

**DRAFT**  
**Big Tujunga Wash Mitigation Area Project**  
**Community Advisory Committee Minutes**  
**For the Thursday, September 23, 2010 Meeting**  
**At Hansen Yard**

**I. Welcome/Introduction**

Meeting attendance sign-in sheet attached.

**II. Review of Meeting Agenda**

Valerie De La Cruz reviewed the meeting agenda

**III. Discussion of Action Items from the April 29, 2010 Meeting**

Action items from the last meeting were reviewed:

- The CAC Group determined that a representative from Lakeview Terrace should attend the CAC meetings. Terry Kaiser suggested Heidi Paul. He or Pat Davenport will contact her about attending the meetings.
  - Mary Benson suggested that Michael Carpenter should be the Lakeview Terrace representative for the CAC meetings. Mary will contact him. It was also suggested that All Nations Church have a representative for the CAC meetings.
- ECORP will modify the Spanish/English flyer to put the English descriptions before the Spanish translations.
  - Flyer was modified. ECORP will send the modified flyer to Cindy Rowlan and Valerie De La Cruz.
- LADPW to reschedule trash pickup from the site on Mondays.
  - Trash pickup was rescheduled to Mondays.
- Terry Kaiser will contact Bill and Sheila Meers (San Fernando Rangers) to inform them about the need for an access permit if their poker rides go on the County property.
  - Terry Kaiser was not present at the meeting. Valerie De La Cruz will contact Terry about Bill and Sheila Meers to talk about access permits for the site. Valerie stated that she will look into posting permitting information regarding organized poker events online at LADPW's website.
- LADPW will contact Dale Gibson regarding setting up an information booth at the day of the Ride for a Cure events.
  - The 2010 Ride for a Cure event will be held October 2, 2010. ECORP and LADPW would still like to set up an informational booth again to get more people to help on trail clean-up day.
- LADPW to check phone numbers on County signs and clarify who will be responsive to emergencies on the County property.
  - New phone numbers were announced.
- LADPW will check into setting up an agreement with the Park Rangers to patrol the County property.
- ECORP/LADPW will begin formulating an equestrian focused flyer and then circulate that to

the CAC members for review.

- This task has been deferred because there was a concern that too many flyers are in circulation right now. The CAC would like to keep efforts focused on public outreach right now. When the flyer is developed, it will be in English and Spanish.
- LADPW will check with the company who cleans the portable toilets about throwing away new rolls of toilet paper.
  - LADPW will check with the portable toilet company to make sure they are not throwing away new rolls of toilet paper.
- LADPW will remove the downed chain link fence on the east side of the ponds.
  - Still has not been removed, but LADPW stated they will remove it. LADPW will work with Parks and Recreation to contact Caltrans to fix the fence between the pond and the freeway. There is a section of fence that always gets cut for an opening, so LADPW will work with Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation to leave an opening in the fence.
- Terry Kaiser will talk to Valerie De La Cruz about a permit to construct the internal gate at the Wheatland/Wentworth entrance.
  - Terry did not contact Valerie about the internal gate construction. Terry was not present at the meeting.
- The CAC group will encourage equestrians to bring their horses out to haul trash during the Trails Maintenance Day. If anyone is interested, they should contact Valerie De La Cruz at (626) 458-6126.
  - The next Trail Maintenance Day is scheduled for October 16, 2010. However, there may be a conflict with a SHPOA event (Fall Festival) that is scheduled for the same date. The back-up date for the Trail Maintenance Day is October 23, 2010. Contact Valerie De La Cruz if there are any areas that need special focus.

## **Assorted Discussion Items**

### Changes in Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Two months ago the LA County Sheriff's Department merged with the County Safety Police. The sheriffs are stationed in Castaic and will now patrol 26 County parks from the Big Tujunga Area north to Lancaster. The closest station to the Mitigation Area is located in Crescenta Valley. Deputy Ernie Masson distributed the phone number for the Sheriff's Parks Bureau dispatch center: (323) 845-0080. When calling this number, it is best to refer to the Mitigation Area as the "Tujunga Ponds" or "Big Tujunga Mitigation Bank Area". Four units will be patrolling on each shift, with both daytime and nighttime patrols. It was suggested that copies of Terry Kaiser's map be made and distributed to each deputy for reference purposes. The Castaic Sheriff's Station phone number is (661) 257-0881. This number is only for information and other issues pertaining to LA County. This is not to report incidences; however, this number can be used in non-emergency situations.

