

Communication from Public

Name: Muriel Kotin

Date Submitted: 11/09/2020 09:24 PM

Council File No: 20-1205

Comments for Public Posting: I applaud the stated purposes of the proposal for a new master plan for the Sepulveda Basin. However, exactly what areas are referred to as “undeveloped and underutilized” needs to be clarified. Proper maintenance of all areas of the Sepulveda Basin must be an intrinsic part of the new plan. I am especially concerned that the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve be respected as an essential part of Sepulveda Basin. Its potential as a world class nature reserve should be enhanced under the new plan and proper maintenance must be a priority. Already an important magnet for birdwatchers, photographers, nature lovers, and educational field trips, it needs proper attention to enhance its recovery from recent devastating fires. Once the COVID situation is under control it will again serve as an outdoor science classrooms for thousands of LAUSD students in San Fernando Valley Audubon’s Sepulveda Basin Environmental Education Program, as well as for youth groups and biology and ecology classes at higher grade levels through university. Community ideas and wishes must be considered in drafting and implementing the plan. Provision needs to be made for timely notification of the community about significant maintenance issues or planned actions or events. Accordingly, I support the motion to consider a new master plan for Sepulveda Basin, but on the condition that it includes provision for informing and consulting with community groups including neighborhood councils and the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee. Thank you for your consideration. Muriel Kotin San Fernando Valley Audubon's Representative to the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee

Communication from Public

Name: Patricia Bates

Date Submitted: 11/09/2020 08:52 PM

Council File No: 20-1205

Comments for Public Posting: A new master plan for the Sepulveda Basin is indeed overdue. The basin is definitely one of the City of Los Angeles' largest and most diverse regional park and contains the only major wildlife area embedded in the midst of the San Fernando Valley, an urban area comprised of nearly 1.5 million people. The Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas have served as outdoor science classrooms for tens of thousands of LAUSD students through San Fernando Valley Audubon's Sepulveda Basin Environmental Education Program, and is a respite from our urban area. The goals stated in the council motion are admirable and I welcome them – we need much more safe and enjoyable park areas. That means safe for people and safe for wildlife in designated wildlife areas. There needs to be very significant clarification of the areas in question, and it is surprising that community groups were not consulted in preparation of the motion. Robust community engagement first of all needs to be actually considered in drafting the plan – not just collected and ignored. Further, community engagement can not end with the plan. Far too often community concerns have been not addressed, sometimes due to a lack of resources, but with predictably unfortunate results. Consider the devastating and totally predictable fire which in September 2020 destroyed much of the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area in Woodley Park and resulted in the death of a homeless person, or the destruction of the South Reserve by the US Army Corps of Engineers in 2012. Provision must be made for both continuing community engagement and for proper maintenance of the various basin areas in accordance with the specifications in the plan, including respect for environmentally sensitive areas. The City of Los Angeles is currently dealing with severe budget issues due to the COVID-19, facing a possible \$700 million deficit for the current fiscal year. Community groups stand ready to help, but too often they have been shut out of actions and planning issues. Accordingly, I support the motion to consider a new master plan for the basin, but on the condition that it includes provision for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the US Army Corps of Engineers, the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks and adjacent community groups including Certified Neighborhood Councils, the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering committee, and other groups such as the LA River

Project and FOLAR. Such MOU would include provisions for regular updating on ongoing issues and immediate notification of other significant maintenance issues or planned actions or events, as well as inclusion on budgetary issues. This will give the community their voice in management of their park, which they deserve as taxpayers. Thank you for your consideration.