Attachment 1. Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan

Final
SUPPLEMENT
TO THE
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
FOR THE
SWEETWATER RESERVOIR RECREATION MASTER PLAN
Shoreline Fishing Program

Lead Agency: Sweetwater Authority
(SWA W.O. A3210.0)

County of San Diego
Permit Number: MUP 01-012
Environmental Log No: 01-19-018

State Clearinghouse Number: 1985101602

Prepared by
Sweetwater Authority
505 Garrett Avenue
Chula Vista, CA 91910
(619) 420-1413

December 2001

CEQA Guidelines Section 15132 state that the contents of the Final EIR should consist of the draft EIR; comments and recommendations received on the draft EIR; a list of persons, organizations, and public agencies commenting on the draft EIR; responses of the Lead Agency to significant environmental points raised; and other information added by the lead Agency.

This document, the *Final Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan Shoreline Fishing Program* is a focused Supplement to the Final EIR certified in May of 1987. The Draft Supplement to the Final EIR was made available for a 45-day public review period from June 15 through July 30, 2001. During that review period, comments were received from the following agencies and organizations:

- County of San Diego
- LAFCO
- Department of Transportation
- Sweetwater Community Planning Group

In response to comments received, the project was modified. Sweetwater Authority further minimized the project and the County of San Diego reduced various requirements that the Sweetwater Community Planning Group considered inconsistent with the Sweetwater Community Plan. The document was revised and recirculated for public review from October 26 through December 9, 2001. During that review period, comments were received from the following agencies and organizations:

- Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District
- LAFCO
- California Department of Fish and Game
- Sweetwater Community Planning Group

Additional comments were received from the California Department of Health Services, Caltrans, and the County of San Diego after the 45-day public review period.

Initially, the Bonita Sunnyside Fire Protection District (BSFPD) had requested a 25-foot mowed buffer along each side of the access road. Impacts of the 25-foot buffer were addressed in the October 2001 Draft SEIR. A November 16, 2001 BSFPD letter advised the County that the 25-foot buffer could be reduced to 15-feet, thus reducing potential impacts to sensitive habitats and species by approximately two acres. The Biological Resources Section of the attached October Draft SEIR has been revised to reflect the reduced biological impacts as indicated by ~~strikeout~~ and underline (pages 2-20, 2-23, and 2-24). Correspondingly, Table 2.4 and Figure 2.6 in the document have been revised.

Distribution and Comments Received

June 2001 Draft Supplement to the Final EIR

Public Review June 15 through July 30, 2001

NOTICE OF COMPLETION

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916)445-0613 **Attention: Scott Morgan**

PROJECT TITLE
Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan - Shoreline Fishing Program Draft Supplemental EIR

LEAD AGENCY		CONTACT PERSON	
Sweetwater Authority		*Ms. Troy Murphree*	
STREET ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS		TELEPHONE
100 Lakeview Avenue	*PO Box 2328*		*(619) 475-9047 x 151*
CITY / ZIP CODE	CITY	ZIP CODE	COUNTY
Spring Valley *91977*	Chula Vista, CA	92912-2328	*San Diego*

PROJECT LOCATION
Southwest shoreline of Sweetwater Reservoir, north of San Miguel Road and east of Proctor Valley Road: Entrance at 6503 San Miguel Road, Bonita.

COUNTY	CITY/NEAREST COMMUNITY	
San Diego	*Unincorporated Community of Bonita*	
CROSS STREETS	ZIP CODE	TOTAL ACRES
San Miguel Road	*91902*	*Approximately 300*

ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO.
585-100-15; 585-112-07, -50; 585-170-01, -05, -06, -07; 585-161-02

SECTION / BASE	TOWNSHIP	RANGE
16 & unsectioned portion of the former Rancho Jamacho	*17 S.*	*1W.* *Jamul Mt.*

WITHIN 2 MILES:	WATERWAYS
State Highway 54	*Sweetwater Reservoir and Sweetwater River*

AIRPORTS	RAILWAYS	SCHOOLS
NA	*NA*	*Sunnyside Elementary School*

DOCUMENT TYPE

CEQA: ___ NOP; ___ Early Cons; ___ Neg Dec; ___ Draft EIR; __x__ Supplement/Subsequent (Prior SCH No.) NA; Other ___
NEPA: ___ NOI; ___ EA; ___ Draft EIS; ___ FONSI
Other: ___ Joint Document; ___ Final Document; ___ Other

LOCAL ACTION TYPE

___ General Plan Update; ___ General Plan Amendment; ___ General Plan Element; ___ Community Plan
___ Specific Plan; ___ Master Plan; ___ Planned Unit Development; ___ Site Plan
___ Rezone; ___ Prezone; __x__ Use Permit; ___ Land Division*
___ Annexation; ___ Redevelopment; ___ Coastal Permit; ___ Other ___

*(Subdivision, Parcel Map, Tract Map, etc.)

DEVELOPMENT TYPE

___ Residential: Units ___ Acres ___
___ Office: Sq.ft. ___ Acres ___ Employees ___
___ Commercial: Sq.ft. ___ Acres ___ Employees ___
___ Industrial: Sq.ft. ___ Acres ___ Employees ___
___ Educational ___
___ Institutional ___
__x__ Recreational *Shoreline Fishing Program*

___ Water Facilities: Type ___ MGD ___
___ Transportation: Type ___
___ Mining: Mineral ___
___ Power: Type ___ Watts ___
___ Waste Treatment: Type ___
___ Hazardous Waste: Type ___
___ Other:

Funding (approx.): Federal $ 0 State $750,000 Local: $100,000 Total $ 850,000

PROJECT ISSUES DISCUSSED IN DOCUMENT

___ Aesthetic/Visual
___ Agricultural Land
___ Air Quality
___ Archeological/Historical
___ Coastal Zone
___ Drainage/Absorption
___ Economic/Jobs
___ Fiscal
___ Flood Plain/Flooding
___ Forest Land/Fire Hazard
___ Geologic/Seismic
___ Minerals
___ Noise
___ Population/Housing Balance
___ Public Services/Facilities
___ Recreation/Parks
___ Schools/Universities
___ Septic Systems
___ Sewer Capacity
___ Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading
___ Solid Waste
___ Toxic/Hazardous
___ Traffic/Circulation
__x__ Vegetation
___ Water Quality
___ Water Supply/Groundwater
___ Wetland/Riparian
__x__ Wildlife
___ Growth Inducing
__x__ Land Use
___ Cumulative Effects
___ Other

PRESENT LAND USE/ZONING/GENE/ LAN USE:

The majority of the projec. ..te is vacant, zoned S-80 (Open Space ...); and designated "Impact Sensitive" [permitting a residential density of one dwelling unit per 4, 8, and 20 acres (1 DU/ 4, 8, and 20 ac.)]. A single-family residential unit is located on APN 585-112-07 (3.76-acre). That parcel is zoned RR1 and designated as "1 Residential".

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Shoreline fishing program to allow public recreation along 2.5 miles of the southwest shoreline of Sweetwater Reservoir. This project has been reduced from that analyzed in the 1987 Final EIR and consists of the following phased elements: Phase 1A - Use of existing residence for office/concession building; widen existing onsite maintenance road; improve existing trails; construct a 200-space parking lot; and install water lines, irrigation, landscaping, and portable restrooms. Phase 1B - Installation of sewer and concession building; improvements to the parking lot and road; annexation to Spring Valley Sanitation District and Bonita- Sunnyside Fire Protection District.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

KEY
S = Document sent by lead agency
X = Document sent by SCH
✓ = Suggested distribution

____ **Resources Agency**
____ Boating & Waterways
____ Coastal Commission
____ Coastal Conservancy
____ Colorado River Board
____ Conservation
✓ Fish & Game
____ Forestry & Fire Protection
✓ Office of Historic Preservation
____ Parks & Recreation
____ Reclamation Board
____ S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Commission
____ Water Resources (DWR)

Business, Transportation & Housing

____ California Highway Patrol
____ CALTRANS District #____
____ Department of Transportation Planning (headquarters)
____ Housing & Community Development
____ **Food & Agriculture**
Health & Welfare
____ Health Services
State & Consumer Services
____ General Services
____ OLA (Schools)

Environmental Protection Agency
____ Air Resources Board
____ California Waste Management Board
____ SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
____ SWRCB: Delta Unit
____ SWRCB: Water Quality
____ SWRCB: Water Rights
____ Regional WQCB # 9
____ Aeronautics

Youth & Adult Corrections
____ Corrections
Independent Commissions & Offices
____ Energy Commission
____ Native American Heritage Commission
____ Public Utilities Commission
____ Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
____ State Lands Commission
____ Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
S Other: Sweetwater Community Planning Group

Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date June 15, 2001 Ending Date July 30, 2001

Signature Tracy Mcmahree Date 6/14/01

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

TO: County Clerk
County of San Diego
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

RECEIVED
JUL 19 2001
Sweetwater Authority
Engineering

FILED
Gregory J. Smith, Recorder/County Clerk
JUN 15 2001
BY _____ DEPUTY

Project Title
Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan - Shoreline Fishing Program Draft Supplemental EIR

Project Location – Specific
Southwest shoreline of Sweetwater Reservoir, north of San Miguel Road and east of Proctor Valley Road. (Entry at 6503 San Miguel Road).

Project Location - City **Project Location - County**
Unincorporated community of Bonita, County of San Diego

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:
Shoreline fishing program to allow public recreation along 2.5 miles of the southwest shoreline of Sweetwater Reservoir. This project has been reduced from that analyzed in the 1987 Final EIR and consists of the following phased elements: Phase 1A - Use of existing residence for office/concession building; widen existing onsite maintenance road; improve existing trails; construct a 200-space parking lot; and install water lines, irrigation, landscaping, and portable restrooms. Phase 1B - Installation of sewer and concession building; improvements to the parking lot and road; annexation to Spring Valley Sanitation District and Bonita- Sunnyside Fire Protection District.

The Significant Effects on the Environment, if any, Anticipated as a Result of the Project:
The proposed project site contains sensitive vernal pool habitat and the federally listed San Diego fairy shrimp *(Branchinecta sandiegoensis)* and the Otay tarplant *(Hemizonia conjugens)*. These two species were listed subsequent to the certification of the 1987 Final EIR. Impacts to sensitive biological resources will be avoided to the maximum extent practical. Protection of sensitive biological resources will be provided through signage and/or fencing. If impacts to Otay tarplant are determined to be unavoidable, impacts will be mitigated within the JWA NCCP mitigation bank consistent with impacts for narrow endemic plants. However, since the JWA NCCP has not been finalized, Sweetwater Authority will apply for *Third Party Beneficiary Status*, under the County of San Diego MSCP. This is essentially "Take Authorization" under the County's Section 10 permit. The County conveys this authorization after adopting the MSCP findings and approving the project.

Lead Agency **Division**
Sweetwater Authority, Engineering Department

Date when project noticed to public:
June 15, 2001

Address where copy of the EIR and all documents referenced in the EIR are available:
505 Garrett Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910

Review Period:
Friday, June 15, 2001 through Monday, July 30, 2001

Date, Time and Location of Public Hearing, if any:
August 22, 2001, 6:00 P.M., 505 Garrett Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910

Contact Person Area Code – Telephone - Extension
James L. Smyth, Chief Engineer, (619) 422-8395, ext, 612 or
Troy Murphree, Principal Environmental Coordinator, (619) 475-9047, ext. 151

AGCY/RVPUB/2000/546390 FORM "K"

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK
SAN DIEGO COUNTY ON JUN 15 2001
POSTED JUN 15 2001 REMOVED JUL 16 2001
RETURNED TO AGENCY ON JUL 16 2001
DEPUTY

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Governor's Office of Planning and Research

State Clearinghouse

Gray Davis
GOVERNOR

Steve Nissen
DIRECTOR

July 31, 2001

Ms. Troy Murphree
Sweetwater Authority
P.O. Box 2328
Chula Vista, CA 92912-23..

Subject: Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan-Shoreline Fishing Program Draft Supplemental EIR
SCH#: 1985101602

Dear Ms. Troy Murphree:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named Supplemental EIR to selected state agencies for review. On the enclosed Document Details Report please note that the Clearinghouse has listed the state agencies that reviewed your document. The review period closed on July 30, 2001, and the comments from the responding agency (ies) is (are) enclosed. If this comment package is not in order, please notify the State Clearinghouse immediately. Please refer to the project's ten-digit State Clearinghouse number in future correspondence so that we may respond promptly.

Please note that Section 21104(c) of the California Public Resources Code states that:

> "A responsible or other public agency shall only make substantive comments regarding those activities involved in a project which are within an area of expertise of the agency or which are required to be carried out or approved by the agency. Those comments shall be supported by specific documentation."

These comments are forwarded for use in preparing your final environmental document. Should you need more information or clarification of the enclosed comments, we recommend that you contact the commenting agency directly.

This letter acknowledges that you have complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. Please contact the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

Terry Roberts

Terry Roberts
Senior Planner, State Clearinghouse

Enclosures
cc: Resources Agency

Document Details Report
State Clearinghouse Data Base

SCH# 1985101602
Project Title Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan-Shoreline Fishing Program Draft Supplemental EIR
Lead Agency San Diego County

Type SIR Supplemental EIR

Description Shoreline Fishing program to allow public recreation along 2.5 miles of the southwest shoreline of Sweetwater Reservoir. This project has been reduced from that analyzed in the 1987 Final EIR and consists of the following phased elements: Phase 1A -Use of existing residence for office/concession building; widen existing onsite maintenance road; improve existing trails; construct a 200-space parking lot; and install water lines, irrigation, landscaping, and portable restrooms. Phase 1B- Installation of sewer and concession building; improvements to the parking lot and road; annexation to Spring Valley Sanitation District.

Lead Agency Contact

Name Ms. Troy Murphree
Agency Sweetwater Authority
Phone 619 475-9047 x151 **Fax**
email
Address P.O. Box 2328
City Chula Vista **State** CA **Zip** 92912-2328

Project Location

County San Diego
City Chula Vista
Region
Cross Streets San Miguel Road
Parcel No. 585-100-15;585-112-07,-50; 585-170-01,-05,-06,-07;585-161-02
Township 17S **Range** 1W **Section** 16 **Base** Jamul Mt

Proximity to:

Highways 54
Airports
Railways
Waterways Sweetwater Reservoir and Sweetwater River
Schools Sunnyside Elementary School
Land Use The majority of the project site is vacant, zoned S-80 (Open Space Use); and designated "Impact Sensitive" (permitting a residential density of one dwelling unit per 4, 8, and 20 acres (1 DU/4,8, and 20 ac.). A single-family residential unit is located on APN 585-112-07 (3.76-acres). That parcel is zoned RR1 and designated as "1 Residential".

Project Issues Vegetation; Wildlife; Landuse

Reviewing Agencies Resources Agency; Department of Conservation; Department of Fish and Game, Region 5; Department of Forestry and Fire Protection; Office of Historic Preservation; Department of Parks and Recreation; Department of Water Resources; California Highway Patrol; Caltrans, District 11; Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 9; Native American Heritage Commission; State Lands Commission

Date Received 06/15/2001 **Start of Review** 06/15/2001 **End of Review** 07/30/2001

Note: Blanks in data fields result from insufficient information provided by lead agency.

Bonita - Sunnyside Fire Protection District

FIRE CHIEF
Orville L. Moody

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Robert "Scott" Scott
Tom Pocklington
Tom Hazard

DISTRICT SECRETARY
Rita Cyman

June 15, 2001

Ken Johnson
County of San Diego
Department of Planning and Land Use
5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B
San Diego, CA 92123

Re: MUP 01-012

Mr. Johnson,

As per your request, the conditions for the Sweetwater Reservoir Shoreline Fishing Facility required by the Bonita Fire Department will be:

1. An 'all-weather' surface suitable for emergency vehicles according to the San Diego County standard for roadways.

2. One (1) fire hydrant with one (1) four (4) inch discharge port and one (1) two and one-half inch (2½) inch discharge port. Static and residual pressures according to 1999 California Uniform Fire Code and installed according to local water authority standards.

3. A Knox switch and box for fire department access on entry gate and concession building.

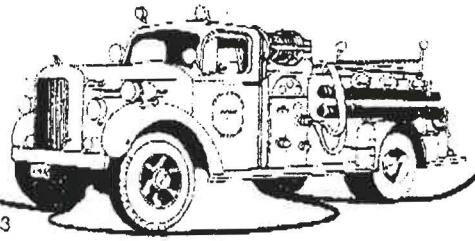
The fire hydrant shall be near the concession building, exact location to be determined at a later date prior to installation.

These are preliminary fire conditions and may be altered or additional fire conditions required when final plans are submitted for fire approval.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding the listed conditions please call me at (619) 479-2346 during regular business hours Monday through Friday.

Sincerely,

Captain Bob French
Fire Marshal



Fire Prevention Is Everyone's Business

4900 Bonita Rd., Bonita, CA 91902 Phone: (619) 479-2346 FAX (619) 479-2393

TOTAL P.01

GARY L. PRYOR
DIRECTOR
(858) 694-2962

County of San Diego

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND LAND USE

5201 RUFFIN ROAD, SUITE B, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92123-1666
INFORMATION (858) 694-2960
TOLL FREE (800) 411-0017

SAN MARCOS OFFICE
338 VIA VERA CRUZ - SUITE 201
SAN MARCOS, CA 92069-2620
(760) 471-0730

EL CAJON OFFICE
200 EAST MAIN ST. - SIXTH FLOOR
EL CAJON, CA 92020-3912
(619) 441-4030

July 11, 2001

Ms. Troy Murphee
Sweetwater Authority
Principal Environmental Coordinator
100 Lakeview Avenue
Spring Valley, CA 91977

SWEETWATER RESERVOIR RECREATION MASTER PLAN, SHORELINE FISHING PROGRAM – DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT PUBLIC REVIEW COMMENTS

Dear Ms. Murphee:

The County of San Diego has received and reviewed the draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan, Shoreline Fishing Program. In response to the draft Supplemental EIR the County, as a responsible agency, has comments on potentially significant impacts that will have an affect on the unincorporated lands of San Diego County and address inadequacies with the draft Supplemental EIR. Moreover, in an effort to streamline the review period for your project, the County has provided comments that should be incorporated into the Supplemental EIR to ensure that a complete and accurate document is available to rely upon for your Major Use Permit pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15162-15164.

The County of San Diego's Environmental Impact Report and General Content Requirements are attached for your reference to assist you with the preparation of the Supplemental EIR. The exact format of the Supplemental EIR does not have to follow the strict format of the County's Environmental Impact Report and General Content Requirements to ensure adequacy of the Supplemental EIR, because the County is not acting as the lead agency. However, it is recommended that the Sweetwater Authority

use these guidelines as an assistance tool. Please refer to the comments below and the County's Environmental Impact Report and General Content Requirements to ensure that the Supplemental EIR is an adequate environmental document pursuant to CEQA.

Cover Page

To the existing cover page add the following information to the Supplemental EIR. This additional information will ensure adequate tracking and recording of your environmental document and Major Use Permit with the County of San Diego, DPLU.

1. Permit Number(s): MUP 01-012

2. Environmental Log No: 01-19-018

3. State Clearinghouse (SCH) Number (if applicable)

3. Date (must be revised during each edition of the draft Supplemental EIR)

4. Lead Agency: Sweetwater Authority

Summary

5. As set forth in §21061 of the CEQA, "An environmental impact report is an informational document . . . The purpose of an environmental impact report is to provide public agencies and the public in general with detailed information about the effect which a proposed project is likely to have on the environment; to list ways in which a proposed project might be minimized; and to indicate alternatives to such a project . . . In order to facilitate the use of environmental impact reports, public agencies shall require that such reports contain an index or table of contents and a summary." Based on the requirements of §21061 listed above, it is recommended that a summary be included in the Supplemental EIR.

6. The summary should conform at a minimum to §15123 of the CEQA Guidelines. It is recommended that the summary be formatted in the following manner, should be as concise as possible, and should not exceed 15 pages, however, it is not mandatory to follow the format detailed below.

7. The first section should include "Project Synopsis." This section must provide a very abbreviated discussion of the proposed project including project description, objectives, location, and setting.

8. The second section should include "Summary of Significant Effects and Mitigation Measures That Reduce the Significant Effects" (In Tabular Form). This section should provide a brief summary, preferably in a tabular format, of each environmental effect of the proposed project found to be significant, the mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect, and the conclusion as to whether the effect is reduced below a level of significance by applying the mitigation measures. It is recommended that an abbreviated form of Table 2 be

utilized in this section to ensure a satisfactory and complete summary. The description of impacts, mitigation, and the conclusion should be specific, clear, and concise. Any unavoidable significant effects should be listed first, followed by the significant effects found to be eliminated through mitigation measures. Effects found not to be significant should not be included in this summary. This statement/table should also reference the subchapters of the EIR where the topics are analyzed in detail.

9. The third section should include "Project Alternatives." This section should provide a brief summary of each alternative, the significant effects associated with the alternatives, whether or not the project alternative is environmentally superior, and a very brief rationale for the applicant's rejection of the environmentally superior alternative(s). The most superior alternatives should be listed first, followed by any inferior alternatives. This summary should also reference the subchapter of the EIR where alternatives are analyzed in detail. If there are no proposed alternatives please state this fact and briefly state why there are no alternatives.

10 The fourth section should include "Areas of Controversy." Areas of controversy related to the significance of environmental effects, mitigation, or alternatives known at the time of the writing of the draft Supplemental EIR should be identified including issues raised by the applicant, public, and/or by public agencies outside of the County of San Diego. Examples include any disagreements among technical experts and the adequacy or necessity of proposed mitigation measures to reduce impacts below the level of significance. If there are no areas of controversy please state this fact.

11. The fifth section should include "Issues to be Resolved by the Decision-Making Body." This section should identify and summarize the issues to be resolved by the decision-making body. Examples of typical issues to be resolved include the determination of whether and how to mitigate significant effects and potential choices among project alternatives.

Chapter I – Introduction and Background

12. Chapter I Introduction and Background, Subchapter C, Decision to Prepare a Supplemental EIR, should reference and discuss the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) as a change in circumstances since the certification of the previous EIR. Especially, since the project proponent has applied for a Major Use Permit from the County of San Diego to obtain coverage under the County's MSCP.

Chapter II – Project Description

13. The title of Chapter II Project Description would more accurately reflect the chapter by changing the title of the chapter to "Project Description and Location."

14. Chapter II Project Description, Subchapter C Conceptual Design of Shoreline Fishing Program 2001, Phase 1 refers to a future Phase 2, however, the

Supplemental EIR does not address any specific details relating to Phase 2. Pursuant to the CEQA a full and adequate project description must be proposed for the project and since the future scope of Phase 2 is still unknown the project description should be modified to reflect the entire project. The may include either further detailing Phase 2 or removing all references to Phase 2 from the Supplemental EIR.

15. Chapter II Project Description, Subchapter C Conceptual Design of Shoreline Fishing Program 2001, Phase 1 refers to a Figure 6 that supposedly depicts the build out of Phase 1A and 1B of the plan. However, there is no Figure 6 in the entire document. However, Figure 7 appears twice in the document. Please replace the first Figure 7 with the appropriate Figure 6.

16. In addition to the missing Figure 6 that depicts phasing of the project a copy of the proposed plot plan should be included as a figure in the Project Description and Location subchapter to illustrate the project in its entirety.

17. Chapter II Project Description, Subchapter C Conceptual Design of Shoreline Fishing Program 2001, Phase 1 should include a sub-subchapter that should be numbered appropriately and be titled "Project Phasing." The sub-subchapter should begin immediately prior to Table 1 – Project Description and Phasing.

18. As a part of the phasing discussion the "area of potential affect" (APE) should be identified and discussed for both Phase 1A, 1B and 2 (if Phase 2 is included in the Supplemental EIR). The APE should address all proposed uses outlined in Table 1. By addressing the APE all impacts from the project can be evaluated and adequately mitigated, especially biological impacts in conformance with the MSCP.

19. Also, as a part of the phasing discussion it is identified that the project is seeking additional funding to provide wheelchair access and a fishing pier through Title 2 and 3 of the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act. However, please note that if Federal funding is used for any aspect of the project a joint NEPA/CEQA document may be required for the project.

Chapter IV – Environmental Analysis

20. Chapter IV Environmental Analysis has some very useful sections, however, it is recommended that the overall format of this chapter be modified as detailed below.

21. After Table 2, Comparison of Impacts and Mitigation create a new subchapter, "Significant Environmental Effects." In this section there should be discussion on the potentially significant effects of the project for each resource area that is affected. Only issues not considered significant as a result of this project and issues that were adequately discussed in the previously certified EIR should be

excluded from this subchapter. It is recommended that the Significant Environmental Effects subchapter include sub-subchapters that address Land Use, Biological Resources, Geology and Soils, Water Quality, and Transportation and Circulation. Moreover, if Phase 2 is included in the project description that is to be covered by the Supplemental EIR there should be a sub-subchapter on Fish and Sport Fishing. All of these environmental resource areas have elements that should be discussed in the Supplemental EIR due to either changes in the project, circumstances or new information pursuant to §15162-15164. More specific details relating to each resource area are detailed below.

22. The format of each sub-subchapter should have the following sections, Existing Conditions, Thresholds of Significance, Impacts, Significance of Impacts, Mitigation and Conclusion. As the document currently exists there are no Thresholds of Significance or Conclusion sections in either the existing Land Use subchapter or Biological Resource subchapter. To ensure that the Supplemental EIR is adequate these sections should be included under each sub-subchapter that addresses a specific resource. For more direction on each of these sections please refer to the County's Environmental Impact Report and General Content Requirements (pp. 9-14) attached.

23. The Thresholds of Significance section should be utilized to provide a baseline for the analysis of project effects. Thresholds of significance can be determined by obtaining guidance from General Plan and elements thereof; CEQA; ordinances, policies, and other regulations; and through discussions with staff of lead, responsible, and trustee agencies.

24. The Conclusion section should clearly state a conclusion as to whether each of the project's significant environmental effects has been reduced to below a level of significance through mitigation measures. The discussion should be supported by a synopsis of the rationale for the conclusion. Where the EIR concludes that there are unmitigated adverse impacts, their implications and the reasons why the project is still being proposed without an alternative design, notwithstanding their effect, should be described.

Chapter IV – Environmental Analysis – Significant Environmental Effects
Land Use

25. Under the Land Use sub-subchapter please ensure that the format of each section is consistent with the recommended guidelines provided above. Each section should include the following sections: Existing Conditions, Thresholds of Significance, Impacts, Significance of Impacts, Mitigation, and Conclusion. Please revise the Land Use subchapter to be in conformance with this format.

Chapter IV – Environmental Analysis – Significant Environmental Effects
Resource Protection Ordinance

26. Please change the acronym for the Resource Protection Ordinance on page 15 from "ROP" to "RPO."

27. The Impacts section under the sub-subchapter Land Use – Resource Protection Ordinance, must fully address all potential impacts to the seven environmental resource areas identified by the RPO. To adequately demonstrate conformance with RPO please address wetlands, wetland buffer areas, floodways, floodplain fringe, steep slopes, sensitive habitat lands, and significant prehistoric and historic sites in this section. A copy of the RPO is attached for your reference.

28. The existing Impacts section does address wetlands, sensitive habitat lands, floodways, steep slopes and significant prehistoric and historic sites. However, the evaluation and determination of impacts must be expanded before the County can determine conformance with the RPO. The next points detail which issues still must be addressed under each RPO category and recommends a format for presenting an evaluation.

29. The Wetlands and Sensitive Habitat Lands impact evaluation should be divided into to separate sections.

30. The Wetlands section may be the first resource evaluated under the sub-subchapter Land Use – Resource Protection Ordinance and should adequately summarize all impacts to wetlands as identified. Refer to the comments under Biological Resources for more details relating to wetland impacts.

31. The second section under the sub-subchapter Land Use – Resource Protection Ordinance should be Wetland Buffers. The Wetland Buffers section should focus on detailing the project's impact to Wetland Buffers under the RPO. Refer to the comments under Biological Resources for more details relating to addressing impacts to wetland buffers.

32. The third section under sub-subchapter Land Use – Resource Protection Ordinance should be Floodways and should address impacts any the RPO Floodways. If there are no RPO Floodways state this fact and conclude that there are no impacts.

33. The fourth section under sub-subchapter Land Use – Resource Protection Ordinance should be Floodplain Fringe and should address impacts to the Floodplain Fringe. If there is no RPO Floodplain Fringe state this fact and conclude that there are no impacts.

34. The fifth section under sub-subchapter Land Use – Resource Protection Ordinance should be Steep Slope Lands and address impacts to Steep Slope Lands. The existing evaluation determines that there are no Steep Slope Lands that will be affected by the proposed project, however, a determination of "No Impact" must be stated.

35. The sixth section under sub-subchapter Land Use – Resource Protection Ordinance should be Sensitive Habitat Lands and should address all impacts to sensitive habitat lands, not only vernal pools. Refer to the comments under Biological Resources for more details relating to addressing impacts to sensitive habitat lands.

36. The final section under sub-subchapter Land Use – Resource Protection Ordinance should be Significant Prehistoric and Historic Sites and all impacts have been adequately addressed. However, it must also be stated the identified site is not a significant "RPO" site.

37. The Significance of Impacts, Mitigation and Conclusion sections under sub-subchapter Land Use – Resource Protection Ordinance should follow the same general format as the Impacts section and should address each resource area.

38. Under the Mitigation section the must make findings pursuant to RPO. However, the preparation of findings does not constitute mitigation. For each resource area that requires mitigation to reduce impacts to a level below significance in order to in conformance with the RPO should be discussed and addressed.

Chapter IV – Environmental Analysis – Significant Environmental Effects
Biological Resources

39. Under the Biological Resources sub-subchapter please ensure that the format of each section is consistent with the recommended guidelines provided under comments 20 through 24 above. Each section should include the following sections: Existing Conditions, Thresholds of Significance, Impacts, Significance of Impacts, Mitigation, and Conclusion. Please revise the Biological Resources subchapter to be in conformance with this format. In addition to these basic format recommendations, County staff biologist, Dawn Dickman has reviewed the Biological Resource section and appendices for the Supplemental EIR and has the following comments.

40 Since a major use permit through the County is required and because the Sweetwater Authority does not yet have an approved NCCP, the project will be required to conform to the County's Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP). The current environmental documents are not particularly clear on this fact. Rather than discussing the water district's future NCCP, more attention should be paid to the existing MSCP for which conformance is required. For instance, the following should be added and/or revised in the documents:

a. The adoption of the MSCP on October 22, 1997, by the County's Board of Supervisors is considered a change in circumstance and should be listed as such under Chapter I Introduction and Background, Subchapter C Decision to Prepare a Supplemental EIR, (p. 1) of the Supplemental EIR. All impacts to biological resources must be reviewed in the context of this

new circumstance, including those impacts previously analyzed within the EIR adopted in 1987.

b. The Biological Resources subchapter and more specifically the biological report and survey technical appendix should address each of the issues that are of concern within the MSCP. These issues are outlined in the attached set of MSCP Findings. Each project within the MSCP must conform to each finding before County decision makers are able to approve the project. While County staff will write the official MSCP Findings for the project, the biological report and survey should clearly address each of the main issues discussed in the Findings, including preserve design, avoidance and minimization of impacts, edge effects and maintenance of corridors and linkages.

c. All discussion of mitigation, both in the Supplemental EIR and biological report and survey technical appendix, should address the requirements of the County's MSCP. It is not yet clear that impacts to sensitive habitats, narrow endemic species and County Group A & B Rare Plants meet the requirements of the Biological Mitigation Ordinance (Articles VI and VII) and Table 3-5 of the MSCP Plan.

d. The site is considered a Biological Resource Core Area (BRCA) based on its proximity to Pre-Approved Mitigation Areas and Preserved lands, the high number of sensitive resources present and the Very High Value assigned to the land on the MSCP Habitat Evaluation Model. The BRCA designation implies a greater restriction on allowable impacts and must therefore be considered when attempting MSCP conformance.

e. The Supplemental EIR and biological report and survey technical appendix should clearly state that MSCP conformance is being established and Third Party Beneficiary Status is being conveyed *only* for Phases 1A and 1B. Phase 2 shall be subject of future environmental review if and when it is proposed. However, if Phase 2 is desired to be covered the extent of Phase 2 must be discussed in the project description and phasing.

41. Several times throughout the document, potential impacts are discussed, but mitigation is deferred. For instance, page 21 of the Supplemental EIR states that "if impacts to Otay tarplant are determined to be unavoidable, impacts will be mitigated...". Because CEQA does not allow analysis of impacts to be deferred and the County cannot grant Take Authorization based on unknown impacts, particularly since the County has no way of being assured the impacts will be minimized in the future, the current documents do not provide enough analysis for the County to find the project conforms to MSCP or to approve the major use permit. The documents must portray a "worst case scenario" with regard to potential impacts to biological resources and mitigate accordingly. Impacts

beyond those specifically covered by the environmental documents and not appropriately mitigated will not be covered by the MSCP conformance findings nor included within the take authorization conveyed by the County to Sweetwater Authority under our Section 10a Permit.

42. The County may not convey Third Party Beneficiary Status and the accompanying take authorization until after all mitigation measures (as required by the BMO and MSCP plan) have been satisfied. This includes any and all land preservation, approval and commencement of revegetation and/or restoration plans or any additional measures deemed necessary. Therefore, contrary to the last statement made on page 21 of the Supplemental EIR, the County will need to review and approve the vernal pool mitigation package referred to for the restoration and/or creation of vernal pools. Secondly, the County will need some legal assurances that the appropriate amount and type of habitat will be preserved to meet the mitigation requirements. Simply debiting the amount from the future NCCP will not be sufficient to meet these requirements. The County will require either a conservation easement (dedicated to CDFG) or other assurances (to be approved by County Counsel) that the habitat will be protected in perpetuity with active management and will not be used as mitigation for future projects.

43. The discussion of potential impacts must include direct and indirect effects caused by any and all components of the project. For instance, Table 2 of the Supplemental EIR states that blasting may be required due to the type of soils found on-site. Yet the indirect impacts on biological resources caused by blasting are not discussed, including noise, dust and ground disturbance (tremors). In addition, installation of utilities is only briefly referenced, but details are not provided, such as any off-site impacts caused pipeline construction. Please ensure that all details of the project are thoroughly analyzed for impacts, including off-site and on-site road improvements, utility extensions, fire clearing, long-term human related activities and landscaping plans (i.e. invasive plants).

44. The documents do not adequately quantify all impacts, such as habitat loss or percentage of sensitive plant populations removed and preserved. Please provide the exact acreage of impacts and preservation of all habitat types found on the site. Please also provide the numbers of individuals of each narrow endemic and/or Group A & B plant species (listed below) found on the site and whether this site supports the entire local population of this plant species or if the population extends off-site (and approximate amount). In addition to total population estimates, the number of individuals impacted must be provided as evidence that at least 80% of the population is preserved (as required by the BMO).

Narrow Endemic and/or Group A & B species found on the site:
Adophia californica (Group B)
Dudleya variegata (Narrow Endemic, Group A)

Ferocactus viridescens (Group B)
Harpagonella palmeri (Group B)
Hemizonia conjugens (Narrow Endemic, Group A)
Iva hayesiana (Group B)
Nama stenocarpum (Group B)
Navarretia fossalis (Group A)

45. The current documents do not separate the grassland vegetation into native and non-native habitats. As non-native grassland is a Tier III habitat type while native grassland is a Tier I habitat, it is essential that these two types be delineated on the vegetation maps. Although both types of grassland have biological value, the MSCP requires maximum avoidance of Tier I habitats, being the most sensitive habitat types, whenever feasible and impacts must be justified. Furthermore, mitigation ratios vary for the different Tiers. Therefore, the maps should be revised and the reports should address each type of habitat separately.

46. Chapter IV Environmental Analysis, Subchapter B Biological Resources, p. 16 does not adequately address the requirements of the County's Resource Protection Ordinance (RPO) with regard to wetlands and sensitive habitats. The following must be considered before the project may be found in conformance with this ordinance:

    a. The section mentions only vernal pools, which are only one of the many sensitive habitat types found on the site. Article IV. 1 & 2, of the RPO detail the strict restrictions on wetlands and required wetland buffers. The vernal pools shall be considered under these sections, but so shall the actual reservoir and any other potential wetlands. All wetlands (as defined by the County in the RPO) must be mapped on the vegetation maps. Based on a site visit by County staff, at least one other drainage feature has a high potential for meeting the wetland definition. This drainage and any others found on-site as well as the actual reservoir and vernal pools, must be protected in their entirety along with adequate buffers (minimum 25 feet, but much wider for more sensitive resources). Only minor impacts shall be allowed when the bulk of the project is dependent upon one component that cannot avoid wetlands, such as an access road that may not be avoided. County standards require a 3:1 mitigation ratio for general wetlands and a 5:1 ratio for vernal pools, with mitigation including at least a 1:1 ratio of wetland creation to meet the no-net-loss standard (the remaining mitigation requirement may be met with restoration of existing wetlands). Revegetation plans will be required prior to conveyance of take authorization.

    b. Article IV.6 of the RPO discusses sensitive habitat lands. This section covers any and all habitats that are either considered unique (i.e. vernal pools, native grassland) or support rare or endangered species. This section requires that impacts only be allowed when all feasible measures

of avoidance have been implemented and when "mitigation provides an equal or greater benefit to the affected species". Therefore, any impacts and mitigation for habitat types considered by this section must be justified.

47. Please note that the County may not approve use of the major use permit until all applicable state and federal permits are obtained for impacts to wetlands and/or endangered species or evidence is provided (by virtue of a letter from each agency) that no permit is necessary. Therefore, you may wish to begin consultation processes to determine what, if any permit, is necessary. This may include wetland permits required by CA Department of Fish and Game or Army Corps of Engineers and/or Section 7 or 10a permits for listed species from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. In previous verbal communications with Sweetwater Authority, the County has stated that the County's MSCP 10a Permit may not include take authorization for impacts to listed species that inhabit Army Corps of Engineer jurisdictional wetlands. Furthermore, pending the issuance of an official Biological Opinion, US Fish and Wildlife Service has indicated that they will be revoking all take authorization associated with vernal pools from all active and proposed MSCP Subarea Plans. Therefore, if any impacts to listed species are expected within vernal pool depressions or immediate watersheds, Sweetwater should initiate consultation with the Service to determine the appropriate action.

Chapter IV – Environmental Analysis – Significant Environmental Effects
Geology and Soils

48. Create a new sub-subchapter titled "Geology and Soils" and ensure that the format of each section is consistent with the recommended guidelines provided under comments 20 through 24 above. Each section should include the following sections: Existing Conditions, Thresholds of Significance, Impacts, Significance of Impacts, Mitigation, and Conclusion.

49. The first issue that should be addressed under the Geology and Soils sub-subchapter should be "Expansive Soils." The original EIR and the Supplemental EIR both identify that expansive soils are present on the site and will require a soil investigation when grading and site plans are available. At this point in time a grading plan has been developed for Phase 1A. Therefore, a preliminary evaluation of the impacts to expansive soils should be evaluated.

As a part of this sub-subchapter discuss how all potential impacts will be avoided through critical design elements or mitigation measures, as a result of development in the areas with expansive soils. In regard to the reporting requirements, the County's standard requirement is that a soils report with compaction test is required for all fill that is over 12 inches in depth. Additionally, certification of the Fill Compaction Report is to be completed by a registered engineer and is to be submitted after the grading has been done.

50. The second issue that should be addressed under the Geology and Soils sub-subchapter should be "Blasting." The previously certified EIR and Supplemental EIR both identify that blasting may be required during grading for utility trenches. Please further detail any proposed blasting and discuss how all blasting will be in conformance with the County Fire Code sections regarding blasting (attached). Also, the impacts of blasting will need to be discussed as it relates to biological resources.

Chapter IV – Environmental Analysis – Significant Environmental Effects
Water Quality

51. Create a new sub-subchapter titled "Water Quality" and ensure that the format of each section is consistent with the recommended guidelines provided under comments 20 through 24 above. Each section should include the following sections: Existing Conditions, Thresholds of Significance, Impacts, Significance of Impacts, Mitigation, and Conclusion.

52. Since the previous EIR was certified there have been a number of developments that have led to better management of stormwater and water quality. As a result, your project will be required to be conformance with all County standards for stormwater and water quality. At a minimum the County requires your project to complete Preliminary Grading Plans and include a copy in the Supplemental EIR. Preliminary Grading Plans should be completed in accordance with the Preliminary Grading Plan Guidelines (attached). Preliminary Grading Plans must be submitted at the beginning of the discretionary permit process in order to address concerns regarding the long-term protection and improvement of stormwater quality. Structural BMPs are difficult to add to the completed design of a private development project without causing significant changes to the project's character. As such, the earlier in the design process stormwater facilities are considered, the greater the chance a successful and efficient design can be accomplished.

53. In addition to Preliminary Grading Plans it is recommended the Supplemental EIR discuss the project's use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) and associated impacts to water quality related erosion and sedimentation.

Chapter IV – Environmental Analysis – Significant Environmental Effects
Transportation and Circulation

54. Create a new sub-subchapter titled "Transportation and Circulation" and ensure that the format of each section is consistent with the recommended guidelines provided under comments 20 through 24 above. Each section should include the following sections: Existing Conditions, Thresholds of Significance, Impacts, Significance of Impacts, Mitigation, and Conclusion.

55. An updated Traffic Impact Study, prepared by Linscott, Law and Greenspan, dated March 21, 2001 was completed for the project. However, there is no discussion of the traffic study in the Supplemental EIR. Therefore, a new sub-subchapter should be created to discuss the results on the traffic study.

Chapter V – Conclusion

56. The Conclusion should specifically address all environmental impacts, mitigation measures, project design considerations, and cumulative impacts. Please revise the Conclusion to include all these aspects and ensure that all changes to the body of the Supplemental EIR are accurately reflected in the Conclusion.

Technical Appendices

57. As a part of the technical appendices it is recommended to include the following documents: Environmental Initial Study and the Notice of Preparation and Responses

The County of San Diego appreciates the opportunity to comment on the draft Supplemental EIR. If you have any questions please contact Jason Giffen, Project Environmental Analyst at the Department of Planning and Land Use at (858) 694-3720 or contact me at (858) 694-3690

Sincerely,

Joseph Farace, Project Manager
Department of Planning and Land Use

Attachments
- County of San Diego Environmental Impact Report Format and General Content Requirments
- The Resource Protection Ordinance
- MSCP Conformance Findings
- An Ordinance Repealing and Reenacting the County Fire Code
- Preliminary Grading Plan Guidelines

cc: James L. Symth, Sweetwater Authority, P.O. Box 2328, 505 Garnett Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91912-2328
Barry L. Beech, DPW Project Manager, M.S. O336
John Peterson, CEQA Regulatory Manager, M.S.O650
Dawn Dickman, Biologist, Department of Planning and Land Use, M.S. O650
File

GARY L. PRYOR
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County of San Diego

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND LAND USE

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EL CAJON, CA 92020-3912
(619) 441-4030

July 12, 2001

RECEIVED
JUL 16 2001
Sweetwater Authority
Engineering

Sweetwater Authority
Attn: James Smyth, Chief Engineer
P.O. Box 2328
505 Garrett Avenue
Chula Vista, CA 91912-2328

CASE NUMBER: P01-012; ACCOUNT NUMBER: CP 10773/WN6377; PROJECT NAME: Sweetwater Reservoir Shoreline Fishing Program

Dear Mr. Smyth:

The DPLU has completed its initial review of your application for a Major Use Permit and is providing you with this letter as a guide for the further processing of this application.

This letter lists those concerns that have been identified and specifies any revisions and additional information that may be necessary to process this application. Additionally, an estimated time schedule and estimated cost of processing this application have been included as well as draft conditions that will likely be made part of any resolution of approval.

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Request: Major Use Permit is allow the siting of facilities in conjunction with the Sweetwater Reservoir Shoreline Fishing Program. The use permit would allow the construction of a 200 space parking area, concession stand, restroom, access road, pier and use of trails for shoreline fishing on a portion of the southern shore of the Sweetwater Reservoir.
Zoning: S80 Open Space & RR1 Rural Residential Use Regulations
General Plan: (24) Impact Sensitive & (1) Residential
Community Plan Area: Sweetwater Community Plan Area
Location: North of San Miguel Road and east of Proctor Valley Road, APNs: 585-100-15, 585-112-07 & 50, 585-170-01,05,06 & 07, 585-161-02

2. **DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND LAND USE – PLANNING ISSUES**

The DPLU has determined that your application is not complete pursuant to Section 65943 of the Government Code. The reasons for this determination and the information required are as follows:

Plot Plan:

1) The plot plan indicates project phasing as Phase I and Phase II. The Supplement to the FEIR calls out Phases 1A, 1B and 2. From reviewing the notes on the plot plan and comparing them to the project description in the Supplement, Phases I and II are the same as Phases 1A and 1B. Please revise the plot plan to indicate Phases 1A and 1B. This will make the submitted plans consistent with the environmental documentation.

2) The Phase I description on the plot plan indicates that the entrance road and the parking lot are proposed to have Decomposed Granite (DG) surfacing. The entrance road and parking area will be paved as part of the Phase II improvements. Pursuant to the County's Offstreet Parking and Design Manual, all parking spaces , loading spaces and driveways serving them shall be hard surfaced (Please see attached). DPLU does have concerns with dust and air quality issues in allowing a parking lot of this size to be surfaced with DG for an undisclosed amount of time. Please revise the plot plan to indicate hard surfacing for the entrance driveway and parking area as part of Phase I.

3) Please call out on the plans the linear length of the shoreline area available for fishing.

Parking/Grading Plan (Figure 6):

1) Please provide parking lot details. Provide dimensions showing a typical parking stall and aisle widths indicating that the proposed parking spaces will be in compliance with the County's Offstreet Parking and Design Manual.

2) In response to recent concerns regarding the long-term protection and improvement of stormwater quality, the Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance requiring that preliminary grading plans be submitted at the beginning of the discretionary permit process rather than at the end. Structural Best Management Practices (BMPs) are difficult to add to the completed design of a private development project without causing significant changes to the project's character. As such, the earlier in the design process

stormwater facilities are considered, the greater the chance a successful and efficient design can be accomplished.

Please see the DPLU environmental section for more details.

Operational Characteristics:

1) Please provide additional operations details about the project which may be included in the project case file. This will supplement any information contained within the AEIS. Staff is aware that the project site will be available for use from dawn to dusk. In addition provide the following:

- How many day per week will the facility operate.
- Will it be open year round?
- How many users are expected daily?
- Will the amount of user be limited (will the operator prevent potential users from entering the facility if a certain maximum amount of users is reached)?
- How many employees? Who and how will the facility be operated? Who will be working at the site and what are their responsibilities?
- Please provide any other relative information discussing project operations.

Landscape Plan:

1) The landscape plan is adequate. No revised conceptual landscape plan is required at this time. Please be aware that irrigation system details will be required as part of Final Landscape Plan submittal during plan check.

Other Issues:

1) The Supplement to the FEIR indicates that fire service to the project site is currently provided by California Department of Forestry. Annexation to the Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District would occur as part of implementation of Phase 1A. However, a Fire Service Availability Form was submitted as part of the use permit which indicates that the project site is presently in the Bonita-Sunnyside Fire District. Please clarify. If the project is not within the Bonita-Sunnyside Fire District then a new Fire Service Availability Form needs to be submitted indicating the CDF as the fire service provider.

3. **DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND LAND USE – ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

The Department has completed the initial review of your Application for Environmental Initial Study (AEIS) for the Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan, Shoreline Fishing Program Major Use Permit. This letter lists the Department's concerns related to your application and details several issues that must be satisfied before the Department can complete the evaluation of your application. Also, the Department's public review comments, dated July 11, 2001, on the Supplemental Environmental impact Report (EIR) have been incorporated in this Scoping Letter to ensure that a complete and accurate environmental document is available to rely upon for your Major Use Permit pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15162-15164.

1. PROJECT HAS INSUFFICIENT PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project description in your application materials, including the draft Supplemental EIR, does not contain enough information to determine all the potential environmental effects related to your project. Please submit a revised project description that provides more detail regarding the project including, but not limited to, the following:

The proposed project must fully describe the entire project description in the Supplemental EIR. The project description must detail the extent of the development and all associated features. Specifically, the project description must discuss all on-site and off-site improvements, including the installation of utilities; and the extent of all associated grading, including the improvement of any existing roadways or trails.

Additionally, the project phasing must be more clearly defined. As currently described the project phasing is not adequate. In regard to phasing the Department recommends that Phase 1A and 1B be proposed with specific objectives and activities defined for each phase. Moreover, the Department recommends that Phase 2 should be excluded from the project description and the Supplemental EIR. At this point in time the extent of Phase 2 is too speculative and it is not possible to evaluate any impacts of Phase 2 until a more, well defined description is available.

In order, to evaluate the entire plan a complete, revised project description must be submitted, which includes more information on the issues listed above. A complete project description must be submitted for the project that discusses the location and features of all improvements. Maps and graphics should be used as appropriate to show all improvements. For additional guidance on modifying the project description please refer to the attached public review comments, dated July 11, 2001.

2. PROJECT REQUIRES EXTENDED INITIAL STUDIES OR ADDITIONAL I INFORMATION

The Department of Planning and Land Use has completed its review of your AEIS and determined it not to be "complete" as defined by the CEQA. At this time, additional information will be required to determine your project's potential impacts on the environment and to complete the review of your Supplemental EIR.

The County of San Diego's environmental review guidelines require that the following environmental technical studies be prepared by a California Licensed professional (i.e., engineer, geologist) qualified to complete the study.

These reports will be reviewed for technical accuracy and to determine whether Supplemental EIR will be adequate for your project. Additional copies of the final Supplemental EIR and technical appendices will be required prior to review of your project by a County hearing body.

The reasons for this determination and the information required are as follows

A. REVISED SUPPLEMENTAL EIR AND APPENDICES

Project Specific Information: The County of San Diego has completed review of your draft Supplemental EIR and Appendices. On July 11, 2001 the County commented on your draft Supplemental EIR and Appendices as a part of the public review process as a responsible agency and these comments are attached for your reference. In order to have an adequate environmental document the Department recommends that you incorporate the County's public review comments to ensure that County can rely upon your Final Supplemental EIR for your Major Use Permit, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15162-15164. Additionally, the County's public review comments address many County ordinances that must be complied with before a Major Use Permit is approved for your project. To ensure compliance with all County ordinances and to ensure that the Supplemental EIR is adequate pursuant to the CEQA the County would like to opportunity to review the a revised version of the Supplemental EIR and Appendices, prior to the Sweetwater Authority Governing Board certifying the Supplemental EIR.

In addition, the Department will not finalize your environmental documents CEQA Guidelines §15162-15164 and take your project forward to public hearing until the Sweetwater Authority Governing Board certifies the Supplemental EIR and approves the Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan, Shoreline Fishing Program.

B. BIOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS

The Department included extensive comments on the project's impacts to biology as a part of the attached public review comments, dated July 11 2001. The following section details the County's and Department's standard requirements for open space easements and the Multiple Species Conservation Program. The following section provides additional guidance for you and should be used to supplement the County's previous public review comments.

BIOLOGICAL OPEN SPACE

If biological open space is proposed, a project-scale Open Space Map must be submitted. The Open Space Map must show what biological resources are being protected and include a table showing the area (in acres) of land preserved according to vegetation type. Under County Ordinance 9111, a fire fuel maintenance buffer is required. This buffer is 100 feet wide and adjacent to the biological open space, or the project must have a written agreement with the fire district in compliance with Ordinance 9111. Include a reduction of the Open Space Map in the biological report.

In association with any proposed open space easements, temporary and/or permanent fencing, as well as, permanent signs may be required to protect the easements. These conditions are meant to protect from inadvertent disturbance of all open space easement(s) that do not allow grading, brushing or clearing.

MULTIPLE SPECIES CONSERVATION PROGRAM

In the project area, the County participates in the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP), an approved plan under the California Natural Communities Conservation Planning (NCCP) Program. This plan conserves the habitat of many of the County's rarer species and those listed under the federal and state Endangered Species Acts (ESAs) and satisfies the concerns and requirements of the California Department of Fish and Game and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Resource Agencies). By your project's conformance with the Biological Mitigation Ordinance (BMO), the County ordinance for implementing the MSCP, your project will have complied with the Endangered Species Acts for species covered by MSCP, including the federally-listed gnatcatcher. Without the MSCP your project may have been subjected to an additional lengthy and expensive permitting process through federal and state agencies.

Conformance with MSCP and the Biological Mitigation Ordinance (BMO) is required for all projects within MSCP. In order to conform, a project must meet specified criteria for project design and mitigation. County staff will be evaluating the project for conformance and writing MSCP Findings. These Findings will be

written by staff after the biological survey has been completed and accepted. No project shall be approved until each MSCP Finding is satisfied and the project is found to conform to MSCP and the BMO. Costs for writing these findings has been included in the attached Environmental Cost Estimate.

C. PRELIMINARY GRADING PLANS

Project Specific Information: The proposed project has completed a conceptual grading plan for the parking lot area, however, due to the project's proximity to the Sweetwater Reservoir a Preliminary Grading Plan must completed for all grading.

General Information: A Preliminary Grading Plan must be completed in accordance with the Preliminary Grading Plan Guidelines (attached). Preliminary grading plans must be submitted at the beginning of the discretionary permit process in order to address concerns regarding the long-term protection and improvement of stormwater quality. Structural BMPs are difficult to add to the completed design of a private development project without causing significant changes to the project's character. As such, the earlier in the design process stormwater facilities are considered, the greater the chance a successful and efficient design can be accomplished.

D. PALEONTOLOGICAL MONITOR/REPORT

Project Specific Information: A review of the paleontological resource maps indicates that the proposed project is in the Eocene and Oligocene formations. These formations are assigned HIGH sensitivity because of important fossil remains. Based on the project's location within in this HIGH sensitivity if the project's grading exceeds 1,000 cubic yards and involves cut greater than 10 feet in depth it is recommended that the project incorporate the following measures detailed below.

General Information: The paleontological resource maps prepared by the San Diego Museum of Natural History indicate that the proposed project is in an area that is likely to contain important fossil remains. As it is the County's responsibility to protect these resources, the following measures should be included as a part of this project it the project meets the criteria stated above:

a. Prior to issuance of grading permits and approval of improvement plans pursuant to any map approval, the applicant shall retain a qualified paleontologist to monitor the site during grading. The applicant shall provide evidence of contracting with a paleontologist through a letter prepared by the paleontologist hat states he/she has been retained by the

applicant. The paleontologist shall attend all pre-grading meetings to consult with grading contractors.

b. A paleontological monitor shall be present on-site during all grading operations to evaluate the presence of fossils. The paleontologist shall have the authority to direct, divert, or halt any grading activity until such time that the sensitivity of the resource can be determined and the appropriate mitigation implemented.

c. Prior to approval of building permits, the applicant shall furnish documentary evidence to the satisfaction of the Sweetwater Authority that prepared fossils, along with copies of field notes, photos, and maps have been deposited in a scientific institution such as the San Diego Natural History Museum.

E. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS

Before the Department can finalize your environmental documents pursuant to §15162-15164 copies of the Final Supplemental EIR, Appendices, Notice of Determination and proof of payment of California Department Fish and Game fees must be submitted.

APPEAL INFORMATION: If you disagree with the above environmental processing requirements you may, in certain circumstances, be able to appeal some or all of the requirements to the appropriate hearing body pursuant to Section 6.3.3 or 7.2 of the San Diego County CEQA Guidelines. Such an appeal must be filed within ten days of the date of this letter and must be accompanied by the appropriate appeal fee. **Prior to filing an appeal you must confirm with the project Environmental Analyst that the point(s) of your disagreement are, in fact, subject to appeal.** Furthermore, discussing the points of the disagreement with staff often results in a clarification or compromise that may alleviate your concerns thereby eliminating the need for the appeal.

4. **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (DPW)**

We have reviewed the subject project and have the following comments:

A. Before granting any other permit (excluding a grading permit). The applicant shall:

1. Cause to be granted to the County of San Diego, an easement for road purposes that provides a one-half right-of-way width of thirty-five (35') from centerline, plus slope rights and drainage easements for San Miguel Road (a Residential Collector Road) along the

frontage of the project. The additional five feet (5') is for a bike lane. Grant necessary road easements to provide for left-turn movements. The easement is to be accepted for public use.

2. Execute a secured agreement to improve San Miguel Road along the project frontage to a one-half graded width of thirty-five feet (35') with Portland cement concrete curb, gutter, and sidewalk, asphaltic concrete pavement over approved base, all traffic striping and asphaltic concrete dike tapers, street lights. Construct a fourteen foot (14') wide left-turn lane for left-turning movements from San Miguel Road to project entrance. All of the foregoing to the satisfaction of the Director of Public Works.

   Face of curb shall be a minimum of twenty-five (25') from centerline.

3. Process the necessary right-of-way documents. Provide a Lot Book Report less than three months old showing all Deeds of Trust, a Grant Deed, and a $800 deposit to DPW for document processing fees (contact T. Hubbard at 858 694-2299).

4. The grants of right-of-way shall be free of all encumbrances or subordinated at the time or recordation.

5. Execute a secured agreement to improve the on-site private road, to be graded twenty-nine feet (29') wide and improved twenty-five feet (25') wide with asphaltic concrete pavement over approved base with asphaltic dike necessary to control drainage, with the dike at twelve and one/half feet (12.5') from centerline. The improvement and design standards of Section 3.1 (C) of the County Standards for Private Roads for one hundred one (101) to seven hundred fifty (750) trips shall apply. All of the foregoing to the satisfaction of the Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District and the Director of Public Works.

6. Trails may be required – Contact Jeff Bosvay at 858-694-3266.

7. Secured agreement requires posting security in accordance with Section 7613 of the Zoning Ordinance. It also requires the improvements be completed by 24 months from the date approving the Major Use Permit or prior to use or occupancy of the facility, whichever is earlier.

B. Prior to obtaining any building permit pursuant to this Major Use Permit, the applicant shall:

1. Provide a grading plan (L-Grading Plan) and obtain a grading permit. The project shall have a flood-free building site (100-year flood) to the satisfaction of the Director of Public Works.

a. The activities proposed under this application may be subject to enforcement under permits from the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and the San Diego County Stormwater Ordinance. On all such operations, the property owner must ensure compliance with all applicable stormwater regulations at all times. This includes requirements for materials and wastes control, erosion control, and sediment control on the project site. This requirement shall be to the satisfaction of the Director of Public Works.

b. Implement and maintain Best Management Practices (BMPs) to effectively prevent potentially negative impact on stormwater quality by the proposed operations. Information on BMPs is available at the DPW Land Development counter. The property owner shall repair, restore and/or replace with acceptable alternates, all or portions of the installed BMPs that fail. Failure to properly install and maintain the BMPs will result in enforcement action by the County of San Diego or other agencies. The minimum performance goals for the post-construction BMPs to control construction levels, no change in the character of runoff from pre-construction conditions, and no net increase in peak flow above pre-construction levels. The developer shall install grease/oil traps or other filtration systems to collect pollutants in all the storm drain inlets. Sources of potentially significant post-construction pollutant loading shall be identified and the introduction of pollutants from these sources into stormwater and non-stormwater discharges shall be prevented or reduced to the maximum extent practicable. Post-construction pollutant loads in stormwater and non-stormwater discharges shall not cause or contribute to the degradation of receiving waters or other environmentally sensitive areas. Post-construction peak runoff flow rates and velocities from the project site shall be maintained at levels which will not cause or contribute to the scouring or erosion of receiving waters or other

environmentally sensitive areas (wetlands, vernal pools, etc.) above pre-development rates. Post-construction minimum runoff flow rates, velocities, and volumes from the project site shall be maintained as necessary to prevent the degradation of receiving waters, other environmentally sensitive areas, or flow-dependent BMPs (e.g., constructed wetlands, etc.). BMPs which incorporate natural systems or approaches (e.g., constructed wetlands, retention of existing habitat, inclusion of natural buffer zones, etc.) shall be considered and shall be utilized to the maximum extent practicable. Post-construction structural BMPs shall be operated and maintained to ensure their long-term functioning as designed.

c. Show the 100-year flood inundation level on the Grading Plan.

d. The Sweetwater Authority previously appeared to indicate their intent to construct a stormwater quality BMP (reservoir ring facility) to collect minor flows and prevent pollutants from entering the reservoir. Address the status of the proposed Stormwater Quality BMP ring facility in the Grading Plan. Provide a Stormwater Quality Management Plan for this project in conformance with the ultimate ring facility. Show and dedicate the necessary easements, locations, and future facilities (include phasing). Incorporate various facilities of the low water ring facility determined to be necessary at this time due to the proposed activities. All of the foregoing to the satisfaction of the Director of Public Works.

e. Parcel 585-112-50 is within the Spring Valley Sanitation district. All other parcels for this project must be annexed to the Spring Valley Sanitation District. Contact Theresa Villaire at 858 874-4093 for annexation information.

f. A Commercial Wastewater discharge Permit must be obtained at time of building permit issuance, which will result in payment of capacity fees, annual sewer service fees and a saddle installation fee. For commercial fees, contact Louis Conde at 858 874-4090 for commercial permit information. Applicant may contact the County Sanitation Districts counter, at 858 495-5717 for information on obtaining a permit.

C. Prior to any occupancy or use of the premises pursuant to this Major Use Permit, the applicant shall:

1. Provide a certification by a Registered Civil Engineer, Licensed Land Surveyor or Registered Traffic Engineer that the intersectional sight distance along San Miguel Road looking in both directions from the project entrance is a minimum of three hundred feet (300') to the satisfaction of the Director of Public Works.

2. Be required to sign a statement that they are aware of the County of San Diego, Department of Public Works, Pavement Cut Policy and that they have contacted all adjacent property owners and solicited their participation in the extension of utilities.

3. Provide street lighting requirements as follows (contact Rowel Francisco at 858 571-4258).

   a. Allow transfer of the property subject to Major Use Permit into Zone A of the County of San Diego Street Lighting District without notice of hearing, and pay the cost to process such transfer.

   b. Install or arrange to install street lights (San Miguel Road) to County standards and the satisfaction of the Director of Public Works, and deposit with the County of San Diego, through the Department of Public Works, a cash deposit sufficient to energize and operate the street lights until the property has been transferred into Zone A.

4. Obtain a construction permit from the Department of Public Works for work in the County right-of-way (contact Cesar Cudal at 858-694-3275).

5. Furnish the Director of Planning and Land Use, along with their request for final inspection, a letter from the Director of Public Works, stating Conditions A-1 through C-3 have been completed to that department's satisfaction.

NOTE: This project is being transmitted to Caltrans for their review and comments on possible impacts to the proposed SR 125 and for possible traffic mitigation.

If you have any questions regarding these requirements, please contact Barry Beech, Project Manager at (858) 495-5804.

5. **DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (DEH)**

The DEH has no comments at this time.

6. **PUBLIC FACILITY PROVIDERS**

As of the time of this letter no comments have been received from any public facility providers. Comments will be forwarded to the applicant.

7. **PLANNING/SPONSOR GROUP ISSUES**

As of time of this letter, no comments have been received from the Sweetwater Community Planning Group. Comments will be forwarded to the applicant once received by DPLU.

8. **ESTIMATED PROCESSING SCHEDULE**

An estimated time schedule is attached. Several assumptions were required to supply a schedule at this time and are listed at the bottom of the estimated schedule. If these assumptions prove to be incorrect, the schedule will be adjusted. The schedule also makes assumptions regarding County staff workload, submittal turnaround times by the applicant, and the number of iterations of submittals required for the applicant to obtain an adequate document. These assumptions are based on staff's experience with this type of case. **If reports are determined to be acceptable with less than three reviews or the applicant turnaround times shortened, the "standard" schedule can be reduced by as much as 50 percent in some cases.**

9. **ESTIMATED PROCESSING COSTS**

The following is an estimate of the additional deposits required to process the application through hearing/decision:

AGENCY	DEPOSIT AMOUNT
DPLU-Planning	$2,100.00
DPLU-Environmental	$7,500.00
DPW	$4,500.00
DEH	$0
TOTAL ADDITIONAL DEPOSITS	$14,100.00

Several assumptions were required to supply the DPLU-Environmental cost estimate at this time in the process. If these assumptions prove to be incorrect, your cost estimate will be adjusted. These assumptions are listed at the bottom of the attached environmental cost estimate.

Should your application be approved, there will be additional processing costs in the future (e.g., Final Map processing costs, park fees, drainage fees, building permit fees). The above estimate includes only the costs to get your present application(s) to hearing/decision and does not include these additional processing costs.

The initial review of your project indicates that there will be an effect on native biological resources. Therefore, State law requires the payment of a fee to the California Department of Fish and Game for their review of the project environmental document (Fish and Game Code §711.4). The attached DPLU-Environmental estimated deposit includes this fee. Payment of the fee is required regardless of whether or not we consider the effect on native biological resources to be significant or clearly mitigated. The project analyst will remind you to pay this fee immediately prior to public review of the project environmental document.

10. **SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS**

Unless other agreements have been made with County staff, you must submit all of the following items concurrently and by the submittal date listed below in order to make adequate progress and to minimize the time and costs in the processing of your application. The submittal must be made to the DPLU Zoning Counter at 5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B, San Diego, CA 92123-1666 and must include the following items:

a. **A COPY OF THIS LETTER**. The requested information will not be accepted unless accompanied by this letter.

b. The following information and/or document(s) with the requested number of copies as specified. **The Project Number must be clearly and visibly labeled on all submitted documents.**

INFORMATION/DOCUMENT	NO. OF COPIES	LEAD REVIEW DEPT./SECTION
Replacement Plot Plan	18	PPCC for Distribution
Replacement Parking Plan	18	PPCC for Distribution
Operation Details Information	5	DPLU/Current
Revised Supplemental EIR Including: • Revised Project Description	5	DPLU:Resource/Current DPW

INFORMATION/DOCUMENT	NO. OF COPIES	LEAD REVIEW DEPT./SECTION
Revised Appendices Including: • Notice of Preparation and Responses	5	DPLU:Resource/Current DPW
Preliminary Grading Plan (with Supporting Information)	5	DPLU:Resource/Current DPW

c. Deposits in accordance with the following schedule as specified above in the Estimated Processing Costs section:

AGENCY	ACCOUNT NUMBER	DEPOSIT AMOUNT
DPLU-Planning	WN 6377	$2,100.00
DPLU-Environmental	WE 1158	$7,500.00
DPW		$4,500.00
DEH		$0
Other:		$0

11. **SUBMITTAL DUE DATE**

In order to maintain adequate progress in the processing of your project, the DPLU requires that the revisions/information/deposits requested in this letter be submitted by **November 9, 2001**. An extension of this date may be granted at the discretion of the Director of Planning and Land Use. To request an extension, submit a written request, signed and dated by the project applicant. The request must include the proposed new submittal date and a brief reasoning for the extension request. If the revised document(s) are not received, or an approved extension request is not granted by the Director by the above date, the Department may make a recommendation for denial of your project to the appropriate decision-making authority based upon inadequate progress pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15109.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or other aspects of your project, please contact me at (858) 694-3690.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH FARACE, Project Manager
Current Planning

JF:

Attachments:

cc: Ms. Troy Murphee, Sweetwater Authority, Principal Environmental Coordinator, 100 Lakeview Avenue, Spring Valley, CA 91977
Sweetwater Community Planning Group
Bill Figge, California Department of Transportation, M.S. 65
Barry Beech, Project Manager, Department of Public Works, M.S. O336
Pat Laybourne, Regional Planner, Department of Planning and Land Use, M.S. O650
John Peterson, Groundwater Geologist, Department of Planning and Land Use, M.S. O650
Jason Giffen, Project Analyst, Department of Planning and Land Use, M.S. O650

SUMMARY ENVIRONMENTAL COST ESTIMATE AND DEPOSIT SCHEDULE

Project #: **MUP 01-012; 01-19-018**
Name: **Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan, Shoreline Fishing Program**
Date: **07/12/01**
Estimator: **Jason Giffen**

	TASK	Staff Hours	Management Hours	Word Proc. Hours
	AEIS Completeness/Initial Study	30.2	1.7	2.2
1	Extended Initial Studies	18.2	0.7	1.3
	MSCP/BMO or HLP Findings	16.8	1.3	0.8
	Negative Declaration	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Environmental Impact Report	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Addendum/Use of Previous CEQA Document	30.7	5.5	2.7
	Board Policy I-119 Review	N/A	N/A	N/A
	TOTAL LABOR HOURS	95.9	9.1	7.0
	Charge Rates ($/hour)	$ 84.81	$ 100.73	$ 37.95
	Subtotal - County Labor Costs*			$ 9,300
	Fish and Game Fees**			N/A
	TOTAL ESTIMATED COST (Environmental)			**$ 9,300**

DEPOSIT SCHEDULE

Environmental Deposits already paid	$ 1,800
Submit Immediately or Upon Next Submittal, as Appropriate	$ 7,500
Submit Immediately Prior to Public Review	N/A
Fish and Game Fees**	N/A
TOTAL DEPOSITS (Environmental)	**$ 9,300**

This is an estimate of County staff time and costs related to Environmental processing only.
Estimates do not include any of the applicant's consultant costs nor County special graphics charges.
* - Labor Cost Subtotal is rounded to the nearest $100.
** - Fish and Game fees are collected by the County on behalf of the California Dept. of Fish and Game immediately prior to public review.

GENERAL ASSUMPTIONS:

There will be Extended Initial Studies Required.
The project will be able to be completed relying on a previous Environmental Impact Report.
MSCP/BMO or HLP Findings are required .

There may be substantial changes in this estimate if any of the following occur:

- The above general assumptions prove incorrect;
- Applicant does not meet turnaround times;
- It takes more or less than three iterations to obtain an adequate EIR or Extended Study (if applicable);
- Previously unknown public controversy occurs;
- Recirculation of the ND or EIR for public review is required;
- Your project is appealed to a hearing body for any reason.

XIS Factor: 4
MSCP/BMO/HLP Factor: 7
Project Factor: 7

ESTIMATED PROCESSING SCHEDULE

Project Name: **Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan, Shoreline Fishing Program**
Project Number: **MUP 01-012; Log No. 01-19-018**
Staff Completing Schedule: Jason Giffen
Decision-Making Body: Planning and Environmental Review Board
Date Schedule Produced/Revised: 7/12/01

TASK/ACTIVITY	Estimated Duration	Estimated Completion Date	Actual Completion Date
APPLICATION SUBMITTAL			**6/12/01**
DPLU reviews for application "completeness", determines project issues, costs and schedule	30	7/12/01	7/12/01
Applicant Submits 1st Revised Draft Supplemental EIR and Appendices*	**120**	**11/9/01**	
DPLU Reviews 1st Revised Draft Supplemental EIR and Appendices	30	12/10/01	
Applicant Submits Final EIR, Appendices and Notice of Determination*	**45**	**1/24/02**	
DPLU Reviews Final EIR, Appendices and Notice of Determination*	21	2/14/02	
DPLU completes Environmental review, determines previous EIR adequate w/Addendum, Completes Findings/Addendum	21	3/7/02	
Applicant finalizes documents and submits proof of payement of Fish and Game fees	***14***	***3/21/02***	
DPLU completes condition language, findings, mitigation monitoring plan.	21	3/28/02	
DPLU completes final documents, dockets project and initial **PROJECT HEARING/DECISION**	30	4/29/02	

Total Estimated Duration 46 weeks
10.6 months

Bolded tasks are under the control of applicant/consultant.
Italicized tasks are completed concurrently with other tasks.

Assumptions:

Project will be completed using an Addendum to a previous EIR and Extended Initial Studies will be required.
Public Comments and Hearing comments will not meet the findings that require that a Supplemental or Subsequent Environmental Impact Report be prepared.
Applicant will submit all required information in accordance with the estimated schedule.
The project will not be continued by the decision-making body nor appealed.
Any Department of Public Works or Department of Environmental Health issues will be resolved concurrently with the environmental process.

The Hearing/Decision date is subject to Decision-Making Body availability and schedule.
Dates which fall upon a holiday will have an actual completion date the first business day after such holiday.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA - BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY GRAY DAVIS, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DISTRICT 11, P.O. BOX 85406, MAIL STATION 50, SAN DIEGO, 92186-5406
Telephone: (619) 688-6954
Fax: (619) 688-4299

July 19, 2001

RECEIVED
JUL 23 2001
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Clear
7-30-01
C

11-SD-125 South

Mr. Scott Morgan
State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Morgan:

Draft EIR for the Sweetwater Reservoir Shoreline Fishing Facility – SCH 1985101602

The California Department of Transportation (Department) comments are as follows:

- The submittal we received did not include the environmental documentation for the project. We are aware of the potential for several sensitive species and habitats to occur within the project area, including prostrate navarretia (*Navarretia fossalis*) and Otay tarplant (*Hemizonia conjugens*).

- The proposed access road for the fishing facility is in conflict with the proposed alignment for State Route 125 (SR-125) South. Extensive coordination with the Sweetwater Authority and the County of San Diego regarding the proposed fishing facility was completed during the environmental and preliminary design phase for the SR-125 South project. Coordination with the Sweetwater Authority has been ongoing since1986 when they were included as members of the SR-125 South Project Development Team. The County and Sweetwater Authority were provided copies of the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement for the SR-125 South project, which was circulated for public review from July 8, 1996 through September 16, 1996, the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIR/EIS), which was circulated for public review on April 9, 1999, and the Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement, which was circulated on February 8, 2000. Each of these documents showed both the proposed alignment(s) of SR-125 South and the proposed access road to the fishing facility. No comments were received from the County nor Sweetwater Authority regarding the location of the proposed access road.

- A meeting between the Department, the County, and Sweetwater Authority needs to be scheduled to discuss this matter.

- The Department is currently in the process of acquiring the necessary right of way for SR-125 South. If the improvements proposed as part of the shoreline fishing facility encroach upon the right of way acquired by the Department, then an encroachment permit must be obtained from the Department prior to construction. Before an encroachment permit can be granted, environmental approval for the work within the Department's right of way must be provided. This includes an assessment of the potential environmental impacts caused by the work within

the Department's right of way, the acquisition of any needed permits and approvals from the resource agencies for the work, and a commitment to mitigate for the impacts associated with the work in Department's right of way.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Laurie Berman, SR-125 South Project Manager, at (619) 688-3631.

Sincerely,

BILL FIGGE, Chief
Development Review and Public Transportation Branch

LAFCO
San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission

1600 Pacific Highway • Room 452
San Diego, CA 92101 • (619) 531-5400
Website: www.sdlafco.com

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Andrew L. Vanderlaan
Public Member

Vice Chairman
Ronald W. Wootton
Vista Fire Protection District

Members

Bill Horn
County Board of
Supervisors

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Supervisors

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City of Carlsbad

Patty Davis
Councilmember,
City of Chula Vista

Byron Wear
Councilmember,
City of San Diego

Bud Pocklington
South Bay Irrigation District

Alternate Members

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County Board of
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Ralph Inzunza
City of San Diego

Jill D. Greer
City of Lemon Grove

Andrew J. Menshek
Padre Dam
Municipal Water District

Guy W. Winton III
Public Member

Executive Officer
Michael D. Ott

Counsel
William D. Smith

July 25, 2001

Troy Murphree
Sweetwater Authority
P. O. Box 2328
Chula Vista, CA 91912

SUBJECT: Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report - Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan; Shoreline Fishing Program

Dear Ms. Murphree:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above referenced project. We offer the following comments:

- The Supplemental EIR should include a complete update to the Utilities and Services Section of the original EIR. This would include a discussion of the provision of law enforcement, fire protection, and water and sewer services.

- The Supplemental EIR should identify the governmental jurisdictional changes that will be necessary to extend public services to the project area and the ability of the affected agencies to provide these services. It is our understanding that the extension of services to the area will require annexation to the Bonita Sunnyside Fire Protection District (FPD) and the Spring Valley Sanitation District (SD) and a sphere of influence amendment for the Spring Valley SD. Provision of water services to the project site will also require that South Bay Irrigation District and the Otay Water district execute an inter-agency service agreement.

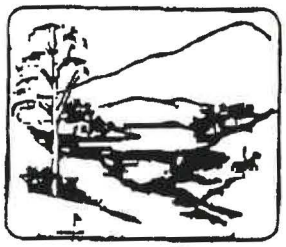
If you have any questions or would like to discuss these comments further, please contact me at (619) 531-5400.

Sincerely,

JOE CONVERY
Local Governmental Analyst

JFC:tm

SWEETWATER



Community Planning Group

15 August 2001

To: Department of Planning and Land Use
Project Processing
5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B
San Diego CA 92123-1666

Subject: MUP 01-012; Sweetwater Authority Shoreline Fishing Program

The Sweetwater Community Planning Group has reviewed DPLU letter dated July 12, 2001 to Sweetwater Authority regarding the proposed project.

It is with some dismay that we find that the Sweetwater Community Plan is being disregarded on several issues. This proposed facility is located adjacent to the Sweetwater Reservoir and away from housing. The nearest housing (~1/4 mile south) is very low density (1 du/ac and greater) and semi-rural in nature. The community Plan discourages curbs, gutters, sidewalks and street lighting except in the highest densities.

This facility, which will be accessible only a few days each week and then only during daylight hours, does not warrant these usual urban amenities and should be waived for this project. The San Miguel Road improvements should be designed to minimize the "urban" look and street drainage should be accommodated with more "rustic" designs. While paths should be provided as part of the street improvement, they must be able to accommodate the numerous equestrian users and not be hard-surfaced. Care must be paid to signage so that it doesn't present a hazard to horse riders.

Streetlights in this remote area are clearly contrary to the Community Plan and the desire for "dark skies." This is proposed to be a day-use facility and therefore shouldn't require streetlights for safety. If directional signs are needed for occasional nighttime access, they should be done in accordance with the Sweetwater Community Design Guidelines.

The requirement to pave all parking areas and shoreline roads for a facility which will be used only for a few days each week seems contrary to common sense. The Community Plan seeks to keep the eastern portion of the Planning Area as rural and rustic as possible. Paving large areas with asphalt violates this goal. The fishing facility should use the standards that were applied for the Sweetwater Regional Park Gateway Project (Area 10)

P.O Box 460, Bonita, California 91908-0460

access road and parking area. These same standards are being used for the development of the new access area for Area 17 of the Regional Park on Sweetwater Road. Both of these park examples are located in more urbanized areas of the Sweetwater Planning Area, are accessible 7 days a week, are not paved and don't have street lights.

If these requirements cannot be waived or revised satisfactorily, please plan to meet with the Sweetwater Community Planning Group as soon as is feasible to explain why the Community Plan is being so cavalierly disregarded.

John A Hammond
Chairperson

CC: Sweetwater Authority (Smyth, Murphee)
Board of Supervisors (Cox)

October 2001 Recirculation of the Draft Supplement to the Final EIR

Public Review October 26 through December 9, 2001

NOTICE OF COMPLETION

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916)445-0613

PROJECT TITLE
Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan – Shoreline Fishing Program Draft Supplemental EIR

LEAD AGENCY		CONTACT PERSON		
Sweetwater Authority		Ms. Troy Murphree		
STREET ADDRESS	MAILING ADDRESS			TELEPHONE
100 Lakeview Avenue	P.O. Box 2328			(619) 475-9047 x151
CITY / ZIP CODE	CITY		ZIP CODE	COUNTY
Spring Valley 91977	Chula Vista, CA		91912-2328	San Diego

PROJECT LOCATION
Southwest shoreline of Sweetwater Reservoir, north of San Miguel Road and east of Proctor Valley Road: Entrance at 6503 San Miguel Road

COUNTY	CITY/NEAREST COMMUNITY			
San Diego	Unincorporated Community of Bonita			
CROSS STREETS	ZIP CODE	TOTAL ACRES		
San Miguel Road	91902	Approximately 300		
ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO.	SECTION	TOWNSHIP	RANGE	BASE
585-100-15; 585-112-07, -50; 585-170-01, -05, -06, -07; 585-161-02	16 & unsectioned portion of the former Rancho Jamacho	17 S.	1 W.	Jamul Mt.
WITHIN 2 MILES: STATE HIGHWAY NO.	WATERWAYS			
State Highway 54	Sweetwater Reservoir and Sweetwater River			
AIRPORTS	RAILWAYS	SCHOOLS		
N/A	N/A	Sunnyside Elementary School		

DOCUMENT TYPE

CEQA: ____ NOP; ____ Early Cons; ____ Neg Dec; ____ Draft EIR; __X__ Supplement/Subsequent (Prior SCH No.) SCH 1985101602 (RECIRCULATION)

NEPA: ____ NOI; ____ EA; ____ Draft EIS; ____ FONSI

Other: ____ Joint Document; ____ Final Document; ____ Other

LOCAL ACTION TYPE

____ General Plan Update; ____ General Plan Amendment; ____ General Plan Element; ____ Community Plan; ____ Specific Plan; ____ Master Plan; ____ Planned Unit Development; ____ Site Plan; ____ Rezone; ____ Prezone; __x__ Use Permit; ____ Land Division*; ____ Annexation; ____ Redevelopment; ____ Coastal Permit; ____ Other

*(Subdivision, Parcel Map, Tract Map, etc.)

DEVELOPMENT TYPE

____ Residential: Units____ Acres____
____ Office: Sq.ft.____ Acres____ Employees____
____ Commercial: Sq.ft.____ Acres____ Employees____
____ Industrial: Sq.ft.____ Acres____ Employees____
____ Educational
____ Institutional
__X__ Recreational Shoreline Fishing Program

____ Water Facilities: Type____ MGD____
____ Transportation: Type____
____ Mining: Mineral____
____ Power: Type____ Watts____
____ Waste Treatment: Type____
____ Hazardous Waste: Type____
____ Other:

Funding(approx.): Federal $____ State $____ Total $____

PROJECT ISSUES DISCUSSED IN DOCUMENT

____ Aesthetic/Visual
____ Agricultural Land
____ Air Quality
____ Archeological/Historical
____ Coastal Zone
____ Drainage/Absorption
____ Economic/Jobs
____ Fiscal
____ Flood Plain/Flooding
____ Forest Land/Fire Hazard
____ Geologic/Seismic
____ Minerals
____ Noise
____ Population/Housing Balance
__X__ Public Services/Facilities
____ Recreation/Parks
____ Schools/Universities
____ Septic Systems
____ Sewer Capacity
____ Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading
____ Solid Waste
____ Toxic/Hazardous
____ Traffic/Circulation
__X__ Vegetation
__X__ Water Quality
____ Water Supply/Groundwater
____ Wetland/Riparian
__X__ Wildlife
____ Growth Inducing
__X__ Land Use
____ Cumulative Effects
____ Other

PRESENT LAND USE/ZONING/GENERAL PLAN USE

The majority of the project site is vacant, zoned S-80 (Open Space Use); and designated "Impact Sensitive"[(permitting a residential density of one dwelling unit per 4, 8, and 20 acres (I DU/4, 8, and 20 ac.)]. A single-family residential unit is located on APN 585-112-07 (3.76-acre). That parcel is zoned RR1 and designated as "1 Residential".

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Shoreline fishing program to allow public recreation along 2.5 miles of the southwest shoreline of Sweetwater Reservoir. This project has been reduced from that analyzed in the 1987 Final EIR and consists of the following phased elements: Use of existing residence for office/concession building; widen existing onsite maintenance road; improve existing trails; construct a 150-space parking lot; and install water lines, irrigation, landscaping, and portable restrooms. Installation of sewer to residential unit; annexation to Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

KEY
S = Document sent by lead agency
X = Document sent by SCH
T = Suggested distribution

_____ **Resources Agency**
_____ Boating & Waterways
_____ Coastal Commission
_____ Coastal Conservancy
_____ Colorado River Board
_____ Conservation
_S_ Fish & Game
_____ Forestry & Fire Protection
_T_ Office of Historic Preservation
_____ Parks & Recreation
_____ Reclamation Board
_____ S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Commission
_____ Water Resources (DWR)

Business, Transportation & Housing
_____ Aeronautics
_____ California Highway Patrol
_S_ CALTRANS District # 11
_____ Department of Transportation Planning (headquarters)
_____ Housing & Community Development

_____ **Food & Agriculture**

Health & Welfare
_S_ Health Services (Office of Drinking Water)

State & Consumer Services
_____ General Services
_____ OLA (Schools)

Environmental Protection Agency
_____ Air Resources Board
_____ California Waste Management Board
_____ SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
_____ SWRCB: Delta Unit
_____ SWRCB: Water Quality
_____ SWRCB: Water Rights
_____ Regional WQCB # _____

Youth & Adult Corrections
_____ Corrections

Independent Commissions & Offices
_____ Energy Commission
_____ Native American Heritage Commission
_____ Public Utilities Commission
_____ Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
_____ State Lands Commission
_____ Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
_____ Other:
_S_ Sweetwater Community Planning
_S_ US Army Corps of Engineers
_S_ US Fish & Wildlife Service

Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date October 26, 2001 Ending Date December 9, 2001

Signature Trey Medquee Date October 25, 2001

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE of PLANNING AND RESEARCH
State Clearinghouse

Gray Davis
GOVERNOR

Steven A. Nissen
DIRECTOR

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT

DATE: November 20, 2001

TO: Ms. Troy Murphree
Sweetwater Authority
100 Lakeview Avenue
Spring Valley, CA 91977

RE: Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan-Shoreline Fishing Program Draft Supplemental EIR
SCH#: 1985101602

This is to acknowledge that the State Clearinghouse has received your environmental document for state review. The review period assigned by the State Clearinghouse is:

Review Start Date: October 26, 2001
Review End Date: December 9, 2001

We have distributed your document to the following agencies and departments:

Caltrans, District 11
Department of Fish and Game, Region 5
Department of Health Services
Department of Parks and Recreation
Department of Water Resources
Native American Heritage Commission
Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 9
Resources Agency
State Lands Commission
State Water Resources Control Board, Clean Water Program

The State Clearinghouse will provide a closing letter with any state agency comments to your attention on the date following the close of the review period.

Thank you for your participation in the State Clearinghouse review process.

1400 TENTH STREET P.O. BOX 3044 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95812-3044
916-445-0613 FAX 916-323-3018 WWW.OPR.CA.GOV/CLEARINGHOUSE.HTML

FILED
Gregory J. Smith, Recorder/County Clerk
NOV 01 2001
BY AB DEPUTY

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY and **RECIRCULATION** OF A DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

TO: State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk, County of San Diego
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

Project Title
Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan - Shoreline Fishing Program Draft Supplemental EIR.

Project Location - Specific
Southwest shoreline of Sweetwater Reservoir, with entrance at 6503 San Miguel Road east of Proctor Valley Road.

Project Location - City **Project Location - County**
Unincorporated community of Bonita, County of San Diego.

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:
Shoreline fishing program to allow public recreation along 2.5 miles of the southwest shoreline of Sweetwater Reservoir. In the 1980s, a Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Program was planned and the EIR certified by the SWA governing Board. This project is reduced from that analyzed in the 1987 Final EIR. It consists of the following elements: annexation to and Bonita- Sunnyside Fire Protection District; use of existing residence for office/concession/caretaker building; installation of sewer to that building; provision of restrooms and 30 parking spaces adjacent to the building; widening of the existing onsite maintenance road; improvement of existing trails; construction of a 150-space parking lot on San Miguel Point; installation of water lines, irrigation, landscaping, and portable restrooms.

The Significant Effects on the Environment, if any, Anticipated as a Result of the Project:
The proposed project site contains sensitive vernal pool habitat and the federally listed San Diego fairy shrimp *(Branchinecta sandiegoensis)* and the Otay tarplant *(Hemizonia conjugens)*. These two species were listed subsequent to the certification of the 1987 Final EIR. Impacts to sensitive biological resources will be avoided to the maximum extent practical. Protection of sensitive biological resources will be provided through signage and/or fencing. Impacts to Otay tarplant would be mitigated within the proposed Joint Water Agency Natural Communities Conservation Planning (JWA NCCP) mitigation bank consistent with impacts for narrow endemic plants. However, since the JWA NCCP has not been finalized, Sweetwater Authority is coordinating with California Department of Fish and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for "take authorization" through either a 2081(b) California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Incidental Take Permit or a Section 7 Consultation with USFWS.

Lead Agency **Division**
Sweetwater Authority, Engineering Department

Date when project noticed to public:
Initial Public Review: *June 15, 2001 – July 30, 2000* ***Recirculation:*** *October 24, 2001-December 9, 2001*

Address where copy of the EIR and all documents referenced in the EIR are available:
Sweetwater Authority Administrations Office, 505 Garrett Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910; **Chula Vista Public Library**, 365 F Street, Chula Vista, CA **National City Public Library**, 200 East 12th Street, National City, CA .

Review Period:
Friday, October 26, 2001 through Saturday, December 9, 2001 (45 days)

Date, Time and Location of Public Hearing, if any:
December 19, 2001, 3:30 P.M., 505 Garrett Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910

Contact Person Area Code - Telephone - Extension
James L. Smyth, Chief Engineer (619) 422-8395 x 612 or
Troy Murphree, Principal Environmental Coordinator, 475-9047 ext. 151.

AGCY/RVPUB/2000/546390 FORM "K"

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK
SAN DIEGO COUNTY ON NOV 0 1 2001
POSTED NOV 0 1 2001 REMOVED _____
RETURNED TO AGENCY ON _____
DEPUTY AB

Distribution List for the Recirculation of the SEIR,
Responsible and Interested Agencies and Organizations:
Draft Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Report
for the Sweetwater Reservoir Master Plan Shoreline Fishing Program
October 26, 2001

***California Department of Fish & Game**
4949 Viewridge Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123
Attention: David Lawhead

***California Department of Health Services**
Office of Drinking Water
1350 Front Street Room 2050
San Diego, CA
92101
Attention: Brian Bernados

***Caltrans**
District 11
PO Box 85406
San Diego MS 35
92186-5406
Attention: Bill Figge

***Chula Vista Public Library**
365 F Street
Chula Vista, CA 91910

***County of San Diego, Department of Planning and Land Use**
5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B
San Diego, CA 92123-1666
Attention: Joe Ferace, Project Manager

***County of San Diego, Department of Planning and Land Use**
5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B
San Diego, CA 92123-1666
Attention: Jason Giffen, Project Analyst

***County of San Diego Department of Public Works**
5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B
San Diego, CA 92123-1666
Attention: Barry Beech, Project Manager (MS 0336)

***County of San Diego, Department of Environmental Health**
1255 Imperial Avenue, 4th Floor
San Diego, CA 92101
Attention: Mr. John Van Rhyn, Storm Water Program Manager

***LAFCO**
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 452
San Diego, CA 92101
Attention: Mr. Joe Convery

***National City Public Library**
200 East 12th Street
National City, CA 91950

***Sweetwater Planning Group**
PO Box 460
Bonita, CA 91908-0460
Attention: John Hammond, Chair

Mr. Dean Ziegler
5643 Watercrest Drive
Bonita, CA 91902-2222

Ms. Gretchen Burkey
PO Box 321
Bonita, CA
91908

The Totas Family
6001 Bonita Meadow Lane
Bonita, CA
91902

***U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service**
2730 Loker Ave West
Carlsbad, CA 92008
Attention: Gjon Hazard

* Via Messenger

Comments Received and Responses of the Lead Agency

Bonita - Sunnyside Fire Protection District

FIRE CHIEF
Orville L. Moody

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Robert "Scott" Scott
Tom Pocklington
Tom Hazard

DISTRICT SECRETARY
Rita Cyman

RECEIVED
NOV 19 2001
Sweetwater Authority
Engineering

November 16, 2001

Department of Planning and Land Use
County of San Diego
5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B (0650)
San Diego, CA 92123-1666

Re: MUP 01-012, Sweetwater Reservoir Shoreline Fishing Facility

To Whom It May Concern:

As per your request, the conditions for the Sweetwater Reservoir Shoreline Fishing Facility required by the Bonita Fire Department are as follows:

1. An 'all-weather' surface suitable for emergency vehicles according to the San Diego County standard for roadways. The roadway surface shall be a minimum of decomposed granite with a permeable subsurface capable of supporting emergency vehicles. A berm shall be placed on each side of the roadway to ensure the 'all-weather' materials remain in place. Some low lying roadway areas **may** need concrete culverts to insure passage of emergency vehicles during high-water occasions, San Diego County standard for roadways shall apply should culverts be needed.
2. A Knox lock, switch or box for fire department access on any entrance gates or buildings.
3. The operating authority for the Sweetwater Reservoir Shoreline Fishing Program must maintain a 15-foot fuel break on both sides of the roadway and parking lot. Any environmentally sensitive areas affected by the fuel break regulations shall have only annual grasses or weeds that pose a fire hazard mitigated to the satisfaction of Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District.

