

Muriel Kotin for SFVAS: Creek Cleanup 4/13. Vandalism impacts, including door to bulletin board and nearby map of Wildlife Reserve. Dutch door to storeroom is increasingly damaged by people kicking it. Jorge will look into a new door. [Note: RAP has installed a new one-piece door.] One tub (of three) of stolen binoculars was retrieved from a homeless encampment along Bull Creek by city park rangers.

Pat Bates on Proposal for Ranger Station in Sepulveda Basin: SB is a tremendous natural resource on the edge of a huge urban area. SBWASC has been requesting a ranger station since at least the Great Recession. Other city parks are getting ranger stations. Lake Balboa NC voted request, Encino NC will vote tomorrow. Educational and law enforcement role of rangers. The requested station would be for all of Sepulveda Basin. SB rangers could also serve other south SFV parks. Could coordinate with ACOE rangers.

Homeless Count: LAHSA estimated 31 homeless living in SB which Pat estimates is a third of the real count. She has developed a cell phone GIS app. There's a massive encampment in Haskell Creek north of Wildlife Way to the Orange Busway, likely the reason Haskell Creek is such a mess south of Wildlife Way. Where will these people go? Corps said no bridge housing near the Sepulveda Blvd firehouse because of a security issue. There might be a location of a

half-acre at the west end of Oxnard near the 405, owned by DWP. Other possible sites discussed. HUD will evaluate sites. In partnership with city.

Reports:

- Virulent Newcastle Disease outbreak and quarantine.
- CNPS weeding team members have been hard at work. Where they've eliminated mustard and other exotics, natives are returning. They work early Tuesdays and Thursdays. The graffiti is being cleaned up.
- Address of Wildlife Reserve is a problem for people trying to find the Wildlife Reserve. Jorge will bring it up to the department.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40PM.

Submitted by

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