Parks will be patrolled in three sections; North, South, and East. The Mitigation Area is in the North Section (Sylmar to Lancaster, the San Fernando Valley Section). Each section will be patrolled by 2 vehicles. The Deputy Sheriffs will routinely check each park in the area every day. This will not be just a "drive-by" check. The deputies will get out and walk throughout the parks. The deputies have a key to the gate off Foothill. They will drive through, park by

the west pond, and walk around. Mari Quillman mentioned that ECORP sends a biologist out one day on the weekends during the spring and summer to conduct community outreach regarding appropriate recreational use of the Mitigation Area. It was suggested that these outreaches be coordinated with the deputy patrolling the area.

The Angeles Golf Course recently did a sweep for homeless people and the people who were encouraged to leave the golf course may have relocated to the Mitigation Area. Deputies would be willing to do a weekend sweep of homeless, just contact Deputy Masson.

It would be a good idea to set up a tour of the Mitigation Area on a weekday with the Sheriff's deputies and personnel from the Supervisor's office.

Bike patrolling will be implemented just for the summer season. One sergeant and six deputies will be on mountain bikes. This raised a concern among the group because mountain biking is not allowed in the Mitigation Area and if recreational users see deputies on bikes, it could encourage mountain bikers use at the site. Also, horses are not well adapted to bicycles and scare easily, endangering riders.

The LA County Sheriff's Department has a mounted patrol – most are reserve deputies but a few are full-time deputies. It is often hard to schedule the mounted patrol.

Deputy Masson encouraged everyone at the meeting to contact the Sheriff's Department if any type of assistance is needed for the site. They are more than willing and now have the resources to respond to requests. Deputy Masson also clarified that for emergencies, people should contact the dispatch center (323-845-0080), and for non-emergencies they should contact Deputy Masson at the Sheriff's station (661-257-0881). Some issues will take time to resolve, but the Sheriff's Department is willing and able to help solve any problem.

#### Updating Signs Posted at the Mitigation Area

The signs posted at the Mitigation Area will need to be re-posted with County ordinances. These signs will need specific lettering and size to match other County signs. The County will need to be contacted for this. Deputy Masson mentioned that there is no way to cite people unless the ordinances are posted. He also mentioned that it is better to have more information posted on the signs so the Deputy Sheriffs are able to cite people. Each ordinance needs to be specifically stated on the signs. Spanish will need to be added to the signs for all users. The rules "No Removal of Vegetation" and "No Hunting" should be added to the signs. For violations, the County needs to be notified, not the City Police dispatch. Deputy Masson offered to review the signs before posting. He can be contacted at the phone number listed above for the Castaic Sheriff's Station.

#### Users Cutting Yucca Stems

It has been noted recently that users of the Mitigation Area have been cutting down the yucca flower stalks in the upland area. ECORP will check on any protection for the yuccas and will check with CA Department of Fish and Game about yucca cutting by Native Americans.

### Tomayo Property

Active homeless camps are present on the Tomayo property. Valerie De La Cruz talked about having the County's property line marked so the Sheriff's deputies know where the Mitigation Area boundaries are.

### Off-road Group in Big Tujunga Wash

There is a persistent off-road vehicle (ORV) group utilizing Big Tujunga Wash for off-road activities. Deputy Masson was notified of these activities and he encouraged the group to call the dispatch to report issues. Off-road patrolling by deputies on mountain bikes has received more funding so they can cover more areas in the unincorporated areas of the County.

### Wheatland Entrance on North

There was a fence that was almost buried. Flood Maintenance is going to remove the fence and reconstruct a fence there. This is located near the Tomayo property.

### Mary Bell Entrance

A trash can is now located at the Mary Bell entrance. The erosion area will be filled in with dirt under the stepover bars. When Flood Maintenance picks up trash they will monitor the erosion situation. Sandbags were placed at this entrance to prevent further erosion, however, curb repair needs to be conducted. LACDPW will work with the City to find a good solution for the scouring at the Mary Bell entrance. The trash along Wentworth was also addressed and it was stated that Sun Valley Grafitti Busters is probably the group that picks up trash along the road there.