If future plans include a concession building or any fixed structure subject to the California Uniform Fire Code, a permanent water supply shall be provided. The water supply shall include, but not be limited to, a fire hydrant or a fixed storage tank.

These are preliminary fire conditions and may be altered or additional fire conditions required when final plans are submitted for fire approval.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding the listed conditions please call me at (619) 479-2346 during regular business hours Monday through Friday.

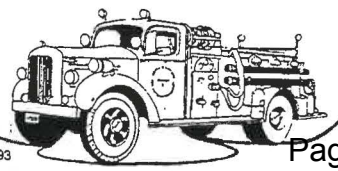
Sincerely,

Bob French

Captain Bob French
Fire Marshal

cc – Jim Smyth, Sweetwater Authority

Fire Prevention Is Everyone's Business



4900 Bonita Rd., Bonita, CA 91902 Phone: (619) 479-2346 FAX (619) 479-2393

1.

1. This reduced fuel break (from 25 to 15 feet) would reduce potential impacts to sensitive habitats by approximately two acres. Section 2.3 of the Draft SEIR has been revised to reflect this reduction of impacts.

SWEETWATER

Community Planning Group

26 November 2001

To: Department of Planning and Land Use
Project Processing
5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B
San Diego CA 92123-1666

Subject: MUP 01-012; Sweetwater Authority Shoreline Fishing Program

The Sweetwater Community Planning Group has reviewed the proposed project to develop a Shoreline Fishing Facility, MUP01-012.

The Planning Group recommends that the revised Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for the Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan be approved.

The impacts noted before and discussed by this group have been addressed by a reduction of scope and the size and nature of project activities.

2. The Planning Group is confident that the operator of the Sweetwater Reservoir is sufficiently motivated to protect the water supply and able to control any potential impacts on the environment.

The use of securely anchored restroom facilities, minimal intrusion into habitat areas and locating the refreshment area away from the immediate shoreline are benefits.

As a document, the Planning Group believes that this document complies with CEQA.

Motion for approval (Riess/ S Todus) passed unanimous, 10 members present and voting.

John A Hammond
Chairperson

CC: Sweetwater Authority (Smyth, Murphee)

P.O Box 460, Bonita, California 91908-0460

2. Comment Noted. No response required.

LAFCO
San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission

1600 Pacific Highway • Room 452
San Diego, CA 92101 • (619) 531-5400
Website: www.sdlafco.com

Chairman
Andrew L. Vanderlaan
Public Member

Vice Chairman
Ronald W. Wootton
Vista Fire Protection District

Members

Bill Horn
County Board of Supervisors

Dianne Jacob
County Board of Supervisors

Patty Davis
Councilmember,
City of Chula Vista

Jill D. Greer
Councilmember,
City of Lemon Grove

Byron Wear
Councilmember,
City of San Diego

Bud Pocklington
South Bay Irrigation District

Alternate Members

Greg Cox
County Board of Supervisors

Julianne Nygaard
Councilmember,
City of Carlsbad

Ralph Inzunza
Councilmember,
City of San Diego

Andrew J. Menshek
Padre Dam
Municipal Water District

Harry Mathis
Public Member

Executive Officer
Michael D. Ott

Counsel
William D. Smith

December 4, 2001

Troy Murphree
Sweetwater Authority
P.O. Box 2328
Chula Vista, California 91912

SUBJECT: Recirculation of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR): Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan Shoreline Fishing Program

Dear Ms. Murphree:

As you know, all changes to local governmental organization and spheres of influence require approval by LAFCO. As a responsible agency for environmental review, LAFCO requires that environmental documents thoroughly evaluate the discretionary actions under LAFCO authority, discuss how public services will be provided to the project area, and assess the ability of existing agencies to provide those services. On July 25, 2001, LAFCO submitted a comment letter pertaining to the Draft EIR for the above-referenced project. At that time, the Master Plan identified the need for annexation to both the Spring Valley Sanitation District and the Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District in order to obtain sewer and fire protection services.

3. The recirculated Supplemental EIR indicates that the project has been reduced and now requires only annexation for fire and emergency medical services. Annexation to a sewer service provider is no longer necessary because portable restrooms will be available at the fishing site. Water provision will be achieved via a contractual service agreement between the South Bay Irrigation District and the Otay Water District. With the reduction of the project, the only jurisdictional change required is annexation to the Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District (FPD). Since the property already is within the FPD's sphere of influence, no sphere amendment will be necessary. The District has indicated that an adequate level of fire protection and emergency medical services are available to serve the site.

3. Comment Noted. Sweetwater Authority will submit application to LAFCO for annexation of the project site to the Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District subsequent to approval of the Major Use Permit by the San Diego County Planning Commission.

Should you have any questions, or if LAFCO may be of any further assistance, please contact me at 619/531-5400.

Sincerely,

Ingrid E. Hansen

INGRID E. HANSEN
Local Governmental Analyst

IEH:tm

STATE OF CALIFORNIA-THE RESOURCES AGENCY GRAY DAVIS, *Governor*
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
South Coast Region
4949 Viewridge Avenue
San Diego, California 92123
(858) 467-4201
FAX (858) 467-4299

December 9, 2001

Troy Murphree
Sweetwater Authority
100 Lakeview Avenue
Spring Valley, CA 91977

Comments on the Revised Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for the Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan - Shoreline Fishing Program, San Diego County, CA (SCH# 1985101602)

Dear Ms. Murphree:

The Department of Fish and Game (Department) has reviewed the above-referenced Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) that was received on October 26, 2001. The Department is a Trustee Agency and a Responsible Agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Sections 15386 and 15381 respectively. As a Trustee Agency, the Department must be consulted by the Lead Agency during the preparation and public review for project-specific CEQA documents. Pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) and Section 1802 of the Fish and Game Code, the Department is responsible for the conservation, protection, and management of fish, wildlife, native plants (including rare, threatened, and endangered species), and habitat necessary for biologically sustainable populations of those species. The Department also administers the Natural Community Conservation Planning Program (NCCP). The following comments are offered to assist in the minimization and/or avoidance of project impacts to biological resources.

The proposed project is a new public recreation and fishing area on the southwestern shoreline of Sweetwater Reservoir. This area will include fishing access along about 2.5 miles of the shoreline (at high water), an improved access road, parking lot, and portable restrooms. An existing residence on-site will provide concessions. The current project design is reduced in size and level of environmental impact compared to the original design presented in a Master Plan and EIR produced in the 1980's. A new Master Plan describing a reduced project was developed in 2000-2001 and subsequently an SEIR was released for public review in June, 2001. The Department did not provide formal comment by letter regarding this document. However, a

meeting between representatives of Sweetwater Authority, Gjon Hazard of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and David Lawhead of the Department was conducted on-site on October 19, 2001, during which the Department's concerns about project impacts were discussed. The current SEIR was produced to address the issues raised at this meeting, as well as comments provided by other agencies during public review.

The following comments are based upon the October 19, 2001 meeting, the revised SEIR, and the Restoration and Management Plan (RMP) for Vernal Pool and Otay Tarplant Habitat at the Sweetwater Reservoir:

4. The revised SEIR identifies significant impacts to the Otay tarplant (*Deinandra conjugens*), a species listed as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). The project applicant, Sweetwater Authority, must obtain a CESA take permit from the Department prior to initiating any activities that impact this plant. This includes any collection of Otay tarplant seeds in non-impact areas for restoration and enhancement purposes. The Department has already provided the appropriate forms and will work with the applicant in the immediate future to complete the CESA permit.

5. The revised SEIR provides for 4:1 mitigation of the 1.44 acres of habitat currently occupied by Otay tarplant that will be directly impacted by project activities. This mitigation will include restoration and enhancement, as well as preservation, of these 5.76 acres. The Department previously expressed concern that there be mitigation not only for currently observed Otay tarplant habitat, but for potential habitat as well. The revised SEIR and RMP comply with the requested mitigation for impacts to 6.30 acres of potential Otay tarplant habitat (based on the presence of clay soil and the type of vegetation present) by preserving 10.82 acres consisting of both current and potential habitat. This represents a 2:1 mitigation for potential habitat within native grassland and 1:1 mitigation for potential habitat in non-native grassland. Restoration is not currently planned for this area; however, the Department encourages the applicant to consider future improvement of these grasslands, particularly management of non-native species. In total, 16.58 acres of current and potential Otay tarplant habitat will be provided as mitigation for impacts to 7.74 acres of current and potential habitat.

Improvements to the access road will impact 1.17 acres of vernal pool complex including two pools totaling approximately 200 square feet and their surrounding watersheds. Vernal pool mitigation (preservation, restoration, and maintenance) will include not only the pools but their watersheds, as requested by the Department, for a total of 3.51 acres (a 3:1 ratio) containing at least 900 square feet of basin area. The vernal pools on-site do not contain any state-listed plant species and no California incidental take permit will be required as a result of the recontouring, weed control, and other enhancement activities occurring in the vernal pool complex area. No San Diego fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta sandiegonensis*) or other federally listed species occur in the two pools impacted by the access road improvements.

The Department considers the proposed preservation acreages for vernal pool complex and Otay tarplant (current and potential) habitat, as well as the additional preservation of 1.94 acres of mixed native grassland and broken sage scrub, 1.12 acres of mixed native and non-native grassland,

4. Comment noted. Sweetwater Authority will apply for the CESA take permit.

5. With reduction of the required fuel break along the project access road, impacts to observed and potential habitat of the Otay tarplant would be reduced. Pages 2-20 and 2-23, Table 2.4 on page 2-24, Figure 2.6, and page 8-3 have been revised to reflect the reduced impact and mitigation as indicated by ~~strikeout~~ and underline. Mitigation ratios have not changed.

and 0.94 acres of non-native grassland, to adequately mitigate for project impacts. In total, 24.09 acres of habitat will be provided as mitigation for 11.23 acres of impact. The SEIR states the needfor a conservation easement or some other form of assurance that the mitigation areas will be protected and not used as mitigation for other projects. The Department concurs that this should be approved and in place prior to any use or development of the property. The Department should be the recipient of the conservation easement.

6.

The Department has reviewed the RMP and approves of the proposed restoration and maintenance methods for vernal pool complex and Otay tarplant. We will review the annual monitoring reports and confer with the biologist in charge regarding whether success criteria are being met or whether additional restoration and maintenance is required. The RMP states that after five years, provided success criteria have been met, long-term monitoring and maintenance will be reduced to a level that can be continued indefinitely. If at any time, conditions do not continue to meet success criteria for cover and species diversity, short-term remedial restoration will occur. The Department requests clarification of the funding amount and mechanisms that will ensure the continuation of this long-term management.

7.

The proposed impacts to 60 square feet of the intermittant stream will require a Section 1601 Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA). The Department's issuance of an SAA for a project that is subject to CEQA will require CEQA compliance actions by the Department as a responsible agency. An SAA notification package may be obtained by writing to The California Department of Fish and Game, Environmental Services Division, 4949 Viewridge Avenue, San Diego, CA 92123 or by calling (858) 636-3160. In addition, the applicant may be required to obtain a permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as well. The Department encourages the applicant to consider the option of constructing a footbridge across the drainage rather than constructing the trail through it in order to reduce erosion and siltation resulting from foot traffic. The Department considers that creation of an additional 180 square foot vernal pool basin under the RMP is sufficient mitigation (3:1) for impacts to the intermittent drainage.

8.

The Department requests that we be kept periodically informed of the results of monitoring to determine whether or not fishing activities are having a significant effect on brown pelicans and other wildlife. The brown pelican is a state and federally endangered species under CESA as well as a Fully Protected Species according to the California Fish and Game Code, Section 3511. If monitoring indicates a potential for negative effects on brown pelicans, the Department as well as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should be notified immediately and will consult with the applicant with regard to remedial actions needed.

9.

The proposed parking area landscaping plan (Figure 1.6 in the SEIR) incorporates native plants exclusively. The Department approves of these choices, and suggests that the planting stock be obtained from local sources to the extent possible.

10.

6. Sweetwater Authority will provide assurances that the mitigation areas will be protected in perpetuity and not used for mitigation of other projects through the future Joint Water Agencies Natural Community Conservation Plan (JWA NCCP) mitigation bank or by dedication to CDFG. Portions of the Plan have been submitted and are currently being reviewed by DFG and USF&WS. Completion of the Plan is anticipated by the end of 2002.

7. The JWA NCCP describes funding mechanisms for the long-term monitoring and management of biological resources, including preserve areas described for the fishing project. Under the JWA NCCP, funding of monitoring and management actions will be provided by each participating water agency either through revenues contributed by rate-payers or by other funds collected by each agency. Necessary funding for implementing each Subarea Plan will be determined and evaluated for approval on an annual basis. Additional or supplemental funding may also be pursued through state or federal grants or other sources. The participating water agencies understand that funding of the Subarea Plan is not optional and will be a requirement for maintaining valid take authorizations.

8. Comment noted. Sweetwater Authority will apply for a 1601 Streambed Alteration Agreement for the intermittent stream impacts. Authority has requested a jurisdictional determination from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Alternatively, a footbridge would be constructed. Compensation for streambed impacts would occur through "in-kind" enhancement of the intermittent streambed on-site or through "out-of-kind" vernal pool restoration.

9. Sweetwater Authority will monitor for negative effects of the shoreline fishing program on the federally endangered Brown Pelican and other wildlife. Information will be provided in an annual report on the program or through future reporting mechanisms established by the JWA NCCP. Any identified negative effects to state and federally endangered Brown Pelican, observed or potential, will be disseminated or sooner if circumstances warrant wildlife agency involvement.

10. Comment noted. Plants from Sweetwater Authority's native plant nursery and other local stock will be used.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to comment on the revised SEIR. Questions regarding these comments and future coordination of efforts should be directed to Meredith Osborne at (858) 636-3163.

Sincerely,

for David N Lawhead

William E. Tippets
Environmental Program Manager
CA Department of Fish and Game

cc: Gjon Hazard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
C.F. Raysbrook, California Department of Fish and Game
State Clearinghouse

GARY L. PRYOR
DIRECTOR
(858) 694-2962

County of San Diego

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND LAND USE

5201 RUFFIN ROAD, SUITE B, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92123-1666
INFORMATION (858) 694-2960
TOLL FREE (800) 411-0017

SAN MARCOS OFFICE
338 VIA VERA CRUZ - SUITE 201
SAN MARCOS, CA 92069-2620
(760) 471-0730

EL CAJON OFFICE
200 EAST MAIN ST. - SIXTH FLOOR
EL CAJON, CA 92020-3912
(619) 441-4030

December 13, 2001

Ms. Troy Murphee
Sweetwater Authority
Principal Environmental Coordinator
100 Lakeview Avenue
Spring Valley, CA 91977

RE: CASE NUMBERS: P01-012; LOG NO. 01-19-018; ACCOUNT NUMBERS: CP 10773; WN 6377; WE 1158; PROJECT NAME: SWEETWATER RESERVOIR RECREATION MASTER PLAN, SHORELINE FISHING PROGRAM – REVISED DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT PUBLIC REVIEW COMMENTS

Dear Ms. Murphee:

The County of San Diego has received and reviewed the recirculated and revised draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan Shoreline Fishing Program. In response to the recirculated and revised draft SEIR the County, as a responsible agency, believe the SEIR will be adequate with some minor revisions. Moreover, in an effort to streamline the review period for your project, the County recommends that the provided comments should be incorporated into the SEIR prior to certification to ensure that a complete and accurate document is available to rely upon for your Major Use Permit pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15162-15164. Finally, the County has provided a list of additional requirements that must be satisfied prior to approval or prior to use and reliance on your Major Use Permit (P01-012).

REVISED DRAFT SEIR COMMENTS
County staff has reviewed the revised draft SEIR and technical appendices. The review determined that for the most part the SEIR and technical appendices are adequate. However, minor changes should be made to traffic sections of the SEIR and Traffic

Impact Study. These revisions should be made before the Sweetwater Authority certifies the SEIR. However, if the changes cannot be made before the Sweetwater Authority Board hearing detail as explicitly as possible the proposed changes and have the changes included into the final version of the SEIR. Please refer to the attached comments from the Department of Public Works for details. All other aspects of the SEIR and technical appendices are adequate including the geotechnical investigation, biological survey, and cultural resources assessment.

MAJOR USE PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

County staff has reviewed the replacement plot plan, replacement parking plan, preliminary grading plan, conceptual landscape plan and operation details information. Based on County staff's review the following revisions must be made to following plans. Additionally the County has requested that a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program be provided with the next submittal. Also, the Department of Public Works final requirements are attached for your reference.

Preliminary Grading Plans

The Department of Public Works has reviewed the preliminary grading plan received November 13, 2001 and has the following comments.

The preliminary grading plan shall:

11. 1. Show location of any proposed drainage devices, stormwater protection facilities, walls, cribbing, dams, or other protective devices to be constructed in connection with the proposed work.

2. Along with the Preliminary Grading Plan, provide a map showing the drainage area of land tributary to the site, the estimated runoff of the area served by any drains, and preliminary calculations of the carrying capacity of such drainage courses (natural and manmade). Indicate where the drainage goes from the landscaped drainage sump-pipe?

3. Provide hydrology and hydraulic calculations for major drainage courses (i.e. contributory watersheds over 25 acres to the parking lot area, not inflow to the reservoir upstream) including volume and velocity for 10 year and 100 year frequency storm.

Please note that these changes do not have to be approved prior to certification of the SEIR, but the changes must be approved prior to the County Planning Commission hearing. If you have any questions, please contact Department of Public Works, Project Manager Barry Beech at (858) 495-5804.

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

12. Public Resources Code Section 21081.6 requires the County to adopt a Mitigation Reporting and Monitoring Program for any project that is approved on the basis of an EIR for which findings are required under Section 21081 (a) (1). The program must be

11. Comment noted. Sweetwater Authority will revise the preliminary grading plan to the satisfaction of DPW prior to the County Planning Commission hearing.

12. The required Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program in the requested format has been provided in Chapter 8.

adopted for the changes to a project that the County has adopted, or made a condition of project approval, in order to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment. The program must be designed to ensure compliance during project implementation.

The Mitigation Monitoring Program must be comprised of all the environmental mitigation measures adopted for the project. The full requirements of the program (such as what is being monitored, method of frequency, who is responsible, and required time frames) should include the individual project conditions. Some examples of Mitigation Monitoring Programs are attached for your reference.

Conceptual Landscape Plan
The conceptual landscape plan has been deemed adequate and final condition requirements will be forwarded under separate cover.

PROJECT SCHEDULE: Your project is presently ahead of schedule. An updated copy of your project schedule is attached showing an estimated hearing/decision date of **January 25, 2001**. This date is approximately 14 weeks earlier than originally anticipated. County staff is aware of the project's priorities and anticipates that the proposed schedule should meet all of the Sweetwater Authority's deadlines.

SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS: Unless other agreements have been made with County staff, you must comply with the following submittal requirements in order to make adequate progress and to minimize the time and cost in the processing of your application:

1. Submit a copy of this letter.

2. Submit a separate letter that indicates specifically where and how each of the above comments is addressed in the revised information/documents. For simple comments it is acceptable to merely reference the document, page and paragraph number were the strikeout/underline revisions have been made. Otherwise, the rationale for the revisions (or lack of revisions) must be given.

3. Submit the following information and/or document(s) with the requested number of copies as specified. **The Project Number and/or Environmental Log Number must be clearly and visibly labeled on all submitted documents. All the document(s) must be in final format.**

INFORMATION/DOCUMENT	NO. OF COPIES	LEAD REVIEW DEPT./SECTION
Final SEIR and Technical Appendices certified by the Sweetwater Authority	14	DPLU – Resource
Notice of Determination	1	DPLU – Resource
Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program	3	DPLU – Resource

INFORMATION/DOCUMENT	NO. OF COPIES	LEAD REVIEW DEPT./SECTION
Preliminary Grading Plan (with supporting information)	5	DPLU – Resource/Current DPW

To assure timely cost-effective processing of your project, all items must be submitted concurrently and delivered to DPLU Zoning Counter at 5201 Ruffin Road, Suite B, San Diego, CA 92123.

RESUBMITTAL DUE DATE: In order to maintain adequate progress in processing of your project, the DPLU requires that all of the revisions/information requested in this letter be submitted in conformance with the above submittal requirements by **December 27, 2001**. Please note that an extension of this date may be granted at the discretion of the Director of the DPLU. To request an extension, submit a written request, signed and dated by the project applicant. The request must include the proposed new submittal date and a brief reasoning for the extension request. If the revised document(s) are not received, or an approved extension request is not granted by the Director by the above date, the Department may make a recommendation for denial of your project to the appropriate decision-making authority based upon inadequate progress pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15109.

The County of San Diego appreciates the opportunity to comment on the revised draft SEIR. If you have any questions please contact Jason Giffen, Project Environmental Analyst at the Department of Planning and Land Use at (858) 694-3720 or contact me at (858) 694-3690

Sincerely,

Joseph Farace, Project Manager
Department of Planning and Land Use

Attachments
- Route Locations Comments
-

cc: James L. Symth, Sweetwater Authority, P.O. Box 2328, 505 Garnett Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91912-2328
Affinis, Shadow Valley Center, 847 Jamacha Road, El Cajon, CA 92019
EDAW Inc., Jerry H. McLees, 1420 Kettner Blvd.; Suite 620, San Diego, CA 92101
Leighton and Associates, Geotechnical Consultants, 3934 Murphy Canyon Road, #B205, San Diego, CA 92123-4425

Linscott, Law and Greenspan Engineers, 1565 Hotel Circle South, Suite 310 San Diego, CA 92108
McMillan Biological Consulitng, P.O. Box 2328, Chula Vista, CA 91912-2328
Marquez & Associates Biological Consultants, 314 Second Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910
Barry L. Beech, DPW Project Manager, M.S. O336
Jason Giffen, Project Environmental Analyst, M.S.O650
John Peterson, CEQA Regulatory Manager, M.S.O650
File

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

INTRADEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

December 12, 2001

TO: Barry Beech, Project Management Team

FROM: Bob Goralka, Route Locations BG

SWEETWATER RESERVOIR RECREATION MASTER PLAN – SHORELINE FISHING PROGRAM

Route Locations staff has reviewed the following documents related to the Sweetwater Reservoir Shoreline Fishing Program:

1. Draft Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared by the Sweetwater Authority dated October 24, 2001
2. Traffic Impact Study (TIS) prepared by Linscott, Law, and Greenspan dated March 21, 2001.

The following are our comments:

EIR

13. • The EIR states (Pg. 1-2) that access to the project site would be served by an existing road that will be widened from 15-feet to 25-feet. The EIR should state whether this road will be a public or private road. The interim Public Road Standards requires a 28-foot wide road. The County's Private Road Standards require an improvement width of 24 feet and a graded width of 28 feet. It should be noted that exceptions to the road width requirements and Private Road Standards may be considered, but the exceptions would require approval by the Director of Public Works and the local Fire Protection District.

14. • A copy of the EIR should be submitted to Caltrans for their review and comments.

TIS

15. • The TIS should address the comments regarding the EIR that are applicable to the TIS.

16. • In the Existing Street System section, the TIS should include a description of the access road to the project site.

• The intersection at the junction of the project access driveway and San Miguel Road should be included in the intersection LOS analyses. An assessment of the

13. The access road from San Miguel Road to the proposed parking lot adjacent to the reservoir is proposed to be a 25-foot wide private road. Sweetwater Authority will request an exception from the graded width of 28 feet, with approval by the Director of Public Works, as suggested. This width has been reviewed and approved by the Bonita-Sunnyside Fire District.

14. A copy of the draft Supplement to the EIR was delivered to Caltrans on October 26, 2001. Pages 2-1 and 2-5 of the recirculated document address the July 19, 2001 letter from Caltrans.

15. The traffic consultant was contacted by Sweetwater Authority's Chief Engineer upon receipt of the DPW comments. The traffic Impact Study will be modified as required.

16. The "access road" to the project site is an approximately 10-foot wide private driveway. See comment #15.

17. intersection geometrics and traffic volumes should be provided in order to identify needed improvements at the intersection.

18. • The EIR states (Pg. 2-5) that there may be some reconstruction of the access road in order for the road to tie into the proposed entrance for Summit Park, due to the construction of the SR-125 freeway. The TIS should address the possible reconstruction of the access road and its relationship to the Summit Park entrance.

19. • The TIS figures show the project access driveway at a location that is further west than depicted in the EIR figures. The TIS and EIR should be consistent in their depiction of the access driveway along San Miguel Road. In addition, the TIS should address the adequacy of the intersection sight distance at the project access driveway.

20. • The traffic study should summarize and identify the project-related traffic to/from the SR-125 freeway and the SR-125 /San Miguel Road interchange. In addition, the traffic study should address the impact that traffic from the SR-125 freeway will have on San Miguel Road and on the project access driveway.

21. • The TIS should address emergency/secondary access to/from the project site.

If you have any questions concerning our comments, please call me at 694-3728.

BOB GORALKA
Project Manager

17. Currently the intersection is a private drive generating minimal trips. The majority of the project trips would be on Saturday and Sunday when traffic is anticipated to be reduced. According to the traffic analysis, "the project is calculated to have no significant traffic impacts and mitigation measures to provide additional capacity are not necessary." (TIS, page 20).

18. The proposed SR-125 would impact the project access road as described in the EIS/EIR by Caltrans This issued was raised in letters from Sweetwater Authority to Caltrans (August 16, 1989, August 6, 1990, August 11, 1994, and February 8, 1995). The Authority believes Caltrans is responsible for providing Sweetwater Authority with access to the south side of Sweetwater Reservoir, for maintenance access as well as for the proposed fishing program. Caltrans plans for SR-125 indicate an acceptable joint access to Summit Park and the Sweetwater Reservoir.

19. The observation that the figures in the traffic report show the entrance west of that shown in the SEIR is accurate. However, due to the schematic nature of the figures, and the barely perceptible difference at the small scale used in the traffic report, disclosure of this inaccuracy in the responses to comments should be sufficient. If necessary, TIS will be modified as requested.

20. The Authority believes Caltrans is responsible for the traffic analysis related to its SR-125 project.

21. The Bonita Sunnyside Fire District has approved the proposed access for this project.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA–HEALTH AND WELFARE AGENCY 1985701602 GRAY DAVIS, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
DRINKING WATER FIELD OPERATIONS BRANCH
1350 Front St, Room 2050
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101
(619) 525-4159
FAX (619) 525-4383

Clear 12/9/01

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DEC 30
STATE CLEARING HOUSE

November 28, 2001

State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

SWEETWATER AUTHORITY, SYSTEM NUMBER 3710025
SWEETWATER RESERVOIR RECREATION MASTER PLAN EIR

Dear State Clearinghouse:

22. The Drinking Water Field Operations Branch has reviewed the Environmental Impact Report for the Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan (Shoreline Fishing Program). Our office has no comments.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please call Randy Barnard at (619) 525-4354 or myself at (619) 525-4497.

Sincerely,

Brian Bernados

Brian Bernados, P.E
District Engineer

cc: San Diego County Environmental Health Services

H:\Systems\Sweetwater Authority\Plans\Other\DRAFT 20011128 EIR for shoreline fishing.doc

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www.consumerenergycenter.org/flex/index.html

22. Comment noted. No response necessary.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY GRAY DAVIS, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DISTRICT 11
P. O. BOX 85406, MS 50
SAN DIEGO, CA 92186-5406
PHONE (619) 688-6954
FAX (619) 688-4299

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December 11, 2001

11-SD-125 South

Ms. Troy Murphree
Sweetwater Authority
505 Garrett Avenue
Chula Vista, CA 91910

Dear Ms. Murphree:

Draft SEIR for the Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan Shoreline Fishing Program – SCH 1985101602

The California Department of Transportation (Department) District 11 comments are as follows:

- As mentioned on page 2-5 of the Draft SEIR, the design for State Route 125 (SR-125) shows a joint access "T" intersection that allows for connecting the Sweetwater Authority's proposed fishing facility access road with the proposed relocated entrance to Summit Meadow Campground. The Sweetwater Authority and the Department should meet to discuss the design for re-connecting the proposed fishing facility access road.

23.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Laurie Berman, SR-125 South Project Manager, at (619) 688-3631.

Sincerely,

L. Salazar

for BILL FIGGE, Chief
Development Review and Public Transportation Branch

23. Sweetwater Authority will meet with Caltrans.

Draft

SUPPLEMENT

TO THE
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
FOR THE
SWEETWATER RESERVOIR RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Shoreline Fishing Program

Lead Agency: Sweetwater Authority
(SWA W.O. A3210.0)

County of San Diego
Permit Number: MUP 01-012
Environmental Log No: 01-19-018

State Clearinghouse Number: 1985101602

Prepared by
Sweetwater Authority
505 Garrett Avenue
Chula Vista, CA 91910
(619) 420-1413

June 13, 2001
Revised: October 24, 2001

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter		Page
SUMMARY		S-1
1.0	PROJECT LOCATION, ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING, AND DESCRIPTION	1-1
1.1	Project Location	1-1
1.2	Project Background	1-1
1.3	Project Description	1-2
1.4	Project Objectives	1-4
1.5	Intended Uses of the SEIR	1-4
1.6	Environmental Setting	1-6
1.7	Consistency of Project with Applicable Regional and General Plans	1-8
2.0	SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS	2-1
2.1	Land Use/Community Character	2-1
2.2	Water Quality	2-8
2.3	Biological Resources	2-12
2.4	Public Services and Utilities	2-27
3.0	CUMULATIVE IMPACTS	3-1
4.0	PROJECT ALTERNATIVES	4-1
4.1	Road Access Relocation Alternative	4-1
4.2	Offsite Parking Alternative	4-1
4.3	No Project Alternative	4-2
5.0	LONG-TERM ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS	5-1
5.1	Growth Inducing Impacts	5-1
5.2	Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes Which Would Be Caused By The Proposed Project	5-1
6.0	ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS FOUND NOT TO BE SIGNIFICANT	6-1
6.1	Geology and Soils	6-1
6.2	Transportation and Circulation	6-2
6.3	Cultural Resources/Paleontology	6-2
6.4	Noise	6-2
6.5	Visual Resources	6-3
7.0	LIST OF EIR PREPARERS AND PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS CONTACTED	7-1
8.0	LIST OF MITIGATION MEASURES AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS	8-1
9.0	LIST OF REFERENCES	9-1

TABLES

S-1 Proposed Project Elements S-2
S-2 Comparison of Impacts and Mitigation, Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan, 1987 and 2001 ..... S-3
1.1 Project Elements 1-3
1.2 Matrix of Required Project Approvals/Permits 1-6
2.1 Relevant Sweetwater Community Plan Goals 2-6
2.2 Relevant Sweetwater Design Guidelines 2-7
2.3 Sensitive Species with Known or Potential Occurrence on the Sweetwater Authority Fishing Program Area 2-17
2.4 Habitat Impacts and Required Mitigation for the Sweetwater Authority Fishing Program Area 2-24

FIGURES

1.1 Regional Location 1-9
1.2 Project Vicinity on USGS 1-11
1.3 1985 Proposed Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan 1-13
1.4 1985 Proposed Sweetwater Reservoir San Miguel Recreation Area 1-15
1.5 Revised Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan Plot Plan 1-17
1.6 Proposed Landscape Plan 1-19
2.1 Project Vicinity 2-31
2.2 View from Public Lookout 2-33
2.3 Community Planning Areas 2-35
2.4 Project Relation to Proposed SR125 2-37
2.5 Vegetation and Rare Plants San Miguel Point – 1985 Survey 2-39
2.6 Biological Resources 2000-2001 with Project Overlay 2-41
2.7 Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District Annexation 2-43
4.1 Access Road Relocation Alternative with Biological Resources 4-3
4.2 Offsite Parking Alternative with Biological Resources 4-5

APPENDICES
(Under separate cover)

A Final EIR for the Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan

B Geology/ Soils

C Traffic/ Transportation Report

D Biological Survey for Threatened and Endangered Species

Marquez and Associates Biological Consultants. Sweetwater Authority Quino Checkerspot Butterfly Survey Report.

McMillan Biological Consulting. Survey Report for Rare Plant and Vernal Pool Surveys on a 150-acre Site at Sweetwater Reservoir, 2000.

McMillan Biological Consulting. Survey Report for Rare Plant and Vernal Pool Surveys at Sweetwater Reservoir, 2001.

Sweetwater Authority. California Gnatcatcher *(Polioptila californica californica)* Survey Report for the Proposed Sweetwater Reservoir Fishing and Recreation Program, Phase 1. Prepared by Pete Famolaro.

Native and Non-native Grassland Survey, Pete Famolaro 2001.

E Correspondence - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

F Cultural Resources

G Comments on Supplemental EIR, June 2001

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SUMMARY

Background

A Master Plan and EIR for Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation were prepared in the 1980s. A revised Master Plan that substantially reduced the project and its impacts to the environment was prepared in 2000-2001. As such, a Supplemental to the final EIR was prepared and circulated for public review in June 2001. During public review, the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), County of San Diego Department of Planning and Land Use (DPLU) and Department of Public Works (DPW), and the Sweetwater Community Planning Group and Trails Subcommittee submitted comments.

A number of issues have unfolded requiring revisions to the analysis provided in the June 2001 Supplemental EIR:

- State and Federally endangered species could not be avoided as proposed in the draft Supplemental EIR (June 2001).
- Responsible agency concerns about the adequacy of the document for approval of the MUP (County of San Diego) and annexation (LAFCO).
- Changes in the permitting of impacts to endangered species (Otay tarplant).
- Changes to the project.

The document was revised and recirculated for public review. Sweetwater Authority requested a shortened review from the State Clearinghouse in that the previous SEIR was previously submitted to the Clearinghouse. Public Review will be from October 12 through November 12, 2001.

Project Synopsis

The proposed Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan would provide public recreation on the southwestern shoreline of Sweetwater Reservoir. The objective of the project is to provide public access to the reservoir while minimizing water quality impacts to Sweetwater Reservoir, a municipal drinking water supply for 175,000 customers in National City, western Chula Vista and the unincorporated community of Bonita.

At high water, the program would provide public access along 2.5 miles of Sweetwater Reservoir. A minimum pool plus emergency storage, approximately one mile of shoreline would be accessible. The project would include the elements described in Table S-1.

Table S-1 - Proposed Project Elements

Proposed Use of Reservoir Lands
• Public access for shoreline fishing: from "deadline" to west of Orchard Cove (13,200 feet at high water). • Buoy lines. • Extension of water service to the reservoir lands through parcel #585-100-15 adjacent to 6503 San Miguel Road. • Parking lot for approximately 150 cars in gravel surfaced lot. • Runoff protection/Best Management Practices. • Landscaping with native trees and shrubs. • Signs and public bulletins. • Solid waste removal: 80 shoreline trash receptacles above high water every 150 to 200 feet. • Portable Restrooms: concrete bases every +/-500 feet for 23 portable restrooms and 3 wheelchair accessible restroom units. • Widen existing road to 25 feet in width from 6503 San Miguel Road to parking lot • Use of existing approximately 15-foot wide roads east of the parking lot for maintenance vehicles and trail purposes only. • Surface trails with decomposed granite. • Gravel pave 10-foot trails on San Miguel Point for wheelchair accessibility. • Fish habitat enhancement consisting of plastic piping submerged in the reservoir. • Existing and adaptive protection of environmentally sensitive areas. • Wheelchair access and float (pending grant acquisition). • Open Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, sunrise to sunset.
Proposed Reuse of Residential Parcel
• Extension of sewer to 6503 San Miguel Road. The property is within the Spring Valley Sanitation District but presently connected to a septic system. • Screened area for one large dumpster on the residential parcel. • Reuse of structures at 6503 San Miguel Road for caretaker's residence, office and concessions. • Grade 30 parking spaces adjacent to the concession area and surface with DG. • Construction of sewered public restrooms adjacent to the existing residence. • Use of existing driveway at 6503 San Miguel Road for project ingress and egress. Grade to 25 feet in width and surface with decomposed granite. • Fishing pier or float, wheelchair accessible.

Comparison of 1987 and 2001 Sweetwater Reservoir Master Plans

The following Table S-2 summarizes the changes to project impacts and mitigation measures from the 1987 Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan, that are proposed by the 2001 revisions. Implementation of the required mitigation measures will reduce all project impacts to a level below significant.

Table S-2 - Comparison of Impacts and Mitigation, Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan, 1987 and 2001

Issue	Approved Master Plan Impact	Approved FEIR Mitigation	2001 Master Plan Update Impact	2001 Mitigation/ Project Avoidance of Impacts
Land Use and Community Plan Compatibility	VDO Community Plan designates the site as an Impact Sensitive area permitting a residential density of 1 DU per 4, 8 or 20 acres, and regional park. Zoned A-70, Limited Agricultural Use does not permit recreational facilities similar to those proposed.	MUP or rezone from the County would be required to implement project.	Proposed site is entirely within the Sweetwater Community Planning area. The 3.76-acre "Thompson Property" was added to the proposed recreation area. The land use designation on reservoir land is "Impact Sensitive" and zoning is S-80, Recreational Use permitted by MUP. The Thompson Property is residential.	SWA will obtain a MUP from the County of San Diego DPLU. SWA will coordinate closely with the Sweetwater Planning Group.
Geology and Soils	Expansive soils are present on the site. Santiago Peak Volcanics may require blasting for utility installation. Potential impacts mitigated by standard engineering techniques.	A thorough soil investigation would be performed when grading and site plans are available.	Soils investigation (9/27/01) determined that expansive soils are located within the existing roadway that is proposed for widening. Severe potential for sulfate attack to concrete in contact with soil, moderate to severe potential for corrosion of buried metal conduits. Localized concretions and cemented layers within the Mission Valley Formation may require heavy ripping during excavation of deeper trenches.	Removal of 12 to 24 inches of soil within the proposed roadway, replacement and recompaction.
Water Quality	Erosion and sedimentation during construction. Impacts from vehicle oil, other deposits on the parking lot, and boat washing effluent. Boating and fishing would discourage some of the birds and slightly decrease contamination from this source. DHS would require the main recreation area to be encircled with a drain-culvert designed to capture runoff and channel runoff by gravity ditch maintained by the County and discharging below Sweetwater Dam.	1) Expansion of existing bacterial sampling program to closely monitor total coliform and fecal coliform. 2) Implementation of public conduct and sanitation rules and regulations and enforcement thereof. 3) A perimeter drain system to capture runoff from the parking lots. 4) The restriction of human and boat access from the eastern end of the reservoir and deadline area.	Construction-related erosion and sedimentation. Impacts from vehicle deposits. Boating eliminated. Public access has been reduced to 2.5 miles of the shoreline on the southwest portion of the reservoir.	Best Management Practices to avoid erosion and sedimentation. Installation of filters and detention basins within the parking area. SWA caretaker on duty during hours of operation to discourage activities detrimental to water quality.
Transportation and Circulation	Level of Service (LOS) on local roads is lower than usually accepted, but project would not degrade LOS further. Potential impacts mitigated to below a level of significance with design: Sufficient parking and queuing space provided; access road to public road standards; adequate sight distance and signage; adequate space for vehicle turn around at locked gate.	No mitigation required.	The facility would be open Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays only. None of the affected roadways and intersections would exceed LOS D due to project traffic. Based on the 2001 LL&G analysis and the County of San Diego significance criteria, it is not anticipated that the project would have significant traffic impacts. During the first few weeks of operation, the facility would generate unusually high traffic counts.	None required. Opening parking would be accommodated by shared use of Summit Park, the Thompson Property, and the Southdike landfill, as necessary. Currently, there is no reasonable public transportation to the reservoir vicinity. SWA will coordinate with the local transit systems to determine whether a National City-Spring Valley link would be viable.
Mixed Native and Non-Grrassland	Isolated stands of native bunch grasses and associated herbs such as blue-eyed grass. Significance not stated.	Post vernal pools and grasslands as rare plant habitat preserve.	Vegetation community redescribed with updated surveys. Removal of 1.35 acres not containing vernal pools or endangered species.	Permanent protection of 2.7 acres (2:1 replacement) of similar habitat on SWA land. Area selected will be compatible with future JWA NCCP mitigation bank areas.
Mixed Native Grassland and Broken Sage Scrub	N/A	N/A	Vegetation community described with updated surveys. Removal of 4.35 acres not containing vernal pools or endangered species.	Permanent protection of 8.7 acres (2:1 replacement) of similar habitat on SWA land. Area selected will be compatible with future JWA NCCP mitigation bank areas.
Non-Native Grassland	N/A	N/A	Vegetation community described with updated surveys. Removal of 2.91 acres not containing vernal pools or endangered species.	Permanent protection of 2.91 acres (1:1 replacement) of similar habitat on SWA land. Area selected will be compatible with future JWA NCCP mitigation bank area.

Issue	Approved Master Plan Impact	Approved FEIR Mitigation	2001 Master Plan Update Impact	2001 Mitigation/ Project Avoidance of Impacts
Riparian	Mitigated with project design. Access prohibited.	No further mitigation required.	The project would be limited to 2.5 miles of the southwest shoreline of the reservoir.	None required.
Vernal Pool Complex	The destruction of vernal pool habitats has brought many pool plants to critically low population sizes. The pools, located on the south side of the reservoir in 1978, lacked vernal pool associated plants with the exception of Navarretia fossalis, some of which could not be relocated during 1980s surveys. The project would cause potential long-term degradation of the area by increased activities on the south shore.	Post vernal pools and grasslands as rare plant habitat preserve, stop equestrian activity in the grassland-vernal pool preserve, controlled burning of grassland (mitigation not agreed to by SWA).	Vernal pool complex was redescribed with updated surveys. Project impacts involve 1.17 acres of vernal pool complex, covering mixed native and non-native grasslands and broken sage scrub areas not described above. Within the complex area, 2 basins of approximately 200 S.F. will be affected. The 2000-01 biological survey identified the presence of Federal and State listed San Diego fairy shrimp in some of the onsite pools. However, no fair shrimp were located in the impacted pools in 2000-01 surveys.	Protection and enhancement of 5.85 acres (5:1) existing vernal pool area onsite, including creation of comparable basin area (approx. 300 S.F.) A vernal pool restoration plan will be approved by the wildlife agencies prior to project implementation. The area will be permanently protected and will be selected in an area that is compatible with the future JWA NCCP.
Otay tarplant	N/A	N/A	Surveys for Otay tarplant were conducted in 2000 and 2001. Project impacts will include 1.44 acres of Otay tarplant habitat, occurring within mixed native and non-native grassland and broken sage scrub areas of described above.	Protection and enhancement of 5.76 acres (4:1) of Otay tarplant habitat on site. A tarplant restoration plan will be approved by the wildlife agencies prior to project implementation. The area will be permanently protected and will be selected in an area that is compatible with future JWA NCCP.
Intermittent Drainage	N/A	N/A	The intermittent drainage was described under the updated surveys. The project would affect approx. 60 S.F. through construction of the trail. Additionally, improvements to the access road (i.e. culvert pipe replacement) crossing could potentially affect the drainage.	Mitigate trail impacts by creation of additional basin area (180 S.F., 3:1) under the vernal pool restoration plan. The vernal pool restoration plan will be approved by the wildlife agencies prior to project implementation. Avoid impacts from road improvements by working within existing road limits and confining construction material from entering the natural drainage bottom.
Cigarette generated Fires	Inland sage scrub and the cactus element of the vegetation are not favored by continual burning.	Controlled burning of grassland –vernal pools would eliminate cigarette generated fire problems. This was not agreed to by SWA. 10-15' buffers around parking and roadsides with low flammability, drought resistant plants such as *atriplex Baccharis* and *Iva*. Recommend transplant of *ferocactus viredescens*.	Signage, compliance with fire district regulations, and limiting smoking to within the parking area would be included in the project. Not considered significant.	None required.
Mammals	Significant adverse impact to sensitive mammals: mountain lion and mule deer. Mitigated by project design.	Prohibition of public access to east end of reservoir.	Access will be limited to the southwestern shoreline of the reservoir.	None required.
Amphibians and Reptiles	Impacts to sensitive species, including pond turtle, orange-throated whiptail, and San Diego horned lizard. Mitigated to below a level of significance by project design.	Restriction of public access.	Not considered significant due to restricted access, rules and regulations, and education signs.	None required.
Birds	Sensitive birds which use the reservoir for nesting and breeding include western grebe, northern harrier, red-shouldered hawk, least tern, willow	Significant impacts to western grebe due to boating activities. Boat constraints and east end restrictions would reduce impacts. Impact to all	Due to the modest nature of the proposal, significant impacts to birds are not anticipated. Boating would not be included, public access	None required.

