

Toluca Lake Elementary School
Room 17- 5th Grade
4840 Cahuenga Blvd.
North Hollywood, CA 91601
February 8, 2002

Dear Editor:

We are writing this letter in response to “Wetlands Fail to Pass Critics’ Smell Test” (2/7/02 - B4). We support expanding the Sepulveda Wildlife Area. On February 1, our fifth grade class took a field trip there. We learned about wetland birds and their adaptations on our trip. For example, white pelicans have webbed feet and practice communal hunting, while egrets have long legs and spread-out toes so that they don’t sink in the mud. The Sepulveda Wildlife Area is one of the few areas in the San Fernando Valley where we can see and learn firsthand about such a diversity of birds living in their natural habitat. Our Audubon Society guides, (Muriel, Linda & Virve) love this wildlife so much that they work there for free!

In addition to being a great place for kids to view wildlife, the Sepulveda Wildlife Area is good for our environment. It Recycles water from Tillman Reclamation Center, provides a home for birds migrating on the Pacific Flyway, and is a quiet place where there are no cars. And, it does not have bad odors or lots of mosquitoes (the birds probably eat them all!).

We think that you should make more spaces for these wetland animals because we’ve done too much damage to their habitats with our overbuilding. People need to start thinking more about the importance of these animals.

Thank You

(signature was provided)

Fifth Grade from Toluca Lake Elementary
Room 17 (Dennis Hagen-Smith is our teacher)

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