

SEPULVEDA BASIN WILDLIFE AREAS STEERING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING prepared by Pat Bates (SFVAS)  
10/1/2024

1. Quorum was determined and meeting called to order at 6:35PM at Balboa Sports Center 17015 Burbank Blvd. Encino 91316

**Members in attendance:** Pat Bates (SFV Audubon) Nurit Katz (LA Audubon) Dan Cooper (RCD of SMM) Theresa Brady (Sierra Club, San Fernando Valley Group) Kevin Jauregui (FOLAR) Greg Stewart (CNPS) Muriel Kotin (SFV Audubon Alt)

**Government officials in attendance:** Brian Yamasaki (Rec. & Parks)

**Zoom attendees:** John Rishi (USACE) Jesus Gonzales (LADWP) Rosie Avetisyan (CD 6) Ricky Angel (CD4) Manuel Aguilar (LADWP) Hannah Weyland (USACE) Barbara Heidemann (SFVAS)

2. Minutes of 8/24/24: Motion to approve Nurit/Dan, approved unanimously
3. No Public comments
4. Reports:
  - a. Government Officials:
    - i. Brian Yamasaki (RAP) addressed viewing areas and overgrown vegetation in viewing areas and pathways used by field trips. Pathways and vegetation will be cleared in time for the tours. Muriel inquired about the missing drinking fountain, at the amphitheater - ans. is it is on order, will be a modern bottle-fill station.
    - ii. John/Hannah from USACE - no news on Master Plan revisions, should have a date soon. John mentioned the disintegrating viewing areas, Nurit noted the Bureau of Engineering is aware and funding would need to be found. They had a meeting with the LA28 committee, briefed them on USACE requirements for land use, preliminary to filing for permits, venues, etc. Thanks to FOLAR, CNPS, SFVAS for participating in National Public lands event on 9/28 in the wildlife area. USACE will watch for funding opportunities that might help with the collapsing viewing areas. Nurit noted the total collapse of one station might be averted by dumping fill to shore it up. USACE will do pre-activity surveys for any major operations affecting vegetation.
    - iii. LADWP Jesus Gonzales: Regarding the LADWP/LASAN project to distribute Tillman Water to the Hansen Spreading Grounds. Project is beginning, they will be at our November meeting to brief on progress and possible impacts. Most of the expected impacts are north of Tillman.
    - iv. CD 4/CD 6: Funds have been allocated to pay for brush clearance in the basin medians on Burbank, Woodley and Balboa. Work clearing the brush, trimming approx 200 trees (removing if 65% dead) and mulching will begin in the coming weekend. There was a question if any dead trees

would be replaced, ans. Is no. Greg mentioned any tree replacements should use native trees.

- b. Member reports:
  - i. CNPS: Greg mentioned they are getting lots of mulch. They are spreading seeds from the existing native plant area on the nearby burn scar.
  - ii. FOLAR: Kevin again thanked USACE for partnering in habitat restoration day, mentioned Saturday 10/25/24 Bull Creek cleanup event. Rosie A noted she and CM Padilla would be at the cleanup.
  - iii. LA Audubon: Nurit mentioned LA Raptor Study concluding for 2024 and report would be forthcoming.
  - iv. Sierra Club - no updates
  - v. SFV Audubon - Pat noted SFVAS was excited to participate in Habitat Restoration and National Public Lands Day events, tabling at Bull Creek cleanup. SFVAS is promoting Prop 4 and i Bird/I vote. Working on possible shared resolution regarding fires and enforcement in high fire & riparian zones. Family/Beginner bird walks starting 10/19/2024.
  - vi. RCD of SMM: Dan mentioned that the school field trip program which is supported by SFVAS is underway. RCD has met with Deborah Weintraub of the Bureau of Engineering regarding the fire prevention plan presented last year. She is interested and has met with Clark Stevens at RCD.
- 5. Fire Mitigation Working Group: Rosie A. mentioned the internal working group has divided basin zones, first zone is Encino CreekS. of Burbank, Hayvenhurst to Woodley and is the first area that will be cleared of encampments. It will be week of 10/21, with LA San, etc. Also consulting with BOE regarding Encino Creek drainage. Working on better way of patrolling basin. Asked Dan to email re: soil moisture mitigation. Discussion of Encino Creek waterway followed. Nurit offered assistance with identifying native trees. Rosie clarified that they were clearing encampments, not brush.
- 6. Further discussion touched on using goats, various fire hazards and mitigation. New Officers discussion: In November the meeting will select new presiding officers. Nobody knows who's up next. Turns out SFVAS is next up. Vote in Nov. will be to have Pat chair and Greg (CNPS) co-chair. There was some discussion of offering the Sepulveda Basin for a garden to replace the one destroyed at Elysian park. Conclusion was probably too far away from Elysian Valley. Brief discussion of the Elysian park incident and possible Friends of organization for the basin. Decision was made to activate the Friends of Sepulveda Basin wildlife Areas Facebook Group.

Meeting adjourned 1930

Chat messages:

Barb Heidemann - SFVAS 16:12 **BH**

Yes, the kids will appreciate that drinking fountain.

Barb Heidemann - SFVAS

20:06

**BH**

We say thank you

Jesus Gonzalez (LADWP)

30:10

**JG**

FYI. If there are additional questions about the Tillman Recycled Water Project, please reach out to me directly. I unfortunately have to run...dinner time with my kids :)

Jesus Gonzalez

LADWP

213-367-4048

Rosie Avetisyan; CD6

44:13

**RA**

[Rosie.avetisyan@lacity.org](mailto:Rosie.avetisyan@lacity.org)

Barb Heidemann - SFVAS

53:52

**BH**

Nurit, maybe you could ask Pat B to comment on the hazardous encampment discovered last Sat near the Boat Ramp viewing area?