Issue	Approved Master Plan Impact	Approved FEIR Mitigation	2001 Master Plan Update Impact	2001 Mitigation/ Project Avoidance of Impacts
	flycatcher, least Bell's vireo. Cactus wren, black-tailed gnatcatcher and grasshopper sparrow are known to nest in grassland and inland sage scrub in the area. Impacts would include elimination of approximately 34 acres of habitat and disturbance by humans. Proposed restricted access precludes significant impacts to most species.	avian species fully mitigated by limiting use of reservoir to 3 days per week. (Mitigation not agreed to by SWA).	would be limited 3 day per week and to a 10-100' swath of shoreline above high water; Additional native trees will provide raptor perches. Other native landscaping to provide additional avian habitat.	
Fish and Sport Fishing	There are no native fish in the reservoir. Introduced fish include large mouth black bass, crappie, brown bullhead, threadfin shad, golden shiner, western mosquito fish, carp, and green sunfish. Proposed stocking of catfish and trout. DFG regulates fishing activities and would develop a fisheries management program in cooperation with SWA. No significant impact.	The project would comply with all DFG regulations. No further mitigation is required	No fish stocking is proposed. Catch and release will be encouraged.	None required
Noise	Existing noise levels are 45 dBA, with occasional levels of 55 dBA due to aircraft. Although there would be increased noise levels due to boating activities, project complies with California Harbor and Navigation Code, San Diego County Zoning Regulations, and the San Diego County General Plan Noise Element.	None	Boating would not be included in the project.	None required.
Law Enforcement	Served by San Diego County Sheriff's Department, which cannot be expected to enforce rules and regulations of Sweetwater Authority.	Provide two reservoir patrolmen with "peace officer" status on duty at all times that the reservoir is open for public use.	Sale or use of alcoholic beverages prohibited. SWA staff would be onsite during hours of operation and coordinate with Sheriff if problems occur.	None required.
Fire Protection	Fire protection provided by California Department of Forestry (CDF), Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District sphere of influence.	Annexation to the Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District.	Public use of the area would require additional fire safety services.	Annexation to the Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District.
Water	Facility would require 2,000 gallons per day, the equivalent of 3 dwelling units, not significant.	None after hook up to OWD and compliance with fire district flow requirements.	Total of monthly water usage: Landscaping San Miguel Point: 31,000 gallons, reduced by 50% after three years. Concession/office/residence & public restrooms: 100,000 gallons.	Service provided by a 1" meter from Otay Water District through an out of district service agreement; compliance with fire district flow requirements.
Sewer	Less than significant with annexation to Spring Valley Sanitation District.	None after annexation to the Spring Valley Sanitation District.	Connect concession office building to Spring Valley Sanitation District.	None
Solid Waste	Solid waste collection is provided by the County of San Diego. Impact on these services would be less than significant.	None required.	Solid waste collection privatized. Impact on landfill capacity cumulatively significant. AB 939 (1989) required substantial waste reduction in County.	Concessionaire would be precluded from using styrofoam containers. Receptacles for recyclables provided at the concession/office building.
Visual Resources/ Topographic Alteration	Project visible from a small portion of the viewshed from Dictionary Hill, La Presa, and Jamacha Boulevard. Less than significant impacts.	None required.	Up to 150 parked cars 3 days/week, varying numbers of individuals on shoreline. Views to landscaped parking area from lookout above Summit Park less than significant.	Project landscaping with native plants and trees will minimize visual impacts. Compliance with Sweetwater Design Guidelines.

Project Alternatives

The only alternative that would reduce vernal pool impacts any further would be to fill or bridge the inlet adjacent to the existing road. The cost of bridging the reservoir would be prohibitive and preclude construction of the project. Filling of a portion of the reservoir would require an extensive permit process and reduce the capacity of the reservoir. In that optimized containment of water is the purpose of Sweetwater Reservoir, the fill option is not an acceptable alternative.

In order to avoid endangered Otay tarplant, an alternative providing offsite-parking would be required. This would preclude use of the site by members of the public who are unable to walk over a mile to the shoreline. Electric carts could transport public requiring a ride, but the cost could not be covered by available funding, an important criteria to the development of the project.

The no project alternative would not meet the basic objective of the project, which is to provide recreational fishing for Sweetwater Authority customers.

Areas of Controversy

The Sweetwater Reservoir is between two communities, Spring Valley on the north and Bonita (Sweetwater Community Planning Area) on the south. The Sweetwater Community and California Department of Health Services (CDHS) are concerned that opening the reservoir to the public would impact the drinking water quality. The Sweetwater Community Planning Group is adamant about maintaining the rural character of the area, trails, and minimizing traffic. The Sweetwater Trails Subcommittee plans and maintains trail access throughout the community and has requested that the proposed fishing project facilitate trail access. The Spring Valley Community is not within the Sweetwater Authority service area, but has long recommended that the fishing facilities be located on the north shore of the reservoir, within the Spring Valley Community.

Issues to be Resolved by the Decision-Making Body

As the Lead Agency, Sweetwater Authority Board of Directors is the decision making body for the project. They will certify the SEIR and approve the project. The project will then be heard by the County Planning Commission for approval of the Major Use Permit. Subsequently, LAFCO will consider annexation to the Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District.

1.0 PROJECT LOCATION, ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING, AND DESCRIPTION

1.1 Project Location

Sweetwater Reservoir is located in the southwestern portion of San Diego County between the urbanized community of Spring Valley to the north and the rural community of Bonita to the southwest. The reservoir is approximately eight miles southeast of downtown San Diego (Figure 1.1).

The proposed project would be located on the southwest shoreline of Sweetwater Reservoir in an area known as San Miguel and La Nacion Points in the unincorporated community of Bonita. The site is located within Township 17 South, Range 1 West Section 16 and an unsectioned portion (formerly part of Rancho Jamacho) on the USGS 7.5' National City and Jamul Mountains Quadrangles (Figure 1.2).

1.2 Project Background

Area voters have supported the concept of recreation at Sweetwater Reservoir since the 1970s when Sweetwater Authority was formed pursuant to the Joint Powers Agreement of 1972, amended in 1977 and 1990, between the City of National City and the South Bay Irrigation District (SBID). Sweetwater Authority's primary mission was and is to supply a safe, reliable drinking water supply to western Chula Vista, National City and the unincorporated community of Bonita. Due to public support for a fishing program at Sweetwater Reservoir, the Authority embarked on recreation planning in the early 1980s. In the 1980s, Sweetwater Authority prepared *Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan - Recreational Fishing Program* (Orville Ball and Associates, 1985) and Environmental Impact Report (Nasland, 1987) (Appendix A).

Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Planning in the 1980s: Figure 1.3 depicts the project as approved in 1987. The project consisted of the following elements: a fish stocking program, fishing facilities at San Miguel Point, an ecological area at the eastern end of Sweetwater Reservoir, a restricted area adjacent to Sweetwater Dam, and the prohibition of access to the southern shore east of Orchard Cove and the northern shoreline. The fishing facilities were to have required grading and disturbance of 34 acres on San Miguel Point above the high water line (239 feet above mean sea level - MSL). Facilities were to also include an 80- to100-foot fishing float, 100 rental boats, a small shaded rest area, and parking for 250 vehicles with access from San Miguel Road. Four small buildings were to be constructed, including an entrance kiosk, a concession stand, restrooms/fish cleaning facility and a small office/storage building. No dredging or filling of Sweetwater Reservoir was planned. Figure 1.4 depicts a close up of the San Miguel fishing area from the 1985 Master Plan. The Final EIR for the Master Plan (March 30, 1987) was certified by the Sweetwater Authority Board of Directors on May 13, 1987 (Appendix B). Due to a lack of outside funds to implement the plan, the project was not approved.

Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Planning in the 1990s: Recreation at Sweetwater Reservoir was reevaluated in 1998 by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) as a means of

mitigating impacts of proposed State Route 125 (SR125) to public parklands. At that time, Caltrans approached the San Diego County Department of Parks and Recreation, SANDAG, and Sweetwater 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. Marum and Associates, with assistance from Keyser Marston Associates, Inc. (KMA) and Pountney and Associates, modified the site plan and provided a *Market and Financial Feasibility Report, Sweetwater Reservoir Fishing Facility* in June 1998 using SANDAG 2015 projections (Appendix C). Through this feasibility analysis and communications with Sweetwater 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 Sweetwater 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 SR125 park impacts at Sweetwater Reservoir.

1.3 Project Description

Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Planning in the 2000s: Within the last few years, the State of California and the County of San Diego have provided grants to initiate fishing at Sweetwater Reservoir and so a recreation program at the reservoir is being revisited. The current proposal would be located in the same general area as the 1987 proposal.

The project would focus on shoreline fishing, hiking, birding, and related activities. The size and scope has been reduced from the 1987 proposal to minimize environmental and water quality impacts of the project. A 3.76-acre residential parcel at 6503 San Miguel Road was purchased by Sweetwater Authority in 1992. The driveway and residence on the property would serve as the project access and office/concession/caretaker's building. Sewered public restrooms consisting of wheelchair accessible, separate male and female facilities would be constructed adjacent to the building. The driveway would be widened to 25-feet and extended to intersect the existing unpaved roadway on the reservoir land. The intersected roadway would also be widened from 15 to 25 feet to accommodate two-way traffic and would extend approximately one-half mile to a 150-car parking lot. The parking lot and road would be surfaced with an all-weather material e.g., decomposed granite). Native landscaping including locally found trees would be provided, minimally within and around the parking lot and eventually along the shoreline.

The western end of the fishing access would begin at the "deadline" or public health setback, calculated to be about 2,500 feet upstream from the intake tower at Sweetwater Dam. Access would continue to the east, just past a grove of eucalyptus trees, approximately 2.5 miles at high water. Portable toilets and trash receptacles would be located along the shoreline at intervals required by California Department of Health Services (DHS). Portable toilets would consist of plastic shells with 35 to 40 gallon plastic tanks. These would be anchored to concrete pads and spill containment would be provided at each portable restroom. Sweetwater Authority would conform to all DHS regulations to ensure that the portable restrooms would not pollute surface or reservoir waters. Trash receptacles would be placed at 150 to 200 foot intervals as required by DHS. The trash receptacles would be 30-gallon drums with hardware that slides over a post in order to keep the cans upright. The cans would be padlocked to the posts and a dome type lid would be chained to each can.

Wheelchair access to the shoreline at high water would be provided from the parking area via a trail to a lookout point. A fishing pier or float would be constructed when funding becomes available. A fish habitat enclosure would also be placed in Sweetwater Reservoir, constructed of polyvinyl-chloride pipe and hung from a buoy. A caretaker would move the portable habitat enclosure in order to maintain the fish habitat at the appropriate water depth according to the fluctuating water level of the reservoir.

Water service to the site would be obtained via 2,700 linear feet of 3- or 4-inch diameter PVC pipe connected to the existing Otay Water District (OWD) service lateral serving the former Thompson residence. The new onsite pipeline would be buried within a four-foot deep trench in the existing roadway to San Miguel Point. Service from OWD would be temporary until the completion of a Sweetwater Authority water tank in the vicinity, at which time service would be transferred to Sweetwater Authority and OWD service would be discontinued. The water would provide irrigation for landscaping. Figure 1.5 is a reduced copy of the updated plot plan for the project and Figure 1.6 is a reduced copy of the landscape plan. Table 1.1 lists the components of the proposed project.

Table 1.1 - Project Elements

Proposed Use of Reservoir Lands
• Public access for shoreline fishing: from "deadline" to west of Orchard Cove (13,200 feet at high water).
• Buoy lines.
• Extension of water service to the reservoir lands through parcel #585-100-15 adjacent to 6503 San Miguel Road.
• Parking lot for approximately 150 cars in gravel surfaced lot.
• Runoff protection/Best Management Practices.
• Landscaping with native trees and shrubs.
• Signs and public bulletins.
• Solid waste removal: 80 shoreline trash receptacles above high water every 150 to 200 feet.
• Portable Restrooms: concrete bases every +/-500 feet for 23 portable restrooms and 3 wheelchair accessible restroom units.
• Widen existing road to 25 feet in width from 6503 San Miguel Road to parking lot
• Use of existing approximately 15-foot wide roads east of the parking lot for maintenance vehicles and trail purposes only.
• Surface trails with decomposed granite.
• Gravel pave 10-foot trails on San Miguel Point for wheelchair accessibility.
• Fish habitat enhancement consisting of plastic piping submerged in the reservoir.
• Existing and adaptive protection of environmentally sensitive areas.
• Wheelchair access and float (pending grant acquisition).
• Open Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, sunrise to sunset.
Proposed Reuse of Residential Parcel
• Extension of sewer to 6503 San Miguel Road. The property is within the Spring Valley Sanitation District but presently connected to a septic system.
• Screened area for one large dumpster on the residential parcel.
• Reuse of structures at 6503 San Miguel Road for caretaker's residence, office and concessions.
• Grade 30 parking spaces adjacent to the concession area and surface with decomposed granite.
• Construction of sewered, wheelchair accessible public restrooms adjacent to the existing residence.
• Use of existing driveway at 6503 San Miguel Road for project ingress and egress. Grade to 25 feet in width and surface with decomposed granite.

1.4 Project Objectives

The objective of the project 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 customers.

1.5 Intended Uses of the SEIR

This *Supplement to the FEIR for the Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan* (SEIR) has been prepared to supplement and update the Final EIR for the project and to allow the project to be modified in response to ***changed circumstances and new information*** without requiring that the environmental review process begin completely anew. The purpose of this document is to inform the public and decision-makers about the revised project, potential environmental impacts that could result from the project's implementation, and means to avoid or mitigate potential impacts.

The changed circumstances are the state and federal listing of species that could occur on the site. The California gnatcatcher is listed as threatened, the Quino checkerspot butterfly and the San Diego fairy shrimp have been federally listed as endangered, and the Otay tarplant is state endangered and federally threatened. Because the proposed recreation facility site includes potential habitat for these species, updated biological surveys were required.

An additional changed circumstance is the Natural Communities Conservation Planning that began in 1991 under the state's Natural Community Conservation Planning Act. That act differs from the federal and state Endangered Species Acts in that the primary objective is to conserve natural communities at the ecosystem level as opposed to individual species level, while accommodating compatible land use.

In December 1996, the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) approved the Multi-Species Conservation Plan (MSCP), a habitat plan that encompasses 582,000 acres and establishes a 172,000-acre preserve system in southwestern San Diego County. The MSCP area encompasses planning subareas in various stages of plan development. Approved subarea plans to date include the La Mesa Subarea Plan, Poway Subarea Plan, City of San Diego Subarea Plan, and the County of San Diego Subarea Plan. Other jurisdictions within the MSCP Subregion that have not initiated the development of Subarea plans include Imperial Beach, Lemon Grove, and National City.

The proposed Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Facility is within the MSCP boundaries. However, Sweetwater Authority chose to exclude its land from the MSCP and prepare a Joint Water Agencies Natural Communities Conservation Program (JWA NCCP) with other water districts. The JWA Subregional Plan describes how certain water districts in San Diego County will manage their lands to conserve natural habitats and species while continuing to provide mandated water services. The Subregional Plan will serve as an umbrella document for the Subarea Plans of four water districts: Helix Water District, Padre Dam Municipal Water District, Santa Fe Irrigation District, and Sweetwater Authority. The JWA NCCP planning process was initiated in January 1996. Approval is anticipated in 2002.

Because the JWA NCCP has not been adopted, approval of take of sensitive species would be through CDFG or USFWS (further described in Section 1.6.1).

1.5.1 Decision to Recirculate the SEIR as a Subsequent EIR

The current proposal is a more modest shoreline fishing program than the plan proposed in the 1980s. The project as described in the June 2001 Supplement to the FEIR reduced some significant impacts described in the 1985 Master Plan. As described earlier, the reason to prepare a supplement to the 1987 FEIR is changed conditions in biological resources and their management, so staff determined that minor changes to the earlier document would be adequate. As the Lead Agency, Sweetwater Authority may choose to prepare a Supplement to an EIR, rather than a Subsequent EIR, if any of the conditions described in Section 8.02 of the Sweetwater Authority Local Guidelines would require the preparation of a Subsequent EIR and only minor additions or changes would be necessary to make the previous EIR adequately apply to the project in the changed situation. The Supplement to the EIR need contain only the information necessary to make the previous EIR adequate for the project as revised [Section 8.03 of the Sweetwater Authority Local Guidelines and CEQA Guidelines Section 15163 (a)(2)]. Accordingly, a draft Supplemental EIR dated June 2001 was circulated for public review from June 15, 2001 through July 30, 2001. Comments were received from LAFCO, Caltrans, the County of San Diego, the Sweetwater Planning Group, and the Sweetwater Trails Subcommittee.

However, a number of issues have unfolded to change the analysis provided in the June 2001 Supplemental EIR:

- Impacts to state and federally endangered/threatened species could not be avoided as proposed in the draft Supplemental EIR (June 2001).
- Responsible agency concerns about the adequacy of the document for approval of the MUP (County of San Diego) and annexation (LAFCO).
- Changes to the proposed project.

The project analyzed in the June 2001 Draft SEIR had been redesigned to avoid the extensive populations of the state and federally endangered Otay tarplant populations found on site in the year 2000 biological surveys. However, the June 2001 biological surveys, which were completed subsequent to the beginning of public review, found substantially more tarplant than in the previous year. As such, the Otay tarplant could not be avoided as proposed in the draft SEIR. Further, the County of San Diego is the agency responsible for Major Use Permit approval. Both the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Department of Planning and Land Use (DPLU) raised substantial concerns about the adequacy of the document for use by the County Planning Commission in its decision-making process for the MUP approval (letters dated July 11 and July 12, 2001). During circulation of the document, LAFCO requested additional analysis to enable LAFCO staff to use the SEIR sufficiently to analyze the required annexations (letter dated July 25, 2001). Finally, the project has been modified to delete the concession building and sewered restrooms on San Miguel Point, thus eliminating the need for annexation to the Spring Valley Sanitation District. Table 1-2 provides a list of discretionary actions that will be based on the information in this document.

Table 1.2 - Matrix of Required Project Approvals/Permits

Certification of the SEIR	Sweetwater Authority Governing Board
Approval of the project	Sweetwater Authority Governing Board
Approval of a Major Use Permit	County of San Diego Planning Commission
Approval of "take" of sensitive species	CDFG and USF&WS
Authorization to conduct public recreation	California Department of Health Services
Inter-agency service agreement	Otay Water District
Annexation of San Miguel Point reservoir lands to the Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District	LAFCO

Previous approvals include the following:

- Certification of Final Environmental Impact Report, May 27, 1987.
- *Resolution of the San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission Approving the Proposed Application of the South Bay Irrigation District to Provide Additional Functions: Park and Recreation Services*, November 1984

1.6 Environmental Setting

The project area is at the juncture of the coastal plains and foothills in southwestern San Diego County, with a climate characterized as semiarid steppe. Average annual temperatures range from 40 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit (F) with annual rainfall averaging 10 inches. Rolling topography ranges from 239 to 290 feet above mean sea level (MSL) within the project site along the shoreline of Sweetwater Reservoir. East of the site is San Miguel Mountain with an elevation of 2,565 feet MSL. Habitats include mixed native and non-native grassland, vernal pool complex, broken sage scrub, coastal sage scrub, and some scattered eucalyptus trees. The site is within the southwestern San Diego County MSCP preserve system described above. Surrounding land use is rural residential and wildlife preserve. Regional access is provided via SR54, Sweetwater Road, Bonita Road, and San Miguel Road.

1.6.1 Regulatory Setting

Federal Endangered Species Act

The Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 (FESA) to provide protection to threatened and endangered species. Conservation measures to protect listed species under the FESA have often been based on preservation or enhancement of ecosystems that support threatened and endangered species. There are two federal listed species on the project site, the federal endangered San Diego fairy shrimp and the federal threatened Otay tarplant. A third listed species, the federal threatened coastal California gnatcatcher has been observed using the site but is not known to breed onsite.

Listed plant species are not afforded the same protection under the FESA as listed wildlife species are. Impacts to the Otay tarplant alone would not require a formal consultation with the USFWS (Susan Wynn, personal communication with Pete Famolaro). If, however, impacts to the San Diego fairy shrimp and/or coastal California gnatcatcher do arise, or there is a federal nexus associated with

this project (i.e., issuance of an U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) permit where the ACOE establishes jurisdiction over an area inhabited by the Otay tarplant), a formal Section 7 consultation would be required. Conversely, if the ACOE does not establish jurisdiction to federally endangered species, USFWS could consult on any identified project impacts to federally listed species under Section 10 of the FESA.

California Endangered Species Act

The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) parallels FESA. As a responsible agency, the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) has regulatory authority over state-listed endangered and threatened species. One state listed species occurs onsite, the state endangered Otay tarplant. Impacts to this species would require a Section 2081 take permit in lieu of a formal consultation with USFWS and issuance of a Biological Opinion.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 is an international agreement between the United States, Canada and Mexico. The MBTA protects all common wild birds found in the United States except the house sparrow, starling, feral pigeon, and resident game birds such as pheasant, grouse, California quail, and wild turkeys. Resident game birds are managed separately by each state. A reference list of migratory game birds is found in Title 50, *Code of Federal Regulations*, Part 10. The MBTA makes it unlawful for anyone to kill, capture, collect, possess, buy, sell, trade, ship, import, or export any migratory bird including feathers, parts, nests, or eggs. Generally, the resource agencies, i.e., USFWS and CDFG, require that no clearing of habitat occur during the breeding season of most wild birds. This period usually extends from February 1 through August 31.

Clean Water Act

Activities within wetlands and other waters throughout the United States are regulated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Pursuant to Section 404, the ACOE regulates activities that result in the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. In accordance with the definition contained in the Code of Federal Regulation (33 CFR Part 328), the reservoir and intermittent streams on the site are considered to be waters of the U.S. and as such would be under the jurisdiction of ACOE. Impacts to these resources would require issuance of a permit pursuant to Section 404 of the CWA.

In the past, vernal pools were considered isolated wetlands under the jurisdiction of the ACOE. However, in a recent Supreme Court decision, *Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*, isolated, non-navigable, intrastate waters may no longer be subject to the jurisdiction of the CWA. The current ACOE policy is to make a discretionary decision regarding its jurisdiction over vernal pools on a case-by-case basis. Generally, the ACOE establishes jurisdiction over isolated intrastate waters if some hydrologic connectivity, between these isolated wetlands and jurisdictional waters can be established. If the ACOE determines that the vernal pools on Sweetwater Reservoir property are under its jurisdiction, a permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act would be required for impacts to the vernal pools.

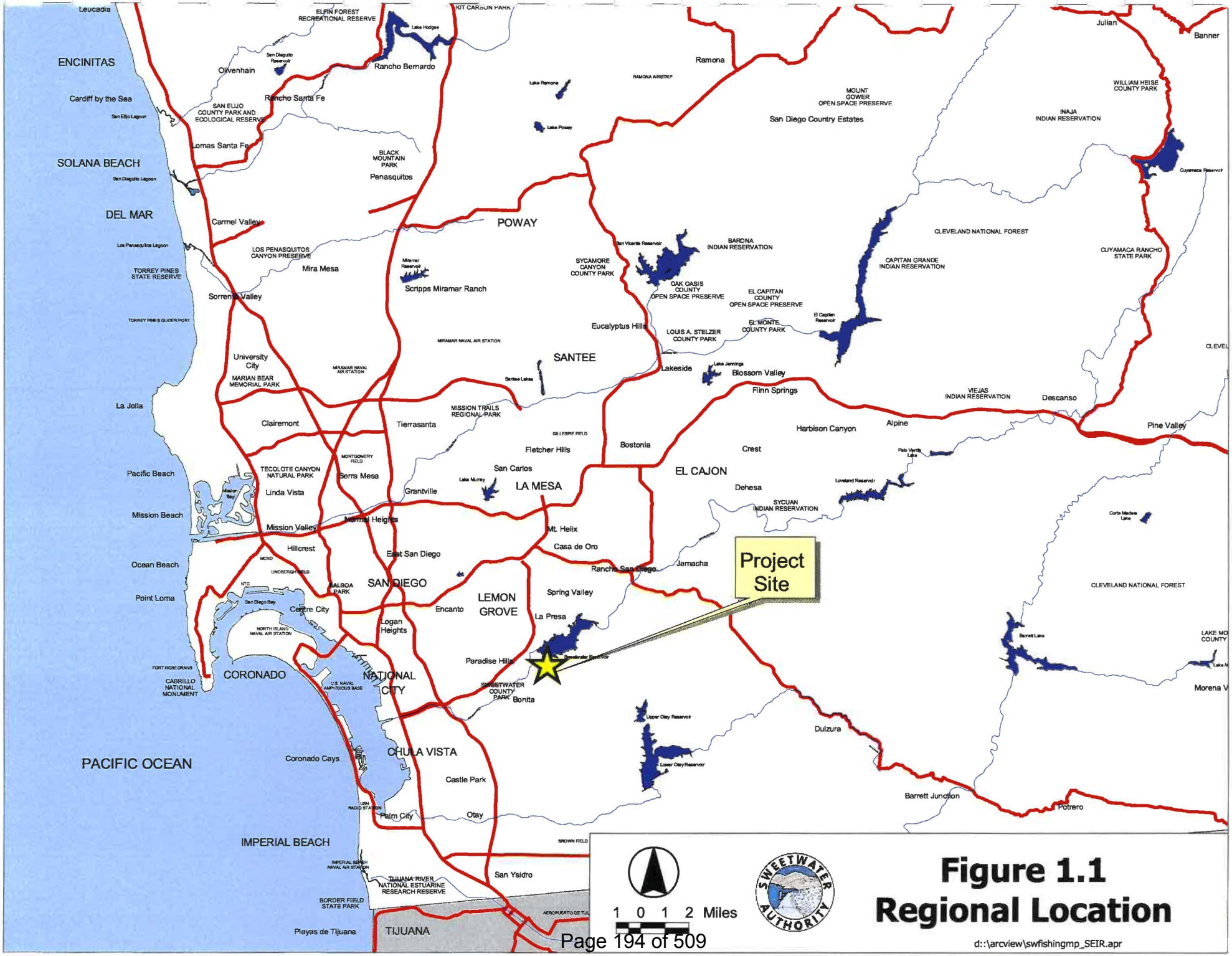
Section 401 of the CWA requires that the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S. does not violate state water quality standards. ACOE may not issue a permit under Section 404 until the applicant has obtained a certification that the proposed activity does not violate state water quality standards. If the proposed project requires issuance of an ACOE permit under Section 404, then a 401 Certification from the State Regional Water Quality Control Board would also be required.

California Fish and Game Code

Pursuant to Sections 1600-1607 of the California Fish and Game Code, the CDFG regulates activities that would alter the flow, bed, channel, or bank of streams and lakes. The CDFG is a wildlife resources agency that regulates fish and wildlife rather than wetlands, thus restricting its jurisdiction to wildlife habitats and vegetation associated with lakes and streams. Alterations to lakes and steams and associated CDFG jurisdictional areas may be permitted through the issuance of a Streambed Alteration Agreement under Section 1601 or 1603 of the CDFG Code. As such, impacts to the Sweetwater Reservoir and intermittent streams onsite may require issuance of a Streambed Alteration Agreement from the CDFG.

1.7 Consistency of Project with Applicable Regional and General Plans

The proposed project is located within the boundary of the Sweetwater Community Plan, a local planning area of the San Diego County General Plan, and is subject to compliance with County land use policies and its zoning and land development regulations. The project is intended to provide public fishing opportunities to the local community in a manner that protects Sweetwater Reservoir from adverse effects of runoff and urban pollutants. Continued operation of Sweetwater Reservoir water treatment facilities and protection of the local water supply are supported by the Sweetwater and Spring Valley community plans and would be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin (San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board). No activities associated with the proposed project would affect local community, city, or regional growth projections or land use planning efforts.


Project Site
1 0 1 2 Miles
Figure 1.1
Regional Location
d::\arcview\swfishingmp_SEIR.apr

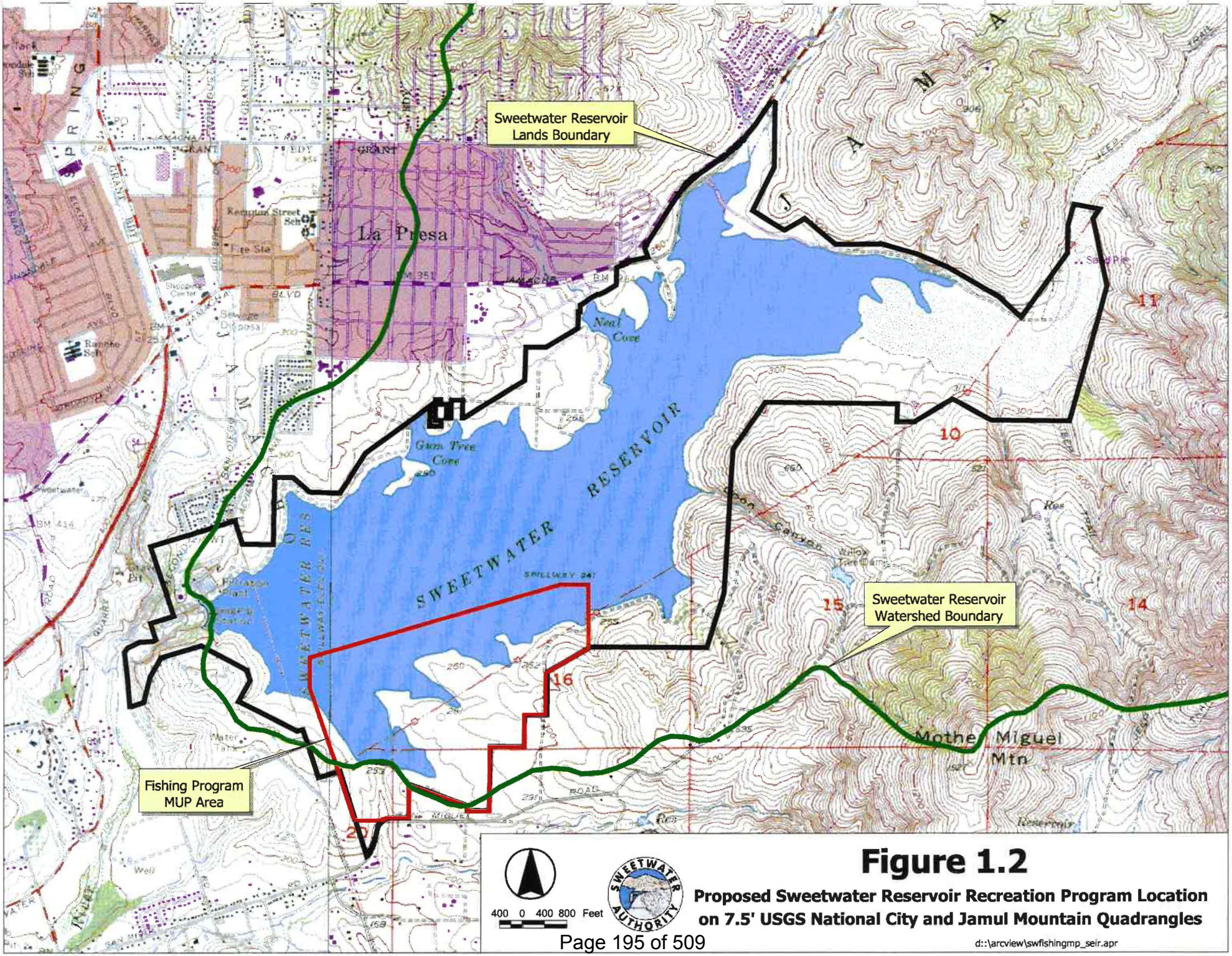


Figure 1.2

Proposed Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Program Location on 7.5' USGS National City and Jamul Mountain Quadrangles

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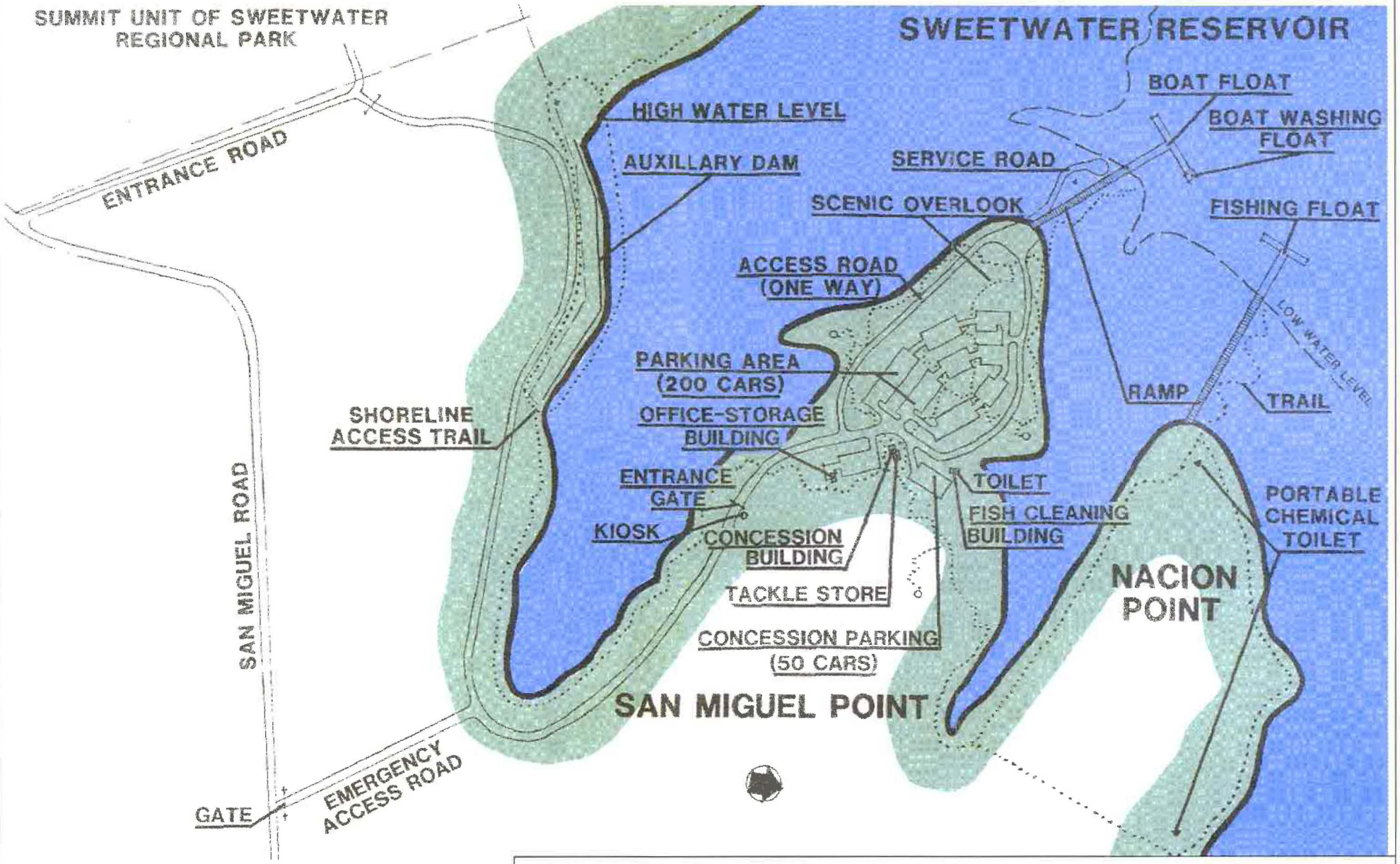


Figure 1.3
1985 Proposed Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan

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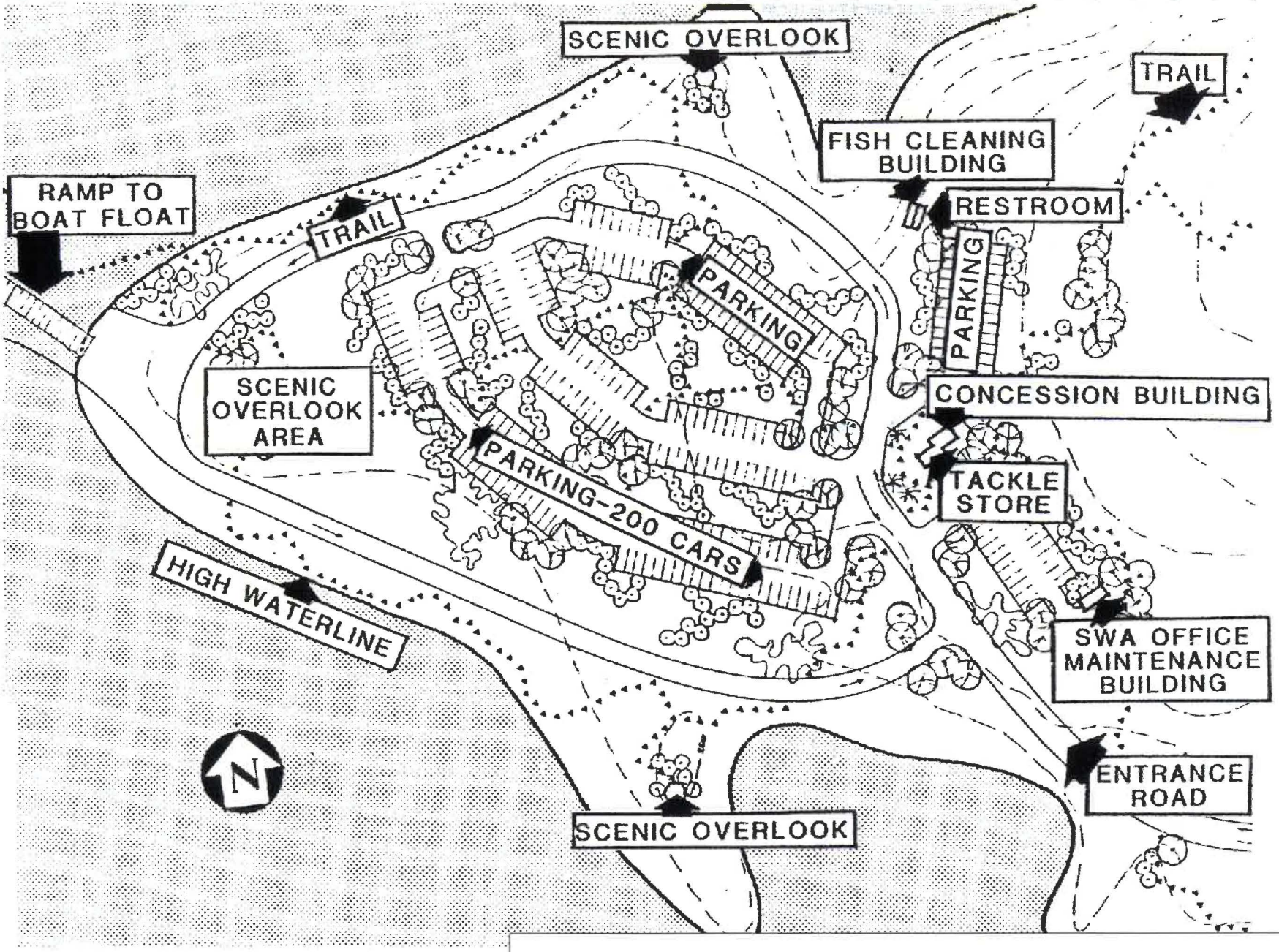
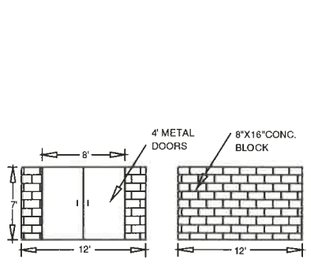
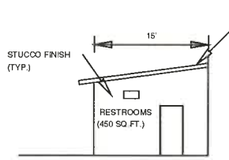


Figure 1.4
1985 Proposed Sweetwater Reservoir
San Miguel Recreation Area

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TRASH ENCLOSURE
NO SCALE



PUBLIC RESTROOMS
NO SCALE

ENTRANCE SIGN
NO SCALE

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS
- ENTRANCE SIGN
- TRASH ENCLOSURE
- ENTRANCE ROAD IMPROVEMENT (DG)
- PARKING LOTS (DG)
- TRAILS (DG)
- TRASH CANS (38)
- PORTABLE TOILETS (21)
- PARKING AREA W/LANDSCAPING
- RAMP (DG)
- 4" WATER MAIN
- RESTROOMS BUILDING
- PIER
- MODIFY EXIST. HOUSE FOR CONCESSION/OFFICE AREA
- 6" SEWER LATERAL

LINEAR SHORELINE
- @MIN. POOL - 5,744.89'
- @MAX. POOL - 13,210.11'

PARKING
- 181 STD. SPACES (9'X18')
- 7 HANDICAP SPACES (14'X18')
- 2 HANDICAP - VAN ACCESSIBLE SPACE (17'X18')
- 190 TOTAL SPACES
- MIN. 22' BACK-UP SPACE

APN'S
- 585-161-02
- 585-170-07
- 585-170-06
- 585-170-05
- 585-170-01
- 585-100-15
- 585-112-50

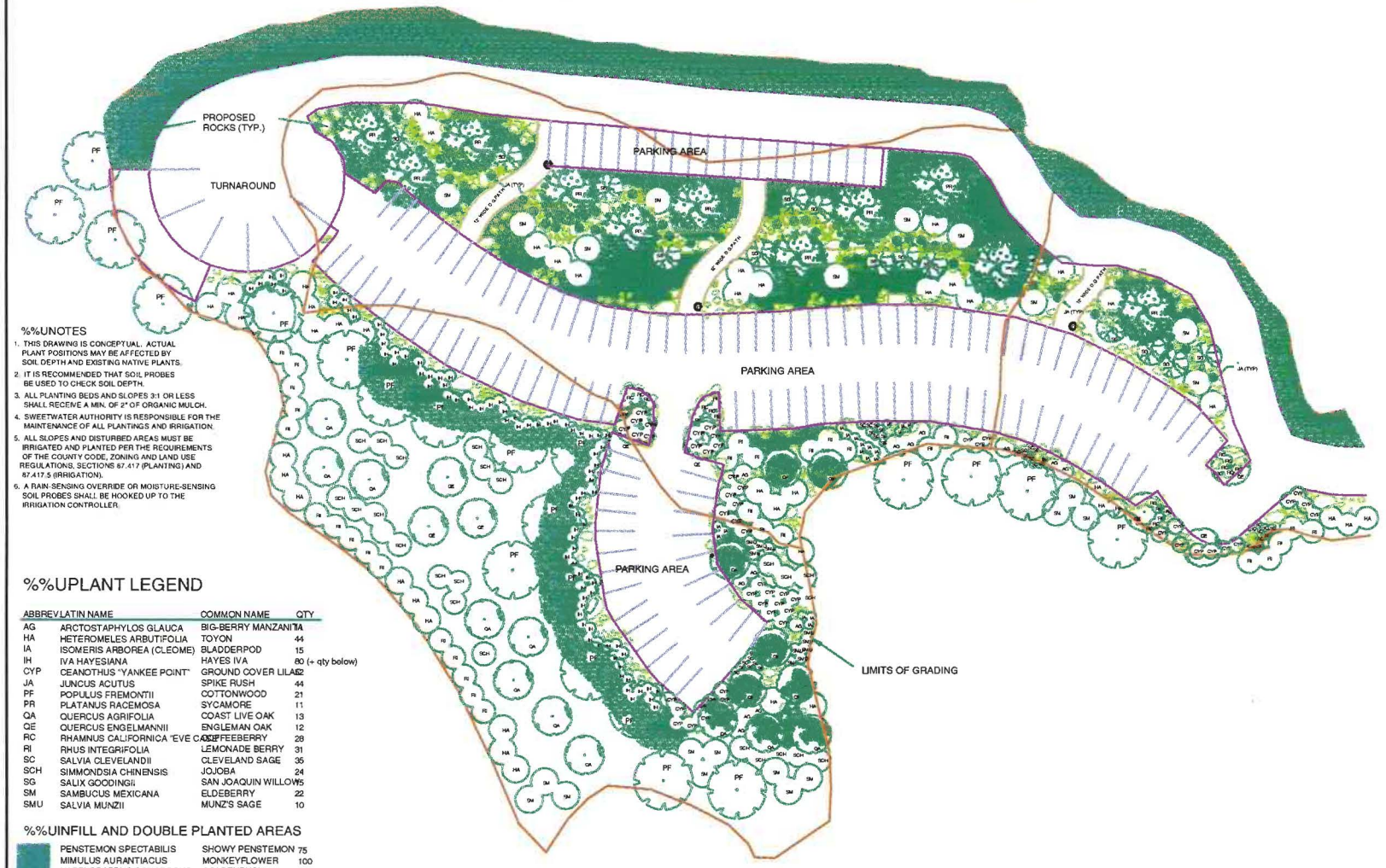
SEE ATTACHED LANDSCAPING & GRADING PLANS

LIGHTING
- NO LIGHTING REQUIRED
- FACILITY CLOSED AT DUSK

MAJOR USE PERMIT
for
SWEETWATER RESERVOIR SHORELINE FISHING FACILITY
NOVEMBER 2001
PLOT PLAN

CASE NO. P01-012
LOG NO. 01-19-018
ACCT. NO'S. CP10773,WN6377,WE1158

SHEET 1 OF 3



%%UNOTES

1. THIS DRAWING IS CONCEPTUAL. ACTUAL PLANT POSITIONS MAY BE AFFECTED BY SOIL DEPTH AND EXISTING NATIVE PLANTS.
2. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT SOIL PROBES BE USED TO CHECK SOIL DEPTH.
3. ALL PLANTING BEDS AND SLOPES 3:1 OR LESS SHALL RECEIVE A MIN. OF 2" OF ORGANIC MULCH.
4. SWEETWATER AUTHORITY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF ALL PLANTINGS AND IRRIGATION.
5. ALL SLOPES AND DISTURBED AREAS MUST BE IRRIGATED AND PLANTED PER THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE COUNTY CODE, ZONING AND LAND USE REGULATIONS, SECTIONS 87.417 (PLANTING) AND 87.417.5 (IRRIGATION).
6. A RAIN-SENSING OVERRIDE OR MOISTURE-SENSING SOIL PROBES SHALL BE HOOKED UP TO THE IRRIGATION CONTROLLER.

