

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee
Meeting May 23, 2023 –Approved Minutes

The meeting was chaired by Melanie Winter and called to order at 6:40. A quorum was established. Introductions. Recording of meeting is viewable at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xqWzb5HuT_tZmZYNFQlMvSy1HBe02PBb/view?usp=sharing.

Voting Members attending: Theresa Brady, Dan Cooper, Nurit Katz, Muriel Kotin, Gregory Stewart, Melanie Winter. Non-voting members: Pat Bates and Brian Yamasaki. Alternates not voting tonight: Glenn Bailey, Barbara Heidemann. Guests: Mirna Ezquivel (Supervisor Lindsey Horvath), Isabella Isles, Charlie Wilken. Attending remotely: Members (ineligible to vote tonight) Dennis Mabasa, Joe Phillips; and Guests Kathy Barton, Shelley Billick, Park Rangers DeOcampo and Khou, Malia Pearson (ACOE).

Minutes of March 2023: Approved as submitted without objection.

There will be an in-person-only workshop meeting in June.

Governmental Agencies:

Mirna Ezquivel for Board of Supervisor Horvath's office introduced herself. The need to clarify jurisdictions within SB was mentioned to her.

RAP – Brian. No info on the sinking viewing area yet. Hopes to get soon. RAP is trying to remove huge amounts of illegal dumping, trash and soil. Woodley Ave's edges where there is a median. Working on replacing trash cans and controlling graffiti. Plan to even off the DG pathways soon. Forestry has been careful in reducing dangerous dead trees to snags. The Steering Committee will check with the city Bureau of Engineering about sinking viewing area.

Offroad parkers, especially on Saturdays, especially the shot-putting group: Brian will work on a way to fence the lawn off more effectively. Rocks? Old phone poles? If not treated with toxic chemicals? Can we afford to hire the CCC to control the mustard and other weeds? We might find a grant. No budget to extend fencing west of Haskell Creek.

CD-6 – Jonah: Goat grazing progress? He needs to follow up with RAP risk management once budget process winds up. The new council member may need to focus on the issue after election. He understands the fire concerns.

LAPD – SLO Terrazas: Machete Man has not committed any crimes against a person and LAPD is reluctant to escalate matters. LAPD is very aware and watching out for him but avoiding pursuing and possibly provoking a life-threatening encounter. When he sees police, he runs. (Brandishing is a different matter, beyond infraction.) Infractions or very minor misdemeanors of carrying a blade over 3" and of hacking at the vegetations are not recorded unless an officer sees it firsthand. A massive 2-day homeless encampment cleanup is planned next week west of Woodley. Fishing and off-leash dogs are park ranger issues, not LAPD's.

LAPD doesn't use What 3 Words apps. If we call in the GPS coordinates, the dispatcher might be able to dispatch a helicopter who can then direct the patrols. There is concern that the person with machete has major negative impact on people feeling safe in their park. People should not seek out encounters.

Mirna said she might be able to put dept of mental health together with a plainclothes officer. SLO Terrazas said that's too dangerous as neither is armed. If he has the location of his encampment, he might be able to bring in officers to talk to him and possibly take away his machete. He was encouraged to have more frequent LAPD and ranger drive-throughs, which he'll try to arrange.

Suggestion made to put up tall, numbered poles for wayfinding. Or plaques with GPS addresses. If we can provide a map, SLO Terrazas will share with it his colleagues. Greg will provide it.

Encino NC covers all of basin west of I-405, as does Lake Balboa NC. It is a shared jurisdiction. A neighborhood meeting is a possibility. There are signs of many campfires happening at night, a dangerous situation. Any possibility of any patrols (patrol car/helicopter) after sunset when the park is closed? A park ranger function, but SLO Terrazas will see if he can arrange some drive throughs at night.

Fighting kites? Municipal Codes only refer to parakites. An additional MC for fighter kites is needed.

RCD – Dan Cooper and Isabella Isles: Update presentation on Fire Resiliency Project for Sepulveda Basin. Prescribed Inundation for Wildfire Resiliency: The slides will be emailed to the committee. Several stages of riparian vegetation would result. What would happen if we lost the purple pipes to some area? Malia Pearson (ACOE) said environmental impact study will be needed. RCD explained it's conceptual design now, they're studying whether it will work. Water supply will be the existing water in Haskell Creek or from extending the purple pipe system. Maybe purple pipe would be for the east field, the creek for the west field. Malia Pearson (ACOE) said environmental impact study will be needed. RCD explained it's a conceptual design now, they're studying whether it will work.

Bureau of Engineering's SB Vision Planning Process: There will be a special workshop meeting June 27 for SBWASC. The updated plans are being shown at ongoing meetings. Draft of 3 alternatives. Discussion, including about coordination with ACOE.

Fighting Kites: Motion seconded and unanimously passed to support Encino NC's requested change to LAMC §63.44, Section 63.44.B.8 which currently reads: No person shall land, release, take off or fly any balloon, except children's toy balloons not inflated with any flammable material, helicopter, parakite, hang glider, aircraft or powered models thereof, except in areas specifically set aside therefor. The additional category of prohibited devices would be "fighting kites, defined as kites tethered to over 150' of line and/or tethered to abrasive cord."

ACOE -- Malia: they're preparing a contract to cleanup LAR from Balboa Blvd to the outlet works near the dam in September. Bull Creek is not included, as leased to RAP. Are they removing native vegetation? Uncertain. A lot of sediment will be removed. The committee wishes to see the specifics of what will be removed and that native trees and understory remain. Dan and Melanie will send vegetation mapping. There are encampments and human refuse committee members would like to see removed, as well as exotics. They do not want to lose native trees and understory.

CNPS – Greg Stewart reported on major planting and weeding planned for Earth Day. There will be a small event in May, then back to big 4th Saturdays in June.

Encino NC – Glenn: State Senate motion regarding hybrid meetings has been narrowed to apply only to NCs, not committees like the Steering Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50. Next meeting will be a special workshop meeting in June.

The Chat follows.

Submitted by

Muriel Kotin, SFVAS Representative to Steering Committee

The Chat:

00:28:44 Nurit Katz: Zoom folks, please add your intros in the chat
00:29:15 Dennis Mabasa | They/Them | FoLAR: Dennis Mabasa, COO, Friends of the LA River
00:29:58 Ranger Deocampo & Khou: Park Ranger Deocampo, assigned to Valley Patrol with my partner Park Ranger Khou, since Jan 15, 2023. Although we cover the entire Valley, we regularly patrol Hansen Dam and Sepulveda Basin.
00:30:28 Shelley Billik: Shelley Billik, Chair, Community Forest Advisory Committee
00:30:37 Kathy Barton: Kathy Barton, President, San Fernando Valley Audubon
00:30:42 Malia Pearson: Malia Pearson - USACE Operations - LACDA Program Manager
00:31:38 Robert Moreno: Robert Moreno, Senior District Park Ranger, USACE
00:32:10 Jonah Glickman CD6: Jonah Glickman - District Director, Council District Six
00:32:46 Nurit Katz: Agenda:
00:33:14 Nurit Katz: Oops, it won't let me paste
00:34:22 Nurit Katz: Heres a link to the agenda:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TjI-GOdHx65Ar6-Gr9wVZlkBqf2xoVKJ/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=102171363154406337144&rtpof=true&d=true>
00:49:23 Nurit Katz: if there are any future questions please text me at 818-384-9493. It will buzz at me that way, so I don't miss any questions in the chat. Thank you!
01:10:37 Ranger Deocampo & Khou: Fire at Lake Balboa. We have to respond.
01:10:51 Nurit Katz: Thank you Rangers
02:14:31 Nurit Katz: nkatz@fm.ucla.edu
02:39:09 Shelley Billik: Thank you