### New Trail off Cottonwood

A new trail was cut near the Cottonwood entrance. It was suggested that a sign be erected at the top of the trail near the parking lot to keep users on the trail. Supportive wording could be included on the sign. Suggestions also included the placement of a barrier, such as a chain link fence or railing, would prevent further use of this cut trail.

### Vector Control

The mosquitoes are getting bad again in the riparian areas along Haines Creek. LADPW stated that anyone can call Vector Control. There is a lot of stagnant water present on the north side of the ponds. LADPW contacted Vector Control and verified with them that a site visit was scheduled for spraying within a week of the CAC meeting.

### Issues with Loose Dogs

There is a Latino man that comes in the Mitigation Area daily. He owns the two pit bulls that run loose throughout the site every day. Some folks have tried to talk to him about the recreation rules for the site, but he doesn't appear to care. The CAC was instructed to call Animal Control if we see the pit bulls running loose throughout the Mitigation Area. He parks at

Gabrieleno Park – CAC was advised to record his license plate if he is seen again. The new County code signs discussed will allow the Sheriff to cite him for disobeying the rules. It needs to be clarified whether an incident report by an officer needs to be made or if the City can report the license plate without an incident report. ECORP said they will have their outreach biologist, Greg Benavides, attempt to talk to him.

#### Homeless Area

An active homeless area is located just under the 210 Freeway. Their items are washing into Big Tujunga Wash during high flows.

#### Barrel

Andrea Gutman mentioned that there is still a barrel by the fence on the west side of the ponds near where the new permanent opening will go.

### **IV. Current Status of Programs**

1. Exotic Plant Eradication Program
  - Program will be continued into 2010. Large amounts of thistle have been observed. Exotic plant removal crews will focus on this.
2. Riparian Habitat Restoration
  - No planting will occur, however, exotic plant removal will continue.
3. Exotic Wildlife Removal/Monitoring
  - Will continue into 2010.
4. Water Quality Analysis
  - Annual water quality analysis will continue in 2010.
5. Trail Restoration/Maintenance
  - No areas in need of immediate attention, quarterly trail surveys will continue in 2010.
6. New Public Outreach Activities
  - The new outreach activities appear to be successful. These will continue during the summer months.

### **V. Discuss and Schedule for the Next Trail Maintenance Day**

The next Trail Maintenance Day is scheduled on October 16, 2010 from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm and a backup date of October 23, 2010 was set aside in case of rain on October 16<sup>th</sup>. LADPW mentioned that storm season begins October 15, 2010. LADPW will provide trash bags, gloves, and snacks.

### **VI. Schedule Next CAC Meeting**

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 23, 2010 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at Hansen Yard, 10179 Glen Oaks Boulevard, Sun Valley, CA 91352.

## **VII. Action Items**

- ECORP will research protection status and Native American cutting of the yuccas with CA Department of Fish and Game.
- LADPW will look into getting new signs made. People should email Valerie De La Cruz if they have anything to add to the signs.
- A tour to be set up with the Sheriff's department and Supervisor's personnel.
- ECORP to send an electronic file of the public outreach flier to Cindy Rowlan and Valerie De La Cruz in both English and Spanish.
- ECORP to submit articles to Chris Arlington of SHPOA for their newsletter. Deadlines are 2 months prior to printing.
- Mary Benson suggested that Michael Carpenter should be the Lakeview Terrace representative for the CAC meetings. Mary will contact him.
- LADPW will look into placing a barricade to prevent recreation users from using new trail cut near Cottonwood entrance
- Valerie De La Cruz will contact Terry Kaiser about Bill and Sheila Meers (San Fernando Rangers) to talk about access permits for the Mitigation Area for future poker rides. She will look into posting permitting process information regarding organized rides on LADPW's website.
- ECORP to contact ETI at Dale Gibson's ranch to tell them about clean up day.
- LADPW will look into setting up a booth again at the Ride for a Cure event on October 2, 2010.
- SHPOA would like a speaker from Public Works to attend their Association Meeting the second Tuesday in October (October 12).
- LADPW will check to see if an incident report is required to report the man with the loose pit bulls, or if the City can report his license plate without an incident report.
- Have ECORP's outreach biologist Greg Benavides talk to alleged owner of the dogs who parks at Gabrieleno Park and then turns his pit bulls loose.