%%UPLANT LEGEND

ABBREV	LATIN NAME	COMMON NAME	QTY
AG	ARCTOSTAPHYLOS GLAUCA	BIG-BERRY MANZANITA	14
HA	HETEROMELES ARBUTIFOLIA	TOYON	44
IA	ISOMERIS ARBOREA (CLEOME)	BLADDERPOD	15
IH	IVA HAYESIANA	HAYES IVA	80 (+ qty below)
CYP	CEANOTHUS "YANKEE POINT"	GROUND COVER LILAC	62
JA	JUNCUS ACUTUS	SPIKE RUSH	44
PF	POPULUS FREMONTII	COTTONWOOD	21
PR	PLATANUS RACEMOSA	SYCAMORE	11
QA	QUERCUS AGRIFOLIA	COAST LIVE OAK	13
QE	QUERCUS ENGELMANNII	ENGLEMAN OAK	12
RC	RHAMNUS CALIFORNICA "EVE CASE"	COFFEEBERRY	28
RI	RHUS INTEGRIFOLIA	LEMONADE BERRY	31
SC	SALVIA CLEVELANDII	CLEVELAND SAGE	35
SCH	SIMMONDSIA CHINENSIS	JOJOBA	24
SG	SALIX GOODINGII	SAN JOAQUIN WILLOW	15
SM	SAMBUCUS MEXICANA	ELDEBERRY	22
SMU	SALVIA MUNZII	MUNZ'S SAGE	10

%%UINFILL AND DOUBLE PLANTED AREAS

	PENSTEMON SPECTABILIS	SHOWY PENSTEMON	75
	MIMULUS AURANTIACUS	MONKEYFLOWER	100
	HAPPLOPAPPUS SQUAROSUS	GOLDENBUSH	50
	ZAUSCHNERIA MEXICANA	HUMMINGBIRD FUSCHIA	75
	RIBES INDECOREM	WHITE FLOWERED CURRANT	25
	VIGUIERA LACINIATA	SAN DIEGO MARGUERITE	50
	IVA HAYESIANA	HAYES IVA	100
	SOLIDAGO CALIFORNICA	GOLDENROD	100
	ZAUSCHNERIA CANA	CALIFORNIA FUSCHIA	125
	STACHYS BULLATA	LAMB'S EAR	75
	ARTEMESIA DOUGLASIANA	MUGWORT	50
	ROSA CALIFORNICA	WILDROSE	50
	ENCELIA CALIFORNICA	COASTAL SUNFLOWER	50
	ERIOGONUM FASCICULATUM	FLAT-TOP BUCKWHEAT	100
	SALVIA 'POZO BLUE'	CLEVELAND SAGE	50

1"=25'-0"

CALIFORNIA'S OWN
NATIVE LANDSCAPE DESIGN

REVISIONS
C

SHEET TITLE
CONCEPTUAL LANDSCAPE PLAN FOR FISHING AREA AT SWEETWATER RESERVOIR

SHEET
2 3
DATE 10-15-01

CASE NO. P01-012
LOG NO. 01-19-018
ACCT NO'S. CP10773,WN6377,WE1158

Figure 1.6
Proposed Landscape Plan

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2.0 SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

2.1 Land Use/Community Character

A land use analysis was included in the March 1987 FEIR. The following section provides an update to the information provided in that section.

2.1.1 Existing Conditions

Current Land Use

The proposed recreation area is currently closed to the public with the exception of a portion of a riding and hiking trail. The trail enters Sweetwater Reservoir property from Summit Park, continues easterly along the southern boundary of the reservoir property in a revocable easement to the County of San Diego, and continues east through the Otay-Sweetwater Unit of the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge. Sweetwater Authority uses existing unpaved roads on reservoir lands, including the roads in the proposed fishing area, for reservoir maintenance activities. A 3.76-acre parcel south of the main reservoir lands and north of San Miguel Road (6503 San Miguel Road) was purchased by Sweetwater Authority in 1992. A 2,692 square foot, single family residential unit with a detached garage and equestrian facilities is located on that parcel.

Surrounding Land Use

Sweetwater Reservoir is located between the urbanized community of Spring Valley to the northwest and the National Wildlife Refuge to the east and southeast. Just south of the project site are rural residential uses in the community of Bonita within the Sweetwater Planning area. The County of San Diego's Summit Park lies immediately to the southwest. Summit Park contains an equestrian facility with paddocks and 60 camping sites. Residential uses and a golf course lie farther west (Figure 2.1, Vicinity Land Use). Sweetwater Community Planning Group Trails subcommittee considers the view from the Summit Park lookout to be an important feature. Figure 2.2 shows the public view of concern to the Planning Group and the subcommittee.

The approved State Route 125 alignment (SR125) traverses the project area adjacent to Summit Park and the fishing facility. A portion of the proposed freeway would occupy lands currently owned by Sweetwater Authority, including the southern portion of the 3.76-acre residential parcel. Caltrans is in the process of negotiating the eventual acquisition of those lands from Sweetwater Authority. Construction of SR 125 in the vicinity of Sweetwater Reservoir off San Miguel Road is scheduled to begin in June or July of 2002 (September 28, 2001 telephone conversation, J. Smyth, Sweetwater Authority, and George Harvilla, Parsons-Brinkerhoff).

Adopted Planning Documents

The land use policies that guide development in the Community of Bonita are the San Diego County General Plan, the Sweetwater Community Plan, and the Sweetwater Design Guidelines. The Sweetwater Community plan was adopted August 25, 1977 and amended October 28, 1993. The 1987 Recreation Master Plan FEIR identified the site as being within the Valle de Oro Community Plan area. Since that time the community planning area boundaries have changed and the entire site is now within the Sweetwater Community Plan. (Figure 2.3, Community Planning Areas.)

The San Diego County General Plan is a comprehensive long-term guide for the physical development of the unincorporated areas of the County of San Diego. It includes 12 elements: Open Space; Regional Land Use; Circulation; Recreation; Seismic Safety; Scenic Highways; Public Safety; Noise; Housing; Conservation; Energy; and Public Facility. The County General Plan is further subdivided into community and subregional plans. The Sweetwater Community Plan dedicates a chapter to each of the General Plan Elements as they apply to the Sweetwater Community. The relevant Community Plan Goals are discussed in relationship to the proposal in Table 2.1-1.

The Regional Land Use Element (RLUE) designates the majority of the project site as an "Environmentally Constrained Area" (ECA) based on the presence of Sweetwater Reservoir and adjacent lands containing rare and endangered plant and animal species. The RLUE permits development in ECAs that are permitted by the applicable community and subregional plan map and the County Zoning Ordinance, and requires "thorough environmental review and implementation of appropriate measures to mitigate adverse impacts." The portion of the project site containing the existing house is designated "Current Urban Development Area" and permits urban uses.

The Sweetwater Community Plan designates the ECA portion of the project site as "(24) Impact Sensitive" and residential lot as "(1) Residential." Impact Sensitive "is applied to areas considered unsuitable for urban development for reasons of public safety or environmental sensitivity." The (1) Residential category permits residential development at a density of 1.0 dwelling unit per one, two, or four acres depending on the slope of the land. In conformance with these designations, the majority of the reservoir lands are zoned S-80, Open Space Use, and the residential parcel is zoned RR1, Rural Residential Use. These designations permit recreational uses by Major Use Permit (MUP).

The Sweetwater Community Plan has as its Community Character Goal to "Maintain the character of the Sweetwater Community Planning Area as a semi-rural community with unique topographic, ecologic, historic, recreational and cultural characteristics."

The Conservation Element of the County General Plan shows the "Sweetwater River Floodplain" Resource Conservation Area (RCA) encompassing the site and extending several miles upstream. Rare vernal pools, sensitive plant species *Hemizonia conjugens*, and sensitive bird species (grasshopper sparrow) are noted for the project area in the RCA description.

The Sweetwater Design Guidelines were adopted by the County Board of Supervisors on May 29, 1991, after approval of the Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan and EIR. The design review guidelines apply to this project as a community recreation facility requiring a MUP. Table 2.1-2 describes the Sweetwater Design Guidelines that relate to the project.

Resource Protection Ordinance (RPO)

On May 31, 1989, the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors adopted the RPO to establish controls on development that would protect the county's environmentally sensitive lands, including wetlands, floodplains, steep slopes, sensitive habitat lands and significant prehistoric and historic sites. Since its adoption, the ordinance has undergone a number of revisions. The latest version became effective on October 10, 1991 (a compilation of Ordinance Nos. 7968, 7739, 7685, and 7631).

The ordinance "will protect sensitive lands and prevent their degradation and loss by requiring a Resource Protection Study for certain discretionary projects." The Resource Protection Ordinance addresses wetlands, wetland buffer area, floodways, floodplain fringe, steep slopes, sensitive habitat lands, and significant prehistoric and historic sites. Article V of the RPO permits exemptions for specified types of projects, including "any essential public facility or project, or recreational facility which includes public use." The approval authority for the project MUP is required to make five findings in order to grant the exemption. Following is each finding and the facts that support the exemption for the proposed project.

a. The facility or project is consistent with adopted community or subregional plans;

   The community plan designation and zoning permit the proposed recreational use by MUP. The design of the project preserves the open space character of the site. No conflicts with goals or policies of the community plan have been identified.

b. All possible mitigation measures have been incorporated into the facility or project, and there are no feasible less environmentally damaging location, alignment, or non-structural alternatives that would meet project objectives;

   All mitigation measures identified in the SEIR will be implemented by Sweetwater Authority. Those mitigation measures required to be implemented prior to grading, construction or use of the property, or prior to final inspection, have been made conditions of the MUP. Alternatives have been discussed in the SEIR. There are no feasible alternatives that would avoid similar or greater environmental impacts and enable adequate access to the fishing area without requiring a walking distance of approximately one mile to the lakeshore. This alternative would still require an access road for maintenance vehicles and would not adequately serve those unable to walk the distance.

c. Where the facility or project encroaches into a wetland or floodplain, mitigation measures are required that result in any net gain in the wetland and/or riparian habitat;

The Biological Resources section of the SEIR addresses impacts to 1.17 acres of vernal pools complex, including 300 square feet of basins, and 60 square feet of an intermittent stream. These impacts are required to be mitigated at a 3:1 basis, which would result in 3.51 acres of vernal pool complex, of which 900 square feet shall be a basin area. The intermittent stream mitigation will require an additional 180 square feet of vernal pool basin.

d. Where the facility or project encroaches into steep slopes, native vegetation will be used to revegetate and landscape cut and fill areas; and

   No encroachment on steep slopes will result from the proposed project.

e. No mature riparian woodland is destroyed or reduced in size due to otherwise allowed encroachments.

   According to the vegetation map submitted with the MUP and field review by a County biologist, no riparian woodland exists within the project area.

2.1.3 Impacts

Current Land Use

The proposed project would not significantly change the use of the land, which will remain a domestic water reservoir and buffer area. The change in land use involves allowing the public and vehicles onto the south side of Sweetwater Reservoir, widening the existing road, provision of 150 parking spaces, and fishing on a maximum of 2.5 miles of shoreline. An existing residence would also be expanded to include a concession area and public restroom. Since the facility would be open only three days a week, the project would maintain low, passive use of the site. Sweetwater Authority staff would patrol the site during hours of operation. As such, trespassing, littering, and illegal activities would be minimized. Improvements to the residence would be set back approximately 300 feet from San Miguel Road and would not change the rural character of the neighborhood.

Surrounding Existing and Proposed Land Use

Summit Park: The Sweetwater Reservoir Shoreline Fishing Program would complement the Summit Park facility by providing an additional recreational attraction for campers. However, the Sweetwater Trails Subcommittee believes that elements of the project could be "...severely degrading to the scenic view" near the water tank above Summit Park. The proposed parking lot, trash receptacles, and 26 restrooms along the shoreline "... are in the direct line of sight between the most scenic lookout in the park and its mountain/lake view". As such, the committee has requested community representation in the design and landscaping of this facility (D. Ziegler, July 17, 2001). The committee has suggested the placement of trees and shrubs to screen views to the restrooms.

National Wildlife Refuge: The proposal would allow passive recreation, shoreline fishing and hiking. No pets would be allowed. There would be no boating and accompanying noise. With

respect to the proposed recreation facility, the existing peaceful setting would be maintained. This would complement the adjacent National Wildlife Refuge.

SR125: An encroachment permit from Caltrans would not be applicable because, there has been no transaction of real property from Sweetwater Authority to Caltrans. No schedule of property acquisition has been provided to the Authority by Caltrans. The design engineer for Caltrans is aware that access to the proposed fishing area must be maintained at all times. The Sweetwater Authority Engineering Department will further coordinate with Caltrans on property transactions and future access to the shoreline fishing program (J. Smyth, September 28, 2000). Caltrans has obtained all permits required for construction of SR125 (S. Wynn, USFWS, meeting on September 21, 2001). Offsite mitigation for impacts to vernal pools, including those on Sweetwater Authority property, has been approved.

Environmental impacts in constructing this project would be minimized by using an existing driveway for an access road to the proposed fishing area. Additionally, using the driveway entrance would not involve a change in use, only an increase in use. The fishing program is anticipated to open prior to the start of construction activities of SR125. Sweetwater Authority addressed the need for Caltrans to maintain access to the proposed Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation area in comment letters from Sweetwater Authority to Caltrans dated March 17, 2000, September 4, 1996, February 8, 1995, August 11, 1994, February 24, 1993, and August 6, 1990.

To ensure that access to Summit Park and Sweetwater Reservoir fishing would not be precluded by construction of SR125, Caltrans included a joint access in the design of the freeway. The joint access is shown on Caltrans engineering drawings for the SR125 segment near Sweetwater Reservoir (Figure 2.4). The future entrance road is shown from San Miguel Road, continuing under the proposed freeway to a "T" intersection on property currently owned by Sweetwater Authority. Access to Summit Park would be provided via the west branch of the "T" intersection, with access to Sweetwater Reservoir shoreline fishing via the east branch.

Caltrans staff agrees that if the fishing facility access is in place when the SR125 construction begins, access will be maintained. The contractor for SR125 will be required to maintain existing access to the fishing facility, although there may be some reconstruction of the access road in order to tie into the proposed entrance for Summit Park. In order to avoid unnecessary inconvenience to the public and the SR125 contractor, Caltrans would like to ensure that the proposed access for the fishing facility is compatible with the relocated entrance to Summit Park that would be constructed for SR125 (C. Binns, October 5, 2001). This could involve Caltrans construction of the joint access as the first construction project on San Miguel Road.

Additionally, Caltrans plans show a secondary access indicated as "Proposed road to fishing area (by others)", located east of the recreation area (see Figure 2.4). Due to the limited number of days of operation, low number of visitors anticipated, and additional impacts to the sensitive vernal pool complex on reservoir lands that would be generated by a second road, Sweetwater Authority recommends the deletion of that access. Caltrans and the Sweetwater Trails Subcommittee are supportive of the elimination of the secondary access (D. Ziegler, October 9, 2001).

Adopted Planning Documents

The proposed project is permitted by Major Use Permit in the land use designations and zoning existing on the site. No conflict with these planning documents or other elements of the County General Plan would result from approval of the project. Table 2.1 discusses the relevant goals of the Sweetwater Community Plan and the proposed project.

Table 2.1 Relevant Sweetwater Community Plan Goals

Sweetwater Community Plan Goal	Proposed Project
Community character: Maintain the character of the Sweetwater Community Planning Area as a semi-rural community with unique topographic, ecological, historic, recreational and cultural characteristics.	Grading would be minimized, with any cuts not more than eight feet in depth; biological resources would be avoided to the maximum extent practical; a recreational amenity would be added to the nearby parks and preserves.
Circulation: Achieve a balanced transportation system that will serve existing and future land use and be responsive to the needs of residents. Preserve the existing character of the roads in the planning area while developing pedestrian, equestrian and bicycle trails.	The proposal would preserve the existing character of San Miguel Road, and involve no curbs, gutters, or lighting. The applicant would maintain riding and hiking trail access through the site.
Conservation: General goal: to preserve the Sweetwater Planning Areas unique, natural and cultural resources, which support its traditional semi-rural life style.	The project would be compatible with the semi-rural lifestyle by utilizing existing roads and buildings.
Natural habitat protection: Prevent the unnecessary alteration of the natural landscape within the Sweetwater Plan area- especially the undeveloped land in the eastern portion of the plan area.	The habitat is being protected and enhanced where possible. Native species will be used for all landscaping.
Recreation: Provide regional and local parks and open space preserves which consider the unique equestrian character of the community, the need for traditional forms of recreation and the need to provide natural open space. Establish and protect an efficient and safe network of public riding and hiking trails.	The project will provide additional open space to the community and allow continued use of the riding and hiking trail by equestrians.
Scenic Highways: Preserve protects and enhances the scenic highway corridors to provide aesthetically pleasing vehicular travel in the Sweetwater planning area. (San Miguel is listed as a road that should be included in design review in the plan, but has not been adopted as an important road for scenic value, unique vegetation and preservation of the rural, rustic style of structures) that have long characterized the valley.	The project proposes no changes that would degrade views from San Miguel Road.
Open space: Preserve a system of open space areas and interconnecting corridors for the preservation of natural resources, outdoor recreation uses, and public health and safety.	The project supports this goal by providing a connection between Summit Park and the USFWS preserve acquisitions.

Table 2.2 discusses the relevant Sweetwater Design Guidelines and the proposed project.

Table 2.2 Relevant Sweetwater Design Guidelines

Sweetwater Design Guidelines	Proposed Project
Scenic Roads • San Miguel Road is designated as a first priority scenic road in the Scenic Highway Element of the General Plan. • Preserve and improve the rural character of Sweetwater's Scenic Roads. • Encourage the careful design and maintenance of scenic road edges • Encourage rustic fences stone walls. Chain-link and open wire discouraged except when heavily screened by landscaping.	Project will have no curbs, gutters or paving. All project improvements will be set back approximately 300 feet from the road and new construction will conform to the Design Guidelines.
Riding and Hiking Trails • Consider expanding the riding and hiking trail within the Community • Establish linkages to existing and planned trail system.	The existing trail through the project area will be maintained.
Architectural Character • Encourage rural rustic character in Sweetwater's new commercial, public and multi family buildings • Trash containers and outdoor storage areas should be screened from view, screen for trash containers should be compatible & durable	Proposed use of the residence for a caretaker's office and concession, and the new restrooms, will be designed to be compatible with the existing structure. Trash container or storage areas will be screened.
Signage • Signs in Sweetwater shall reflect the rural-rustic character of the valley architecture.	Signage will be wooden, and follow provided guidelines.
Site Planning/Design • Minimize visual impacts of parking lots by dense edge plantings and ornamental tree canopies • Minimize grading or alteration of land	Dense landscaping of the parking lots will use native trees and shrubs. Grading will be limited to a maximum graded slope height of eight feet.
Landscape • Drought tolerant • Mature trees should be retained	Proposed landscaping will use native drought tolerant species and mature eucalyptus trees at the eastern end of project site will remain.
Circulation and parking • Provide a clearly organized circulation plan for automobiles, pedestrians and service vehicles • Individual parking areas should be limited to 24 parking spaces, where more than 24, separate areas not exceeding 24 spaces shall be designed and buffered by 10 foot planted breaks • Every designate parking space should be within 30 feet of the truck of a tree	The project includes an organized circulation plan. The parking lot provides ample landscaping. Given the remote location of the facility, strict compliance with the landscape and tree spacing would not be necessary.
Drainage: • Natural drainage preserved as close as possible to their natural location and appearance. • "Dry stream" effects, which move water over the property, are preferred over channeling or underground methods.	The parking lot will be graded to direct surface drainage to landscaped areas.

2.1.3 Significance of Impacts

The proposed project would comply with the Sweetwater Community Plan and Design Guidelines. Sweetwater Authority would obtain an MUP and Variance from the County of San Diego. The project would use existing roads, trails and buildings, and be open for public use three days per week. Therefore, land use impacts would be less than significant.

To minimize impacts to community character, the project would limit landform alteration and landscape with native vegetation. At present, there is no funding available to refurbish the existing residence in a rural-rustic manner, or to provide all of the trees and shrubs requested by the Sweetwater Community Planning Group and Trail Subcommittee. In order to open the facility in a timely manner, installation of these elements would be deferred until additional funding is available. Impacts to community character would be less than significant with implementation of the following mitigation measures.

2.1.4 Mitigation Measures

Submit grant proposals for additional landscaping material to camouflage the portable restrooms, and to refurbish the existing residence in compliance with the Sweetwater Design Guidelines. No further mitigation would be necessary.

Implementation of this mitigation measures during project operations would reduce potential land use impacts to less than significant.

2.2 Water Quality

2.2.1 Existing Conditions

The San Diego Region (Basin 9 in California) contains 11 major drainage basins within its drainage province (RWQCB, 1994). Region 9 consists of a number of rivers, tributary creeks, and water storage facilities located throughout the basin. The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) has designated Sweetwater Reservoir and its surrounding areas as being in the Sweetwater Hydrologic Unit. This Hydrologic Unit is a 230 square mile elongated strip that is traversed along its length by the Sweetwater River. Sweetwater Reservoir is a drinking water reservoir that receives water from the Sweetwater River watershed. Surface and ground waters flowing into Sweetwater Reservoir are treated at the Robert A. Perdue Water Treatment Plant prior to delivery to its more than 165,000 customers. Sweetwater Authority also supplements its local water supply with treated water purchased from the San Diego County Water Authority.

Regulatory Setting

The Shoreline Fishing Facility construction and subsequent operations could affect the water quality of Sweetwater Reservoir through sedimentation, runoff of hazardous substances, and/or waste disposal. Development of the project is subject to a number of applicable ordinances and regulations. Construction of any project in the County of San Diego is subject to requirements for erosion control in the County's Grading Ordinance. The County of San Diego Stormwater Ordinance prohibits non-stormwater discharges to the stormwater conveyance system.

In addition, conformance with the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) is required through implementation of the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit No. CAS000002. For this permit, the SWRCB issued Order No. 99-08-DWQ, "Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of

Storm Water Runoff Associated with Construction Activity." To comply with the permit, Sweetwater Authority must file a complete and accurate Notice of Intent (NOI) with the SWRCB prior to construction. Compliance requires conformance with applicable Best Management Practices (BMPs) and the preparation and implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and monitoring program. Upon completion of construction, the permit holder must file a Notice of Termination with the SWRCB.

Sweetwater Authority will be required to amend its existing Domestic Water Supply Permit issued by the California Department of Health Services (DHS), Office of Drinking Water. The amendment would allow recreational uses at Sweetwater Reservoir. A water quality management plan and SEIR would be submitted with the permit amendment application. No construction activities would occur prior to approval of the amended permit.

2.2.2 Impacts

Clearing and grading of vegetation could leave barren soil conditions that may change the rate and amount of surface water runoff if appropriate erosion control measures are not implemented. This increased runoff could potentially result in sedimentation impacts to Sweetwater Reservoir. This sedimentation could also adversely affect biological communities if the soil-plant-water relationship is thrown out of balance and/or water quality is adversely impacted. This imbalance and water quality impact could result in degradation of habitat function and value as well as altering habitat type. Potential erosion impacts due to the removal of existing vegetation cover would be mitigated through implementation of a SWPPP and monitoring plan that would include an erosion control/landscape plan. An erosion control plan prepared by the construction contractor would be submitted to and approved by the County Department of Public Works (DPW) prior to construction of the project. Particular attention would need to be given to erosion control measures where natural drainage patterns would be directed toward Sweetwater Reservoir and areas of sensitive biological resources. Hydroseeding and implementing the landscape plan would need to be done as soon as practical upon completion of grading in order to establish plants and reduce erosion.

Runoff flowing across developed sites can pick up contaminants from landscaping, such as pesticides and fertilizer. Also, runoff flowing across areas used by motor vehicles, such as parking lots, driveways and roads, can pick up pollutants including, oil, fuel residues, and heavy metals (associated with gasoline). The proposed landscaped area and parking lot for 150 cars could be potential sources for polluted runoff that could result in water quality degradation in Sweetwater Reservoir. For management of contaminated runoff, Sweetwater Authority must comply with the SWRCB's NPDES permit, which contains wastewater discharge requirements for stormwater and urban runoff. In compliance with this permit, a BMP Program for Storm Water Pollution Control would need to be created. BMPs would be employed to reduce pollutants available for transport and to reduce or confine the amount of pollutants in runoff to the lowest possible levels prior to discharge to a surface water body.

Potential contamination of surface water could result from the mishandling of fuel or other hazardous materials used in the construction of the project. Construction activities and equipment would utilize fuels and other potential hazardous substances onsite that could be

subject to runoff. However, the SWPPP would contain toxic runoff prevention provisions and a construction spill contingency plan that would be available in case of an accident.

Twenty-three (23) portable restrooms and three (3) wheelchair accessible portable restroom units are proposed to be located along the perimeter of Sweetwater Reservoir. The usage and maintenance of these portable restrooms could be a potential source of water quality degradation. Portable toilets would consist of plastic shells with 35-40 gallon plastic tanks and would be anchored to concrete pads. Spill containment would be provided at each portable restroom. The California DHS has standard regulations for the construction and maintenance of sanitation facilities. Sweetwater Authority would conform to all DHS regulations to ensure that the portable restrooms do not pollute surface or reservoir waters.

In addition, solid waste disposal is proposed to be handled by eighty (80) shoreline trash receptacles and one large dumpster on the caretaker parcel. Water quality impacts could occur if the solid waste is not properly managed. The trash receptacles are 30 gallon drums that would be outfitted with hardware that slides over a post in order to keep the cans upright. Each can would be padlocked to a post, and a dome type lid would be affixed to the can with a chain. Dome lid trash receptacles have been effective in preventing wildlife from entering the cans, trash from blowing out of the cans, and in providing fire containment. The cans would be placed at 150-200 foot intervals as required by DHS. Standard regulations for the management of solid waste have been established by DHS. Sweetwater Authority would comply with the DHS solid waste requirements and would empty the trash receptacles on a daily basis to ensure that solid waste does not jeopardize water quality of Sweetwater Reservoir.

Unless the project site is sewered at some future date, no fish cleaning facilities would be constructed and no fish cleaning would be permitted on the project site. Therefore, there should not be adverse effects to water quality due to fish cleaning. Signs would be posted to notify visitors, and Sweetwater Authority personnel would be responsible for enforcement.

2.2.3 Significance of Impacts

Significant water quality impacts could result from sediment runoff due to grading, toxic runoff from the landscaping, parking lot and other areas used by motor vehicles, and the mishandling of hazardous materials onsite. In addition, the presence of portable restrooms and trash receptacles along the perimeter of the reservoir could pose potentially significant impacts to water quality if the management of the sanitary and/or solid waste is not properly administered.

2.2.4 Mitigation

Construction of the Shoreline Fishing Facility could cause significant water quality-related impacts. To reduce these potential impacts to below a level of significance, Sweetwater Authority shall implement the following mitigation measures:

1. Prior to issuance of any grading permits, the permittee shall submit a site drainage plan and receive approval by the Director of DPW. The plan shall assure that drains are designed to control runoff and that drains are directed only to sedimentation basins, swales, mechanical

trapping devices, or similar devices to minimize the potential for erosion damage and to minimize water quality impacts. As an ongoing condition of the plan, the drainage system shall be cleaned and maintained every four months, or as necessary, to ensure that the system functions properly. An annual letter report prepared by the permittee identifying the clean-out dates, system conditions, and required maintenance shall be kept on file at the onsite Sweetwater Authority office. Spot checks of the drainage system may be made by DPW to ensure proper clean-out and maintenance.

2. Prior to the issuance of any grading permit, the permittee shall submit a NOI and obtain a NPDES permit from the SWRCB. Adherence to all conditions of the General Permit for Construction Activity shall be required.

3. The SWPPP shall be incorporated into the grading and drainage design plans and shall provide for implementation of construction and post-construction BMPs onsite to reduce the amount of pollutants and sediments in construction and post-construction surface runoff before it is discharged into Sweetwater Reservoir and natural drainage courses. Construction-related BMPs shall include silt fencing, gravel bags, and/or jute matting at the toe of the outside of all cut and fill slopes. The grading plans shall note the condition requiring a SWPPP and monitoring plan.

4. Prior to issuance of any grading permit, the permittee shall submit an erosion control plan and receive approval by the Director of DPW. The plan shall include the following:

   a. Construction phase erosion control measures shall be employed, including such measures as short-term use of silt fences, gravel bags, fiber rolls, erosion control blankets or similar devices, along all graded areas to minimize sediment transport. Erosion and runoff control measures shall be in place prior to major grading activities.

   b. Native vegetation shall be preserved whenever feasible for immediate replacement on disturbed areas following grading. Native topsoil shall be stockpiled and reapplied as part of site reclamation. Exposed slopes shall be revegetated or hydroseeded within 30 days after completion of site grading.

   c. Surface and subsurface drainage shall be designed to preclude ponding outside of designated areas.

   d. All soil to be stockpiled shall be protected from erosion and sediment runoff at all times. Stockpiles shall be protected through the use of gravel bags near the base of the piles and covered with secured tarps or tackifiers.

   e. Stockpiles, refueling activities, and storage areas of hazardous materials (e.g., fuels, lubricants, solvents, and other potential contaminants) shall be located only at predesignated sites as specified in the construction drawings.

   f. The construction contractor, in consultation with County DPW, shall be responsible for implementing required BMPs. The construction manager shall be responsible for

monitoring and maintenance of BMPs to ensure that they are working properly until the construction area has been permanently stabilized.

g. No grading shall be performed during the rainy season (October 1 through April 30) without special erosion control measures approved by the Director of DPW.

5. Prior to issuance of any grading permit, the permittee shall submit a construction spill contingency plan and receive approval by the County Department of Environmental Health (DEH). The plan shall be prepared in accordance with County DEH regulations and retained on-site by the construction manager. If soil is contaminated by a spill, the soil shall be properly removed and transported to a legal disposal site.

6. Prior to the issuance of any grading permit, the permittee shall amend the Domestic Water Supply Permit through the California DHS. As part of the amendment process, a water quality management plan shall be submitted to and approved by the California DHS.

7. Prior to the issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy, a site inspection of the drainage system by DPW shall occur as part of the Mitigation, Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP). Existing runoff catchment basins or temporary erosion control devices shall not cease operations until the SWPPP and drainage system are approved by the Director of DPW.

Implementation of these mitigation measures during project construction and operations would reduce potential water quality impacts to less than significant.

2.3 Biological Resources

2.3.1 Existing Conditions

Sweetwater Reservoir is surrounded on the east and southeast by thousands of acres of habitat/open space set aside in the USF&WS San Diego National Wildlife Refuge, Otay-Sweetwater Unit in the early 1990s. Additional land continues to be added to the refuge. Most recently, the 130-acre Shinohara Property directly southeast of the proposed fishing area was added. A segment of a riding and hiking trail enters Sweetwater Reservoir property from Summit Park to the west and traverses the length of the south side of the reservoir in a revocable easement to the County of San Diego. Upon exiting Sweetwater Reservoir property, it continues easterly along the Sweetwater River.

Biological resource surveys were originally conducted in the 1980s for Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan FEIR (Figure 2.5) [Orville P. Ball and Associates and Nasland Engineering 1987]. Updated species surveys for listed species including the California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica)* and Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino)* were performed in 2000. Surveys for and rare plants were performed in 2000 and 2001 (S. McMillan 2000, 200). Figure 2.6 shows the results of these recent surveys and the proposed improvements for the shoreline fishing Major Use Permit project.

Vegetation

Three vegetation communities occur on the approximate 295-acre site (i.e, Major Use Permit area): 57.9 acres of non-native grassland, 38.9 acres of mixed native grassland and broken sage scrub, and 37.4 acres of mixed native and non-native grasslands. Though not considered vegetation communities, 126.0 acres of the open water of Sweetwater Reservoir and 11.4 acres of developed areas constitute the remainder of the area of the site. Lastly, approximately 61.1 acres of vernal pool complexes encompassing approximately 80 basins, of the "S" series occur within the three aforementioned vegetation communities onsite. The 61.1 acres of the vernal pool complex is included within the habitat acreages of these three vegetation communities. Much of the site historically supported a vernal pool/mima mound complex with a surrounding vegetation matrix of coastal sage scrub and native bunch-grassland. Historic land uses such as grazing have altered the historical vegetation of the site, the most notable change being a conversion of this mosaic of vernal pool/mima mound complex and native bunch-grassland to a non-native, annual grassland. Below is a description of these communities.

Non-native grassland is the most common vegetation community onsite. This community is dominated by non-native grass species such as oats (*Avena* sp.), soft chess (*Bromus hordeaceus*), ripgut grass (*B. diandrus*), foxtail chess (*B. madritensis* ssp. *rubens*), Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*), goldentop (*Lamarckia aurea*), and perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*). Non-native perennials and annuals are also a major component of these areas including Australian saltbush (*Atriplex semibaccata*), wild mustard (*Brassica nigra*), dove weed (*Eremocarpus setigerus*), filaree (*Erodium* spp.), tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*), smooth cat's ear (*Hypochaeris glabra*), and Crete's hedypnois (*Hedypnois cretica*). Despite the high number and dominance of non-natives within this community, a high number of native herbaceous perennials and annuals are also present including common goldenstar (*Bloomeria crocea* ssp. *crocea*), mesa brodiaea (*Brodiaea jolonensis*), mariposa lily (*Calochortus splendens*), and state endangered and federally threatened Otay tarplant (*Deinandra conjugens*).

Mixed native grassland and broken sage scrub is a mosaic community composed of native bunchgrasses, interspersed with a low cover of coastal sage species. Purple needlegrass (*Nassella pulchra*) is the dominant native bunch grass species within this community. However, all of the exotic annual grasses, typifying the non-native, annual grassland, such as wild oats, soft chess, ripgut grass, foxtail chess, Bermuda grass and goldentop are also present within this community but not at the cover and density levels of the purple needlegrass. Coastal sage scrub, shrub species present within this mosaic include California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), broom baccharis (*Baccharis sarothroides*), bladder pod (*Isomeris arborea*), lemonade-berry (*Rhus integrifolia*) and several species of cacti (*Opuntia* spp.). Similar to the non-native grassland, there are high components of native herbaceous perennials and annuals as well as exotic annuals. The common natives include wild onions (*Allium* spp.), common goldenstar, chocolate lily (*Fritillaria biflora*), mesa brodiaea, mariposa lily, fascicled tarplant, blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*), and blue dicks (*Dichelostemma capitatum* ssp. *capitatum*). The common exotics include tocalote, Australian saltbush, wild mustard, and dove weed.

Mixed native and non-native grasslands refer to those areas where both the native bunchgrasses and non-native annuals co-dominate in relatively similar proportions. Non-native and native annuals and herbaceous perennials occurring in both the non-native grassland and mixed native grassland and broken sage scrub that were mentioned previously are present within this community also.

A total of 73 vernal pool basins were observed onsite in 2001 (McMillan Biological Consulting 2001). In 2000, 23 vernal pools were identified (McMillan Biological Consulting 2000). A portion of the survey year 2000 basins were not evident for the 2001 surveys and as a result the site is known to support approximately 80 pools. These pools were identified as such due to the presence of at least one vernal pool indicator species or because they ponded water. Vernal pool indicator species (both plants and invertebrates) include water star-wort (*Callitriche marginata*), aquatic crassula (*Crassula aquatica*), pale spike-sedge (*Eleocharis macrostachya*), toad rush (*Juncus bufonius*), the federally endangered San Diego fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta sandiegonensis*), and seed shrimp (Ostracod). Non-vernal pool indicator species observed in the pools include scarlet pimpernel (*Anagallis arvensis*), mesa brodiaea, grass poly (*Lythrum hyssopifolium*), adobe allocarya (*Plagiobothrys acanthocarpus*), annual beard grass (*Polypogon monspeliensis*), and sand spurrey (*Spergularia bocconii*). The vernal pools are within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) San Diego: Southern Coastal Mesas Management Areas as identified in the *Recovery Plan for Vernal Pools of Southern California* (USFWS 1998).

When the water level of the reservoir is low for relatively sustained periods of time an ephemeral, shoreline community develops. This community is a combination of early successional species and species that require a high water table. The common species within this community include Australian saltbush, broom baccharis, mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), tocalote, Bermuda grass, salt grass (*Distichlis spicata*), deerweed (*Lotus scoparius*), phyla (*Phyla nodiflora* var. *nodiflora*) long-leaved pondweed (*Potamogeton nodosus*), Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), and arrow weed (*Pluchea sericea*). However, for purposes of this analysis, the acreage for these areas is included within the reservoir totals.

An intermittent drainage flows into the reservoir from the adjacent upland areas. Riparian plants occur sporadically along these streams including Goodding's black willow (*Salix gooddingii*), red willow (*S. laevigata*), southwestern spiny rush (*Juncus acutus* var. *leopoldii*), mulefat, broom baccharis, and bulrush (*Scirpus californicus*).

Sensitive Habitats

Sensitive habitats are those that are regulated by the USFWS, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), and/or are considered sensitive by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) (Holland 1986).

The non-native grassland, mixed native grassland and broken sage scrub, mixed native and non-native grasslands, vernal pools and intermittent drainage are considered sensitive habitats because of their scarcity, their reduction in area regionally due to encroachment from a variety of pressures and/or because they provide habitat for an abundance of sensitive species.

Vernal pools and native grasslands are some of the rarest communities locally, regionally and globally. The federally endangered San Diego fairy shrimp occurs within several of the vernal pools onsite. Vernal pools are considered sensitive by the CDFG (Holland 1986). Historical estimates of vernal pool habitat in San Diego County are less than 30,000 acres, with less than 8 percent of the original habitat in San Diego County, remaining as of 1986, and less than 2 percent remaining by 1993 (Bauder 1986; City of San Diego, 1993).

Native grasslands provide habitat for many of the sensitive plant species observed onsite. Native grasslands are considered sensitive by the CDFG (Holland 1986). Native grasslands are currently very restricted within California and San Diego County due to encroachment from development and displacement by exotic species. Many of the native grasslands in California were converted to non-native grasslands. This conversion was so rapid that there is little historical documentation on the species composition and vegetation physiognomy of native grasslands. Oberbauer and Vanderwier (1991) reported that only 7,250 acres of this community remain in San Diego County. This is a reduction of 94 percent of this community from Oberbauer and Vanderwier's pre-European estimate of less than 126,000 acres.

Though a non-native community, the non-native grasslands are considered sensitive because they provide habitat for a variety of sensitive species as well as providing foraging habitat for raptors.

The intermittent drainage onsite is considered sensitive as sporadic riparian vegetation is associated with it. Wetlands and riparian habitats serve many functions including flood and sediment control, providing habitat for rare and common species, corridors for wildlife movement, and control of water quality and erosion. Oberbauer and Vanderwier (1991) report a reduction a reduction of 61 percent in riparian woodland (13,600 acres from an original estimate of 34,600 acres) in San Diego County since the pre-European era.

Sensitive Plants

Sensitive plants include those listed as threatened or endangered or proposed for listing by USFWS (1996, 1997a, b) and CDFG (2000a), considered sensitive by CDFG (2001) and CNPS (Skinner and Pavlik 1994; Electronic Inventory 6th Edition 2001) or appear on the County's Sensitive Plant List.

Eleven sensitive plants were observed onsite during the 2000-01 surveys (McMillan Biological Consulting 2001): the federally threatened and state endangered 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*). One other federally listed species, the federally threatened spreading navarretia (*Navarretia fossalis*) occurs in vernal pools immediately offsite on the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge (SDNWR) (McMillan Biological Consulting 2001). Below is a detailed description of the status of the Otay tarplant onsite. Table 2.3 provides information on the other sensitive plant species observed onsite and also the potential for the occurrence of other sensitive plant species not observed during the 2000-01 surveys.

The Otay tarplant is an annual species that is restricted to southern San Diego County and northern Baja California, Mexico. This species shows a high fidelity to clay soils. Population sizes vary year-to-year based on environmental factors such as rainfall. Surveys for this species were conducted in both 2000 and 2001. Population sizes and areas were dramatically larger in 2001 than in 2000. Approximately 19.80 acres of the study area support the Otay tarplant. This acreage reflects occupied areas observed in both 2000 and 2001. It is estimated that several thousand individuals were present in 2001 (McMillan Biological Consulting 2001). An additional 8.30 acres of Otay tarplant were identified on the immediately adjacent SDMWR (S. McMillan, P. Famolaro and L. Tikkanen, personal observation). These areas of tarplant are generally contiguous with tarplant patches on the Sweetwater property and are considered inclusive within the local population. Due to appropriateness of soil and plant community composition as well as seed dispersal and propagation mechanisms of this annual species, Otay tarplant could potentially occupy an additional 72.60 acres of habitat than that observed in both 2000 and 2001.

Sensitive Animals

Sensitive animal species are those listed as threatened or endangered, or proposed for listing by the USFWS (1996, 1997a, b) and CDFG (2000b) or are considered sensitive by CDFG (2000c), Tate (1986), Everett (1979), or the San Diego Herpetological Society (SDHS 1980).

One listed species, the federally endangered San Diego fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta sandiegonensis*) is known to inhabit the site. Another listed species, the federally threatened coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) is known to at least forage or disperse through the site. Below is a description of these species and their status on the site. Table 2.3 lists the other sensitive wildlife species that potentially could use or inhabit the site.

The San Diego fairy shrimp is a freshwater crustacean that is found in vernal pools, ditches, and ruts. This species is almost completely restricted to San Diego County, but populations are also known from Baja California, Mexico and Orange and Riverside counties. This species was found in 15 vernal pools onsite (McMillan Biological Consulting 2001).

Focused, protocol level surveys of the project site for the coastal California gnatcatcher were conducted in 2000. No gnatcatchers were identified during these surveys. However, during routine site visits during 2001, a pair of gnatcatchers were observed just offsite along the southeastern boundary of the site and another individual, either an adult female or juvenile was observed in the broken sage scrub along the shoreline in the northeastern corner of the site (Pete Famolaro personal communication). This species is common in the area, including dense concentrations immediately west, east, and north of the project site. This species is likely to utilize the project area at some time during its life cycle, possibly during post-breeding dispersal or occasionally for breeding purposes due to the close proximity of historic and current accounts (Sweetwater Authority 2000).

Table 2.3 Sensitive Species with Known or Potential Occurrence on the Sweetwater Authority Fishing Program Area

Species Name	USFWS Status*	CDFG Status*	Other*	Occurrence or Potential for Occurrence on the Property
Plants				
San Diego thornmint (*Acanthomintha ilicifolia*)	T	E	CNPS 1B, 2-3-2 County Group A	This species occurs in grasslands on clay soils. This species was not observed during focused surveys conducted onsite.
California adolphia (*Adolphia californica*)			CNPS 2, 1-3-1 County Group B	One individual of this species was observed in the mixed native grassland and broken sage scrub along the upper slopes above the reservoir.
San Diego ambrosia (*Ambrosia pumila*)	PE		CNPS 1B, 3-3-2 County Group A	This species is known from the vicinity of the project occurring along the upper floodplains of the Sweetwater River. This species was not observed during focused surveys conducted onsite.
Small-flowered morning-glory (*Convolvulus simulans*)			CNPS 4, 1-2-2 County Group D	This species was observed in the mixed native grassland and broken sage scrub, the mixed native and non-native grasslands and non-native grasslands onsite. Numerous small populations were observed, the majority of which were between five and ten individuals each.
Otay tarplant (*Deinandra conjugens*)	T	E	CNPS 1B, 2-2-2 MSCP-NE County Group A	This species was observed in the mixed native and non-native grasslands and non-native grasslands onsite. A total of 19.0 acres of habitat onsite is occupied by this species. The total population estimate is in the thousands.
Variegated dudleya (*Dudleya variegata*)			CNPS 1B, 2-2-2 MSCP-NE County Group A	Three populations were found within the mixed native grassland and broken sage scrub, and the mixed native and non-native grasslands onsite. Each population contained less than 100 individuals each.
Coast barrel cactus (*Ferocactus viridescens*)			CNPS 2, 1-3-1 County Group B	Numerous populations were found onsite primarily along the edges of the mesa near the shoreline and within the vernal pool areas.
Palmer's grappling hook (*Harpagonella palmeri*)			CNPS 4, 1-2-1 County Group B	One population of only four individuals was found in the mixed native and non-native grasslands onsite.
San Diego marsh-elder (*Iva hayesiana*)			CNPS 2, 2-2-1 County Group B	One individual was found in an intermittent drainage onsite.
Southwestern spiny rush (*Juncus acutus* ssp. *leopoldii*)			CNPS 4, 1-2-1 County Group D	A few populations of this species were found in the vernal pool areas and approximately 20 individuals were observed along the intermittent drainage.
Mud nama (*Nama stenocarpum*)			CNPS 2, 3-2-1 County Group B	This species is scattered along portions of the shoreline, especially near the southern dam and the back-bay.
Spreading navarretia (*Navarretia fossalis*)	T		CNPS 1B, 2-3-2 County Group A	This species was not observed onsite. At one time this species was known from at least seven vernal pools scattered throughout most of the vernal pool areas on Sweetwater Authority property. This species could still be present in the seed bank and could germinated during a heavy rainfall year or following restoration activities. Several populations are known from just offsite on the National Wildlife Refuge.
Ashy spike moss (*Selaginella cinerascens*)			County Group D	This species was observed onsite during previous surveys but was not observed during the 2000-01 surveys.
San Diego sunflower (*Viguiera laciniata*)			CNPS 4, 1-2-1 County Group D	One population of a few individuals occurs in the mixed native grassland and broken sage scrub onsite.
Invertebrates				
San Diego fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta sandiegonensis*)	E		MSCP-NE	This species was observed in 15 vernal pools onsite.

