

DRAFT
Big Tujunga Wash Mitigation Area Project
Community Advisory Committee Minutes
Thursday, April 23, 2009
Hansen Yard

I. Welcome/Introduction

Meeting attendance sign-in sheet attached.

II. Review of Meeting Agenda

Valerie DeLaCruz reviewed the meeting agenda.

III. Site Maintenance Issues

Action items from the last meeting were reviewed:

- Mari to send Barbara Tarnowski a list of herbicides pending approval on the CDFG permit.
 - A list of herbicides was not included or listed in the Streambed Alteration Agreement received from CDFG.
- LADPW to coordinate with LAPD to let them know the signs are posted on the site.
 - LAPD has been notified. LADPW in contact with LAPD to find a specific contact person for enforcement. James Gutman stated he did get a response from LA County police when he called recently.
- LADPW to investigate other areas to post signs.
 - A review did not find any other areas to post signs. A map was distributed showing current sign locations.
- LADPW to keep site safety discussions in CAC meetings to monitor effectiveness of signs
 - The consensus was that the 5 existing signs was a good beginning.
- LADPW to post a copy of the sign on the website
 - The sign is now posted on the website.
- LADPW to investigate if Terry Kaiser can use removed kiosk.
 - The kiosk appears to have been disposed of.
- ECORP will look into removing old signs that have been thrown over the fence by the ponds.
 - Only one location where a sign had been thrown over the fence was identified by the pond. A coordinate was taken during the field visit on 2/25/09. The signs have been removed.

- Terry Kaiser to provide an electronic copy of the new aerial photo to LADPW and ECORP.
 - Terry was not at the meeting. LADPW will re-connect with him to obtain the photo.
- LADPW to investigate retention or removal of porta-potties.
 - After review, LADPW wants to retain the porta-potties so that they are available to trail users. The benefits of having them available to trail users outweigh the potential for graffiti or trash. LADPW will continue to monitor the porta-potty area for graffiti and trash. James Gutman pointed out that whoever is cleaning the porta-potties is throwing away unused rolls of toilet paper, which seems wasteful. In general, the trash level has been OK around the porta-potties lately.
- LADPW will investigate repair of fence on Wentworth between Cottonwood and Wheatland.
 - Several maintenance items have been completed since the last meeting:
 - The fence on Wentworth between Cottonwood and Wheatland has been repaired. Any other fence repairs should be reported to LADPW.
 - There was a report of an abandoned motor vehicle. When flood maintenance investigated, it had been removed.
 - There is erosion at the Cottonwood entrance at the end of the asphalt. Repair has been requested. Carol Roper requested repair of the erosion under the stepover bars at the Marybell entrance.
 - The opening in the fence next to the pond has been repaired.
 - Valerie DeLaCruz planning on meeting with flood maintenance Tuesday to come up with a plan so that only authorized vehicles and equestrians can get through the entrance area by the ponds. Tentatively planning a stepover and gate barrier similar to the Wentworth entrance.
- ECORP to check the potential for umbrella sedge to obstruct flow of creek near old bridge location.
 - The area where the umbrella sedge was reported obstructing the creek was not found during a site visit on 2/25/09. ECORP biologists ran into Andrea and James Gutman and the Gutmans reported that the recent rains and high creek flow probably washed the sedge out. It no longer appears to be a problem.
- LADPW to find out the current status of the triangular parcel on Lakeview Terrace side.
 - The triangular “Pratt” parcel’s status was investigated. The property owners paid the taxes through 2006, but are currently one year in default. The property needs to be at least 5 years in default before the County can acquire it.
- LADPW to investigate a method for graffiti removal on rocks.
 - Ari Telias and Charles Martin from LADPW Graffiti Abatement attended

the meeting. LADPW is responsible for 487 miles of flood control channel in the County. There have been no arrests in this area. They count on constituents to report graffiti, especially in remote areas. The graffiti hotline is 1-800-675-4357. In general, graffiti in this area is not related to gangs, but is the work of vandals. The concern with removing the paint from the rocks with sandblasting or other means is the potential impact from introducing a toxic chemical into the environment. Currently, their contractor is painting over graffiti on rocks and adding dirt when the paint is wet. They are told to use a neutral color and feather the edges to look as natural as possible. They would prefer that the contractors continue to conduct the graffiti removal because of liability. In no circumstances should residents confront taggers. Chris Arlington stated that the grid map developed for Big T might be helpful when reporting graffiti locations.

- Barbara Tarnowski to send Mari Quillman her macroinvertebrate observation sheets.
 - Barbara Tarnowski was emailed regarding this matter on February 11, 2009.
- New item: both the biologists and the equestrians have noticed that the mosquitoes are bad on site. LADPW will call vector control about the mosquitoes.

IV. Current Status of Programs

1. Exotic Plant Eradication Program

The Streambed Alteration Agreement has been received from CDFG and no herbicides were included. Nesting bird surveys will be conducted prior to mechanical removal. The trail from Gibson Ranch to the ponds has a lot of thistle.

2. Riparian Habitat Restoration

The Oak/Sycamore Woodland will be having weed removal. Many of the oaks have resprouted. In the Riparian area, there was no planting last season. Hand watering was conducted of the previous planting and a lot of the plants were saved. Biologists will be starting southwestern willow flycatcher and least Bell's vireo surveys soon. Success monitoring and functional analyses will be starting soon.

3. Exotic Wildlife Removal/Monitoring

Exotic wildlife removal will be starting next week.

4. Water Quality Analysis

The Water Quality Analysis report was distributed. There is still no evidence of contaminants from the golf course entering Big T.

5. Trail Restoration/Maintenance

People are encouraged to call Valorie DeLaCruz at LADPW or Mari Quillman at ECORP if any problems are observed. Poison oak seems to be encroaching on trails. Mari will have Nature's Image keep an eye out for poison oak encroaching on trails. LADPW is working with Parks and Rec to update and enforce their signs, in particular, to add "no swimming" to the signs.

Cindy Rowlan at LADPW has been in contact with Wendy Gruel's office. Ms. Gruel's office is working on a sweep on the homeless in May. Any known homeless encampments can be reported to Cindy and she will pass the information on to Ms. Gruel's office. No one at the meeting could identify homeless encampments currently on the Big T site, but noted that there is one encampment southeast of the site.

V. Discuss and Schedule Next Trail Maintenance Day

The next Trail Maintenance Day is scheduled on May 2, 2009 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. Valerie De La Cruz passed out flyers and encouraged members to bring horses to help haul the trash. She will also be giving the information to Mr. Gibson in the hope that he can help with volunteers and horses.

VI. Schedule Next CAC Meeting

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 24, 2009 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at Hansen Yard, 10179 Glenoaks Boulevard Sun Valley, CA 91352.

VII. Action Items

- LADPW to request repair of the erosion under the stepover bars at the Marybell entrance.
- LADPW to send a copy of the grid map to Charles Martin in graffiti abatement.
- LADPW to call vector control about mosquitoes.
- Mari to inform Nature's Image to look out for poison oak encroaching on trails.
- LADPW to send Trail Maintenance Day information to Mr. Gibson.
- Anyone who can bring horses to Trail Maintenance Day should contact Valerie DeLaCruz at (626) 458-6126.