



**Addendum No. 2 to the
Supplement to the
Environmental Impact Report for the
Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan –
Shared Maintenance Road and Trail (SMRT)**

**State Clearinghouse Number
1985101602**

Sweetwater Authority
505 Garrett Avenue
Chula Vista, California 91910

June 13, 2024

1. **PROJECT TITLE:** Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan – Shared Maintenance Road and Trail (SMRT)
2. **LEAD AGENCY:** Sweetwater Authority (Authority)
3. **CONTACT PERSON & EMAIL:** Israel Marquez, Land and Environmental Manager, (619) 409-6759, imarquez@sweetwater.org.
4. **PROJECT LOCATION:** The Sweetwater Reservoir Recreational Area (SWRRA), which includes the Sweetwater Reservoir Fishing Program, is located on the south side of Sweetwater Reservoir, in southern San Diego County, just east of the unincorporated community of Bonita and south of Spring Valley. The location of the existing 2.2-miles long maintenance road that is being proposed to become a shared maintenance road / trail (SMRT, or proposed addition) is located on the east side of the SWRRA and continues for approximately 2.2 miles to the northeast, parallel to the shoreline of Sweetwater Reservoir. The Proposed Addition would use an existing, graded patrol and maintenance road, and turn it into a shared maintenance road and trail, which would provide recreational opportunities and connect with (1) the SWRRA on the west side of the SMRT, and (2) to a County of San Diego (County) owned trail (the “Southern Trail”). In addition, native habitat restoration and weed abatement would be conducted on an area just south of the SMRT, within Authority property. The San Diego National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) is located on the east side of the Reservoir. The County’s Southern Trail is located within the Refuge and Authority properties, and the proposed SMRT would connect with the Refuge trail system via the proposed two connections with the Southern Trail. The Authority is currently coordinating details regarding trail connection points with the County of San Diego and the Refuge. For location reference, see Figures 1 and 2 below.

The closest highways to the SWRRA and Shoreline Fishing Program area are State Route (SR-) 125, located 300 feet south of the South Dike, and SR-54, located approximately 650 feet west of the Sweetwater Dam. Portions of Chula Vista and National City are located further downstream from the reservoir.
5. **PROJECT SPONSOR’S NAME AND ADDRESS:** Sweetwater Authority, 505 Garrett Avenue, Chula Vista, California, 91910
6. **GENERAL PLAN DESIGNATION:** The Land Use Map associated with the Sweetwater Community Plan of the San Diego County General Plan designates the majority of the south side of Sweetwater Reservoir as Open Space Park or Preserve (County of San Diego 2014).
7. **ZONING:** According to the County of San Diego General Plan and Zoning Map, the SWRRA is zoned S80 – Special Purpose (County of San Diego Planning and Development Services 2012).
8. **SURROUNDING LAND USES:** The Sweetwater Reservoir is bordered by the community of Spring Valley to the north and the community of Bonita to the west and south. Single-family residential homes intermixed with some general commercial and industrial land uses are located north of Sweetwater Reservoir, in the community of Spring Valley. To the southwest of the reservoir, the communities of

Bonita and Sunnyside are characterized by more rural, low-density developments. Open space and recreation areas occur immediately southwest of the dam, including Sweetwater Summit Regional Park and the Bonita Golf Course (refer to Figure 1). Further southwest of the SR-125 overpass, the community of Bonita includes primarily residential land uses. The San Diego National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge), which spans 11,152 acres from Jamul to Spring Valley and eastern Chula Vista, is located approximately 500 feet from the southern edge of Sweetwater Reservoir and immediately adjacent to some areas of the Proposed Addition. The Refuge is the USFWS's contribution to the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP), a landscape-wide habitat conservation plan developed to preserve habitat and species while allowing appropriate development (USFWS 2016).

- 9. PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS:** Previously prepared environmental documents for the SWRRA at Sweetwater Reservoir include the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan dated March 30, 1987 (1987 FEIR); the Final Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan Shoreline Fishing Program dated December 2001 (2001 SEIR); and Addendum No. 1 to the SEIR. The 1987 FEIR was prepared to analyze the environmental impacts of a fishing program facility that would include a fish stocking program, fishing facilities, and other buildings at San Miguel Point, including an 80- to 100-foot-long fishing float, small shaded areas, an entrance kiosk, a concession stand, restrooms, fish cleaning facilities, and a small office/storage building. The 1987 FEIR also evaluated anticipated impacts of boating and the potential for renting 100 boats. Ultimately, the 1987 FEIR was certified by the Sweetwater Authority Governing Board; however, the described project was not approved due to a lack of funds.

The 2001 SEIR analyzed impacts of a relatively reduced fishing program when compared to the fishing program presented in the 1987 FEIR. The reduced facility included a driveway, an office/concession/caretaker building, a 150-space gravel parking lot, a water service line, portable toilets, and trash receptacles as required by California Department of Health Services (now Division of Drinking Water), installation of fish habitat structures, and wheelchair access to the shoreline from the parking area via a trail to a lookout point. A fishing pier or float was also proposed for construction when funding became available. However, neither boating nor boat rentals were included as a component of the project evaluated in the 2001 SEIR. The 2001 SEIR specified that the fishing program would be open Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays.

In 2021, Addendum No.1 to the SEIR was prepared to include Fridays and certain holidays to the days of operations at the SWRRA, which now operates Friday-Monday.

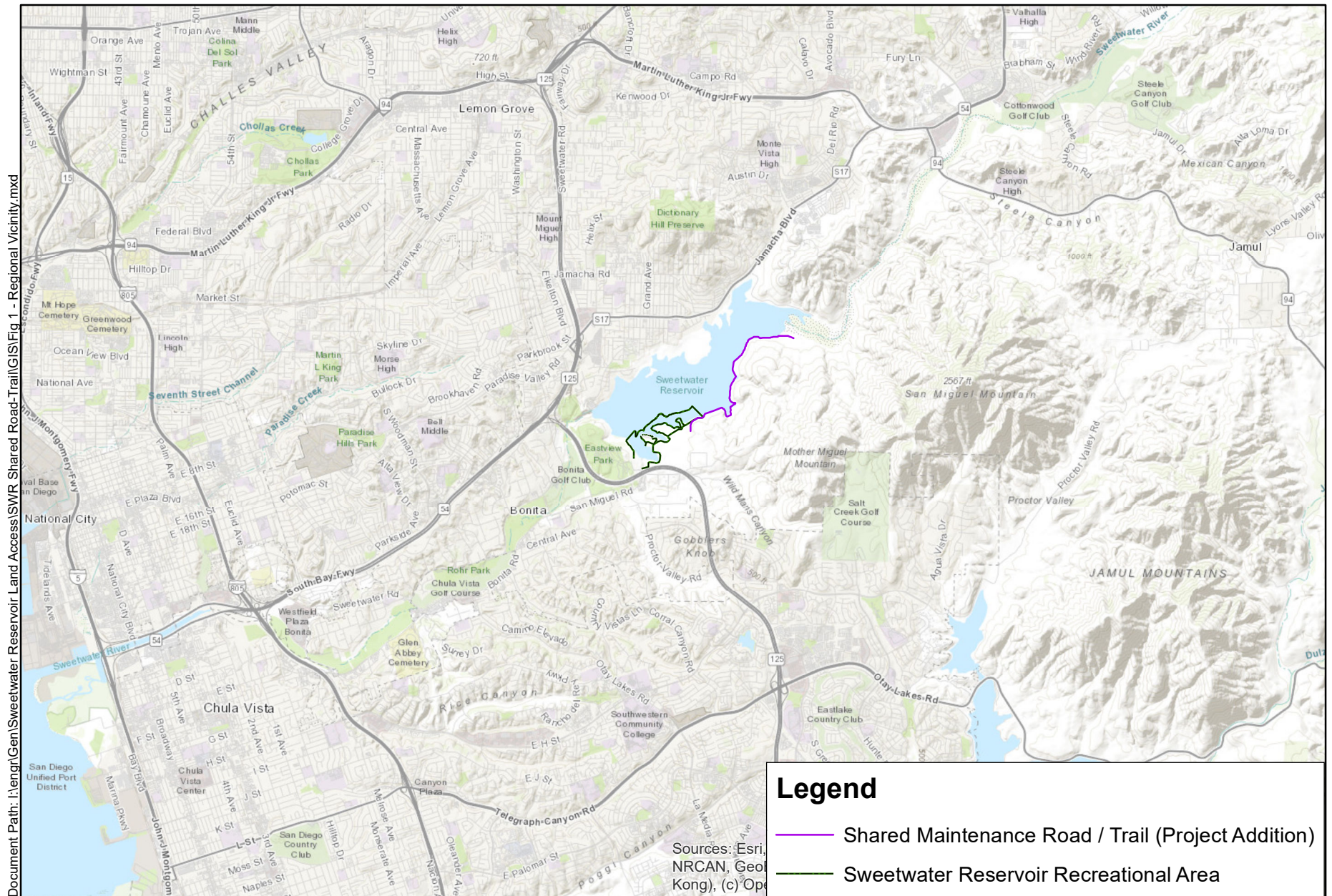


Figure 1. Regional Vicinity

Shared Maintenance Road / Trail

0 1.5 3 6 Miles
Page 37 of 509



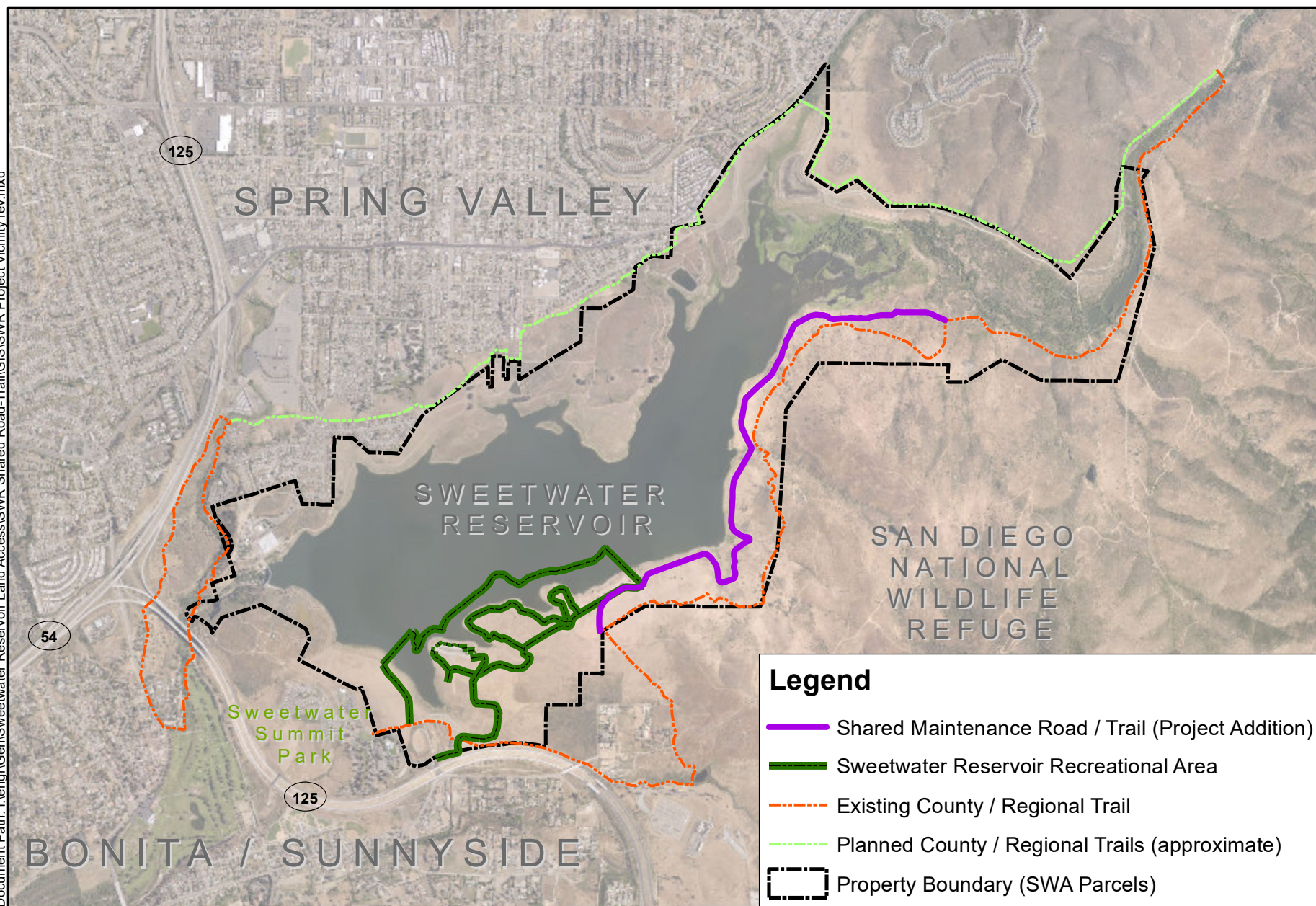


Figure 2. Project Vicinity
Shared Maintenance Road / Trail



10. PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Authority, as a Lead Agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), is proposing to modify the use of an existing and already graded and maintained 2.2-mile long maintenance road currently closed to the public, and add certain recreational opportunities to it, including non-motorized cycling (i.e. mountain biking) and hiking, for the enjoyment of the community. The proposed shared maintenance road/trail (referred herein as SMRT or Proposed Addition) would connect with the Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Area (SWRRA) and the County's Southern Trail to the west, and to the County's Southern Trail to the northeast. Authority staff, County staff, and Refuge staff are still coordinating final details of the trail connection points, including the alternative to connect to the Refuge and County trail on the west side. The Proposed Addition to the existing road or trail system does not include any grading of new roads or widening of the existing maintenance road, and it is expected that the existing drivable surface of the patrol and maintenance road would be enough area to meet the goals of the SMRT, which are continuing to provide access to maintenance vehicles, while also allowing for certain recreational uses. In addition, the Proposed Addition would include habitat restoration and weed abatement components, in order to improve drainage, habitat for sensitive species, and reduce risk of wildfires and invasive plant species propagation.

If needed and after a period of shared recreational and agency operations, the Proposed Addition may need minor road improvements, including potentially the installation of culverts to improve drainage on the shared road and trail area, and installation of Class 2 Aggregate Base (virgin material) to prevent road surface issues for utility vehicles. These improvements would occur on Year-2 (or after) of project operations, and only as needed.

All of the project components related to trail use would occur or be installed within the boundaries of the already disturbed areas (i.e. existing patrol and maintenance road corridor); these components include wildlife friendly fencing alternatives and signage, gate modification, and operations and maintenance (O&M) activities. Habitat restoration and weed abatement would occur on adjacent areas, on an approximately 10-acre area currently identified as disturbed habitat in need of restoration and invasive species management.



The Sweetwater Reservoir, which has a total storage capacity of 28,079 acre-feet of water, is operated in conjunction with Loveland Reservoir located approximately 19 miles upstream on the Sweetwater River to provide water to the Authority's 32 square mile service area that includes National City, Bonita, and the western portion of Chula Vista.

10.1 Sweetwater Reservoir Recreational Area Background

The Sweetwater Dam was constructed along the Sweetwater River between 1886 and 1888 to form the approximately 900-acre Sweetwater Reservoir. The reservoir is located on approximately 1,823 acres of land owned and managed by the Authority and provides a variety of beneficial uses including

drinking water, recreation (e.g., shoreline fishing), and habitat for waterfowl (see Figure 1). The Robert A. Perdue Water Treatment Plant, which is located on the north side of the Reservoir, treats water from the Reservoir before it is distributed to the Authority's customers. Area voters have supported the concept of recreation at Sweetwater Reservoir since the 1970s when the Authority was formed pursuant to the Joint Powers Agreement of 1972, amended in 1977 and 1990, between the City of National City and South Bay Water (previously known as South Bay Irrigation District).

Due to public support for a fishing program at Sweetwater Reservoir, the Authority embarked on recreation planning in the early 1980s. In 1987, Sweetwater Authority finalized the Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan – Recreational Fishing Program and Environmental Impact Report.

As described in Section 9 above, *Previous Environmental Documents*, the 1987 FEIR evaluated the development and operation of a fishing program facility at Sweetwater Reservoir. The 1987 FEIR identified several impacts and concerns including potential impacts to birds from boating, impacts to federally threatened Otay tarplant (*Deinandra conjugens*) populations, and concerns regarding the adequacy of the 1987 FEIR for approval of a County of San Diego Major Use Permit (MUP) and annexation through the San Diego Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCO). Ultimately, the project as proposed was not approved due to a lack of funds. Recreation at Sweetwater Reservoir was re-evaluated in 1998 by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) as a means of mitigating impacts of the SR-125 to public parklands. At that time, Caltrans approached the San Diego County Department of Parks and Recreation, San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), and the Authority to determine the feasibility of a joint County-Sweetwater Authority recreational fishing project. A consulting team was hired by the County through SANDAG to examine the feasibility of mitigation at Sweetwater Reservoir. Through this feasibility analysis and communications with the Authority, the County Department of Parks and Recreation determined that the project would not be cost effective with constraints to protect water quality required by the Authority, and without a full fishing program with boats, docks, and concessions. As such, the County decided not to move forward with accepting mitigation of SR-125 park impacts at Sweetwater Reservoir. In the 2000s, the State of California and County of San Diego provided grants to initiate fishing at Sweetwater Reservoir and the recreation program was revisited once again. As described in Section 8, *Previous Environmental Documents*, the 2001 SEIR analyzed the impacts of a reduced shoreline fishing program facility. The 2001 SEIR evaluated the future development of a fishing pier or float; however, boat rentals and boating were no longer identified as project components.

10.2 Existing Sweetwater Reservoir Recreational Area

The existing Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Area (SWRRA) provides public recreation on the southwestern shoreline of Sweetwater Reservoir. The recreation area provides public access to the reservoir while minimizing water quality impacts to Sweetwater Reservoir, which is a municipal drinking water supply for approximately 200,000 customers in National City, Chula Vista, and the unincorporated community of Bonita.

Shoreline fishing at the SWRRA is the main recreational opportunity at Sweetwater Reservoir. The Fishing Program, which is open Friday to Monday, allows recreational fishing along approximately 2.5 miles of the southwest shoreline of the Sweetwater Reservoir at San Miguel Point. Existing facilities within the Shoreline Fishing Program area of the Sweetwater Reservoir currently include:



The Authority operates the existing Shoreline Fishing Program 4 days per week on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays and during certain holidays.

- A gravel parking area with space for up to 150 vehicles;
- A road network, use for maintenance access, biking and hiking
- Portable toilets (porta-potties);
- Trash enclosures;
- Lookout point; and
- Walking trails from the parking area to the reservoir.

A yearly average of approximately 25 people per day use the shoreline fishing program area fishing, hiking, or other recreational purposes, with some months reaching a monthly average of up to 38 people per day. A California State Fishing License is required to fish at Sweetwater Reservoir. Additionally, the Authority has established limits on fish caught per day at the Sweetwater Reservoir, including the following:

- Bass: 5 (12-inch minimum length)
- Catfish: 5
- Bluegill: 25
- Red Eared Sunfish: 25
- Crappie: 25
- Bluegill, Sunfish, and Crappie combined bag limit: 25

To prevent the further spread of Quagga mussels in the lake, the Authority has banned the use of live bait including shiners, crawdads, etc. from freshwater sources at Sweetwater Reservoir. The ban does not apply to mealworms, redworms, crickets, etc.

