

**SEPULVEDA BASIN WILDLIFE AREAS STEERING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
AUGUST 27, 2024**

Meeting was held in person at the Encino Community Center and on Zoom and recorded

After determining a quorum meeting was called to order at 6:34PM

**Voting members in attendance at venue: Dan Cooper (RCDSMM Chair), Patricia Bates (SFV Audubon), Nurit Katz (LA Audubon), Theresa Brady (SFV Sierra), George Waddell (CNPS - LA)**

Additional attendees at venue: Muriel Kotin (SFV Audubon Alt), Miriam Preissel (LBNC). Non board attendees: Richard Davis, Marianne Davis, Anne Abramson, Darian Heredia, Linda Graviani, Danica Middleton, Lydia Jerosimich, Douglas Escobar, Josh Sautter, Kathy Schreiner, Jill Haber, Megan Hay, Wayne Neal

Zoom Attendees: Manuel Aguilar (LADWP), Juan Aynat (RAP) Marcelino Ascencio (BOE), Eric, Jim Hanlon, John Rishi (USACE), Dave Weeshoff, Kevin Jauregui (FOLAR), Melanie Winters, Rosie Avetisyan (CD 6), Rhonda Fields (USACE), Brian Paul (USACE), Eric Irwin (USACE), Hanna Weyland (USACE)

**2. The minutes of the May 28, 2024 meeting were approved without objection**

**3. Public comments on non-agenda items:** Richard Davis spoke briefly on an accessible signage project using qr codes, he was introduced to Kathy Schreiner for follow up separate conversation on signage.

**4.a.Reports from Public Officials:**

US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) noted that September 28 2024 will be celebration of National Public Lands Day with Sepulveda Basin activities with CNPS, SFVAS and RAP

We learned that the music festival slated for October 2024 was postponed to 2025.

**4.b. Reports from Member Organizations:** George Waddell from CNPS noted that they would be participating in the September Public Lands event, also that the monthly restoration events in conjunction with SFVAS and FOLAR have netted over 1700 volunteer hours and 1100 bags of weeds collected. SFVAS continues with its scheduled basin activities and also continues to advocate for enforcement of park rules including zero tolerance for encampments.

**5. Presentation:** US Army Corps of Engineers on Sepulveda Basin Master Plan Revision. This was a very initial Zoom powerpoint presentation describing what is a Master Plan, the slides are attached to and part of these minutes. The slides explain the purpose of the master plan. The USACE is beginning the revisions of both the Sepulveda Basin and Hansen Dam Master Plans. Important to be aware this is the beginning of the Public Notification period, which will probably

extend through October 2024, the draft Master Plan/EA is anticipated to be released in about a year with a subsequent 30 day public comment period and final release in 2026. There will be a website for the Master Plans for Public/Stakeholder input - it is not available yet.

***Here are links to the [2011 Master Plan](#) and related maps***

***Maps***

***[Land Use Classification](#)***

***[Existing Recreation and Flood Frequency Contours](#)***

***[Vegetation](#)***

***[Special Status Taxa Occurrences](#)***

***[Real Estate](#)***

***[Restoration Opportunities](#)***

Q & A after the Presentation:

How will the SB Vision Plan relate and be integrated into the Master Plan and Vice Versa?

Answer is basically there will be input from same stakeholders.

Multiple lack of enforcement and jurisdiction questions.

LA28: Will the LA 2028 Olympics have any impact on the Master Plan or Vice Versa. Brief answer was that all the LA 28 venues proposed are temporary. Though some food establishments may end up permanently there.

Poaching - this has been a problem, CA Fish and Wildlife will be part of the process for the Master Plan.

**6.a. Signage/Wayfinding in Sepulveda Basin:** Kathy Shreiner briefly described work on this - people can't find anything in the basin. She will meet with Richard Davis from SFV Audubon on signage issues and report back.