Species Name	USFWS Status*	CDFG Status*	Other*	Occurrence or Potential for Occurrence on the Property
Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*)	E		MSCP-NE	This species was not detected during focused, protocol level surveys, conducted during the 2000 season. There were no excluded areas nor quino primary larval host plants and nectar plants observed onsite. The lack of larval host plants and nectar plants in conjunction with the predominantly closed canopy of grasses and high level of long term disturbance, reduces the potential for this species onsite (Marquez & Associates Biological Consultants 2000).
Amphibians				
Western spadefoot (*Spea hammondii*)		SSC		This species has been observed outside of the study area in the upper portion of the reservoir property (P. Famolaro, personal observation). Although not observed, this species could potentially breed within the vernal pools in the study area.
Arroyo southwestern toad (*Bufo californicus*)	E	SSC		This species has been recorded in the upper limits of the reservoir within the Sweetwater River (P. Famolaro, personal observation). This species, however, is not expected to occur within the study area due to lack or appropriate breeding conditions and inappropriateness of soil texture for upland refugia.
Reptiles				
San Diego horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillei*)		SSC	SDHS-E	This species is known from project vicinity but would have a low to moderate potential for occurrence onsite due to the lack of open shrub communities.
Orange-throated whiptail (*Cnemidophorus hyperythrus beldingi*)		SSC	SDHS-T	This species is known from project vicinity but would have a low to moderate potential for occurrence onsite due to the lack of open shrub communities.
Coastal western whiptail (*Cnemidophorus tigris multiscutatus*)		SSC	SDHS-T	This species is known from project vicinity but would have a low to moderate potential for occurrence onsite due to the lack of open shrub communities.
Coronado skink (*Eumeces skiltonianus interparietalis*)		SSC		This species was observed in the study area occupying mixed native grassland and broken sage scrub habitat (P. Famolaro, personal observation).
Birds				
Coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*)	T	SSC		This species was not detected during focused protocol surveys conducted in 2000 (Sweetwater Authority 2000). During routine site visits during 2001, a pair of gnatcatchers were observed just offsite, along the southeastern boundary of the site and another individual, either an adult female or juvenile was observed in the broken sage scrub along the shoreline in the northeastern corner of the site (P. Famolaro, personal observation).
Least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*)	E	E	MSCP-NE	This species is known to breed at the confluence of the Sweetwater River and Reservoir. However, there is no appropriate breeding habitat for this species within the study area. As such, this species is not expected to occur within the project area.
California brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*)	E	E		This species is a regular early summer through late spring through late fall resident (P. Famolaro, personal observation). Up to 50 have been recorded feeding within the reservoir area.
California least tern (*Sterna antillarum browni*)	E	E		This species has rarely been recorded feeding within the reservoir area.
Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*)	D	E		This species is an uncommon fall and winter visitor and occasionally in the spring (P. Famolaro, personal observation). Timing of occurrence typically coincides with the winter waterfowl population on which they prey.

Species Name	USFWS Status*	CDFG Status*	Other*	Occurrence or Potential for Occurrence on the Property
Northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*)		SSC-Nesting		This species is known from the vicinity of the project and has been observed foraging over the study area (P. Famolaro, personal observation).
White-tailed kite (*Elanus coeruleus majusculus*)		SA-Nesting		This species is known from the project vicinity and could has been observed foraging over the study area (P. Famolaro, personal observation).
California horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris actia*)		SSC		This species has been observed breeding within the study area along open soils and mixed grassland cover (P. Famolaro, personal observation).
Grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*)		SA-Nesting		This species has been observed breeding within the study area in mixed native and non-native grassland habitat (P. Famolaro, personal observation).
Loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)		SSC		This species is known from the vicinity of the project and would have a high potential for breeding onsite.
Mammals				
San Diego black-tailed jack rabbit (*Lepus californicus bennetti*)		SSC		This species has been observed throughout the study area in grassland and broken sage scrub habitats (P. Famolaro, personal observation).
San Diego desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida intermedia*)		SSC		This species is known from the vicinity of the project but would have a low potential for occurrence onsite due to the lack of high shrub cover.
Los Angeles pocket mouse (*Perognathus longimembris brevinasus*)		SSC		This species is known from the vicinity of the project but would have a low potential for occurrence due to the lack of substantial areas of open ground. Most of the site consists of dense grass-dominated communities.
Dulzura California pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus californicus femoralis*)		SSC		This species is known from the vicinity of the project but would have a low potential for occurrence due to the lack of substantial areas of open ground. Most of the site consists of dense grass-dominated communities.

*Status Codes:

U.S. Fish and Wild Service (USFWS)

E = Endangered; T = Threatened; PE = Proposed Endangered; D = Delisted

California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG)

E = Endangered; T = Threatened; FP = Fully Protected; SA = Special Animal; SSC = Species of Special Concern

California Native Plant Society (CNPS) (Skinner and Pavlik 1994)

List 1B - Plants rare and endangered in California and elsewhere
List 2 - Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere
List 3 - Plants about which more information is needed - a review list
List 4 - Plants of limited distribution - a watch list

CNPS R-E-D Code

R (Rarity): 1 = Rare, but found in sufficient numbers and distributed widely enough that the potential for extinction or extirpation is low at this time; 2 = Occurrence confined to several populations or to one extended population; 3 = Occurrence limited to one or a few highly restricted populations, or present in such numbers that it is seldom reported
E (Endangerment): 1 = Not endangered; 2 = Endangered in a portion of its range; 3 = Endangered throughout its range
D (Distribution): 1 = More or less wide spread outside California; 2 = Rare outside California; 3 = Endemic to California

SDHS = San Diego Herpetological Society; E = Endangered; T = Threatened
MSCP-NE= Multiple Species Conversation Program's Narrow Endemic
County = County of San Diego:

Group A = Plants rare, threatened or endangered in California and elsewhere;
Group B = Plants rare, threatened or endangered in California but more common elsewhere;
Group C = Plants which my be quite rare, but need more information to determine their true rarity status;
Group D = Plants of limited distribution and are uncommon, but not presently rare or endangered.

2.3.2 Impacts

Direct Impacts

Permanent, direct impacts to biological resources would arise from construction of the project. These impacts are the result of the physical displacement of resources by project amenities. As described in the project description, project amenities include: parking areas, landscaping areas, access roads, trails, toilet pads, and a ~~25~~ 15-foot fuel management zone. Staging areas will be located at either the Thompson Property or an approved fill area adjacent to the South Dike. The project site will be accessed via the existing dirt road. Both of these staging areas are developed and it is assumed that no more than one acre will be required for the staging areas.

As proposed, the project would result in permanent and direct impacts to two vernal pool basins, totaling approximately 300 square feet and ~~1.17~~ 0.90 **acres** of non-basin, vernal pool complex (i.e., mima mound topography and watershed covering mixed native and non-grassland and broken sage scrub habitat). In addition to habitat within the vernal pool complex, 0.96 acre of mixed native grassland and broken sage scrub, ~~0.56~~ 0.50 acre of mixed native and non-native grassland, and ~~0.47~~ 0.45 **acres** of non-native grassland, would also be directly impacted. An additional ~~1.44~~ 1.09 acres of these same habitat types also contain Otay tarplant (~~0.14~~ 0.12 acre within mixed native grassland and broken sage scrub; ~~0.17~~ 0.07 acre within mixed native and non-native grassland; and ~~1.13~~ 0.90 acres within non-native grassland). Furthermore, ~~6.63~~ 5.92 acres are considered potential Otay tarplant habitat (~~3.40~~ 3.28 acre within mixed native grassland and broken sage scrub; ~~0.79~~ 0.58 acre within mixed native and non-native grassland; and ~~2.44~~ 2.06 acres within non-native grassland). It should be noted that additional potential Otay tarplant habitat exists within the vernal pool complex on-site, however, to avoid double counting of impacts these areas were included only in the vernal pool complex impacts. The impacts to the Otay tarplant and potential tarplant habitat include those from the ~~25~~ 15-foot fuel modification zone. The Otay tarplant may persist in the areas of the fuel modification zone, depending upon the timing and intensity of the vegetation clearing activities to maintain these zones. However, for purposes of this analysis, it is assumed that impacts to the Otay tarplant within the fuel modification zone are permanent. A fishing access trail along the shoreline would impact approximately 60 square feet of the riparian habitat along an intermittent drainage.

No direct impacts to the San Diego fairy shrimp would occur from construction of the proposed project. The vernal pool mitigation and restoration plan (see Appendices) would have a net benefit to San Diego fairy shrimp identified in the vernal pool complex. Restoration activities, could potentially affect this species in the process of improving vernal pool habitat. As a result, the restoration plan details measures to avoid or minimize affects (e.g., presence of biological monitor on-site during all phases of implementation, recontouring during the dry season, collection of basin soils prior to recontouring with subsequent reinoculation, and use of hand tools only). Clearing of mixed native grassland and broken sage scrub habitat during the breeding season (February 15 through August 30) of the coastal California gnatcatcher could adversely affect this species if this species is breeding onsite during these habitat clearing activities.

A limited number of San Diego barrel cactus could be removed as a result of project construction. No other sensitive plant species are anticipated to be directly impacted from the proposed project.

Habitat clearing would also adversely affect the native fauna present in these areas including several sensitive animals with the potential for occurrence onsite (see Table 2.3).

Direct impacts to wildlife are likely to occur from road kills along then access road. It is anticipated that reptiles and possibly small mammals would be the most susceptible to these activities.

Indirect Impacts

Indirect impacts are those impacts that effect the remaining biological resources not directly impacted from project construction and can arise from either the construction or ongoing operation of the project. Examples of potential indirect impacts from the proposed project would include construction generated noise that could adversely effect wildlife, increased erosion and sedimentation into the reservoir and vernal pool complexes, changes in the watershed of the vernal pool complexes, habitat and population fragmentation, increased exotic species invasion, unauthorized human and domestic animal trespass into sensitive habitats and populations, and a reduction in migratory waterfowl or associated species populations due to increase human presence at the reservoir). Additionally, brown pelicans could potentially be harmed by fishing lures and/or entanglement with monofilament fishing line during the operational phase of the project. Indirect impacts to the sensitive vegetation communities and sensitive plants could arise from fugitive dust (during construction from earth-moving activities or from vehicle traffic on the proposed decomposed granite road base) that could affect metabolic processes such as decreasing photosynthetic rates.

Landform altering activities from grading and habitat removal could adversely affect adjacent vernal pools by either reducing these pools watersheds an/or creating impervious surfaces that increase runoff to these pools. Changes in hydrology, either increases or decreases, can drastically alter community and population dynamics. Grading activities could also potentially result in increases in erosion and sedimentation rates into the vernal pool basins as well as the reservoir. Such increases could result in adverse effects to both water quality as well as the organisms living in these aquatic environments, especially the San Diego fairy shrimp that inhabits several of the site's vernal pools. Given the relative sizes of both the reservoir and the vernal pools, the reservoir certainly has a greater capacity to buffer these potential effects than do the vernal pools. As such, potential increases in erosion and sedimentation rates, are more likely to have a more adverse effect on the vernal pools than on the reservoir.

Construction generated noise, during the breeding season of the coastal California gnatcatcher (February 15 through August 30) could adversely affect adjacent breeding pairs if noise levels in occupied habitats are in excess of 60 dBA L_{eq}.

Unauthorized human and domestic animal intrusion into environmentally sensitive areas could adversely affect sensitive habitats and species. Off-trail mountain bike, equestrian use, as well as hiking, could trample sensitive vegetation and sensitive species, especially in the vernal pool

basins. Such unauthorized activities could have very adverse effects, especially during the rainy season when the soil is wet and susceptible to compaction. Such activities in the vernal pool basins could alter the configuration of the basins as well as contribute to the mortality of sensitive species.

Increased exotic species invasion could arise if invasive species are used in the project landscaping. Invasive exotics tend to displace native plant species as well as native wildlife since exotics do not provide the necessary habitat requirements for many native wildlife species. Though exotic species are already well established on the site and are contributing to the decline of native populations, the planting of invasive ornamentals would only exacerbate the current condition.

Habitat and population fragmentation arises when contiguous populations and patches of habitat are physically separated and isolated from one another so as to restrict movement of individuals and restrict seed and gene flow. Such processes can have adverse effects on community and population dynamics. However, as proposed the project is likely to have minimal effect on wildlife movement and seed and gene flow since the access road will, for the most part adhere to the existing dirt road and remain unpaved. The trails accessing the fishing locations will occur at the shoreline and thus would not fragment any habitat. These trails would not pose a restriction to any wildlife use of the reservoir. Lastly, the equestrian trail is to be located along the Authority property's existing boundary fenceline, which already restricts some wildlife movement. Maintaining the equestrian trail here would not further this restriction.

2.3.3 Significance of Impacts

Permanent direct impacts to ~~the~~ vernal pool complexes~~,~~ ~~the~~ mixed native grassland and broken sage scrub, ~~the~~ and mixed native and non-native grasslands~~, and the non-native grasslands~~ would be significant because these are sensitive habitats. Loss of non-native grassland would be significant due to the occurrence of the state and federally endangered Otay tarplant. Permanent direct impacts to the developed areas would not be significant as these are not sensitive habitats and provide very little habitat value.

Permanent direct and indirect impacts to ~~the~~ Otay tarplant and potential Otay tarplant habitat, ~~the San Diego fairy shrimp~~, and if present, San Diego fairy shrimp and ~~the~~ coastal California gnatcatcher, would be significant due to the high sensitivity of these species. Direct injury to brown pelicans as a result of fishing activity would also be considered significant

~~Alteration of the watershed of vernal pools would be a significant impact.~~

An increase in the invasion of exotic plant species, from the use of such species in any landscaping could potentially be a significant impact.

Impacts to sensitive vegetation, sensitive plant and animal species from fugitive dust that could arise from either blasting or grading activities could potentially be a significant impact depending upon the extent and timing of such impacts. Dust generated from the proposed decomposed granite road surfacing may also pose a potentially significant impact to vegetation.

Erosion of and/or sedimentation within the reservoir and vernal pools would be a significant impact. If such impacts were to occur to the vernal pools occupied by the San Diego fairy shrimp, impacts to this species would also be significant. Alteration of the watershed of vernal pools outside of the project impact area would also be a significant impact.

Construction generated noise in excess of 60 dBA L_{eq} within occupied habitat of the coastal California gnatcatcher during its breeding season would be a significant impact.

Unauthorized human and domestic animal trespass into sensitive resource areas could potentially be a significant impact to sensitive vegetation (especially vernal pools), sensitive plant populations (especially populations of the Otay tarplant) and to the San Diego fairy shrimp depending upon the extent and timing of these impacts.

Impacts to sensitive biological resources from habitat fragmentation are not considered significant. The parking area would not isolate any habitats and populations and the access roads and trails would not restrict the movement of individuals, seed and gene flow, and pollinators.

2.3.4 Mitigation

The proposed project has been designed to avoid and minimize impacts to sensitive resources. Impacts to the San Diego fairy shrimp would be avoided or minimized with the goal of restoring vernal pool and fairy shrimp habitat. Impacts to the vernal pools, Otay tarplant and native grasslands have also been minimized, but some direct loss of species and habitat acreage would occur. Due to the site's distribution of sensitive resources onsite, further redesign to avoid impacts to one of these latter resources would only further increase impacts to other resources. For example, moving the access road to avoid impacts to vernal pools would increase impacts to the Otay tarplant. As such, the present design of the project would result in the least amount of significant impacts to biological resources. For instance, impacted vernal pools and supporting watershed will be at the down-slope limit of the vernal pool complex area, and therefore, the project is not capable of affecting vernal pools up-slope of the impact area. The remainder of this section describes mitigation measures that would reduce the residual impacts to biological resources to below the level of significance.

1. Prior to any use or development of the property for recreational fishing or issuance of a grading permit:

   a. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) shall have reviewed and approved the vernal pool and Otay tarplant mitigation program.

   b. A conservation easement (dedicated to the CDFG) shall have been placed over the mitigation area, or other assurances subject to USFWS and CDFG approval that the mitigation habitat will be protected in perpetuity with active management and will not be used as mitigation for future projects. The mitigation area shall adequately conserve ~~3.51~~ 2.70 acres of vernal pool complex, ~~5.76~~ 4.36 acres of Otay tarplant restoration and enhancement area, and ~~10.82~~ 9.78 acres of potential Otay tarplant habitat; all of which are described in the restoration plan (see Appendices). An additional ~~1.94~~1.92 acres of

mixed native grassland and broken sage scrub, ~~1.12~~1.00 acres of mixed native and non-native grassland, and ~~0.94~~ 0.45 acre of non-native grassland will also be set aside as permanently protected habitat. Overall, ~~24.09~~ 20.21 acres of habitat will be provided as mitigation for ~~11.23~~ 9.82 acres of impact.

Table 2.4. Habitat Impacts and Required Mitigation for the Sweetwater Authority Fishing Program Area

Biological Resource	Impact Acreage	Mitigation Ratio	Compensation Requirement
Vernal pool complex	~~1.17~~ 0.90 acres of vernal pool complex, including 300 square feet of basins.	3:1	~~3.51~~ 2.70 acres, at least 900 square feet of which must be basin area.
Mixed native grassland and broken sage scrub	0.96 acres	2:1	~~1.94~~ 1.92acres
Mixed native and non-native grassland	~~0.56~~ 0.50 acres	2:1	~~1.12~~ 1.00 acres
Non-native grassland	~~0.47~~ 0.45 acres	1:1	~~0.94~~ 0.45 acres
Intermittent stream	60 square feet	3:1*	180 square feet
Otay tarplant (observed)	~~1.44~~ 1.09 acres	4:1	~~5.76~~ 4.36 acres**
Otay tarplant (potential)	~~3.40~~ 3.28 acres w/in mixed native grassland and broken sage scrub ~~0.79~~ 0.58 acre w/in mixed native and non-native grassland ~~2.44~~ 2.06 acres w/in non-native grassland	2:1 2:1 1:1	~~10.82~~ 9.78 acres total

* Mitigation for impacts to the intermittent stream may be accomplished through either in-kind or out-of-kind compensation. In-kind compensation may be accomplished onsite through the restoration or enhancement of upstream portions of this stream. In-kind compensation may also be accomplished offsite at the Sweetwater Reservoir Habitat Management Program at the confluence of the Sweetwater River and Sweetwater Reservoir. Lastly, out-of-kind compensation could be accomplished through additional basin creation within the proposed vernal pool mitigation program. If the out-of-kind option is chosen the vernal pool basin compensation would total 1,080 square feet (900 square feet to compensate for impacts to the vernal pool basins and 180 square feet to compensate for impacts to the intermittent stream). Though not required, it is recommended that the applicant investigate the option of constructing a foot bridge along the access trail where it crosses this intermittent stream to reduce potential erosion issues that may arise from foot-traffic within the stream.

~~** Mitigation for the Otay tarplant will be incorporated into the upland habitat mitigation as follows: 0.56 acres within mixed native grassland and broken sage scrub; 0.68 acre within mixed native and non-native grassland; and 4.56 acres within non-native grassland. Since a total of 14.31 acres of compensation habitat is required for impacts to the these upland habitats, at least 5.76 acres of this compensatory habitat shall be restored or enhanced in a manner that will provide occupied habitat or habitat that could potentially be occupied by the Otay tarplant.~~

~~0.~~2. Prior to issuance of the grading permit the applicant shall:

a. Obtain or provide evidence in the form of a letter from the respective agency, that all applicable state and federal permits have been obtained or that no permit is required for the proposed activities.

b. Obtain review and approval by the USFWS and CDFG of the landscape plan. The landscape plan shall strive to use, to the extent practicable, native plants and/or low-water

tolerant, non-native plants that have a very low potential for invading adjacent native habitats.

~~0.~~3. Prior to commencement of grading, the applicant shall ensure that the following construction methods and requirements are noted in the construction plans and specifications:

a. Provision shall be made to inform the construction contractors, prior to the bidding process, about the biological constraints of this project. Potential contractors shall be notified that they will be responsible for impacts to sensitive biological resources, beyond those identified in herein, which occur as a direct result of construction activities. All sensitive habitat areas to be avoided shall be clearly marked on project maps provided to the contractor. These areas shall be designated as "no construction" zones and shall be flagged by the project biologist prior to the onset of construction activities. In some cases, resources may need to be fenced or otherwise protected from direct or indirect impacts.

b. A contractor education program shall be implemented to ensure that contractors and all construction personnel are fully informed of the biological resources associated with this project. This program shall focus on a) the purpose for resource protection, b) contractor identification of sensitive resource areas in the field (e.g., areas delineated on maps and by flags or fencing), c) sensitive construction practices, d) protocol to resolve conflicts that may arise at any time during the construction process, and e) ramifications of noncompliance. This program shall be conducted by a qualified biologist.

c. Activities are prohibited within drainages or other wetland areas, including staging areas, equipment access, and disposal or temporary placement of excess fill.

d. Vehicles shall use existing access roads to the degree feasible. Where new access is required, all vehicles shall use the same route, even if this requires heavy equipment to back out of such areas. All access routes outside of existing roads or the construction corridor shall be clearly marked (i.e., flagged and/or staked) prior to the onset of construction. All access roads outside of existing roads or the construction corridor shall be delineated on the grading plans and reviewed by a qualified biologist.

e. Topsoil shall be stockpiled in disturbed areas presently lacking native vegetation. Stockpile areas shall be delineated on the grading plans and reviewed by a qualified biologist.

f. Staging areas shall be located in disturbed habitat, to the degree feasible. Staging areas are prohibited within sensitive habitat areas. Staging areas shall be delineated on the grading plans and reviewed by a qualified biologist. If staging areas outside the construction footprint are used, they shall be surveyed for biological resources.

g. Fueling of equipment shall take place within existing paved roads, and not within or adjacent to drainages or native habitats. Contractor equipment shall be checked for leaks prior to operation and repaired as necessary. "No-fueling zones" shall be designated on construction plans and shall include all areas within a minimum distance of 50 feet from

all drainages.

h. Erosion and siltation of off-site areas during construction shall be minimized. An erosion control plan and a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) shall be required of the contractor (see Section 2.2 of this SEIR). The contract supervisor shall be responsible for ensuring that the erosion control plan is developed and implemented. The Plan shall include the use of silt fences, siltation basins, gravel bags, fiber rolls, erosion control blankets, or other devices necessary to stabilize the soil in denuded or graded areas during the construction and revegetation phases of the project.

i. All habitats and sensitive populations shall be adequately protected with temporary construction fencing and signage to avoid unauthorized impacts.

j. All grading activities shall be conducted outside of the breeding season for the coastal California gnatcatcher (i.e., no grading or blasting from February 15 through August 30).

4. Prior to final inspection pursuant to the grading permit, sensitive habitats in the vicinity of the fishing program shall be permanently fenced with wildlife friendly fencing (no barbed wire or chain-link fences) and posted to preclude unauthorized public access and avoid or minimize indirect project impacts.

5. Following final inspection of grading and commencement of fishing activities, Sweetwater Authority shall construct a kiosk or other public information facilities to provide education on the biological value and importance of the area. Routine patrol by reservoir staff will enforce habitat access restriction in a positive manner to gain public support.

6. Sweetwater Authority shall post and enforce speed limits of no more than 15 mph to reduce fugitive dust generation from vehicles traveling on the unpaved access road. Speed bumps may be incorporated into the final design of the access road to further reduce dust generation, particularly in areas immediately adjacent to sensitive resources. If used, speed bumps will be designed to incorporate the existing hydrological patterns of the adjacent areas to ensure that they do not alter existing hydrology. If fugitive dust generation continues to impact sensitive habitat, Sweetwater Authority shall investigate the use of other surface materials and polymers for the access road that would reduce potential dust generation. Lastly, a water truck may be employed to reduce these emissions, if deemed necessary.

7. Sweetwater Authority shall monitor the effects of fishing activities to wildlife, in particular the brown pelican, to determine if animals are being harmed by fishing lures or entanglement in monofilament fishing line. Monitoring shall be performed jointly by recreation patrol staff and the Authority's staff biologist. Any reported injured wildlife will be reported immediately to the staff biologist. Efforts will be taken to remedy any identified injury, including transport to one of several recognized native wildlife rehabilitation centers. If monitoring determines that fishing activities are imposing undue effects to brown pelicans, the Authority will consult with the appropriate state and wildlife agencies.

Implementation of these mitigation measures during project construction and operations would reduce potential biological resource impacts to less than significant.

2.4 Public Services and Utilities

2.4.1 Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Service

Existing Conditions

The California Department of Forestry (CDF) is responsible for all uncontrolled fires that are wildland in nature or a threat to the wildlands, or are deemed a public nuisance on "State Responsibility Area" (SRA) lands as defined in California Public Resources Code, Sections 4123 and 4126. A large portion of the project site lies within SRA lands.

The nearest CDF fire facility to the project site is the Monte Vista Headquarters Fire Station which is located on Jamacha Road and Willow Glen Road in El Cajon. Two engines companies and a heavy bulldozer are stationed at this location. This facility is approximately eight miles from the site with a response time of 10-15 minutes during fire season (April 15 to December 15). A delayed response of 30-90 minutes would be expected during non-fire season (December 16 to April 14). Back-up CDF forces are available from the Dulzura Fire Station. In addition, air tankers from the Ramona Air Attack Base are approximately 15 minutes from the project site (Miller 2001).

The portion of the project site referred to as the Thompson Property (6503 San Miguel Road) is within the Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District (BSFPD) and the remainder of the project site is within the BSFPD Sphere of Influence. Annexation of the entire project site into the District will be required through LAFCO (Figure 2.7). The District has indicated eligibility for service, and adequate capacity and capability to serve the proposed project. The primary fire station is located at 4900 Bonita Road, approximately three to four minutes from the proposed facility. The fire station is equipped with a Type 1 fire engine containing a 2000 gallon per minute pump and is manned by a chief and 12 firefighters working in 24-hour shifts. All current staff have Emergency Medical Training certification and four members are paramedics (French, 2001a). Pending annexation, BSFPD would continue to be the first responder to any fire or medical emergency on Sweetwater Authority property.

Emergency medical service would be provided by a joint dispatch response. The BSFPD is involved in a Mutual Aid program with American Medical Response (AMR) Ambulance Service. In the event of a medical emergency, BSFPD and AMR would both response to the call and AMR would provide transportation from the site. AMR ambulance response time is approximately 12-15 minutes (French, 2001b).

Impacts

Opening an undeveloped rural area to public access increases the possibility for a fire and/or the need for emergency medical services. In order to reduce fire potential, Sweetwater Authority would conform to the California Uniform Fire, County Fire Code, and the Uniform Building Code as well as any site-specific fire safety requirements set forth by BSFPD and CDF. Although the entire project area is not within the BSFPD, the Thompson property is within the District and BSFPD would be the first responder to any fire or medical emergency at the fishing site. Allowing commencement of fishing activities prior to annexation of the entire property to

the BSFPD would not be a significant impact to the district since it has adequate capacity and capability to serve the project. This impact to fire and emergency medical services would be temporary and is considered to be insignificant. Long-term impacts would be avoided by Sweetwater Authority completing annexation procedures within six months of commencement of fishing operations. BSFPD has reviewed project plans and has recommended brush control (i.e., fuel break) along the access road to the parking area. Sweetwater Authority and the District have agreed to a brush management program that will minimize impacts to sensitive habitat areas (see Section 2.3, Biological Resources) while avoiding potential significant wildland fire impacts.

Mitigation

1. Prior to any grading or use of the project site for recreational fishing, Sweetwater Authority shall have submitted a complete application for annexation to the Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District. Sweetwater Authority shall comply with all requirements of LAFCO for completion of the annexation process within six months of commencement of use of the property for fishing.

2. Prior to commencement of public fishing at the site, brush clearance shall be completed to the satisfaction of the BSFPD Fire Marshal and Sweetwater Authority shall maintain the brush clearance area to the satisfaction of the District.

3. Prior to issuance of any building permit, BSFPD shall review project plans and all requirements of the District shall be implemented, including the installation of a fire hydrant near the concession building, if required by the District.

2.4.2 Law Enforcement

Existing Conditions

The proposed project lies within the patrol area of the County Sheriff's Imperial Beach Station. The station is located at 845 Imperial Beach Boulevard. The average response time to the project site is 10.8 minutes for priority one and two calls and 19.8 minutes for priority three and four calls (Bethea, 2001).

Impacts

Sales and use of alcoholic beverages would be prohibited at the project site, which would decrease incidents requiring response by law enforcement personnel. Sweetwater Authority staff would be onsite during hours of operations and would coordinate with the County Sheriff if problems arose. A significant law enforcement impact is not expected due to alcohol restrictions, limited public access of three days per week during daylight hours only, and onsite personnel to oversee the site. Furthermore, law enforcement service impact analyses are generally based upon projected population increases with regards to a proposed project. The fishing facility will not result in population increases; thus, the impact to law enforcement would be considered insignificant.

Mitigation

No mitigation is required.

2.4.3 Sewer Service

Existing Conditions

The Thompson property is within the Spring Valley Sanitation District (SVSD) but is currently served by a septic system and a sewer connection would be required. The District has indicated there are sufficient facilities to serve the proposed project via an eight-inch sewer main located in San Miguel Road. Public sewer would not be needed at the fishing site on San Miguel Point since portable restrooms would be provided.

Impacts

The Thompson property (APN 585-112-50) would be used for operational headquarters and concessions. Separate men's and women's restrooms would be constructed adjacent to the concession area and connected to public sewer. The men's restroom would consist of a toilet, two urinals and a sink and the women's restroom would contain two toilets and a sink. They are the only facilities in need of sewer connection on the project site. Sewer lines would not be extended beyond this property and no annexation to SVSD would be required. Portable restrooms would accommodate the sanitary waste for the fishing facility on the reservoir lands. The Thompson house and public restrooms would use approximately 10,000 and 75,000 gallons of water per month, respectively. Usage of 85,000 gallons is comparable to10.64 equivalent dwelling units (edu). The addition of the 10.64 edu would have an insignificant effect on the SVSD, because the District has adequate available capacity to serve the project (Villaire 2001). Thus, the sewer impact is considered to be below a level of significance.

Mitigation

Prior to final inspection for use of the new restroom facilities on the Thompson property, Sweetwater Authority shall install a sewer line from the existing main in San Miguel Road and complete a connection of the restroom facilities to the satisfaction of Spring Valley Sanitation District.

2.4.4 Water Service

Existing Conditions

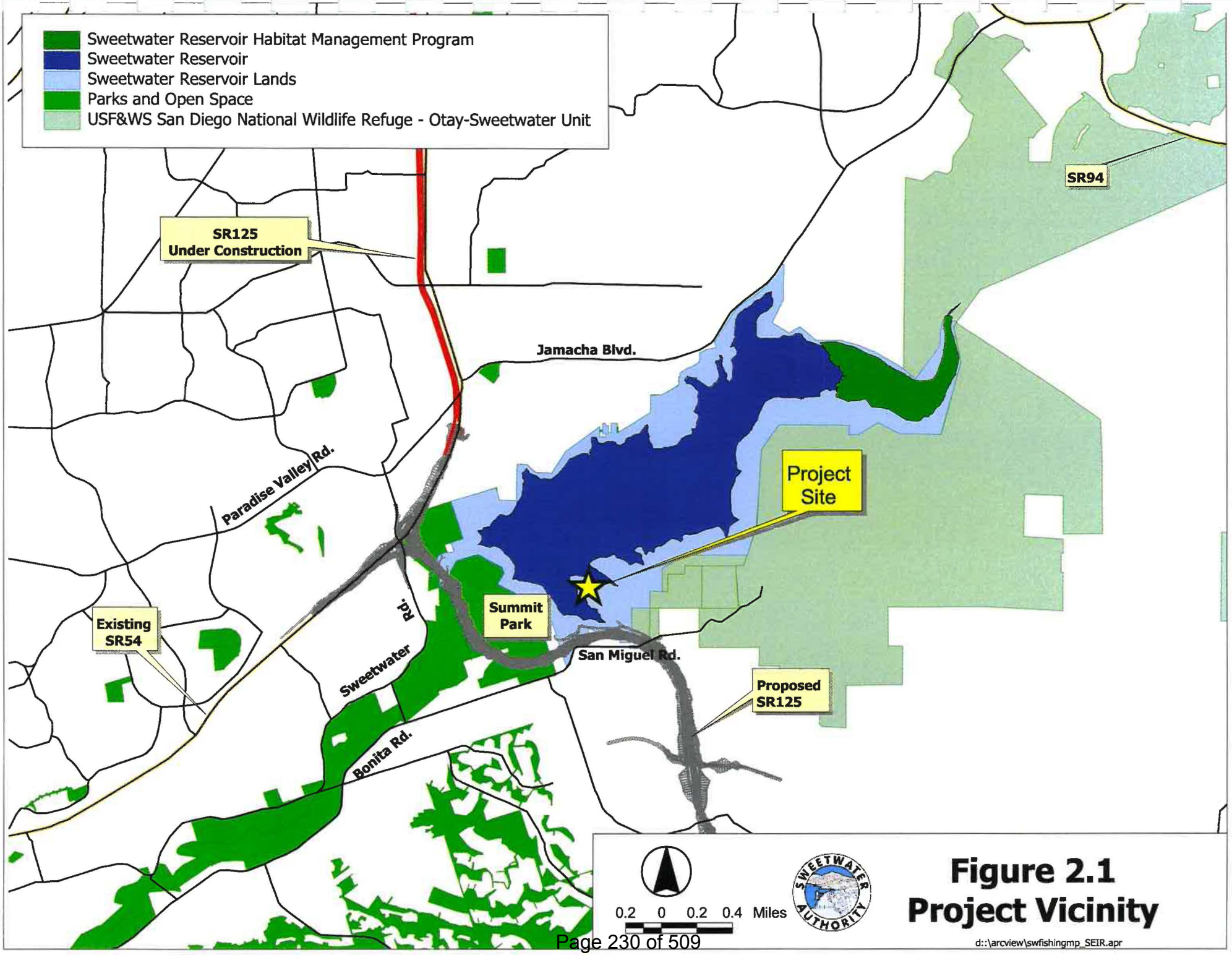
Water service is not currently available at the San Miguel Point fishing site. The Thompson parcel was de-annexed from the Otay Water District (OWD) when Sweetwater Authority purchased the property. Since that time, water has been provided by the OWD through an "out of district water service agreement." OWD has an eight-inch water main in San Miguel Road that is used to serve the property. Water for irrigation of the parking area landscaping at San Miguel Point would be provided by extending a 3" or 4" line from the Thompson house.

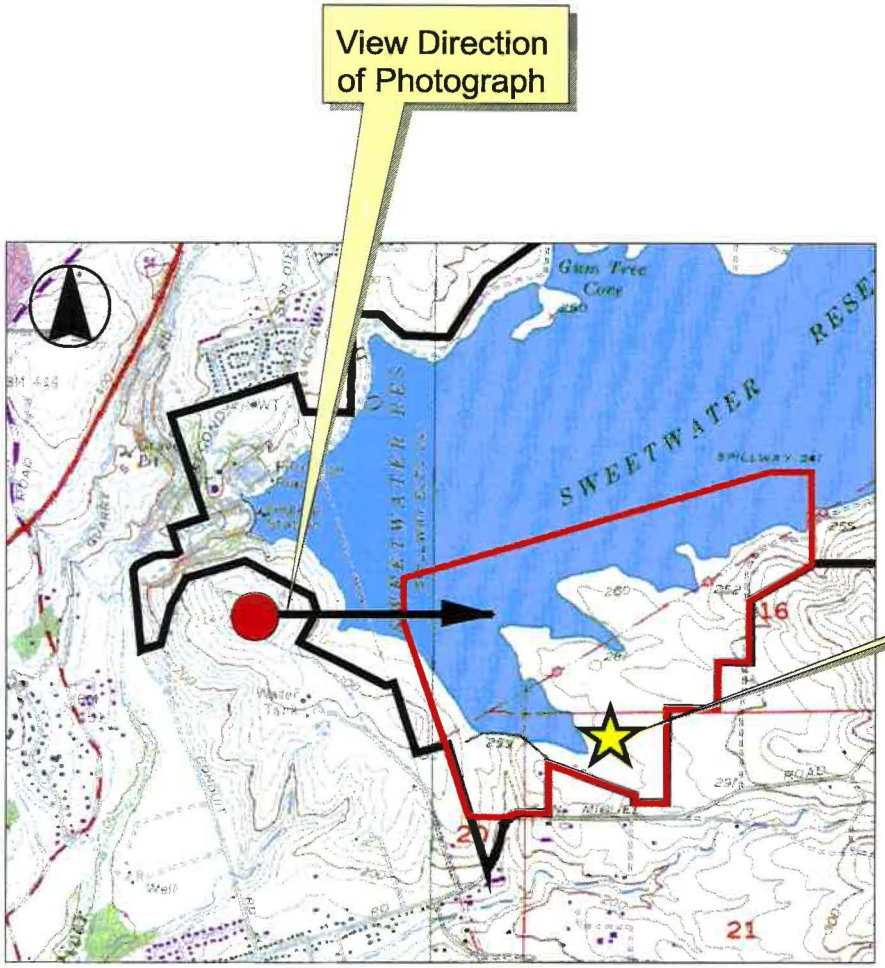
Impact

The project would use approximately 100,000 gallons of water per month including the house, concession area, public restrooms, and landscaping. The reservoir lands would use approximately 31,000 gallons per month for landscaping at the parking lot. This usage would be reduced by 50 percent or more after two years when the plants are established. Based on an Otay Water District evaluation of the proposed water usage and the existing potable water system, the usage would not have a significant impact on the Central Area 711 Pressure Zone system (Klaahsen 2001).

Mitigation

No mitigation is required.


Sweetwater Reservoir Habitat Management Program
Sweetwater Reservoir
Sweetwater Reservoir Lands
Parks and Open Space
USF&WS San Diego National Wildlife Refuge - Otay-Sweetwater Unit
SR94
SR125
Under Construction
Jamacha Blvd.
Paradise Valley Rd.
Project
Site
Summit
Park
Existing
SR54
Sweetwater
Rd.
San Miguel Rd.
Proposed
SR125
Bonita Rd.
0.2 0 0.2 0.4 Miles
SWEETWATER AUTHORITY
Figure 2.1
Project Vicinity
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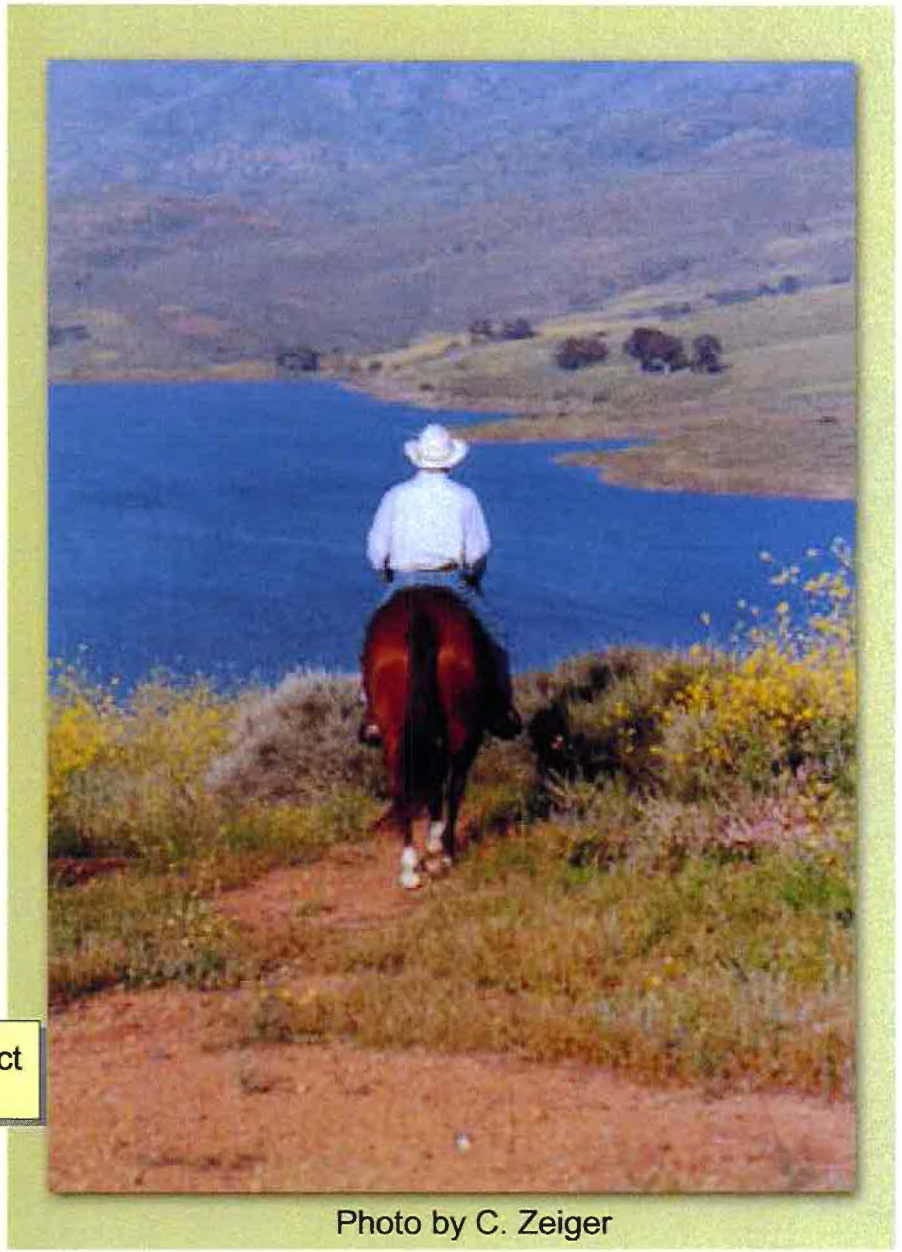
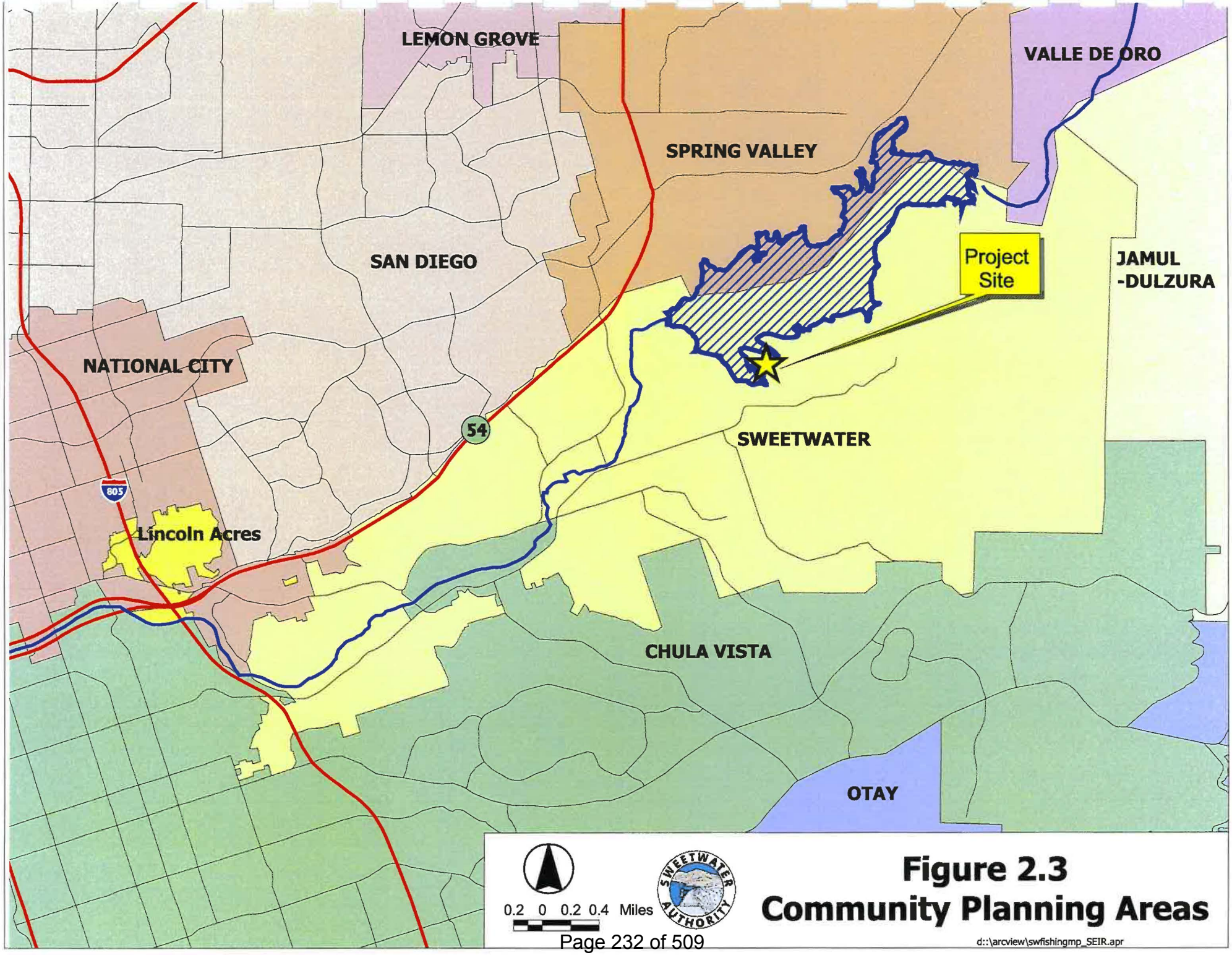


