

**Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Meeting November 26, 2019 – Approved Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by committee chair George Waddell at 6:40 PM at the Balboa Sports Center. After introductions and establishment of a quorum, minutes of the meeting September 19, 2019 were approved with correction of the starting time. Attending were voting members Glenn Bailey, Theresa Brady, Muriel Kotin, Joe Phillips and the chair. Non-voting members were Patricia Bates, Jorge DeLoera, Ruth Doxsee and Paola Jaramillo. Alternates not voting tonight were Barb Heidemann and David Troy. Guests were Anne Abramson, Shelly Backlar (potential voting member), Mary Carmona, Giancarlo Gomez, Richard Rachman and Marcos Sanchez.

Announcements of Events:

- CicLAvia Dec 8, in west SFV for first time.
- Bird Events: Monthly bird walk in Wildlife Reserve Dec 1, 8AM. SFV Christmas Bird Count Dec 14, pizza and beer after (see sfvaudubon.com).
- Lake Balboa NC: Nury Martinez, CD 6 Councilwoman, will speak at LBNC board meeting Dec 4, 6:30/7PM. Late January will hold a Town Hall on new state laws on land use and community impacts. Planning a 2020 candidate forum for LAUSD Board District 3 election.
- There's a movement to replace Black Friday with Green Friday: help the environment instead of shopping.
- The Encino NC meeting Dec 4 will consider a motion to recommend to all agencies at least 30 days notice before any clearing is done in the Bull Creek Restoration Area.

Elected Officials: Marcos Sanchez, District Director for CD 6 (Nury Martinez) updated the committee on cleanups and homeless policy. There will be further cleanup on the west side of the Bull Creek area, over around three weeks in Dec and Jan. South of Burbank Blvd, Sanitation is working with CA Fish and Wildlife, starting near the dam gates and working northwest along the LAR. Policy is No Camping in Sepulveda Basin. In Bull Creek and Haskell Creek, no vegetation is being removed, only trash. CD 6 is trying to get a Sepulveda Basin park ranger. Security and maintenance are the crucial elements in parks. They hope to have areas cleaned up before the nesting season. Low lighting and lighting color to minimize wildlife impacts was discussed.

Glenn suggested adding Jeremy Saraie, Jessie Gabriel's new field deputy for the south valley to the distribution lists.

Oak Tree Planting Project: Richard Rachman and Giancarlo Gomez presented this CNPS project that would plant 10-20 coast live and valley oak saplings east of the path on the west side of Haskell Creek, where mustard has been cleared. They want to do the planting soon (on a Saturday) for best survivability. Jorge will have to get clearance from RAP's Forestry Division. The committee is in favor of this planting.

US Army Corps of Engineers: Mary Carmona, new park ranger, represented her partner, Nick Figueroa and their supervisor Robert Moreno. USACE wants to do a spring restoration project in the recently burned area. They're thinking of Feb 20 or Mar 14. The committee suggested earlier, for better results. (It turns out Mar 7 is better than Mar 14 for SFVAS participation.)

Recreation and Parks:

- Jorge and Paola reported that they visit the Wildlife Reserve every Friday.
- Is there a schedule of events in the park, as "Students Run LA" overran much of the Basin recently, without public notice? Louis Loomis no longer manages the permit office. Paola Monton handles permits. Jorge will see about their resuming the Valley Events bulletin.
- Filming events periodically close Woodley Ave with effectively no notice, which causes havoc with school buses accessing the Wildlife Reserve for field trips. [Muriel is to contact the film office: Kevin.James@LACity.org.]

FoLAR Habitat Restoration: Shelly reported on the big success of the Nov 9 event. Over 100 people. 150 bags filled with mustard. They are monitoring the area twice a month. For the future, could a dumpster be used rather than bags? Is mowing possible?

CNPS/Xerces Planting Project: The weeding team augmented by more volunteers, including the LA Conservation Corps, planted the last of the 1,600 pollinator plants today.

Projects Subcommittee: The committee will be Shelly Backlar, Terrie Brady, Barbara Heidemann, Muriel Kotin and George Waddell. They will schedule a first meeting.

Remediation for Area between Sepulveda Sports Center and LA River: Planting native trees and developing passive recreation facilities like picnic tables was suggested in this area which was scraped clear. Funds might come from propositions K, A, W or re-purposing of aquatic funds.

Proposed Letter regarding Glyphosate Ban: Committee discussed the letter drafted for sending to the LA County Board of Supervisors. It was **moved, seconded and unanimously passed** to approve in principal, with edits to be made by the committee via email to improve wording before it is sent.

Chairperson for 2020: Joe Phillips will be the 2020 chair.

Remembering Park Ranger Captain Albert Torres: The Griffith Park Nature Center will be renamed in his honor. Therefore it is not appropriate to rename the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve, which would be likely to cause confusion in any case. It was recommended that the wildlife reserve amphitheater be named in his honor or that the earlier proposed memorial oak grove project within the wildlife reserve be developed and named in his honor. It was mentioned that mapping programs might be able to better direct the public to the amphitheater if it has a separate name such as: The Captain Albert Torres Amphitheater at the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve. A plaque could be placed on one of the large rock monuments between the parking area and amphitheater. Marcos Sanchez will consult with the

CD-6 office. (City Council File 19-1279 is in committee, Nury Martinez's motion about naming in Albert's honor.)

ACOE Spring Cleanup: This cleanup near Burbank and Woodley needs a 501(c)(3) partner so donations may be raised. Shelly volunteered FoLAR.

The meeting was adjourned around 9:00PM.

Submitted by

Muriel S. Kotin
Member Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee