SEPULVEDA BASIN WILDLIFE AREAS STEERING COMMITTEE

Minutes
Tuesday, September 22, 2026 6:30 pm
17015 Burbank Blvd., Encino, CA 91316 - Balboa Sports Center, Allstar Studio
Non-voting members and the public may join online via Zoom:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81696115633?pwd=Cafxa7awPica7Qz5lyejMMSLw0vA1C.1
Meeting ID: 816 9611 5633
Passcode: 168837

1. Determination of quorum, eligibility, call to order, introductions

- *Quorum reached*
- *Meeting called to order at 6:41pm*

Committee Members

- *Pat Bates SFVAS, Dan Mott FOLAR (alternate), Nurit Katz LAAS, Jasmine Reinhardt RCDSMM alt, Marianne Davis (Sierra SFV Alternate), Kathy Schreiner NCSA, George Waddell CNPS Terrie Brady (Sierra SFV)*

Virtual Attendees

- *See attached list*

Guests

- *Richard Davis, Paola Flores Nunez REC Kira Durbin, LADWP: Jesus Gonzalez LA San: Ryan Thiha Stillwater Sci: Nate Butler LAFD Chief Ricardo Gross and firefighter___*

2. Discussion/approval of minutes of August 25, 2026 Meeting

- *Pat Bates motions to approve minutes. Seconded by Nurit Katz.*
- *Motion passes*

3. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items within the subject-matter jurisdiction of the Committee.

- *Excitement for website*

4. Reports from Government Agencies and NGOs not on Committee:

- **4.1. Los Angeles Office of the Mayor: Larry Frank**
    - *All repopulation of encampments have been controlled. Big partners meeting with 35 orgs: Nesting season is over, group 4 is going to tackle arrundo in zone 11. Close to approval on Oxbow area, Chrysalis will tackle nearby after Army Corps approval. Army Corps will work in Zone 3 in river between Balboa and Burbank.* ● **4.2. Los Angeles Council District 6: Rosie Avetisyan**
    - Team has met with the design team on website and gave feedback on accuracy. Waiting to hear back from them on presenting edits, no publish date yet.
    - Tiny home village has housed 27 new individuals making 62 individuals total from the Basin, still working on some others who have refused services. Sun Valley

200 units are at capacity, exploring options with CD12 and other options like Motel 6.
    - ○ Mentioned the event with FoLAR Oct 24th, LAFD mentioned to reach out to their volunteers and CERT. Pat will send contact info for Rico

● **4.3. Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks: Joshua Martinez** Water lettuce monitoring and removal. Pat requested more on leash signs for dogs ● **4.4. Los Angeles Fire Department: Chief Rico Gross**

- ○ Petition for prescribed burns in Basin. Offered support in whatever capacity is needed.
- ○ An emergency preparedness document is being prepared from the template for all 99 districts for the basin and the 2 neighborhood councils that encompass the area. Template launches Oct 29th. Chief Gross recommended the emergency protocols from the city and other resources. Briefly touched on evacuation plans and the need for review and back-up plans
- ○ Goats vs. prescribed burns. Discussed pros and cons and being open to both depending on circumstances. Addressed particulate matter concerns by talking about advance notice, ideal conditions, and rewetting the area to control distribution.
- ○ Recap of model airplane burn and how that became a controlled burn and talked about lessons learned from other prescribed burns gone wrong
- ○ Warner Center park preparedness fair

● **4.5. US Army Corps of Engineers: Hanna Weyland/Nick Figueroa**

- ○ Master plan is out asked for comments by the 30th of October

● **4.6. Encino Neighborhood Council - Glenn Bailey**

- ○ Looking at scheduling parks committee for Wednesday 30th

● **4.7. Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council - Miriam Preissel, Zachery**

- ○ N/A

● **4.8. Reports/Comments from other Government and/or Environmental Organizations attending**

- ○ *N/A*

5. Tilllman facility upgrade: Discussion and possible motion: Presentation from LADWP regarding technical aspects of the project and expected effects on water distribution- Ryan Thiha and Jesus Gonzalez

- Largest project in the nation, $1B investment, $438 M of external funding, will serve 500,000 customers, 5 years in the making
- Played video of the project as an overview
- Goals laid out to have 70% local water, and recycle 100% of wastewater by 2035, reduce potable water use by 25% by 2035
- 300 workers currently employed trying to complete the project on time before the olympics (hopefully this time next year) Water goes to Hansen spreading grounds ● Ryan and Jesus ran through the facility and its improvements. Expanded amount of water captured, new tanks, viewing area and events for the public including an educational center and a balcony that shows the facility and a water tasting.