**6b. Post Fire What to Do:** Discussion, possible hydroseeding. Muriel noted there may be a tight time frame, possible funding from Consortium, Audubon, etc. Pat noted that controlled burns were studied, USACE prevented but possible in future. Concluded to study further. Pat, George, Dan, Muriel and Nurit will be on a sub committee to study this.

**6 c: Concert is postponed to 2025**

**6d. CF 24-0909:** Pat noted this would be heard by City council tomorrow, would pass, questioned why the reference to a working group was removed by amendment. Rosie Avetisyan from CD 6 clarified that the multi-agency working group is actually meeting regarding remediation of the basin situations. Dan and Nurit requested that the SBWASC be a part of the working group for example to assist with getting volunteers to help with id'ing native plants vs weeds.

Minutes prepared by Pat Bates, SFVAS with corrections 2024 09 05

**Zoom Chat File:**

00:39:01 Kevin Jauregui (he/him): Kevin jauregui with FoLAR  
00:39:12 Rosie Avetisyan: Rosie Avetisyan — CD6 Lake Balboa Field Deputy  
00:39:19 Juan Aynat: Juan Aynat - Recreation and Parks.  
00:39:29 Melanie Winter: Melanie Winter, The River Project  
00:39:46 Manuel Aguilar: Manuel Aguilar - LADWP Water Resources  
00:39:51 Jim Hanlon: Jim Hanlon Wildlife Photographer  
00:39:52 Marcelino Ascensio | City of LA, BOE: Marcelino Ascensio, City of LA,  
Bureau of Engineering  
00:40:00 R. Brian Paul - USACE Natural Resources PM: R. Brian Paul, Natural  
Resources PM, USACE Los Angeles  
00:40:11 Eric Irwin (USACE): Eric Irwin, US Army Corps of Engineers  
00:40:54 Jon Rishi, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Jon Rishi, U.S. Army Corps of  
Engineers  
00:44:52 Hanna Weyland - USACE: Hanna Weyland - USACE  
00:45:06 Rhonda Fields USACE: Rhonda Fields, Army Corps of Engineers, Regional  
Planning and Environmental Center  
00:51:34 Marcelino Ascensio | City of LA, BOE: For tonight's presentation I would  
request a copy at marcelino.ascensio@lacity.org Thank you!  
01:31:08 Marcelino Ascensio | City of LA, BOE: I have some comments on behalf of  
the City  
01:34:05 Marcelino Ascensio | City of LA, BOE: The City is working with the LA  
District of the Army Corps. Projects that require any type of change of use are in the last phase  
of the vision plan to allow for changes to the master plan. We understand it is a long process.  
01:34:53 Marcelino Ascensio | City of LA, BOE: \*Changes to the Army Corps' master  
plan.  
01:35:48 Juan Aynat: Are the 2028 Olympics included in the master plan. Will that delay  
or impact the master plan?  
01:37:55 Lionel Mares: Replying to "Are the 2028 Olympic..."

I'm concerned that the Olympics would mean more structure building and natural habitat  
destruction.

01:39:38 Juan Aynat: Yes temporary facilities.  
01:40:22 Melanie Winter: Except for the restaurant, the promenade, the arena, tc  
01:50:23 Juan Aynat: Juan.aynat@lacity.org and Traci.Goldberg@lacity.org. For future  
email correspondence. From Rec and Parks. Thank you.  
01:55:22 Nurit Katz: Thank you, will add your emails to the list and be sure you get the  
slides  
01:56:57 Jon Rishi, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: In our restoration work at Whittier  
Narrows we have found planting container plants more successful than hydroseeding.  
01:57:07 Lionel Mares: Reacted to "Thank you, will add..." with 👍  
01:58:07 Jim Hanlon: Hydro-mulching with natives sounds interesting  
02:03:09 Marcelino Ascensio | City of LA, BOE: I have to drop off. Thank you  
everyone.  
02:09:46 Jim Hanlon: All homeless could be moved to a place zoned for them.