10.3 SMRT Project Background, Objective, and Need

10.3.1 SMRT Background: Beginning in January 2024, Authority staff and management had meetings in the field with recreationists, and also had two organized meetings with members of the recreational community in order to seek input from recreational users on the implementation of recreational opportunities around the SWRRA. Many potential recreational updates ideas were discussed in these meetings, including but not limited the following:

- Implementation of the proposed SMRT, and discussion of different SMRT alternatives;

- Additional large-scale recreational improvements in the south and north side of the reservoir (Spring Valley access), from simple access for fishing and hiking on the north side, to the building of cabins, a salon for events with roof-top solar panels, a park with a playground, and the necessary infrastructure to support the proposed, new amenities;
- Authorization to use recreational drones within the reservoir area;
- Kayaking and other non-motorized boating; and
- Various potential improvements within the existing SWRRA, including benches, shade structures, planting trees, a concession stand for renting kayaks and bikes and other services, a floating fishing pier (wheelchair accessible), ADA improvements, additional nature viewpoints, and interpretative nature-based trails.

The Authority has listened to its constituents and members of neighboring communities and is taking into consideration the opportunities discussed above. With the Authority's Governing Board approval pending, the Authority may prepare an update to its Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan in the near future, which would likely include a Feasibility Assessment for Recreational Opportunities, to assess multiple aspects of the recreational ideas provided by members of the community (listed above), the associated costs, potential regulatory constraints, environmental impacts, and required mitigation measures. With the exception of the proposed SMRT described herein, none of the recreational proposals or ideas listed above are part of this proposal and analysis.

10.3.2 SMRT Project Objective. The proposed implementation of the SMRT is the result of feedback from the recreational community, public comment from stakeholders and regulatory agencies, and considers what can be accomplished as a simple low-to-no impact project, with minimal operational costs. The SMRT is also consistent with the SWRRA's original objective, which is the following:

"The objective of the Project (*Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan*) is to provide public fishing and passive recreation at Sweetwater Reservoir without jeopardizing water quality or supply reliability, and without increasing rates to Sweetwater Authority costumers."

10.3.3 SMRT Project Need. The 2.2-mile long SMRT will continue to provide the necessary maintenance and patrolling needs for the water district while also providing a recreational connectivity between East County and South Bay communities for recreationists of all ages and biking skills. In other words, the proposed SMRT recreational opportunity would provide an additional alternative to many naturalists and recreationists that may find the trails in the Refuge's hilly terrain relatively difficult to hike or ride their bikes. While the proposed trail is not intended to be ADA-compliant, it would be more accessible for beginner and intermediate-level bike riders, and it would also be more accessible for people of all ages that want to enjoy nature, but find the hilly trails located in the Refuge difficult to hike. The proposed SMRT would also open the doors to many for nature appreciation at Sweetwater Reservoir, while preserving natural and other sensitive resources in the area, including its surrounding native habitats and wildlife species. The SMRT would be open for recreationists, nature enthusiasts, and would also promote health and wellness for those who want to go for a walk, jog, or run near the shoreline of the lake.

The existing 2.2-mile maintenance road that is being proposed to become the shared maintenance road/trail (SMRT), would meet the criteria of accessibility for many pedestrian users and mountain bikers, as it is a mostly flat road with some mild slopes (i.e. less than 10% gradient), and it connects to an already well-established trail network, providing a streamlined transition from the SMRT to the existing trails or the fishing program when open (Friday to Monday). The proposed SMRT would also provide additional views of the reservoir for different nature enthusiasts, by providing the public amazing views of the Sweetwater Reservoir in a quiet, contemplative area.

The trail alignment and components presented herein for the SMRT are the result of the community's initial feedback and public agency and stakeholder comment provided in a period of three weeks, with full avoidance and minimization of environmental impacts in mind. Other trail alignments were discussed and briefly considered with the community, such as using a perpendicular portion of the maintenance road at the "Old Orchard Site" to connect with the trail network near the Refuge, but these other alternatives are not currently being considered as part of the Proposed Addition, mainly to minimize and prevent impacts to Refuge's lands and the potential creation of unauthorized trails. Similarly, reopening the closed trail that crosses the vernal pool complex site was also discussed, but that closed trail is not an Authority-managed trail, and it is meant to be permanently abandoned, given potential impacts to the vernal pool complex and sensitive resources in the area. A trail re-route was provided by the County of San Diego, in coordination with the Refuge and other stakeholders, which replaces the portion of the trail closed due to sensitive species and vernal pool resources. The Authority will continue its coordination with the County of San Diego and the Refuge regarding alternatives for trails and trail heads connecting with and in the vicinity of the SWRRA, Sweetwater Summit Regional Park, San Diego National Wildlife Refuge, and the northside of Sweetwater Reservoir, where the proposed the Sweetwater Reservoir Loop Trail System is currently at different stages of being design and development, a recreational effort led by the County of San Diego.

10.3.4 Disadvantaged Communities. Multiple communities in the vicinity of Sweetwater Reservoir are considered disadvantaged communities, as they are communities where their residents may have a low-income and be disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative effects, exposure, and environmental degradation. Within the Authority's service area, disadvantaged communities have been identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) on the western and southern side of Chula Vista and within the boundaries of National City. Other surrounding communities, including Spring Valley, Lemon Groove, areas in the east side of San Diego (Skyline-Paradise Hills, Encanto, etc.), and the Sycuan Reservation, are also considered disadvantaged communities or communities of concern that are located in the near vicinity of the SWRRA and Proposed Addition. To many of the communities listed herein, the nearest lake is Sweetwater Reservoir, and the Proposed Addition would benefit these communities by providing an additional outdoor recreational opportunity, including biking, hiking, a place to exercise, and a place to appreciate nature.

10.4 SMRT Project Components

10.4.1 Improvements: As part of the proposed shared maintenance road and trail (SMRT), installation of road materials, fences, gates, and signage would occur as follows:

Road Materials: Depending on the amount of additional use and impact to the road surface after inauguration of the SMRT, the Authority may consider repairing road and trail surfaces, following industry standards for dirt road and trail repairs, or the installation of Class 2 Aggregate Base (virgin material), specifically in approximately 3,880 Linear Feet (LF) on the western portion of the existing road in areas where heavy clay soils occur, in order to improve the usable surface and within the limits of the existing, graded road. If needed, installation of geotextile liner on approximately 690-LF would also occur in order to separate soils from aggregate materials. However, if the road surface does not show any major signs of deterioration due to the additional recreational use, Class 2 Aggregate Base (virgin material) would not be installed and the road surface would stay as is. For reference to this considered improvement, existing roads in the vicinity of the Sweetwater Reservoir Recreational Area already have Class 2 Aggregate Base and liners, and these considered additional improvements would be of a similar nature. Authority staff will assess needs once the SMRT is operational, and if the road surface does not show a need to add road materials, this project component may never be implemented. In addition to the potential road improvements related to installation of Class 2 Aggregate Base, a culvert may be installed near a drainage to improve drainage patterns. This drainage restoration would occur only if needed, after two years of assessing the area (or in Year 3 of trail operations) and once the applicable regulatory permits are obtained by the Authority for such culvert installation. If implemented, the drainage improvement would occur on location DC-3 as shown below, on Figure 9.2.

Gates, Fences, and Signs: The SMRT would include installation of two new gates, modification of two existing gates, and installation of new signage and wildlife-friendly fences. In order to control access to the SWRRA, which is only open Friday-Monday, a gate would need to be installed on an existing road, at the point of connection between the SWRRA and the proposed SMRT. This gate would only be open to permitted recreational activities when the SWRRA is open for business. Another gate would need to be installed on the northside, to control access to the Sweetwater Reservoir Habitat Management Preserve (HMP) Area and to a road crossing that connects the maintenance road to other maintenance roads on the northside of the Sweetwater Reservoir property. At the point of connection with the Southern Trail, two gates would need to be modified to allow for cyclists (e.g. non-motorized mountain bikers) and pedestrians to access the SMRT. Authority staff will be coordinating gates and gate modifications and signage with neighboring agencies, as necessary, to ensure trail users traveling between different land ownerships understand operational schedules and sensitive resources. Authority staff is meeting with both the County of San Diego and the Refuge to discuss the appropriate signage. Fencing of the SMRT alignment is being proposed in two phases and as necessary: Phase 1 would include installation of wildlife-friendly fences on the most western portion of the SMRT areas, to fully prevent people trespassing to the reservoir, and also prevent impacts to the sensitive vernal pool complex and other sensitive resources in the vicinity of the SWRRA.

Phase 1 fencing would also accomplish installation of fences in the most northeastern portion of the SMRT, to prevent trespassing into preserve areas (e.g. HMP) and minimize conflicts with ongoing reservoir operations. Phase 2 would include installation of fencing on both sides of the SMRT or as needed, in the central areas of the Proposed Project. Phase 1 fencing would be implemented on Year 1 of operations of the SMRT, whereas Phase 2 would be implemented on Year 2 and 3, if needed. The total length of proposed fencing is approximately 23,000-LF, and approximately 65% of this fencing would occur on Year 1 as part of the Phase 1 effort. While originally, the proposed fence included installation of a combination of barbed and barbedless wire, with T-posts every 10 feet, the fences installed will be purely barbedless wire to prevent impacts to wildlife moving through the area. While fencing is planned to be implemented as described herein, a second field assessment will be conducted to see if topographical barriers could assist deterring trespassing on certain areas adjacent to the proposed SMRT; results will be discussed in close coordination with the Refuge and U.S. Fish and Wildlife to ensure both habitat protection and no-trespassing goals are achieved. Fencing may also be substituted with the use of wood delineators, such as re-purposed eucalyptus tree trunks, where considered appropriate.

Signs would be installed approximately every 400 feet on each side of the trail, to request trail users to stay within the trail-designated areas and to provide information about approved trail uses and resource avoidance. Signs may be attached to the newly installed fence or placed on individual T-posts. Signs would be similar to those already installed in the SWRRA, which explain the need to avoid environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs), such as sensitive habitats, the reservoir, or other sensitive resources in the vicinity of the Proposed Project. Access to the reservoir shoreline at the SMRT areas would be strictly prohibited, and signage would indicate that. Similarly, access from the SMRT to the Refuge or other sensitive areas will be strictly prohibited as well. The only access to the Refuge/County Southern Trail would be using the two proposed entry points, on the west side of the SMRT, and on the northeast. At each trailhead, signage indicating days and hours of operation will be included as necessary, and an updated pamphlet or similar will be distributed to Park Managers at the Sweetwater Summit Regional Park, for them to post as needed or share with their park visitors. Interpretative signage is not proposed, but may be added in different locations if grants are available. Please refer to Figures 3-7 for reference to the improvements described herein.

10.4.2 Habitat Restoration and Weed Abatement: Currently, the SMRT area is surrounded mostly by native habitats, including San Diegan coastal sage scrub, native grasslands, and to a lesser degree, wetland and riparian habitats near drainages or closer to the lake areas. However, there are areas in the vicinity where non-native, invasive vegetation has established. Some of these invasive species, like tamarisk or castor bean, can impact habitat for native flora and fauna, and also impact soils and water quality. Other species, like black mustard, eucalyptus trees, or non-native grasses, can fuel and facilitate the spread of wildfires. As a project component in-line with the Authority's watershed and habitat protection goals, and to improve the overall experience of recreationists, the Authority

and their funding partners are proposing to restore to native habitat approximately 9.8 acres of currently disturbed habitat, as follows:

- Restore and enhance 1.3 acres of disturbed habitat to transitional native habitat (wetland and upland) near the reservoir edge and within two intermittent streams;
- Create approximately 0.7 acres of cactus scrub habitat or more in areas currently disturbed, to support the local coastal cactus wren population and other sensitive species;
- As needed and for wildfire protection and for future restoration purposes, provide weed abatement and invasive species vegetation removal in an approximately 8-acre area, currently infested with black mustard and other non-native vegetation. After abatement activities are completed, the area would be seeded with native grasses, to help propagating native species and habitat, and to protect soils.

Restoration and weed abatement will be conducted following industry standard biological Best Management Practices (BMPs) and under closed supervision of a qualified wildlife biologist. For example, a qualified biologist would survey the sites before restoration work begins to identify sensitive resources for avoidance, etc. Figure 8 below shows the tentative locations of the proposed habitat restoration and weed abatement areas. Restoration areas may also change, depending on environmental setting, field conditions, and any additional input from regulatory agencies, stakeholders, and the engage community. However, the goal of providing significant additional habitat to sensitive species and wildfire prevention as part of this Project Addition will not change.

10.4.3 Erosion and Sediment Controls: Standard construction Best Management Practices (BMPs), such as installation and maintenance of erosion and sediment controls, would be followed when installing road materials or new gates, to prevent any construction materials to become a source of pollution. An erosion control plan would be prepared for the Proposed Project and BMPs would be installed and maintained accordingly.

10.4.4 Operations and Maintenance: The drivable road surface of the 2.2-miles long patrol and maintenance road has been regularly maintained for decades and as needed by Authority staff, as part of the Authority's routine reservoir lands operations and maintenance. Road maintenance in this area typically consists of the following:

- ✓ Road surface maintenance and repairs are typically performed with a tractor mounted blade or Gannon box, but other methods may be used as well when needed.
- ✓ Vegetation maintenance activities are necessary to maintain the existing drivable road area. Vegetation overhanging road paths is trimmed back during the non-nesting season.
- ✓ Invasive plant species establishing within the vicinity of the maintenance road may be controlled opportunistically, using mechanical or chemical control methods. Similarly, weed abatement may occur within the road corridor area.

- ✓ There are culverts on some of the road drainage crossings that are maintained as needed, by removing encroaching vegetation and other debris that may prevent surface runoff and flows to pass through.
- ✓ Trash and other debris are removed from the road area and vicinity as needed.
- ✓ Erosion repairs, including stabilizing or restoring existing terrain or man-made features, such as gates, occurs as needed, to prevent structural or environmental problems.

The road surface and corridor would continue to be maintained as discussed above if the Proposed Project is approved. Other O&M activities that are proposed to occur as part of the implementation of the SMRT include the following:

- ✓ Installation of security devices, such as cameras, in the vicinity of the Proposed Addition, as needed, for monitoring or security purposes.
- ✓ Access to the SMRT for recreational purposes is being proposed to occur following the same hours of operation than the SWRRA (Friday-Monday). Access to the fishing program area from the proposed SMRT would continue to be limited to non-motorized bikers, pedestrians, and fishing enthusiasts.
- ✓ There is a trash receptacle and a bathroom (porta-potty) on the west side of the proposed SMRT alignment, which will be available for trail users at all times. Other porta potties are located to the west, within the existing fishing areas of the SWRRA. Porta-potties are maintained on a weekly basis and trash is removed from the sites and receptacles as needed. Additional trash receptacles and porta-potties may be installed in different locations to the east if required by State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water (DDW) or if deemed necessary.
- ✓ Maintenance and repairs of fences, gates, and signs will continue to occur per standard land management practices.
- ✓ Trail access closures may occur temporarily, to prevent unsafe or hazardous conditions, for security reasons, or to prevent impacts to water quality and other adjacent sensitive resources.
- ✓ Implementation of a vehicular and non-motorized biking speeds to less than 15 mph at all times when SMRT is open.

10.4.5 SMRT Permitted Uses: The SMRT would be used primarily by Authority staff for patrolling and maintenance purposes, and the road will continue to be maintained for those specific purposes. Other utilities or emergency vehicles may use the SMRT as needed, for various purposes. The SMRT could be accessed by recreational non-motorized bikers and pedestrians (hikers) when the SMRT is open for trail operations. Given drinking water permitting restrictions and other concerns,

equestrian users and pets would not be allowed on the proposed SMRT. Off-road and non-authorized motorized vehicles will be prohibited on the SMRT.

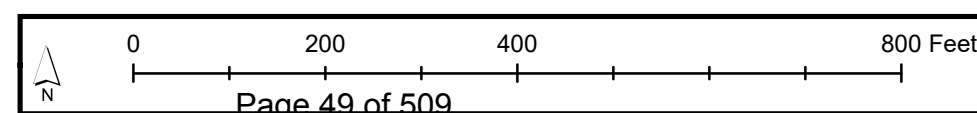
10.4.6 Proposed SMRT Inspections: Authority land management staff will conduct inspections of the proposed SMRT once per season (4 times a year) for the first five years of operation, including a pre-wet season inspection. The inspections should have the goals of identifying maintenance needs and deficiencies, and immediate scheduling of maintenance to address the identified maintenance needs and deficiencies. Following the first five years of operation, a revised inspection schedule resulting from operational experience should be developed.

Legend

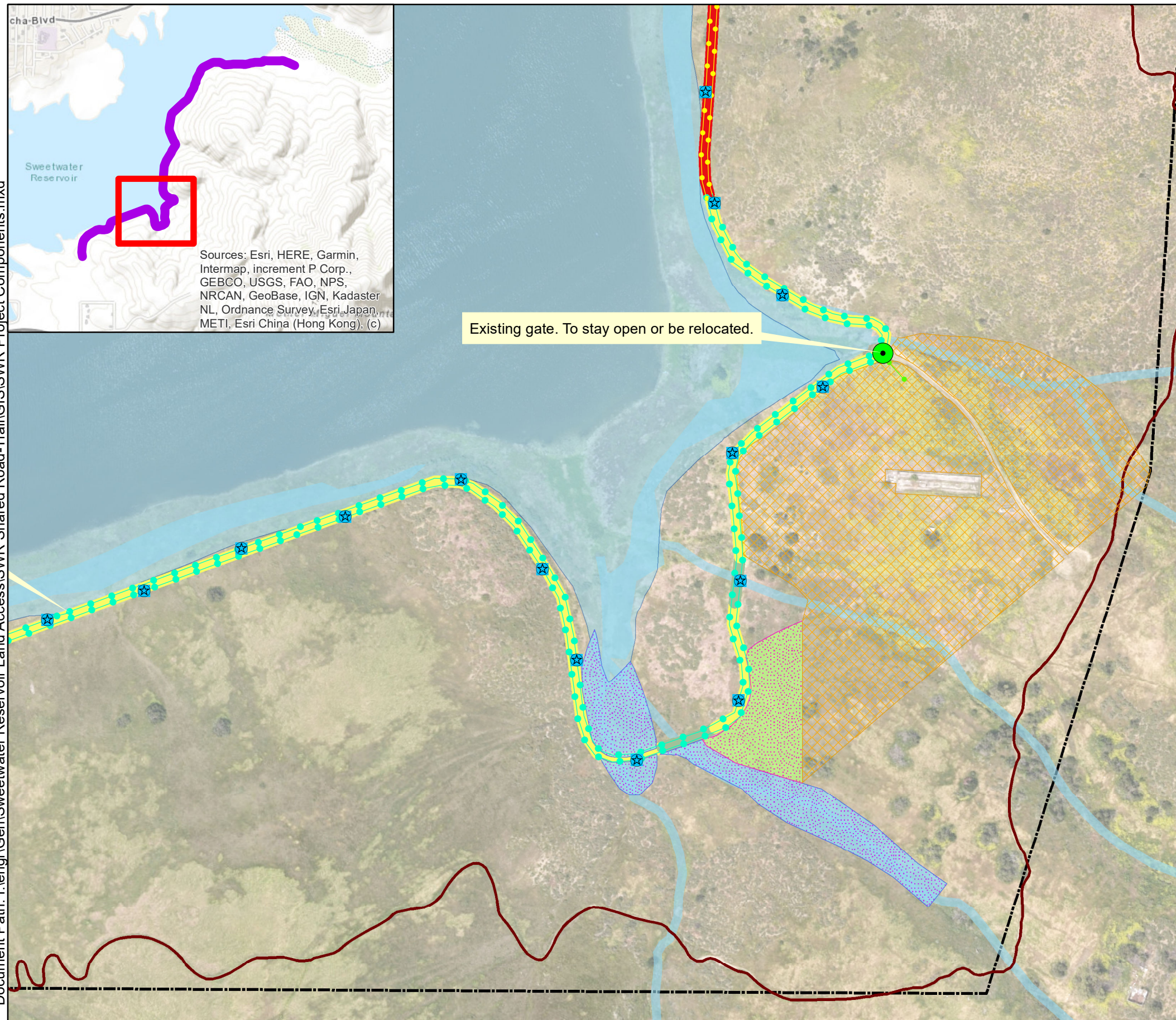
-  Sign - Proposed - ESA / No Trespassing
 -  Gate - Existing, Needs Modification
 -  Gate - Existing, Stays Open or Relocate
 -  New Gate - To be Installed
 -  Fence - Existing
 -  Fence - Proposed - Year 1 (Priority areas)
 -  Fence - Proposed - Year 2 (as needed)
 -  Restore with Cactus Scrub / CSS mix
 -  Restore with Transitional Wetland/Upland
 -  Weed and Invasive MGMT
 -  SWR Recreational Area
 -  Existing County/Regional Trails
 -  National Wetlands Inventory Data
 -  Property Boundary (SWA Parcels)
- Surface (existing graded surface)**
-  Clay. Class 2 aggregate + geotextile if needed
 -  Clay. Class 2 aggregate if needed
 -  Class 2 aggregate already. As is
 -  Clay. As is
 -  Other than clay. As is.