Photo by C. Zeiger

Figure 2.2
View from Public Lookout

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LEMON GROVE
VALLE DE ORO
SPRING VALLEY
SAN DIEGO
Project Site
JAMUL -DULZURA
NATIONAL CITY
54
SWEETWATER
805
Lincoln Acres
CHULA VISTA
OTAY
0.2 0 0.2 0.4 Miles
SWEETWATER AUTHORITY
Figure 2.3
Community Planning Areas
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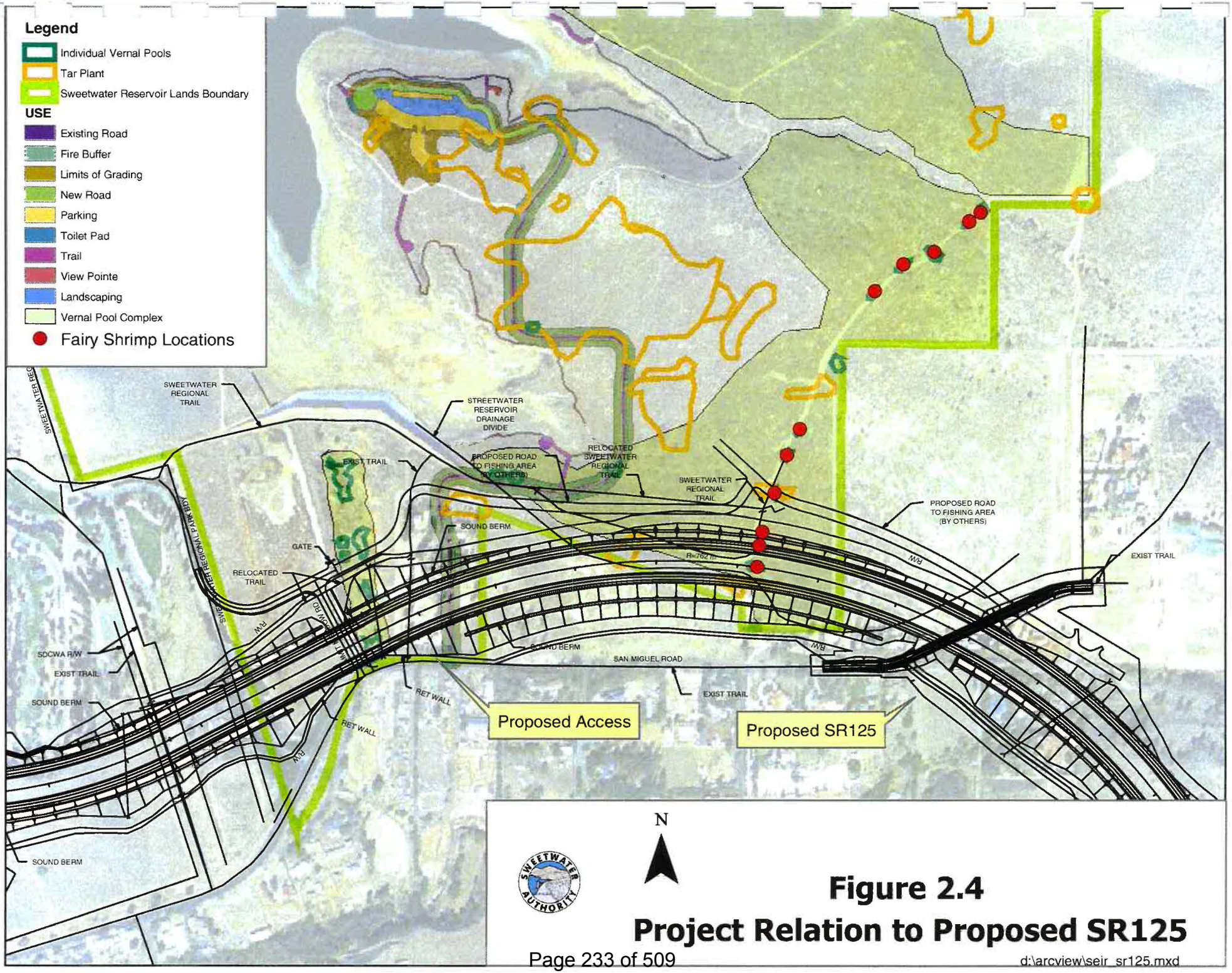
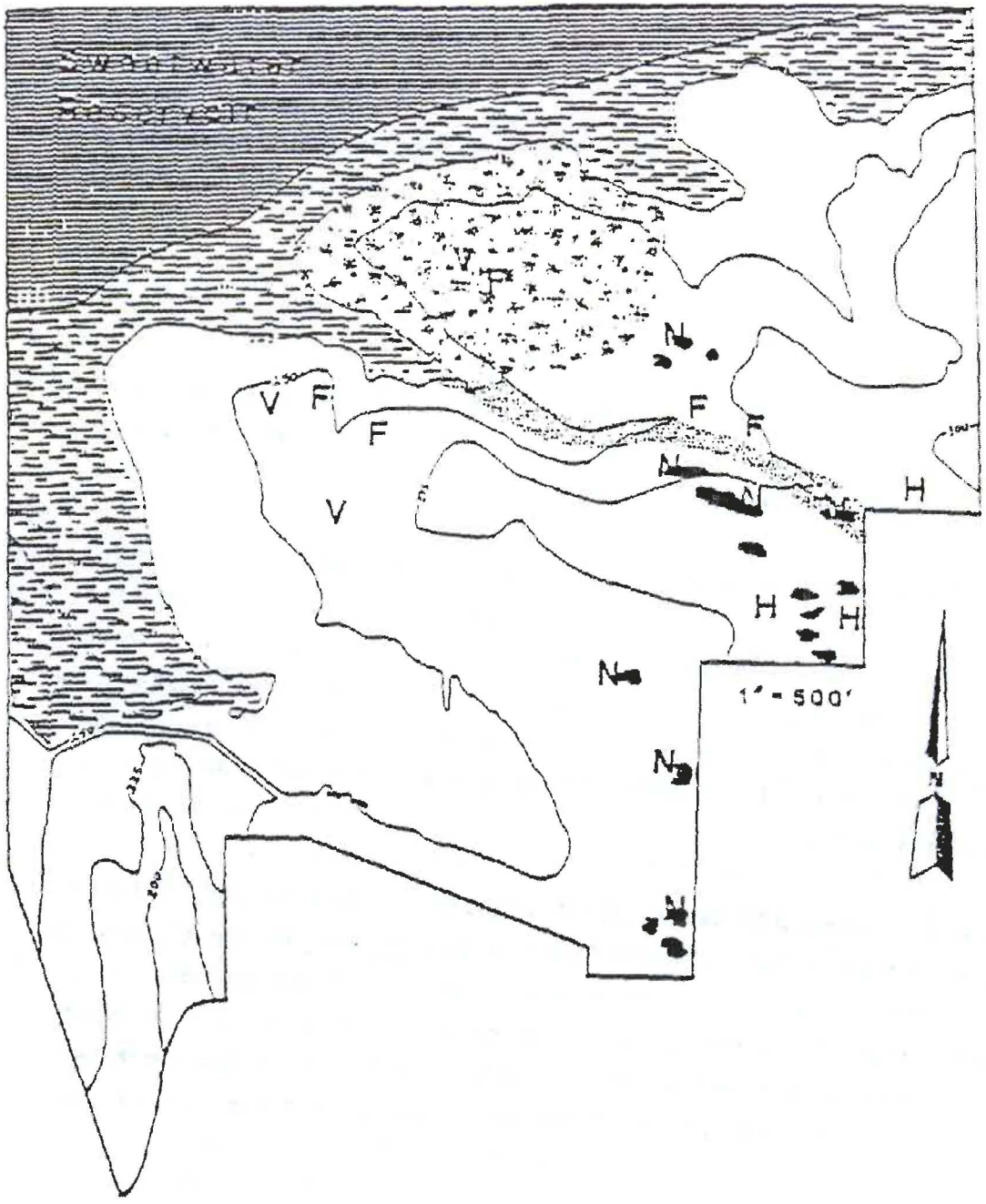


Figure 2.4
Project Relation to Proposed SR125

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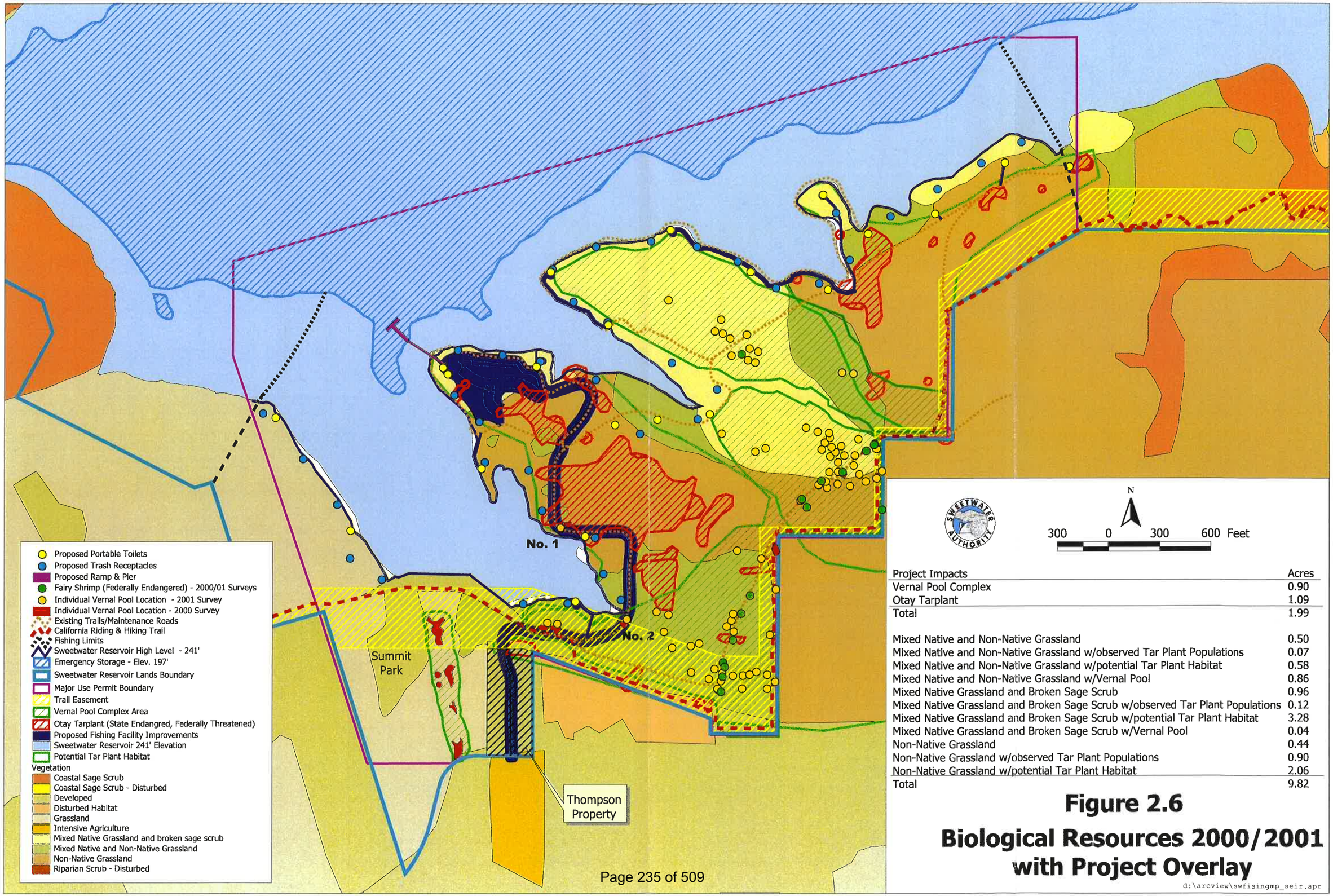


- Annual Grassland
- Incipient Mesic Vegetation
- Inland Sage Scrub
- Reservoir Aquatic
- Vernal Pool

F - Ferocactus viridescens
H - Hemizonia conjugens
N - Navarretia fossalis
V - Viguiera laciniata

Figure 2.5
Vegetation & Rare Plants
San Miguel Point - 1985 Surveys

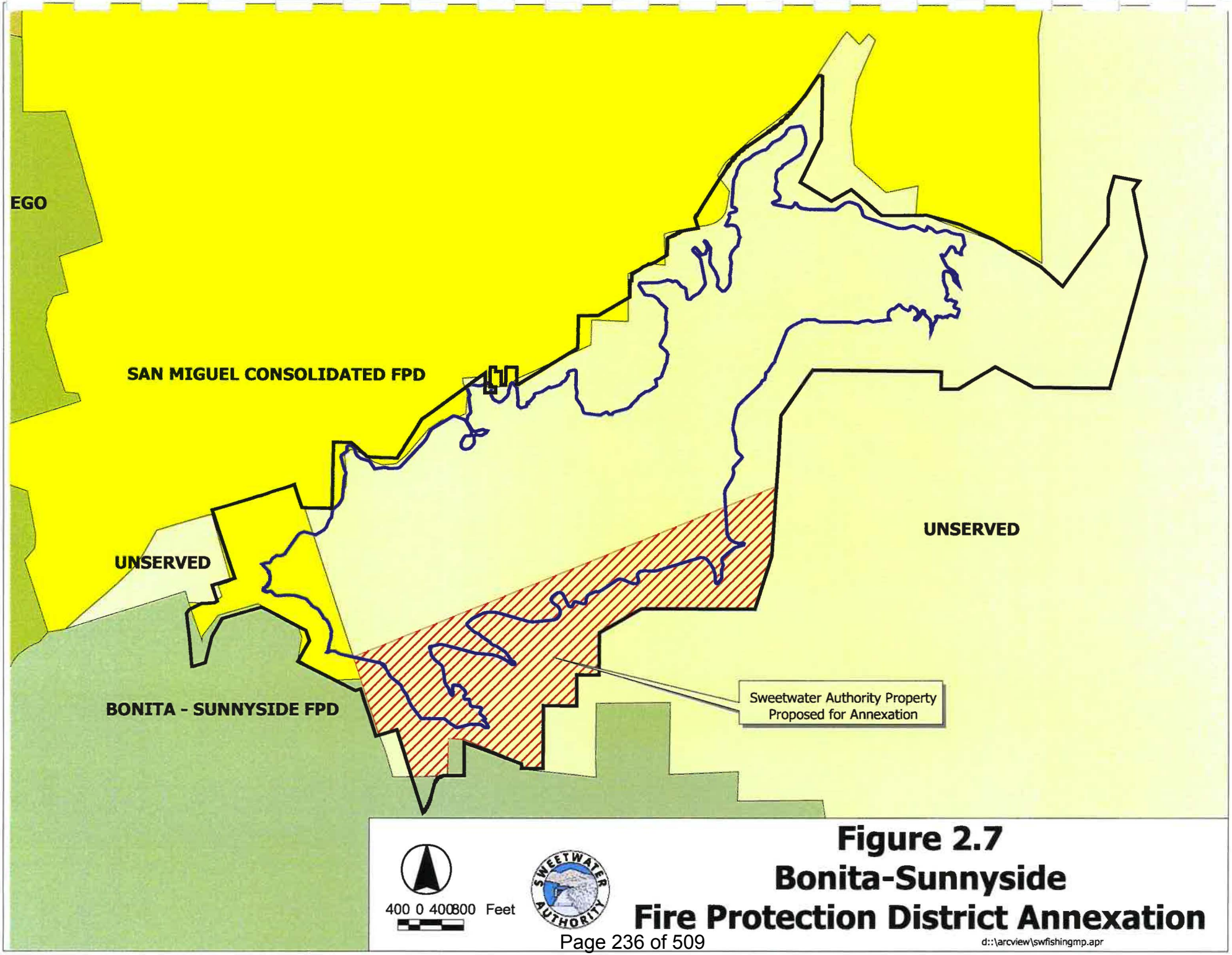
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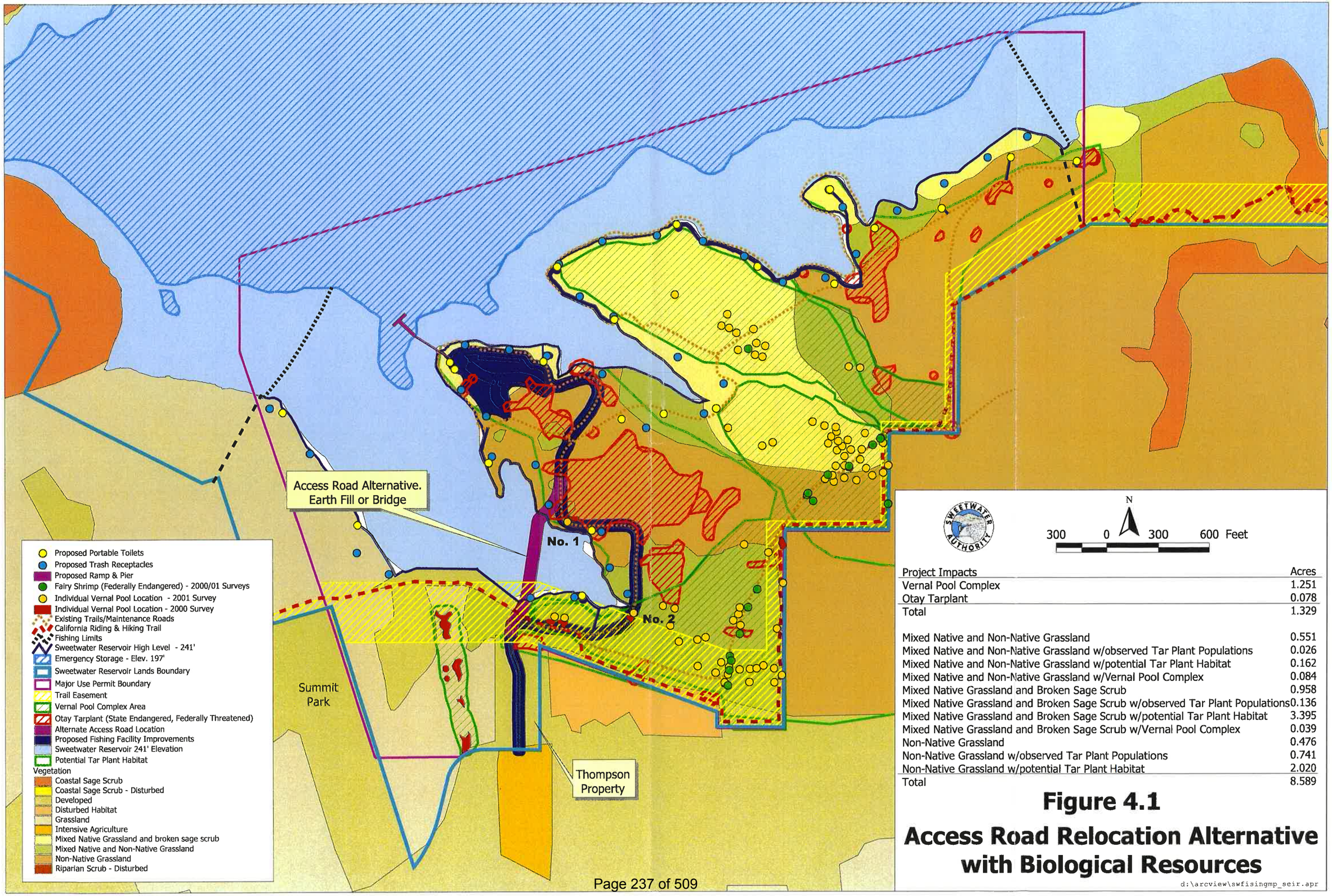


Project Impacts	Acres
Vernal Pool Complex	0.90
Otay Tarplant	1.09
Total	1.99
Mixed Native and Non-Native Grassland	0.50
Mixed Native and Non-Native Grassland w/observed Tar Plant Populations	0.07
Mixed Native and Non-Native Grassland w/potential Tar Plant Habitat	0.58
Mixed Native and Non-Native Grassland w/Vernal Pool	0.86
Mixed Native Grassland and Broken Sage Scrub	0.96
Mixed Native Grassland and Broken Sage Scrub w/observed Tar Plant Populations	0.12
Mixed Native Grassland and Broken Sage Scrub w/potential Tar Plant Habitat	3.28
Mixed Native Grassland and Broken Sage Scrub w/Vernal Pool	0.04
Non-Native Grassland	0.44
Non-Native Grassland w/observed Tar Plant Populations	0.90
Non-Native Grassland w/potential Tar Plant Habitat	2.06
Total	9.82

Figure 2.6
Biological Resources 2000/2001 with Project Overlay

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EGO
SAN MIGUEL CONSOLIDATED FPD
UNSERVED
UNSERVED
BONITA - SUNNYSIDE FPD
Sweetwater Authority Property
Proposed for Annexation
400 0 400800 Feet
SWEETWATER AUTHORITY
Figure 2.7
Bonita-Sunnyside
Fire Protection District Annexation
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Project Impacts	Acres
Vernal Pool Complex	1.251
Otay Tarplant	0.078
Total	1.329
Mixed Native and Non-Native Grassland	0.551
Mixed Native and Non-Native Grassland w/observed Tar Plant Populations	0.026
Mixed Native and Non-Native Grassland w/potential Tar Plant Habitat	0.162
Mixed Native and Non-Native Grassland w/Vernal Pool Complex	0.084
Mixed Native Grassland and Broken Sage Scrub	0.958
Mixed Native Grassland and Broken Sage Scrub w/observed Tar Plant Populations	0.136
Mixed Native Grassland and Broken Sage Scrub w/potential Tar Plant Habitat	3.395
Mixed Native Grassland and Broken Sage Scrub w/Vernal Pool Complex	0.039
Non-Native Grassland	0.476
Non-Native Grassland w/observed Tar Plant Populations	0.741
Non-Native Grassland w/potential Tar Plant Habitat	2.020
Total	8.589

Figure 4.1

Access Road Relocation Alternative with Biological Resources

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Offsite Parking Alternative Location

Summit Park

Thompson Property

- Proposed Portable Toilets
- Proposed Trash Receptacles
- Proposed Ramp & Pier
- Fairy Shrimp (Federally Endangered) - 2000/01 Surveys
- Individual Vernal Pool Location - 2001 Survey
- Individual Vernal Pool Location - 2000 Survey
- Existing Trails/Maintenance Roads
- California Riding & Hiking Trail
- Fishing Limits
- Sweetwater Reservoir High Level - 241'
- Emergency Storage - Elev. 197'
- Sweetwater Reservoir Lands Boundary
- Major Use Permit Boundary
- Trail Easement
- Vernal Pool Complex Area
- Otay Tarplant (State Endangered, Federally Threatened)
- Offsite Parking Alternative
- Proposed Fishing Facility Improvements
- Sweetwater Reservoir 241' Elevation
- Potential Tar Plant Habitat

Vegetation

- Coastal Sage Scrub
- Coastal Sage Scrub - Disturbed
- Developed
- Disturbed Habitat
- Grassland
- Intensive Agriculture
- Mixed Native Grassland and broken sage scrub
- Mixed Native and Non-Native Grassland
- Non-Native Grassland
- Riparian Scrub - Disturbed

N

300 0 300 600 Feet

Project Impacts	Acres
Vernal Pool Complex	0.109
Otay Tarplant	0.794
Total	0.903

Mixed Native and Non-Native Grassland	0.440
Mixed Native and Non-Native Grassland w/Tar Plant	0.012
Mixed Native and Non-Native Grassland w/Vernal Pool	0.038
Mixed Native Grassland and Broken Sage Scrub	1.354
Mixed Native Grassland and Broken Sage Scrub w/Tar Plant	0.007
Mixed Native Grassland and Broken Sage Scrub w/Vernal Pool	0.039
Non-Native Grassland	0.788
Non-Native Grassland w/Tar Plant	0.091
Developed	0.909
Grassland	0.279
Grassland w/Tar Plant	0.717
Total	4.674

Figure 4.2

Offsite Parking Alternative with Biological Resources

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3.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Section 15130 of the State CEQA Guidelines requires a discussion of cumulative impacts when a project's incremental effect is cumulatively considerable. The Guidelines further provide that this discussion may utilize a list of past, present, and probable future projects producing related or cumulative impacts, or a summary of projections contained in an adopted general plan or related planning document.

The following evaluates each issue discussed in Chapter 2.0 of this SEIR. The project site is relatively isolated, being served by only a single dead-end road, and is within the 1,915 acres of Sweetwater Authority property containing Sweetwater Reservoir. The actual development will be contained within approximately 15 acres where project improvements would be constructed. Except for the issues discussed herein, all other incremental effects of the project would not be cumulatively considerable.

Land Use/Community Character

The project site is within the Sweetwater Community Planning Area on property designated (24) Impact Sensitive that encompasses Sweetwater Reservoir property. This category is applied to areas considered unsuitable for urban development for reasons of public safety or environmental sensitivity. The site is zoned S80 Open Space, which permits the proposed recreational use by Major Use Permit. Adjacent private land is designated (1) Residential and (17) Estate, which permit 1 dwelling unit per 1, 2, or 4 acres, and 1 dwelling unit per 2 or 4 acres, respectively. Please also see Section 2.1, Land Use and Community Character, for additional information on the County General Plan and Sweetwater Community Plan.

The Sweetwater fishing facility would be designed and implemented in conformance with the Sweetwater Community Plan and Sweetwater Design Guidelines in order to maintain the overall open space and natural resource characteristics of the site. The project would meet the general community character and land use goals of the Community Plan by maintaining the semi-rural character. The general conservation, open space, and natural habitat protection goals of the Plan would be satisfied by preserving the planning area's unique natural resources and by minimizing grading, preserving native habitat, conserving open space, and using native landscaping.

Sweetwater Design Guidelines goals and objectives would also be met by preserving the open rural atmosphere through the use of rural architectural style. No exterior improvements are proposed to the Thompson house. The new public restroom would be designed to generally match the existing house. The reservoir parking lot would be unpaved and landscaped with native vegetation.

Because of the relatively isolated nature of the project site and the low density of adjacent permitted development, which would require conformance with the Sweetwater Community Plan and existing zoning, the cumulative Land Use/Community Character impacts would not be cumulatively considerable. In addition, the proposed project would not require a general plan amendment or rezone.

Water Quality

The Middle Sweetwater Hydrologic Area drains the watershed between Sweetwater and Loveland Reservoirs. Sweetwater Authority is continuously working to preserve and protect the water quality within the Sweetwater Hydrologic Unit including Sweetwater Reservoir. These endeavors entail involvement in the County discretionary land use permit process, water treatment by the Robert A. Perdue Filtration Plant, and an extensive water quality testing and monitoring program.

The close proximity and the numerous potential sources of pollution from the project could contribute to water quality degradation. However, the strict implementation and monitoring of the mitigation measures discussed in Section 2.2, Water Quality, of this SEIR would reduce the potentially significant water quality impacts to below a level of significance.

The project's contribution to water quality impacts would be minimal given the relatively small area (approximately 15 acres) of the 1,915-acre Sweetwater Reservoir property that would be graded for project development. In addition, as stated in Section 2.2, the project would be required to comply with the Federal Clean Water Act through implementation of the State Water Resources Control Board's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit; and will include preparation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) incorporating applicable Best Management Practices during site grading. Other similar land development projects in the area would also require this same level of compliance with the NPDES and SWPPP requirements. Thus, with this insignificant contribution of runoff, ongoing water quality monitoring, and NPDES/SWPPP compliance, the project's contribution to cumulative water quality impacts would be de minimus and thus not significant.

Biological Resources

As stated in Section 2.3, Biological Resources, significant impacts to sensitive species and habitat would require mitigation in accordance with accepted requirements of state and federal regulatory agencies. Section 1.6.1 of this SEIR provides a detailed description of the regulations applicable to the project and other projects in the local area and region. In addition to these existing regulatory procedures and standards, the County has adopted a Resource Protection Ordinance (RPO), Habitat Loss Permit (HLP) process, and is participating in a regional Natural Communities Conservation Program (NCCP).

The RPO establishes special controls on development in sensitive biological habitats, wetlands and floodplains by requiring a Resource Protection Study and actions to avoid or mitigate project impacts as a condition of approval of certain discretionary projects. The HLP process regulates loss of Diegan coastal sage scrub prior to issuance of certain grading permits, clearing permits and improvement plans.

The Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) is a comprehensive, long-term habitat conservation plan that addresses the needs of multiple species and the preservation of natural vegetation communities in San Diego County. The MSCP addresses potential impacts of urban growth, natural habitat loss and species endangerment and creates a plan to mitigate for the potential loss of covered species and their habitat due to the direct impacts of future development of both public and private lands within the MSCP area. The total study area encompasses 12 jurisdictions and consists of 582,243 acres (County of San Diego 1997). Approved subarea plans, developed by local jurisdictions, will allow the taking of certain covered species incidental to land development and other lawful land uses, authorized by these various jurisdictions. Subarea plans must be consistent with the NCCP Conservation Guidelines. The NCCP purpose is to provide for regional protection and perpetuation of natural wildlife diversity while allowing compatible land use and appropriate development and growth.

The NCCP Process and Conservation Guidelines for the Southern California Coastal Sage Scrub were developed with the intent that they will result in land use plans and management programs for the long-term protection of designated habitats and their component species (CDFG 1993).

Public Services

As stated in Section 2.4, no significant impacts to public services would occur with implementation of the project. The fishing facility would consume water and sewer capacity but the respective service districts indicated an abundance of capacity to serve the project and no mitigation would be required. The emergency services would respond to the site but the project would not create an unusual demand on their services. The project's level of demand for public services would be de minimus and thus not significant.

Geology and Soils

The site geological and soils conditions do not impose any significant constraints on project implementation. Leighton and Associates concluded the proposed development would be feasible if certain recommendations were incorporated into the grading plan and building designs. These recommendations would not affect any surrounding properties or project sites, thus the geological and soils impacts would not be cumulatively significant.

Transportation

An additional traffic volume of 250 ADT would be generated by the project. The project traffic study concluded this additional volume would not cumulatively change LOS for signalized intersections or street segment operation surrounding the project site. The maximum increase in intersectional delay and volume to capacity were also determined to be cumulatively insignificant. Therefore, cumulative traffic impacts would not be considered significant.

Cultural Resources/Paleontological Resources

As discussed in Appendix F, the only onsite cultural resource (CA SDI-10,178) was determined to be an insignificant site. Because the project would not affect significant cultural resources, its impact would be de minimus and thus not significant.

The onsite Mission Valley Formation is assigned a high paleonotological resource sensitivity but the proposed grading does not exceed the significance threshold for depth of excavation in high sensitivity areas. Therefore, no paleonotological resources would be affected and project impacts would be de minimus and thus not significant.

Noise

The project has eliminated the potentially significant noise sources, i.e., motorized watercraft. The noise impacts would be considered de minimus and thus not significant.

Visual Resources

The proposed grading and/or landform modifications would be minimal with no cut great than 8 feet. The project would conform to the Sweetwater Design Guidelines and native landscaping would be used to screen the parking lots. The visual effects attributed to the project would be considered de minimus and thus not significant.

4.0 PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

The following alternatives were evaluated in order to determine whether a significant reduction in impacts to Otay tarplant could be accomplished while maintaining the viability of the project.

4.1 Road Access Relocation Alternative

This alternative would involve construction of a bridge or earth fill across a portion Sweetwater Reservoir located just north of the residence as shown on Figure 4.1. This alternative would reduce impacts to Otay tarplant from 1.44 acres to 0.08 acre, but would increase impacts to vernal pool complex from 1.17 acres to 1.3 acres. An additional impact would occur to open water that would not be impacted under the proposed project.

To create an adequate earth fill, the fill material would need to be a combination of rock and non-permeable soil to prevent erosion when the reservoir is being filled. This would include riprap placed on both sides of the fill slopes, and culverts to allow water to fill on both sides of the dike in order to minimize loss of reservoir storage capacity. Significant grading would be required at the shoreline at each end of the dike in order to stabilize the fill where it contacts the existing shoreline slope. Permits would be required from the California Division of Dam Safety and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Alternatively, a bridge could be constructed along the same alignment and would reduce impacts to open water and have an insignificant effect on the storage capacity of the reservoir.

However, the cost of the alternatives would be in excess of $500,000, which would be prohibitive and preclude construction of the project. Because the mission of Sweetwater Authority is to deliver water to its ratepayers at a reasonable cost, the proposed recreation improvements must be accomplished without cost to the Authority's ratepayers. It is highly unlikely that a grant could be secured for construction of a bridge, or even a dike.

4.2 Offsite Parking Alternative

In order to avoid endangered Otay tarplant, an alternative providing offsite parking would be required. An area south of the south dike of the reservoir is presently being used for landfilling of clean fill from Authority pipeline installations and other projects. This area contains no significant native habitat resources and could be developed for parking by grading and compacting the existing fill that has been placed in this area (Figure 4.2). Additional fill import would also be required. Access by the public to the shoreline fishing area near the original planned parking lot would be approximately one mile. This would preclude use of the site by members of the public who are unable to walk over a mile to the shoreline. Electric carts could transport public requiring a ride, but the cost could not be covered by available funding, an important criteria to the development of the project.

Other problems with this alternative would be the need to coordinate vehicle access to this site from the SR125 alignment and the access road planned by Caltrans from San Miguel Road. In addition,

this alternative would still require vehicle access by Sweetwater Authority maintenance personnel using the existing road. Therefore, the impact to Otay tarplant may be reduced, but would not be avoided.

4.3 No Project Alternative

The No Project Alternative would reduce impacts to Otay tarplant and other natural habitat communities and sensitive species. However, impacts would not be completely avoided since Sweetwater Authority would continue to use the existing roads for maintenance, inspection and security. Direct and indirect impacts would also continue to occur from use of the riding and hiking trail.

The No Project Alternative would preclude use of Sweetwater Reservoir for recreational fishing in a manner that benefits its customers in the South Bay communities of Bonita, National City and Chula Vista. Members of these communities have long sought to have access to Sweetwater Reservoir for fishing in a similar manner that customers of other local water agencies enjoy at other reservoirs. Therefore, the No Project Alternative would not meet the basic objective of the project.

5.0 LONG-TERM ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

5.1 Growth Inducing Impacts

Growth inducement can result from any project that makes it economically, politically, or socially more feasible for development to occur. The extension or improvement of a public facility, such as a sewer truck line or water service, can generate substantial growth in an area by serving new development. The Sweetwater fishing project would not require the extension or improvement of any public facility. The sewer and water mains are available in San Miguel Road adjacent to the project site and would not be extended beyond the property boundaries. Therefore, growth inducing impacts would not result from additional public facilities.

Substantial population increases can occur in an area if a project makes the area more attractive to people. Although the fishing facility would be an amenity to the surrounding community, the fishing is limited to shoreline access three days per week. Its attraction would not be expected to motivate a significant number of people to move into the area. Thus, growth inducement would not be generated by the attractiveness of the fishing facility.

Growth can be stimulated by changes in land use plans, policies, or zoning. Changes in planned land use densities can induce substantial population increases in a community. However, the proposed project would not request or require any land use or zoning changes. Therefore, growth inducing impact would not occur as a result of project implementation.

5.2 Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes Which Would Be Caused By The Proposed Project

The only significant irreversible changes due to the proposed project would affect biological resources. As proposed, the project would result in permanent and direct impacts to two vernal pool basins, totaling approximately 300 square feet, and 1.17 acres of non-basin, vernal pool complex (i.e., mima mound topography and watershed). In addition, 4.49 acres of mixed native grassland and broken sage scrub; 1.52 acres of mixed native and non-native grassland; and 4.04 acres of non-native grasslands would be directly impacted. Approximately1.44 acres of native and non-native grasslands contain Otay tarplant. This potential loss of Otay tarplant would be considered the most significant irreversible change due to project implementation. A fishing access trail along the shoreline would impact approximately 60 square feet of the riparian habitat along an intermittent drainage (Section 2.3; Appendix D).

Habitat clearing would also adversely affect the native fauna present in these areas including several sensitive animals with the potential for occurrence onsite (see Table 2.3). Significant food and shelter resources would be lost permanently.

Landform altering activities from grading and habitat removal could adversely affect adjacent vernal pools by either reducing these pools watersheds an/or creating impervious surfaces that increase

runoff to these pools. Changes in hydrology, either increases or decreases, can drastically alter community and population dynamics.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS FOUND NOT TO BE SIGNIFICANT

6.1 Geology and Soils

The project site is located within the coastal plain of the Peninsular Ranges geomorphic province of Southern California. This geomorphic province encompasses an area extending from the Traverse Range north of the Los Angeles Basin to the tip of Baja California with a width varying from 30 to 100 miles. It is characterized by northwesterly trending mountain ranges and subparallel fault zones. Typically, the Peninsular Ranges are comprised of Jurassic-age metavolcanic and metasedimentary rocks as well as Cretaceous-age igneous rocks of the Southern California batholith. The westernmost portion of the province in San Diego County is generally overlain by Upper Cretaceous-, Tertiary- and Quaternary-age sedimentary rocks.

Leighton and Associates performed subsurface exploration for the proposed project consisting of logging and sampling of 13 trenches (Appendix B). Laboratory testing was perform on representative subsurface samples including R-value, expansion index, soluble sulfate content, pH resistivity, and chloride content tests. The Tertiary-aged Mission Valley Formation is the bedrock unit underlying the site based on subsurface exploration by Leighton and Associates (2001) and review of Kennedy and Tan (1977). This unit generally is flatlying to slightly westerly dipping 5-10 degrees. The lithology varies from a silty claystone to a clayey sandstone with cobbles. The claystone is expected to be highly to very highly expansive. The overlying surficial units consist of undocumented fill, topsoil, and colluvium (Leighton 2001).

There are no known major or active faults on or in the immediate vicinity of the site. Evidence of faulting was not found during Leighton (2001) site investigation. The closest active faults are the Rose Canyon Fault Zone, which is approximately 8 miles northwest of the site, and the Elsinore Fault Zone approximately 37.5 miles to the northeast. The most significant maximum credible earthquakes likely to affect the project sites would be seismic events of Richter magnitude 7.0 and 7.5 on the Rose Canyon and Elsinore fault zones, respectively. The designs for the project components would incorporate a number of construction measures to reduce potential effects from ground shaking. These measures would include adherence to guidelines from the Uniform Building Code (UBC), County of San Diego Grading Ordinance, seismic design specifications of the Structural Engineering Association of California (SEAOC), various other regulatory requirements, and the recommendations of site-specific geotechnical investigations. Impacts associated with seismic shaking and ground acceleration would not be significant if the project components are designed and constructed in conformance with the aforementioned standards and recommendations.

Groundwater or seepage conditions were not encountered during the Leighton geotechnical investigation. Based on the testing, field reconnaissance and review of pertinent literature, Leighton and Associates concluded the proposed development would be feasible from a geotechnical standpoint provided certain recommendations are incorporated into the design and construction of the project. Incorporating these recommendations into site grading and building designs would render the potential impacts due to geology and soils to be at a level of insignificance.

6.2 Transportation and Circulation

A traffic study was prepared to evaluate and determine the traffic impacts on the local circulation system due to the implementation of the proposed fishing facility (Linscott, Law and Greenspan 2001, Appendix C). The project was calculated to generate 250 ADT with 20 inbound/5 outbound trips during the AM peak hour and 5 inbound/20 outbound during the PM peak hour. The addition of this traffic volume to surrounding traffic conditions would not change the Level of Service (LOS) for signalized intersection or street segment operations. The maximum increase in delay at a signalized intersection would be less than one second, which is considered not significant. The maximum volume to capacity (V/C ratio) increase for any street segment operating at LOS E or worse would be 0.01, which is considered insignificant. In addition, cumulative project traffic volumes would not change LOS for signalized intersection or street segment operations. Based on the traffic study analysis and County of San Diego significance criteria, the project would have no significant impacts and mitigation measures to provide additional capacity would not be necessary.

6.3 Cultural Resources/Paleontology

The Shoreline Fishing Facilities project area has been surveyed for cultural resources several times in the past (see Appendix F for details). One archaeological site (CA-SDI-10,178) was found on San Miguel Point. Recently, an archaeological field check of recorded resources and a testing program at CA-SDI-10,178 were conducted by Affinis. CA-SDI-10,178 is a scatter of lithic material where stone tools appear to have been made. The site is located outside the area of direct impacts from project implementation. The site is similar to others in the area and does not possess significant research potential. It is not eligible for listing on the California Register of Historic Resources. Due to its lack of research potential, CA-SDI-10,178 is not considered a significant cultural resource. Therefore, the project would have insignificant effects on cultural resources.

The project site is underlain by the Mission Valley Formation, which is a predominately 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). Grading in areas of moderate to high sensitivity could have potentially significant effects if grading exceeds 1,000 cubic feet at a depth of 10 feet. However, the potential to impact paleontological resources is considered insignificant due to the shallow depths of excavation that would not exceed eight feet of cut.

6.4 Noise

Noise was an issue addressed in the Final EIR for the Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan adopted in 1987. Motorboat use was the only potentially significant source of noise generated by the project. The currently proposed fishing facility would prohibit the use of motorboats or any other motorized water craft at any time in the reservoir. Thus, noise impacts are considered insignificant because the only potentially significant noise source would be eliminated.

6.5 Visual Resources

Sweetwater Reservoir lands consist of 1,915 acres of property that is almost entirely vacant with the only exception being the Robert A. Perdue Water Treatment Plant and related facilities. The 3.76-acre Thompson Property contains a one-story house and detached garage. The closest viewer of the site would be passing by on San Miguel Road, a first priority County of San Diego route for designation as a scenic highway. The project components on the Thompson Property would be approximately 200 feet from the road while the reservoir parking lot would be approximately 2000 feet away. The properties can be seen by residents of the La Presa area and from a few roads in the Dictionary Hill area on the northern side of the Reservoir. The closest resident is approximately 0.7 mile from the proposed reservoir parking lot and one mile from the Thompson house. From west of the project site, project components would be seen clearly from the Sweetwater County Park Summit Site campground. These viewers would be approximately 0.4 mile from both the reservoir parking lot and the Thompson house. In addition, the site is within the viewshed of Jamacha Boulevard, approximately 1.44 miles from the reservoir parking lot and 1.75 miles from the Thompson property components.

The potential visual impacts on the reservoir land would be the decomposed granite surfaced parking lot, entrance road running from San Miguel Road to the parking lot, and 26 portable restrooms. The parking lot would be fully landscaped around the perimeter and in the central island with native plants and shrubs. The entrance road would be 25 feet wide and follow an existing 15-foot wide roadway. The implementation of the above mentioned components would require only minimal grading with no cut greater than eight feet.

From a visual concern, the Thompson property would contain the revamped one-story house with extended porch area, existing garage, concession area, new public restrooms, and decomposed granite parking lot. In addition, this area would be landscaped with native plants. The view of the Thompson property project components from San Miguel Road would be relatively close. The viewers would see an existing residence similar in character to others along San Miguel Road. The new restroom structure would be constructed in conformance with the Sweetwater Design Guidelines.

Based on the factors of distance, minimal grading and landform alteration, proposed landscaping, and conformance with the Sweetwater Design Guidelines for any new structures, a minimal visual effect would be created by the project features. In addition, they will be a minor component within an extensive area of Sweetwater Authority and other public open space. When considering these factors, the visual impacts would be considered insignificant.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Susan Winn

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mark Tucker

8.0 LIST OF MITIGATION MEASURES AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

Implementation of the following mitigation measures shall be made a condition of project approval and would reduce potential significant project impacts to less than significant.

Land Use/Community Character

1. Submit grant proposals for additional landscaping material to camouflage the portable restrooms, and to refurbish the existing residence in compliance with the Sweetwater Design Guidelines.

Water Quality

1. Prior to issuance of any grading permits, the permittee shall submit a site drainage plan and receive approval by the Director of DPW. The plan shall assure that drains are designed to control runoff and that drains are directed only to sedimentation basins, swales, mechanical trapping devices, or similar devices to minimize the potential for erosion damage and to minimize water quality impacts. As an ongoing condition of the plan, the drainage system shall be cleaned and maintained every four months, or as necessary, to ensure that the system functions properly. An annual letter report prepared by the permittee identifying the clean-out dates, system conditions, and required maintenance shall be kept on file at the onsite Sweetwater Authority office. Spot checks of the drainage system may be made by DPW to ensure proper clean-out and maintenance.

2. Prior to the issuance of any grading permit, the permittee shall submit a NOI and obtain a NPDES permit from the SWRCB. Adherence to all conditions of the General Permit for Construction Activity shall be required.

3. The SWPPP shall be incorporated into the grading and drainage design plans and shall provide for implementation of construction and post-construction BMPs onsite to reduce the amount of pollutants and sediments in construction and post-construction surface runoff before it is discharged into the Sweetwater Reservoir and natural drainage courses. Construction-related BMPs shall include silt fencing, gravel bags, and/or jute matting at the toe of the outside of all cut and fill slopes. The grading plans shall note the condition requiring a SWPPP and monitoring plan.

4. Prior to issuance of any grading permit, the permittee shall submit an erosion control plan and receive approval by the Director of DPW. The plan shall include the following:

    a. Construction phase erosion control measures shall be employed – including such measures as short-term use of silt fences, gravel bags, fiber rolls, erosion control blankets or similar devices – along all graded areas to minimize sediment transport. Erosion and runoff control measures shall be in place prior to major grading activities.

b. Native vegetation shall be preserved whenever feasible for immediate replacement on disturbed areas following grading. Native topsoil shall be stockpiled and reapplied as part of site reclamation. Exposed slopes shall be revegetated or hydroseeded within 30 days after completion of site grading.

c. Surface and subsurface drainage shall be designed to preclude ponding outside of designated areas.

d. All soil to be stockpiled shall be protected from erosion and sediment run-off at all times. Stockpiles shall be protected through use of gravel bags near the base of the piles and covered with secured tarps or tackifiers.

e. Stockpiles, refueling activities, and storage areas of hazardous materials (e.g., fuels, lubricants, solvents, and other potential contaminants) shall be located only at predesignated sites as specified in the construction drawings.

f. The construction contractor, in consultation with the County DPW, shall be responsible for implementing required BMPs. The construction manager shall be responsible for monitoring and maintenance of BMPs to ensure that they are working properly, until the construction area has been permanently stabilized.

g. No grading shall be performed during the rainy season (October 1 through April 30) without special erosion control measures approved by the Director of DPW.

5. Prior to issuance of any grading permit, the permittee shall submit a construction spill contingency plan and receive approval by the County Department of Environmental Health (DEH). The plan shall be prepared in accordance with County DEH regulations and retained on-site by the construction manager. If soil is contaminated by a spill, the soil shall be properly removed and transported to a legal disposal site.

6. Prior to the issuance of any grading permit, the permittee shall amend the Domestic Water Supply Permit through the California DHS. As part of the amendment process, a water quality management plan shall be submitted to and approved by the California DHS.

7. Prior to the issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy, a site inspection of the drainage system by DPW shall occur as part of the Mitigation, Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP). Existing runoff catchment basins or temporary erosion control devices shall not cease operations until the SWPPP and drainage system are approved by the Director of DPW.

Biological Resources

1. Prior to any use or development of the property for recreational fishing or issuance of a grading permit, the applicant:

a. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) shall have reviewed and approved the vernal pool and Otay tarplant mitigation program.

b. A conservation easement shall have been placed over the mitigation area, or other assurances subject to USFWS and CDFG approval that the mitigation habitat will be protected in perpetuity with active management and will not be used as mitigation for future projects. The mitigation area shall adequately conserve **2.70** acres of vernal pool complex, **4.36** acres of Otay tarplant restoration and enhancement area, and **9.78** acres of potential Otay tarplant habitat; all of which are described in the restoration plan (see Appendices). An additional **1.92** acres of mixed native grassland and broken sage scrub, **1.00** acres of mixed native and non-native grassland, and **0.45** acre of non-native grassland will also be set aside as permanently protected habitat. Overall, **20.21** acres of habitat will be provided as mitigation for **9.82** acres of impact.

