

**Report on Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee  
Meeting January 22, 2013**

by Jan Kidwell

Glenn Bailey chaired the meeting. About 60 people attended. Paul Koretz, four staff from the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) led by Terri Kaplan, from their Land Asset Management. Muriel Kotin and at least five other Audubon members, Steve Hartman from the Native Plant Society, one of Fran Pavley's staff, a representative from Brad Sherman's office, John Eagan and one other L.A. City police officer, Debra George and Cynthia Weichelt from the Encino Neighborhood Council, five Sierra Club members and other concerned citizens.

This advisory committee to the City of Los Angeles Parks and Recreation Dept usually has less than 10 attendees, and meets every two months on the fourth Tuesday evening, mostly to discuss how the work to remove non-native plants and trees from wildlife habitat is progressing, and where to plant new trees. They have in recent years often requested more signage in the north wildlife preserve near the large pond in hopes of deterring fishing, dog walking and littering in areas where many large birds live.

Because of the public outcry against recent action taken by the Corps that destroyed 43 acres of mature native habitat south of Burbank Boulevard, the residents of the San Fernando Valley are now paying close attention to this area. Those present were overwhelmingly in support of retaining the designation of native habitat. The latest written Plan published by the Corps changes the description of the devastated area to "vegetation". Terri Kaplan, under questioning by Paul Koretz and others, referred to their "Plan" as a "habitat conversion". This decision needs to be reversed. We, the stakeholders, have only one tool against this so called "stewardship". We can write to our elected representatives, demanding restoration of habitat.

Please write to Diane Feinstein, Barbara Boxer, copying your Congressional Representative, your State Senator and your Councilmember if you live in the City of Los Angeles, asking for their help.

The next meeting of the SBWASC will be February 26, 2013 at 6:30PM.