Data Sources:
USFWS National Wetlands Inventory,
SanGIS/Sandag, Esri, Other.
Map produced by I. Marquez. 2024-04-24

Figure 3. Project Components



Document Path: I:\engr\Gen\Sweetwater Reservoir Land Access\SWR Shared Road-Trail\GIS\SWR Project Components.mxd



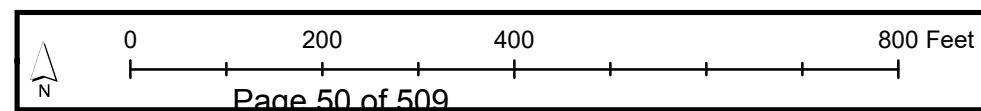
Proposed Shared Maintenance Road / Trail

Legend

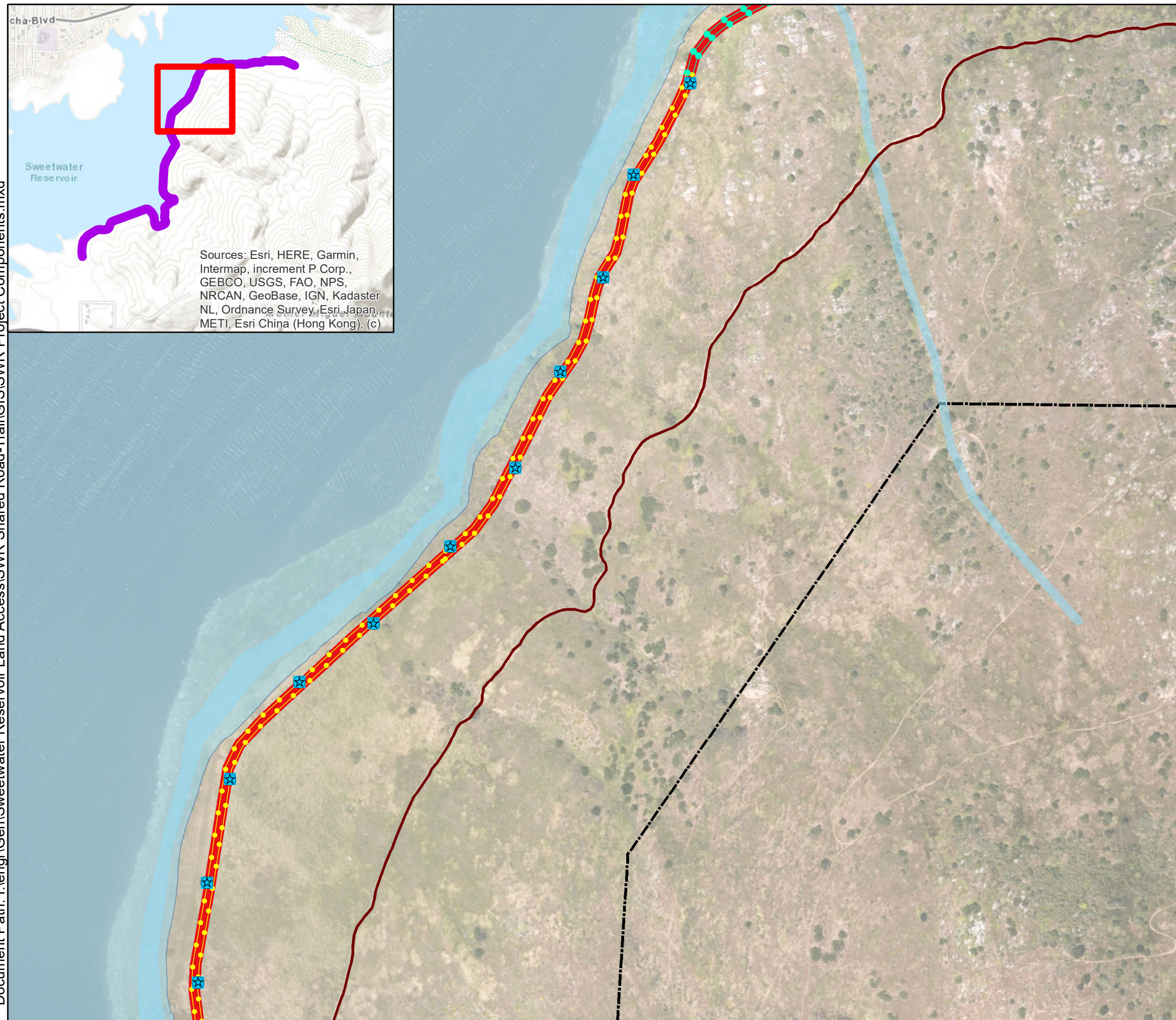
- Sign - Proposed - ESA / No Trespassing
- Gate - Existing, Needs Modification
- Gate - Existing, Stays Open or Relocate
- New Gate - To be Installed
- Fence - Existing
- Fence - Proposed - Year 1 (Priority areas)
- Fence - Proposed - Year 2 (as needed)
- Restore with Cactus Scrub / CSS mix
- Restore with Transitional Wetland/Upland
- Weed and Invasive MGMT
- SWR Recreational Area
- Existing County/Regional Trails
- National Wetlands Inventory Data
- Property Boundary (SWA Parcels)
- Surface (existing graded surface)**
 - Clay. Class 2 aggregate + geotextile if needed
 - Clay. Class 2 aggregate if needed
 - Class 2 aggregate already. As is
 - Clay. As is
 - Other than clay. As is.

Data Sources:
USFWS National Wetlands Inventory,
SanGIS/Sandag, Esri, Other.
Map produced by I. Marquez. 2024-04-24

Figure 4. Project Components



Document Path: I:\engr\Gen\Sweetwater Reservoir Land Access\SWR Shared Road-Trail\GIS\SWR Project Components.mxd



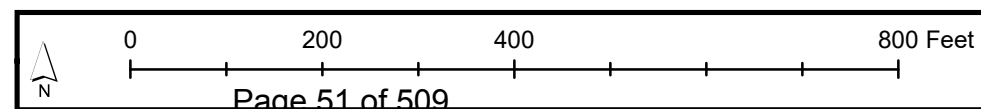
Proposed Shared Maintenance Road / Trail

Legend

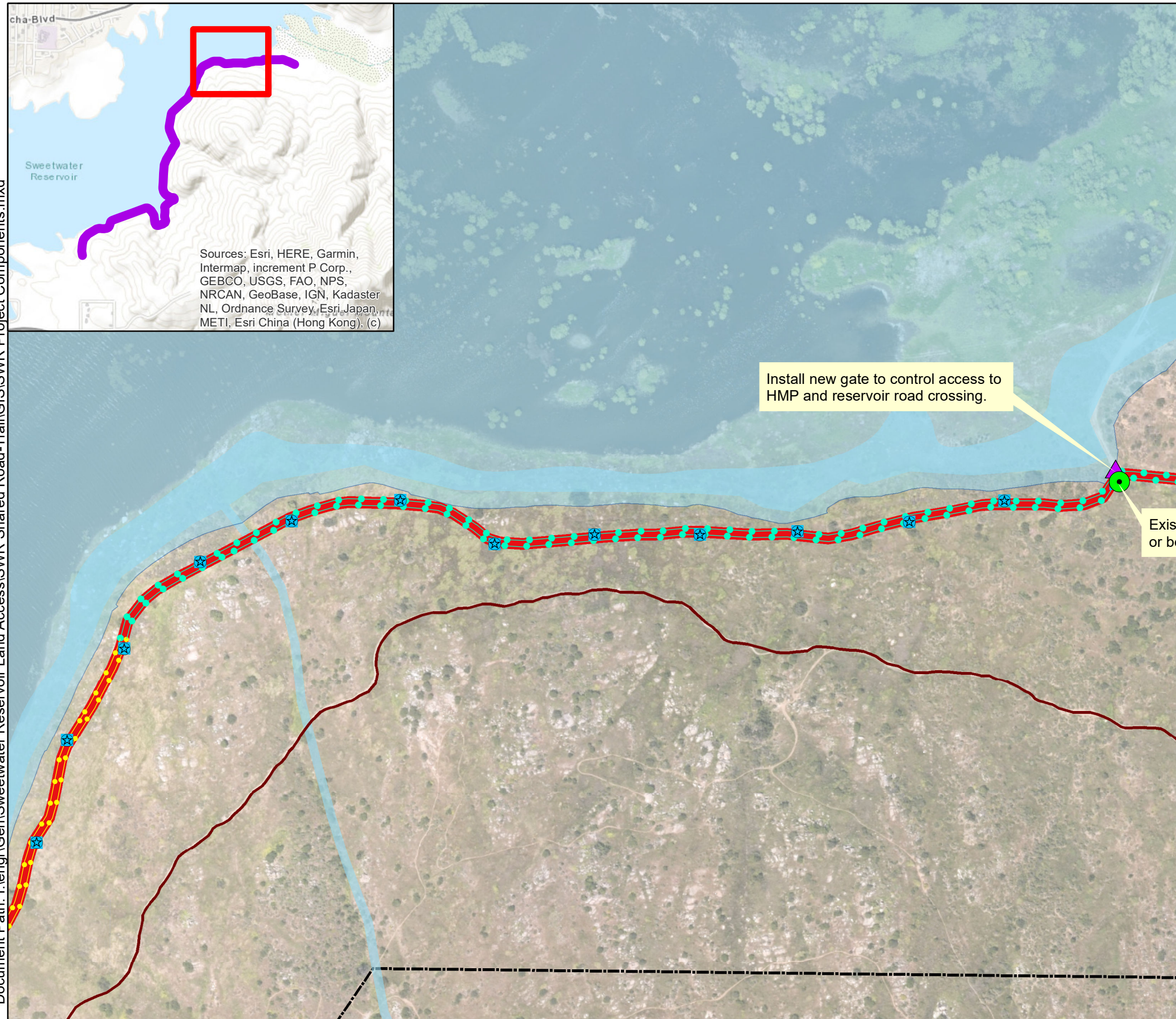
- Sign - Proposed - ESA / No Trespassing
- Gate - Existing, Needs Modification
- Gate - Existing, Stays Open or Relocate
- New Gate - To be Installed
- Fence - Existing
- Fence - Proposed - Year 1 (Priority areas)
- Fence - Proposed - Year 2 (as needed)
- Restore with Cactus Scrub / CSS mix
- Restore with Transitional Wetland/Upland
- Weed and Invasive MGMT
- SWR Recreational Area
- Existing County/Regional Trails
- National Wetlands Inventory Data
- Property Boundary (SWA Parcels)
- Surface (existing graded surface)**
 - Clay. Class 2 aggregate + geotextile if needed
 - Clay. Class 2 aggregate if needed
 - Class 2 aggregate already. As is
 - Clay. As is
 - Other than clay. As is.

Data Sources:
USFWS National Wetlands Inventory,
SanGIS/Sandag, Esri, Other.
Map produced by I. Marquez. 2024-04-24

Figure 6. Project Components



Document Path: I:\engr\Gen\Sweetwater Reservoir Land Access\SWR Shared Road-Trail\GIS\SWR Project Components.mxd



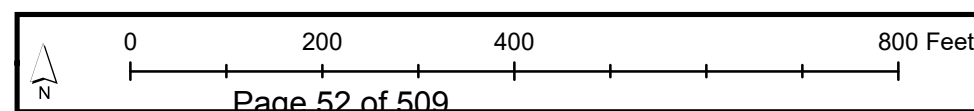
Proposed Shared Maintenance Road / Trail

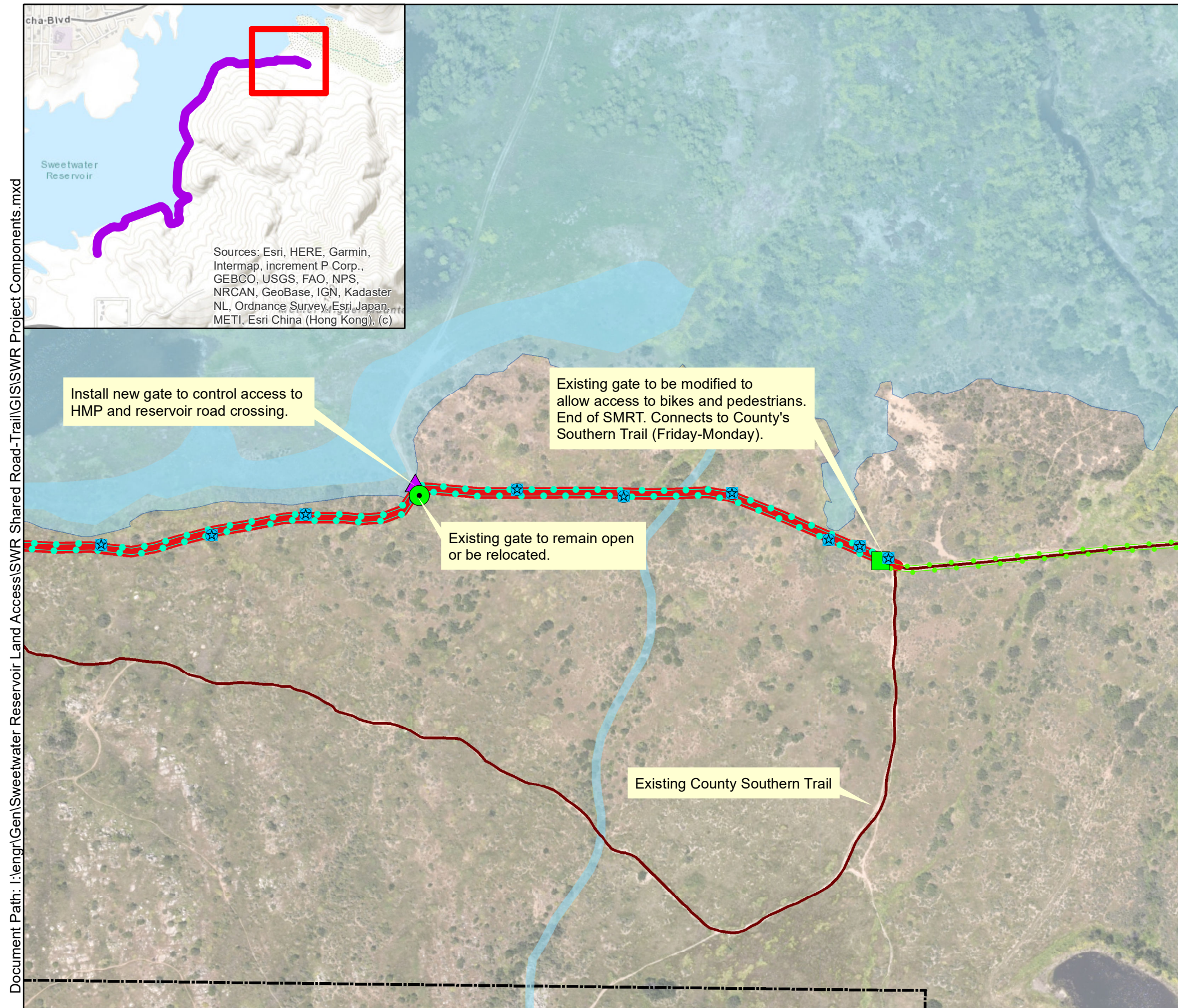
Legend

- Sign - Proposed - ESA / No Trespassing
- Gate - Existing, Needs Modification
- Gate - Existing, Stays Open or Relocate
- New Gate - To be Installed
- Fence - Existing
- Fence - Proposed - Year 1 (Priority areas)
- Fence - Proposed - Year 2 (as needed)
- Restore with Cactus Scrub / CSS mix
- Restore with Transitional Wetland/Upland
- Weed and Invasive MGMT
- SWR Recreational Area
- Existing County/Regional Trails
- National Wetlands Inventory Data
- Property Boundary (SWA Parcels)
- Surface (existing graded surface)**
 - Clay. Class 2 aggregate + geotextile if needed
 - Clay. Class 2 aggregate if needed
 - Class 2 aggregate already. As is
 - Clay. As is
 - Other than clay. As is.

Data Sources:
USFWS National Wetlands Inventory,
SanGIS/Sandag, Esri, Other.
Map produced by I. Marquez. 2024-04-24

Figure 7. Project Components





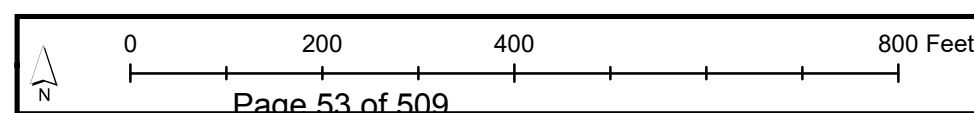
Proposed Shared Maintenance Road / Trail

Legend

- Sign - Proposed - ESA / No Trespassing
- Gate - Existing, Needs Modification
- Gate - Existing, Stays Open or Relocate
- New Gate - To be Installed
- Fence - Existing
- Fence - Proposed - Year 1 (Priority areas)
- Fence - Proposed - Year 2 (as needed)
- Restore with Cactus Scrub / CSS mix
- Restore with Transitional Wetland/Upland
- Weed and Invasive MGMT
- SWR Recreational Area
- Existing County/Regional Trails
- National Wetlands Inventory Data
- Property Boundary (SWA Parcels)
- Surface (existing graded surface)**
 - Clay. Class 2 aggregate + geotextile if needed
 - Clay. Class 2 aggregate if needed
 - Class 2 aggregate already. As is
 - Clay. As is
 - Other than clay. As is.

Data Sources:
USFWS National Wetlands Inventory,
SanGIS/Sandag, Esri, Other.
Map produced by I. Marquez. 2024-04-24

Figure 8. Project Components



10.4.6 Environmental BMPs: O&M activities in the current maintenance road corridor often include minor road surface maintenance, vegetation trimming, and performing work near Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs). Therefore, implementation of O&M activities by field crews could result in an impact on sensitive resources or receptors if training is not provided and/or environmental BMPs are not followed. Depending on the O&M activity being performed, Authority field staff, in coordination with environmental staff, selects environmental BMPs to be implemented in the field that ensure avoidance or minimization of environmental impacts, and compliance with design features or approved measures associated with each individual O&M action. The following environmental measures are considered part of the Authority's operations, and employees performing any work in the field and surrounding area of the Proposed Project are trained, or will be trained before Proposed Project implementation, on all of the following measures:

BMP 1: Training. Provide training specific to the O&M task being conducted to all workers.

BMP 2: Limits of Disturbance (LOD). Limit any O&M activity to operational areas and field maintenance areas, in this case, the surface of the existing maintenance and patrol road. Install temporary LOD flagging or fencing, as appropriate, and ensure all workers understand work limits when conducting maintenance. Vehicles are to remain within approved roads and previously disturbed areas; avoid driving, parking, or staging on undeveloped lands or ESAs.