- Nate from Stillwater talked about the balance of the River between recreation, water security, and nature conservation. Specifically CEFF studied the flows for watershed management. CEFF has recommendations for seasonal flows. Used stakeholder feedback to define goals with defined metrics and that informed flow metrics and future goals. Detailed hydraulics over 200ft sections at an hourly time scale to model flow recommendations with the ability to add more goals in the future. This allowed for the definition of all 5 functional flows. This modeling supported almost all goals presented by the different orgs, but this informed possible modifications to the river form. Most recommendations are less than typical flow from Tillman. This all opens up future changes to the river's form and to create a flow implementation plan.
- Glenn expressed concerns with the job the PR firm is doing for outreach and asked about the Haskell Creek and the Bull Creek flows and how they will be affected. 3MGD to Haskell, 16MGD Lake Balboa, 2-3MGD Bull Creek ~21MGD to the River. The new facility will be able to store water for when the River needs it.

6. REC Los Angeles - Report on Wildlife Reserve Restoration Activities: Discussion and possible motion: Paola Flores Núñez

- Paola shared her strategic plan for the basin and the ongoing Habitat Restoration. She shared the calendar and plan to maximize the time volunteers spend in the basin. REClosangeles.org
- Motion to adopt volunteer strategic plan, seconded. Vote was clarified to offer a letter of support and to have a cohesive plan and to support. Vote was accepted. ● Nurit mentioned REC being an official member of the committee

7. Wildlife Lake Observation Platforms: Discussion and possible motion: Despite the wildlife lake viewing platforms being integral to environmental education, wildlife monitoring and accessibility, urgently needed repairs will not be funded under the $22 million funding package. City officials are considering next steps.

- Pat will continue to try and source funds

8. Sepulveda Dam Master Plan: Discussion and Possible Motion: The US Army Corps of Engineers draft master plan has been released. All member organizations of this committee should undertake careful review and compile their comments. This will be on the agenda for our October 27, 2026 meeting to provide an opportunity for SBWASC to make comments prior to the October 30 deadline. We also expect organizations and individuals will also be commenting.
● Pat asked for feedback and support on providing topics for the meetings.

9. Los Angeles City Charter Amendment PRK : Discussion and possible motion: Measure PRK is on the November Ballot, it will gradually double RAP's charter mandated funding to offset chronic and significant underfunding due to Prop 13 and the City's "administrative fee". ● Pat will ask SFVAS to lobby for the vote

10. Old Business status:

- **10.1. Status of Haskell Creek blockages and trash**

    - *N/A*
- **10.2. Wildlife Reserve Enforcement:** Consider supporting formation of a volunteer corps to provide education and monitoring in the Wildlife Reserve and other sensitive basin areas, similar to the CDFW Natural Resource Volunteer Program or CA State Park/MRCA's Mountain Bike unit. Support will include interfacing with RAP Park Ranger Division, seeking volunteers, funding for training and uniforms.
- **10.3. REC Los Angeles Paola Flores Núñez - need for equipment storage.**
- **10.4. Sepulveda Basin City Website - any updates?**
    - *N/A*