2. Prior to issuance of the grading permit the applicant shall:

a. Obtain or provide evidence in the form of a letter from the respective agency, that all applicable state and federal permits have been obtained or that no permit is required for the proposed activities.

b. Obtain review and approval by the USFWS and CDFG of the landscape plan. The landscape plan shall strive to use, to the extent practicable, native plants and/or low-water tolerant, non-native plants that have a very low potential for invading adjacent native habitats.

3. Prior to commencement of grading, the applicant shall ensure that the following construction methods and requirements are noted in the construction plans and specifications:

a. Provision shall be made to inform the construction contractors, prior to the bidding process, about the biological constraints of this project. Potential contractors shall be notified that they will be responsible for impacts to sensitive biological resources, beyond those identified in herein, which occur as a direct result of construction activities. All sensitive habitat areas to be avoided shall be clearly marked on project maps provided to the contractor. These areas shall be designated as "no construction" zones and shall be flagged by the project biologist prior to the onset of construction activities. In some cases, resources may need to be fenced or otherwise protected from direct or indirect impacts.

b. A contractor education program shall be implemented to ensure that contractors and all construction personnel are fully informed of the biological resources associated with this project. This program shall focus on a) the purpose for resource protection, b) contractor identification of sensitive resource areas in the field (e.g., areas delineated on maps and by flags or fencing), c) sensitive construction practices, d) protocol to resolve conflicts that may arise at any time during the construction process, and e) ramifications of noncompliance. This program shall be conducted by a qualified biologist.

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Attachment 3

MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM FOR THE SWEETWATER RESERVOIR RECREATION MASTER PLAN SHORELINE FISHING PROGRAM County of San Diego

Permit Number: MUP 01-012
Environmental Log No: 01-19-018

State Clearinghouse Number: 1985101602

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December 2001

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM
SWEETWATER RESERVOIR RECREATION MASTER PLAN
SHORELINE FISHING PROGRAM
SCH No. 1985101602
SWA W.O. A3210.0

The California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), Section 21081.6, requires that a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program ("MMRP") be adopted upon certification of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in order to ensure that the mitigation measures are implemented. The MMRP specifies what the mitigation is, the entity responsible for the monitoring program, and when, in the process it should be accomplished.

This MMRP is designed to ensure compliance with AB 3180 (1989) during implementation of mitigation measures. Sweetwater Authority is responsible for ensuring that this program is carried out.

Prior to approval of construction bid documents, the following mitigation measures shall be included in the specifications and contract documents under the heading *Environmental Requirements*. The mitigation measures denoted by asterisk (*) shall also be noted on the project construction plans. Unless otherwise stated, pre-construction mitigation shall be performed by a registered civil engineer, and all other mitigation shall be the responsibility of the construction contractor.

PROJECT LOCATION

The project site is located in southwest San Diego County, in the unincorporated community of Bonita, along the southwest shoreline of Sweetwater Reservoir. The entrance would be via the existing driveway at 6503 San Miguel Road, east of Proctor Valley Road.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project is a shoreline fishing program to allow public recreation along approximately 2.5 miles of the southwest shoreline of Sweetwater Reservoir. In the 1980s, a Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Program was planned and the EIR certified by the Sweetwater Authority Governing Board. The current project is reduced from the project analyzed in the 1987 Final EIR. It consists of the following elements: annexation to the Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District; use of an existing residence for office/concession/caretaker building; widening of the existing driveway to 25-feet for use as a private access road to the fishing facility; installation of sewer facilities to the concession building; provision of restrooms and 30 parking spaces adjacent to the office/concession/caretaker building; construction of a 150-space parking lot on San Miguel Point; widening of the maintenance road from the driveway to the parking lot; improvement of existing trails; installation of water lines, irrigation, landscaping, and portable restrooms.

In order to minimize temporary impacts to sensitive biological resources, the staging areas for equipment storage would be located on the existing residential parcel or within the South Dike landfill area.

LIST OF MITIGATION MEASURES AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

Implementation of the following mitigation measures have been made a condition of project approval and would reduce significant project impacts to less than significant.

1. Prior to any use or development of the property for recreational fishing or issuance of a grading permit:

    a. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) shall have reviewed and approved the vernal pool and Otay tarplant mitigation program.

    b. A conservation easement shall have been placed over the mitigation area, or other assurances subject to USFWS and CDFG approval that the mitigation habitat will be protected in perpetuity with active management and will not be used as mitigation for future projects. The mitigation area shall adequately conserve 2.70 acres of vernal pool complex, 4.36 acres of Otay tarplant restoration and enhancement area, and 9.78 acres of potential Otay tarplant habitat; all of which are described in the restoration plan (see Appendices). An additional 1.92 acres of mixed native grassland and broken sage scrub, 1.00 acres of mixed native and non-native grassland, and 0.45 acre of non-native grassland will also be set aside as permanently protected habitat. Overall, 20.21 acres of habitat will be provided as mitigation for 9.82 acres of impact.

2. Prior to issuance of the grading permit the applicant shall:

    a. Obtain or provide evidence in the form of a letter from the respective agency that all applicable state and federal permits have been obtained or that no permit is required for the proposed activities.

    b. Obtain review and approval by the USFWS and CDFG of the landscape plan. The landscape plan shall strive to use, to the extent practicable, native plants and/or low-water tolerant, non-native plants that have a very low potential for invading adjacent native habitats.

3. Prior to commencement of grading, the applicant shall ensure that the following construction methods and requirements are noted in the construction plans and specifications:

a. Provision shall be made to inform the construction contractors, prior to the bidding process, about the biological constraints of this project. Potential contractors shall be notified that they will be responsible for impacts to sensitive biological resources, beyond those identified in herein, which occur as a direct result of construction activities. All sensitive habitat areas to be avoided shall be clearly marked on project maps provided to the contractor. These areas shall be designated as "no construction" zones and shall be flagged by the project biologist prior to the onset of construction activities. In some cases, resources may need to be fenced or otherwise protected from direct or indirect impacts.

b. A contractor education program shall be implemented to ensure that contractors and all construction personnel are fully informed of the biological resources associated with this project. This program shall focus on: a) the purpose for resource protection, b) contractor identification of sensitive resource areas in the field (e.g., areas delineated on maps and by flags or fencing), c) sensitive construction practices, d) protocol to resolve conflicts that may arise at any time during the construction process, and e) ramifications of noncompliance. This program shall be conducted by a qualified biologist.

c. Activities are prohibited within drainages or other wetland areas, including staging areas, equipment access, and disposal or temporary placement of excess fill.

d. Vehicles shall use existing access roads to the degree feasible. Where new access is required, all vehicles shall use the same route, even if this requires heavy equipment to back out of such areas. All access routes outside of existing roads or the construction corridor shall be clearly marked (i.e., flagged and/or staked) prior to the onset of construction. All access roads outside of existing roads or the construction corridor shall be delineated on the grading plans and reviewed by a qualified biologist.

e. Topsoil shall be stockpiled in disturbed areas presently lacking native vegetation. Stockpile areas shall be delineated on the grading plans and reviewed by a qualified biologist.

f. Staging areas shall be located in disturbed habitat, to the degree

feasible. Staging areas are prohibited within sensitive habitat areas. Staging areas shall be delineated on the grading plans and reviewed by a qualified biologist. If staging areas outside the construction footprint are used, they shall be surveyed for biological resources.

g. Fueling of equipment shall take place within existing paved roads, and not within or adjacent to drainages or native habitats. Contractor equipment shall be checked for leaks prior to operation and repaired as necessary. "No-fueling zones" shall be designated on construction plans and shall include all areas within a minimum distance of 50 feet from all drainages.

h. Erosion and siltation of off-site areas during construction shall be minimized. An erosion control plan and a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan ("SWPPP") shall be required of the contractor (see Section 2.2 of this SEIR). The contract supervisor shall be responsible for ensuring that the erosion control plan is developed and implemented. The Plan shall include the use of silt fences, siltation basins, gravel bags, fiber rolls, erosion control blankets, or other devices necessary to stabilize the soil in denuded or graded areas during the construction and revegetation phases of the project.

i. All habitats and sensitive populations shall be adequately protected with temporary construction fencing and signage to avoid unauthorized impacts.

j. All grading activities shall be conducted outside of the breeding season for the coastal California gnatcatcher (i.e., no grading or blasting from February 15 through August 30).

4. Prior to final inspection pursuant to the grading permit, sensitive habitats in the vicinity of the fishing program shall be fenced and/or posted to preclude unauthorized public access and avoid or minimize indirect project impacts.

5. Following final inspection of grading and commencement of fishing activities, Sweetwater Authority shall construct a kiosk or other public information facilities to provide education on the biological value and importance of the area. Routine patrol by reservoir staff will enforce habitat access restriction in a positive manner to gain public support.

6. Sweetwater Authority shall post and enforce speed limits of no more than 15 mph to reduce fugitive dust generation from vehicles traveling on the

unpaved access road. Speed bumps may be incorporated into the final design of the access road to further reduce dust generation, particularly in areas immediately adjacent to sensitive resources. If used, speed bumps will be designed to incorporate the existing hydrological patterns of the adjacent areas to ensure that they do not alter existing hydrology. If fugitive dust generation continues to impact sensitive habitat, Sweetwater Authority shall investigate the use of other surface materials and polymers for the access road that would reduce potential dust generation. Lastly, a water truck may be employed to reduce these emissions, if deemed necessary.

Table 1 includes as mitigation checklist prepared for the project. Information contained within the checklist clearly identifies the mitigation measure, delineates the monitoring schedule, and defines the conditions required to verify compliance. This corresponds to the mitigation and monitoring program found in the Supplement to the Final EIR for the Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan.

Table 1
Mitigation Measures, Monitoring and Reporting for the Sweetwater Reservoir Master Plan Shoreline Fishing Program

Biological Resource	Mitigation Measure	Time Frame	Responsibility	Approval	Date of Completion	Date of Verification
Vernal pool complex	Enhance and preserve 2.70 acres on-site, and within that create at least 900 square feet of basin area per Restoration Plan	Within the year of project construction	Chief Engineer	Annual monitoring report prepared under the direction of SWA Field Biologist and submitted to CDFG/USFWS.		
Mixed native grassland and broken sage scrub	Preserve 1.92 acres on-site	Prior to construction	Chief Engineer	CDFG/USFWS		
Mixed native and non-native grassland	1.0 acres	Prior to construction	Chief Engineer	CDFG/USFWS		
Non-native grassland	0.45 acre	Prior to construction	Chief Engineer	CDFG/USFWS		
Intermittent stream	180 square feet	Within the year of project construction	Chief Engineer	CDFG/USFWS		
Otay tarplant (observed)	4.36 acres	Within the year of project construction	Chief Engineer	Annual monitoring report prepared under the direction of SWA Field Biologist and submitted to CDFG/USFWS.		
Otay tarplant (potential)	9.78 acres total	Prior to construction	Chief Engineer	CDFG/USFWS		

Attachment 2. Final Biological Constraints Survey for the Proposed Shared Maintenance / Recreation Trail (SMRT) Project

Prepared by WSP USA Inc.
Date: May 10, 2024

WSP USA, Inc.
9177 Sky Park Court
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 300-4300

wsp.com

- Submitted Via Email -

May 10, 2024

Mr. Israel Marquez
Sweetwater Authority
505 Garrett Avenue
Chula Vista, California 91910
imarquez@sweetwater.org

Re: Final Biological Constraints Survey for the Proposed Shared Maintenance/Recreation Trail (SMRT) Project

At the request of the Sweetwater Authority (Authority), WSP USA, Inc. (WSP) conducted a literature review and a one-day biological reconnaissance survey in support of the 2001 Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) Addendum No. 2 for the Sweetwater Reservoir Recreational Master Plan – Proposed Shared Maintenance Road and Trail (SMRT) Project. The intent of this literature review and reconnaissance survey was to confirm previously identified biological resources as well as any changes to existing conditions, including any new biological resources of interest along the proposed SMRT alignment.

1 PROJECT UNDERSTANDING AND BACKGROUND

The Authority, as a Lead Agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), is proposing to modify the use of an existing and previously graded 2.2-mile-long maintenance road, which is currently closed to the public. The Authority is proposing to support certain recreational opportunities, including non-motorized cycling (i.e., mountain biking) and hiking, for the enjoyment of the community. The proposed SMRT would connect with existing trails that are in use to the west and northeast, allowing for increased connectivity and access to the local trail system. The proposed SMRT would not involve any new grading or widening of the existing maintenance road. The existing drivable surface of the maintenance road would be wide enough to provide continued access for maintenance vehicles, while also allowing for certain recreational uses. With the exception of habitat restoration as described below, all of the project components would occur or would be installed within the boundaries of previously disturbed areas. Improvements to the existing maintenance road would be limited to the installation of fences, gates, signs and if necessary, the addition Class 2 Aggregate Base and/or geotextile liners to improve the usable surface of the existing road (e.g., in areas where heavy clay soils occur). These improvements would increase usability of the existing maintenance road and reduce overall maintenance needs.

As described in further detail below, the proposed alignment 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. As a component of the proposed SMRT, in-line with the Authority's watershed and habitat protection goals, and to improve the overall experience of recreationists, the Authority and their partners are proposing to restore and provide weed abatement on approximately 9.8 acres of currently disturbed habitat adjacent to drainages DC-3 and DC-4, including

transitional habitat restoration, cactus scrub restoration, and weed abatement followed by native grasses seeding.

WSP conducted a review of previous biological resources surveys and associated Geographic Information System (GIS) data provided by the Authority. The primary data source utilized was the Authority's in-house biological resources database maintained by Authority Biologist, Pete Famolaro (unpublished data). Additional documents reviewed include:

- McMillan Biological Consulting. Survey Report and Vernal Pool Surveys on a 150 acre Site at Sweetwater Reservoir. Prepared for Sweetwater Authority. July 2000.
- McMillan Biological Consulting. Survey Report and Vernal Pool Update Surveys on the Sweetwater Reservoir Fishing and Recreation Project. Prepared for Sweetwater Authority. September 2001.
- Sweetwater Authority. Addendum No. 2 to the Supplement to the Environmental Impact Report for the Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan – Shared Maintenance Road and Trail (SMRT). In House Draft, April 2024.

These documents were reviewed to determine whether or not sensitive biological resources were previously documented as occurring or having the potential to occur within the proposed SMRT alignment. WSP focused this review on the proposed alignment as well as a surrounding buffer of approximately 500 feet.

A one-day reconnaissance survey was also conducted by WSP Biologist, David King, accompanied by Authority Environmental Manager, Israel Marquez. During the reconnaissance survey, project details were discussed, the proposed alignment was assessed, and existing conditions were compared to previously mapped data. The survey was conducted on 23 April 2024 between 1430 and 1830 under mild weather conditions (61-67 degrees Fahrenheit [°F], overcast skies, 2-3 miles per hour [mph] wind) on foot and by vehicle. The entire proposed alignment was observed, with an emphasis on drainage crossings and potential road rut pools previously observed in the eastern area of the alignment.

2 FINDINGS

2.1 Historical Data

The review of historical data provided by the Authority indicated that special status plant and wildlife species, along with aquatic resources, are known to occur in the vicinity of the proposed SMRT alignment.

Special status species that have been previously mapped within 500 feet of the proposed alignment by the Authority, and could potentially occur in the project area or adjacent habitat, include: coast barrel cactus (*Ferocactus viridescens*), San Diego sunflower (*Viguiera laciniata*), red-diamond rattlesnake (*Crotalus ruber*), orange-throated whiptail (*Aspidoscelis hyperythrus*), coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*), coastal cactus wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus sandiegensis*), loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*), least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), yellow-breasted chat (*Icteria virens)*, and San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus bennettii*). Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*) is also known to occur nearby.

Additionally, the following special status species have been previously identified by McMillan Biological Consulting as occurring or having potential to occur in the surrounding vicinity, including: Otay tarplant (*Deinandra conjugens*), California adolphia (*Adolphia californica*), small-flowered morning-glory (*Convolvulus simulans*), variegated dudleya (*Dudleya variegate*), Palmer's grappling-hook (*Harpagonella palmeri*), southwestern spiny rush, mud nama (*Nama stenocarpum*), ashy spike-moss (*Selaginella cinerascens*). Additionally, the federally threatened spreading navarretia (*Navarretia fossalis*) is known to

occur in vernal pools immediately off-site on the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge (McMillan Biological Consulting 2001).

The 2001 SEIR also identified several special status wildlife species have the potential to occur in the vicinity including the federally listed San Diego fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta sandiegonensis*), coastal California gnatcatcher, least Bell's vireo, and several California Species of Special Concern including western spadefoot (*Spea hammondii*), Coronado skink (*Eumeces skiltonianus interparietalis*), California brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*), and San Diego black-tailed jack rabbit (McMillan Biological Consulting 2001).

Three species have had their special status elevated since the 2001 SEIR and are known from the area. Two of these species are invertebrates and include Crotch's bumblebee (*Bombus crotchii*), which is proposed endangered by California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and Hermes copper butterfly (*Lycaena Hermes*) which was listed as threatened by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in 2021. One species is an amphibian and is the western spadefoot has proposed threatened by the USFWS.

2.2 Biological Reconnaissance Survey

The biological reconnaissance survey determined that the conditions along the proposed SMRT alignment and within the surrounding vicinity are generally similar to those that have been documented in previous surveys. The proposed alignment is located entirely within the existing maintenance road, which is a dirt road that is maintained on a regular basis. The majority of the road is bare, with patches of nonnative, weedy species. A small section at the western terminus is somewhat overgrown by emergent, nonnative grass species. At the time of the survey, the road had not been significantly maintained during the wet season, due to soft soil conditions, and was more overgrown in areas than usual. Most of the drainage crossings were dry at the time of the survey, either no longer flowing or culverted. The exception was a road segment near drainage DC-2, which was flooded as a result of water entering the road at drainage DC-3 and flowing down recent vehicle ruts for approximately 250 feet into drainage DC-2. The road was muddy with ponded areas, but no wetland vegetation was noted in this relatively new condition. The flow on top of the road appears to be the result of lack of a culvert pipe, and maintenance grading combined with vehicular traffic. Several dry ruts were identified along the eastern section of the road, primarily between drainages DC-6 and DC-8. These ruts appeared to briefly hold water during the wet season. Dried ostracods (an ephemeral pool invertebrate species) and loosestrife (*Lythrum hyssopifolia*), which often indicate wet conditions, were observed.

The majority of the proposed alignment is in the low, rolling hills above the shoreline of the open water of the reservoir. Vegetation communities in the surrounding area primarily include a matrix of open Diegan coastal sage scrub, native and nonnative grasslands, with smaller patches of riparian woodlands, and large coast live oak trees. The surrounding vegetation was generally intact and in good condition and could provide habitat for the special status plant and wildlife species previously identified in the vicinity. San Diego marsh-elder (*Iva hayesiana*), coastal California gnatcatcher, California adolphia, grasshopper sparrow, and a nesting great horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*) were observed during the survey. The majority of the coastal sage scrub is patchy, with occasional patches being immediately adjacent to the road shoulder. Vernal pools have been identified near the western terminus of the proposed alignment, but are located approximately 500 feet away and are hydrologically separated from the proposed alignment by a significant drainage.

3 ASSESSMENT

The proposed alignment would include the existing maintenance road, which is regularly maintained and unlikely to directly support most of the potentially occurring sensitive species. A series of small low areas and road ruts were identified in the eastern area of the proposed alignment, primarily between drainages DC-6 and DC-8 were dry at the time of the survey but appeared to potentially hold water during the rainy season.

Two species known from the region can potentially occur in ephemeral road ruts, San Diego fairy shrimp (federally endangered) and western spadefoot (proposed species for federal listing). Both species occur in vernal pools, but also other small, ephemeral pools and ruts if the typical inundation periods of the pools are sufficient for the life cycle of the San Diego fairy shrimp or the larval maturation time of the western spadefoot eggs and larvae. There is a relatively low potential for these species to occur in the road ruts located along the proposed alignment, but they could potentially support these species on wet years. In particular, the ruts that supported plant species such as loosestrife, and in one case the dried remains of seed shrimp (ostracoda), an invertebrate species that can co-occur with fairy shrimp, are the ones with the highest potential. However, even though these pools could provide habitat for western spadefoot or fairy shrimp species, it is still relatively low quality habitat. These species do not typically occur in flowing water and would not be expected to occur within drainage DC-2 and DC-3.

The special status plant species identified in the area were not observed within the proposed alignment and are unlikely to occur within the existing maintenance road. However, these species do have a potential to occur in the immediately adjacent habitat and two species were observed. San Diego marsh elder was observed in drainage DC-3 immediately adjacent to the proposed alignment and California adolphia was observed in the surrounding coastal sage scrub. Otay tarplant was not readily identifiable at the time of the field visit but is known to occur in the immediate vicinity in open sage scrub, grasslands or disturbed habitats. It would not be likely to occur within the existing maintenance roadway, but could occur in the adjacent habitats or road shoulders.

Quino checkerspot butterfly occurs in open grassland or sage scrub habitats in the region where larval host plants are present and adult nectaring plants occur nearby. There is some low potential for larvae of the species to occur within the proposed alignment if these species are present and population exist in the adjacent habitat. Host and nectaring plant species were not incidentally observed during the brief survey but could potentially occur in the area. A focused survey for these species was not within the scope of the field visit.

Hermes copper butterfly is most often associated with its host plant redberry (*Rhamnus crocea*). The proposed alignment is located within the range of the species, and redberry was observed on the adjacent coastal sage scrub at the east end of the alignment. A complete survey for the host plant was not within the scope of the field visit, but it was not observed and would not occur within the width of the existing maintenance road. The butterfly most often occurs where substantial patches of the host plant occur.

One other insect, Crotch's bumblebee, which is proposed endangered by CDFW, occurs in a wide range of open scrub and grassland habitats, most often when abundant flowering plants are available as nectar and pollen gathering sources. The species is known from the vicinity and could potentially occur in the adjacent habitat.

Coastal California gnatcatcher was observed adjacent to the proposed alignment during the reconnaissance survey and is historically documented as abundant in the adjacent coastal sage scrub in the project vicinity. It would not occur with the proposed alignment but could nest in the adjacent coastal sage scrub.

Least Bell's vireo has been historically documented in the vicinity of the proposed alignment near drainage DC-5, and could have a low potential of breeding nearby. The species is relatively abundant in the riparian scrub near the northern end of the alignment and is known to nest within approximately 300 feet of this area, although there is no significant riparian habitat immediately adjacent to the proposed alignment. Willow flycatcher has been recorded in these areas as well, but as lone migrants, and is not likely to nest there.

Cactus wren has historically been documented in the larger cactus patches near the central section of the proposed alignment, particularly near drainages DC-5 and DC-6, and likely breeds there. Several of the

cactus patches are immediately adjacent to the proposed alignment, although cactus wren nests were not observed in these patches during the survey.

Wetlands and Jurisdictional Waters are not likely to be present in the existing roadway, but a number of the drainages adjacent to the alignment at the crossings are likely to be US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) jurisdictional waters, or USACE or CDFW wetlands.

In general, the conditions observed on site appear to be similar to those addressed in the 2001 SEIR.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

Some recommendations discussed with the Authority Environmental Manager during the field visit include:

- Providing signage and interpretive materials that indicate the importance of remaining on the established trail, avoiding littering, and fire dangers.
- Continuing to maintain the existing maintenance road, including the addition of gravel, geotextiles, Class 2 road base materials and repairs to culverts, as needed, to prevent the degradation of the road surface during wet conditions, which could lead to erosion or sedimentation of adjacent habitat.
- Construction of fences along the trail edges to protect adjacent habitat and prevent the creation of additional trails.
- Ensuring road maintenance/improvement activities occur outside of the wet season and outside of the avian nesting season (generally mid-February through August). If these activities must occur during the avian nesting season, additional surveys and mitigation measures would need to be arranged with the resource agencies.
- Establishing a trail monitoring program to identify issues such area erosion, creation of additional side trails by the public, or other potential adverse effects on adjacent habitat.
- Addressing future maintenance needs such as vegetation trimming along trail edges.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (619) 302-2347 or david.f.king@wsp.com.

Respectfully submitted,

David King

Senior Biologist

WSP

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

From:	Benham, Crystal
To:	Environmental Programs
Cc:	Orozco, Juliette; Bendrick, Lizzy
Subject:	[Ext.] RE: Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan - Addendum No. 2 to EIR
Date:	Wednesday, June 12, 2024 1:09:51 PM
Attachments:	image001.png County DPR Comment Letter on SWA SMRT Addendum.pdf

Good Afternoon – please see comments attached from the County of San Diego. Thank you for the opportunity to comment, please let us know if you want to discuss any of these comments with us.

Sincerely,
Crystal

Crystal Benham (she-her-hers)
Cell: (619) 539-4155

From: Marquez, Israel <imarquez@sweetwater.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 22, 2024 2:04 PM
To: Del Bosque, Erick <edelbosque@sweetwater.org>; Brazil, Justin <jbrazil@sweetwater.org>
Subject: [External] Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan - Addendum No. 2 to EIR

Good afternoon,

Sweetwater Authority is considering the adoption of an addendum to the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Sweetwater Reservoir Recreational Facilities Master Plan. The draft EIR addendum and associated documents can be found in the following link: https://www.sweetwater.org/364/Projects-under-Public-Review.

The draft addendum document discusses the conversion of an existing dirt maintenance road into a shared maintenance road and trail (SMRT). This SMRT would connect to existing recreational facilities, including an existing trail and the Sweetwater Reservoir Recreational Area (i.e. Fishing Program).

Sweetwater Authority is circulating this draft addendum to the community and stakeholders for any input you may have on the proposed SMRT. Please provide any comments via email to environmental@sweetwater.org by June 12, 2024. Please feel free to reach to me via phone or email if you have any questions regarding the draft addendum.

Thank you.

Israel Marquez
Land and Environmental Manager

Mobile (619) 410-1590
Direct (619) 409-6759
Mail 505 Garrett Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910
www.sweetwater.org

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
5500 OVERLAND AVENUE, SUITE 410, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92123
(858) 565-3600
www.sdparks.org

BRIAN ALBRIGHT
DIRECTOR

June 12, 2024

Israel Marquez
Land and Environmental Manager
Sweetwater Authority

Via email to: environmental@sweetwater.org

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)

Dear Mr. Marquez:

The County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation (County DPR) received Sweetwater Authority's (SWA) notice for Addendum No. 2 to the Supplement to the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan – Shared Maintenance Road and Trail (SMRT) Project (Project). County DPR appreciates the opportunity to review the Project and offers the following comments for your consideration.

GENERAL COMMENTS

The proposed Project is adjacent to the Sweetwater Regional Park. Sweetwater Regional Park is an approximately 500-acre County DPR facility that contains a campground, recreational facilities, and trails, including the Sweetwater Loop Trail. Due to the proximity of the SMRT Project to the Sweetwater Regional Park and its related facility, we request the following considerations:

- Please coordinate with County DPR for trail connections between the proposed Project and any County DPR trails and/or facilities. Specifically, the proposed SMRT Project trails could connect to future phases of the Sweetwater Loop Trail, and County DPR would like to coordinate directly with SWA to understand the proposed connection points.
- Please consider adding to the legend and map of Figure 2 of the Addendum No. 2, the "Existing County/Regional Trails" legend item, which are currently shown in Figures 3-

8 of the Addendum No. 2.

- County DPR understands that the SMRT is proposed to be open for public use during the hours that the SWA fishing program is open. However, the proposed limited operational hours could lead to confusion with trail users given that most trails in the area are open to the public for daily use from sunrise to sunset. Please consider allowing the SMRT to be available for use consistent with the use hours of nearby regional trails. If that is not possible, we request educational materials that can be shared with trail users to ensure there is a common understanding of the different hours of operation.

CEQA COMMENTS

- Project Description
    - The Addendum No. 2 states mentions that the purpose of the Project is to modify use of an existing maintenance road to add certain recreational opportunities, and that the Proposed Addition would connect to the County's larger Sweetwater Loop Trail. County DPR supports the use of existing disturbed areas for the purpose of public recreational trails. Similar existing disturbed areas are located north of Sweetwater Reservoir within proximity to where future segments (Segment 8 and Segment 9) of the Sweetwater Loop Trail are planned to be located. County DPR would like to explore similar opportunities to utilize existing disturbed areas for future phases of the Sweetwater Loop Trail.
- Agency Approvals
    - The Addendum No. 2 mentions that approvals for the Project may be required by the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water. Given the nexus between SMRT and the larger Sweetwater Loop Trail, County DPR requests that SWA include County DPR in any meetings or coordination regarding approval of the SMRT as those approvals or requirements could affect design and implementation of the Sweetwater Loop Trail. Similarly, the Addendum No. 2 mentions that coordination is anticipated with the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). Please also include County DPR in coordination or meetings with the Refuge if related to how the SMRT would tie into the larger Sweetwater Loop Trail.

We appreciate your consideration of the above comments. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Juliette Orozco, Land Use/Environmental Planner, at (619) 777-3203, or via email at Juliette.Orozco@sdcounty.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Crystal Benham
Chief, Resource Management Division for County Department of Parks and Recreation

From:	Garn, John C
To:	Environmental Programs; Marquez, Israel; Terp, Jill
Cc:	Wynn, Susan; Porter, Eric; York, Kelley T
Subject:	<<EXTERNAL>>Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan - Shared Maintenance Road and Trail SEIR Addendum No. 2
Date:	Friday, June 7, 2024 3:32:13 PM
Attachments:	20240607_2024-0097568-CEQA-SD Sweetwater Authority Dual Use Road.pdf

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Good afternoon,

I hope this finds you healthy.

Please see attached.

Please note - some Firewall or email security settings will strip the digital signature from the letter. Please review the attachment and if the digital signature is not intact, contact me for an alternate method of transmittal through the secure FWS fileshare program.

A hard copy letter will not follow.

Sincerely,
John

John Garn
Administrative Assistant
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office
Palm Springs Fish and Wildlife Office
2177 Salk Avenue, Suite 250
Carlsbad, California 92008
760.431.9440

United States Department of the Interior

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Ecological Services
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office
2177 Salk Avenue, Suite 250
Carlsbad, California 92008

In Reply Refer to:
2024-0097568-CEQA-SD

June 7, 2024
Sent Electronically

Israel Marquez
Land and Environmental Manager
Sweetwater Authority
505 Garrett Avenue
Chula Vista, California 91910

Subject: Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan - Shared Maintenance Road and Trail SEIR Addendum No. 2

Dear Israel Marquez:

We received the second addendum to the Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan on May 22, 2024. The addendum specifically addresses the proposal to create a Shared Maintenance Road and Trail (SMRT) along the southern boundary of the Sweetwater Reservoir. The alignment is currently in use as a maintenance road, and the proposal is to make the path available for public hiking and biking. We offer the following recommendations to protect the natural resources in and around the project site. We are specifically interested in measures that protect the federally endangered coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*).

According to the SEIR, the SMRT alignment intersects dense populations of the coastal cactus wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus sandiegensis*), a California species of special concern, and the coastal California gnatcatcher. It appears that these populations are able to coexist with current uses of the road, but we are concerned that additional human disturbance from hiking and biking may impede breeding and other behaviors for these species. We recommend a specific analysis from biologist(s) experienced with impacts of recreation on these species. Site specific monitoring may be necessary to fully evaluate this issue. Depending on the results of this analysis, it may be appropriate to put limits on the number of users and/or seasonal trail closures. To minimize perceived threats to wildlife, a likely recommendation will be to limit biking speed especially with the popularity of electric bikes.

We are also concerned about the potential for increased recreational access to the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge. We recommend careful coordination with refuge staff to develop wayfinding signage, which is currently limited within the refuge. A limit to biking speed would also increase safety for trail users. Signage and fencing should be coordinated with the refuge to keep users on trails and discourage impacts to plants and wildlife, including sensitive species. It is also important that fencing does not impede wildlife movement.

More generally, it is not clear that the proposed recreational trail was designed to minimize wildlife impacts and maximize user experience. Jurisdictions often select existing trails or roads for permanent trails on the assumption that use of existing alignments will minimize disturbance of habitat. However, the impacts of trails go beyond loss of physical habitat, and minimizing these impacts may require routing alignments specifically to avoid important use areas for plants and wildlife. The user experience also may be improved by considering new alignments rather than restricting the scope of analysis to the existing road. If available, we recommend a more detailed discussion of what trail alternatives were considered and how these alternatives addressed impacts to plants and wildlife.

The Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office appreciates the coordination and cooperation with Sweetwater Authority to protect and manage natural resources in and around the Sweetwater Reservoir. If you have any questions, please contact Eric Porter[1] by email.

Sincerely,

Jonathan D. Snyder
Assistant Field Supervisor

[1] Eric_Porter@fws.gov.

From: Joellen Collins
To: Marquez, Israel
Subject: <<EXTERNAL>>Re: Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan - Addendum No. 2 to EIR
Date: Saturday, May 25, 2024 1:09:23 PM

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Hello Israel-

I have read the EIR Addendum and find it well done-

I think the Sweetwater Authority is enhancing opportunities for the public to enjoy the reservoir by the connection of this segment to the existing trail system.

I however believe the exclusion of equestrians and people with their pets from this segment will be hard to enforce.

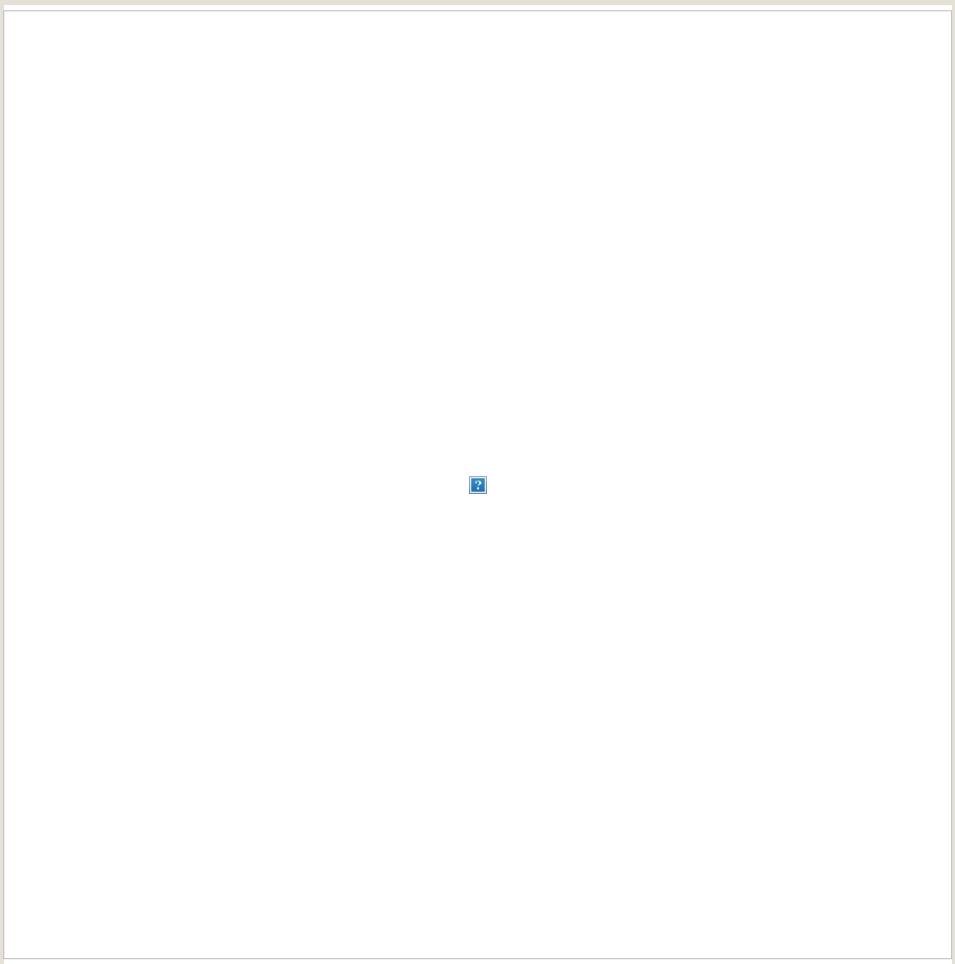
Perhaps equestrians and people with pets should be included with requirement of cleaning up after their animals.

Any questions call me

Bob Collins

From: Marquez, Israel
To: Marquez, Israel
Subject: RE: Public Comment: Sweetwater Reservoir to open additional access route on South Shore
Date: Thursday, June 13, 2024 5:30:59 PM

Image



The Sweetwater Authority is going through a planning process to open up a 2.2 mile section of access road at the Sweetwater Reservoir for hiking and biking recreational use -
Public Comments Requested

Read more in the Plan Document for the Shared Maintenance Road and Trail (SMRT) along with maps of the proposed road opening.

While this project does not bring more single track trail to the area, SDMBA is in support of this project as it increases access around the reservoir. The singletrack trails on the adjacent San Diego National Wildlife Refuge will still offer a more rugged experience.

We invite you to submit your comments on this project.
Public comments are being accepted through June 12, 2024.
Comments on the proposed action can be sent via email (environmental@sweetwater.org).

Please contact Israel Marquez, Land and Environmental Manager, with any project questions you may have (imarquez@sweetwater.org).

Highlights of this plan:

-Recreational use (hiking/biking only) on 2.2 miles of dirt access road which has never been open to the public.

-This section of road would be open Friday - Monday only to coincide with operating hours of the Fishing Program.

-New gates, signage and some fencing would be installed.

-This alignment 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 who want to enjoy nature.

-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, ride, or run near the shoreline of the reservoir.

Thank you for your time and support of trail access in San Diego County.

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Message sent by SDMBA, info@sdmba.com
San Diego Mountain Biking Association | P.O. Box 881491 | San Diego, CA 92168-1491

From:	Susie Murphy
To:	Environmental Programs
Subject:	[Ext.] Comment: Addendum No. 2 to the Supplement EIR - Shared Maintenance Road and Trail (SMRT)
Date:	Friday, May 31, 2024 10:32:58 AM

Hello.

The San Diego Mountain Biking Association (SDMBA) appreciates the opportunity to provide public comment on Addendum No. 2 to the Supplement to the Environmental Impact Report for the Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan – Shared Maintenance Road and Trail (SMRT)

The San Diego Mountain Biking Association (SDMBA) is a volunteer-driven, non-profit organization dedicated to maintaining and improving sustainable trail access for mountain biking and encouraging trail stewardship in San Diego County. SDMBA is writing in support of this project which proposes 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 mountain biking, trail running, bird watching and hiking, for the enjoyment of the community.

The proposed shared maintenance road/trail would connect with the Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Area and the County's "Riding and Hiking Trail". This project would serve as an easily accessible trail experience which provides interesting views, chances to see birds and other wildlife and important connectivity to the trails heading east towards the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge. The SDNWR is also working on some trail improvement projects at this time so the timing for this project is great for the trails community.

While we would like to see the SMRT open 7 days a week, we do understand if current plans require that the operating hours line up with that of the fishing program.

We would also recommend the consideration of allowing class 1 electric bicycles which are classified as regular bicycles under AB 1096, as they are currently allowed on trails by the County of San Diego and they are not dis-allowed on the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge trails. The current position of SDMBA, the International Mountain Bicycling Association and the California Mountain Biking Coalition is that class 1 electric bicycles should be permitted where ever regular bicycles are allowed.

We greatly appreciate the time of the SWA to organize meetings and other opportunities for the community to provide input on recreational opportunities and for taking action on this initiative.

Thank you,

Susie Murphy (she/her)
SDMBA Executive Director
CAMTB Board Member
SPROCKIDS SAN DIEGO Board Member
619-316-1757
Join SDMBA today!





From: Joel Kownacki
To: Marquez, Israel
Subject: <<EXTERNAL>>Sweetwater Loop Trail
Date: Monday, June 3, 2024 10:41:04 AM

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Good Morning,

As a Chula Vista resident, I am excited about the pending Sweetwater Loop Trail.

Can you share a rough timeline on when the entire loop will be open to the public if all goes according to plan?

Thank you for your time!

Joel Kownacki

From: Joel Kownacki
To: Environmental Programs
Subject: [Ext.] Sweetwater - SMRT Public Comment
Date: Monday, June 3, 2024 10:43:34 AM

Good Morning,

As a Chula Vista resident, I am excited about the pending Sweetwater Loop Trail, including the proposed SMRT alignment.

I fully support the addition and cannot wait to ride the entire trail around sweetwater when project complete.

Thank you,

Joel Kownacki
Chula Vista Resident

From: fellenbaum.daniel@gmail.com
To: Environmental Programs
Subject: [Ext.] Public Comment - Sweetwater Trail Extension
Date: Monday, June 3, 2024 11:48:16 AM

Hello,

I'd like to submit a comment in support of adding the 2.2 miles of trail along the shoreline. We frequent this area and more access would be great for everyone!

Thank you for your consideration,

Dan Fellenbaum
(619) 632-8135

From:	Alexander Hamana
To:	Environmental Programs
Subject:	[Ext.] Sweetwater reservoir plan for additional access
Date:	Tuesday, June 4, 2024 10:32:03 AM

To whom it may concern,

I think the plan to add 2.2 additional miles for public use is a great idea. I live just west of the reservoir in the Bay Terrace community and often hike or bike the trail system around the reservoir. In my opinion, most of the trails in the area are more suited to experienced hikers and bikers, which can be intimidating for beginners.

With this planned addition, more San Diegans will have the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful nature in the surrounding areas and experience all that San Diego has to offer. In addition someone such as myself would not hesitate to go hiking or biking in the area with my family including my 2 young children.

One improvement to the current plan would be to allow access to the trails 7 days a week.

Please feel free to contact me for additional comments or questions.

Thank you for your time in improving and preserving the nature areas of San Diego.

Alex Hamana,
Native San Diegan and outdoor enthusiast

From: karenlhenry31@me.com
To: Marquez, Israel
Subject: <<EXTERNAL>>Addendum No. 2 to Supplement to EIR for Sweetwater Reservoir Recreation Master Plan
Date: Monday, June 3, 2024 11:52:02 AM

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Israel-

I found one thing that may warrant changing if your intent is to clearly show the work being represented.

The scale for Figure 8 is too small to clearly discern the (work) items shown in the legend.

Pale yellow for "Fence - Proposed - Year 2" was particularly troublesome. That yellow symbol in the legend is barely visible.

A typical road/ trail cross section, which is typical for road improvements, would clarify the intent.

You and your consultants knew the scope of work so likely didn't need to rely on the Legend nor Figure 8 to figure things out.

Have a nice day!

All the best, K

From:	Jeff DeGuide
To:	Environmental Programs
Subject:	[Ext.] Sweetwater Reservoir for hiking and biking recreational use - Public Comments Requested
Date:	Tuesday, June 11, 2024 5:08:23 PM

Hello,

I just wanted to say that this project would greatly benefit those who are looking explore the area at a relaxing pace by MTB or hiking. Currently my family and I have to ride rough terrain in order to make it to the Jamul side. I for one would take great advantage of the road as it has far less of an elevation gain then the alternative.

Thank you,
Jeff

	First Name	Last Name	Title	Email
Federal, State, and Local Agencies				
California Department of Transportation, District 11	Tracey	D'Aoust Roberts		Tracey.DAoust.Roberts@dot.ca.gov
State Water Resources Control Board	Sean	Sterchi		sean.sterchi@waterboards.ca.gov
California Department of Fish and Wildlife, South Coast Region	Alison	Kalinowski		Alison.Kalinowski@Wildlife.ca.gov
California Office of Historic Preservation	Julianne	Polanco	State Historic Preservation Officer	monica.newman@parks.ca.gov
Native American Heritage Commission	Reginald	Pagaling	NAHC Chairperson	Reginald.Pagaling@nahc.ca.gov
Otay Water District	Juliana	Luengas	Environmental Compliance Specialist	jluengas@otaywater.gov
San Diego Association of Governments	Kim	Kawada	Chief Deputy Executive Director	kim.kawada@sandag.org
San Diego County Parks and Recreation	Johanna	Salomon		Johanna.Salomon@sdcounty.ca.gov
San Diego County Parks and Recreation	Charles	Gailband		Charles.Gailband@sdcounty.ca.gov
San Diego County Parks and Recreation	Crystal	Benham		Crystal.Benham@sdcounty.ca.gov
San Diego County Parks and Recreation	Mark	Caro		Mark.Caro@sdcounty.ca.gov
San Diego National Wildlife Refuge	Jill	Terp	Deputy Project Leader	Jill_Terp@fws.gov
San Diego National Wildlife Refuge	Dwane	Binns	Refuge Manager	dwane_binns@fws.gov
Bonita - Sunnyside Fire Protection District	Jason	Oosterbaan	Fire Marshal	joosterbaan@bonitafd.org
Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation	Sid	Morris		smorris@sycuan-nsn.gov
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Division, South Coast Branch, San Diego Section	Kyle	Dahl		kyle.j.dahl@usace.army.mil
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Carlsbad Office	Eric	Porter	Biologist	Eric_Porter@fws.gov
U.S. Geological Survey - Western Ecological Research Center	Barbara	Kus	Research Ecologist	barbara_kus@usgs.gov
Recreation Groups				
Bonita Road Runners	Jane	Aitchison	President	bonita_rr@yahoo.com
Bonita Valley Horsemen	Susan	Heavilin	President	bonitavalleyhorsemenclub@gmail.com
San Diego Mountain Bike Association	Susie	Murphy	Executive Director	executivedirector@sdmba.com
HOAs and Planning/Community Groups				
Spring Valley Community Planning Group	Chris	Pierce		svcpg4@gmail.com
Sweetwater Community Planning Group	Stephen	Stonehouse		stephenstonehouse1968@gmail.com
Sweetwater Community Planning Group	Harriet	Taylor		harrietgtaylor1@gmail.com
Sweetwater Valley Civic Association			"Contact Us"	svca@sweetwatervalleyca.org
Valle De Oro Community Planning Group	Oday	Yousif		odayyousif@gmail.com
San Diego Urban Corps	Kyle	Freeland		kfreeland@urbancorps.org
San Diego Urban Corps	Zhenxi	Zhong		zzhong@urbancorps.org
Individuals / Other				
	Mark	Robak		otaymark@cox.net
	Bob	Collins		collijo@cox.net
	Nick	Meisinger	WSP Environmental Consulting	nick.meisinger@wsp.com