BMP 3: Erosion and Sediment Control measures. Refer to approved erosion and sediment control measures for selection and installation of appropriate stormwater BMPs. Direct any questions to staff stormwater professional (e.g. certified QSD/QSP).

BMP 4: Housekeeping BMPs. The following housekeeping BMPs are to be followed at all times by staff performing field work in the Proposed Project vicinity:

- Ensure compliance with the 15 miles per hour (mph) speed limit when driving on the unpaved road.
- Whenever work road is conducted, water trucks or trailers shall be used as necessary to reduce airborne dust.
- Do not store or stage hazardous materials (paint, concrete, oil, gas, etc.) near reservoirs, streams, wetlands, natural drainages or storm drains. Report all spills within the same day to the Water Quality Department and Authority environmental staff. Fueling of equipment or staging of equipment to occur within designated areas, at least 100-foot away (horizontal distance) from any identified waterway.
- Littering is strictly prohibited. All O&M generated waste shall be removed from work sites and properly disposed.
- All construction equipment, fixed or mobile, shall be equipped with properly operating and maintained mufflers. Construction noise reduction methods, such as shutting off idling equipment and the use of electric air compressors and similar power tools rather than diesel equipment, shall be used where feasible. Stationary construction equipment shall be placed such that emitted noise is directed away from, or shielded from, residential properties. Where applicable, ensure compliance with noise requirements near sensitive habitat/species
- Minimize the use of herbicides in the watershed, wetlands and/or waters. Only use approved herbicides. Vegetation outside the approved limits will not be cut or sprayed with herbicide.

Only aquatic or wetland approved herbicides are used in or near active waterways, including rivers, streams, ponds, and reservoirs. Follow federal, state, and local regulations regarding herbicide use. Read and follow product labels

BMP 5: Environmental Monitoring. If impacts to, or work within, undeveloped lands or ESAs cannot be avoided, coordinate with environmental staff as soon as possible. Give reasonable advance notification to environmental staff since activities within ESAs or undeveloped lands may require a pre-activity biological survey and delineation of LODs, and/or biological monitoring. For grubbing, excavation or grading in undeveloped lands or ESAs, coordinate a month in advance with environmental staff as these activities may require archaeological monitoring. For the first three years of operation of the proposed SMRT and in close coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a qualified avian biologist will conduct field assessments during the California gnatcatcher and coastal cactus wren nesting seasons, to assess potential indirect impacts to these sensitive birds and other wildlife. The assessments will provide additional operational BMPs to be implemented, if needed.

BMP 6: Habitat Preserves. Coordinate any O&M activity within a habitat preserve with staff biologist.

BMP 7: Brush Management. Routine brush management in previously disturbed and approved areas is allowed after supervisor's approval. Brush management to be conducted as follows:

- Request environmental clearance if brush management is to be conducted during the nesting season. Nesting windows are as follow:

Trees/Woodland: January 15 – July 15
Uplands: February 15 - August 31
Riparian/Marsh: March 1 – September 15

- Vegetation removal methods include cutting, trimming using hand or mechanical tools.
- Vegetation removal should leave the roots of plants intact and 3-to-6 inches of plant trunk or stalk, where possible. If plants are invasive, a trip hazard, or roots can damage a facility, full mechanical removal or herbicide treatment is recommended.
- Remove all dead vegetation and dispose at approved vegetation disposal sites.
- If brush management is conducted for defensible space or fuel break compliance, ensure consistency with the applicable Fire Authority Having Jurisdiction (FAHJ) requirements.

BMP 8: Drainage Facilities. Maintenance or repairs of existing drainage facilities to be scheduled with environmental staff a month in advanced. Replacements and installation of drainage facilities may be conducted in the future, if the SMRT road surface shows the need for the installation of culverts or other stormwater infrastructure. Installation of stormwater infrastructure requires additional environmental review and permitting; any added stormwater infrastructure needs are to be coordinated with environmental staff and approved by the Director of Engineering and Operations before installation. Hydraulic analysis for installation of new facilities or replacements may be required.

BMP 9: Roads and Trails. Maintenance and repairs of unpaved roads and trails are conducted using appropriate stormwater and dust control BMPs. Modifications to an unpaved road or trail shall occur within the appropriate approved corridor. Installation or realignments of unpaved roads or trails are approved by the Director of Engineering and Operations, and shall occur with the following environmental issues in mind:

- Soils, topography, and the potential for soil erosion issues
- Avoidance/minimization of impacts to Authority facilities and other utilities
- Avoidance/minimization of impacts to cultural resources, aquatic resources, ESAs, and sensitive species

Coordinate with environmental staff in advance when requesting realignments or installation of a new dirt road or trail.

BMP 10: Notification. Notify and coordinate with affected neighboring agencies, if needed, to consider any special features that may be needed. For temporary trail closures, a notice shall be posted a week in advance on all trail access points.

11. AGENCY APPROVALS

The language below was provided in the Draft Addendum No.2, dated May 20, 2024, which was circulated to multiple agencies for their review:

"The proposed modification and addition to the Sweetwater Reservoir Recreational Area – converting an existing 2.2-mile maintenance and patrolling road into a shared maintenance road / trail open to the public - may require approval from the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (DDW), and coordination with the Refuge and County of San Diego regarding trail interconnectivity. Permitting from the wildlife agencies (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS] and California Department of Fish and Wildlife [CDFW]) is not expected to be necessary, as the project does not have any direct impacts on biological resources. Similarly, the Proposed Project fully avoids impacts to waterways and wetlands, thus permitting from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board, or CDFW Streambed Alteration Agreement Division is not warranted. Sweetwater Authority staff will forward this document and other pertinent document to the regulatory agencies mentioned herein, to confirm permitting or coordination needs.

During preparation of the 2001 SEIR, the Authority previously consulted with the CDFW and the USFWS for "take authorization" through a 2081(b) California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Incidental Take Permit. As described in Section 16.4, Biological Resources, the proposed additions would not result in any activities that would have the potential to impact special status species. Additionally, given the proposed environmental BMPs and project components, such as fencing, gates, and signs, the additional proposed SMRT would not result in direct or indirect impacts to special status species. The project includes a habitat restoration component that would be beneficial for local sensitive habitats and their sensitive species, such as the cactus wren. Therefore, additional consultation with CDFW and USFWS would not be necessary. However, the following agencies will be notified of the proposed SMRT project in order to confirm consultation needs:

- *USFWS San Diego National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge)*
- *USFWS Regulatory Office*
- *California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)*
- *California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)*
- *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*
- *State Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water*
- *County of San Diego, Parks and Recreation Department*
- *County of San Diego, Department of Planning and Land Use*
- *Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District*
- *Caltrans, District 11”*

As result of the circulation of the Draft Addendum No. 2, dated May 20, 2024, to multiple agencies and stakeholders, the Authority received multiple comments of support and suggestions from the community, and also two letters from the County of San Diego and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Authority is currently coordinating with these two agencies regarding trail items, including trail head coordination, alternatives, signage, hours of operation, etc. The Authority is also coordinating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding potential indirect impacts to the coastal cactus wren, the California gnatcatcher, wildlife movement, and other items of concern for both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Authority. The Authority has incorporated comments and recommendations made by the wildlife agency to this revised version of the Addendum, addressing the concerns brought up by the regulatory agency, and will comply with all endangered species regulations. As noted thorough this document, the Authority will continue its coordination with U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the County of San Diego to ensure that the project does not result in any new additional impacts to sensitive species, other biological resources, or existing preserves and recreational facilities.

12. ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION

In addition to consulting with regulatory and neighboring agencies, the Authority has also circulated the proposed SMRT project description and initial draft Addendum dated May 20, 2024 to California Native American tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the Sweetwater Reservoir vicinity for their review and commenting, and also circulated the draft document to local planning groups and other stakeholders, including the Sweetwater Community Planning Group.

13. ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1. Final Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan, State Clearinghouse No. 1985101602.

Attachment 2. Final Biological Constraints Survey for the Proposed Shared Maintenance/Recreation Trail (SMRT) Project, dated May 10, 2024.

Attachment 3. Comments received by Sweetwater Authority on the circulated draft Addendum No. 2 to the SEIR for the Sweetwater Reservoir Master Plan – Shared Maintenance Road and Trail (SMRT), dated May 20, 2024.

14. NEW SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OR SUBSTANTIALLY MORE SEVERE SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS COMPARED TO THOSE IDENTIFIED IN THE PREVIOUS CEQA DOCUMENT: The subject areas checked below were determined to be new significant environmental effects or to be previously identified effects that have a substantial increase in severity either due to a change in project, change in circumstances or new information of substantial importance, as indicated by the checklist and discussion on the following pages:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| ☐ Aesthetics | ☐ Agriculture Resources | ☐ Air Quality |
| ☐ Biological Resources | ☐ Cultural Resources | ☐ Energy |
| ☐ Geology and Soils | ☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions | ☐ Hazards and Hazardous Materials |
| ☐ Hydrology and Water Quality | ☐ Land Use and Planning | ☐ Mineral Resources |
| ☐ Noise | ☐ Population and Housing | ☐ Public Services |
| ☐ Recreation | ☐ Transportation and Traffic | ☐ Tribal Cultural Resources |
| ☐ Utilities and Service Systems | ☐ Wildfire | ☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance |

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by lead agency):

Based on this initial evaluation:

- ☐ No substantial changes are proposed in the project and there are no substantial changes in the circumstances under which the project will be undertaken that will require major revisions to the previous approved ND or MND or certified EIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. Also, there is no "new information of substantial importance" as that term is used in CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3). Therefore, the previously adopted ND, MND, or previously certified EIR adequately discusses the potential impacts of the project without modification.
- ☒ No substantial changes are proposed in the project and there are no substantial changes in the circumstances under which the project will be undertaken that will require major revisions to the previous approved ND or MND or certified EIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. Also, there is no "new information of substantial importance" as that term is used in CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3). Therefore, the previously adopted ND, MND, or previously certified EIR adequately discusses the potential impacts of the project; however, minor changes require the preparation of an ADDENDUM.

- ☐ Substantial changes are proposed in the project or there are substantial changes in the circumstances under which the project will be undertaken that will require major revisions to the previous ND, MND, or EIR due to the involvement of significant new environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. Or, there is "new information of substantial importance," as that term is used in CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3). However, all new potentially significant environmental effects or substantial increases in the severity of previously identified significant effects are clearly reduced to below a level of significance through the incorporation of mitigation measures agreed to by the project applicant. Therefore, a SUBSEQUENT EIR is required.
- ☐ Substantial changes are proposed in the project or there are substantial changes in the circumstances under which the project will be undertaken that will require major revisions to the previous environmental document due to the involvement of significant new environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. Or, there is "new information of substantial importance," as that term is used in CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3). However, only minor changes or additions or changes would be necessary to make the previous EIR adequate for the project in the changed situation. Therefore, a SUPPLEMENTAL EIR is required.
- ☐ Substantial changes are proposed in the project or there are substantial changes in the circumstances under which the project will be undertaken that will require major revisions to the previous environmental document due to the involvement of significant new environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. Or, there is "new information of substantial importance," as that term is used in CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a)(3). Therefore, a SUBSEQUENT EIR is required.

Erick Del Bosque

Signature

6/14/2024

Date

Erick Del Bosque

Printed Name

Director of Engineering and Operations

Title

15. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

- 1) A finding of “No New Impact/No Impact” means that the potential impact was fully analyzed and/or mitigated in the prior CEQA document and no new or different impacts will result from the proposed activity. A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No New Impact/No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No New Impact/No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No New Impact/No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) A finding of “New Mitigation is Required” means that the project have a new potentially significant impact on the environment or a substantially more severe impact than analyzed in the previously approved or certified CEQA document and that new mitigation is required to address the impact.
- 3) A finding of “New Potentially Significant Impact” means that the project may have a new potentially significant impact on the environment or a substantially more severe impact than analyzed in the previously approved or certified CEQA document that cannot be mitigated to below a level of significance or be avoided.
- 4) A finding of “Reduced Impact” means that a previously infeasible mitigation measure is now available, or a previously infeasible alternative is now available that will reduce a significant impact identified in the previously prepared environmental document.
- 5) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 6) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. CEQA Guidelines Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
 - a) Earlier Analyses Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
 - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis. Describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the proposed action.
 - c) Infeasible Mitigation Measures. Since the previous EIR was certified or previous ND or MND was adopted, discuss any mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible that would in fact be feasible or that are considerably different from those previously analyzed and would substantially reduce one or more

significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measures or alternatives.

- d) Changes in Circumstances. Since the previous EIR was certified or previous ND or MND was adopted, discuss any changes in the project, changes in circumstances under which the project is undertaken and/or "new information of substantial importance" that cause a change in conclusion regarding one or more effects discussed in the original document.
- 7) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
- 8) Supporting Information Sources. A source list should be attached, and other sources used, or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 9) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.

The explanation of each issue should identify:

- a) The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question;
- b) Differences between the proposed activity and the previously approved project described in the approved ND, MND, or certified EIR; and
- c) The previously approved mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.

16.1 AESTHETICS

	New Potentially Significant Impact	New Mitigation is Required	No New Impact / No Impact	Reduced Impact
Would the Project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage points.)	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Would the project:

- a) ***Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?*** As described in the 2001 SEIR, there are no scenic viewpoints within the immediate vicinity of the SWRRA area at the Sweetwater Reservoir. San Miguel Road, located approximately 0.42 miles south of the SWRRA gravel parking area, is a first-priority County of San Diego route for designation as a scenic highway. San Miguel Road provides views of the rolling topography and rural landforms. However, San Miguel Road does not provide views of the SMRT area, and this Proposed Addition to the existing would not result in any physical development that would adversely permanently impact scenic views. The Proposed Addition may result in a minor increase in the number of people participating in recreational activities, additional vehicles, etc. but this would not obscure or obstruct any scenic vista in the vicinity.
- b) ***Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?*** As described in Response 16.1(a), while San Miguel Road is a first-priority County of San Diego route for designation as a scenic highway, it does not provide views of the proposed SMRT area. Therefore, there are no designated State scenic highways, historic buildings, or landmark trees in the vicinity of the proposed SMRT area that would be affected by the proposed addition.
- c) ***In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?*** The proposed SMRT would not result in any physical development that would adversely permanently impact the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. The proposed project consists on the transformation of an existing maintenance road into a shared road/trail, without significant additional facilities or developments that would degrade the visual character of the south side of the Sweetwater Reservoir. Implementation of the SMRT would result

in a minor increase in the number of people participating in recreational activities in the south side of the reservoir, etc. but this would not degrade the existing visual character or quality of San Miguel Point, the Sweetwater Reservoir, or the surrounding vicinity. Recreational activities already occur in the same vicinity, and the SMRT would only connect an existing trail (“County’s Southern Trail”) and to the existing SWRRA.

- d) **Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?** The Proposed Addition would not create any substantial light or glare. The proposed SMRT would be open only when there is sunlight to fully avoid the need of lights. The proposed schedule is 7:00am to 6:30pm (April through August) and 7:00am to sunset (September through March). Therefore, given that the proposed SMRT recreational uses would only occur during the daytime hours, no lighting would be required.

16.2 AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

	New Potentially Significant Impact	New Mitigation is Required	No New Impact / No Impact	Reduced Impact
In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state’s inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board (CARB).				
Would the Project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220[g]), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104[g])?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Would the project:

- a) **Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?** There is no Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance within the Project Addition area or the surrounding vicinity. Therefore, the proposed SMRT implementation would result in no impact to such resources.

- b) **Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act Contract?** Refer to Response 16.2(a).
- c) **Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220[g]), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104[g])?** There is no Timberland within the Project Addition area or the surrounding vicinity. Therefore, the proposed SMRT implementation would result in no impact to such resources.
- d) **Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?** Refer to Response 16.2(c).
- e) **Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?** Refer to Responses 16.2(a) and 16.2(c).

16.3 AIR QUALITY

	New Potentially Significant Impact	New Mitigation is Required	No New Impact / No Impact	Reduced Impact
Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations.				
Would the Project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under the applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Would the project:

- a) **Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?** The Sweetwater Reservoir is located in the San Diego Air Basin (Basin). The San Diego Air Pollution Control District (APCD) and SANDAG are responsible for developing and implementing the clean air plan for attainment and maintenance of the ambient air quality standards in the Basin. The proposed SMRT may result in a minor increase in criteria pollutant emissions associated with anglers, trail users, and other visitors driving to the Sweetwater Reservoir. However, given the average number of visitors per day, which is much lower than that originally evaluated in the 1987 FEIR and 2001 SEIR (generally ranging between 20 and 25 people), this increase in mobile source emissions would be negligible and would not substantially affect criteria air pollutant emissions within the Basin.

- b) **Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under the applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?** Refer to Response 16.3(a).
- c) **Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?** Sensitive receptors in the immediate vicinity of the SWRRA include trail users along the Sweetwater Reservoir Riding and Hiking Trail. Additionally, rural residential land uses are located farther from the SWRRA. As previously described, the SMRTs may result in an increase in criteria air pollutant emissions (e.g., mobile source emissions) over existing conditions, as visitors to the area may initially increase to enjoy the proposed new trail; however, this potential increase would be negligible, would remain lower than the criteria air pollutant emissions estimated in the 1987 FEIR and the 2001 SEIR, and would not substantially affect sensitive receptors.
- d) **Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?** Odors may be generated from vehicle exhaust emissions associated with SWRRA users driving to and from the Sweetwater Reservoir and idling within the SWRRA gravel parking area. However, the Proposed Addition would not substantially increase existing odors, result in new odors, or otherwise substantially affect sensitive receptors.

16.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

	New Potentially Significant Impact	New Mitigation is Required	No New Impact / No Impact	Reduced Impact
Would the Project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFW or the USFWS?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the CDFW or USFWS?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The 2001 SEIR identified that implementation of the SWRRA could result in significant impacts to biological resources. However, implementation of a series of biological resources mitigation measures (listed below) would result in a less than significant impact. As described in the 2001 SEIR, Sweetwater Reservoir is surrounded by thousands of acres of open space preserves and habitat, not only along the Sweetwater River but also in adjacent lands, such as the Refuge. Multiple biological resources surveys have been conducted in the area to map the distribution of sensitive species and sensitive habitats, including surveys for the California gnatcatcher, Quino checkerspot butterfly, and rare plant surveys. The 2001 SEIR identifies three vegetation communities surrounding the SWRRA project area, including non-native grassland, mixed native grassland with broken sage scrub, and mixed native/non-native grasslands. On a field survey performed in 2001 by McMillan Biological Consulting, a total of 73 vernal pools were observed within the boundaries of the SWRRA, just west and southwest of the proposed Project Addition area. Other observations include successional species establishment at the reservoir bottom, when the water level is low for relatively sustain periods of time, and also intermittent drainage flows into the reservoir with riparian plant occurring sporadically in those ephemeral drainages.

Sensitive habitats are defined in the 2001 SEIR as “those that are regulated by USFWS, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and/or are considered sensitive by CDFW.” The non-native grassland, the mixed native grassland and broken sage scrub, and intermittent drainages were the three habitats considered sensitive at the time of the preparation of the 2001 environmental analysis. The 2001 SEIR also described vernal pools and native grasslands as sensitive by CDFW, given the fact that they are some of the rarest vegetation communities and habitats locally, regionally and globally. Non-native grasslands were also considered sensitive, given the habitat they provide for a variety of species as well as providing foraging habitat for raptors. For more information on the biological resources, including rare, sensitive plant species and sensitive wildlife within the SWRRA, refer to the 2001 SEIR.

The 2001 SEIR identified direct permanent impacts to biological resources as follows (*summary provided herein; refer to 2001 SEIR for complete language*):

- Construction activities would impact biological resources, in the form of physical displacement of resources by project amenities (e.g. parking areas, landscaping areas, roads, trails, toilets, fuel management zones, etc.);
- Habitat clearing affecting native fauna present; and
- Direct impacts to wildlife resulting from driving the roads (“road kills”).