11. Reports from Member Voting Organizations

- **11.1. California Native Plant Society - George Waddell**
    - *N/A*
- **11.2. Friends of the Los Angeles River - Dan Mott**
    - *Celebrating National Public Lands Day on 9/26/26 and partnering with USACE for our monthly Habitat Restoration event at the wildlife reserve from 8am-11am. Please help promote.*
    - *Great LA River CleanUp 10/10/26 from 9am-11am by Sports Complex and 5903 Balboa Blvd. Looking for more volunteers and help with cross promotion. Here's the event sign up link.*
- **11.3. Los Angeles Audubon Society - Nurit Katz**
    - *N/A*
- **11.4. Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance- Kathy Schreiner**
    - *N/A*
- **11.5. Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains - Shelly Backlar**
    - Starting education programs for SFVAS
- **11.6. San Fernando Valley Audubon Society - Pat Bates**
    - Lots of tabling will email calendar
- **11.7. Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter - Joe Phillips**
    - Request that future items include bike path updates
- **11.8. Sierra Club, San Fernando Valley Group - Theresa Brady**
    - Next meeting will be Oct 20th focused on trails

12. Committee members' comments on items not on agenda.

- *N/A*

13. Next regular meeting is October 27, 2026

Meeting adjourned at 8:52PM

Meeting Minutes Prepared by Dan Mott/Pat B. 9/22/2026

the following organizations (as of 1/31/2026):

Environmental Groups:
California Native Plant Society - Steve Hartman/George Waddell
Friends of the Los Angeles River - Ryan Myeda
Los Angeles Audubon Society - Nurit Katz
Neighborhood council Sustainability Alliance - Kathy Schreiner
Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains -Shellly Backlar
San Fernando Valley Audubon Society - Pat Bates
Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter - Joe Phillips
Sierra Club, San Fernando Valley Group - Theresa Brady
Governmental Groups:
US Army Corps of Engineers
Department of Recreation and Parks, City of Los Angeles
Encino Neighborhood Council - Glenn Bailey
Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council - Miriam Preissel

MISSION STATEMENT
The mission of the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee shall be to oversee, in its advisory capacity, the wildlife reserve areas and other areas of present or potential natural value within the Sepulveda Basin, including the Los Angeles River and its tributaries; and to support policies and programs that ensure their long-term preservation and protection.

Public Comment:
Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items within the subject-matter jurisdiction of the Committee is limited to two minutes per speaker. Time may be adjusted at the Chair's discretion. Public comment on agenda items will be heard when the item is up for discussion. Public comment on agenda items is limited to two minutes per speaker per agenda item. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Time may be adjusted at the Chair's discretion

*Public calling in, please press *9 on your phone to raise your hand to speak. For those that are using the Zoom Webinar please use the raise hand feature to speak.*
Remote Participation for Disabled Members (Gov. Code 54953): Members with disabilities may participate remotely as a reasonable accommodation, counting toward a quorum without having to publish their location, provided they use both audio and video.

Name (original name) Email Join time Duration (minutes) Guest Recording disclaimer response Owl (Patricia

Bates) batesbird@gmail.com 9/22/2026 18:28 144 No OK Muriel Kotin SFVAS 9/22/2026 18:28 103 Yes OK Zachary Hunchar LBNC 9/22/2026 18:28 144 Yes OK Barb H - SFVAS SFVAS 9/22/2026 18:28 144 Yes OK Hanna Weyland - USACE USACE 9/22/2026 18:28 144 Yes No Response Joshua Martinez RAP 9/22/2026 18:28 144 Yes OK Ari Cuellar Computer SFVAS 9/22/2026 18:29 144 Yes No Response Ari Cuellar audio SFVAS 9/22/2026 18:29 144 Yes OK Dan's Notetaker (Otter.ai) 9/22/2026 18:30 1 Yes No Response Dan's Notetaker (Otter.ai) 9/22/2026 18:30 3 Yes No Response Dan's Notetaker (Otter.ai) 9/22/2026 18:32 1 Yes No Response Dan's Notetaker (Otter.ai) 9/22/2026 18:32 3 Yes No Response Larry Frank LA Mayor 9/22/2026 18:33 55 Yes No Response ryant 9/22/2026 18:34 102 Yes OK Dan's Notetaker (Otter.ai) 9/22/2026 18:34 1 Yes No Response Dan's Notetaker (Otter.ai) 9/22/2026 18:34 39 Yes No Response Rosie Avetisyan CD6 9/22/2026 18:36 136 Yes OK Nurit Katz LAAS 9/22/2026 18:39 134 Yes OK Danica Middleton-Lake Balboa, LA LBNC 9/22/2026 18:40 132 Yes OK