

**BIG TUJUNGA WASH MITIGATION BANK
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 27, 2005
HANSEN YARD 7 – 9 P.M.**

I. Welcome / Introduction (P. McLaughlin, MIG)

1. Welcome
2. Review of agenda

II. Site Maintenance Issues and Discussion of Action Items (B Kwan, Public Works)

1. General Site Signage/Kiosks: The kiosk sign by the haul road was removed from the wash and is not salvageable. A new kiosk is being built. Suggestions were made that bilingual metal advisory signs at the major gates would be helpful in lieu of the new kiosk.
2. Tamayo Property: The purchase of the property is in the final phases. The paperwork is still at the Treasure Tax Collectors Office but has not yet made it onto the board agenda.
3. Website: The LADPW website is up and can be accessed at www.ladpw.org. A few of the CAC members have visited the website and feedback has been positive.
4. Unauthorized Overnight Campers: Patrols are being made on the site two times per week (but not on a regular basis) for 2 hours and updates can be found on the website. There is still an encampment on the hillside just below the 210 freeway, which will be followed up on by the patrol.
5. Trails: It was decided that trail signs are not needed within the mitigation bank due to constantly changing conditions. LADPW will decide what to do with the trail signs that have already been made. A few large trees and stumps still block some of the trails. Chambers Group will arrange to have them removed as soon as possible. LADPW will discuss the idea of hosting trail walks through the mitigation bank.
6. Graffiti: Public Works' graffiti hotline number is (800) 675-4357. New graffiti is present on all of the rocks on the Lakeview Terrace side of the bank. County will field review.
7. Water Quality Report: Barbara Tarnowski has done her own water quality testing and has found high phosphates and low dissolved oxygen levels. Montgomery Watson performed Water quality tests with good results. The results will be posted on the LADPW website.
8. Exotic Vegetation: The large palm tree still remains a concern of the CAC members. The cost for removal of the tree has been estimated at \$11,000. Suggestions were made regarding limiting removal to the top of the tree but this leaves other concerns of liability. The matter will be explored further. Other exotics such as thistle, ivy, Arundo, and castor bean are also an ongoing problem.
9. Cottonwood Area as a Staging Area: This is was an action item raised by Terry Kaiser at the 2004 October meeting. LADPW has requested a proposal from Terry Kaiser but it has not yet been presented.
10. Cottonwood road: The cottonwood road near the recently installed culvert was repaired by flood maintenance but requires further repairs and grading to convey the storm water to the culvert.
11. Trash removal: CAC members will continue to pick up trash within the bank and LADPW will contact Flood maintenance to remove that trash.

III. Current Status of Programs (L. Freeberg and S. Shaffer, Chambers Group)

1. Exotic Plant Removal: A few sprouts of Arundo have been reported and will be removed as soon as possible. Chambers is working with Nature's Image to arrange the removal of other weed species.

2. Riparian Habitat Restoration: Chambers Group is exploring all riparian areas for future planting sites.
3. Upland Habitat Restoration: Soil compaction is an issue in the Cottonwood area and is believed to be the major reason for low survivorship of some plants. The use of an auger may be necessary for re-planting.
4. Exotic Wildlife Removal: Santa Ana sucker is well established in Haines Canyon Creeks due to removal efforts over the years. Dan Holland accomplished extensive exotic wildlife removal prior to breeding season however large bass are present in the ponds which suggests they are being stocked. Additional removal efforts will be made in November. There was some concern as to the lack of horned lizards spotted at the bank. They are very secretive and it is unlikely they will be spotted frequently. Due to the increase in the number of other reptile species this year, it is likely that the horned lizards are also doing well. Tadpoles have been spotted in small pools of water and have been identified as both western toads and pacific chorus frogs both of which are native species. Cowbird trapping began on March 30 and ended on August 1 and trapping was very successful.
5. Wildlife Monitoring: Surveys for least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher and arroyo toad were conducted for 2005. No vireo or willow flycatchers were observed in Big T this season. The absence of these species may be attributed to the lack of population growth in other areas. The bird will not disperse from those areas until the populations exceed that which the territory can sustain. If this does happen, Big T will likely gain these species due to excellent habitat. This was only the second of 5 years with enough rain to justify arroyo toad surveys. Although moderate habitat was present, it has not been consistent and no arroyo toads were found.

IV. Comments, Questions, and Answers (Panel)

1. Some of the CAC members are interested in removing the over pour of concrete from the Gibson property onto the Big T property. It was suggested that the removal would be costly and difficult. County Flood Maintenance will investigate.
2. A trail sponsorship program "adopt a trail" was suggested. LADPW will look into it.