Indirect permanent impacts to biological resources resulting from construction activities or operations included the following (*summarizing from the 2001 SEIR*):

- Construction generated noise affecting wildlife and sensitive species;
- Increase erosion and sedimentation impacting the reservoir or vernal pools;
- Changes in the watershed of vernal pool complexes;
- Habitat and population fragmentation;
- Increased toxic species invasion;
- Fugitive dust from grading activities or driving roads;
- Unauthorized human and domestic animal trespass into sensitive habitats and populations (i.e. off-trail activities or unauthorized access); and

- Reduction in migratory waterfowl and associated species populations due to human presence in the reservoir.

The SWRRA, as proposed in the 2001, was designed to avoid and minimize impacts to sensitive resources. Mitigation measures included restoration of vernal pool and fairy shrimp habitat, relocation of access roads to downslope areas of the vernal pool complex, etc. Biological Mitigation Measures included the following (summarized):

Bio MM-1: Prior to any use or development of the area:

- Review and approval of USFWS and CDFW for the Vernal Pool and Otay tarplant a mitigation program;
- Dedication of a conservation easement to CDFW over the mitigation area;

Bio MM-2: Obtain confirmation letter from respective agencies, that all applicable permits are in place or that no permit is required; review and approval of landscape plan by CDFW and USFWS;

Bio MM-3: Construction BMPs, including:

- Biological resources training, flagging of Limit of Disturbance (LODs);
- Contractor education program;
- Full drainage and wetland avoidance for all construction activities;
- Proper stockpiling of topsoils, away from sensitive habitats;
- Proper installation of staging areas, away from sensitive habitats;
- Fueling of equipment to occur away from drainages and sensitive habitats;
- Implementation of erosion and sediment control plan;
- Construction fencing and signage to fully avoid unauthorized construction impacts;
- Grading activities to be conducted outside of nesting season (February 15 – August 30);

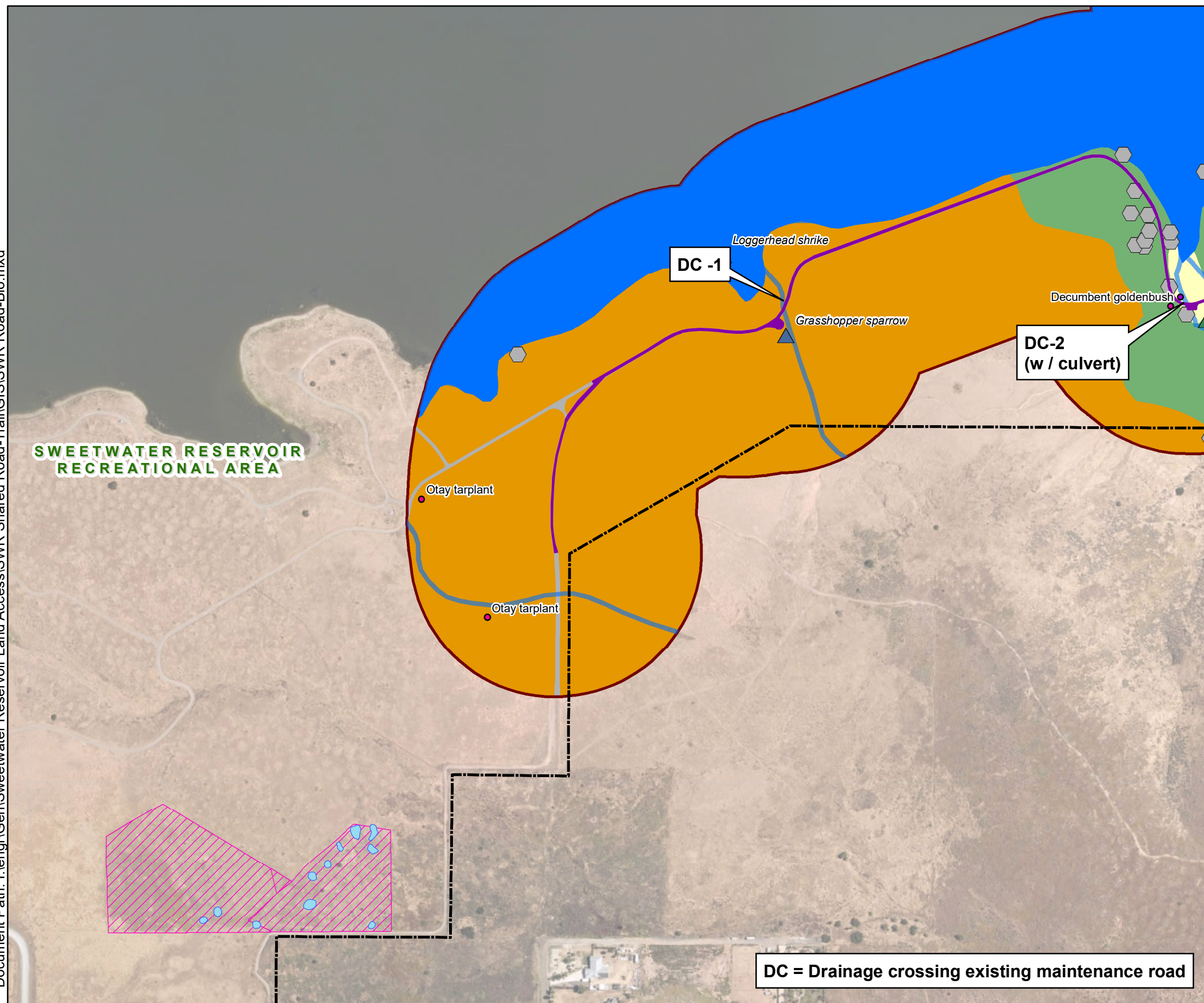
Bio MM-4: Fencing of ESAs with wildlife friendly fencing (no barbed wire or chainlink fences);

Bio MM-5: Construction of educational kiosks;

Bio MM-6: Enforcement of 15 mph limit on all vehicles to reduce dust generation. If there are issues with fugitive dust that could impact sensitive habitats, Authority shall investigate installation of appropriate road materials or employ the use of a water truck; and

Bio MM-7: Monitoring effects of fishing on wildlife, particularly brown pelicans, to determine if wildlife is being impacted by entanglement in fishing lines. Report injuries to staff biologist and wildlife agencies, and follow up consultation to address fishing activities impacts on pelicans.

For the proposed Project Addition and at the request of the Authority, WSP USA Inc. (WSP) provided a biological reconnaissance survey and literature/historical data review for the proposed SMRT, to confirm previously identified biological resources in the SMRT area, as well as any changes (Attachment 1). For reference, Authority staff prepared the following series of maps, showing biological resources data collected by Authority staff (Famolaro, unpublished data) and data available from other sources, like data collected by consultants, or the National Wetlands Inventory.



Proposed Shared Maintenance Road and Trail (SMRT)

Legend

Property Boundary (SWA Parcels)

Existing Road / Proposed SMRT

CACWR 1996-Current

CAGN 1997-Current

LBVI 1986-Current

WIFL 1997-Current

NWI Waters and Wetlands

SMRT 500 ft buffer

Vegetation Community

11300 Disturbed Habitat

12000 Urban/Developed

32500 Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub

42000 Valley and Foothill Grassland

62000 Riparian Woodlands

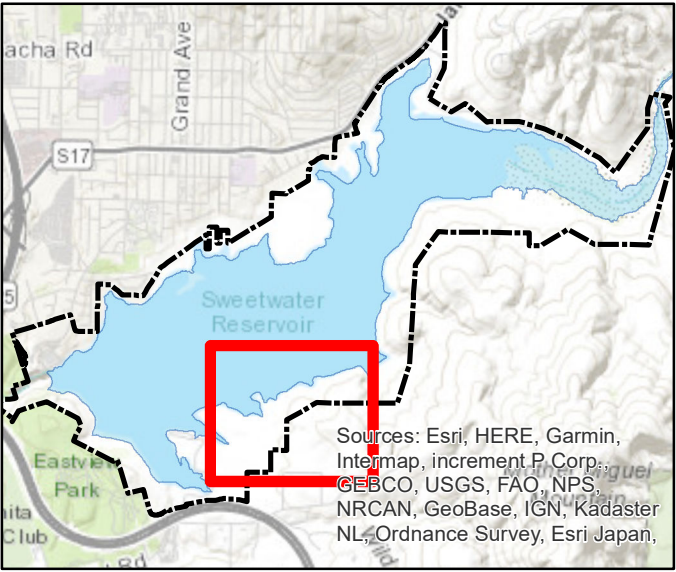
64100 Open Water

SWRFP Conservation Easement Area

Habitat Management Preserve Area

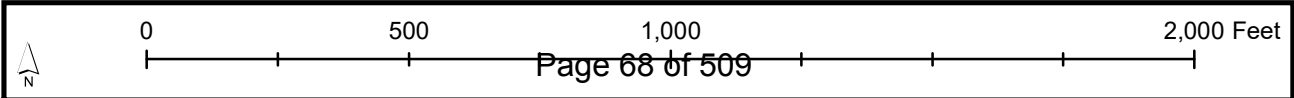
Skelton Habitat Mitigation Area

Vernal Pools



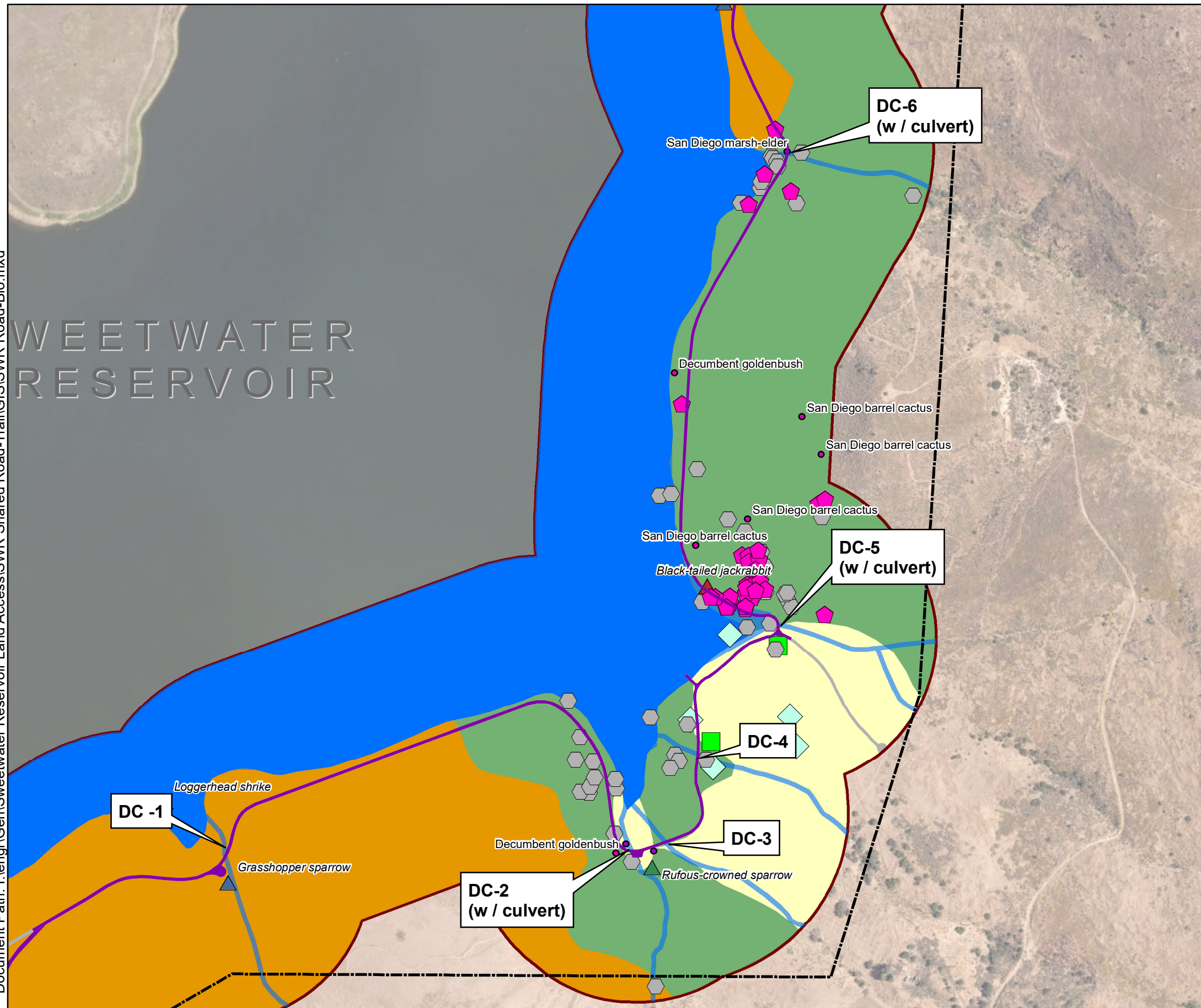
Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P. Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan,

Figure 9.1 Biological Resources



Data Sources: SWA Biologist Famolaro, ICF vegetation data, USFWS National Wetlands Inventory, SanGIS/Sandag, Esri, Other.
Map produced by I. Marquez. 2024-04-18

Document Path: I:\engr\Gen\Sweetwater Reservoir Land Access\SWR Shared Road-Trail\GIS\SWR Road-Bio.mxd



Proposed Shared Maintenance Road and Trail (SMRT)

Legend

- Property Boundary (SWA Parcels)
- Existing Road / Proposed SMRT
- CACWR 1996-Current
- CAGN 1997-Current
- LBVI 1986-Current
- WIFL 1997-Current
- NWI Waters and Wetlands
- SMRT 500 ft buffer
- Vegetation Community**
 - 11300 Disturbed Habitat
 - 12000 Urban/Developed
 - 32500 Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub
 - 42000 Valley and Foothill Grassland
 - 62000 Riparian Woodlands
 - 64100 Open Water
 - SWRFP Conservation Easement Area
 - Habitat Management Preserve Area
 - Skelton Habitat Mitigation Area
 - Vernal Pools

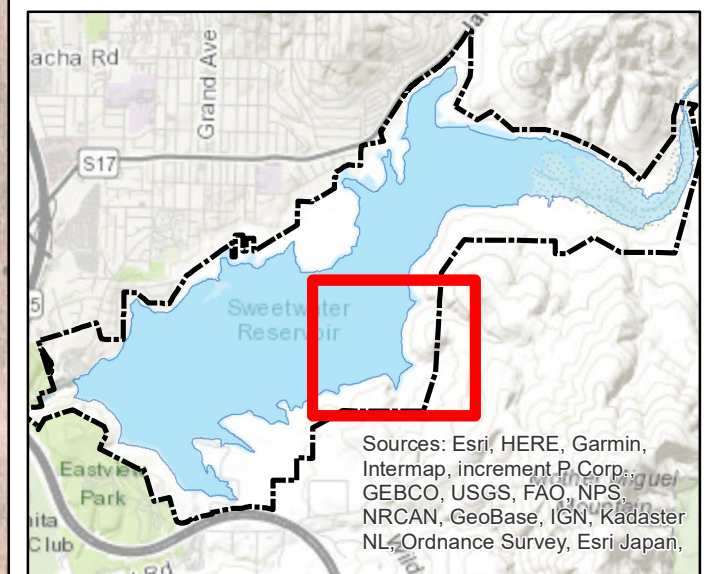
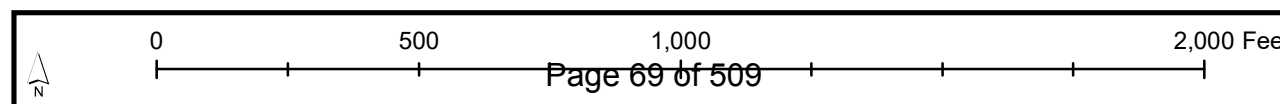
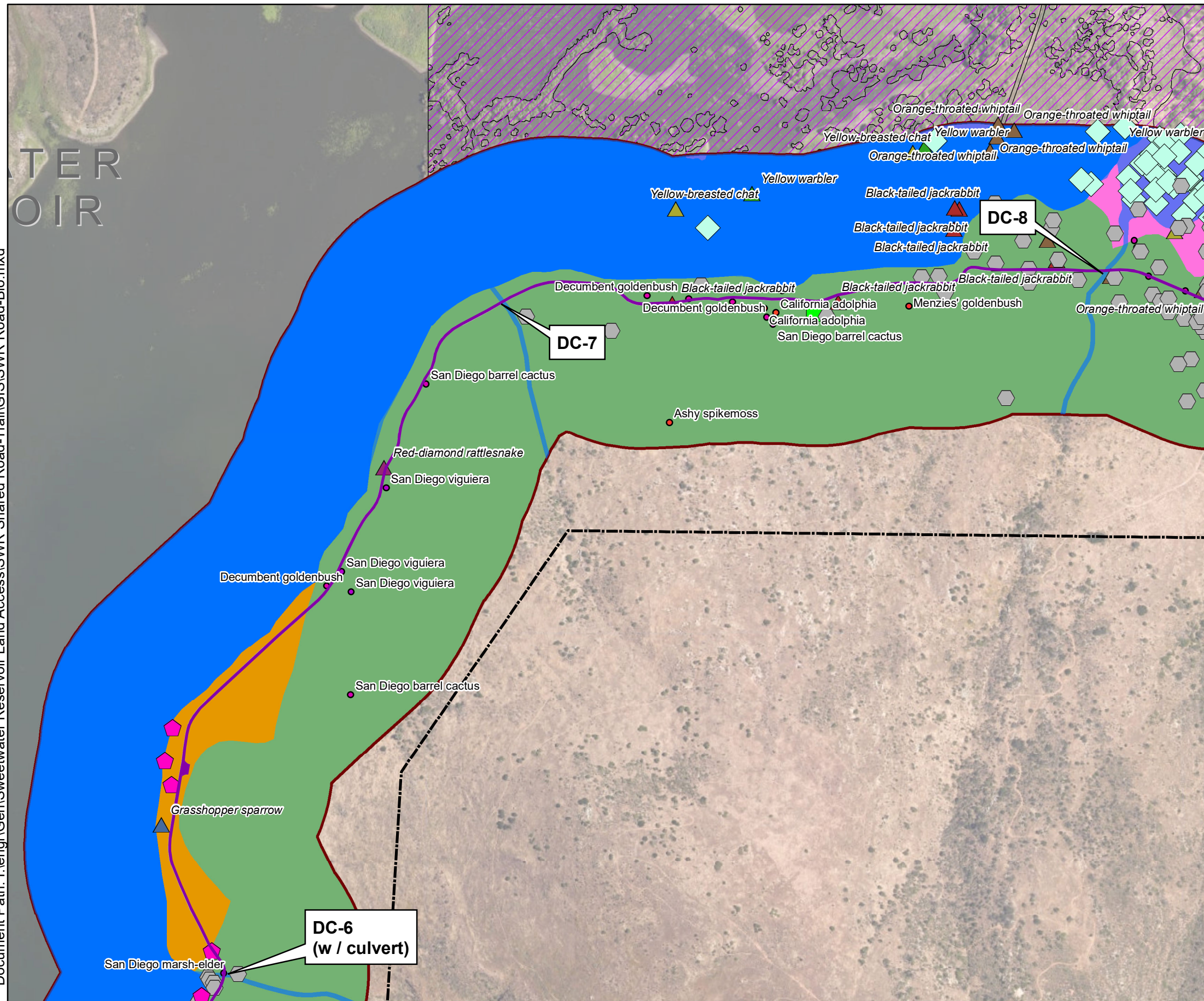


Figure 9.2 Biological Resources



Data Sources: SWA Biologist Famolaro, ICF vegetation data, USFWS National Wetlands Inventory, SanGIS/Sandag, Esri, Other.
Map produced by I. Marquez. 2024-04-18



Proposed Shared Maintenance Road and Trail (SMRT)

Legend

- Property Boundary (SWA Parcels)
- Existing Road / Proposed SMRT
- CACWR 1996-Current
- CAGN 1997-Current
- LBVI 1986-Current
- WIFL 1997-Current
- NWI Waters and Wetlands
- SMRT 500 ft buffer
- Vegetation Community**
 - 11300 Disturbed Habitat
 - 12000 Urban/Developed
 - 32500 Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub
 - 42000 Valley and Foothill Grassland
 - 62000 Riparian Woodlands
 - 64100 Open Water
 - SWRFP Conservation Easement Area
 - Habitat Management Preserve Area
 - Skelton Habitat Mitigation Area
 - Vernal Pools

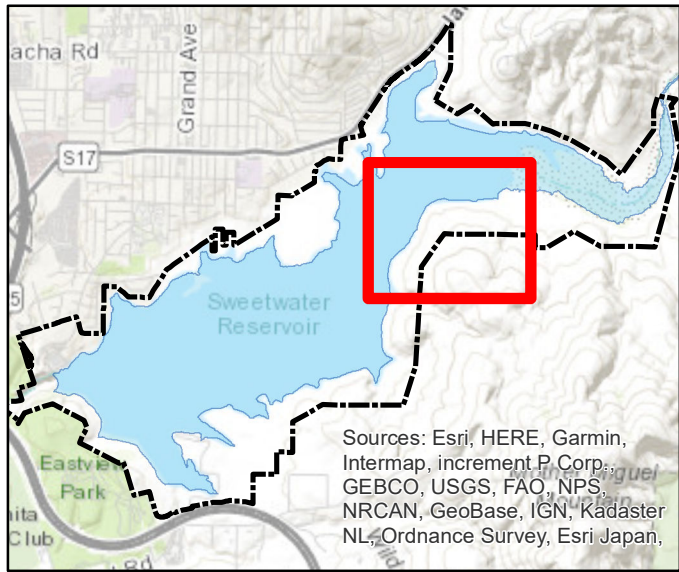
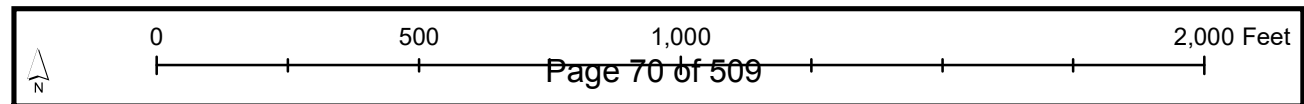
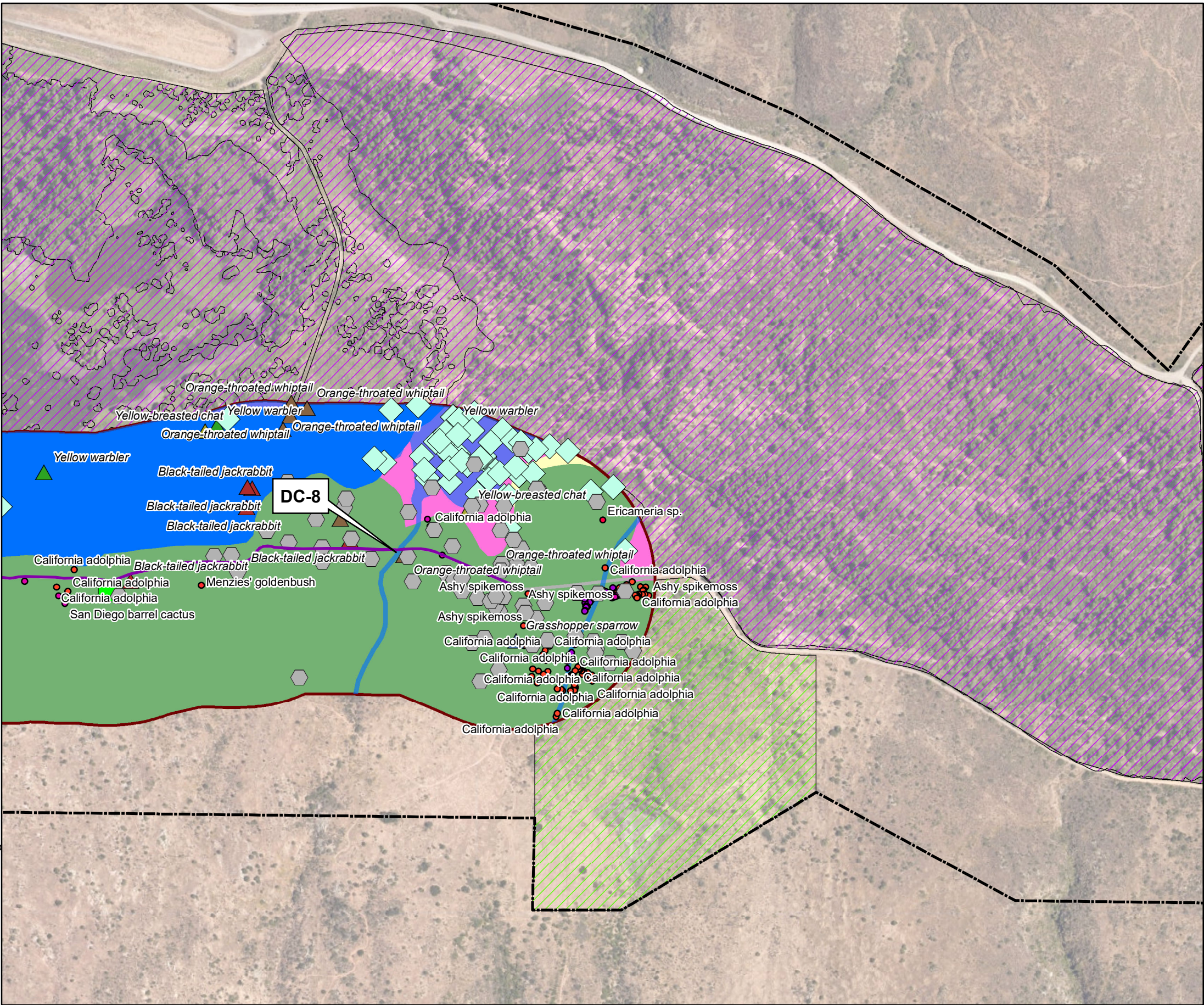


Figure 9.3 Biological Resources



Data Sources: SWA Biologist Famolaro, ICF vegetation data, USFWS National Wetlands Inventory, SanGIS/Sandag, Esri, Other.
Map produced by I. Marquez. 2024-04-18

Document Path: I:\engr\Gen\Sweetwater Reservoir Land Access\SWR Shared Road-Trail\GIS\SWR Road-Bio.mxd



Proposed Shared Maintenance Road and Trail (SMRT)

Legend

Property Boundary (SWA Parcels)

Existing Road / Proposed SMRT

CACWR 1996-Current

CAGN 1997-Current

LBVI 1986-Current

WIFL 1997-Current

NWI Waters and Wetlands

SMRT 500 ft buffer

Vegetation Community

11300 Disturbed Habitat

12000 Urban/Developed

32500 Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub

42000 Valley and Foothill Grassland

62000 Riparian Woodlands

64100 Open Water

SWRFP Conservation Easement Area

Habitat Management Preserve Area

Skelton Habitat Mitigation Area

Vernal Pools

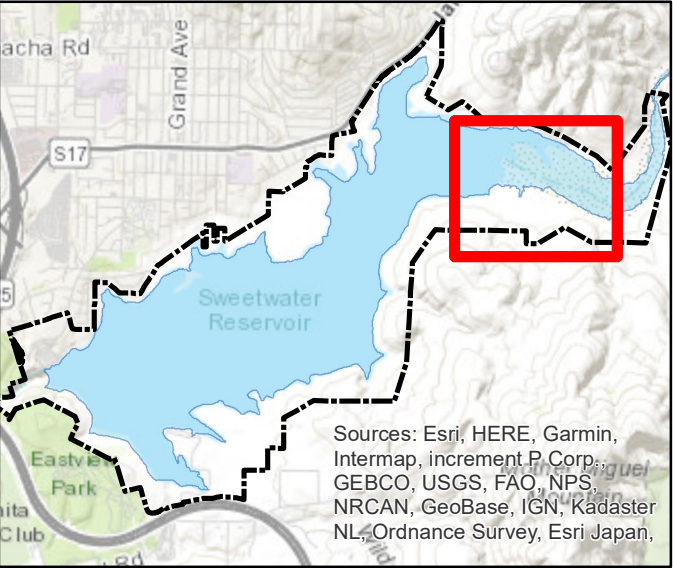
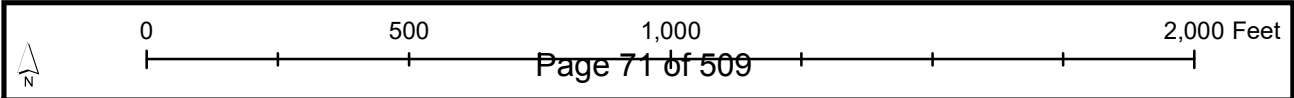


Figure 9.4 Biological Resources



Data Sources: SWA Biologist Famolaro, ICF vegetation data, USFWS National Wetlands Inventory, SanGIS/Sandag, Esri, Other.
Map produced by I. Marquez. 2024-04-18

Would the project:

- a) ***Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFW or the USFWS?***

Previous biological field surveys conducted in support of the 2001 SEIR identified several sensitive and special status plant species in the area, including Otay tarplant, California adolphia (*Adolphia californica*), small-flowered morning-glory (*Convolvulus simulans*), variegated dudleya (*Dudleya variegata*), San Diego barrel cactus (*Ferocactus viridescens*), Palmer's grappling-hook (*Harpagonella palmeri*), San Diego marsh-elder (*Iva hayesiana*), southwestern spiny rush, mud nama (*Nama stenocarpum*), ashy spike-moss (*Selaginella cinerascens*), and San Diego sunflower (*Viguiera laciniata*). Additionally, one other federally listed species, the federally threatened spreading navarretia (*Navarretia fossalis*) occurs in vernal pools immediately off-site on the Refuge and southwest of the Proposed Addition (McMillan Biological Consulting 2001). Similarly, the 2001 SEIR identified several special status wildlife species have the potential to occur in the vicinity of the recreational area, including but not limited to San Diego fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta sandiegonensis*), western spadefoot (*Spea hammondi*), Coronado skink (*Eumeces skiltonianus interparietalis*), coastal California gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica californica*), Least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), California brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*), and San Diego black-tailed jack rabbit (*Lepus californicus bennetti*) (McMillan Biological Consulting 2001).

WSP's assessment notes San Diego fairy shrimp (federally endangered) and western spadefoot (proposed species for federal listing) as two species known to potentially occur in ephemeral road rut. The assessment further describes specific conditions of drainages at the SMRT alignment, indicating that these fairy shrimp and western spadefoot species would not be expected to occur relatively to the low-quality habitat and other factors. Other species discussed as potentially occurring in the vicinity, but not observed by WSP during their site visit, include Otay tarplant, Quino checkerspot butterfly, Hermes copper butterfly and Crotch's bumblebee. WSP also mentions the well-known documented occurrences of sensitive species in the vicinity of the SMRT, such as the Coastal California gnatcatcher, least Bell's vireo, and cactus wren.

The Proposed Addition would not result in additional impacts to sensitive resources. With implementation of the Biological Mitigation Measures discussed in the 2001 SEIR (Bio-MM-1 to Bio-MM-7, as applicable) the installation and operation of the SMRT would not result in additional impacts to biological resources sensitive listed species. Implementation of project components, such as fencing and signage, would prevent impacts to sensitive resources in the vicinity. In addition, the Authority will be coordinating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding avian monitoring during the breeding season for the first three years of SMRT operations to ensure no impacts to California gnatcatcher, coastal cactus wren, or other nesting birds occurs. Habitat restoration would also increase potential habitat for sensitive resources, such as the cactus wren.

- b) ***Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the CDFW or USFWS?***

The proposed SMRT is currently a maintained patrol road, which is surrounded by native and disturbed habitats, including San Diego coastal sage scrub, native grasslands, non-native grasslands, disturbed habitat, and to a lesser degree, wetland and riparian habitats near drainages or closer to lake areas. The Proposed Addition would not have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community as the Proposed Addition would not result in any impacts outside of the areas of the existing road already disturbed and subject to ongoing maintenance. Implementation of available mitigation measures and project components, such as wildlife friendly fencing, would further protect habitat areas. Habitat restoration and weed abatement activities would occur on areas outside the existing maintenance road, but would not result in impacts to sensitive communities. Habitat restoration and weed abatement would result in the creation of native habitat that would ultimately benefit the sensitive biological resources of the area.

- c) ***Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?***

The Proposed Addition would not have any adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands. There are multiple drainage crossings through the proposed SMRT alignment and existing maintenance road, as shown in the map series provided above. However, the Proposed Addition would not result in adverse effects to wetlands as there are no proposals to impact by filling or excavating any wetland or drainage crossings. Outside of the proposed trail alignment, the habitat restoration component would restore to native wetland almost one acre of transitional habitat, including wetland areas, resulting in a positive outcome to the resource. In addition, implementation of biological mitigation measures, and conducting O&M as described above in the Project Description, would continue to occur with full avoidance of wetland resources. If at a later time, installation of new drainage facilities is necessary as discussed in the Project Description section above, the permitting agencies would be contacted to ensure impacts to wetland resources do not occur or are properly mitigated.

- d) ***Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?***

The Proposed Addition would continue to allow for the movement of wildlife species through the area. While installation of fences is being proposed to protect habitats adjacent to the proposed SMRT, these fences would be designed in a manner that allows for wildlife of all sizes to go through them. Fences would be triple wire fence, with barbedless wire at the top, middle and bottom. In coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, certain areas may be left open, where land features help prevent human trespassing (e.g. next to rocky slopes). Therefore, the Proposed Addition would not result in impacts or new additional impacts to wildlife movement, or their use of wildlife corridors.

- e) ***Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as tree preservation policy or ordinance?*** The County's policy framework contains several policies relating to the conservation and protection of biological resources, including the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP), Resource Protection Ordinance, Biological Mitigation Ordinance, and Habitat Loss Permit Ordinance. The Sweetwater Reservoir and SWRRA are not within the MSCP boundaries. Nevertheless, the Authority strives to be consistent with local plans or ordinances when proposing

and implementing projects. The Proposed Addition would allow for continued passive recreational shoreline fishing in the already designated areas to the west and south of the reservoir, and would not allow for any new activities, other than recreational hiking and biking in the proposed SMRT. Further, no ground disturbing or other major construction activities associated with any physical development would occur. Therefore, the Proposed Addition would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.

- f) ***Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?*** NCCPs are State-sponsored programs endorsed by the Federal government to balance the needs of urban development and economic growth with species and habitat protection. NCCPs employ a multi-habitat and multi-species conservation planning approach, focused on preserving the largest core habitat areas possible while protecting necessary habitat linkages and wildlife movement corridors necessary to maintain long-term biological and genetic diversity. The SWRRA area or the Proposed Addition are not located within an approved NCCP or Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) area yet. The Authority is currently working towards the drafting of a Sweetwater Authority NCCP/HCP, but none of the areas discussed for conservation would be negatively impacted by the Proposed Addition. If anything, up to approximately ten acres of habitat restoration and weed management are being proposed as part of the Project Addition, to improve habitat conditions for listed sensitive resources. The Proposed Addition would allow for continued passive recreational shoreline fishing and would not introduce new operational activities to the site, other than similar recreational uses to those already approved on the south side of the lake. Therefore, the Proposed Addition would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted HCP, NCCP, or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan.

16.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

	New Potentially Significant Impact	New Mitigation is Required	No New Impact / No Impact	Reduced Impact
Would the Project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5 of CEQA Guidelines?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5 of CEQA Guidelines?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Would the project:

- a) ***Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines?*** The Sweetwater Dam, which is near the recreational area and the proposed Project Addition, is considered eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criteria A and C. Its significance stems from its importance as a composite structure illustrating how a marginal, largely reconstructed dam was transformed into a safe and useful structure that

provided drinking water to the San Diego region (Mikesell 1998). No other historic resources are documented within the immediate vicinity of the Sweetwater Reservoir. The proposed SMRT would not result in an adverse change in the historical significance of the Sweetwater Dam.

- b) ***Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines?*** The Proposed Addition does not require any major grading for the proposed minor improvements (i.e. installation of gates, t-post fencing, signs, etc.). The Proposed Addition would require installation of gates in certain locations that may result in minor soil movement, within an already graded area and already subject to routine operations and maintenance. As a BMP, archaeological monitoring will be included whenever there is a need to install a new gate post, which could require minor excavation for the installation of a metal pole within the existing maintenance road area. Given this, the Proposed Addition would not have the potential to result in an adverse impact to unknown, buried archaeological resources.
- c) ***Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?*** As noted above in 16.5(b), the Proposed Addition does not require any major grading for the proposed minor improvements (i.e. installation of gates, t-post fencing, signs, etc.). The Proposed Addition would require installation of gates in certain locations that may result in minor soil movement, within an already graded area and already subject to routine operations and maintenance. As a BMP, archaeological monitoring will be included whenever there is a need to install a new gate post, which could require minor excavation for the installation of a metal pole within the existing maintenance road area. Given this, the Proposed Addition would not have the potential to result in an adverse impact to any human remains, including those potentially interred outside of dedicated cemeteries.

16.6 ENERGY

	New Potentially Significant Impact	New Mitigation is Required	No New Impact / No Impact	Reduced Impact
Would the Project:				
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Would the project:

- a) ***Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?*** The Proposed Addition may generate a minor increase in the consumption of transportation energy (e.g., vehicle fuel) as it is expected that more visitors would come to the reservoir to enjoy the new recreational facilities. However, given the average number of existing users per day, which is much lower than that originally evaluated in the 1987 FEIR and 2001 SEIR, this increase in the consumption of transportation fuel would be negligible. Additionally, the Proposed Addition would not require or result in construction activities associated with physical development or operational energy demand associated with electricity or natural gas. The negligible increase in the consumption of transportation energy would

not result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources.

- b) ***Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?*** Based on the limited increase in operations associated with the Proposed Addition, implementation would not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. Therefore, there would be no impacts.

16.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

	New Potentially Significant Impact	New Mitigation is Required	No New Impact / No Impact	Reduced Impact
Would the Project:				
a) Directly or indirectly cause substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
(i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area, or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	☐	☐	☒	☐
(ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on-site or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the 1994 California Building Code 1997, creating substantial risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Would the project:

- a) ***Directly or indirectly cause substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:***
- i) ***Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault?*** The proposed Project Addition is located in Southern California, which is a seismically active region at the junction of the North American and Pacific tectonic plates. However, there are no known active faults (i.e., faults that exhibit evidence of ground displacement in the last 11,000 years) or potentially active faults (i.e., faults that exhibit evidence of ground displacement in the last 2,000,000 years) in the immediate vicinity of the Sweetwater Reservoir Recreational Area or the proposed Project Addition area. The Elsinore Fault has been mapped approximately 38 miles east of the Sweetwater Reservoir and the Rose Canyon Fault has been mapped approximately 8 miles west of the Sweetwater Reservoir. Further, the proposed Project Addition would not require or result in the construction of new habitable facilities. Therefore, there would be no impacts associated with ground surface rupture due to faulting.
 - ii) ***Strong seismic ground shaking?*** Refer to Response 16.7(a)(i).
 - iii) ***Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?*** Soil liquefaction occurs within relatively loose, cohesion-less sands that are saturated from a relatively high groundwater table (less than 50 feet below ground surface). According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) database, soils in the vicinity of the SWRRA area include Diablo Clay, Olivenhain cobbly loam, Riverwash, and San Miguel rocky silt loam. These soils are not known to have stability issues. The Proposed Addition would not require or result in the construction of new facilities, other than gates and fences in the middle of the open space. Therefore, there would be no impacts associated with seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction.
 - iv) ***Landslides?*** No landslides or indications of deep-seated landslide activity are identified in the vicinity of the Sweetwater Reservoir and no impacts associated with landslides are anticipated to occur with the proposed Project Addition area.
- b) ***Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?*** The proposed Project Addition area, which is a maintenance and patrol road, will continue to be maintained routinely and as it has been for decades, including minor repairs to the undeveloped road surface. In addition, areas of the existing road that have clay soils may be improved with Class 2 Aggregate or a combination of installation of geotextiles and Class 2 Aggregate: this improvement and BMP will help minimize road erosion issues where clay soils exist in the existing maintenance road. As such, the proposed Project Addition would not include activities that could result in substantial erosion or the loss of topsoil.
- c) ***Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?*** Refer to Response 16.7(a)(iii) and Response 16.7(a)(iv). The Proposed Addition would not require or result in the construction of new facilities. Therefore, there would be no impacts associated with potentially unstable geologic units or soils.

- d) ***Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the 1994 California Building Code 1997, creating substantial risks to life or property?*** The proposed Project Addition would not require or result in the construction of new facilities that could create a substantial risk to life and property. Therefore, no impacts to life or property related to expansive soils would occur.
- e) ***Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?*** The proposed Project Addition would not require the use of septic tanks or wastewater disposal systems. Therefore, no impacts to septic systems or alternative wastewater treatment systems would occur.
- f) ***Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?***
The Sweetwater Reservoir Recreational Area is underlain by the Mission Valley Formation, which is a predominantly marine sandstone unit (Kennedy and Tan 1977). This formation contains a rich assemblage of middle Eocene marine molluscan and terrestrial vertebrate fauna. Thus, it is assigned a high paleontological resource sensitivity (Demere and Walsh 1993). However, the proposed SMRT would not require or result in any new ground disturbing activities, such as new grading or major excavation, that could directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature. Therefore, no impacts to paleontological resources or geologic features would occur as a result of the Proposed Addition.

16.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

	New Potentially Significant Impact	New Mitigation is Required	No New Impact / No Impact	Reduced Impact
Would the Project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Would the project:

- a) ***Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?*** The proposed Project Addition may result in a in an increase in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with vehicle miles traveled to and from the Sweetwater Reservoir, from any new recreationists visiting the proposed SMRT. However, given the average number of existing users per day, which is much lower than that originally evaluated in the 1987 FEIR and 2001 SEIR (generally ranging between 20 and 25 people), this increase in GHG emissions would be negligible and would not result in a significant impact on the environment.

- b) ***Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?*** As described in Response 16.8(a), proposed Project Addition may result in a minor increase in GHG emissions associated with operational vehicle miles traveled to and from the site, from any new recreationists visiting the proposed SMRT. However, increases would be negligible, and the Proposed Addition would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs.

16.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

	New Potentially Significant Impact	New Mitigation is Required	No New Impact / No Impact	Reduced Impact
Would the Project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Would the project:

- a) ***Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?*** The proposed Project Addition would not require or result in construction or new activities involving the transport, use, or disposal of potentially hazardous materials. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated to occur as a result of the proposed Project Addition.
- b) ***Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?*** Refer to Response 16.9(a). Further, the Proposed Addition would not require or result in ground disturbing activities that could potentially encounter subsurface hazardous materials contamination. Therefore, the proposed schedule modifications would not result in any new impacts.

- c) ***Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?*** The Proposed Addition would not result in the emissions or handling of hazardous materials, substances, or wastes within 0.25-mile of an existing or proposed school. The school located nearest to the SWRRA is Sunnyside Elementary School, approximately 1.6 miles away. Further, the Proposed Addition would not require or result in construction or operational activities involving the use of potentially hazardous materials. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated to occur as a result of the Proposed Addition.
- d) ***Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?*** Pursuant to Government Code 65962.5, environmental regulatory database lists were reviewed to identify and locate properties with known hazardous substance contamination in the vicinity of the SWRRA. The SWRRA is not located on a list associated with hazardous materials and thus program activities do not occur on a hazardous materials site that could create a risk to the public or the environment. Further, the Proposed Addition would not require or result in ground-disturbing activities. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated to occur as a result of the Proposed Addition.
- e) ***For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?*** The nearest public airport, Brown Field Municipal Airport, is located approximately 8.2 miles from the SWRRA. The Proposed Addition would not create a safety hazard associated with airport operations for people residing or working in the vicinity because no airports or private airstrips are located within 2 miles of the Reservoir.
- f) ***Impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?*** The County maintains a comprehensive Flood Warning System that assesses flood risk and provides advance warning of impending flooding (County of San Diego Department of Public Works 2019). The Flood Warning System consists of real-time rainfall and stream flow gages located throughout San Diego County and a base station located at the County Department of Public Works office that collects and processes incoming data; the Department of Public Works assists in the dissemination of general information, maps of potential inundation areas, and proposed evacuation routes information to the public. Further, during flood events, the County Department of Public Works staff serves as an emergency response team and performs a variety of emergency tasks such as answering phone calls, storm monitoring, radio dispatching, field patrolling, and computer modeling for flood-flow forecasting. Emergency operations also include pre-planned routines such as the monitoring of all flood facilities and equipment and the provision of logistics support, field operations headquarters, and responses to emergency situations (County of San Diego Department of Public Works 2019). The Proposed Addition would not result in changes that would interfere with emergency response or evacuation plans related to flooding or any other natural hazards. Public access to the Sweetwater Reservoir – including the Shoreline Fishing Program area – is restricted and there are no through roadways, thus the proposed Project Addition would not impair any public roadway that could potentially interfere with emergency response activities. The Proposed Addition would not impair or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or a local, state, or federal agency's emergency evacuation plan.
- g) ***Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?*** See Section 16.20, *Wildfire*.

16.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

	New Potentially Significant Impact	New Mitigation is Required	No New Impact / No Impact	Reduced Impact
Would the Project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:			☒	☐
(i) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☒	☐
(ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or off site;	☐	☐	☒	☐
(iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	☐	☐	☒	☐
(iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☒	☐
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	☐	☐	☒	☐
i) Be subject to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The 2001 SEIR identified that the construction and subsequent operations of recreational opportunities in the south side of the reservoir could result in impacts to hydrology and water quality that would require development and implementation of mitigation measures. Some of the concerns outlined in the SEIR include the following:

- Clearing and grading of vegetation, resulting in erosion and sedimentation

- Stormwater runoff picking up contaminants from landscaping areas and parking areas
- Contamination of water from mishandling of fuels
- Accidents while maintaining or using porta-potties
- Misuse or vandalization of trash cans
- Maintenance and grading during the wet season

To mitigate impacts below significance, multiple BMPs and mitigation measures were adopted, including the following (*summaries provided, the complete language can be found in the 2001 SEIR document*):

Mitigation Measure No. 1 – Construction of structural stormwater facility, now commonly referred to as a LID (Low Impact Development) or Structural BMP. The facility was built and installed in the shoreline fishing program, between the landscape area.

Mitigation Measure No. 2 – Implementation of Construction SWPPP, in compliance with the State General Permit.

Mitigation Measure No. 3 - SWPPP to provide for construction and post-construction BMPs

Mitigation Measure No. 4 - Request to provide a series of erosion control BMPs, including:

- Installation of silt fences, gravel bags, fiber rolls, etc.
- Preservation of native vegetation and soils, to the greatest possible extent;
- Grading to prevent any ponding outside of designated areas;
- Protection of soils, to protect from erosion, sedimentation, and undesirable runoff issues;
- Housekeeping BMPs, to prevent fuel or other hazardous materials to enter the reservoir or water ways. This includes a predesignated site for fueling;
- Identification of responsible implementing parties; and
- Avoidance of grading during the rainy season

Mitigation Measure No. 5 – Prior to issuance of a Grading Permit, approval of a spill contingency plan from County DEH.

Mitigation Measure No. 6 – Coordinate with California Department of Health Services (*now DDW*) for the processing of an amendment to the Domestic Water Supply Permit.

Mitigation Measure No. 7 – Prior to issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy, a site inspection from the County's Department of Public Works to ensure temporary and structural BMPs are functional.

Would the project:

- a) ***Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?*** As described in the 2001 SEIR, the Sweetwater Reservoir is a drinking water reservoir that receives water from the Sweetwater River watershed, as well as imported water from the San Diego County Water Authority, with the quality affected by upstream watershed development and activities. Surface and ground waters flowing into Sweetwater Reservoir are treated at the Robert A. Perdue Water Treatment Plant prior to delivery to Authority customers. The Authority also supplements its local water supply with treated water purchased from the San

Diego County Water Authority. According to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), the Lower Sweetwater River, which is located within the Sweetwater hydrologic unit, is included on the 303(d) List of Impaired Waters for Enterococcus, Fecal Coliform, Phosphorus, Selenium, Total Dissolved Solids, Total Nitrogen, and toxicity (SWRCB 2016). Additionally, the Sweetwater Reservoir is listed on the 303(d) List of Impaired Waters for dissolved oxygen (SWRCB 2016).

The proposed Project Addition – *converting a maintenance and patrol road into a shared maintenance road and trail, and opening to the public for non-motorized biking and pedestrian users* - would not degrade surface or groundwater quality. Visitors of the proposed SMRT would continue to use multiple “good housekeeping BMPs” and existing facilities (e.g., parking area, trails, trash enclosures, portable toilets) similar to those built around the fishing program.

As part of the proposed shared maintenance road and trail (SMRT), installation of road materials, fences, gates, and sign would occur. Standard construction BMPs, such as installation and maintenance of erosion and sediment controls described in the 2001 SEIR, would be followed when installing road materials or new gates, to prevent any construction materials to become a source of pollution. An erosion control plan would be prepared for the Proposed Project and BMPs would be installed and maintained accordingly. The drivable road surface of the 2.2-miles long patrol and maintenance road has been maintained for decades and as needed by Authority staff, as part of the Authority’s routine reservoir lands operations and maintenance. Road maintenance typically consists of the following:

- Road surface maintenance and repairs are typically performed with a tractor mounted blade or Gannon box, but other methods may be used as well when needed.
- Vegetation maintenance activities are necessary to maintain the existing road drivable area. Vegetation overhanging road paths is trimmed back during the non-nesting season.
- Invasive plant species establishing within the vicinity of the maintenance road may be controlled opportunistically, using mechanical or chemical control methods. Similarly, weed abatement may occur within the road corridor area.
- There are culverts on some of the road drainage crossings that are maintained as needed, by removing encroaching vegetation and other debris that may prevent stormwater to pass through.
- Trash and other debris are removed from the road area and vicinity as needed.
- Erosion repairs, including stabilizing or restoring existing terrain or man-made features, such as gates, occurs as needed, to prevent structural or environmental problems.

The road surface and corridor would continue to be maintained as discussed above if the Proposed Project is approved. Other O&M activities that are proposed to occur as part of the implementation of the SMRT include the following:

- Installation of cameras and other security activities in the vicinity of the Proposed Project, as needed, for monitoring or security purposes.
- Access to the SMRT for recreational purposes is being proposed from 7:00am to 6:30pm (April through August) and sunset (September through March). Access to the fishing program area from the proposed SMRT would continue to be limited to non-motorized bikers and pedestrians and only allowed when the fishing program area is open to the public (Friday-Monday).
- There is a trash receptacle and a bathroom (porta-potty) on the west side of the proposed SMRT, which will be available for trail users at all times. The porta-potty is maintained on a weekly basis and trash is removed from the site as needed. Additional trash receptacles and porta-potties may be installed if required by State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water (DDW) or if deemed necessary.
- Maintenance and repairs of fences, gates, and signs will continue to occur per standard land management practices.
- Trail access closures may occur temporarily, to prevent unsafe or hazardous conditions, for security reasons, or to prevent impacts to water quality and other adjacent sensitive resources.

Given drinking water permitting restrictions and other concerns, equestrian users and pets would not be allowed in the proposed SMRT. Off-road and non-authorized motorized vehicles will be prohibited on the SMRT as well.

Authority land management staff will conduct inspections of the proposed SMRT once per season (4 times a year) for the first five years of operation, including a pre-wet season inspection. The inspections should have the goals of identifying maintenance needs and deficiencies, and immediate scheduling of maintenance to address the identified maintenance needs and deficiencies. Following the first five years of operation, a revised inspection schedule resulting from operational experience should be developed.

Depending on the O&M activities being performed, Authority field staff, in coordination with environmental staff, selects environmental BMPs to be implemented in the field that ensure avoidance or minimization of environmental and water quality impacts. The following environmental measures are considered part of the Authority's operations, and employees performing any work in the field and surrounding area of the SMRT are trained, or will be trained before SMRT implementation, on all of the following measures:

BMP 1: Training. Provide training specific to the O&M task being conducted to all workers.

BMP 2: Limits of Disturbance (LOD). Limit any O&M activity to operational areas and field maintenance areas, in this case, the surface of the existing maintenance and patrol road. Install temporary LOD flagging or fencing, as appropriate, and ensure all workers understand work limits

when conducting maintenance. Vehicles are to remain within approved roads and previously disturbed areas; avoid driving, parking, or staging on undeveloped lands or ESAs.

BMP 3: Erosion and Sediment Control measures. Refer to approved erosion and sediment control measures for selection and installation of appropriate stormwater BMPs. Direct any questions to staff stormwater professional (e.g. certified QSD/QSP).

BMP 4: Housekeeping BMPs. The following housekeeping BMPs are to be followed at all times by staff performing field work in the Proposed Project vicinity:

- Ensure compliance with the 15 miles per hour (mph) speed limit when driving on the unpaved road.
- Whenever work road is conducted, water trucks or trailers shall be used as necessary to reduce airborne dust.
- Do not store or stage hazardous materials (paint, concrete, oil, gas, etc.) near reservoirs, streams, wetlands, natural drainages or storm drains. Report all spills within the same day to the Water Quality Department and Authority environmental staff. Fueling of equipment or staging of equipment to occur within designated areas, at least 100-foot away (horizontal distance) from any identified waterway.
- Littering is strictly prohibited. All O&M generated waste shall be removed from work sites and properly disposed.
- All construction equipment, fixed or mobile, shall be equipped with properly operating and maintained mufflers. Construction noise reduction methods, such as shutting off idling equipment and the use of electric air compressors and similar power tools rather than diesel equipment, shall be used where feasible. Stationary construction equipment shall be placed such that emitted noise is directed away from, or shielded from, residential properties. Where applicable, ensure compliance with noise requirements near sensitive habitat/species
- Minimize the use of herbicides in the watershed, wetlands and/or waters. Only use approved herbicides. Vegetation outside the approved limits will not be cut or sprayed with herbicide. Only aquatic or wetland approved herbicides are used in or near active waterways, including rivers, streams, ponds, and reservoirs. Follow federal, state, and local regulations regarding herbicide use. Read and follow product labels

BMP 5: Environmental Monitoring. If impacts to, or work within, undeveloped lands or ESAs cannot be avoided, coordinate with environmental staff as soon as possible. Give reasonable advance notification to environmental staff since activities within ESAs or undeveloped lands may require a pre-activity biological survey and delineation of LODs, and/or biological monitoring. For grubbing, excavation or grading in undeveloped lands or ESAs, coordinate a month in advance with environmental staff as these activities may require archaeological monitoring. For the first three years of operation of the proposed SMRT and in close coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a qualified avian biologist will conduct field assessments during the California gnatcatcher and coastal cactus wren nesting seasons, to assess potential indirect impacts to these sensitive birds and other wildlife. The assessments will provide additional operational BMPs to be implemented, if needed.

BMP 6: Habitat Preserves. Coordinate any O&M activity within a habitat preserve with staff biologist.

BMP 7: Brush Management. Routine brush management in previously disturbed and approved areas is allowed after supervisor's approval. Brush management to be conducted as follows:

- Request environmental clearance if brush management is to be conducted during the nesting season. Nesting windows are as follow:

Trees/Woodland: January 15 – July 15
Uplands: February 15 - August 31
Riparian/Marsh: March 1 – September 15

- Vegetation removal methods include cutting, trimming using hand or mechanical tools.
- Vegetation removal should leave the roots of plants intact and 3-to-6 inches of plant trunk or stalk, where possible. If plants are invasive, a trip hazard, or roots can damage a facility, full mechanical removal or herbicide treatment is recommended.
- Remove all dead vegetation and dispose at approved vegetation disposal sites.
- If brush management is conducted for defensible space or fuel break compliance, ensure consistency with the applicable Fire Authority Having Jurisdiction (FAHJ) requirements.

BMP 8: Drainage Facilities. Maintenance or repairs of existing drainage facilities to be scheduled with environmental staff a month in advanced. Replacements and installation of drainage facilities is currently not allowed as it requires additional environmental review and permitting; any stormwater improvement needs are to be coordinated with environmental staff and approved by the Director of Engineering and Operations. Hydraulic analysis for installation of new facilities or replacements may be required:

BMP 9: Roads and Trails. Maintenance and repairs of unpaved roads and trails are conducted using appropriate stormwater and dust control BMPs. Modifications to an unpaved road or trail shall occur within the appropriate approved corridor. Installation or realignments of unpaved roads or trails are approved by the Director of Engineering and Operations, and shall occur with the following environmental issues in mind:

- Soils, topography, and the potential for soil erosion issues
- Avoidance/minimization of impacts to Authority facilities and other utilities
- Avoidance/minimization of impacts to cultural resources, aquatic resources, ESAs, and sensitive species

Coordinate with environmental staff in advance when requesting realignments or installation of a new dirt road or trail.

BMP 10: Notification. Notify and coordinate with affected neighboring agencies, if needed, to consider any special features that may be needed. For temporary trail closures, a notice shall be posted a week in advance on all trail access points.

While it is understood that not all of the BMPs are related to the protection of water quality, implementation of the Authority's O&M environmental BMPs will fully help with the protection of the source water. The proposed Project Addition would not require or result in any major ground disturbing or construction activities associated with any physical development, thus there is no need

for the application of a Grading Permit. The Authority is consulting directly with DDW regarding the applicability for an additional amendment to its Drinking Water Permit. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated to occur that would result in a violation of any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality.

- b) ***Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?*** The proposed Project Addition will not generate increases in water demand. Overall, given the limited daily use of the shoreline fishing program and this Proposed Addition, any water uses would be a negligible effect on local groundwater supplies.
- c) ***Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:***
- i) ***Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?*** The proposed Project Addition would not require or result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off site as implementation of the SMRT will not result in any significant ground disturbing activities and would not include activities that could result in substantial erosion or the loss of topsoil. An Erosion and Sediment Control Plan will be implemented, including when potentially installing Class 2 Aggregate. Adopted environmental BMPs will be followed whenever maintenance activities are conducted in the SRMT alignment.
 - ii) ***Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or off site?*** The proposed Project Addition would not substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or off site. While a portion of the existing maintenance road may be subject to installation of Class 2 Aggregate and a geotextile liner, this will barely change the rate or amount of surface runoff, as the soils where these materials are proposed to be installed are clay soils and relatively impermeable. Maintenance of the road surface would continue to be implemented in a way that doesn't result on flooding on the site or areas downstream. If drainage issues are identified, additional design and permitting would follow to install stormwater drainage facilities are installed in a manner that restores drainage patterns, in a hydrologically sound way. The Project Addition includes a component that will restore habitat within two drainages, improving drainage patterns and not negatively impacting them. Therefore, the Project Addition would not result in flooding on or off site.
 - iii) ***Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?*** The Proposed Addition would not contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems. In the vicinity of the proposed SMRT, there are only three culvert pipes, located at different crossings of the existing maintenance road, and none of these culverts or roads subject to project activities would be impacted by the implementation of the SMRT, and neither the runoff condition of their vicinity. As of right now, there are no plans to add stormwater drainage systems in the vicinity as there are no additional sources of pollution being proposed. Implementation of the environmental BMPs will
 - iv) ***Impede or redirect flood flows?*** Refer to Response 16.10(c)(ii).

- d) ***In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?*** According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the entire shoreline fishing program area and Proposed Addition is located in Flood Zone X (Area of Minimal Flood Hazard) (FEMA.gov 2024). The proposed Project Addition would not increase the risk associated with seiche, tsunami, or mudflow beyond existing conditions of the shoreline of the Sweetwater Reservoir.
- e) ***Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?*** The Proposed Addition would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan. Additionally, the Proposed Addition would not include or require the addition of significant impervious surfaces or substantial increased demand for water supply (refer to Response 16.10[b]) and therefore would not impact or otherwise affect compliance with a sustainable groundwater management plan.
- f) ***Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?*** As described in Response 16.10(d), the entire shoreline fishing program area is located in Flood Zone X (FEMA 2012). The Proposed Addition would not require or result in any housing development, only the conversion of a maintenance road into a shared maintenance road/trail. Therefore, the Proposed Addition would not place any housing or new structures within the 100-year floodplain.
- g) ***Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?*** The Proposed Addition would not result in the placement of structures within a 100-year flood hazard area which would impede or redirect flood flows.
- h) ***Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?*** The Proposed Addition is not located immediately downstream of the Sweetwater Dam or the Sweetwater Reservoir South Dike and would not be subject to flooding and associated loss in the unlikely event of dam failure.
- i) ***Be subject to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?*** The proposed Project Addition would result in impacts related to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. The SMRT alignment is the same than the alignment of an existing maintenance road that for several decades has never being impacted by seiches, tsunamis, or mudflows.

16.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING

	New Potentially Significant Impact	New Mitigation is Required	No New Impact / No Impact	Reduced Impact
Would the Project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Would the project:

- a) **Physically divide an established community?** The proposed Project Addition would not divide an established community. If anything, the proposed SMRT would connect recreational trails on the north side and west side of Sweetwater Reservoir, giving opportunities to trail users of all ages and abilities to access, from existing trails near the Rancho San Diego area, or existing trails from Bonita / Sunnyside area, resulting in positive connections to existing communities.
- b) **Cause a significant environmental impact due to conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?** The Proposed Addition is located in a rural, unincorporated area of the County of San Diego and the proposed Project Addition would not involve land developments that could cause environmental impacts that would conflict with applicable land use plans, policies, or regulations. The proposed Project Addition would be consistent with the County's existing zoning, Special Purpose (S80). The Proposed Addition does not impact any existing preserve and the SRMT alignment and its implementation would not conflict with the MSCP or any other applicable HCP or NCCP.

16.12 MINERAL RESOURCES

	New Potentially Significant Impact	New Mitigation is Required	No New Impact / No Impact	Reduced Impact
Would the Project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Would the project:

- a) **Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?** According to the California Department of Conservation (DOC), the entire Sweetwater Reservoir area is classified as a Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) study area. The San Diego County General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element designates the Sweetwater Reservoir and surrounding area as Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ) 3 (Resource potentially present) (County of San Diego 2011). However, the proposed Project Addition would not result in any temporary or permanent ground disturbing activities (e.g., new buildings or pavements) that would preclude the future availability of mineral resources within the area.
- b) **Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?** As described in Response 16.12(a), while the recreational area is designated in the San Diego County General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element as MRZ 3, the Proposed Addition would not involve temporary or permanent ground disturbing activities that would preclude the future availability of mineral resources within the vicinity of the Reservoir.

16.13 NOISE

	New Potentially Significant Impact	New Mitigation is Required	No New Impact / No Impact	Reduced Impact
Would the Project result in:				
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) For a project located within a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Would the project:

- a) **Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?** The proposed Project Addition would not result in a substantial change to the ambient noise environment. Noise generated by trail users and other visitors would remain well within the standards established in the County's general plan and noise ordinance.
- b) **Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?** The proposed Project Addition would not result in the temporary or permanent introduction of new sources of groundborne vibration or groundborne noise.
- c) **For a project located within a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?** Refer to Response 16.9(e).

16.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING

	New Potentially Significant Impact	New Mitigation is Required	No New Impact / No Impact	Reduced Impact
Would the Project:				
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☒	☐

	New Potentially Significant Impact	New Mitigation is Required	No New Impact / No Impact	Reduced Impact
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Would the project:

- a) **Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?** The Sweetwater Reservoir provides a water supply to local residents and the existing community. Additionally, the roads near the area are used for thoroughfare travel and access to residential neighborhoods and some commercial businesses. The proposed Project Addition would not result in any change to the existing land use pattern or trigger growth in the area.
- b) **Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?** There are no planned large-scale housing or commercial developments within the immediate area. The Project Addition area is not zoned for or developed as residential uses.

16.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

	New Potentially Significant Impact	New Mitigation is Required	No New Impact / No Impact	Reduced Impact
Would the Project:				
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the following public services:				
(i) Fire Protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(ii) Police Protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(iii) Schools?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(iv) Parks?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(v) Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Would the project:

- a) **Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the following public services:**
- i) **Fire protection?** The proposed Project Addition would not result in the need of new or additional fire protection infrastructure or services. The existing maintenance road would continue to

provide access to emergency vehicles, as necessary, for them to access areas that are already capable of accessing. Proposed improvements to the surface (e.g. installing Class 2 base) may result in an overall benefit for accessing the area when needed. Emergency vehicles will continue to be able to use this road as needed.

- ii) **Police protection?** Refer to Response 16.15(a)(i). The proposed Project Addition would not require changes in law enforcement services and it would not include any new housing, businesses, or other development that would increase the demand for police protection services and facilities.
- iii) **Schools?** The proposed Project Addition would not provide any new housing or employment opportunities that would generate new students or residents in the community.
- iv) **Parks?** The proposed Project Addition would not increase the demand for new or expanded park facilities.
- v) **Other public facilities?** No other public facilities would be impacted by the proposed Project Addition. The Authority will continue to work with neighboring and regulatory and permitting agencies, such as the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, the County of San Diego, and the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge, to ensure that facilities in the surroundings are not impacted by implementation of the SMRT.

16.16 RECREATION

	New Potentially Significant Impact	New Mitigation is Required	No New Impact / No Impact	Reduced Impact
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities, such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐

- a) ***Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?***

The proposed Project Addition would not result in an increase of the use of recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated. While it is expected that the proposed SMRT would attract more visitors to the area and to the existing SWRRA the first months of operations, the SMRT would be connected to an existing network of trails, including the SWRRA trails, County's Southern Trail and the Refuge trail network, creating a logical connection to an already existing group of visitors/recreationists located in the area. Signage and fencing will be installed in the alignment of the SMRT and existing facilities will continue to be

maintained by Authority staff at its recreational programs; the proposed SMRT and fishing program would continue to be maintained as described above by the Authority, as described in *Section 10.4 Project Components*. The existing and proposed Authority-managed recreational facilities discussed herein would continue to complement the adjacent Summit Park by providing additional recreation for campers and other visitors, and it would also continue to allow for passive recreation at the National Wildlife Refuge. The Project Addition does not include the addition of boats or pets or equestrian uses, and the existing character of the Refuge and entire area will be maintained. The County's Southern Trail is maintained by the County of San Diego, and the Refuge trail network is maintained by U.S. Fish and Wildlife (Refuge) Staff. Further, the proposed Project Addition would not increase the population by introducing new housing or employment opportunities.

Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment? The Proposed Addition to the SWRRA is by the definition an expansion to a recreational facility. This expansion would not have any additional adverse effect on the environment, that was not discussed as part of the 2001 EIR. The Proposed Addition would include similar avoidance measures and other BMPs that would ensure full avoidance to impacts to resources; this include wildlife friendly fencing, signage designed in collaboration with Refuge staff and County staff, training of workers performing installation, monitoring, and, many other environmental BMPs and mitigation measures discussed in the 2001 EIR and in the Project Description of this document. The Proposed Addition includes habitat restoration and weed abatement within approximately 10 acres of land that would result in an environmental benefit for the surrounding resources. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Addition would not result in new significant impacts or adverse physical effects on the environment.

16.17 TRANSPORTATION

	New Potentially Significant Impact	New Mitigation is Required	No New Impact / No Impact	Reduced Impact
Would the Project:				
a) Conflict with program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.31 or will conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to, level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Would the project:

- a) ***Conflict with program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?*** The proposed Project Addition would not adversely affect the circulation system, including transit, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities. The existing hiking trails in the vicinity would not be negatively affected by the Proposed Addition. The existing trail system and recreational experience of trail users would be improved by adding the proposed SMRT to the existing trail network, as an additional alternative with additional views of the lake and general area. Therefore, the proposed Project Addition would not conflict with any program plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system.
- b) ***Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 or will conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to, level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?*** The amount of vehicle trips would not conflict with an applicable congestion management program. Additionally, given the limited daily use of the trails in the vicinity of Sweetwater Reservoir, vehicle traffic would not approach 2,400 average daily trips or 200 peak-hour trips, which would require a traffic study under SANDAG's Congestion Management Program. Further, the proposed Project Addition would not cause a change in existing long-term traffic patterns and would not add sufficient trips to degrade the existing levels of service or conflict with an applicable congestion management program. Therefore, the Proposed Addition would have a less than significant impact.
- c) ***Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?*** The Proposed Addition would not include any increase to hazards or change to public roadway designs and would not introduce incompatible uses or line-of-sight issues. Similar to the roads associated with the SWRRA, the proposed SMRT would be used by recreationists and by vehicles providing patrolling and maintenance, but vehicles in these roads do not drive faster than 15 mph. In more than 20 years of operations, the sharing of the SWRRA roads between maintenance vehicles and recreationists have not resulted in any accidents. Therefore, it is not expected that the Proposed Addition would result in any impacts due to increase hazards or incompatible uses.
- d) ***Result in inadequate emergency access?*** The proposed Project Addition would not conflict with an emergency response plan and operational vehicle trips would not impair or otherwise interfere with emergency access to local roads. The proposed Project Addition would not result in traffic delays that could substantially increase emergency response times or reduce emergency vehicle access.

16.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

	New Potentially Significant Impact	New Mitigation is Required	No New Impact / No Impact	Reduced Impact
Would the Project:				

	New Potentially Significant Impact	New Mitigation is Required	No New Impact / No Impact	Reduced Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k); or	☐	☐	☒	☐
ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	☐	☐	☒	☐

Would the project:

- a) ***Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:***
- i) ***Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k)?*** The Proposed Addition would not require or involve ground disturbing activities or other construction activities associated with any significant physical development. The Proposed Addition includes changes to an existing road to make it into a shared maintenance road and trail, and it also proposes habitat restoration and weed abatement. As such, the Proposed Addition would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource.
- ii) ***A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1?*** Refer to Response 16.18(a)(ii).

16.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

	New Potentially Significant Impact	New Mitigation is Required	No New Impact / No Impact	Reduced Impact
Would the Project:				

	New Potentially Significant Impact	New Mitigation is Required	No New Impact / No Impact	Reduced Impact
a) Require or result in the construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electrical power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Would the project:

- a) ***Require or result in the construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electrical power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?*** Visitors of the new recreational facility and employees would utilize existing portable toilets associated with the SWRRA. Furthermore, the Proposed Project would not require additional service facilities. Therefore, the proposed Project Addition would not require or result in the construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electrical power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects.
- b) ***Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?*** The proposed Project Addition would not result in the need for new or expanded water supplies. The only potential uses of water would be watering of habitat restoration roads or watering for the road for dust control. This type of watering can be accomplished using industry standards, such as using a water truck or similar methods. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated to occur with the implementation of the Proposed Addition.
- c) ***Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?*** The Proposed Addition would not require or result in the construction of new wastewater treatment facilities nor would it require the expansion of existing facilities. The proposed Project Addition would not create or contribute runoff that would exceed the capacity of any stormwater drainage systems in the vicinity either. The Proposed Addition would not

generate wastewater and would not exceed capacity of any wastewater plant. The proposed Project Addition would not result in the need for new or expanded wastewater treatment facilities.

- d) ***Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?*** The proposed Project Addition would not require or result in the construction of new solid waste facilities nor would it require the expansion of existing facilities. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated to occur with the Proposed Addition.
- e) ***Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?*** The Proposed Addition would comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste and diversion from landfills.

16.20 WILDFIRE

	New Potentially Significant Impact	New Mitigation is Required	No New Impact / No Impact	Reduced Impact
If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as a very high fire hazard severity zones, Would the Project:				
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (e.g., roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Would the project:

- a) ***Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?*** The proposed Project Addition would not impair any adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. For example, the public roadway that could potentially interfere with emergency response activities is away from the proposed recreational addition. The Proposed Addition would not impair or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or a local, state, or federal agency's emergency evacuation plan. Trail users would continue to
- b) ***Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?*** The proposed Project Addition would not add structures that could be exposed to fire risk. In addition, the proposed Project Addition would not include development of any habitable structure

which could place an individual in a situation of endangerment. The proposed Project Addition would not change the fire hazard severity zones and long-term use would not impact response times of local fire departments. The proposed Project Addition would have no impacts related to exposing people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires. Currently, there are trails to the east and north in areas that are more difficult to access than the proposed SMRT. The proposed SMRT would be installed on a maintenance road that would continue to be used by emergency vehicles, as needed. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated to occur.

- c) ***Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (e.g., roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?*** The Proposed Addition would not require or result in the construction of any infrastructure or other development. Therefore, the Proposed Addition would not require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment.
- d) ***Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?***

The Proposed Addition would not expose people or structures to significant risks, including flooding or landslides, as result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes. The Proposed Addition includes the conversion of a well-maintained patrol road into a shared maintenance road and trail. Maintenance and repairs needs have arisen in the last decades of operations of this existing road, and the road will continue to be maintained in a similar manner, preventing it from being impacted by flooding, erosion issues, or wildfires. If needed, the road and trail would be close for repairs and maintenance, to ensure people are not exposed to any hazards while being repaired in the future. Therefore, the Proposed Addition would not result in any negative impacts related to exposing people to significant risks, including natural hazards.

16.21 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	New Potentially Significant Impact	New Mitigation is Required	No New Impact / No Impact	Reduced Impact
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wild-life population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of rare or endangered plants or animals, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (Cumulatively considerable means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	☐	☐	☒	☐

	New Potentially Significant Impact	New Mitigation is Required	No New Impact / No Impact	Reduced Impact
c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☒	☐

- a) ***Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to decrease below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of major periods of California history or prehistory?*** As discussed in this Addendum, the Proposed Addition would not require or result in any major ground disturbing or other construction activities associated with physical development. The Proposed Addition – using an existing maintenance and patrol road as a shared maintenance road and trail and providing habitat restoration to adjacent trail areas – would continue to allow for passive recreational shoreline fishing and would not introduce any new activities to the existing SWRRA or the south side of the trail. In addition, multiple environmental mitigation measures and BMPs will be followed during the implementation and operation of the proposed SMRT, which would offer continual protection of important resources in the surrounding, including biological resources, cultural resources, and water resources. Therefore, no new impacts are anticipated to occur and Proposed Addition would not substantially degrade the quality of the environment; substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels; threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community; or reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare, or threatened species. Protected sensitive habitat areas would continue to be protected and patrol by Authority staff to ensure all rules and regulations are followed when the SWRRA is open. In addition, the Proposed Addition would not eliminate important examples of California history.

Does the project have impacts which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (Cumulatively considerable means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.) As discussed in this Addendum, the Proposed Addition does not have cumulative impacts to the surrounding geographic area, which is the south side of the Sweetwater Reservoir. The Proposed Addition opens a portion of the lake to passive recreation, including hiking and biking, and other passive recreational opportunities, but these recreational uses are consistent with the uses provided in adjacent lands, such as the land uses of the neighboring Refuge and also Summit Park. None of the minor improvements proposed herein, or the operation of the maintenance road as a shared road and trail, would be cumulatively considerable.

- b) ***Does the project have environmental effects which will have substantial adverse effects on human beings, directly or indirectly?*** The Proposed Addition would not have a substantial adverse effect on human beings. The use of the maintenance road as shared road and trail may improve the quality of life of many trail users, as it will provide opportunity to relax and exercise. As noted above in the Project Description, multiple O&M would be implemented to ensure resources in the vicinity, including water quality, are protected from the use of the road as a trail. As such, the project would not result on impacts to humans, directly or indirectly.

15. PREPARATION

This Addendum and Supplemental Environmental Checklist Form was prepared by the Sweetwater Authority staff. Two versions of the Addendum No. 2 document were prepared, the first one prepared as a “draft” for public input and review, dated May 20, 2024, was circulated to public agencies and stakeholders for their commenting via email and also posted on the Authority website. This second version is being prepared for Sweetwater Authority’s Governing Board consideration. This second version is a revision of the initial circulated version, modified to address comments received from various stakeholders.

16. REFERENCES

- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). 2020. California Fire Hazard Severity Zone Viewer. Available at: <https://egis.fire.ca.gov/FHSZ/>.
- County of San Diego. 2011. General Plan - Conservation and Open Space Element, Chapter 5. Available at:
<http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/pds/gpupdate/docs/GP/ConservationandOpenSpace.pdf>.
- County of San Diego. 2014. Sweetwater Community Plan - San Diego County General Plan. Available at:
http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/docs/CP/Sweetwater_CP.pdf.
- County of San Diego Department of Public Works. 2019. Flood Warning. Available at:
https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/flood/flood_warning.html.
- County of San Diego Planning and Development Services. 2012. General Plan and Zoning Map. Available at:
<https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=f1b69ba9d3dd4940b8d1efcc9dac2ac4>.
- County of San Diego Land Use and Environment Group. 2011. County of San Diego Guidelines for Determining Significance and Report Format and Content Requirements, Transportation and Traffic. Available at: http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/dplu/docs/Traffic_Guidelines.pdf.
- County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation. Comments on the Addendum No. 2 to the Supplement to the Environmental Impact Report for the Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan – Shared Maintenance Road and Trail (SMRT), dated June 12, 2024.
- Demere, Thomas and Stephen Walsh. 1993. Paleontological Resources – San Diego County. Department of Paleontology, San Diego Natural History Museum.
- FEMA. 2012. FEMA Flood Map Service Center - Sweetwater Dam. Available at:
<https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search?AddressQuery=Sweetwater%20Dam%20#searchresultsanchor>.
- Kennedy, M.P., and S.S. Tan. 1977. Geology of National City, Imperial Beach, and Otay Mesa Quadrangles, Southern San Diego Metropolitan Area, California. California Division of Mines and Geology, The Resources Agency Department of Conservation.
- McMillan Biological Consulting. 2001. Survey Report for Rare Plant and Vernal Pool Surveys on an 150 Acre Site at Sweetwater Reservoir. Prepared for Sweetwater Authority.

Mikesell, Stephen D. 1998. Historic Resources Evaluation Report Sweetwater Dam NC&O Sweetwater Branch Sweetwater Quarries.

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). 2016. State Water Board Staff Final 2012 California Integrated Report (Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List / 305(b) Report. Available at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/tmdl/integrated2012.shtml.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2016. San Diego National Wildlife Refuge. Available at:
https://www.fws.gov/refuge/San_Diego/about.html.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2024. Comment Letter Regarding the Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan – Shared Maintenance Road and Trail SEIR Addendum No. 2, dated June 7, 2024.

WSP USA Inc. 2024. Final Biological Constraints Survey for the Proposed Shared Maintenance/ Recreation Trail (SMRT) Project.